



# Sandusky River Valley **Bee**KEEPERS Association

President—Gary Wylie  
Vice President— Dr. Michael Stone

Secretary— Kim Root  
Treasurer—Tami Wylie

Directors—Rosemary Clifford, Chris Earnhart, Jackie Kindred

MARCH 2022  
NEWSLETTER



### MISSION:

- To promote and support Beekeeping through education.
- To educate the public about the value of honey Bees and the impact of Honey Bees on the world through classes, public meetings and educational appearances.
- To promote the products of the hive to the general public.
- To promote the common interest and general welfare of the Ohio Beekeeping and the Beekeeping industry.
- To help and mentor new Beekeeper with knowledge and education.

## Upcoming Event

March 4th/5th Tri County Beekeepers Assoc Spring Workshop-Wooster

MEMBERSHIP DUES BY MARCH 7TH —\$20.00 per FAMILY

### March Monthly Meeting — Chili Potluck

Members should bring side dishes/snacks

When: Monday, March 7th, 2022 at 6:30pm

Where: First United Methodist Church

510 W Maple Street, Clyde, Ohio 43410

Presenter: Marci Lininger, Topic: *Pollinators*-Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative

## Future Dates *(dates/times subject to change)*

April Monthly Meeting—Monday the 4th @ 7p FUMC

Topic - *Spring Management* (splits/dead outs/swarms/spring feeding) Speaker-TBD

May Monthly Meeting—Monday the 2nd @ 7p FUMC

Topic - *County Hive Inspections* Speaker-Trent Balduff, Sandusky County

*May 20th is World Bee Day (United Nations)*

June Monthly Meeting—Monday the 6th @ 7p Wylies

Field Day - *Queens and Swarm Traps* Speaker—TBD

July Monthly Meeting—Saturday the 9th @ 10a Wylies

Field Day - *E-genetic Bee Breeding* Speaker-Dr. Michael Stone

*July 10th "DON'T STEP ON A BEE DAY"*

*- Celebrated in the United Kingdom*

August Monthly Meeting—Monday the 8th @ 7p Wylies

Field Day—TBD

### 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



*August 20th is National Honey Bee Day*

*September is National Honey Month*

September Monthly Meeting—TBD

Summer Picnic

October Monthly Meeting—Monday the 3rd @ 7p FUMC

Speaker-TBD/Hand out bears for filling for food pantries

*October 28th/29th OSBA Fall Conference—Wooster*

November Monthly Meeting—Monday the 7th @ 7p FUMC

Label Bears/Election Nominations

December Monthly Meeting—Monday the 5th @ 6p TBD

Christmas Party/Election of Officers



# Message from the President—Gary Wylie

Hello SRVBA Members!

As the cold days of February pass, I look forward to warmer weather and getting into the beehives.

If you haven't done so, this is a great time to check your hives to ensure the bees have adequate food supply. Last week I found that one of my hives had consumed over half of their sugar board. This was one of my strongest hives last summer and the bee population was huge!

The 2022 Beginner Beekeeping class was completed on February 19th. The class was presented earlier in the year than usual. Typically, classes were presented in March or early April. By having the class earlier, the Officers felt this would allow the new beekeepers plenty of time to purchase and prepare new equipment and buy bees.

We're having a **chili supper** at the March meeting. The dinner will be potluck-style, so we're asking everyone to bring a dish to share. The Club Treasurer will prepare the chili from her special recipe (which includes honey), and the Club will also provide crackers and drinks. The supper will start at 6:30pm, as this will allow time for eating and fellowship before our evening speaker.

Our speaker for the March meeting will be Marci Lininger, from The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI). The OPHI is a nonprofit organization working to improve and create pollinator habitat in the state of Ohio. The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative also works within Ohio to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators. The Ohio State Beekeepers Association is a partner organization with the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative.

