



# Sandusky River Valley **Bee**KEEPERS Association



December 2021

[srvba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org](http://srvba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org)

## Upcoming Events

### **December Christmas Party**

- When: Monday, December 6, 2021 at 6pm
- Where: Ballville Volunteer Fire Department Community Hall, 1413 West Cole Road, Fremont, Ohio 43420 (across the street from the Ballville Township Volunteer Fire Department)
- **Bring a hot or cold dish to share with the group—potluck.**
- Bring a canned good for donation to a food bank.
- Vote for 2022 Club Officers will be conducted at the Party.



### **January Monthly Meeting**

- No January monthly meeting

# Message from the President

Hello SRVBA Members,

Welcome to December! I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Holiday and is staying healthy. It is hard to believe that in just a few weeks Christmas will be upon us.

On Monday, December 6th, from 6:00 pm till...?. We will be having our annual SRVBA Club Christmas Party. The club will be furnishing the main meal dish and members are asked to bring a hot or cold dish to share with the members. Family refreshment drinks will be available along with paper products and plastic-ware. But, BYOB is welcome.

Again, we will be having some great door prizes and a 50/50 drawing during the evening.

The festivities will be held at the Ballville Township Hall on (WEST COLE ROAD) in Fremont. This Hall is a barn-looking building directly across from the Ballville Township Fire Station. The Hall sits on the corner of West Cole Road and Tiffin Road. There is also a gas station on this same corner.

We will have elections of officers on December 6th, at the party, so please try to attend and vote. This is what we have to vote on for officers:

**President**

Gary Wylie

**Vice President**

Dr. Michael Stone

**Secretary**

Kim Root

**Treasurer**

Tami Wylie

**Directors (pick three)**

Rosemary Clifford

Chris Earnhart

Jackie Kindred

Richard Kindred



Join Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association:

1. Fill out membership form

<http://srvba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/>

2. Mail form to: SRVBA, c/o  
Tami Wylie, 1000 CR 312,  
Bellevue, OH 44811

# **Message from the President**

## **(continued)**

Dues for 2022 will be collected during the months of December, January, and February. They are due on or before the March 2022 meeting. The dues are still \$20.00 for the year. Please pay Tami Wylie, SRVBA Treasurer.

### **OSBA News**

OSBA had their annual fall conference/meeting on November 6, Via Zoom. I hope everyone that logged-in enjoyed the conference/meeting. There were almost 200 participants that stayed all day from 8am-5pm. The presenters, commercials, and advertisements were all really informative and interesting.

Peggy Garnes, OSBA President, gave a detailed informative report on the progress OSBA has made this past year.

Another part of OSBA fall conference/meeting is awards that are given out to State of Ohio Beekeepers. These awards are, "Beekeeper Of The Year, Hall of Fame, Life-Time Achievement, and Propolis awards. These awards are based off recommendation of local clubs' officers nominations for outstanding Beekeeping practices, achievements, and contributions. This year's Beekeeper Of The Year was presented to Gary Kueffer of Brown County Beekeepers Association. Last year our very own John Schick was presented with this prestigious award.

### **Thank You**

To end my monthly report, I wanted to say thank you for letting me be your President of SRVBA. I took over as President in September, 2019 after Troy Liebengood stepped down. Its been hard having meetings these last two years because of Covid, trying to keep the club together, trying to keep you informed on what needs to be done in the hive, and to answer questions you as members have had.

In 2020, we had tried to keep things together by having Zoom meetings, and to be honest it was hard. Not everyone is tech savvy enough to accomplish the computer time. Then in 2021, we started having a few in-person meetings, but the Church did not allow us to gather there yet. So, we started having field days at Gary and Tami Wylie's building in Bellevue. We had Nina Bagley come from Columbus and give us a nice demonstration on " Backyard Queen Rearing," we also had members give a couple classes on " Mite Control" and "Sugar Board and Supplement Feeding." We did have a nice showing of members for these field days.

# Message from the President (continued)

We had a Beginners Bee Class in 2021. Actually, we had three classes on three different Saturday's. With the Covid concerns we limited each class size to just ten (10) participants in each class, and then sat participant's chairs almost 8 foot apart. We did have a total of 30 new members from the classes.

We had a fun September picnic and swim party at Dr. Stone's place.

On a sad note, during the past three years we have lost five great club members; Ron Anwander, Jim Tansey, Ralph Billow, Ken Kiser and Troy Liebengood. This has been heartbreaking news for us all. So please everyone stay healthy and stay safe.

Thomas Rathbun  
SRVBA President

# Message from the President (continued)

## IN THE HIVE

The next few months there isn't a whole lot that needs to be done in your hives. By now, hives should be pretty much set for the winter. Mouse guards on, plenty of weight (food stores) hives wrapped, screen bottom board floor slid in, inner cover flipped over with the notch towards the bottom, hives should be tipped forward so the moisture wicks out the notch and does not drip back down on the bees. If you have an Oxalic Vaporizer you can hit the hive one more time for treatment of Varroa Mites.



**Tom Rathbun**  
**SRVBA President**

Honeybees can handle the cold, but wind blowing in on them can be very crucial for their survival. Some Beekeepers will place windbreaks so the prevailing wind isn't blowing directly on the hives. Some will place straw bales around the hives, but keep in mind, mice will also enjoy the bales. I've seen others install plywood walls, but this can be expensive.

Some Beekeepers use roofing tar paper and wrap their hives. Just remember to leave an area for the bees to come and go as needed. Another product to use is called "Epilay," a breathable roofing material. Linda Miller used this material last year and she contributed it to her high survival rate. Linda was able to save what she used last year and has re-applied it again this year. Gary and Tami Wylie are also using "Epilay" this year in their Apiary.

I've used a product I purchased at Rural King called a "Silt erosion fence." Construction companies use it along roadways to help control wind damage when seeding grass and erosion. You can purchase a 50 foot roll of it with lpost for about \$20.00. It's about 32 inches high. It's something to just help break the wind from blowing directly on the hives.

# Message from the President (continued)

## IN THE HIVE—Page 2

Another thing is you can always move your hives to a sheltered area out of the direct hit of the wind, but if you do move them try to keep them in a sunny location for the sun's warmth.

There are a number of tricks you can use for wicking moisture from the hive, tilting them forward, flipping the inner cover, placing wicking (Quilt) boxes on, using vented outer covers and placing a sugar board over top of your brood box. The sugar will absorb the moisture and feed them in an emergency, if needed.

One of the last things that can be done is to take it upon yourselves to read all you can on Honeybees, watch YouTube videos on techniques and what works for others, ask club members questions. Please don't be afraid to ask a question. We've all been new beekeepers and we understand your questions. Believe me, I still ask questions.

Please stay safe and enjoy the bees.

Tom Rathbun

SRVBA President