

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



Association Officers

President: Paul Kosmos

president@medinabeekeepers.com

330-239-1379

Vice President: Peggy Garnes

vp@medinabeekeepers.com

330-723-6265

Secretary: Kim Barkfelt

secretary@medinabeekeepers.com

330-225-7641

Treasurer: Toni Watson

treasurer@medinabeekeepers.com

330-650-2243

Newsletter Editor: Tania Jarosewich

Tania@HinckleyHoney.com

Webmaster: Mike Rossander

webmaster@medinabeekeepers.com

Refreshments Coordinators:

Elle Jisa ejisa@roadrunner.com

Sheila Mauer spmaurer01@gmail.com

Directors:

2020: Laurene Kiel, lkiel59@gmail.com

2019: John Rose, JohnPRose@msn.com

2021: John Vrtachnik,

jvrtachnik@windstream.net

Medina County Bee Inspector:

Ron Zickefoose

ronz@asap-homes.com

330-466-3642

State of Ohio Inspector:

Barbara Bloetscher

bbloetscher@agri.ohio.gov

614-644-5839

MCBA Club Meetings

Third Monday of each month at Williams on the Lake. 787 Lafayette Road, Medina, OH (west of the fairgrounds).

- 6:30-7:30 pm question and answer session,
- 7:00 - 9:00 pm meeting and speaker.

February 18 – Dr. Reed Johnson has a Ph.D. in entomology and conducts research on honey bees at The Ohio State University. His talks focus on the effects of pesticides and other substances on honey bee health. Honey bees brought to California almonds for pollination are exposed to a variety of fungicides, insecticides and spray adjuvants -- usually applied as a tank-mix. In this presentation Dr. Johnson will identify the pesticides to which bees are most often exposed, and the effects that field-relevant combinations can have on larval and adult workers, queen development, and queen success.

March 18 – Earl Hoffman, Owner Essential Honey Bees LLC. Earl will talk about using microbials to manage honey bee pathogens and pests, with new data for Varroa and SHBs. Earl and his wife Carol, both EAS Master Beekeepers collaborate with microbiologists from the University of Milwaukee and support research on Chalkbrood, Nosema, European Foul Brood (EFB), Varroa, and small hive beetles (SHB). They manage about 100 hives in Michigan, where they raise and sell bees and Michigan Queens.

April 15 - Barb Bloetscher, Ohio State Apiary Inspector, and Ron Zickefoose, Medina County Bee Inspector.

Barbara and Ron will talk about the explosion of Small Hive Beetles in 2018 and ways to deal with them in 2019.

May 20 - OSBA Traveling Trainer. Sustainable Beekeeping Management: Hobbyist Queen-Rearing.

Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

It's February and the good news is I'm hearing much less from beekeepers saying their hives are dead. Sharp contrast from last year. Let's hope that holds up for a few more weeks.

It's only 41 days to the first day of Spring! The temperatures continue to bounce all over the place. Probably good for the bees, but still have to watch their food. 53 on Feb 3!



There is not much to do in the bee yard so use the time to clean and paint equipment.

Do you plan to expand your apiary? If so, buy and prepare your equipment now.

It is also a great time to read more about the bees, and attend meetings and conferences.

Maybe try making that creamed honey we learned about last year.

For those of you looking to expand your bee yards rapidly, try building a jig for assembling boxes or one for frames. They can save a ton of time. Here is an example for frames.



The jig holds the frame ends.



Glue the ends and attach the bars, nail.



Flip the jig over, repeat the steps above. Ten frames in 15 minutes.

There is also a jig for assembling boxes displayed on our website under resources.

This is also a good time to review what you did last year. Were your inspections regular? Did you check for mites? Did your bees expand fast and swarm? Review what worked for you and your bees. And what you plan to try this year!

