

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



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MCBA Club Meetings

Third Monday of each month from 6:30 - 9:30 pm at Williams on the Lake. 787 Lafayette Road, Medina, OH (west of the fairgrounds).

October 15, 6:30 - 9:30 pm – “Propolis: Miracle of the Hive” by Jeannie Saum from Beepothecary (<https://beepothecary.wordpress.com/about/>). 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 propolis.

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.

We would like to hear from **YOU!**

The MCBA board will soon hold a strategy meeting to discuss plans and projects for the new year. We would like to hear what you think can be done to improve our club - new programs, new ideas, changes to existing programs. If you have ideas that you think could help the club, please email them to Paul Kosmos, president@medinabeekeepers.com by November 1st.

MCBA Board Elections

MCBA has five board positions up for election at the November meeting: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Director-at-Large. If you have an interest in running for any of these positions, please email Tania, Tania@HincklyHoney.com, prior to the Oct 15th meeting. Nominees will be introduced at the October meeting and allowed several minutes each to make a statement about their interest and experience. You can submit a written statement if you will not be able to attend. The election will take place at the November meeting.

MCBA Club News

Letter from the MCBA President - Ten Minutes with the Bees

This update in our bee yards will be a bit repetitive. The big three, food, Varroa Mites, and Small Hive Beetles, have not changed. Despite what appeared to be an excellent fall bloom for Goldenrod, many beekeepers are still finding their hives light on food. A two-deep hive (10 frame) should weigh approximately 150-160 lbs. going into winter. It takes about 10-12 full deep frames to store that much food. There is only a short time remaining for the bees to store more. If your hive has only a few frames of food, you will need to feed them 2:1 sugar syrup using multiple containers or a large feeder. It **HAS TO BE INTERNAL** this time of year or the robbing will be nasty.

One member treated his hive with MAQS strips this week. The hive dropped over 500 mites in the first 24 hours. He plans to treat again using Oxalic Acid in eight days (best not to treat twice so soon with such a harsh treatment). Make sure to check once more to be sure your hive is OK.

Another member sent me this picture of the small hive beetles (SHB) she found in her hive this week. She saw 125 SHBs on the cover, ALL from ONE frame!

Member News

MCBA member, Medina County Bee Inspector, Ron Zickefoose, was recently in the news. The September 29, 2018 issue of The Medina Post had a story about a tour of butterfly and rain gardens sponsored by the Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District. Ron shared information about the role of bees in pollination and the history of beekeeping in Medina county.



Photo: An MCBA club member collected these SHB in one week

Everyone is experiencing quite a few this SHB year. At least one member lost a hive (SHB did not kill the hive, but ruined the inside after something caused the hive to get weak). Since the meeting, I have tried Swiffer cloths in several hives and they have worked well in two of them. (Non-scented Swiffer refill pads placed over the brood frames under the inner cover.) Today one hive had about 30 SHB either caught in the cloth or hiding directly under it. Takes only 10 minutes with the bees to pop the IC and mash the little varmints!

MCBA Field Day. Thanks to all the members who turned out for the field day to help with all the work extracting the honey. Feeding Medina was extremely pleased, and pitched right in to help.

Paul

The Soil and Water office sells wildflower seeds and offers information about acquiring and planting milkweed and other wildflowers. Contact Linda Schneider, Education Coordinator (330-722-9321; lschneider@medinaco.org) or visit the office at 6090 Wedgewood Road.

Club Bee Yard Update – Dwain Novak, MCBA Bee Yard Steward

Club members inspected all three hives during the bee yard day. Paul Kosmos worked the hive closest to Chickmaster; Peggy Garnes the hive closest to the food bank; and Nick Novak and Dwain Novak the middle hive, which is deemed "the problem child".

Our bee yard day consisted of doing an evaluation of the possible reason for the problems in this hive this season. Once again, there was spotty brood laying in a couple of the bottom frames and limited honey and pollen collected for wintering. The queen in this hive was replaced in June with another laying queen, but the current results being the same as those of the replaced queen lead us to believe that there could be a possibility of contamination within the wax comb preventing a healthy hive like the others. This hive will be knocked down to a nuc for wintering.



Club Bee Yard – Harvesting Honey in the Bee Yard

The field day at the club bee yard was a huge success. More than 30 members gathered to watch and help harvest several supers of honey from the club hives. Various techniques were used to remove the bees from the frames, which were then moved into Feeding Medina’s facility for uncapping. Members tried their hand at uncapping the frames, putting them into the extractor, and bottling the honey. When all was said and done, MCBA donated 50 bottles of honey to Feeding Medina in return for the use of their facility.



The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – October

Soon enough the highs in the 70s and 80s that we’re enjoying will turn into highs in the 50s. Low temperatures will likely dip into the 30s by the start of November^{1,2}.

