

August 2026

THE BEE HERDER

Published by the Medina County Beekeepers Association



MCBA Monthly Meeting August 17th, 2026

Annual Club Picnic

Location: Krabill Lodge

7597 Ballash Rd, Medina, OH 44256

Time: 5:00-9:00 PM

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MCBA August Meeting

Monday, August 17th, 2026

Time: 5:00 to 9:00 pm

Annual Picnic

A fun evening with nothing to do but relax, eat good food, and visit with your fellow Beekeepers! This year the club will be paying for a pig roast. Attendance is limited.

Signup Link [here](#)!

Location: Krabill Lodge 7597 Ballash Rd, Medina, OH 44256

Upcoming Events

August – Club Picnic (@Krabill Lodge)

September – Ag Day

October – OSBA Fall Conference Registration [Here](#)

December 9th – Christmas Party

MCBA September Meeting

Monday, September 21st, 2026

Speaker: Melanie Seal of Blue Sky Bee Supply

Topic: Honeybee Nutrition

We're excited to welcome Melanie Seal of Blue Sky Bee Supply as a featured speaker at our upcoming meeting! Melanie will share her expertise on honeybee nutrition, exploring the vital role that proper nutrition plays in colony health, brood development, honey production, and overwintering success. Drawing on her extensive experience working with beekeepers and bee health products, she will discuss the nutritional needs of honeybees throughout the seasons and offer practical recommendations for supporting strong, productive

colonies. Whether you're a new beekeeper or a seasoned apiarist, this presentation promises valuable insights that can help your bees thrive.

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

Questions & Answers 6:30-7:00 PM

General Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM

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

I can't believe that August is half gone and we are heading to winter. Robbing has been an issue with some folks, and the yellow jackets can be seen cruising about looking for their dinner. It won't be long before the yellow jackets go to ground and get much more aggressive. Trapping yellow jackets now would be a good precaution.

Hopefully we will have a fall nectar flow with goldenrod coming in strong. We certainly have had enough rain this year in July to make that happen (I hope)! Putting freshly extracted frames back on the hives will offer room for the fall flow and keep robbing down. If you are going in your hives, have a plan and be quick!

The fair went very well, and the attendance numbers were notable. Thank you to all the volunteers who made the week go smoothly. I know everyone had a

good time and the members that were selling were happy!

This week is our annual picnic – a pig roast has been planned and thank you to Ms. Eli for arranging this meeting. We are going to have a peach cobbler contest – so get that oven preheating! Beverages, water, and paper products will be provided by the club. This was an early sign-up meeting so Ms. Eli could get numbers to the caterer.

The purple martins have left, the swallows are leaving, and the summer daylight is growing shorter... Winter Prep is starting now.

So, hug your family, stay healthy, and enjoy your bees!

Ten Minutes with the Bees – The bee yard in August

By Paul Kosmos (republished August 2019)

August – Getting the bees ready for winter

August is when you make sure your bees are healthy in preparation for winter. Why now? While good health is always important, now is when the bees raise the bees that will raise the bees that go through winter.

Winter bees are different than summer bees. They contain more body fat and are able to live longer than summer bees. If the bees caring for these bees are sick or weak, they may not be able to provide sufficient care and/or food to make sure the winter bees are at their best. That can contribute to some of the mysterious dead outs in late winter.

By now you know all the steps. The question is if you've had the time (or energy) to do regular mite checks and treat as necessary? Perhaps extract some honey to reduce the weight in the supers so it is not so difficult to inspect the deeps!

The best description with excellent pictures to help you is **Honeybee Health Coalition**. The website is <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/> There are links to most areas of bee health...and especially Varroa.



If necessary, treat with your preferred method. Your actions in the next week or so may determine how your bees fare this winter!



Small Hive Beetles. Happy to say that SHBs have not been an issue for most beekeepers this year. One or two here and there, but not like last year.

One happy problem this year!

Most beekeepers are finding full deep frames and lots of honey in their supers this year. And it seems to be continuing. It is mid-August and everything is still green, clover and cone flowers are still in bloom. Of course, that also caused a bunch of unexpected swarming last month.

Full deeps are wonderful for winter. But keep an eye on them and make sure your bees have a super to store if the flow continues or at least have something to do.

