

THE BEE HERDER

Published by the Medina County Beekeepers Association – October 2023

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

Refreshment 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.

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 Demonstration

Kym Lucas will demo **Getting Your Hives Ready for Winter** - wrapping, mouse guards, and a few feeding ideas.

John V. and **Chuck G.** will demo **How to Warm Crystallized Honey**

Tim Moore will demo **Making Candy Boards and Cakes**

Paul will demo **How to Treat Your Hives for Mites**, both Vapor and Drip Methods



Ten Minutes with the Bees

by *Paul Kosmos, MCBA President*

The Bee Yard in October

Inspecting a Hive in the Fall

I inspected my hives a week ago when the temperature was only 65 with a heavy overcast sky. I was not sure what to expect when I opened the hives. They have had strong activity for a couple weeks, both nectar and pollen. To my surprise, both hives were very calm, not a single bee even buzzed me. Go figure.

My goal was to check the food supplies and see if things look OK. Get in and out quickly to prevent robbing. The first hive was strong, lots of bees. I also saw a lot of new bees, a good sign going into winter. You can tell the new bees as they stop where they land or fall and sit there for a while until they figure out what to do.

Hive One – the top deep had 8 frames of capped honey and another 1½ of nectar. This hive is ready for winter. I did not bother to inspect the bottom deep.

Hive Two – the second hive was equally calm and very strong. No buzzing or flying around me. It sure makes it easier and more fun to do an inspection. This hive has a super on top of the deeps and it was full and heavy. I inspected the top deep and found 6-7 frames of capped honey and nectar. This hive also had a lot of new bees. This hive is ready for winter, as I will leave the super on to provide insurance.

Hive Three – I saved my strongest hive to last since it is sometimes defensive. But this hive was also totally calm. Again, I only inspected the super and the top deep. The super was full and the top deep had six frames of capped honey and some with nectar. This hive is also ready for winter, as I am leaving the super. This hive gave me 87 lbs. of honey this year.

There were some things I saw while working my hives this summer. All of my hives are extremely “runny.” One was a split and one was a swarm I caught. I placed the swarm in my bee yard and I think the queen mated with my drones, as this hive is also extremely runny. This is an inherited trait from the queen and can take the fun out of inspecting a hive. They were strong, and not too aggressive, but are so active on the frames (literally running across the frames). I should have replaced the queens. But in one hive after I found her, I tried four times to set one corner of the frame down so I could catch her. Never did catch her as she kept running to the other side of the frame. Figured I would try it another day.

Hive Three was aggressive a couple times. In fact, yesterday when I went to install the mouse guard... as soon as I touched the entrance reducer a bunch came out and started grabbing on to my jeans and sleeves. Had to walk away.

Not always accurate, but I did not see mites on the bottom board, a good sign this time of year.

Another good thing was I did not have a single SHB in any of my hives this year. They vary widely depending on where you live.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Ohio State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference
October 27-28, 2023
Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center
(OARDC)
1680 Madison Ave. (at State Route 302 east and
State Route 83) just south of Wooster.
Friday 5PM-9PM
Saturday 8AM-6PM

Registration opens September 1.
OSBA members - \$55
Non-member - \$65
Visit <https://ohiostatebeekeepers.org/fall-conference/> for more information

MCBA November Meeting
Monday, November 20, 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: Nutrition...What Do the Bees Need or Not

Jerry Hayes is the Editor of Bee Culture Magazine. His extensive knowledge and experience as editor and also his experience teaching the Classroom Q&A for Bee Culture Magazine provide him with a ton of knowledge about our honey bees. Jerry will discuss the benefits of providing the best nutrition for your bees. Learn what they need and what they don't need (what we feed them to make *us* feel good).



2023 Club Elections

October is the meeting where members can nominate themselves for open Board positions or can nominate another person who you think would be good for the board. The actual election is held at the November meeting.

Please email your nominations to our nominating committee members:

Nominating Committee:

Sheila Maurer spmaurer01@gmail.com
Laura Weber ljweber@zoominternet.net

The club currently has three positions open for 2024. They are **President**, **Vice President**, and one **Director**. The President and VP are two-year terms. The Director is a three-year term.

Here are some details about the positions.

President: The President shall have general supervision of the Association. He/she shall preside at most meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors. He/she shall appoint such committees as are specified in the Constitution.

Vice-President: The Vice-President, in the absence of the President, shall perform the functions of the office of President. The Vice-President shall also serve as Program Director, coordinating the speaker schedules, striving to make all meetings interesting and educational and arranging and conducting field meetings.

There are other unofficial duties for the board members, such as attending most club meetings, attending board meetings to help manage the club schedules, finances, and events, as well assisting on local events, such as the Bee Festival in July.