Club News

Paul Kosmos Interview on the BEAT

Paul Kosmos, our club President, was recently interviewed for the Brunswick BEAT Video Program, the student-managed educational access television channel 22. Click this link to watch the video of Paul answering questions about the MCBA, the beginning beekeeping class, how to join our club, and “why bees”



- <https://thebeat.viebit.com/player.php?hash=CuZGqZBB0YdU>. Great job, Paul!

Paul's video made quite a splash. The MCBA has been invited to the Museum of Art's Earth Day celebration. Keep an eye out here for more information about that as we receive it.

Club Member Donations

Thanks to Morris Hinton for his donation of several bottles of Mead. We raffled one bottle at the January meeting. The club made \$25. Thank you, Morris!

Dwain Novack donated several boxes of nitrile gloves to Ron for use in his Inspector duties! Kudos to Dwain!

Good New\$

As you may remember, one of the many benefits of being an OSBA affiliate is that OSBA submits the required tax reporting for each member club. On January 14th, well in advance of OSBA's January 30, 2019 deadline, the MCBA Directors signed off on the year-end financials after their review of the reports and methods our Treasurer uses in managing the MCBA books. O

Members may find it noteworthy that we added \$1200 to the club bank account in 2018. This is positive news because we enjoyed our normal activities of classes, monthly speakers, the Medina County Fair, and the monthly newsletter. AND the club was also able to offer six additional elements: support for the newly-filled county bee Inspector position, the Randy Oliver event, a Stan Hywet Garden tour, upgrades to the fair booth, purchase of a club laptop, and a donation to Scientific Beekeeping from which we derive education from a wide range of national and global qualified sources. The Treasurer will report on the 2019 Budget at the April meeting.

Thank you from the MCBA President

Our media image has taken a turn for the better over the last 6 months or so. Tanis has done a terrific job gathering current events and interesting information for the newsletter. With a limited venue and captive audience that is quite an accomplishment! I'm sure most of you have visited our Facebook page. Holly has clearly been busy. The site has expanded and now has links to many local events, interesting "bee news stories", and colorful photos and videos of bees and beekeeping. Kudos to Tania and Holly for the excellent job they are doing in support of MCBA and Beekeeping!

Time to gather members for the 2019 Fair Committee

The co-chairs, Laura Cantrel and Peggy Garnes, are looking for members who would like to help shape the fair this year. Please contact either Laura (lamwhatz@yahoo.com) or Peggy (pgarnes001@neo.rr.com) to sign up. The first meeting will be in March.

Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes

*Regular Monthly Membership Meeting: Meeting
Date: January 21, 2019 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 January 21, 2019. 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 November 19, 2018 meeting as published in the December 2018 newsletter. No business meeting or minutes for December 2018. No corrections were made; minutes were approved as distributed.

Officers' Reports: none

Committee Reports: none

Unfinished Business: none

New Business:

- Intermediate class will be offered. Paul asked the membership if there were topics of particular interest they would like to see covered.
- Winter feed patties from Mann Lake containing 4% protein along with carbs were made available to membership at cost (\$1.25 / pound).

Announcements:

- February speaker will be Dr. Reed Johnson on the effect of pesticides on honey bee health.
- March speaker will be Earl Hoffman on using microbials to manage honey bee pathogens and pests.
- March 1 - 2 Tri-County Beekeeping Workshop

Presentation: William Riccio, Certified Public Account presents The Business of Beekeeping: Record Keeping. Addresses turning your hobby into a business, tax considerations, and record keeping.

Adjournment: February 18, 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 8:35 P.M.

Club Bee Yard Update

By Dwain Novak, MCBA Bee Yard Attendant

Last month the Board met to plan the 2019 budget. I attended and submitted a bee yard proposal for the cost of two nucs, miscellaneous woodenware, and various supplies. The board approved it. Two nucs were ordered, with an expected delivery data in mid to late spring. We will order woodenware as needed based on an inspection of all of our hives and the report from Beltsville laboratory, which might have an impact on frames and foundation.

