

THE BEE HERDER

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MEETING LOCATION

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at Williams on the Lake, 787 Lafayette Road, Medina, OH (just west of the Fairgrounds). The MCBA website lists all events: www.medinabeekeepers.co

Association Officers

Pres: Paul Kosmos
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Newsletter Editor

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Webmaster

Mike Rossander
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Refreshments Coordinator

Elle Jisa & Sheila Mauer

Directors:

2020: Laurene Kiel

2019: John Rose

2018: Mike Cantrell

Medina County Bee Inspector

Ron Zickefoose
ronz@asap-homes.com
330-466-3642

State of Ohio Inspector

Barbara Bloetscher
614-644-5839

Meeting Calendar

The next meeting is May 21 at 7 PM. Featured speaker is Sheila St. Clair from Queen Right Colonies in Spencer, Ohio. In addition to managing their business, Sheila will take time to talk to us about making creamed honey.

Beginner's Half Hour

Join us at 6:30 pm most meetings for discussion and questions about what's happening in your bee yard.

Upcoming Events

May: Making Creamed Honey - Sheila St. Clair from QRC will show us how to make creamed honey. Many of you have asked for more information on this topic.

June: Sustainable Beekeeping Using Nucs – Joe Kovalski will present the OSBA talk on using nucs to better manage your bee yard.

June 24: Special Event - Sunday afternoon at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens. Come join us for a special tour for MCBA of the Hall, Gardens and Butterfly exhibit.

Recent Events – Dave Noble and Population Dynamics

Dave discussed management of honey bee hives. Dave's style is very upbeat and entertaining as well as informative. Dave stressed regular inspections, checking the hives for food stores and brood. One interesting point was his discussion about the "mood" of the hive and how it varies from Spring to Fall. Spring bees are mostly young new year bees and are normally quite calm. By fall there is much less new brood and many of the bees are older bees and may be less receptive to being disturbed. Combine that with lack of abundant food and Look Out!

Life in the Bee Yard in May



Bees in the super

April continued to be a very difficult and cold spring, much to the detriment of your bees. They have not been able to get out and forage, which means less food and pollen. In addition, the cold nights reduce their ability to raise brood. As a result, some hives are not as strong as normal for this time of year.

Your hives will catch up when it finally warms up. In fact, it may become very busy since they will want to make up for lost time.

Many plants are also behind schedule and have not bloomed in their normal progression. That creates the possibility for a major bloom “spike” when many plants catch up all at once. That is good for bees but can increase swarm conditions as they build rapidly. May is already the month to keep an eye on your bees to prevent swarming.

If you have not done so, temperatures should allow for easy inspection of your hives. For those of you who leave a super on the hive for winter food, the chances are good that you will find the Queen and brood in the super. Once the temps are steady, you will want to find the queen and move her down into the deep box. You may want to put a queen excluder under the super to allow the brood to emerge – and you are all ready for the start of the honey flow.

Many beekeepers reverse their deep boxes in the spring. Why? The bottom box is often empty. The idea is that since bees like to move “up”, reversing the deeps puts empty comb above the bottom box and may reduce the urge to swarm. This technique also requires normal warmer temps to prevent chilling the brood. Ask your mentor!

We’ve heard from many members installing their first packages. It is so much fun to listen to their stories (and be reminded of our first year). For the most part they have found their nerves high (anticipation) but the actual installation easy.



Package Install in the Bee Yard

More Fun with Newbees and the Bee Yard

Laura has eggs in her new hive!



Michele opened her hive on day three to check the queen. The bees had already released her. When she looked, they were “balling” the queen. Probably not completely comfortable yet with her and the disturbance caused them to ball her. She figured out what they were doing and called me. To my amazement Michele and her husband had the moxy to catch the Q and put her back in the cage for a day so they could release her in peace!

Holly has a very strong new hive with eggs, larva, and stored pollen. She also appears to be one excited new Beekeeper!



The Medina Beekeepers Association Bee Yard is up and running. Packages from Queen Right Colonies have been installed, queens marked and foundation is being drawn out at record speed. Members John, Nick, Nandee and John and Barb have participated during installation, releasing of queens and routine inspections. Please contact Mike Cantrell or Peggy Garnes if you are interested in participating in future inspections. Please watch the website for upcoming field days for more hands-on experiences.



Inspecting the new hives after one week

Membership Application or Renewal
Medina County Beekeepers Association

Name _____

____ Check here if this is a renewal and all information on the roster is correct. Otherwise, please fill out the section below:

E-mail _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

(Optional) # of Colonies _____

2018 dues are \$20 for email delivery, \$25 for mailed newsletters.

Make checks payable to **Medina Co. Beekeepers Assn.** and send care of: Toni Watson - PO Box 1353 Medina OH, 44258. You can also pay your dues online at the MCBA website.

Please do **not** use this if you will be taking the Beginner Class.



Treasurer - MCBA
PO Box 1353
Medina, OH 44256

Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes
Regular Monthly Membership Meeting
Meeting Date: April 16, 2018

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 April 16, 2018. The meeting convened at 7:00 P.M., President, Paul Kosmos presiding, Kim Barkfelt, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the February 19, 2018 and March 19, 2018 meetings of the Medina County Beekeepers Association were posted on the website under the Newsletter section for February (no newsletter published) and March. No corrections made and minutes were approved as distributed.

