

# THE BEE HERDER

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



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## MCBA Club Meetings

Third Monday of each month from 7:00 - 9:00 pm (Q & A 6:30 – 7:00) at Williams on the Lake. 787 Lafayette Road, Medina, OH (west of the fairgrounds).

**November 19**, 7:00 - 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 Dinner** at Williams on the Lake. The cost for dinner will be \$10. Wonderful food, great conversation, and a gift exchange of bee items will fill our evening with club members, families, and guests. Please bring a wrapped bee-themed gift that costs \$10 or less for the gift exchange.



Contact Peggy Garnes, Vice

President, with questions by email

[Pgarnes001@neo.rr.com](mailto:Pgarnes001@neo.rr.com) or by phone (330) 723-6265.

Please register for the party by December 10th so we know how many dinners to request. Fill out the form below and send the form and payment by mail or bring it to the November 19 meeting.

While you're at it, also fill out the 2019 membership application and renewal form on the following page. Mail the form or bring it with you to our next meeting.

## 2019 Christmas Dinner Reservation

December 17, 2018 starting at 6pm at Williams on the Lake, 787 Lafayette Road, Medina, OH.

Make checks payable to MCBA and mail the form and check to the form to MCBA Treasurer, PO Box 1353, Medina, Ohio 44258. You can also bring the form and check to the November 19 meeting and give them to Toni Watson, MCBA Treasurer.

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**Christmas Dinner Reservation Form** - Please fill in the form, make a check out to MCBA for the total amount of dinners ordered. Join us for a fun evening!

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: (please print carefully!): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of dinners: \_\_\_\_\_ (cost is \$10 per dinner) Total cost of all dinners: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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.

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Optional) # of colonies: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

Our challenges with the weather continue! It is quite a trick to inspect, feed, and prepare your hives when it is so cold for the bees (and beekeeper). So, what is happening in the bee yard now?

Feeding – All that beautiful goldenrod did not end up in the hives as honey. Don't know why, but check the weight of your hives to be sure. It should be hard to lift a side, 150-160 pounds (two deeps, maybe a super for insurance). Note that fondant and sugar cakes are excellent emergency food but bees do not store it like they do 2:1 sugar syrup (SS). A strong hive will take down 4-6 full quart jars in 24 hours. One gallon of SS should yield approximately one deep frame of food.

Inspections – It is best NOT to inspect this time of year unless you have a specific reason or suspect a problem. If an accident to the queen occurs, you have lost the hive. And the cold can chill brood very quickly. The bees have propolised every nook and cranny to keep the elements out and may not be able to repair it if it stays cold.

Note that there will be little brood this time of year. It's hard to spot a small patch of eggs or larva so you may think the hive is queenless. If your girls are quiet, calm, taking down SS, and doing normal bee stuff, they are probably OK.

Winterizing – It is time to have your mouse guards on, and also to think about wrapping your hives. Still time, but better a little early than too late.

I like to put a small shim (about the thickness of a popsicle stick) under the inner cover (small entrance DOWN) at the rear of the hive to help control moisture. The bees can handle the cold, but too much moisture is a serious threat. Don't forget to cut holes for the upper entrance.



Varroa – Yes, always varroa. Treating with oxalic acid mid to late November is an excellent time to treat since there is very little capped brood for the varmint to hide in. Temperatures should be at least 45 degrees, low 50's are better.

Paul



## MCBA Club News

### *MCBA Website*

The MCBA website should be live the week of Nov 12<sup>th</sup>. We're looking forward to having an updated site to share club news and information. We will share the detailed information as soon as it is available.

### *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. Please attend the November meeting so that we have a quorum and so that you can cast a vote for club leadership.

### *Member News*

Paul Kosmos will be giving a presentation about beekeeping to the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center in November. The center anticipates 15 - 20 attendees.

## Club Bee Yard Update

### **By Dwain Novak, MCBA Bee Yard Steward**

On October 31, Peggy, John, Gino, and I went out to the club's bee hives for one last checkup and to get the hives ready for wintering. We started with the hive farthest from the food bank building. In previous checkups this hive had good success with numbers and had also been a good producer of honey. The hive closest to the food bank building has also had success with numbers and honey production. Both of these hives were package bees purchased this year from Olivarez of California. They have been stable and healthy, which in turn will hopefully help them survive the winter.

