

April 2025

THE BEE HERDER

Published by the Medina County Beekeepers Association



Association Officers

President: Peggy Garnes 330-723-6265
president@medinabeekeepers.com

Vice President: OPEN
vp@medinabeekeepers.com

Secretary: Sharon Carpenter 330-723-8492
secretary@medinabeekeepers.com

Treasurer: Kate Reusch 330-416-0284
treasurer@medinabeekeepers.com

Newsletter Editor: Clint Allen
allencli@zoominternet.net

Webmaster: Paul Kosmos
webmaster@medinabeekeepers.com

Refreshment Coordinators:
Elle Jisa - ejisa@roadrunner.com
Sheila Mauer - spmaurer01@gmail.com

Directors:
2025: Larry Watson
mcbalarry@aol.com
2026: Shari Baker
Shari.Baker.MCBA@gmail.com
2027: Steve Moysen
s9moysan@yahoo.com

Medina County Bee Inspector:
Michael Mohn 330-591-5035
mohnandsonsfarm@gmail.com

State of Ohio Inspector:
Brad Deering
<https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/apiary-program>



MCBA Monthly Meeting April 21st, 2025

Medina County Library
210 S. Broadway, Medina OH 44256
Rooms A and B

Questions & Answers 6:30-7:00
General Meeting 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Topic - 4 corners (pollen, propolis, early splits/swarms,
cut comb)

Speaker – Multiple Club Members

MCBA April Meeting

Join us for the popular Four Corners Workshop. Topics include Pollen, Propolis, Early Splits and Swarms, and Cut Comb.

Upcoming Events

April – Earth Day [the Club looking for 3-4 volunteers.](#)

May – Plant Exchange

May 15-17 – World Bee Day 2:00 p.m. at the Cuyahoga County Fair Grounds, signup [here.](#)

May – Apiary [Registration](#) Due

June – Pollinator week

July – Bee Festival

August – Club picnic, Medina County Fair

September – Ag Day

December – Christmas Party

MCBA May Meeting

Monday, May 19th, 2025

Topic: Extended-Release Formic Acid Treatments using Veroxan. VarroSan is a highly effective varroa control treatment, based on oxalic acid dihydrate in slow-release strips, ensuring correct dosage that covers at least three live cycles of the varroa mite.

Speaker: David Westervelt

David has worked for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services ever since, first becoming a Bee Inspector and then as an Environmental Specialist I and Researcher, Chief Apiarist for FDACS, and Retired after 28 years with FDACS. He graduated from Florida State University as a Certified Public Manager. He has worked on numerous research projects with United States Department Agriculture, the Food and Drug

Administration, State Universities, and other Countries; Germany, England, Canada, Africa, and Australia on *Varroa* mites, Tracheal mites, American Foulbrood disease, Small Hive beetles, Nosema, and more recently, Colony Collapse Disorder. He received several awards for research work on honeybees from the United State Department Agriculture, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Apiary Inspectors of America, Florida State Beekeepers Association, National Honey Producers, American Beekeeper Association, and more recently the Davis Productivity award. "

Q & A 6:30 to 7:00 pm

General Session 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Location: Medina County Library
210 S. Broadway, Medina OH 44256

Rooms A and B

MCBA Mission Statement

To promote beekeeping, broaden the knowledge and understanding of honeybees (and all pollinators) and the challenges they face in today's world, and educate by teaching best practices and techniques in apiary management.

President's Corner

By Peggy Garnes

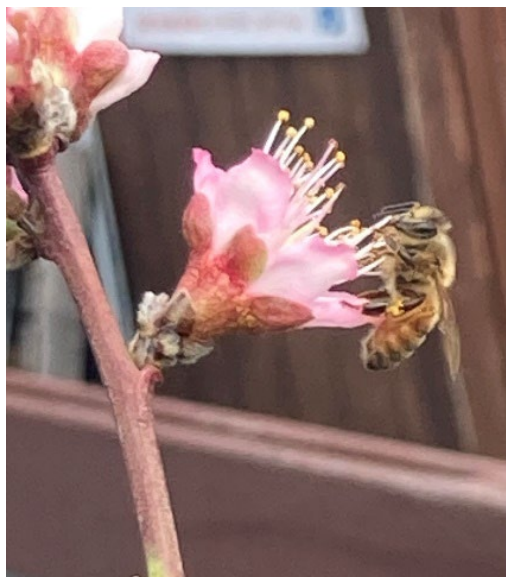
It's another cold, wet spring like last year! Fruit trees are trying to bloom and not get frozen! Bees are developing faster than the weather is cooperating, so I'm looking for a swarmy spring.