Fall Robbing: When Strong Colonies Turn into Honey Thieves

By Clint Allen

As summer fades into fall, many Medina County beekeepers begin preparing their hives for winter. Goldenrod is blooming, nights are getting cooler, and colonies are shifting their focus from growth to survival. Unfortunately, this is also the time when one of the most frustrating problems in beekeeping can appear: robbing.

Robbing occurs when bees from one colony enter another hive and steal honey. While that may sound like a simple act of theft, robbing can quickly become a serious problem. A strong colony can overwhelm a weak colony, strip out valuable food stores, spread disease, and even contribute to the collapse of the victim hive.

Understanding why robbing happens and how to prevent it can save a lot of headaches during the fall season.

Robbing is most common during periods of nectar scarcity. In Medina County, this often occurs after major summer nectar sources have ended and before winter arrives. When natural forage becomes limited, bees still need carbohydrates to survive. Strong colonies begin searching for alternative food sources and may discover the easy target presented by a weaker hive.

At first, robbing can be difficult to recognize. New beekeepers often mistake it for normal flight activity. During a robbing event, however, the atmosphere around the hive becomes noticeably different. Bees may dart rapidly back and forth in front of the entrance rather than performing the slow, gentle orientation flights seen with young bees. Fighting may occur at the entrance as guard bees attempt to stop intruders. You may also notice wax debris around the landing board as robbers tear open capped honey cells inside the hive.

One clue that often surprises beekeepers is the sudden increase in activity during a nectar dearth. If very little is blooming but one hive suddenly looks like an airport during rush hour, robbing may be taking place.

Weak colonies are especially vulnerable. A small hive with a failing queen, low population, or disease issues may not have enough guard bees to defend itself. Nucleus colonies, splits, and recently established swarms are also common targets. Once robbers discover an easy source of honey, they recruit nestmates and the attack can intensify rapidly.

Fortunately, there are several steps beekeepers can take to reduce the likelihood of robbing.

One of the simplest and most effective measures is to reduce hive entrances. A large colony can defend a wide opening, but a weaker colony often cannot. By installing an entrance reducer or narrowing the opening, guard bees have a much smaller area to patrol. Think of it as protecting a single doorway rather than an entire garage door.

Careful feeding practices are also important. Feeding syrup during the fall is common, but spilled syrup can trigger robbing behavior very quickly. Always avoid dripping syrup around hives, and never leave open containers of syrup or honey near the apiary. Internal feeders are generally much safer than open feeding methods when robbing pressure exists.

Good hive management can make a big difference as well. Avoid leaving frames of honey exposed during inspections. Many of us enjoy looking through our colonies, especially on warm autumn afternoons, but frames sitting in the open release attractive odors that can draw bees from neighboring colonies. Complete inspections efficiently and return combs to the hive as soon as possible.

Another helpful strategy is to avoid combining weak colonies with hope alone. Sometimes beekeepers want every colony to survive independently, but a severely weakened hive may not have enough strength to defend itself or survive winter. Combining weak colonies before robbing becomes a problem often results in a stronger, healthier colony heading into winter.

Robbing screens can provide another layer of protection. These devices alter the normal entrance route, allowing resident bees to learn a new pathway while confusing incoming robbers. Many beekeepers report excellent success with robbing screens, particularly on nucleus colonies and small overwintering units.

If robbing has already started, immediate action is necessary. Reduce the entrance as much as possible. Some beekeepers temporarily close screened bottoms or cover entrances with damp grass to slow activity. In severe cases, moving the victim colony to a different location may be necessary. The longer robbing continues, the harder it becomes to stop because successful robbers communicate the food source to thousands of their sisters.

Fall robbing can be frustrating, but it is also a natural behavior of honeybees. Colonies are simply trying to secure the resources needed to survive the coming winter. By understanding the conditions that trigger robbing and taking preventive measures early, Medina County beekeepers can protect their colonies and preserve valuable winter stores.

As autumn progresses, take a few moments during each apiary visit to observe hive entrances carefully. A reduced entrance, clean feeding practices, and prompt attention to weak colonies can go a long way toward preventing trouble. A little vigilance now can help ensure that your bees spend the winter clustered around their own honey rather than someone else's.