The February meeting was made available via ZOOM for those who couldn't attend the meeting. Since the meeting, I've received positive feedback from several of our members thanking us for making the meeting available via ZOOM. Those who provided positive feedback were either working away from the area or live further away from our Clyde meeting location. I'd like to continue making our in-person meetings available via the internet.

We are continuing to collect annual dues for 2022. So far, we've collected dues from 52 members. The dues are still \$20. We've included a membership form within this newsletter to submit with your dues. This will allow us to update your information for any changes.

The annual dues are due on or before the March 7th meeting. After the March meeting, our Bylaws requires we update the membership roster to include only members who have paid dues for the year.

Please pay dues to Tami Wylie, SRVBA Treasurer. Dues can also be sent via US mail to:

**SRVBA, c/o Tami Wylie, Treasurer**

**1000 CR 312, Bellevue, OH 44811**

Thank you for supporting SRVBA!

Gary Wylie

SRVBA President

419 271-2638



# IN THE HIVE

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SPRING FEEDING

By Linda Miller



I was so ready for bee season to slow down last fall. Spring rains, summer heat, swarms, mite treatments...I was ready for a break. But, as with every year, I can't wait to get back to seeing those amazing girls doing what they do! Finding the first drone cells, seeing a healthy queen and watching the colony grow always has me talking to them and telling them how wonderful they are!

The next few months are a crucial time to make sure your colonies have enough food to survive until the first pollen pops and blooms appear. Colonies can do very well through the winter months only to die of starvation from now until they have a consistent food source in the spring. It's sad for the bees and heartbreaking to the beekeeper.

As the temperature warms the bees become much more active, moving around in the hive in search of food, taking cleansing flights, removing dead bees, and collecting water. In doing so, they burn more energy and require an ample supply of carbohydrates (sugar) for the energy to continue feeding and keeping the brood warm.

The days are beginning to get longer sending a clear signal to the queen that it is time to ramp up her egg laying. The bees will not only need sugar but also pollen (protein) to nourish the eggs and larvae and rear fat, healthy and happy bees.

The colony will grow from approximately 10,000 to 50,000 or more bees over the next few months. These will be your spring and summer foragers. Bees that are well fed and healthy are better foragers, more disease/mite resistant and live longer lives to stay sustainable and supply you with a better honey crop.

One way to check food stores is to gently lift the hive from the back. How heavy does it feel compared to midsummer? It will give you an idea if there is honey left, but *be cautious!* The hive may feel "heavy" but are the honey frames on the outside edge of the hive? Many times the bees do not get to those frames because of the cold. The cluster is smaller in winter and bees do not want break cluster to search for food. They may have several frames close by and still risk starving. The best way to check is to wait for a warm, sunny day and quickly pop the lid/inner cover and take a peek. If the bees are at the top and there is no food you will want to feed *right away*.

This process should happen very quickly. Keep in mind heat will escape fast and the bees have to work hard to retain and restore heat around the brood. An ideal scenario would be to have temps above 50 degrees however, that isn't always the case. I have checked them with temps above 30 degrees. If you are checking when the temps are lower it should only take about 30 seconds to peek and feed if necessary. By the end of February I like to check the hives every week. Even at 50 degrees you don't want to linger. Resist the urge to pull frames and do any kind of inspection. Wait for a nice warm, spring day!

You have several choices to feed sugar to the colony. You can use the "*camp method*" by just putting plain, dry sugar onto news or wax paper and placing on top of the frames. The bees will find it but they do expend a lot of energy trying to remove the paper through the hive and out the front. You also need to be cautious that the paper hasn't plugged up the reduced opening. *Sugar bricks* work well and are easy to quickly add to the top and can be made days ahead. *Fondant* is a good source of sugar and easy to handle but it usually comes in bulk only. (You can find it at Tiffin Paper and Buehler's Market in Ashland).

There is a great recipe to make your own *Spring/Early Summer Patties* on our website or you can purchase them ready made from many beekeeping suppliers. If you had added a *sugar board* in the fall, just take a peek to make sure they haven't eaten it all.

