



MEDINA
beekeepers

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com

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Join the MCBA to hear a great lineup of live and virtual speakers. Start or renew your membership [online](#), or send in the membership form at the end of the newsletter.

Monday, March 20

Medina County District Library

210 S Broadway St, Medina, OH 44256

Meeting Room A and/or B

Panel Topic: *Swarms*

Question and answer period begins at 6:30PM

Presentation 7PM-8:30PM

Join a panel of experienced beekeepers as they share their methods for managing their bees during the main spring swarm season. In addition to sharing techniques that have worked for them, you will be able to ask questions to help you understand what leads to swarm fever and best practices to stay ahead of the swarms. To top it off, it's the first day of Spring!



Ten Minutes with the Bees

by *Paul Kosmos, MCBA President*

The Bee Yard in March

Another look at treating *Varroa* mites

Sometimes it is necessary to revisit what we do in our daily lives. Taking a fresh look at treating for *Varroa* is one of those moments for me. Many of you know that I have always had an issue with *Varroa* in my hives. I've kept them more under control for the most part, but recently, my over-winter success has dropped.

I used to find thousands of mites in my hives but always managed to get them through the winter. Yet this year I lost a nuc and a hive. I'm not sure if I've been a bit lax in my control methods or if they have picked up new viruses. Bottom line is, I almost never lose a hive in December. That type of loss is on the beekeeper!

This year I made a decision to make some changes. Remember Dave Noble's advice from our meeting last October?

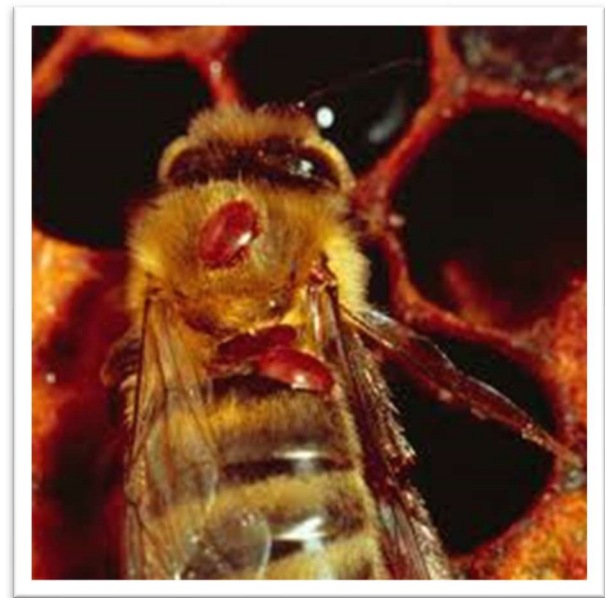
THE BEST OPTION FOR YOU TO CHOOSE IS THE OPTION THAT YOU WILL ACTUALLY DO!

Many of us hesitate to do something in our bee yard. It gets busy, and the bees appear to be doing well, so we put it off. I am learning that this approach is no longer working as well for me.

It's time for a change. This year, I am trying Tim Moore's approach to controlling *Varroa*. Tim treats his bees in early March, before there is a lot of brood in the hive, with Oxalic Acid Vapor. He chooses this method as he does not want to kill brood as they build up.

I treated with OXA on March 1 when it was 59 degrees. The next day I found five mites on the insert. I have checked the insert every two days since. This hive is averaging seven mites per day and has dropped 72 mites so far.

That does not sound like a lot of mites, but if we remember that it is early in the year and there is little brood, it sends a clear alarm. Mite populations can double every three to four weeks, so imagine the number of mites by May!



I plan to follow Tim's plan and use Formic Pro in July. Last year, I used Formic on my hives in fall, but only used two pads on one of my hives. Yes, I was too cautious. That hive dropped mites for a week, then no more. It is very strong this Spring!

The second method is also good (one pad for ten days, then another pad for another ten days).

Sometimes an old dog has to learn some new tricks – this may be one of those times for me. I encourage each of you to examine your current plan. If it is not working well, perhaps try a different plan of attack? And, as Dave Nolan noted, whatever plan you decide on, it is...

THE BEST PLAN AT THAT TIME!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summit County Beekeepers Association
Tuesday, March 21, 2023
Summit County Fairgrounds
7PM

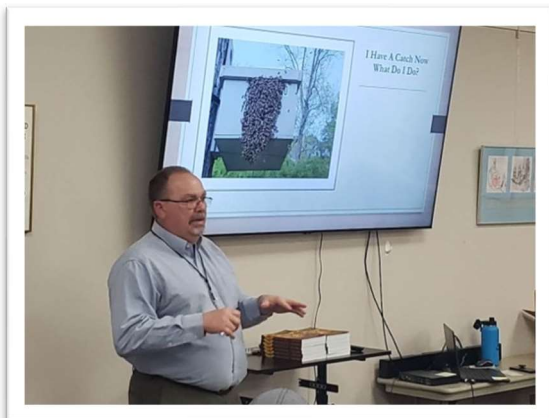
Topic: What plants do bees use to make honey in Ohio?" – Dr. Reed Johnson



MCBA April Meeting
Monday, April 17, 2023
Medina County District Library
210 S Broadway St, Medina, OH 44256
Meeting Room A and/or B
Q&A 6:30PM-7PM; presentation 7PM-8:30 PM

Topic: Sustainable Beekeeping – Mark Beogher

If you are like many beekeepers, having to buy new bees every year gets old fast and is expensive. Mark will share his methods to help achieve a sustainable bee yard by managing the bees you have now.



