

January 2025

THE BEE HERDER

Published by the Medina County Beekeepers Association



MCBA Monthly Meeting January 20th, 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: Cooking with Honey
Presented by Chef Charles Heaton CEC, CRC

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January Speaker

Chef Charles Heaton is a lifelong experienced culinarian.

With a résumé that spans much of Europe with two- and three-star Michelin houses as well as hotels and restaurants across the United States, he also has significant food manufacturing and product development experience with numerous hotels and resorts, as well as Nestle, USA and Canada.

He currently runs his own independent, product development service, Peaberry Culinary Inc. in North Olmsted Ohio.

He has been a successful Beekeeper beginning his fourth season.

Upcoming Events

February 2025

Beginner Class - Tuesday Class

Tuesday Evenings - February 18th and 25th, March 4th, 11th, and 18th. Time 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Beginner Class - Saturday Class

All day Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm on February 8th and 15th.

To learn more or to register, Click [Here](#). Cost is \$85 for an individual and \$100 for a family. In addition to the class tuition, students receive a textbook, a one-year membership in the Medina County Beekeepers Association and a variety of magazines and catalogs from the beekeeping industry. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged so we know how to prepare, but late 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.)

Location: Medina County Library, 210 S. Broadway, Medina OH 4425

Tri-County Beekeepers Association Inc. Spring Workshop February 28 – March 1, 2025

MCBA February Meeting

Monday, February 18th, 2025

Topic: The Demaree Swarm Control Method

Speaker: Robert Najjar

Join us to learn about one of the most popular methods of swarm control. The Demaree method is considered one of the best ways to prevent swarms.

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

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

The New Year always brings new hope, and bee resolutions, like being a better beekeeper, volunteering more in the club, and possibly helping to cleaning up the bee yard. At the January meeting we will talk about the upcoming speakers coming to broaden our beekeeping knowledge, there will be a post of volunteer positions that might pique your interest and turn you into a volunteer, and hopefully, we can get a break in weather to build or repair equipment we'll need for the spring. So, all will be accomplished, right?

It's "REALLY" cold out there in the bee yard as I write this corner. Single digit temps and snow are making many beekeepers nervous right now. Did we leave enough honey? Did the last mite treatment work? Will my hives make it through this cold winter? These thoughts might keep you up at night... but if you followed your best practices your bees will surprise you and come out booming. There is a good chance, that right now, your hive has a small patch of brood! Please keep entrances clear of dead bees (and snow) and be sure to check the honey stores. With the warm fall, the bees could have eaten too much.

Enjoy this cold weather and take the time to think about the upcoming year and your goals in your bee yard and as always, keep it fun!

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

Ten Minutes with the Bees — The bee yard in December

By Paul Kosmos

Have you listened to your hive to see how they are doing? A few days ago, I put my ear to the side of my hives and was able to hear just enough sound to know they were still alive. It's always a good feeling! If you do not hear anything, try tapping lightly on the other side of the hive. The sound normally increases dramatically.

Another way to know your bees are still alive is to watch the front porch for a few dead bees now and then. It is too cold for the bees to carry them out of the hive so they just leave them until the weather warms. It is also common to see dead bees on the snow. Usually more at the beginning of winter. Bees try not to die inside the hive to protect the hive so older or diseased bees leave the hive.

Don't eat yellow snow! For new beekeepers another interesting thing to watch for is small patches of yellow

snow. That is Bee Pee! It is quite common on a day with bright sun to warm things up.



Bee Pee on a Sunny Day

While we wait for Spring to pop there are a few events worth visiting. One is the Tri County Spring Workshop. It is too early to see the list of speakers, but you can check their website in the next few days. In addition to their speakers, they also invite some of the leading vendors for beekeeping supplies. Visiting the vendor booths lets you see and touch the items you are interested in. You can even try on items such as bee veils and jackets, gloves, and other important items.

You will also find tons of woodenware and supplies to check out. Click [here](#) for their website.

2025 SPRING WORKSHOP: February 28 – March 1, 2025

"Bee Health & Reactionary Beekeeping"

The main event is Saturday, March 1st.

The weather forecast is calling for continued cold temps. Hard to get used to after the last several very warm winters. The bees may use a bit less food since they are inactive. And no reason to check their food supplies this early. You can always peek a bit later, during a warmer day. Definitely not with the current temps.

Think Spring!

Survey Says! ?

During a recent board meeting the team was wondering how many members, if any, have deadouts already. If you know one way or another, and are comfortable doing so, please let us know. It would be a great idea and to understand our club's metrics (losses) compared to peer groups in the NEO area. We'll be sending out a survey in the near future!