Whichever method you use, always place it on news or wax paper. This prevents moisture from the hive collecting and liquefying the sugar which can drip down onto the bees and brood and chill them.

Once the temperature reaches a consistent 50 degrees at night you can begin to feed a 1:1 (sugar/water) syrup. Syrup will also promote comb building if you have added new foundation. When the weather has warmed and you begin making splits or catching swarms you will want to keep a steady flow of syrup on that hive.

Feeding pollen in spring can be a little trickier. Once the queen senses pollen coming in to the hive it will signal her to begin laying. Feeding too much can cause an early explosion of bees which leads to early swarming. Swarms in March or April may not have drones to mate with the new queen, leaving the colony without a viable queen. Feed them

small amounts at a time. Whether you purchase pollen patties or make your own give them a piece about the size of your palm. Check it about once a week to see if they are eating it. If they aren't you will want to remove it and try again in about a week. Unused pollen patties tend to attract hive beetles so you will want to keep an eye on it.

Once the temperature allows the bees to come out you can also open feed them a dry pollen substitute. You can purchase feeders or use something as simple as a bucket placed on its side or an old cookie sheet.

Mother Nature. She can be wickedly fickle! The colonies are thriving, foraging on early pollen and nectar ...then boom! Two weeks of rain and wind. The early foraging is mostly used for nourishing new brood and expanding the colony. They will store some pollen and nectar but if they are unable to forage they will go through their stores quickly. I like to feed syrup as soon as temperatures permit. It can be a life raft during these times. Once you add supers, you will want to stop feeding syrup so your honey crop isn't full of sugar. By this time the colony should be able to sustain itself.

Another thing to consider is to plant early blooming food sources near the hives. Crocus, pussy willow, grape hyacinth and snow drops are just a few suggestions. And please...*don't spray the dandelions!*



Photo Credit:  
Nina Bagley



Camp Method- Added to  
a nuc on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022



Photo Credit:  
Nina Bagley



### *Baked Chicken Tenders*

- 1 pound chicken tenders
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1/2 cup Italian bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese

1. Mix mayonnaise and honey together in a bowl.
2. Add chicken and coat well.
3. Place bread crumbs in a plastic bag and toss coated tenders in the crumbs until well coated.
4. Place tenders on a baking sheet coated with cooking spray.
5. Sprinkle cheese on top of tenders.
6. Bake for 8 minutes then turn tenders over and bake for another 8 minutes.

## Ohio State Phenology Calendar

Contributing club member Linda Miller

Just type in your zip code and it will give you the *Growing Degree Days*. This will show you the expected days until trees and shrubs will bud and flower. On a warm day towards the end of March, when all things look barren, you can see the bees bringing in pollen. Looking at this calendar will tell you it's probably Silver Maple.



<https://weather.cfaes.osu.edu/gdd/>

## Catalog/Area Companies for Supplies/Equipment: (Ohio local)

**Barnyard Bees**—barnyardbees.com—706971-2700—Chatsworth, GA

**Better Bee**—betterbee.com—800-632-379—Greenwich, NY

**Blue Sky**—blueskybeesupply.com—877-529-9233—Ravenna, OH

**Cherry City Honey**—cherrycityhoney.com—419-271-2720—Bellevue, OH

**Dadant**—dadant.com—888-922-1293—Hamilton, IL (closest branch Albion, MI 877-932-3268)

**Kelley Beekeeping**—kelleybees.com—800-233-2899—Clarkson, KY

**Mann Lake**—mannlakeltd.com—800-880-7694—Hackensack, MN

**Queen Right Colonies**—queenrightcolonies.com—440-647-602—Spencer, OH

**Simpson Bee Supply**—simpsonbeesupply.com—740-599-7914—Danville, OH

## Popular Names on YouTube/Podcasts for Advice/Ideas:

### CAUTION

be careful of geography w/some advice/ideas;  
care for bees in Ohio are different from caring for bees in  
California/Georgia/and other areas of the country/world

Contributing club member Evelyn Lepard

For Beginners Check Out the Universities; OSU, Michigan, Minnesota, Georgia, Florida, etc.

