

# THE BEE HERDER

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[www.MedinaBeekeepers.com](http://www.MedinaBeekeepers.com)



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## MCBA Meeting Information

Regular club meetings are held the third Monday of each month from 6:30 - 9:30 pm at Williams on the Lake. 787 Lafayette Road, Medina, OH (just west of the fairgrounds).

**September 17**, 6:30 - 9:30 pm – The speaker will be Tim Moore, owner of Elk Creek Honey Farm (<http://www.elkcreekhoney.com>). Tim will talk on the topic of winterizing your hives and bee yard. Tim has been keeping bees since 2004. From 2012 to 2015, he was the Lorain County apiary inspector. Tim and his wife, Renee, supply raw, local honey to retail and wholesale markets in the area. Tim is a member of the Medina County Beekeepers Association, Lorain County Beekeepers Association, and the Ohio State Beekeepers Association.

**October 15**, 6:30 - 9:30 pm – Jeannie Saum from Beepothecary (<https://beepothecary.wordpress.com/about/>) will speak on the topic “Propolis: Miracle of the Hive.” The presentation will cover research - based effectiveness for a multitude of germs and health conditions; how to collect, clean and store raw propolis; the many value-added products that can be made; how to make propolis oil and tincture; and tips and resources for working with it.

**November 19**, 6:30 - 9:30 pm – Derrick Harmon from the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service will discuss “Who is NRCS & How We Can Help - Programs Geared Towards Honey Bees.”

**December 17**, 6:00 - 9:00 pm – MCBA Annual Holiday Party. The cost of dinner is \$10. Additional details will be provided closer to the event.

## Website Upgrade

At the August board meeting, the members of the club’s Board of Directors discussed options for web development and hosting. The Board has selected a developer and will provide updates as they are available.

## MCBA Club News

### *Letter from the MCBA President - Ten Minutes with The Bees*

2018 has been an interesting year in the bee yard. First it was so cold so long. Then it exploded. Add a record hot summer and the bees can keep you guessing. Many of you have seen your bees hanging out on the porch since way back in mid-June. High traffic days have been far and few between. So, what is happening now?

Goldenrod – This Friday, Aug 31, I smelled GR “aroma” from the hives! Yes, it kinda stinks (that’s normal). It has the makings of a good fall flow. That means keeping an eye on your hives to make sure they store a lot in the deeps, but don’t swarm. During a quick check on Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, two of my hives had filled 4-5 frames in the super in the past 3 days. I added a 2nd super to one to give them a place to bring in more nectar.

Swarms – I’m hearing of lots of fall swarms. And BIG swarms. One of mine swarmed Friday, August 31 - huge, up 45 feet. When I checked the hive, I found new swarm cells. But I also found 6 frames of capped brood, larva, milkbrood, and 2 frames of eggs. Queens are not supposed to be able to fly if they are still large and laying! Always more to learn.

SHB – The small hive beetles have been fairly heavy this year. I find some on the IC (inner cover) of every hive. I now go out and pop the OC (outer cover), carefully lift the IC (don’t shake the bees), and watch for a minute. Soon I see the SHBs start to run. They do not hurt the hives, if strong, but are a nuisance. Monitor the frames you are storing! This quick check takes about 10 minutes per hive.

On Monday, September 4, three of my strong hives had 22-24 SHB on the IC. On one, about 15 SBH were hiding between the end of the frames and the box. I’ve never had more than a couple of SHB in the past. I put a trap in two

hives. I like to think about all the SHB that WON’T be making babies! Two other hives had 0 and 2 SHB.

Varroa – Always varroa, right? No matter what your samples have told you, now is the time to check diligently. Don’t let up! Those 6 frames of capped brood hold over 25,000 new bees. If there are varroa in the cells, they won’t have anywhere to go as the bees will raise less brood now. The numbers can surprise you since all exposed.

Good luck, have fun, and don’t forget to share what you find!

Paul Kosmos, MCBA President



*Photo by Tania Jarosewich*

### **Club Extractor**

MCBA has an extractor that members can rent. The extractor must be returned clean and undamaged. Due to high demand at this time of the year, the extractor must be returned within three days. Contact Peggy for availability.

### **MCBA Minutes**

There were no minutes from the August meeting, which was the MCBA club picnic.

### **Club Finances**

The MCBA Board of Directors decided at the August board meeting that Treasurer reports will be provided to the membership at meetings.

### **Club Bee Yard**

Dwain and Nick, our bee yard stewards, gave us an update about the club bee yard, which is located at Feeding Medina County. All hives and their brood frames were visually inspected, specifically at the brood cappings for pin holes that would indicate varroa. None were detected so an alcohol wash wasn't performed. Hive 2, which was requeened earlier in the summer, had ok good brood patterns and numbers, and a normal amount of honey on the brood frames.

Hive 1, located by the food bank building, and Hive 3, located near the garden, are doing very

well. The honey super in Hive 1 will be ready to harvest when three more honey frames are filled. All of the honey frames in Hive 3 are full and a second honey super was put on September 1st.

Watch for information about September bee yard day for club members. The bee yard honey will be harvested, bottled, and donated to Feeding Medina. Members will be invited to participate.

### **Member News**

Please remember MJ Cresho in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers from surgery. MJ has been a long time member of MCBA and attended many meetings and functions. Anyone wanting to send cards or flowers, please contact Peggy Garnes for more information.

## **The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – September**

We had a request from a reader for a short to-do list for this section, so we will try this format.

