

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



Association Officers

President: Paul Kosmos

president@medinabeekeepers.com

330-239-1379

Vice President: Peggy Garnes

vp@medinabeekeepers.com

330-723-6265

Secretary: Sharon Carpenter

secretary@medinabeekeepers.com

330-722-0080

Treasurer: Kate Reusch

treasurer@medinabeekeepers.com

330-416-0284

Newsletter Editor: Deanna Rasch

deanna.rasch@proton.me

Webmaster: Mike Rossander

webmaster@medinabeekeepers.com

Refreshments Coordinators:

Elle Jisa ejisa@roadrunner.com

Sheila Mauer

spmaurer01@gmail.com

Directors:

2022: Larry Watson

mcbalarry@aol.com

2023: Tim Moore

elkcreekhoney@gmail.com

2024: John Vrtachnik

jvrtachnik@windstream.net

Medina County Bee Inspector:

Michael Mohn

mohnandsonsfarm@gmail.com

330-591-5035

State of Ohio Inspector:

Barbara Bloetscher

bbloetscher@agri.ohio.gov

614-644-5839

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, June 19

Medina County District Library

210 S Broadway St, Medina, OH 44256

Meeting Room A and/or B

Topic: *Preparing Bee Products for Show or Sale*

Presented by MCBA

Question and answer period begins at 6:30PM

Presentation 7PM-8:30PM

We have received numerous requests for information on how to prepare honey, wax, and related products for use in showing or selling to friends or at the Fair.

Join us to learn how to prepare your hive products for use or sale. There will be three stations. **Evona Gaughan** will talk about making candles, **Jay Hadam** will talk about the steps in making comb honey, and **Tim Moore** will demonstrate extracting and preparing bottled honey. Our experts will walk you through the steps to show how each product is handled, cleaned, filtered, and turned into a finished product.

Each presentation will last 20 minutes and then the groups will rotate to the next station, similar to our fall walk-about.



Ten Minutes with the Bees

by *Paul Kosmos, MCBA President*

The Bee Yard in June

Nice Weather and No Rain

I am writing this on Sunday, June 11. Yvonne and I just finished a rain dance with our neighbor. It has been about five weeks since Wadsworth has had a drop of rain, and we sure need it. The forecast shows a high chance tonight and tomorrow. What does unusually hot and dry weather mean to our bees?

We are hearing that activity in most bee yards has been hot and heavy! Members are finding lots of nectar/honey in their hives. That's a good thing, right? Of course, it is. BUT, when the weather is so warm so early, it can be a double-edged sword. As you all know, plants grow and bloom at certain times of the year. They normally follow a fairly close schedule based mostly on the temperature. If, as we've seen this year, it is unusually warm, many plants will grow faster and bloom early. Beekeepers get to enjoy more nectar coming in.

But if the warm spell lasts too long, many plants will bloom early and sometimes that leaves us with few plants blooming in their "normal" time period. The result can be an early slow down. Not enough plants left to carry the bloom cycle into late June or early July. Hard to tell until it happens, but it is a possibility.

If there is a good side to the effects of warm weather on bees, I am hearing that the bees are capping the honey earlier than normal due to the dry weather. The humidity has been very low which makes it easier for the bees to dry the nectar...hence, they can cap it earlier. I pulled six frames of capped honey this week as a result. No need to pull it early, but I saw an opportunity to remove some weight from the hive. Easier to inspect. I did not plan to talk about *Varroa* mites in June, but all the swarms and splits in May created an opportunity. When a hive swarms, you normally have two to three weeks before the queen starts laying. The new Q has to emerge, harden off a bit, go out and get mated, and then start laying a couple days later. That means that you have time to allow the hive to settle down, get used to their new queen, and start seeing eggs.

And that means you have a wonderful period with NO CAPPED Brood in your hive. Regardless of the type of treatment you choose to use, 100% of the mites are phoretic, which means exposed, not in capped cell. And that means maximum efficacy (maximum mite drop).

Does it work? I had a hive swarm in mid-May. Yesterday I treated with OXA Vapor. This morning I checked the insert and counted 35 mites. As you know I like to check just so I know if what I'm doing is helping or not. 35 mites in one day means a healthier hive this fall!

If you had a swarm in May, you might want to take a quick peek to see if you have eggs and larva, but no capped brood. If you do, it makes a for an excellent opportunity to treat for mites.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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!

Medina County Fair
July 31-Aug 6, 2023
Medina County Fairgrounds
720 West Smith Rd.
Medina, OH 44256

The 178th Medina County Fair is coming this summer! Review the [Fair Guide](#) for information on Bees, Honey, and Apiary products. Information forthcoming for Club members who intend to sell their products at fair.