Club Meeting Minutes

Call to order: The club meeting was held at the Medina Fair Grounds and was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Members of the Board in attendance were President Peggy Garnes; Vice President Greg Johnson; Directors, Steve Moysan, and Shari Baker; Treasurer, Kate Reusch; and Secretary, Sharon Carpenter.

1. The minutes to the June meeting that were posted in the July Newsletter were voted on and approved by all.
2. The Treasurer's report was given.
3. Club bee yard: Several Nucs have been sold, the observation hive in the Medina Library is doing well and the bees that will be going into the observation hive for the fair are also doing well.
4. Fair week is coming up fast. Volunteers are still needed. A few rodeo tickets will be available and given away to the first interested volunteer.
5. The Bee Herder, website and Facebook page are going great as usual.
6. Speaker/meeting sign-up is all set for 2026.
7. Our annual picnic is being held at Krabill Lodge and will be a pig roast. All who plan to attend were asked to bring a beverage and a dessert to share. Members were encouraged to bring peach cobbler to have a fun competition to find the best.
8. The annual Christmas party will be held on December 9th from 6:00 – 8:00 at the Medina Career Center. Donations to the Career

Center's Care Closet will be taken during the party.

9. The Grand Opening, ribbon cutting celebration for the Medina Bee Park went well.
10. The cut-out at a condo discussed at the last meeting was referred to a Cleveland firm.

New Business:

1. The speaking opportunities on Kelly's Island is on August 29th.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Sharon Carpenter – Secretary
8/3/2026

Medina County Fair Winners

Class #1 – Extracted White

1. Steve Moysen
2. Shari Baker
3. John Kubankin

Class #2 – Extracted Light

1. John Kubankin
2. Shari Baker
3. Andy Kovac

Class #3 – Amber

1. John Kubankin
2. Sondra Vetovitz
3. Andy Kovac

Class #4 – Filtered Creamed

1. Tim Moore
2. Shari Baker
3. NA

Class #5 – Unflavored Creamed Honey

1. Tim Moore

Class #6

No entries

Class #7 – Extracting Frames

1. Kirt Strahinic
2. Andy Kovac
3. Sondra Vetovitz

Class #8 – Comb

No entries

Class #9 – Cut Comb

1. Tim Moore

Class #10 – Molded Wax

1. Krista Foecking
2. Peggy Garnes

Class #11

No entries

Class #12 – Candle (2 Pair)

1. Tim Moore
2. Krista Foecking
3. Peggy Garnes

Class #13 – Dipped Candle

No entries

Class #14 – Pollen

1. Kirt Strahinic
2. Krista Foecking
3. Tim Moore

Class #15 – 1lb min Wax

1. Peggy Garnes
2. Dave Bortins
3. Tim Moore

Class #16 – 5lb min Wax

1. Dave Bortins
2. Tim Moore

Class #17 – Hard Cream

1. Peggy Garnes

Class #18 – Wax Balm

1. Sondra Vetovitz
2. Peggy Garnes

Class #19 – Soap

1. James Howard
2. Tim Moore
3. Peggy Garnes

Class #20 – Gift Box

1. Peggy Garnes

Class #21 – Cookies

1. Karlie Cesrski
2. Shari Baker
3. Janet Vannoy

Class #22 – Cake

1. Janet Vannoy
2. Shari Baker
3. Carole Litner

Class #23 – Bread

1. Janet Weidi
2. Shari Baker
3. Dorette Bilbrey



From Around the Web

WHO KEEPS THE BEES?

<https://beeculture.com/who-keeps-the-bees/>

Medicinal value of sunflower pollen against bee pathogens

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-32681-y>

Tips for honey bees and beekeepers in hot weather

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/tips-for-honey-bees-and-beekeepers-in-hot-weather>

BEE CITY USA

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Bee-City---Campus-USA-July-E-News.html?soid=1102968923571&aid=EWrJQFe-VMc>

Black Walnut Salve

https://carolinahoneybees.com/black-walnut-salve/?adt_ei=%25Email%25

Robber Honeybees

https://carolinahoneybees.com/honey-bee-robbing-behavior/?adt_ei=%25Email%25

Mite Treatment Window

<https://mailchi.mp/cdfc38e64e6b/mite-treatment-window-4889810?e=28455708df>

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.

Citations & References

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.