- Take off honey supers. When the honey flow is over, take off honey supers, extract the honey, put the wet frames back on the hive for the bees to clean, take the cleaned frames off, and store them for winter.
- Check for diseases! If you see evidence of brood disease or mites, treat when honey supers are off.
- Check honey and pollen stores. Each hive will need 60-90 pounds of honey, between 10 and 15 full frames of honey, more if you are using medium hive bodies.
- If needed, start feeding. After goldenrod and aster blooms, there won't be much nectar available for bees to gather. Feed a syrup made from 2 parts sugar to 1-part water using an internal feeder. Here is more information, written by a northeast Ohio beekeeper, about feeding and preparing for winter  
<https://www.bee-culture.com/winter-starts-today-ignore-these-practices-at-your-bees-peril/>
- Check to see whether the bees are bringing in pollen. The hive will need several frames of pollen for the winter. If needed, you can use pollen patties, but keep an eye out for small hive beetles.



Created by Juraj Sedláč  
from the Noun Project

## Local and Regional Bee Events

### *Webinar – Pollinator Diversity in Ohio Soybeans*

**September 19, 2018; 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM.** Kelley Tilmon, Associate Professor, Department of Etymology at The Ohio State University, will be the speaker for the September OSU Entomology Webinar. Webinars are free. Registration is not required. Follow the link at about 8:55 on the day of the event and log in as a guest: <http://go.osu.edu/theOSUbuzz>

### *2018 Cleveland Pollinator and Native Plant Symposium*

**September 21, 2018, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM.** The Ohio State University Wooster Campus Conference Center, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, OH 44691. The 4th Annual Cleveland Pollinator and Native Plant Symposium will provide information about garden design for beauty and pollinator and wildlife habitat. Learn how to create landscapes to support native bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators, capture and filter storm water, and sequester carbon. <https://www.clevelandpollinatorsymposium.org/>

### *Portage County Soil and Water Office Fall Plant Sale*

**September 29 and 30 and October 6 and 7, 2018.** Details: <https://sites.google.com/site/portagecountybeekeepers/about-our-events>

### *Bee Culture’s Fall Event – “My Story”*

**October 19 – 21, 2018.** Four commercial beekeepers will each offer a half-day presentation about their operations and how they spend their year. Registration: <http://store.beeculture.com/events/>

### *Ashtabula County Beekeepers Annual Beekeeping Conference*

**October 20, 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM,** Giddings Hall, 104 East Jefferson St, Jefferson, OH 44047. The speakers will be Jamie Walters, the 2017 Ohio State Beekeepers Association’s Beekeeper of the Year; Roy Hendrickson, writer and commercial beekeeper; Melanie Seal co-owner of Blue Sky Bee Supply Ltd. Light lunch provided. \$15.00 registration fee. <https://www.facebook.com/AshtabulaCountyBeekeepersAssoc/>

### *OSBA Fall Conference 2018*

**November 3, 2018, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM,** Tolles Career Center, 7877 US Highway 42 S, Plain City OH 43064. The conference will include sessions on the subject of “The Business of Beekeeping”, annual Honey Contest, and honey testing.” Speakers will include: Dr. Marla Spivak, Dr. David Tarpy, Dr. Reed Johnson, Freddy Proni, Melanie Seal, Gabe Blatt, Chris Cripps, Dr. Abigail Snyder, Mike Connor, National Resources Conservation Services Staff, Farm Service Agency Staff, Pat McKay, William Riccio, and others. Cost is \$25 for OSBA Member Pre-Registered, \$35 for OSBA Member at the door, \$35 for Non Member, and \$10 for an OSBA Guest (Spouse or children under 18 with paid OSBA Member). Online registration closes on October 24, 2018. <http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/event/osba-fall-conference-2018/>

## Editors' Corner

### *2018 North American Mite-a-Thon*

The Mite-A-Thon is a tri-national effort that asks beekeepers in Canada, the United States, and Mexico to collect mite infestation data one week annually to better understand varroa infestations in honey bee colonies across North America.

Please consider participating – it's easy and you need to measure your varroa loads anyway. During the week of September 8, measure the level of mites (number of mites per 100 bees) in your hives using a standardized protocol of powdered sugar roll or alcohol wash. Enter the information, including location, total number of hives, number of hives tested, local habitat, and the number of varroa mites counted from each hive to [www.mitecheck.com](http://www.mitecheck.com).

You can see summary data about mite count, management methods, and a map of highest mite count reported per county. The information does not identify individual participants. You can take a look at the site to see historic data, instructions for participating, and the data reporting survey.

### *OSBA 4-H Partnership Program – Application Deadline November 2<sup>nd</sup>*

The OSBA 4-H Partnership Program will bring the support of OSBA, Extension 4-H staff, and local beekeeping organizations to support five selected 4-H members in beekeeping projects. Selected 4-H members will receive basic woodenware and toolkits to establish two complete hives, and practical support and encouragement from experienced beekeepers. Local beekeeping associations who participate gain visibility to a new and vital audience of the “next generation” of beekeepers and increase positive community involvement.

Applicants must be aged 12-18 by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019; be a member of 4-H; and enrolled in public, private or home school. The completed [application](#) must be returned by **November 2nd, 2018**. The program guidelines are described in detail here: <http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.com/4h>

## MCBA Membership Application / Renewal

Annual MCBA membership dues are \$20 for email newsletter delivery of or \$25 for mailed delivery. Dues can be paid online <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-dues-registration-29296328106>. Or bring the completed form and check payable to *Medina Co. Beekeepers Association* to the next meeting or mail to MBCA c/o Toni Watson, PO Box 1353, Medina OH, 44258.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Check if this is a renewal and all roster information is correct; if not, complete below:

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) # of Colonies \_\_\_\_