

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



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MCBA Meeting Information

July 16, 6:00 - 9:00 pm – Booth Cleanup and Sellers Meeting. Please help tidy the booth for the **Medina County Fair**. If you plan to sell hive products at the fair, you must attend this **mandatory Seller's Meeting**, but whether or not selling, all are invited to help with a quick cleanup, followed by pizza, and talk.

July 30 - August 5 – Medina County Fair. Please sign up to help at the booth for a few hours. Peggy needs a few additional volunteers for evening shifts. Contact Peggy Garnes with questions about volunteering at the fair (vp@medinabeekeepers.com or 330-723-6265).

August 20, MCBA Picnic – Information to follow.

In September, we return to our regular club meetings, which 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 at our first meeting will be Tim Moore, owner of Elk Creek Honey Farm (<http://www.elkcreekhoney.com>). Tim, who has been keeping bees since 2004, will talk on the topic of winterizing your hives and bee yard. Tim and his wife, Renee, supply raw, local honey to both retail and wholesale markets in the area. From 2012 to 2015, Tim was the Lorain County apiary inspector and enjoyed most working with new beekeepers to help them become successful. He 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.

Local and Regional Bee Events

Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS) annual conference – July 11-13 - Washington University in St. Louis. Visit the association website (www.heartlandbees.org) for additional information.

Medina Library Bee Festival – Saturday, July 21, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. For the past several years, more than 1,000 visitors attended this event, which will include a bee tent with live nuc, kids' activities, candle-rolling and balloon crafts.

The Harrison County Beekeepers Association All-Day Beekeeping Seminar featuring Dr. Kirsten Traynor – July 21 - Scio U.M. Church, 117 Maple Ave., Scio, OH. Cost, including lunch, is \$15 with pre-registration by July 14, or \$20 at the door. Details and information about registration at <http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/event/harrison-county-beekeeping-seminar/>.

Dr. Traynor is editor of The American Bee Journal; author of Simple, Smart Beekeeping and Two Million Blossoms; and operator of Flickerwood Apiaries in Maryland where she produces artisanal honey, nucs and queens. She is a former researcher at the University of Maryland in the lab of Dr. Dennis VanEnglesdorf as a member of the Bee Informed Partnership team.



Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) annual Honey Bee Conference – August 13-17, Hampton Roads Convention Center, 1610 Coliseum Drive, Hampton, VA. Visit the association website (www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2018.html) for additional information about tracks based on level of experience as well as short and long sessions.

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

MCBA Club News

MCBA Website Upgrade

The MCBA website is no longer working, however, not to worry. Information will be posted on the club's updated website, currently being created and tested. Those with expertise creating or maintaining websites who would like to participate are invited to contact Paul Kosmos.

Stan Hywett Hall Field Trip

The 32 MCBA members who attended the event split into two groups to tour the gardens, pollinator garden, and the bee yard. All agree that the grounds



and the Hall are spectacular. Everyone found special interest in the milkweed plants in the pollinator garden. The Common Milkweed plants were nearly 6 feet tall. They were



impressive and everyone left thinking about planting seed this fall. The club received good feedback and a good time was had by all! Thank you, Holly Krieger, for providing photos to share with club members!

Volunteers Needed

Although posted above, a reminder again that MCBA members are welcome to volunteer for these events and projects:



Medina Library Bee Festival – Saturday, July 21, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Medina County Library.

Please contact Kim Barkfelt – KimBarkfelt@gmail.com – to find out hours volunteers are needed.

Medina County Fair. This is a great opportunity to talk with other beekeepers and people who have many questions about bees and hive products. Contact Peggy Garnes about cleaning, volunteering, and selling honey at the club booth. Evening shifts are available for a fun after-work volunteer opportunity.

Club website update. Contact Paul Kosmos if you would like to help update the website. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the club and use your creativity and web development skills help create a modern and useful site for the club.

Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes

Regular Monthly Membership Meeting

June 18, 2018: Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The regular monthly meeting of the Medina County Beekeeper’s Association was held at Williams on the Lake at 787 Lafayette Rd, Medina, Ohio on June 18, 2018. The meeting convened at 6:50pm. Paul Kosmos presiding.

Approval of Minutes: Kim Barkfelt provided minutes from April 16, 2018, and May 21, 2018, meetings as published in the newsletter. No corrections made; minutes approved as distributed.