Department Sponsor: Richardson Farms

MCBA Annual Picnic
Monday, August 21, 2023
Buckeye Woods Park
6335 Wedgewood Rd (Rte 162)
Medina, OH 44256
6PM-7:30 PM

Our MCBA Picnic is always a great time to visit with friends and talk about bees or whatever! Details forthcoming, save the date!

MCBA September Meeting
Monday, September 18, 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: Getting Your Hives Ready for Winter

MCBA October Meeting
Monday, October 16, 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: Four Corners Discussion

May Meeting Recap

Larry Connor spoke to a packed house about when and how to make summer splits. Lots of great information was shared on walk-away splits. We also raffled off a nuc box and had our annual plant exchange! Thanks to everyone who attended this fun and informational meeting.



World Bee Day

World Bee Day was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who participated. We appreciate you contributing to our efforts to educate children and adults about honey bees.



Kim, Bruce, and Patricia



Kim and Dave



Amanda and Bill



Thank you for your support!

M E M B E R

P H O T O S

Club member **Clint Allen** shared his experience catching his first swarm last month.

Well, after watching countless videos on YouTube, I just started to gingerly scoop them up. At first, I was trying to find the Queen but after about 30 minutes of slowly transferring them, I stopped searching – there were just too many in the swarm. So, I started to move a little faster and I eventually got her in the box.

As expected, they all started to follow her in. I left them out for a few hours to settle down and headed back at sunset. Gave us some time to grab dinner. Nearly 100% of the bees made their way in by dusk.

Was such a cool experience. My wife was with me and was amazed by the whole thing too. So glad I got into this hobby!



Thanks to member **Kym Lucas** for sharing this local news story about bee colonies being installed at the Akron-Canton airport:

[Buzz buzz: Bees take flight at Akron-Canton Airport](#)

Do you have an interesting story or photos you'd like to share? Email to deanna.rasch@gmail.com for inclusion in the newsletter.

Club Bee Yard Installation



Thank you to **Kate Reusch** for sharing these photos from the Club bee yard install.

The hives have been installed at Hope Recovery – thanks to **Paul Kosmos** and **Jon Robinson** for the photo.



Earth Day 2023

Another big success as local organizations gathered to share their area of expertise. From local plants to giant insects to beautiful birds to experts in their line of work, there was much to learn. Medina Beekeepers was pleased to be a part of this event and promote pollinators. **Shari Baker** and **Peggy Garnes** hosted a table for MCBA. **Kimberly Cary** was present with the Master Gardeners as well as **Wally Wozniak**.



Shari Baker and Peggy Garnes hosting the MCBA table



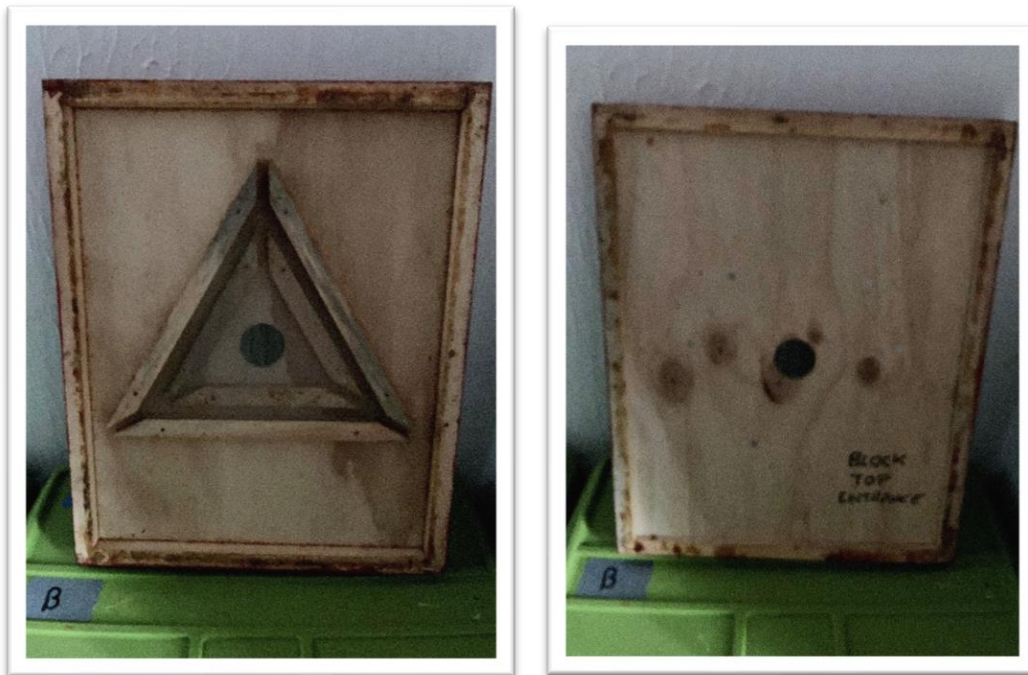
Once again, an owl is the star of the event!

