

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.

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 Bees Do and Do Not Need

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).



Ten Minutes with the Bees

by *Paul Kosmos, MCBA President*

The Bee Yard in November

The Joy of Beekeeping

When I first started keeping bees 14 years ago, I wanted to help the bees and was curious about what makes them tick. I wanted to learn what they do and how they do it. I had no idea how fascinating and incredible these little buggers are or how “hooked” I would get on the Bees.

It started with a bang! Not with fascination but with that nervous feeling during the install. It turned out to be easy, but I didn’t really “know” what I was doing. But that changed fast. I’ll never forget when I opened the hive a week later and saw patches of bright white drawn comb with eggs in some of the cells. That was a high. And it was only the beginning.

As I watched the hive grow, I found it hard to believe these tiny creatures could build a hive so fast and so perfectly. There about 6700 cells on each frame. In a 10-frame hive with two deeps that means **67,000 cells per hive!** All drawn to their perfect standards (Well... most!). When I saw that each cell was a perfect hexagon, I thought it was because of the pattern on the foundation. But later I found large pieces of burr comb with the same perfect hexagons. And the cell walls on one side are dead center to the cells on the other side of the comb. Hexagons, unlike round cells, have no gaps so are the strongest structures. Engineers would be so proud! Not to mention the cells are all tilted up at about 14 degrees



to prevent the honey from running out. Who teaches the bees to do that?

The next area of fascination was when I started looking at how the bees do what they do. How can a bee fly so high and far to find food and then return to the exact spot on their hive entrance? That’s better than my GPS! Equally amazing is how one little bee can gather so little honey in its lifetime yet the hive produces so much. What a tribute to their work ethics... and to the rewards of working together. We could learn a lot from them.

Another trait that I’ll never understand is Drone Congregation Areas. How can a new queen, who has never been out of the hive, know how to find such an area? Positively Amazing!

But perhaps the very best part of all is the feeling of being one with the bees during a successful inspection. Of course, it is better when you have a nice hive. But it is an incredibly rewarding experience.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Medina Beekeepers Annual Christmas Party
Monday, December 18, 2023
Location TBD
6-7:30PM

MCBA January Meeting
Monday, January 14, 2024
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: TBD

MCBA Beginners Classes
Saturday, February 17 and 24, 2024
Medina County District Library 210 S Broadway St,
Medina, OH 44256 Meeting Room A and/or B
10AM-5PM

[Click here to register](#)

A note from the outgoing newsletter editor:

It's been a privilege to work with Paul, Peggy, and other members to compile the newsletter for you for the past few years. I appreciate all of the photos and stories that have been shared. Special thanks to **Kym Lucas** for sending so many interesting links and for rounding out numerous issues with her articles and contributions.

Thanks for all of the knowledge that you've shared, and I look forward to seeing more from you all as the newsletter continues with its new editor.

Thank you,
Deanna

Saving an Exposed Hive

Kudos to member **Clint Allen** for saving an exposed hive in Valley City! And special thanks to **Bruce Pohl** for the assist with photos showing exactly how the hive was situated.



Photos courtesy Bruce Pohl

With the help of a ladder and bucket on a pole, Clint was able to rescue the hive, saving most of the comb. Clint's wife, Wendy, provided this update on November 18:

Once the colony was brought home, [Clint] was able to save nearly all of the comb using rubber bands to secure it into frames & moved them into a nuc box that has been insulated for the winter. With the recent warm up, he has been feeding them sugar syrup to help them with their sugar stores. There was almost no stored honey for the winter when he moved the hive. Yesterday, he was performing a hive check and FINALLY found the queen, who happens to be laying new eggs. A little tougher to spot her without a traditional frame. With a lot of luck, and a mild winter, we might be able to get this colony into spring. He also mentioned how gentle the bees are during inspection compared to our other hives. Since they've spent so much time exposed, they are always out foraging even when the temperatures are in the mid to high 40s.



Photos courtesy Clint and Wendy Allen

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 _____