Officers’ Reports: none

Committee Reports:

Bee Yard - Peggy Garnes reported that one hive re-queened, and that all were doing well. A field day should be in order soon.

Library Bees - Will be removed temporarily during the construction at the library. They will be back for the Bee Festival event on July 21.

Library Bee Festival - July 21, 2018 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. Chair Kim Barkfelt described this popular annual community event and called for volunteers. Sign-up sheet available

Fair Committee – Chair Peggy Garnes made information packages available to fair sellers and sign-up sheet for volunteers. Two shift limit for initial sign-up. Remaining shifts will be opened up subsequently.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: Stuart Neal, VP of the Medina County Fair Board and Superintendent of the Agriculture Building, spoke with those in attendance about new elements at the fair for 2018 event. He thanked Bill Richardson from Richardson's Farm for sponsoring the honey-judging events. Premium books were available for members interested in entering honey products for competition. Stuart gave an overview on how to enter. Brochures outlining the week's schedule of events and yard signs were also made available. Stuart forewarned volunteers working on Thursday night to come early, and suggested staying late. This year's headliner is already sold out. Parking will be tight, and leaving the grounds at the normal closing time will require some patience. Preferred parking for the week is available for \$50.

Announcements:

Bee Supplies available (from Mike Cantrell at back table). Drone Comb \$2.75 each Beetle Blaster Traps \$1.25 each

Many Simonelli generously provided bee-friendly plants for interested members.

Bears sighted in Brecksville, Montville, and Wadsworth

Adjournment: July 16, 2018, at 6:00 pm and the Medina Fairgrounds were fixed as the time and place of the next regular meeting. June 18 meeting adjourned at 8: 25 pm.

Club Finances

Toni Watson, MCBA Treasurer, provided the following financial report. As of June 30th:

Cashflow: Club is at breakeven

Inflows -

Dues (from continuing members) - \$2870

Classes (net of cost but inclusive of the first-timers dues) - \$4026

Events (Randy Oliver, Stan Hywett) - \$1572

Supply Sales (net of purchase costs; some supplies still available) - \$190

Medina County Fair (to be held in July/Aug)

Outflows -

Mtg Room Rent - \$2575

Admin (club computer & EventBrite/PayPal fees) - \$2074

Brochures - \$300

Speaker Fees & Travel - \$1909

Mtg Refreshments - \$61

Donations:

(Scientific Beekeeping, supports good science & education; Suit/tools for county inspector) - \$883

Bee Yard Supplies - \$485

Cash-on-Hand - \$26005

Bank Balance - \$25363

PayPal Balance - \$642

Toni notes that Club has enough Cash-on-Hand to sustain us through the possibility of bad luck of a rainy week during the Medina County Fair. This sustainability is important so we can continue to offer education and events that benefit our membership. When we reach out to speakers, they need assurance that we will follow through on our commitment to them. Financial soundness is part of our Club's good reputation and is an important asset.

Club Bee Yard Update

Nick and Dwain, our bee yard stewards, report that two of the three club hives are doing fine with good honey buildup and good numbers in the brood boxes. The hive closest to the food bank building is doing extremely well, with a half-filled honey super. Unfortunately, the middle hive, which already had a queen replacement isn't faring well, with a spotty brood pattern and low numbers. An alcohol done on the Carniolians resulted in four mites – the team is determining how to treat this hive. The team also talked about queen rearing endeavors. This month's summary - "Life within our bee yards can be challenging at times but the end result is always rewarding".

MCBA Membership Application / Renewal

For those who have not yet paid club dues for this year, please complete form below, and to the next meeting bring a check for \$20 for email delivery of newsletter or \$25 for mailed newsletters, payable to Medina Co. Beekeepers Association. If not attending, mail form and payment to MBCA c/o Toni Watson, PO Box 1353, Medina OH, 44258. Annual dues can be paid online, as well, 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 _____

The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – July

We've gotten through winter and swarming season (I don't know about all of you, but I had a doozy of a swarming season) and, now in July, we enter the "managing bees in the dearth and thinking about getting ready for winter" season. Beekeepers will have three main tasks in July, extracting honey, taking care to prevent robbing between colonies, and monitoring and treating for varroa. And you know, thinking about getting ready for winter.

