



SPECIAL EDITION

Sandusky River Valley BeeKEEPERs Association

JANUARY/
FEBRUARY 2026
NEWSLETTER

Club Officers

President:	Kathleen Conn
Vice President:	Brennan Miller
Secretary:	Sue Kosakowski
Treasurer:	Kim Root
Directors:	Mike Gergely, Beth Muffler, Laura de Roziere

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.

CONGRATULATIONS!



SRVBA's own **Mike Gergely** had an amazing showing at the 2026 North American Honey Bee Expo (NAHBE) earlier this month, as evidenced by the many colored ribbons displayed in the photo. Gergely's entries resulted in the following place ribbons:



Novice Entry (any one bottle of honey): Yellow Ribbon - 4th place

Light Extracted Honey: Bronze Ribbon - 6th place

Dark Extracted Honey: Blue Ribbon - 1st place This entry was also considered for the 'Best in Show' competition!

Wax Division (6 identical pieces): Red Ribbon - 2nd place

Wax Block Standard: Blue Ribbon - 1st place

Wax Block Large: White Ribbon - 3rd place

Gergely shared the picture above, indicating the number of entries. The Black Jar competition invites beekeepers to pour 4 ounces of their honey into a black jar (provided) for a blind taste judging.

Congratulations, Mike! So proud of your international accomplishments!!

February Monthly Meeting

Presenter: Kathleen Conn, SRVBA, President

When: Monday, February 2, 2026 at 7pm

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

Topic: Business Meeting; Review and Approve 2026 Budget, Discuss 2026 Activities

Don't miss this opportunity to meet the new officers and talk about 2026!!



You'll want to plan now for the Chili Potluck at 6:30pm, prior to our March 2 meeting! Details for all upcoming meetings will be discussed at the Annual Business Meeting in February.

Dues are due!!

If you haven't already mailed your 2026 dues, please bring them to the February meeting. At \$20, your dues are the best investment around for beekeepers!

[SRVBA Membership form can be found on the next page, or click here for digital copy.](#)

FEBRUARY'S TO DO LIST IS....

- Keep entrance clean of dead bees
- Check sugar boards for sugar
- Maybe place a pollen patty in sugar board
- **Attend the bee club meeting**

Honey Judge Training 2026

Registration: <https://ohiostatebeekeepers.org/event/registration-honey-judge-training/>

Information: We are scheduling a training class for new honey judges. This is not just a 1-Day class, but an internship that will take up to 2 years to complete. The training class will provide speakers, mentors, a binder, and training materials that you will use at each event. Judging: liquid honey, wax cut-comb, candles, baked goods, pollen, and so much more. You're judging to select the best of the best, that you would be proud to sell, show, and display to customers. More details will be sent to attendees who sign up for this event. This event will not be recorded and walk-ins will not be accepted. **Registration deadline: Monday, February 2, at 12:00 pm**

Date: Saturday, February 7th, 2026

Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (1-hour lunch break)

Location: Waterman Agriculture and Natural Resource Laboratory, Carmack Rd., Columbus, OH 43210 **Google Map:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/JZ8kE8z8XMxzQ4eGA>

Cost: \$145.00 per person (includes: binder, training, lunch)





BEEKEEPER CLASSES - Come One, Come All!!

The SRVBA is hosting a class for new and novice beekeepers. Here's the scoop:

WHEN: Saturday, March 14th

9am - 4pm (lunch included)

WHERE: 1000 CR 312, Bellevue, OH

COST: \$75 (includes materials, lunch, door prizes, experienced beekeepers)

Cost is \$25 for each additional family member attending.

QUESTIONS? Kim Root, kroot9876@gmail.com

We need you!

Your experiences, successes, failures and beekeeping ideas are all valuable in helping others learn about beekeeping. Contact Gary Wylie if you're able to help during the beekeeper class.

YOU can make a difference.



Six more weeks of Winter?

OR

Is Spring right around the corner?

Let's talk about it at our next meeting on Groundhog's Day - Monday, February 2nd!

Any members that will be selling nucs, queens or packages this coming bee season, please contact Kathleen Conn, BlessedBeeApiarys@gmail.com by March 1st, 2026.



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 1st. 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 Kim Root, 1000 CR 312, Bellevue, OH 44811.**

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Spouse: _____

Additional family names _____

Email address: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

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 _____