



**MEDINA**  
beekeepers

# THE BEE HERDER

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[www.MedinaBeekeepers.com](http://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, April 17**

**Medina County District Library**

**210 S Broadway St, Medina, OH 44256**

**Meeting Room A and/or B**

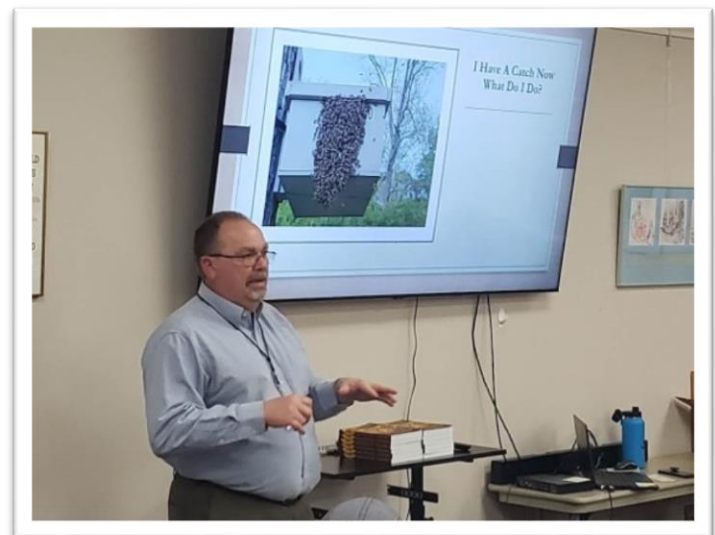
**Topic: Sustainable Beekeeping**

Presented by Mark Beougher

*Question and answer period begins at 6:30PM*

*Presentation 7PM-8:30PM*

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.



## Ten Minutes with the Bees

by *Paul Kosmos, MCBA President*

### The Bee Yard in April

#### Follow up to Treating Early for Mites

Last month I wrote about my decision to treat for *Varroa* mites early in the year. Previously, I chose not to treat early and this resulted in a higher number of mites later in the year. So, I treated on March 1st with oxalic acid vaporization. It took me about ten minutes from start to finish with a total cost of less than 50 cents.

Let's start with what I observed. After I treat for mites, I like to check the insert every day or two to see if there are dead mites. It's a simple way to see if my efforts in treating produced results. The first seven days, I found an average of eight mites per day. The next two weeks I found an average of less than four mites per day. That means the treatment worked. Once again, it is important to know that after a treatment, the hive should drop mites for ten to 14 days, higher the first couple days and then slowly dropping.

Varroa Counts – 2023	
Date	Hive # 102
March 1	OXA
March 2	5
March 4	20
March 6	18
March 9	19
March 16	20
March 23	24
March 26	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>

The next step is to see what I learned! The hive dropped a total of 112 mites in three weeks. The hive seems pretty strong, so maybe 20-30,000 bees.

If there are 20,000 bees in the hive, that would mean about 0.5% infestation, which would be very good. If there are 30,000 bees that would be only about 0.37 percent. Both numbers would be well below published allowable levels for this time of year of one to two percent.

But the best part came when I estimated how many mites would be in the hive if I waited until July to treat.

Most of you know that mites can double about every three weeks (since brood emerges every 21 days). If we start with 112 mites on March first, there are 123 days until July. That means the mites could double almost 6 times! **That could result in a staggering 7,000 mites!**

Of course, the big question is what does this mean to our hives? If you treat in mid-July the hive could be infested with viruses and the bees could be weak with shortened live spans.

The end result should mean a stronger, healthier hive able to build up faster in Spring and produce a better honey crop. This hive was so busy hauling pollen and nectar this afternoon that I took the mouse guard off for a few hours.



***Busy bees on March 26***

This was certainly ten minutes well spent!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Medina Raptor Center Earth Day**  
**Saturday, April 22, 2023**  
**Buffalo Creek Retreat**  
**8708 Hubbard Valley Road**  
**Seville, OH**  
**10AM-4PM**

There will be Earth-friendly exhibits, a family fishing derby, kids' activities, food and much more. Additional parking available at Hubbard Valley Park, with shuttle service provided to Buffalo Creek. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Admission is free.

