



Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association

President—Gary Wylie
Vice President— Dr. Michael Stone

Secretary— Kim Root
Treasurer—Tami Wylie

Directors—Rosemary Clifford, Chris Earnhart, Jackie Kindred

APRIL 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

April Monthly Meeting

When: Monday, April 4th, 2022 at 7pm

Where: First United Methodist Church
510 W Maple Street, Clyde, Ohio 43410

Presenter: Panel Discussion
showcasing our club members

Topic: Spring Management

APRIL IS...

Introducing the "Just Around the Corner Box"

Just around the corner

Things to consider doing this month:

- ⇒ Clean dead bees from entrance
- ⇒ Check food stores
- ⇒ Prepare for swarm season
- ⇒ Hive inspection only above 60°
- ⇒ Attend bee club meetings

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

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

Panel Discussion—Spring Management

May 20th is World Bee Day (United Nations)

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

Field Day - TBD

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

Field Day - TBD

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

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 FUMAC

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

October 28th/29th OSBA Fall Conference—Wooster

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

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!

The month of March is a difficult time for me. Those nice days tempt me to get into the bee hives for a quick inspection, and remove those winter hive wraps. Then, the cold wet weather returns with a vengeance including a week of rain and snow. Guess I'm a little impatient! I want the bee season to begin! So goes the life of a beekeeper. I look forward to April and warmer weather, and getting into the bee hives.

This is a great time to check your hives to ensure the bees have adequate food supply to get them through till other natural food sources become plentiful.

I really enjoyed the March meeting. The time spent visiting with everyone and having our chili supper together was a lot of fun. Thanks to everyone for making the chili supper a great success.

Another success, we continue to make our meetings available via ZOOM for those who can't attend the meetings. I think this is great practice. This helps our members who are either working away from the area or live further away from our Clyde meeting location. Some members who live further away from the Clyde area might occasionally have a difficult time making the drive to Clyde for our meetings.

On March 13th, SRVBA hosted the Ohio State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) in-person Round Table Discussion meeting. The meeting was held at Cherry City Honey and was broadcast state-wide. The subject of the meeting discussion was; rebuilding the clubs after Covid-19, how to host a hybrid meeting, and conducting bee schools and field days.

Some more important items I took away from the discussion, many guest speakers are now broadcasting their topics via ZOOM and some clubs are broadcasting their meetings via ZOOM. This may require clubs to review their technological capabilities to ensure they can broadcast and receive audio/visual meetings and presentations. The importance of cross-training several club members in technology needed for audio/visual meetings and presentations was also discussed.



I was surprised to hear that some clubs have not yet met in-person since the Covid-19 restrictions, and other clubs' memberships have dwindled till the clubs shut down.

Review of SRVBA technological capabilities identified that we have sufficient technology for audio/visual meetings and

Our April and May meeting topics will be about the various aspects of Spring Management. We decided to review this topic during two meetings because of the large number of activities associated with our hives during Spring. We're going to have a small panel of beekeepers from SRVBA to present information and answer questions related to managing hives in the Spring.

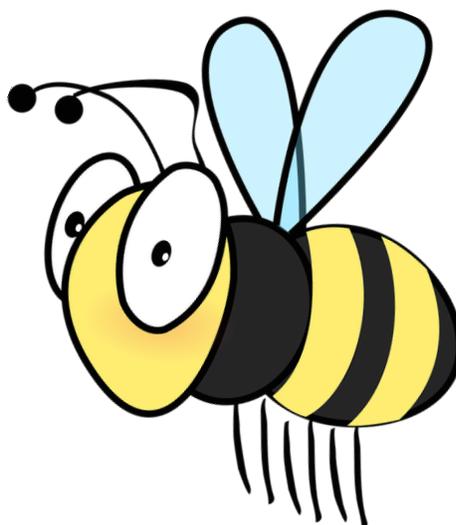
An update on collection of our annual dues for 2022, we now have 115 memberships for the year. We continue to receive renewals and new memberships. In accordance with SRVBA Bylaws, we have now updated the membership roster to include only members who have paid dues for the year.

The club has formed two committees this year. You might recall, at the February meeting we discussed making shirts and hats with our new logo available for purchase. We formed a committee to gather information about how to get promotional clothing made. The committee is working on gathering information and will provide a brief update at our April meeting. Thanks to Doug and Becky Ricci and Rosemary Clifford for working on this committee.

The second committee is a Nominations and Elections committee. Our Bylaws identify this committee by name, and I think it's in the club's best interest to begin the process of identifying those members who might be interested in Officer and Director positions, in the future. I asked Chris Earnhart to head-up/put together this committee. If anyone is interested in working with Chris on this committee, please contact me. Your involvement in our club is greatly appreciated!

Thank you for supporting SRVBA!

