

# THE BEE HERDER

Published by Medina County Beekeepers Association – August 2018

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



## Association Officers

President: Paul Kosmos

[president@medinabeekeepers.com](mailto:president@medinabeekeepers.com)

330-239-1379

Vice President: Peggy Garnes

[vp@medinabeekeepers.com](mailto:vp@medinabeekeepers.com)

330-723-6265

Secretary: Kim Barkfelt

[secretary@medinabeekeepers.com](mailto:secretary@medinabeekeepers.com)

330-225-7641

Treasurer: Toni Watson

[treasurer@aol.com](mailto:treasurer@aol.com)

214-505-3008

Newsletter Editor: Tania Jarosewich

[Tania@HinckleyHoney.com](mailto:Tania@HinckleyHoney.com)

Webmaster: Mike Rossander

[webmaster@medinabeekeepers.com](mailto:webmaster@medinabeekeepers.com)

Refreshments Coordinators:

Elle Jisa: [ejisa@roadrunner.com](mailto:ejisa@roadrunner.com)

Sheila Mauer: [spmaurer01@gmail.com](mailto:spmaurer01@gmail.com)

Directors:

2020: Laurene Kiel, [lkiel59@gmail.com](mailto:lkiel59@gmail.com)

2019: John Rose, [JohnPRose@msn.com](mailto:JohnPRose@msn.com)

2018: Mike Cantrell,  
[beesrwhatzup@gmail.com](mailto:beesrwhatzup@gmail.com)

Medina County Bee Inspector:

Ron Zickefoose

[ronz@asap-homes.com](mailto:ronz@asap-homes.com)

330-466-3642

State of Ohio Inspector:

Barbara Bloetscher

[bbloetscher@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:bbloetscher@agri.ohio.gov)

614-644-5839

## MCBA Meeting Information

**August 20, 6:00 – MCBA Picnic.** Join us for burgers, hot dogs, and bee talk at Mugrage Park, 4985 Windfall Road, Medina, 44256. If your last name begins with letters A-K, please bring a side dish to share, if L-Z, a dessert.

**In September, we return to our regular club meetings,** 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). Members can bring a snack for the table set up by the Refreshments Coordinators.

**September 17, 6:30 - 9:30 pm –** The speaker will be Tim Moore, owner of Elk Creek Honey Farm (<http://www.elkcreekhoney.com>). Tim has been keeping bees since 2004. From 2012 to 2015, he was the Lorain County apiary inspector. Tim will talk on the 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.

**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 and more details to follow.

Photo Tania Jarosewich



Photo Tania Jarosewich



Photo Bob Gomola



## MCBA Club News

### *A Note from the MCBA President*

Medina County Beekeepers, Greetings! Can you believe it's the middle of August already? Yikes! Here are a few updates to keep everyone informed.

**Meetings:** The August meeting is the club picnic on Monday, Aug 20 at 6 pm. It's a great time to visit and have a good time. Join us for burgers and hots off the grill! And lots of bee talk. For those attending, if your last name begins with A-K please bring a side dish. For those L-Z please bring a dessert. The picnic is at Mugarage Park in Medina. It is just north of Rt 18 at 4985 Windfall Road.

The September meeting is our regular meeting at Williams on the Lake. Our featured speaker is Tim Moore. Tim is a local beekeeper and member of MCBA. He also is one of the most successful beekeepers in terms of raising healthy bees and getting his hives through winter, which will be the subject of his talk. This should be a good one!

**MCBA club extractor.** MCBA has an extractor that members can rent. This time of year you **MUST** return the extractor in 3 days due to high demand. The extractor also **MUST** be returned CLEAN and undamaged. Contact Peggy for availability.

**Fair shirt.** For those who sold at the fair (a huge success) and purchased a shirt(s), email Paul a copy of the receipt.

**Website.** We should have an announcement soon regarding the status of our new website.



MCBA – Best looking booth at the fair by far!!!

---

## MCBA 2018 Membership Application / Renewal

Please fill out the form below and write a check payable to Medina Co. Beekeepers Association - \$20 for email delivery of newsletter or \$25 for mailed newsletters. Bring to the next MCBA meeting or mail to MBCA c/o Toni Watson, PO Box 1353, Medina OH, 44258. You can also pay annual dues online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-dues-registration-29296328106> .