MCBA May Meeting
Monday, May 15, 2023
Medina County District Library
210 S Broadway St, Medina, OH 44256
Meeting Room A and/or B
Q&A 6:30PM-7PM; presentation 7PM-8:30 PM

Topic: Making Splits and Plant Exchange

Join us to learn more about making spring splits (or preparing for summer splits) to help achieve sustainable beekeeping in your bee yard. We will also have our regular plant exchange.

World Bee Day
Saturday, May 20, 2023
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds Bldg. #25
19201 E Bagley Road Middleburg Heights, OH 44130
10AM-4PM

World Bee Day celebration raises awareness on the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy, and on the many challenges they face today. Proceeds from the \$2 donation will go towards the Honey Breakfast on November 17 for K-12 students in Euclid and Cuyahoga County.

For more information, visit www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com

Lorain County Beekeeper's Association 29th-Annual Field Day
Saturday, June 3, 2023
Queen Right Colonies 43655 State Route 162, Spencer, Ohio 44275
10AM-4PM; registration starts at 9:30AM

Speakers include

- Charles Linder: Commercial Beekeeping
- Connie Skolnicky: Apitherapy
- Gene Gargas: My 1st Year In Beekeeping Parts I & II
- Randy Leiby: My 1st Year In Beekeeping Parts I & II
- John and Corrie: Youth Education Mini Hive Yard
- Peggy Garnes: Methods of Queen Rearing

For more information, visit the [Lorain County Beekeepers Field Day page](#).

Managing Hives for Others

We have had a number of requests for members interested in managing hives on someone else's property. This topic always brings up a lot of discussion regarding treating for pests, insurance needs, etc.

I spoke with Barb Bloetscher (Ohio State Inspector). She has clarified that it is OK to manage bees and to treat for *Varroa* using approved treatments and methods **PROVIDING YOU ARE NOT CHARGING FOR YOUR SERVICES**. If you do charge for such services, you must have a license and insurance. This will open the door if a member wishes to treat another member's hive. Please keep in mind that you should use discretion in doing so and explain any risks involved. For example, there is always the risk of queen loss no matter what treatment one uses.

I am not an expert in this area, but I understand that most members who keep hives on someone else's property have insurance for their protection. You never know when a kid will dare someone to walk up and hit the hive with a stick! That actually happened to a nephew of my wife years ago. Her father had a hive and the kid got severely stung as a result.

I hope this clarifies some of the confusion on this subject.

--Paul Kosmos

Update on the MCBA Bee Yard

Unfortunately, we discovered that the Club hive did not survive the winter. We have better management planned for this year – member **Kate Reusch** will be managing the Club Bee Yard for the 2023 season. With her help, we are hoping to have a successful year and should be able to hold several events in the bee yard. If you have an interest in helping, please contact Kate (our treasurer). You can find her email on the website under the **About** tab and on the first page of the newsletter in the **Association Officers** section.

Club Supplies

One issue that the club needs help with is someone to bring club bee supplies to the meetings. We offer Small Hive Beetle Traps and Drone comb for sale at the meetings from April to August. We need a person who attends most meetings to bring such supplies to the meetings. If you can help, please contact Paul Kosmos. You can find his email on the website under the **About** tab and on the first page of the newsletter in the **Association Officers** section

MCBA Facebook Page

We have several members interested in helping with the Club Facebook page. We are gathering information and hope to make an announcement soon.

Thanks to member **Kym Lucas** for sharing [this article](#) on beekeeping during the Revolutionary War

Bees that Saved America

– *BeverlyBees.com*

New Beekeeper's Class



Congratulations to the new graduates!

We look forward to your contributions to beekeeping and hope to see you at the next Club meeting.

MCBA Shirts Available

John Vrtachnik sent us information regarding a source for MCBA Bee Shirts for interested members.

North Ridgeville High School has a program for NRHS students called **Able Not Label**. Program participants are students of various needs and abilities that create custom-order apparel and other merchandise.

The students participate in the design, creation, and sale of each item so that they may learn every aspect of business management. **Able Not Label** provides students with money management skills, social skills, vocational skills, and customer service. Proceeds earned go back toward community-based instruction, special projects, and field trips.

Questions? Please feel to contact John via email at jvrtachnik@windstream.net.

Here is a picture of a shirt that John brought to the February club meeting. It looked good. I believe you have flexibility in choice of colors, style, etc. Kudos to John for checking this out!



2022 MCBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

MCBA offers webinars and lectures, a monthly newsletter, the opportunity to sell honey at the county fair, and email updates. \$20 for emailed or \$25 for a printed, mailed newsletter. Membership includes one family member in activities other than voting.

Renew your membership [online here](#) or complete the form below, make a check payable to **Medina County Beekeepers Association**, and mail to Medina Beekeepers, PO BOX 1353, Medina, Ohio 44258.

Membership Form - Please complete so that we have current roster information for the newsletters!

Member Name _____

Email address (please print) _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone # _____ (Optional) # of colonies _____