The fishing derby will be held from 11AM to 3PM. Fish with your family, hook some memories and win prizes. Parent/child teams can register and fish anytime between 11AM and 3PM. Registration during the derby is required to be eligible to win prizes. Please bring your own fishing pole if you can. A limited number of fishing poles and bait will be available for use.

**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 annual 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](http://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](#).

**July 2023 Fair Booth Cleanup**  
**Monday, July 17, 2023**  
**Medina County Fairgrounds**  
**720 West Smith Rd, Medina OH 44256**  
**6PM-7:30PM**

Join us to prepare the fair booth for our annual participation in the 2023 Medina County Fair. MCBA has the best booth in the fair and this is when we start getting it ready for the show! All volunteers welcome!

## Tuesday Beginner's Beekeeping Class

The last day of the Tuesday class was last week. Another interested group looking forward to having some fun and helping our pollinating friends.



**Tim** teaching about critters that can hurt our hives.

**Sunflowers are superfood for bumble bees!  
Check out this article from Phys.org:**

*New research finds surprising science behind bumble bee superfood*



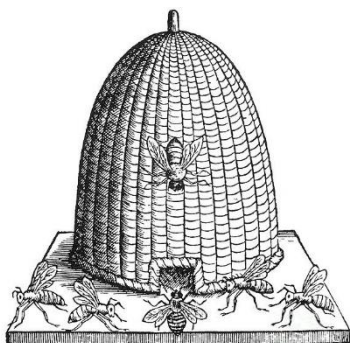
Thanks to member **George Alcott** for sharing this photo of his son getting sized for his own bee suit. We look forward to hearing about his experiences!

### MCBA Bee Yard

As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, 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.

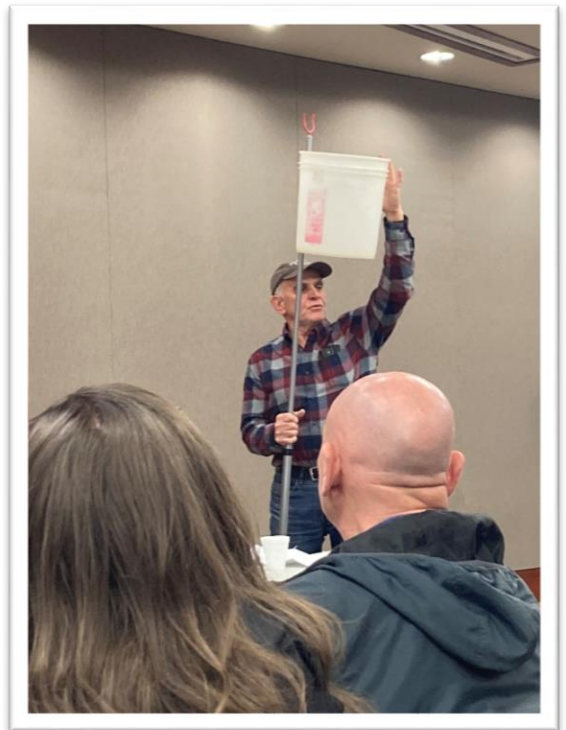


Member **John Vrtachnik** shared a photo of one of his recently-installed swarm boxes. Keep us posted on your experience!



## Swarm Panel

The March meeting was full of great information – and the raffle was a success! Thanks to the swarm panel for sharing their knowledge and experiences with managing swarms.



Lorraine, \_\_\_\_\_, Peggy, and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ models his swam device

### New American foulbrood vaccine

Most of us have heard about the new vaccine being developed by [Dalan Animal Health](#) to protect honeybees from American foulbrood. While studies are still analyzing effectiveness, one [recent study](#) estimates a 30% to 50% increase in resistance to American foulbrood in a vaccinated queen's offspring. Field trials are planned for 2023.

For more information, check out this article at *The Conversation*.