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

---

## *Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes and Club Finances*

There were no minutes from the July meeting. The treasurer will provide a financial report for the September newsletter.

## *Library Bee Festival – A note from Kim Barkfelt, MCBA Bee Festival Event Chair*

Kudos to the following club members who generously volunteered their time and talents to make the Medina County Bee Festival another huge success. Please take the time to personally thank them, as they did a great job representing your club and its mission!

Peggy Garnes  
Lynette Horn  
Paul Kosmos  
Holly Krieger  
Sheila Maurer  
Nick Novak  
Nan Passanante  
Claire Petkac  
Lucille Petkac  
James Simonelli  
Mary Simonelli  
John Vrtachnik  
Barb Vrtachnik  
Ron Zickefoose



*(Photo Mary Jane Brewer, special to cleveland.com)*

Their support is much appreciated.  
Kim Barkfelt, MCBA Bee Festival Event Chair

## *Library Bee Festival – Article on Cleveland.com*

Follow this link to an article on the Cleveland.com site about the Bee Festival. The article describes how MCBA President, Paul Kosmos (see photos above, which appeared in the story), answered questions and MCBA Vice President, Peggy Garnes, gave out samples of honey products and talked about bees.

[https://www.cleveland.com/medina/index.ssf/2018/07/medina\\_library\\_hosts\\_10th\\_annu.html](https://www.cleveland.com/medina/index.ssf/2018/07/medina_library_hosts_10th_annu.html)

### **A Note from the President....**

This year's fair was another huge success for the club. It's hard to know which was best.... The record sales, the good time most of us had, or the feeling of helping and giving back to the club. We certainly owe a lot to Peggy Ganes and Laura Cantrell for doing such a great job of organizing and planning the fair. The same goes for Kim Barkfelt for all the time and help she contributed. And of course, the sellers who helped out and provided the items for sale.

But the real thanks go to the many members who did not sell at the fair but volunteered their time to help so much. These members contributed 55 shifts (220 hours) to help man the booth, observation hive and candle rolling. That is more than half of all the shifts for the week!

**On behalf of MCBA I thank all of you for your contribution  
to ensure the future of our club!**

*Jared Bohley Sheri Closky Jane Dew Joe Fugate Chris Fullerton*

*Bob Gomola Judy Hazard Ken Hazard Lynnette Horn*

*Tania Jarosewich Ellie Jisa Andy Kawac Mark Kelly Tammy Kelly*

*Yvonne Kosmos Sheila Mauer Mary Jo Moses Gary Nolan*

*Dan Parker Bob Powers Seth Richardson Gino Santoro Mary Simonelli*

*James Simonelli John Vrtachnik Barb Vrtachnik Randy Wilke*

*Leza Wilke Grace Zubko*



### *Fair Report- Provided by MCBA President*

The 2018 Medina County Fair had record attendance. On top of everything else, the concert on Thursday evening was sold out weeks ahead of the fair. MCBA had a record year as well, with excellent sales. The booth was decorated, the new observation hive that John Rose built last year constantly had a crowd, and the candle rolling area with Jane Dew and Barb Vrtachnik also drew a steady crowd. Kudos to everyone for a job well done.

Kim Barkfelt  
Jared Bohley  
Laura Cantrel  
Mike Cantrel  
Sheri Closki  
Jane Dew  
Joe Fugate  
Chris Fullerton  
Tessa Fullerton  
Peggy Garnes  
Evona Gaughan  
Kris Gaughan  
Bob Gomola

Lynnette Horn  
Tania Jarosewich  
Karen Jefferies  
Ellie Jisa  
Andy Kawac  
Mark Kelly  
Tammy Kelly  
Paul Kosmos  
Yvonne Kosmos  
Shelia Maurer  
Tim Moore  
Mary Jo Moses  
Gary Nolan

Dan Parker  
Bob Powers  
Seth Richardson  
Gino Santoro  
James Simonelli  
Mary Simonelli  
Richard Sprague  
John Vrtachnik  
Randy Wilke  
Ron Zickefoose  
Grace Zubko



