

THE BEE HERDER

Published by Medina County Beekeepers Association – April 2018



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

Open

State of Ohio Inspector

Barbara Bloetscher

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Meeting Calendar

The next meeting is April 16th at 7 PM. Featured speaker is Dave Noble from the Stratford Ecological Center in Delaware, Ohio. Dave manages the beehives for the center, runs the breeding and queen production programs and is involved in educational programs for the center. Dave will discuss Population Dynamics in the Hive.

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

April: Package Installation at the MCBA bee yard. An email will be sent to alert all due to short notice (once the bees arrive).

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 Kovaleski will present the OSBA talk on using nucs to better manage your bee yard.

Recent Events - Beginner Classes, Intermediate Class, and Randy Oliver's Talk

MCBA recently completed its annual Beginner's Classes on Saturdays and Tuesdays. There were 56 new memberships and a total of 77 attendees. The Intermediate Class was targeted to 2nd year and beyond with more advanced material. There were 53 attendees. And MCBA was pleased to invite Randy Oliver to talk on March 4th about nutrition in the hives. There were 82 attendees. All three events were lots of fun and we hope everyone learned something new.

Life in the Bee Yard in April



April can be a tricky month for the bees due to unpredictable weather. March has been a good example of that. Steady cold or warm is better than wildly fluctuating temperatures.

When the temps rise the bees raise lots of brood. Cold snaps make them cluster. They won't leave the brood to find food if it's too cold, even if the food is on the frame next to them.

That makes it important to keep an eye on the food supply. On a warm day (above 50 but be quick) pop the inner cover and check to see if the bees are massed at the top. If they are, check for honey in the frames next to the cluster. You can insert the tip of the hive tool into the comb near the top of the frames. If there is honey when you remove the tool they may be OK.

Many beekeepers put a little fondant or moist sugar on top bars as cheap insurance for a couple weeks. It's to hold them over for a couple weeks until the temps rise and the nectar flows.

By mid-April there may be days in the upper 60's to 70. You can take a quick peak at the brood frames to determine the strength of your hive and plan accordingly. You can also judge the strength of your hive by counting the number of frames covered with bees. It also helps if you ask a question about your hive and you can tell the person how many frames have eyes peering up at you between them.

Second year beekeepers – several have asked about feeding SS. You feed SS the first year since the bees live hand-to-mouth until they have drawn comb and raised enough brood to manage their hive. It is not needed the second year for your main hives.

First year beekeepers – Only a couple weeks to go!



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: March 19, 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 March 20, 2018. The meeting convened at 7:00 P.M., President, Paul Kosmos presiding, Kim Barkfelt, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes:

None

Officers' Reports:

None

Committee Reports:

Bee yard Report:

A new bee yard location has been obtained. Nonprofit, Feeding Medina County, will be hosting us. This site is conveniently located at 901 Lafayette Road, which is less than a half mile from Williams-on-the-Lake.

Bylaws Committee:

Chaired by Bobbi Pincus, the Bylaws update has been completed. A draft will be sent out for review as soon as a format is created to assist the membership in identifying proposed changes.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Any member interested in the position of Editor for the Bee Herder newsletter should contact Paul Kosmos, President.

Announcements:

There will be no newsletter this month.

Vice-President, Paul Kosmos, will serve as President for the remainder of the term upon Ann Cicarella's resignation February 20th.

Peggy Garnes has been appointed to the position of Vice-President to serve for the remainder of the term.

MCBA made a donation to last month's special speaker, Randy Oliver, in support of his research that benefits all of the beekeeping community.

Presentation:

7:00 Speaker: **Dr. Miguel Corona** TOPIC: " Nutritional Stress and Behavioral Development" and "Development and Testing of Seasonal Specific Supplements for Honey Bees".

"Dr. Corona conducts research on the molecular mechanisms integrating reproduction, division of labor and longevity in honey bees. In particular, he is interested in determining how the interplay between nutrition and hormones affect the behavioral development and the susceptibility to diseases in workers, as well as the fecundity and longevity in queens. The goal of his research is to contribute to the potential role of nutrition on workers' health and the queen's longevity and their overall impact on colony losses."

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 – A member is needed to manage the name tags at regular meetings. Duties include bringing the name tags to the meetings, helping members find their tags, and collecting the tags at the end of the meeting. They then have to be reorganized and new members added for the next meeting. The main requirement is a member who plans to attend most meetings and can provide a “backup” member to handle if they are not able to attend a meeting.

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 – Peggy Garnes is the Chair person for the Fair. The club needs a deputy chair person to help with management of the fair and to step up to Chair person in 2019. Responsibilities include managing the fair meetings, the fair signup logs for sellers and support people for the fair booth and displays. This event only happens once a year but is very important for the club.

Assistant Bee Yard Stewart – The club bee yard needs a person (possibly two) to assist Peggy with management of the club bee hives. There are two club hives (packages new this year). It's normal hive inspections, feeding SS, adding boxes, possibly supers, etc.

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.