We are still waiting for the laboratory reports, since as we all hear and know, the government shutdown has impacted this facility. I mentioned another alternative, Chromatography, which is an analytical technique commonly used in separating substances (wax in our case) into its individual components to see the exact content. Unfortunately, there are no resources for us to turn to and the cost for this service was deemed financially impractical. So as of right now the yard is still in wintering mode.

The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – February

The most common topic of discussion at the January MCBA meeting was feeding. A number of members have noticed that their bees are at the top of the hive and have already consumed the winter feed put out in late fall. Here is a photo of one of my hives, with the candy board that I put out Thanksgiving weekend almost completely empty.



When the temperature is over 45, pop the inner covers for a quick peek. Bees at the top do not necessarily mean that there is no food. Check to see whether your hive feels light – go ahead and weigh it again - and whether you see capped honey in the top frames, If not, here are a few options for emergency feeding:

- Winter patties. Winter patties are higher in carbohydrates and lower in protein than the pollen patties used in the spring. The balance helps support wintering bees without encouraging early brood build up. You can purchase them through our local bee supply stores and pop them on top of the frames.
- Candy boards. You will cook sugar, pour it into a wintering cover, and when it cools, invert the cover over the hive in place of an inner cover. Candy boards provide accessible food and help absorb condensation and moisture. [Here is a link](#) to the recipe that I used.
- Fondant. Place fondant, a block of cooked sugar, on top of the frames. You'll need to have a shim or wintering cover in place so that there is enough room for the fondant on top of the frames. [Here is a link](#) to a recipe to make fondant.
- Mountain Camp method. This method is economical and does not require any cooking. Place a piece of newspaper over one-half of the frames, pour sugar on the newspaper, and then spray the sugar with a bit of water. You'll need a shim for this method also. [Here is a link](#) to information about how to do this.

Local and Regional Bee Events

MCBA 2019 Tuesday Evening Beginner Classes

There is still time to register for the class! The cost is \$85 for an individual or \$100 for a family. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged, but registration will be available at the door if space is available. Current MCBA members who have paid for and taken the class before may retake the class for free.

The class will cover an introduction to beekeeping, history of beekeeping in Medina, honey bee biology, types of bees, where to get bees, where to set hives, beekeeping equipment, inspecting hives, pests and diseases of the hive, what bees eat (Ohio forage), harvesting and extracting honey, marketing hive products, winterizing hives, honey tasting, and mentors to help install packages and answer questions. Registration includes the class, a reference book, a one-year membership in MCBA, and magazines and catalogs from the beekeeping industry.

February 19, February 26, March 5, March 12, and March 19 from 6:00 to 8:15 pm at the Medina County Library, 210 S. Broadway St., Medina, OH 44256. Register [here](#).



Tri-County Meeting

The 41st Annual TCBA Spring Beekeepers Workshop will be March 1-2, 2019 at 1680 Madison Ave Wooster, Ohio 44691. The event begins on Friday night with a presentation and social hour. There is a full day of workshops on March 2, with a honey recipe contest, vendor area, and a question and answer session at the end of the day. Registration is \$45 for adults and \$5 for children under 18 years of age. You can learn more and register here:

<https://www.tricountybeekeepers.org/register>

Ohio State Beekeepers' Association Honey Judging Class

The beginning session, March 8, 2019 from 6pm to 9pm, includes equipment, liquid honey and wax. The \$50 cost for the Friday evening class includes handouts and Jim Thompson's book on honey judging.

The Advanced Class, Saturday, March 9, 2019 from 9am to 4pm, will be a combined class of students from Friday evening and students from the 2018 Akron, Ohio class. The Saturday class will provide a refresher about



equipment, liquid honey and wax then move on to the remaining five areas: (a) common products of the hive, (b) non-honey hive products, (c) home kitchen produced, (d) personal care products, and (e) miscellaneous products related to beekeeping.