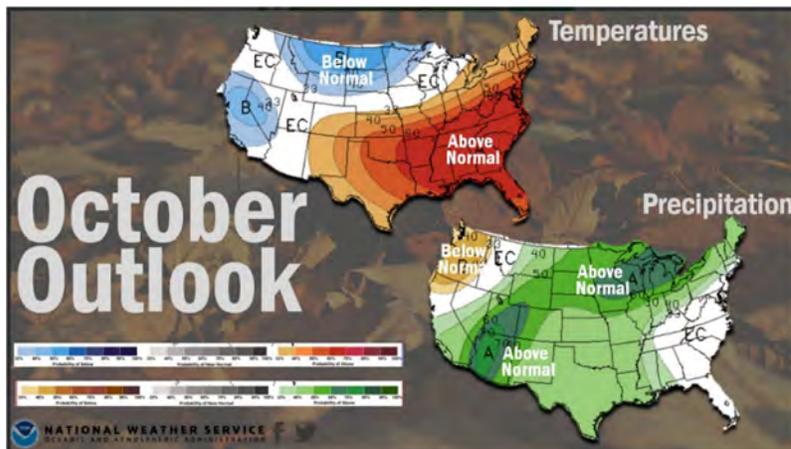
By the time you receive this month’s newsletter, the bees should be well into winter preparation with few flights and

¹ <https://weatherspark.com/m/18181/10/Average-Weather-in-October-in-Medina-Ohio-United-States>

² <https://www.accuweather.com/en/us/medina-oh/44256/month/335014?view=table>

the queen laying fewer eggs. To survive the winter, colonies should be strong, have a vigorous queen, adequate food reserves, low mite infestation, and a dry and protected hive.

Inspect your hives. Your 2-deep hive should weigh about 150 pounds - about 5 frames of bees and brood, 4 frames of pollen, and at least 10 deep (or 15 medium) frames of honey. When it gets cooler, monitor weight with a hand-held luggage scale. Hook the scale under the back of the bottom board and lift. Double the number for a good estimate of the weight.



Measure mite loads and treat if needed. You may have treated in the summer, but do not assume that everything is fine. Check again and treat if needed.

When night temperatures start falling to the 40s, place an entrance reducer and mouse guard on your hives to prevent mice from entering and seeking warmth.

Start thinking about how you will protect your hive from moisture and wind this winter. A large healthy colony will give off moisture as they cluster together to keep the colony warm. If this moisture is not vented, the water can condense and drip on the cluster, chilling and killing the bees. Tilt the back of the hive a little so that water can drip out the front. Consider using a top entrance, either a hole or a shim under the cover, which will help with ventilation and as an alternate entrance if the bottom entrance is covered in snow. Speaking of snow...next month, we'll focus more on preparing for the winter.

Local and Regional Bee Events

Webinar – Pollinator Diversity in Ohio Soybeans

October 17, 2018; 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM. Randy Mitchell, The University of Akron: The Ohio Bee Survey: In Search of the Rusty Patched Bumble. 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>

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 4-H Partnership Program

November 2, 2018, application deadline. The OSBA 4-H Partnership Program, supported by OSBA, Extension 4-H staff, and local beekeeping organizations will provide to five selected 4-H members

woodenware and toolkits to establish two complete hives, and practical support and encouragement from experienced beekeepers. Applicants must be aged 12-18 by January 1st, 2019, members of 4-H; and enrolled in public, private or home school. You can find the [application](#) and program guidelines here: <http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.com>\4h.

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/>

Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes

Regular Monthly Membership Meeting: Meeting Date: September 17, 2018; **DRAFT**

Call to Order: The regular monthly meeting of the Medina County Beekeeper’s Association was held at the Williams on the Lake at 787 Lafayette Rd, Medina, Ohio on September 17, 2018. The meeting convened at 7:00 P.M., President, Paul Kosmos presiding, Peggy Garnes acting as secretary.

Officers’ Reports: Toni Watson, Treasurer, presented fair financial results and club bank balance as of the end of August.

Committee Reports:

Bee yard Report - Field Day on Sunday 9/23/18 from 1 - 3 P.M. Members invited to get hands on experience harvesting, extracting, and bottling honey. The club’s honey harvest will be donated to Feed Medina. Veil required.

Fair Committee - Chair, Peggy Garnes, would like to have a wrap-up and reflection meeting next week. She asked fair participants to contact her with available dates.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: Peggy Garnes, Vice President, asked membership for topics/speakers that they would be interested in having presented at meetings.

Paul Kosmos honors member, Mike Rossander, with a restaurant gift certificate for his exceptional service to MCBA. Mike has donated countless hours over many years contributing his expertise and good judgement to Medina County Beekeepers Association club in a variety of capacities. Mike had recently retired in his unofficial capacity as webmaster for MCBA. Paul Kosmos, Peggy Garnes, and Michele Colopy shared a few words about Mike and what his quiet service has meant to the club.

Announcements: Laurene Kiel announced that tickets were available for the Stark County club’s quilt auction. Please see her for tickets.

Peggy Garnes announced the upcoming Annual Fall OSBA Conference on November 3, 2018 from 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. The location is The Tolles Career Center, 7877 U.S. Highway 42 S. in Plain City, Ohio. Registration online.

Presentation:

Speaker: Tim Moore, owner of Elk Creek Honey Farm. Tim has been keeping bees since 2004, and was the Lorain County apiary inspector from 2012 - 2015. Tim will talk on the timely topic of winterizing your hives and bee yard. 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.

Secretary _____ Date of Approval _____

2019 MCBA Membership Application / Renewal

Get a head start on your 2019 to-do list. Move an expense into this year for tax planning. Take care of your 2019 MCBA membership registration and dues!

Annual MCBA membership has two options for members:

- \$20 if newsletters will be emailed
- \$25 if you would prefer a printed newsletter mailed to your postal address

Each Membership has one vote in MCBA club matters and includes one family member in all club activities (of course, other than voting.)

Make checks payable to Medina County Beekeepers Association and attach the check to the form.

Mail both to: MCBA Treasurer, PO Box 1353, Medina, Ohio 44258.

Toni Watson, MCBA Treasurer will be happy to collect checks attached to the Membership Form at our monthly meetings.

Membership Form - Please complete even if this is a membership renewal. This is the major update / double-check on roster information for the newsletters!

Member Name: _____

e-mail: (please print carefully!): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ (Optional) # of colonies: _____