Gary Wylie
SRVBA President
419 271-2638
wylie technical@gmail.com



IN THE HIVE by Shana Baldosser

Has this felt like the longest winter ever to anyone else? Maybe because I've been trapped inside with 2 toddlers and another one on the way, ha! I have SO been looking forward to sun shining, birds chirping, and bees flying! Much to my surprise, all 8 of my hives survived the winter (so far anyway, I know we're not totally out of the cold just yet). I can't wait for the day I can rip those covers off and really dig in to see what my girls have been up to all winter! I like to wait until all cold snaps are over, and you never know when a spring snow is going to show up in the forecast!



This is the second winter that all of my hives have survived. If it's not broken I don't like to fix it, so here is my overwintering plan that I will use until it stops working!

I go into late fall with 2 deep brood boxes, I trust that the bees know what they're doing with pollen/honey/brood placement and leave those boxes alone starting late summer.

All honey supers get extracted mid-September, except for one full super that stays above the brood chamber.

I like to use either MAQ strips or Formic Pro strips around this same time to do one more mite treatment. This ensures that all new bees emerging for the winter months will be varroa-free! (At least that's the goal, is "varroa-free" even a realistic expectation?!)

On top of the honey super, I place a candy board! Some hives get more than others based on size. These were checked a few times over the winter months. My strongest hives have been picking away at the hard sugar, while my weaker hives have barely touched them! Bigger colonies tend to eat through their honey stores faster, so it's good to ensure they have enough food with these "insurance policies". In the spring, whatever is left of the candy board can be mixed with water to feed back to the bees. The candy boards are also great at absorbing excess moisture/condensation in the hives over the winter months.

Next, and last, I put a super of wood shavings on top of the candy boards! These supers have holes drilled in 2 sides for upper ventilation, cheesecloth stapled to the bottoms, and wood shavings filled halfway to the top of the super to absorb any extra moisture or condensation in the hives. Some people would argue that this is unnecessary overkill on the winter prep process, but I'll say it again- if it's not broken I'm not fixing it! This is what has worked for me for the past 2 years so I will be sure to take the extra time every fall to do what I think is best for my bees!

There are a hundred different methods that people use to overwinter hives. It took me 4 years to figure out what was best for my apiaries and it is all through trial and error, just like everything else in the beekeeping world, right?! I hope that you have all found success this year as well! Because who doesn't love the sound of a buzzing yard in the spring? I cannot wait to throw that suit on and visit my girls on a warm day. I got into beekeeping because I love honey and thought it would be cool to have my own. It turns out after reading and learning about honeybees, I love the actual bees more than I love the honey! Weird how a little side hobby can turn into a passion. Although selling honey to family/friends is fun too. We have a little roadside stand near Republic that I try to keep stocked all summer. My oldest is 3 and she has started helping with that. It makes my heart happy to see her taking an interest in bees and the honey process. Maybe we can ask Santa for her own bee suit next year ;) Best wishes to all as we begin this next season of beekeeping!



Get to Know Your Sandusky County Bee Inspector Karl Bruns



Ohio Bees Go To California

by Kim Root

I had the opportunity to interview Karl Bruns who will be the new bee inspector for Sandusky County. Karl is excited about this new adventure but also nervous.

Karl started his interest in bees back in 2008 when his dad called him to take care of some bugs flying around his home which ended up as a swarm on a picnic table. Over the next few years he spent time talking to others including relatives at family reunions who had bees, beekeepers (actually from the club) who would help him take care of some of those additional swarms he would find and doing his own research. He then took a dead tree down on his property in the month of February that had a hive in it. Looking back on that event, knowing what he knows now, he would have left it alone until spring/summer rolled around. Karl and his dog were found running from the bees and taking on many stings.

At this point, he started to watch YouTube videos, research, continue talking to others, etc. and found himself enjoying and learning about the bee industry bit by bit a little more. He lost the few hives he started with his first winter which many first-time beekeepers have experienced themselves. The second year went better and he eventually had 100 active hives.

Karl teamed up with a buddy of his, Steve Scheel, who will be the bee inspector for Huron County this coming year, and together they have become commercial beekeepers. Steve has an edge on the experience though.

Karl is skilled as a tool and die maker but it was his wife who pushed him to make that entrepreneur decision and go full steam ahead into the bee industry. The 100 hives have now turned into 1200. The goal is 3,000.

Since November his hives have been in Fresno, CA pollinating the almond orchards. He works specifically with a grower and to listen to the process it is extremely fascinating. The hives are eventually moved into the orchards around February and removed once the almond trees have stopped blooming.

Karl traveled to CA once a month to manage the hives including feeding. This past couple of weeks Karl had three semis of beehives return from CA, two came back directly to Ohio and one returned to the Kentucky area. Since Kentucky is warmer these bees will be turned into nucs and packages to be sold as the hives are just full of bees when they return to the East. He has a desire to pollinate closer to home and will have his hives at Eshelman's located in Clyde soon for the apple orchards.

Karl has had many hobby interests in his life including muscle cars, scuba diving, motorcycles, etc. but it's the bee interest that stuck. The bee interest has turned into pollination, bulk honey, queen rearing, splits, nucs, and packages. He has done cutouts but it's not his thing. The person, his wife, who pushed him to jump into an unknown life change is right beside him involved in the marketing and honey production aspects.