The \$75 cost for the Saturday session includes the newly updated and revised manual, provided in a three-ring binder for ease of use, with updated judging forms and a list of current Ohio judges.

The class will be held at the Conference Room at Waterman Farms in Columbus, Ohio. Register online at www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org.

2019 MCBA Membership Application / Renewal

If you have not yet renewed your membership and paid your 2019 dues, now is the time! You must pay dues by March 31 to be eligible to sell honey at the 2019 Medina County Fair.

Annual MCBA membership has two options for members:

- \$20 if newsletters will be emailed
- \$25 for 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.)

You may renew your membership

- online [here](#)
- complete the form below, attach a check payable to Medina County Beekeepers Association, mail both to MCBA Treasurer, PO Box 1353, Medina, Ohio 44258
- Bring a check and completed membership form to our monthly meeting. Toni Watson, MCBA Treasurer, will be happy to collect your check and form.

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: _____

Phone: _____ (Optional) # of colonies: _____

Medina County District Library Books for Beekeepers

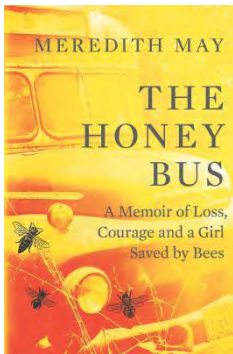
We're excited to offer a new newsletter feature, which will run four times each year. Our members have many interests and our friends at the MCDL have been on the lookout for books on a variety of topics, including bees, gardening, small businesses, cooking/preserving, and pollinators. All of these books are available to borrow at the MCDL. Thank you to the MCDL for providing us with these resources.

And, if you're following the Medina Beekeepers Association Facebook page, you'll see that the Medina County District Library earned a #7 spot on the "45 Libraries that are surprising the World with their Humor and Creativity" with the library observation hive <http://powerfulmind.co/libraries-humor/>.



Medina County District Library

mcdl.info



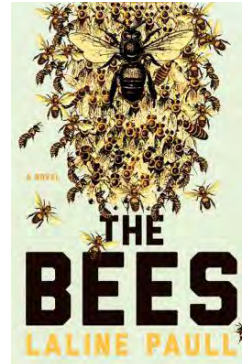
The Honey Bus

A Memoir of Loss, Courage, and a Girl Saved By Bees

By Meredith May

A fifth-generation beekeeper recounts her California upbringing with an unstable mother and beloved

grandfather, who introduced her to bees.



The Bees

By Laline Paull

This unique novel is dystopian fiction with bee characters.

Flora 717 is a sanitation bee, the lowest of the low in the hive. But her unusual abilities draw the attention of, and ultimately challenge the

Queen, which could be very dangerous to Flora.



Simple Green Meals

100+ Plant-Powered Recipes to Thrive from the Inside Out

By Jen Hansard

Home cooks who wish to reduce processed foods in their diet will enjoy this

straightforward guide to transitioning to more plant-based eating.



Buzz

The Nature and Necessity of Bees

By Thor Hanson

The author recounts the fascinating history of human interaction with bees and encourages readers to stop

poisoning them and learn to live in harmony.

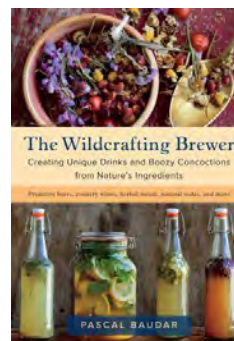


Cozy Minimalist Home

More Style, Less Stuff

By Myquillyn Smith

A clear, empowering guide to minimizing clutter and possessions while still maintaining a comfortable, personalized home.



The Wildcrafting Brewer

Creating Unique Drinks and Boozy Concoctions from Nature's Ingredients

By Pascal Baudar

Test your creativity, culinary skills, and taste buds with this

guide to wines, beers, meads, and sodas you can make in your own home.