The middle hive, which has been the problem hive throughout the season is the only hive that came from A.I. Root's bee yard. After the bee yard harvest, we supplemented this hive with pollen patties and sugar syrup.

During this inspection, we immediately saw red flags. The brood pattern was not solid, there was no surplus of honey or pollen, and the hive had a small number of bees. We did what we could to try to stabilize this hive and prepare it



for winter. We took out all the frames that weren't being used and left five frames in each box (10 frames in total). Then we placed filler boards on each side of the frames to conserve heat and space. Peggy put insulation on the sides of the hive for a barrier for wintering.



Bee Yard Healthy hive

## The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – November

As you read in Paul's Ten Minutes with the Bees article, it's time to get ready for winter. Here are a few things to do this month.

- Wrap hives with tar paper – use all-weather/outdoor duct tape to tape the tar paper around the hive.
- Insulate your hives – put a piece of insulation over the inner cover and tie insulation around three sides with string or cords; consider leaving the front of the hive un-insulated.
- Leave an upper entrance for ventilation; read Paul's article about how he uses a shim for ventilation.
- Tip hives forward to allow any water that might accumulate to drip out the front entrance.
- Some local beekeepers keep bottom boards open, others slide them part way closed, others completely close the ventilated bottom board. You might research reasons to keep bottom boards open or closed, but take comfort in the fact that whatever you decide, you will be in good company.
- If you are still feeding sugar syrup, pull the feeders off when the syrup begins to freeze.
- With hives essentially broodless, it is a good time to use oxalic acid for mite control. You can apply vaporized oxalic acid when temperatures are at in the upper 40s and warmer.



Bee Yard Middle hive: spotty brood pattern

## The Small Hive Beetle – Public Enemy #2

By Ron Zickefoose Medina County Bee Inspector

The small hive beetles were bad this year. I had them for the first time in my apiary and saw them in a number of other apiaries as well. If varroa mite is public enemy number one, then the small hive beetle is enemy number 2.



These little pests can be destructive; damaging comb honey and pollen stores. If the colony gets thoroughly infested it will cause the bees to simply leave the hive in search of a better home. No bees equal no honey, no pollination, and no sitting in front of the hive enjoying watching them come and go.

In most cases the beetles are kept under control by the bees in the colony who jail the beetles in corners and crevices. The bees are benevolent jailers as they will even feed their prisoners just like other bees through trophallaxis (regurgitating honey through the proboscis).

Control methods include both hard chemical treatments and softer management techniques in addition to manually crushing them with a hive tool.

GardStar is a chemical ground drench that is used to control hive beetles. It is spread in the ground around hives and when the larvae crawl into the ground to pupate they are killed by the chemical. The product is fairly expensive at near \$30 for a 4oz bottle. The active ingredient in GardStar is the insecticide Permethrin, which kills everything even honey bees and beneficial insects in the soil. The ground drench is usually paired with an in-hive treatment of CheckMite Plus stapled to a strip of cardboard and placed on the bottom board. CheckMite plus has the active ingredient coumaphos which is one of the leading contaminants found in beeswax.

Softer options include oil traps and nematodes. Oil traps are inexpensive and seem to work well. A beekeeper fills them part way with oil and fits them between the top bars of the hive. Bees chase the offending beetles into the trap and the beetles drown in the oil. Beneficial nematodes are microscopic round worms that feed on the small hive beetle larvae and pupae. They are used much like a ground drench around the hive. There are two varieties in use to control small hive beetle: *Heterohabditis indica* and *Steinernema caprocapsae*. I purchased some *Heterohabditis indica* this fall and will be attempting to grow them in petri dishes in my basement over winter (My wife will be thrilled).

The best control by far is to keep the hive sized to the size of the colony, which, like all beekeeping is part art and part science. Keep the colony too small for too long, and it will swarm. Give the colony too much room and you've got a perfect breeding space for beetles. What this means for beekeepers is more active management, monitoring and planning for growth, and taking action at the appropriate time. So come to think of it, the small hive beetle may be a good thing if it makes us all better beekeepers.