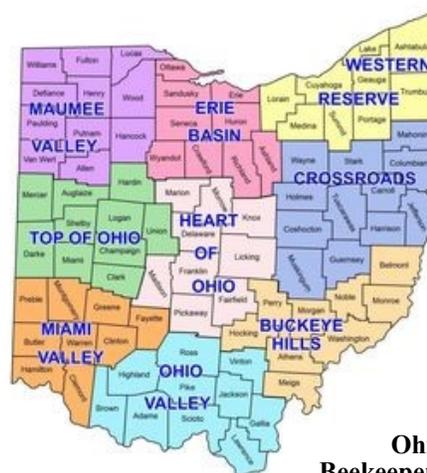
Even though this will be his first year as a hive inspector, he is looking forward to the new opportunity and new challenge. Karl admits he is nervous. We all are when we dive into something new like a new job. When I asked him why he wanted to become an inspector, his response was to help others and to learn. He really emphasized the learning from others. Karl said as he continues to meet beekeepers across the country there are so many different methods to approach the same problem. Karl is looking forward to meeting the beekeepers of Sandusky County and to learn from them what has worked and not worked. His role hasn't officially started but I did ask how many beekeepers he thought he would be seeing in Sandusky County and he thinks he was told around 240 give or take.

I thought I had a lot of work with my seven hives, uh, NO. In the spare time Karl does have he shared a video he helped University of Findlay create. It's called Funday Sunday for kids. He shared the video with me and I am passing it along if you have an interest in watching. <https://youtu.be/6r2D4cH3Z9A> I told him we wished him good luck with his new entrepreneur business and his upcoming role as Sandusky County Bee Inspector. A really nice guy to talk to!

Other Local County Bee Inspectors

Bee Inspectors inspect bee hives for those beekeepers who want to sell bees, nucs, and queens.

- Erie — Trent Balduff
- Huron—Steve Scheel
- Lucas — Mike Horst
- Ottawa — TBD
- Sandusky — Karl Bruns
- Seneca — Seneca SWCD



Ohio State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) Regional Map

SRVBA is located in the Erie Basin Region



Honey Cornbread

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 cup flour | 2 eggs—room temperature |
| 1 cup yellow cornmeal | 1 cup heavy cream |
| 1/4 cup sugar | 1/4 cup canola oil |
| 3 teaspoon baking powder | 1/4 cup honey |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt | |

Combine flour, cornmeal, sugar, baking powder and salt. In bowl, beat eggs, add cream, oil and honey. Stir into dry mixture just until moistened. Pour in to greased 9" square pan. Bake 400^o for 20-25 minutes.

Honey Butter
1/4 cup butter, softened
2 tablespoons honey
Mix together

Trivia Fun Facts by the Numbers

Honey Bees

- Honey bees fly at 15 miles per hour.
- Honey bees' wings stroke 11,400 times per minute, thus making their distinctive buzz.
- Honeybees will usually travel approximately 2 to 3 miles from their hive.
- Honeybees are the only bees that die after they sting.
- Honeybees are responsible for pollinating approx. 80% of all fruit, vegetable and seed crops in the U.S.
- Honeybees have five eyes, 3 small ones on top of the head and two big ones in front. They also have hair on their eyes!
- Bees communicate with each other by dancing (waggle dance) and by using pheromones (scents).



Archive

Did you miss a meeting?

Join Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association:

1. Fill out membership form

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

2. Mail form to: SRVBA

c/o Tami Wylie, 1000 CR 312
Bellevue, OH 44811



The following meetings have been archived so you can catch up or review what happened by clicking on the months logo you want to watch.....

Recorded February Meeting:



Recorded March Meeting:





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

BEE PACKAGES FOR SALE for CLYDE/FREMONT AREA PICK UP

Georgia Bees Sold by Steve Johnson

Find order form online at 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: 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

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.





Sandusky River Valley
BeeKEEPERS
 Association

BEEKEEPING WORD SEARCH

A P I A R Y C H W A X U
 R F B R Q W L P E N S P
 J S M A U M U C Y E G S
 J Y O P E F S V E L I D
 D H C I E R T B E L U S
 R I H A N A E Z O O Q C
 O V O R R M R P N P Y R
 N E N I Y E O W B V S A
 E S E S X R K F Y W T T
 C C Y T P J F R A Y I C
 R J W S C F Q R O X N E
 C O L O N Y M V S W G N

**SOMETHING FUN
 FOR
YOUR KIDS**

**OR
 YOUR GRANDKIDS**

**OR
 THE KID IN YOU!**

APIARIST
 APIARY
 BEES
 CLUSTER
 COLONY
 COMB

DRONE
 FRAME
 HIVES
 HONEY
 NECTAR
 POLLEN

PROPOLIS
 QUEEN
 STING
 SWARM
 WAX
 WORKER