Photo Tania Jarosewich



Photo Tania Jarosewich

### *2018 Medina County Fair Judging Results*

#### **BAKED GOODS**

|                   |  |           |
|-------------------|--|-----------|
| Honey Cookies     | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Connie Adams                         | Medina    |
|                   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Eva Sterns                           | Medina    |
|                   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Tanya Rodgers Haymond                | Medina    |
| Honey Cake        | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Connie Adams ( <i>Best of Show</i> ) | Medina    |
|                   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Gerry Stormer                        | Wadsworth |
|                   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Diane Toomon                         | Bruswick  |
| Honey Yeast Bread | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Audrey Gegorek                       | Medina    |
|                   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Gerry Stormer                        | Wadsworth |



Photo Bob Gmola

## BEE PRODUCTS

|                               |   |                                      |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Extracted Honey - white       | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Jason Creamer<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> place Bruce Pohl<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> place Tim Moore                                  | Medina<br>Hinckley<br>Wellington     |
| Extracted Honey - light amber | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Peggy Garnes<br>( <i>Best of Show</i> )<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> place Russell Riopelle<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> place Bruce Pohl | Medina<br>Valley City<br>Hinckley    |
| Extracted Honey - dark amber  | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Ron Zickefoose<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> place Richard Sprague<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> place Russell Riopelle                     | Creston<br>Sullivan<br>Valley City   |
| Creamed Honey                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Laura Cantrell<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> place Richard Sprague<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> place Russell Riopelle                     | Brunswick<br>Sullivan<br>Valley City |
| Chunk Honey                   | No entries  |                                      |
| Extracting Frames             | No entries  |                                      |
| Comb Honey                    | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Russell Riopelle  | Valley City                          |
| Cut Comb Honey                | No entries  |                                      |



Photo Gary Nolan

|                       |  |                                     |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Molded Beeswax Figure | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Russell Riopelle   | Valley City                         |
| Beeswax Figurine(s)   | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Russell Riopelle   | Valley City                         |
| Candles, Molded       | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Russell Riopelle<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> place Tim Moore<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> place Evona Gaughan       | Valley City<br>Wellington<br>Medina |
| Candles, Dipped       | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Russell Riopelle   | Valley City                         |
| Beeswax-5 lb. min     | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Russell Riopelle   | Valley City                         |
| Pollen                | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Tim Moore<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> place Peggy Garnes  | Wellington<br>Medina                |
| Bees Wax-1 lb. min    | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Russell Riopelle<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> place Tim Moore<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> place Evona Gaughan       | Valley City<br>Wellington<br>Medina |
| Hand Cream            | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Evona Gaughan<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> place Russell Riopelle  | Medina<br>Valley City               |
| Lip Balm              | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Russell Riopelle<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> place Evona Gaughan<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> place Angelina Sheetz | Valley City<br>Medina<br>Hinckley   |
| Soap                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> place Tim Moore  | Wellington                          |



Photo Tania Jarosewich

## Local and Regional Bee Events

**West Virginia Beekeepers Fall Conference** – August 24-25, Fairmont High Tech Center. Visit the association website ([www.wvbeekeepers.org](http://www.wvbeekeepers.org)) for information and registration.

## The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – August

This month, with little forage, the colony's growth is slowing as the queen lays fewer eggs. Bees can become aggressive as they defend their stores from neighboring colonies, wasps, and maybe their beekeeper. The final nectar sources of the season will be goldenrod and aster. The following are a few suggestions for August beekeeping tasks. Make sure to also read the section of the newsletter that follows, in which Ron Zickefoose, Medina County Bee Inspector, provides several observations about winter success of Medina County bee colonies from his many inspections across the county.

**Take care of your winter bees.** Bees born in August will take care of the September and October larvae that will grow into winter bees. All of these generations of bees must be healthy, well-fed, and free of mites and diseases. What you do now will impact your bees' overwintering success.

**Continue to monitor and attend to Varroa mite levels.** Do an alcohol wash to measure the varroa levels in your hives and treat if needed. Here is the link again for the Honey Bee Health Coalition varroa mite treatment guidelines: [https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/HBHC-Guide\\_Varroa-Interactive-PDF.pdf](https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/HBHC-Guide_Varroa-Interactive-PDF.pdf). Treat before the winter bee larvae are sealed into their cells.