April is a busy month – the club needs volunteers for the Earth Day table at Buffalo Creek – Please sign up for a chance to visit with fellow beekeepers and chat with the public on honeybees. The club meeting this month will be super exciting with 4 topics of interest – Pollen,

Propolis, Cut Comb, and Early Supering/Swarm Prevention. Bring a snack and come early for Q & A 6:30-6:45

MCBA has a new bee yard opening soon! The contract has been finalized with Medina Parks and Recreation and this will give our club more opportunities for hands-on training. Soon every weekend will offer inspections at one of the locations- weather permitting of course.

Enjoy the crocus and daffodils, hug your family, and enjoy your bees!



Ten Minutes with the Bees – The bee yard in April

By Paul Kosmos

Last month I pushed the importance of making sure your bees have enough food to make it for a few more weeks – until the weather breaks!

I checked the hive that I mentioned last month today, Mar 29th. They did not touch the sugar cakes... but ate all of the Pollen Patty. That makes me feel good to know that it helped them get started raising brood a few days earlier.

When I checked this hive a week ago I also found quite a bit of burr comb on the top bars. I cleaned it out and today they were at it again. Bees that are ready for more space will often do this when growing. They build it between the top bars and the bottom of the inner cover. It is usually a sign they need more room!



Building Comb on the Top Bars.

In this case I know there is a lot of room in the hive (two deeps and a super), but bees often will not move back down. They won't leave the brood growing in the top box. What to do? I took advantage of the warm, sunny day and removed the bottom deep. I hope this will encourage them to start using the lower entrance and the bottom deep.

Reversing the Deeps in Spring. Many beekeepers reverse their deeps in the spring. Why? In most hives with two deeps, the bees are up in the upper deep come spring. That is where they end up by moving up to stay with the food and by then the new brood is also in the top deep. If you check the bottom deep most of the time it will be almost empty (possible exceptions for VERY strong hives). By reversing the deeps, it gives the bees an easy way to move up (their preference). More important it gives them room to continue growing while delaying swarm fever for a while.

What to do about brood in the super come spring? The last piece to this puzzle (at least until the next time you inspect your bees) is what to do about brood up in the super. The best way to deal with this is to find the queen, move her down to the deeps, put a queen excluder on and let the brood emerge. If you prefer not to use an excluder, just wait a couple weeks and remove it. Your queen will be busy laying in the deeps and move up later if she wishes.

Next month is when the real interesting time comes for your hives... spring swarm season will arrive.



This is not what you want!

Winter Losses Survey Results

By Clint Allen

Over the last two months the club has been conducting a study on Hive Losses within the club. Contained herein are the results from our research. We were able to obtain data from approximately 10% of the club membership and feel these data are representative of the club's performance with overwintering their hives.

As far as number of colonies, the majority of our members; 72.27% had 5 colonies or less going into this winter. 13.64% have between 6 and 10 colonies and the balance (9.09%) had 51 or more colonies. 45% of the respondents experienced no hive loss over winter. 41% lost between 1 and 2 colonies and only 14% lost between 3 and 5 colonies.

The number one cause attributed to hive loss was Cold Weather at 54%. Varroa Mites (38%) was the second highest contributor of hive loss. The third highest contributing factor was listed as Other, and this could be a myriad of individual issues depending on the beekeeper's situation. Both Starvation and Disease came in at 8% each. 91% of all beekeepers surveyed treated their colonies for Varroa Mites. A follow up to this question should have been to ask, when the did the last treatment take place, this is an opportunity for next year's survey.

86% of our members used some type of insulation on their hives this past winter. This ranged from simple wraps, commercial insulation products to homemade insulation solutions.

Of all the respondents, only 19% were dissatisfied with their winter losses. 43% were very satisfied while the balance, 24% and 14% were satisfied or neutral respectively.

The last portion of our survey was asking members, what additional support or resources you would like to see from the Club to help reduce winter losses. A common theme was reporting out on what others are doing and their results. I hope to dig more into this with next year's survey and this is an opportunity during the Q&A section of club meetings. Another opportunity was learning how to better asses the hive after a loss, maybe, some of our more tenured members would be willing to share their insights during the Q&A portion of the meeting to help our less experienced members.