## OSBA Fall Conference Review

By Peggy Garnes, MCBA Vice-President

The OSBA Fall Conference was held November 3, 2018 at the Tolles Career Center in Plain City, with over 600 in attendance. Dr. Marla Spivak and Dr. David Tarpy were the main speakers. It was an "information overload" day with many speakers and vendors presenting new ideas and products for beekeepers. USDA had four presentations on programs available to beekeepers and handouts about the programs.

Undergraduate students from OSU analyzed the pollen in honey samples that attendees brought. Samples from our club were submitted and results will be shared in the coming months. It will be interesting to learn what our bees are leaving in their honey.

The vendor area once again was sold out and many beekeepers took advantage of pre-ordering products to save on shipping charges. Several vendors came with new products to showcase to the public.

The 4H scholarship recipients were on hand to explain their projects. Leo Schirokauer from Cleveland, recipient of the 2018 GCBA Youth Research Grant and the 2018 Winner of the Bayer Bee Care Young Beekeeper Award, had his research about novel probiotics treatment for AFB using available for viewing.

## Local and Regional Bee Events

***Pollinator Short Course and Ohio Pollinator Advocate Training, November 27, 10AM to 2:30PM, Secrest Arboretum, 2122 Williams Road, Wooster, Ohio 44691***

Learn about pollination, bee biology, native bee identification, and habitat enhancement, with a focus on bumble bees. Participants will learn to identify common bees using pinned samples and microscopes, and will leave with practical ideas to increase pollinator habitat. Contact Denise Ellsworth, OSU Entomology/Extension (ellsworth.2@osu.edu) with questions. \$25, payable at the door. Handouts, lunch, coffee and light refreshments provided. Register here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLq1z1CNwUvFYFhVDAYSIMqb3uEMuKqCOv-iR1QxGRIEefkw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLq1z1CNwUvFYFhVDAYSIMqb3uEMuKqCOv-iR1QxGRIEefkw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

***Recording of Bee Culture's Next Generation of Beekeeping webinar***

Listen to a recorded version of the Next Generation of Beekeeping webinar, which was offered in collaboration with Bee Culture Magazine. Three Bayer Young Beekeeper Award winners discussed their work to make a difference in their community through unique bee health projects.

- Leo Schirokauer (Shaker Heights, OH), research on potential treatments for American Foulbrood
- Daniel McSween (Montgomery, TX), methods to control Varroa mites
- Jonathan "JD" Murphy (Denison, TX), success as a young apiarist working to establish a scholarship for other young beekeepers

The recording of the webinar is available through this link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2075285709885376769>

## Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes

*Regular Monthly Membership Meeting:* Meeting Date: October 15, 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 October 15, 2018. The meeting convened at 7:00 P.M., President, Paul Kosmos presiding, Kim Barkfelt, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: Kim Barkfelt presented the minutes from the September 17, 2018 meeting as published in the newsletter. No corrections were made; minutes were approved as distributed.

Officers' Reports: Toni Watson gave a detailed accounting of MCBA's financial health in the form of a PowerPoint presentation.

Committee Reports: Board Nominations: On behalf of Tania Jarosewich, Paul Kosmos announced that she will be taking information from members interested in running for office. At the upcoming November election, all officer positions will be up for reelection. These positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer and they are two (2) year commitments. In addition, one director position is also available, and it is a three (3) year commitment.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: On behalf of the Board of Directors, John Rose invited the membership to provide input and ideas for speakers, topics, and various other club activities/direction for the MCBA.

Treasurer, Toni Watson, requested that changes in members' contact information be sent to her, as she is the keeper of the club roster.

The club's DVD library is being retired due to age, condition, and the availability of more current online resources. The discs were made available for members that had interest.

Announcements: none

Presentation: Jeannie Saum, from Beepothecary, provided an in-depth presentation on the importance of propolis to the health of the hive. This presentation covered research on the effectiveness of propolis in fighting germs, and how this benefit might potentially be more widely applied. How to collect and store propolis were also covered.

Adjournment: November 19, 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.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

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Secretary

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Date of Approval