### YouTube:

- ⇒ Bearded Beekeeper from Michigan
- ⇒ JC Bees from Ohio
- ⇒ Bob Binnie from Georgia
- ⇒ FatBeeman from the South
- ⇒ Michael Palmer from New York (commercial beekeeper)
- ⇒ 628 Dirt Rooster (cutouts) from the South
- ⇒ Randy Oliver from CA
- ⇒ Jamie Ellis from University of Florida Bee Lab

### Spotify Podcast/Blogs:

- ⇒ Bee Obscura Jim Tew/Kim Flottum
- ⇒ Two bees in a Podcast from University of Florida Bee Research Lab
- ⇒ Beekeeping Today by Jeff Ott and Bee Culture Editor, Kim Flottum
- ⇒ Beekeepers Korner from NU





This page is for members who would like to sell, trade, buy bee related items/business. Please submit your ad by the third week of the month so that it will be in next month's newsletter.



Send ad to: [Kimmie\\_59@hotmail.com](mailto:Kimmie_59@hotmail.com)

### **BEE PACKAGES FOR SALE for CLYDE/FREMONT AREA PICK UP**

Georgia Bees Sold by Steve Johnson

Find order form online at [www.OldDrone.net](http://www.OldDrone.net) and mail with payment (cash/check) to Steve Johnson

1520 Amherst Street, Piqua, OH 45356

3 pound package of bees cost \$125.00

Extra Italian Queen cost \$35.00



Pick up location is at

Tom Rathbun's home located at 4865 CR 175, Clyde, OH 43410

Pick up dates: March 29th, April 12th, April 26th, May 10th

Make sure to fill out correct order form for the pick up date you choose

Additional information can be found on the order form at [www.olddrone.net](http://www.olddrone.net)

### **CHERRY CITY HONEY FARM BEE HIVE SUPPLIES**

**Tami & Gary Wylie — 1000 County Road 312, Bellevue, OH 44811**

**We stock the bee supplies you'll most likely need. Our beehive boxes and other woodenware is of the highest quality and comes already assembled and ready to paint.**

**Due to our location in the Clyde-Bellevue-Fremont area, it's approximately a one-hour drive to the nearest bee equipment supply store. This drive is time consuming and expensive. Also, online orders from distant suppliers often require purchase of larger quantities to obtain fair pricing and shipping/freight rates for new equipment are expensive.**

**Please compare our prices and consider us for your beehive equipment needs.**

**Our price list is on the SRVBA Classified Web Page.**

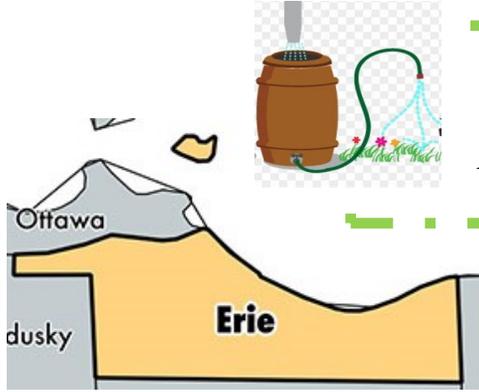
**We can arrange for local delivery in the Bellevue-Clyde-Fremont area.**

**We accept cash, check, or credit cards for payment.**



# County Tree Sales

All county prices, packages, and items offered vary

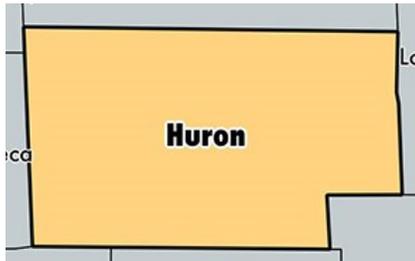


## Erie County—Sandusky

[erieconserves.org](http://erieconserves.org)