Member Spotlight

Laurene Kiel



- **Where do you live?** Eastern Stark County
- **What got you interested in beekeeping?** I love nature and my husband said I couldn't keep chickens, "They're too much work" LOL!
- **How long have you been keeping bees?** 16 years
- **How many hives do you have?** The number ranges between 25 and up to 50 in the summer.
- **Are you looking to add to your apiary?** I will, with replacing winter losses but not planning more than I usually have.
- **Do you share your beekeeping hobby with anybody else?** A few good beek friends.
- **What is your most memorable beekeeping moment?** Knocking over a hive with a lawn mower and not realizing I could run that fast and my first cutout.
- **What is the best and worst part of beekeeping?** Best: the pure bliss of immersing in a hive and figure out what's going on. Worse: time to do it right.
- **What is your favorite food to add honey to?** Morning tea and savory foods and when I make mead.

- **Do you have any tips for beginner beekeepers?** Learn and persevere. We all have and continue to have success and failures.
- **Other than beekeeping, do you have any other hobbies?** Traveling, wine, cooking, thinking of things to get me in trouble.
- **What do/did you do for a living?** Retired Nurse Anesthetist. Prior to that, I was a surgical intensive care nurse at the Cleveland Clinic, including, managing it.

From Around the Web

Honey Bee die off consequences might resemble egg shortage

<https://winknews.com/2025/04/04/honey-bee-die-off-florida/>

New Data Confirm Catastrophic Honey Bee Colony Losses

<https://www.morningagclips.com/new-data-confirm-catastrophic-honey-bee-colony-losses/>

Sensing Sickness: Study Supports New Method for Boosting Bee Health

<https://www.uvm.edu/uvmnews/news/sensing-sickness-study-supports-new-method-boosting-bee-health>

Bee thefts on the rise amid surge in honeybee deaths

<https://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/bee-thefts-on-the-rise-amid-surge-in-honeybee-deaths-236068421821>

Buzz-Worthy Discovery: New Test Spots Super-Resistant Honey Bees as Colony Losses Mount

<https://scienceblog.com/564950/htmlcopybuzz-worthy-discovery-new-test-spots-super-resistant-honey-bees-as-colony-losses-mount>

Looking for Volunteers!

With the expansion of the bee yard to a second location, the club is requesting an experienced (2nd year or more) beekeeper to inspect the hives and show beginners what they are seeing. The allotted time commitment is 2 hours, but it usually doesn't take that long. If you are interested in helping the club sign up [here](#).

Club Donations

With the expansion of the club bee yard to a second location, we are looking for anyone willing to donate a hive stand. If you are willing to donate a stand, please reach out to Kate Reusch or Shari Baker.

Ideas & Suggestions

This newsletter is for you, our members. If you have any ideas for content, format, corrections, or anything else, please, don't hesitate to reach out to me, Clint Allen via email. *Did you know Honeybees have an extraordinary ability to recognize human faces. Researchers have discovered that honeybees can learn to distinguish between different human faces in a manner similar to how humans do. They use a process called "configural processing," which involves recognizing the overall arrangement of facial features rather than individual parts. This ability is quite remarkable considering the small size of their brains.*

The information provided in this newsletter is for educational purposes only and is not intended to guarantee your success as a beekeeper. While MCBA strives to offer accurate and up-to-date advice, beekeeping involves various factors beyond our control. Therefore, MCBA cannot be held responsible for any outcomes resulting from the application of the information provided. By using the advice and tips shared in this newsletter, you agree to hold harmless the MCBA, authors, publishers, and any affiliated parties from any liability, loss, or damage that may occur.

2025 MCBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

MCBA offers webinars and lectures, a monthly newsletter, the opportunity to sell honey at the county fair, and email updates. \$20 for emailed or \$25 for a printed, mailed newsletter. Membership includes one family member in activities other than voting.

Renew your membership online, or complete the form below, make a check payable to **Medina County Beekeepers Association**, and mail to Medina Beekeepers, PO BOX 1353, Medina, Ohio 44258.

Membership Form – Please complete so that we have current roster information for the newsletters!

Member Name: _____

Email Address (Please Print): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Optional # of Colonies: _____