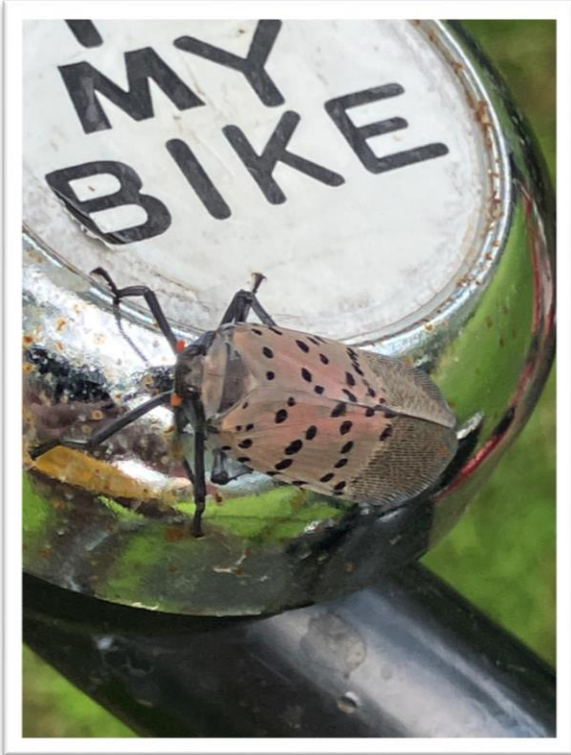
Thank you in advance for considering helping the club to build for a strong and exciting future!

Look out for the Spotted Lanternfly

by Kym Lucas

Like me, you've probably heard or read about that new pest on the block — the Spotted Lanternfly.

Having previously skimmed articles about them, I became significantly more concerned when the insects began dropping on and near my husband and I as we watched the Cleveland Air Show from beneath a tree.



Remembering they were supposed to be killed on sight, we did so with the ones we could reach, then followed the Ohio Department of Agriculture's instructions to take a picture and report the sighting.

I wondered, as you may, how worried should we be about this new-to-us pest?

The answer is a solid "It depends."

To understand, we must first learn more about this beautiful, but highly invasive, species.

One of the first things I discovered is that the "fly" part of their name is inaccurate. Lanternflies are actually leaf-hoppers and can only fly a few feet.

This means, for example, if you are standing under a tree infested with the SLF, perhaps watching an air show, you might suddenly discover one on your ankle.

They don't bite or sting, which are always nice attributes in an insect.

So, though you may shriek a bit (or maybe that's just me?), you will remain unhurt after your encounter. They, however, should not, for although these bugs are truly lovely, if you let them live, they will spread and wreak havoc on many forms of agriculture. You must do your duty, and kill the insect. Then you should report the sighting, with a picture if possible. You can find the form to report your discovery [here](#).

The Lanternfly species, which originated in Asia and was first seen in the US in Pennsylvania in 2014, has since moved into the East Coast and begun heading west. If you like wine or fruit or pretty plants or trees, the Spotted Lanternfly means trouble. As the [Ohio Department of Agriculture's website](#) tells us "SLF can feed on more than 100 plant species, and has the potential to greatly impact the viticulture, tree fruit, nursery, and timber industries." Their "[Pest Alert](#)" provides further details on what to do if you see the Lanternfly or its eggs.

You can find the form to report your discovery [here](#). I'm repeating this because it's important. Since both Cuyahoga and Lorain County have reported infestations, it's quite likely Medina County residents will encounter the insect. (Go [here](#) for a map of the counties quarantined for SPL, updated August 2023). But what possible connection can there be between a pest that attacks trees and beekeeping? The answer may (or may not) surprise you.

First of all, the [PennState Extension website](#) explains that "Lanternfly eggs can be laid on hive boxes, lids, bottom boards, stands, pallets, etc. In addition, adult lanternflies often jump into vehicles."

This means we need to check our equipment, vehicles, and trailers before moving them from place to place, especially if we are going between a quarantined and non-quarantined county. The website goes on to explain that once the Lanternfly has become established in an area, beekeepers begin to find a new kind of late-season honey in their hives. This honey is formed when the honey bees feed on a Lanternfly's secretions, a sweet substance also known as "honeydew."

According to the [Backyard Beekeeping blog](#), the link between the unusual honey was first noticed by Pennsylvania beekeepers who sent it to Penn State University for DNA testing. The samples tested positive for Spotted Lanternfly and Tree-of-Heaven (a favored food of SLF), though apparently it tastes nothing like Tree-of-Heaven honey. The flavor is described on the PennState Extension website as "smokey" and "not as sweet as other kinds of honey" with a "lingering aftertaste." It may start appearing in hives in August when Lanternflies emerge as adults, and PennState says it's perfectly legal to sell.

If you discover the honey in your hives and prefer not to sell it, they suggest not extracting fall honey, leaving it instead for the hives' winter stores. Websites linked:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/1b36dd2cf09e4be0a79776a6104ce1dc>