**Manage stores and space.** In order to overwinter successfully, our bees will need at least one full box of honey, about five deep frames of bees, and several more frames of healthy capped brood or larvae. If honey stores are limited and/or larvae not plump and moist, you may need to put in an internal feeder with syrup. Take off honey supers if you decide to feed. The bees also need to have sufficient room for the queen to lay eggs. If you see the brood nest backfilled with syrup, your hive may be honey bound with no room for brood. Reduce or temporarily stop feeding and raise several frames from the middle of the bottom box to the outer edges of the upper brood box to make room for the queen to lay eggs.

**Ensure a young productive queen.** Your queens should be laying well now, and young enough to have strong pheromones and efficient laying in spring. If your queen is over a year old, you might want to re-queen. Do this before Labor Day so that the young queen has sufficient time to raise winter bees. Buy a local queen from one of our MCBA members or a local bee supply vendor. It is likely too late to start rearing your own queens in mid-August.

**Trap wasps and yellow jackets.** At this time of the year, wasps and yellow jackets can start robbing precious honey stores. Put out wasp and yellow jacket traps to minimize impact on your colonies.

## MCBA Club Member Contribution

### *What I learned my first year as bee inspector*

Ron Zickefoose

As I write this in early August, I've inspected close to 400 hives in over 100 apiaries. Some days it seems a Sisyphean task, given the number of registered colonies in Medina County - 1722 hives in 360 bee yards. Still, this has been a great learning opportunity and I am enjoying meeting some really great beekeepers.

A ton (actually probably way more than 2000 lbs) of package bees came into the county from California and Georgia. The packages from California were considerably better this year in comparison to those from Georgia with respect to build up and general health. This may have been due to the weather in those respective regions during package production and queen mating. Nonetheless it is something to keep in mind when ordering packages next year.

Medina bee yards were hit hard by the 2017-2018 roller coaster winter and I estimate losses at nearly 90%. That is way too high – even if we are in good company of beekeepers with 25+ years of experience. I spent extra time with those who had good success in overwintering to elicit their processes and procedures. What I found in common are the following.

1. Some type of windbreak – either natural or manmade – from a row of trees, bales of straw, moved into a shed or barn, polystyrene insulation, or hive wrapping. You name it. The ones that made it were protected from the winds and wind chill.
2. Ventilation – One that really shocked me was a survivor that had a natural windbreak, but boxes full of holes. The bees used about five different holes as entrances, ignoring the main entrance. This hive overwintered. I'm not recommending this as a tactic for overwintering, but it does bring to light the need for good ventilation. Many beekeepers drilled  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch holes in brood boxes, making sure that the holes went through any insulation or wrap they were using. Others used shims or popsicle sticks to create a vent in the top box. All the hives that I saw make it had ventilation of some kind. Most of the ones I found dead had signs of excessive moisture and dampness in the hive.
3. Mites were under control – This one was a bit tricky because several beekeepers who had success overwintering did not use one of the big three control methods of Oxalic, Formic, or Amitraz. At first I thought that perhaps the bees had excellent genetics like the “mite mauler” or “ankle biter” queens from Purdue. Further investigation revealed that each of the “no treatment” survivors had a late season (August) brood break of some type - the hive swarmed, was re-queened, split, etc. This late season break in the brood cycle was the mite treatment for these hives and got the mites under control.

Below I've included links to three very good articles about overwintering, two of them deal with nucleus colonies but are very much worth the time for additional study.

- <http://gcba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/100-Precent-Overwintering-Success-Davidson-ABJ-Oct-2016.pdf>
- [https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/pnw682\\_2.pdf](https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/pnw682_2.pdf)
- [https://cdn.sare.org/wpcontent/uploads/20171204115432/Milbrath\\_SustainableFallNucs\\_Final.pdf](https://cdn.sare.org/wpcontent/uploads/20171204115432/Milbrath_SustainableFallNucs_Final.pdf)

May all your hives have live bees in them next spring.