Extracting honey. If your bees were productive in June and brought nectar into your supers, you might be thinking about extracting honey to sell and/or show at the county fair. (See above for information about sellers' packets and volunteering for a shift at the club booth). One of the services of the Club, is an extractor that members can borrow for a small deposit and fee.

If all or most of the frames in a super are capped, you can quickly remove the entire super, covering the top and bottom, and take it to a closed, bee-proof room where the bees won't be able to find it, or you. If only a few frames are capped, remove those frames, arranged the rest in the middle spaces of the super, and add empty frames to fill in the super. Consider removing honey supers in the morning, when foragers from other hives are less likely to be out searching for food. When you are finished removing the honey, you can bring the super back to the apiary and place it with the emptied frames above the inner cover to allow the bees to clean the remaining honey. After a day or two, when the frames are clean, take them off to store for the winter. When you do this, cover the top openings and any cracks in the hive, and put on a robbing screen so that neighboring colonies do not rob the hive.

Preventing robbing. Speaking of robbing, in the summer dearth there is little forage for the bees, exactly at the same time that the bees are beginning to prepare their winter stores. Bees can rob the honey stored in weaker hive in a few days. You can do a few things to minimize robbing:

- Close up cracks in hive bodies.
- Reduce hive manipulations. When you are inspecting a hive make sure to have all equipment ready, work quickly, and open only one hive at a time. Cover the top and bottom of open hive bodies, you can use a damp towel or sheet, and use smoke to minimize the aroma of honey. Colonies may become more defensive so make sure to wear your veil and take a smoker with you to the apiary.
- Add a robbing screen late at night or early in the morning. The bees in the hive will use it when they fly out to forage and will quickly become accustomed to the new entrance. Robber bees will not find the real entrance. You can purchase a robbing screen or if you are handy, you can make one. Here are a few ideas for DIY screens: <https://cookevillebeekeepers.com/how-to-make-a-simple-robber-screen/>, <https://www.keepingbackyardbees.com/robbingbehavior-wvideo/>, <http://www.colonialbeekeepers.com/index.php/education-information-mainmenu-43-43/98-how-to-make-a-robbing-screen>.

Monitoring varroa. The primary reasons for hive inspections in July are to assure that your colony is queenright and that mite levels are low. The queen will be laying fewer eggs as the nectar flow decreases while mites will continue to lay eggs in capped brood at the same rate; their reproduction does not decrease in the dearth. As the bee population decreases, the mite population continues to increase and a higher percentage of bees carry mites and are infected with viruses. This means that bees will be less

healthy and less able to raise the next few generations of bees. The winter bees, which need to live through 5-6 months of winter, will be less healthy and less able to live through the spring. The June newsletter included a link with directions for alcohol washes, the most effective way to test for mites. Remember, if the count is more than 1 mite per 100 bees, treat and then check to assess the effectiveness of the treatment. You can also follow this link for videos and downloadable guides for monitoring and treating for varroa (<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>) from the Honey Bee Health Coalition.

Odds and ends. You may need to feed new colonies, swarms, and splits. Feed 1:1 sugar syrup using in-hive feeders. Do not use Boardman or external feeders, which might encourage robbing. Water is also important in these hot and dry days. Continue to maintain a water source so that bees have the water they need to cool the hive. On hot and humid nights, you may see a large curtain of bees cooling themselves on the exterior of the hive. This is called bearding. You might also see bees fanning on the front of a hive. Here is a link to an interesting post that discusses the difference between bearding and bees getting ready to swarm (<https://honeybeesuite.com/bearding-is-often-confused-with-swarming/>).

Editors' Corner – Road Trip! (Tania Jarosewich)

This June my family travelled out West. We spent a good amount of time in Utah, whose state symbol is the beehive, whose state insect is the honeybee, and whose nickname is The Beehive State. Early Mormon settlers used the symbol of the honeybee to represent hard work and industriousness. Images of bees, hives, and comb are common. The road signs remind drivers that they are in the Beehive State. Sidewalks in Salt Lake City are stamped with an image of a beehive and tree grates are shaped in the form of hexagonal honeycombs. And BEEHIVE beer, why not?



I had a nice break from the conference I was attending by observing honeybees foraging on a large lavender plant. At first, I noticed one then two honeybees, and then hundreds of bees. As soon as I returned home, I planted lavender near my apiary to provide additional forage for my bees!