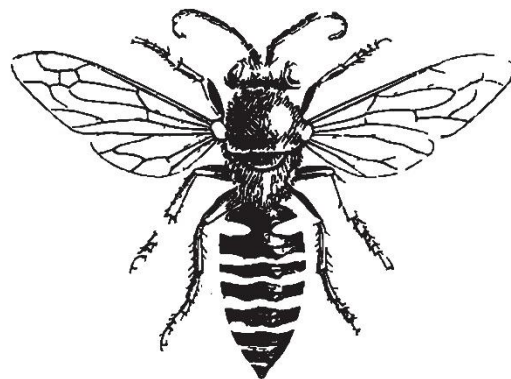
<https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/invasive-pests/invasive-insects/slf>

https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/1da6d079-8a99-4d65-8d59-4da6da4878c2/SLF_PestAlert_OH.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_M1HGGIK0N0JO00QO9DDDDM3000-1da6d079-8a99-4d65-8d59-4da6da4878c2-oFNdNoY

https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/a55a0990-ef98-4bc3-a771-8e042cb8e20a/SLF_Quarantine_08012023.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_M1HGGIK0N0JO00QO9DDDDM3000-a55a0990-ef98-4bc3-a771-8e042cb8e20a-oCXU-ly

<https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternflies-and-beekeeping>

<https://backyardbeekeeping.iamcountryside.com/health-pests/the-invasive-spotted-lanternfly-a-new-honey-bee-pest/>



Final winter prep

Thanks to Jeffrey Gabric of [Knox County Beekeeper's Association](#) for the following steps to winterizing hives.

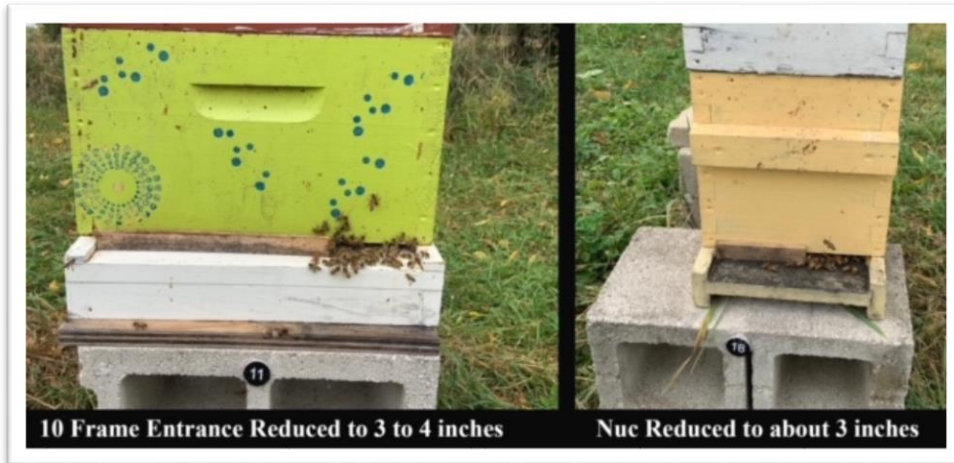
Final Winter Preparations: The first 5 should be completed in the next few weeks.

1. Tilt your hives forward and level them if they need it.
2. Reduce the hive entrances
3. Adjust Frame location and remove queen excluders.
4. Feed.
5. Add insulation on top of the hive, and add a stone or weight.
6. Last chance for a Mite treatment is Oxalic Acid in November or December.

Tilt your hives forward: As seen in the photo below, you should tip your hives forward so water runs off the edge of the landing board. Also, this will help the water that drips off the lid fall away from the landing board. If water drips from the lid on the landing board the splash can cause and ice dam at the entrance in the middle of winter.



Reduce Hive Entrances: These hives below are ready for winter. Usually, we reduce the entrances to 3 to 4 inches on a ten frame.



Adjust Frame location. Bees usually start their cluster in the bottom box and move upward as the winter progresses. We want the honey stores in the top box. As we have talked about in the past, all your frames should be drawn by now. But sometimes we are left with no choice and have a few frames that are undrawn. Those undrawn frames should be moved to the bottom box and off to one side. **Take your honey supers off!!** If you have a two-deep eight- or ten-frame setup, then remove any honey supers. Also remove queen excluders!

Feed heavy. This week and next will begin our final fall feeding. The weather over this next week is perfect for feeding. From the last week in September through the first week of October is the most critical time to fill up your hives with sugar water. This will become their winter stores and keep them alive until next March. Feed as close as you can get to two parts sugar to one part water. It is hard to get that ratio to dissolve but try and get as close as you can.

A large feeder (high-capacity) that can deliver at least one gallon per day should be used. A single jar feeder will not work for a large colony. When feeding with a high-volume feeder, it should only take about a week to fill the hive. This is important: Once the bees stop taking feed, then remove the feeder.

If your feeding gets past October tenth, then you will need to switch to Pro-Sweet or other high solid feed. Pro-Sweet is like a ready to use honey for the bees to put into stores. It can be stored as honey and does not need to be cured into honey. But this gets expensive so try and get your winter feeding done early. Not too early to start winter feeding today. **Here is a little more information on ProSweet:** <https://youtu.be/aJAts5jTsr0>

Add Insulation to the Top of the Hive: It is time to add insulation to the top of your hive. There is still brood production going on and insulation will keep the hive warmer on these cold nights and allow for a larger brood area meaning more brood. This is the same insulation you will want for overwintering. We use a quilt box like in the top photo filled with packed wood shavings.

Last chance for a mite treatment is Oxalic Acid in November or December. This is a good clean-up treatment and is not meant to be the primary treatments that should have been completed in July and August.

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 _____