Officers' Reports:

none

Committee Reports:

Bee yard - Package Installation scheduled for April 23rd, weather permitting

Unfinished Business:

The club is still in need of a Newsletter Editor. The full description of this position is in the April newsletter. If interested, please contact President, Paul Kosmos.
Bylaws vote will be postponed to address a question.

New Business:

During bee season, miscellaneous bee supplies will be offered at meetings to the membership at cost. Currently offered: Plastic Drone Comb frames at \$2.75 each and Beetle Blaster Traps at \$1.25 each. See Mike Cantrell. Medina County has retained Ron Zickefoose as the new Medina County Bee Inspector with MCBA support.

Announcements:

Members that have answered the call for help:

Deputy Fair Chair for 2018 - Laura Cantrell has volunteered to shadow Chair, Peggy Garnes, with the intent to assume the full position of Chair starting in 2019.

Bee yard Steward - Mike Cantrell has volunteered to assist Peggy Garnes with the club bee yard this year, with the intent to assume the full responsibilities of the position in 2019. Nick Novak will be a helper.

Sheila Maurer has stepped-up to manage the membership name tags.

Earth Day Event - April 21, 2018 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Location: Buffalo Creek 8708 Hubbard Valley Rd. Seville OH. Organized by John Rose.

Special Event - Sunday, June 24, 2018 Grounds apiarist, Laura Urban, will be opening the grounds hive. Enjoy a self-guided tour of Stan Hywet Hall, Gardens, and Butterfly exhibit. Times are 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Cost: \$12. Watch for Eventbrite pre-registration on the MCBA website!

Presentation:

Speaker: **Dave Noble, Apiarist, Stratford Ecological Center**

Topic: **"Population Dynamics of the Hive"**

Adjournment: May 21, 2018 at 7:00 P.M and Williams on the Lake at 787 Lafayette Rd, Medina, Ohio were fixed as the time and place of the next regular meeting.

Medina Beekeepers Needs Your Help

The club has a number of needs that require member support. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Paul Kosmos president@medinabeekeepers.com

Name Tags – Thanks to Sheila Mauer for volunteering to manage the name tags for the club.

Newsletter – A member is needed who would like to be the club Newsletter Editor. The newsletter is published once a month near the end of each month. Most of the newsletter is done in Microsoft Word, and articles to be included in the newsletter are submitted ready to copy and paste either in word or a PDF file. Review some of the past newsletters to gain an idea of what types of articles might be included.

Assistant Fair Chair – Thanks to Laura Cantrell for volunteering to co-chair the fair committee.

Assistant Bee Yard Stewart – Thanks to Mike Cantrell and Nicholas Novak for volunteering to help manage the club bee yard.

Local Talks – Mary Simonelli has offered to do a talk for the Girl Scouts regarding pollinator friendly gardening. They plan to design and plant a garden. Mary's experience as a Master Gardener should be valuable.

Peggy Garnes is giving a short talk to the cub scouts in June. Another opportunity to introduce youth to the world of bees.

Paul Kosmos is doing a presentation at the Wadsworth Library in July.

Thank you for considering to lend your support. Having more members involved strengthens the club AND makes sure that the club does not have to curtail valuable programs. It's also a lot of fun (most of the time) and most rewarding.

Local and National Events for Beekeepers

Ohio State University – Tuesday, June 19, 2018. Denise Ellsworth, Program Director for Honey Bee and Native Pollinator Education is offering one day of training for interested individuals. Here is a brief summary of the program.

Become a certified Ohio Pollinator Advocate. This new training is sponsored by The Ohio State University Bee Lab. Ohio Pollinator Advocates are certified, trained volunteers who spread the word about the importance of pollinators. Advocates complete at least two hours of training in pollination biology, Ohio bee identification, bee biology and habitat enhancement. Once certified, advocates agree to teach two programs to adult and youth audiences to help spread the word about why pollinators matter and how to take action to conserve these important animals. Advocates have access to outreach resources and materials, including PowerPoint programs and identification guides.

For more information visit <https://u.osu.edu/certify/> or contact Denise at ellsworth.2@osu.edu.

Medina Library Bee Festival – Saturday, July 21, 11:00 am -2:00 pm. Join us for a good time. There will be a bee tent with live nuc, kids' activities, candle rolling and balloon crafts. Each year more than 1000 visit.

Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS) annual conference – July 11-13, 2018
Washington University in St. Louis.

Website: www.heartlandbees.org/

Visit the website for full information regarding speakers, topics, lodging, and registration.

Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) annual Honey Bee Conference – August 13-17, 2018
Hampton Roads Convention Center, 1610 Coliseum Drive, Hampton, VA.

Website: www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2018.html

Visit the website for full information regarding speakers, topics, lodging, and registration.

There are different tracks for your level of experience and both a short and long session. Top beekeepers from around the world will present various topics to help educate and improve your beekeeping experience.