Phone: 419-626-5211

Erie County **does not** conduct a tree sale but advertises Huron, Lorain, and Ottawa County Tree Sales



## Huron County—Norwalk

### download paper form

[Huronswcd.com](http://Huronswcd.com) Phone: 419-668-4113 Ext 3

Prepay and Order by: no deadline-first come first served

Pickup: Friday, April 22

Offering: Evergreens, Hardwood/Shade Trees, Flowering Trees



## Lucas County—Maumee

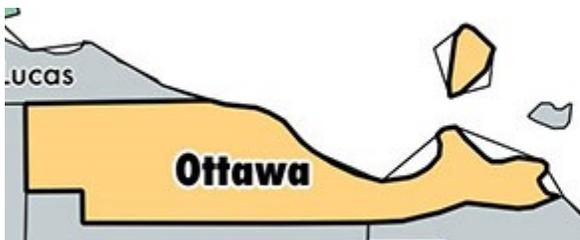
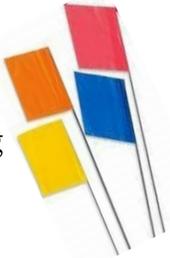
### order online/download paper form from their newsletter

[Lucasswcd.org](http://Lucasswcd.org) Phone: 419-893-1966

Prepay and Order by: Friday, March 25

Pickup: Last name A-M April 13 N-Z April 14

Offering: Conifers, Windbreak, Shade Trees, Flowering Shrubs, Seed Mixes, Cover Crops, Other Misc. Items



## Ottawa County—Oak Harbor

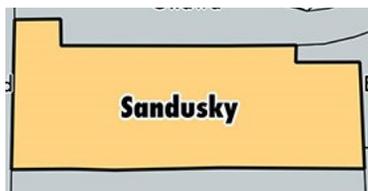
### order online/download paper form

[Ottawaswcd.com](http://Ottawaswcd.com) Phone: 419-898-1595

Prepay and Order by: Thursday, March 31

Pickup: Thursday, April 14

Offering: Evergreens, Hardwood/Shade Trees



## Sandusky County—Fremont

### download paper form

[Sanduskycoswcd.org](http://Sanduskycoswcd.org) Phone: 419-334-6324

Prepay and Order by: Friday, March 4

Pickup: @ Gibsonburg Saturday, May 14

Offering: Variety of Forb Plugs



## Seneca County—Tiffin

### order online/may pick up paper form at office

[Conservesenecacounty.com](http://Conservesenecacounty.com) Phone: 419-447-7073

Prepay and Order by: Friday, April 8

Pickup: Thursday, April 21 and Friday, April 22

Offering: Evergreens, Hardwood/Shade Trees, Other Misc. Items



## SRVBA Membership Form

We welcome you to join the Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association! Yearly membership dues are \$20.00 per family & due by March 1<sup>st</sup>. You do not need to own honey bees to join - just have an interest in the welfare of honey bees. Please make checks payable to the Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association. Complete this form & mail it to: **SRVBA, c/o Tami Wylie, 1000 CR 312, Bellevue, OH 44811.**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional family names \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership since: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Hives \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply:

- New Membership
- Renewal
- Individual
- Family
- Willing to help with committees for club activities.
- I'm interested in being a mentor in \_\_\_\_\_ County.
- Add me to the swarm list for \_\_\_\_\_ County.
- Tax deductible donations for supporting Beekeeping \$\_\_\_\_\_.

*This information will never be shared with others, outside of the club. All information is confidential.*

**Meetings are held at the First United Methodist Church, 510 W. Maple Street, Clyde, OH 43410.**

*For office use only*

Check number \_\_\_\_\_

Cash amount \_\_\_\_\_

Calendar year \_\_\_\_\_

Verified info \_\_\_\_\_