***[How do you vaccinate a honeybee? Six questions answered about a new tool for protecting pollinators](#)***

# 29th Annual Field Day

## Saturday, June 3, 2023

Sponsored by Lorain County Beekeepers Association & QRC  
[www.loraincountybeekeepers.org](http://www.loraincountybeekeepers.org)



*A Day in the Life of a Commercial Beekeeper*  
Charles Linder

### Rain or Shine Event • Free Event for Everyone!

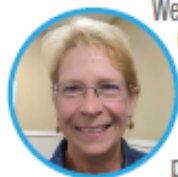
Time has flown and it is yet time again for the Greatest Field Event this side of the Mississippi!

The 29th Annual Field Day will go down in the history books as a day filled with Masters in their class, outstanding in their fields of time spent, education gleaned and success in beekeeping for years.

From the keeper with one colony to the commercial beekeeper with 3000+. An event where we all come together annually see old friends, remember those that are no longer with us and enjoy meeting new ones. "Come as a stranger, leave as a friend." For this very reason, our lineup of speakers for the day will cover a wide range of topics.

A lot has been stated over time on TV, in the print media, and in beekeeping publications as well about agriculture/farming and its negative impact on the environment and beekeeping. Unfortunately, because those in agriculture/farming are a smaller group and have a limited voice, as a consequence, they are not heard. The same could be said for the commercial beekeeper and for those very reasons we have **Charles Linder** as our featured speaker. Charles is a commercial beekeeper, producer of the Bee Bus, the Pro Nuc box, agriculture equipment engineer, and lifelong farmer. He will share his journey as a commercial beekeeper with a day-by-day perspective. All

beekeepers are in agriculture whether you want to be or not, and we should not be closed minded to those we work with. Now seated on the Board of Directors of The American Beekeeping Federation, representing commercial beekeepers special interest groups.



We are also fortunate to have **Peggy Games**, OSBA President. Peggy is a beekeeper with 20+ yrs. experience keeping 140 colonies, queen breeder and nuc producer, traveling speaker for OSBA and past Western Reserve Representative.

Peggy will do an open hive, one hour class on, **Methods of Queen Rearing.**

**LOCATION: Queen Right Colonies**  
43655 State Route 162, Spencer, OH 44275  
Tel: 440-647-2602 • [queenrightcolonies.com](http://queenrightcolonies.com)

**LUNCH STAND AVAILABLE**



### Gene Gargas and Randy Leiby,

productive and successful beekeepers, both work closely with new class members to see that they get a great start in their beekeeping adventure. These classes are necessary for those who are getting started in beekeeping.



**Connie Skolnicky**, Apitherapist, will be with us too. We have always had a BVT specialist with us at Field Day, a very interesting program. Learn the importance of Bee Venom Therapy.



**John Rose and Corrie Marquis** will be our Youth Education Program instructors for Field Day.

Taking the Youth class on an adventure thru our mini colonies. There will also be a scavenger hunt on Field Day for the young in age not the young at heart...watch for the signs.



So be sure and mark your calendar, bring your family and friends as the farm environment makes for a wonderful, relaxed and enjoyable day for all.

Field Day is a free event filled with classes, speakers, games, raffles, door prizes and more.

### AGENDA - WEATHER PERMITTING

9:30 am Registration/Coffee/Tea/Donuts  
10:00 am Welcome  
10:15 am Charles Linder in the Big tent  
11:30 am Lunch  
12:00 pm Alpaca Shearing & Scavenger Hunt



#### Field Events 12:30 to 1:30 pm

- Connie Skolnicky: "Apitherapy" in the Big tent
- Gene Gargas: My 1st Year In Beekeeping Part 1
- Randy Leiby: My 1st Year In Beekeeping Part 1
- John and Corrie Youth Education Mini Hive Yard

#### 1:45 to 2:45 pm

- Peggy Games: Methods of Queen Rearing
- Gene Gargas: My 1st Year In Beekeeping Part 2
- Randy Leiby: My 1st Year In Beekeeping Part 2
- John and Corrie Youth Education Mini Hive Yard

#### 3:00 pm

Closing Remarks & Contest & Scavenger Hunt Winners Announced

For more information visit: [loraincountybeekeepers.org](http://loraincountybeekeepers.org) and [queenrightcolonies.com](http://queenrightcolonies.com) or follow us on Facebook.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_