Getting the Bees to Give Up the Honey

by Kym Lucas

So, your bees are bringing in enough nectar to need those supers you bought, and they've finally begun capping that honey. Maybe you even have a fully capped frame or two. Your mouth is watering, just thinking about all that sweet, golden liquid when you suddenly realize you have no idea how to harvest it. How on earth do you get those girls out of the full super? Or even off those few frames that are capped?

As with most things in beekeeping, there are several options. And, as with all things beekeeping, every beekeeper has their opinion on the best way to do it. I'm going to tell you about the four most common methods; two that we've tried, and two that we haven't. When it came time to harvest our first honey crop, we bought an escape board.



As you can see from the pictures, an escape board is a simple wooden device with a hole in the middle. On one side are open triangles made of wood covered with mesh. You use this board by placing it between the honey super and the brood boxes with the open hole facing the super and the triangle facing the brood box. Be sure to close the upper entrance if you have one, or this will be an exercise in frustration. (Ask how I know.) We wrote a reminder on our board so we don't forget.

At night, the bees find their way out of the super via the round hole and through the triangular "maze" to the brood boxes. But the next day, they can't find their way through the maze to return to the super. There's a caveat, however. Apparently, if you leave the escape board on for over 48 hours, those girls figure it out. So, if you come back three days later, they will be back up in the super.

I can't swear this happens. We've always taken the supers off within 48 hours. Usually, there are some workers in the maze – and a few who are smarter than the average bee – who managed to navigate their way through the escape board and back up into the super. It's always been just a few, and they are easily brushed off.

This leads us to the second method, which is shaking or brushing off the bees. If you only have a few frames of honey, or you are taking off a few frames at a time, this is a simple method of getting them off. You'll need some kind of closed container to store the frames you're removing, along with frames to replace those you are taking.

If you forget the closed container, or you forget to close the container, or you set those frames aside for a few minutes, you will attract a cloud of bees feasting on all that nice, free honey. Furthermore, those bees will hang around the same place for several days, hoping for another free lunch. (Ask me how I know.)

We started using this method last year kind of by accident, when we checked our hives and realized the supers had some full frames. To give the bees more space to fill with nectar, we began taking off frames every time we looked in the supers, storing them until we had enough to make it worth getting out the extractor.

In some ways, this method was simpler ... except for the time we temporarily set some frames on our deck for just a few minutes. When we looked up again, it was a bee free for all. Honestly! What were we thinking? It was at least three days before we could go out the back door without encountering some hopeful worker looking for a meal.

The third method is to use a fume board or pad. Constructed of wood with some kind of pad, which is sprayed with a non-toxic liquid bee repellent. There are a variety of bee repellants on the market, including some made of natural oils. From what I've read, the bees hate the smell of these repellants and move quickly out of the supers (within five or so minutes). This is one of the methods we haven't used, but it sounds like it would be quite effective.

One other way to get bees out of supers is to blow them out using a leaf blower. I don't know many beekeepers who use this method but believe it's more common with commercial beekeepers. From what I've read, a gas blower is preferred. Read more about it here: <https://beeinformed.org/2020/09/14/bee-blown-away/> .

There are pros and cons to each method. If you don't believe me, ask any beekeeper which method she prefers and why. I've listed a few below.

Escape Boards

Pros	Cons
Easy to use Only have to buy escape board once Escape board can be used any time you want to allow bees out of a box without getting back in. Can remove whole super rather than individual frames	Takes at least 24 hours to work Cost of escape board (about \$18) Have to be sure you remove within 48 hours Still have to brush off a few bees Only works on one hive at a time, so wouldn't be feasible in large apiaries

Brushing/Shaking Off Bees

Pros	Cons
Free Easy to do Good for a few frames at a time	Time consuming if doing a lot of frames at once Important to immediately put frames in container with a lid or robbing will occur Handling bee filled frames requires care if you don't want to kill bees

Fume Board/Pad

Pros	Cons
<p>Quick — 5-10 minutes per hive Because it's quick, can use one board for many hives Can be done in one visit to bee yard Seems easy to do Can remove whole super rather than individual frames</p>	<p>Some bee repellants come with label warnings on how to handle (although many do not) Can be smelly Cost of fume board (about \$20), plus continuing cost of bee repellant (about \$15-\$27)</p>

Blowing Out Bees

Pros	Cons
<p>Seems very quick May already have leaf blower Can remove whole super rather than individual frames Only have to buy leaf blower once if you don't have one Good for a lot of hives</p>	<p>Cost of blower (about \$110 for the cheapest gas-powered one at Home Depot) Burr comb can cause problems Robbing can be a problem</p>

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 _____