Member Spotlight

Clint Allen



1. Where do you live? I live in Medina Township
2. What got you interested in beekeeping? I've been an avid homebrewer since 2007 and started using honey as an adjunct in many of my beers. One homebrew in particular that was a family favorite I called "The Darkness", it's a black IPA with Buckwheat honey.
3. How long have you been keeping bees? I will be going into my fourth season.
4. How many hives do you have? I have six hives and am planning to expand further this spring.
5. Do you share your beekeeping hobby with anybody else? My wife helps me a lot, she even installed a NUC for me when I was traveling for work.

6. What is your most memorable beekeeping moment? I would say my first swarm call. I was so nervous going out on my own for the first time, sort of pretending like I knew what I was doing.
7. What is the best and worst part of beekeeping? For me, beekeeping is a great way to block out the minutia of the day, while out in my hives I'm only thinking about the work at hand and all my other issues seem to drift away. The worst part, I would say, is there is so much to learn. No matter how many club meetings I go to, videos I watch or books I read, there is just an endless amount of information you can absorb.
8. What is your favorite food to add honey to? Beer (as fermentable sugar) and biscuits or toast.
9. Do you have any tips for beginner beekeepers? Attend club meetings, ask questions, put yourself out there and get to know other beekeepers.
10. Other than beekeeping, do you have any other hobbies? Homebrewing (I made 4 batches of mead in 2024), woodworking, home remodeling and gardening.

Winter Beekeeping Myths

By Clint Allen

The winter months can be a very tricky time for beekeepers, especially given all the myths floating around. Let's try and clear up some of these misconceptions to help you keep your bees happy and healthy during those colder months.

The most common belief that bees hibernate in the winter. Unlike some mammals, bees don't hibernate. Instead, they form a tight cluster inside the hive to stay warm. They vibrate their wing muscles to generate heat, keeping the center of the cluster at a cozy 90°F. This takes a lot of energy, which they get from the honey they've

stored up. So, it's crucial to make sure your hives have enough honey to last through the winter.

Another myth is that you shouldn't open a hive in the winter. While it's true that you shouldn't open them too often or for too long, there are times when a quick check is necessary. For example, you may need to check that they have enough food or look for signs of disease or pests. Just be sure to do it on a warmer day and keep it very brief to avoid disturbing the bees.

Some people think that bees can survive the winter without any help from beekeepers. While feral bees have adapted to fend for themselves, managed hives often need help. A beekeeper can help our bees by providing additional food if their honey stores are low, insulating the hive to keep it warm, and ensuring there's proper ventilation to prevent moisture buildup, which can be more harmful than the cold itself.

There's also a myth that bees never leave the hive during the winter. While they do stay inside most of the time, they will take occasional cleansing flights on warmer days to get rid of waste. These flights are essential for their health, as they help prevent diseases that can arise from waste buildup inside the hive. Make sure the hive entrance is clear of snow or debris so the bees can come and go as needed. Some beekeepers feel it is necessary to have an upper entrance open during the winter just in case the lower entrance becomes blocked.

Some beekeepers believe that wrapping the hive in plastic or other materials will keep the bees warm. While adding insulation will help reduce heat losses to the environment wrapping the hive too tight can restrict airflow and lead to moisture buildup, which can cause mold and other issues. Instead, focus on providing proper insulation and ventilation. Using materials like straw or foam boards can help insulate the hive without restricting airflow. Don't use something like plastic to wrap your hives in preparation for winter.

Some people believe that bees don't need water during the winter. Bees need water year-round, even in the winter. They use water to help regulate the temperature and humidity inside the hive. You can provide water by placing a shallow dish with pebbles near the hive entrance. The pebbles give the bees a place to land and drink without drowning.

Others think that all bees die off in the winter, leaving only the queen to start a new colony in the spring. While this is true for some bees, like bumblebees, it's not the case for honeybees. The entire colony, including the queen, workers, and drones, works together to survive the winter. The queen continues to lay eggs, although at a reduced rate, to ensure the colony remains strong.

Lastly, there's a myth that beekeeping isn't possible in colder climates. While beekeeping in colder regions does present additional challenges, it's possible with the right knowledge and preparation. Beekeepers in these areas need to pay extra attention to hive insulation, food stores, and winter management practices to ensure their bees' survival.

From Around the Web

Invasive 'murder hornets' are wiped out in the US, officials say

<https://apnews.com/article/murder-hornet-giant-invasive-honey-bee-fbf496fba789bc4b17750dbbec904b5f>

Don't Get Scammed!

https://www.instagram.com/p/DEvCir7yUyx/?img_index=2&igsh=MXB3eDFvdWx2aTlxZA%3D%3D

Drifting Honeybees

https://carolinahoneybees.com/drifting-honeybees/?adt_ei=%Email%&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fascinating_facts_about_worker_bees_you_need_to_know&utm_term=2025-01-12

Learning From Deadout Inspections

<https://www.perfectbee.com/beekeeping-articles/learning-from-deadout-inspections>

Looking for help!

The club is looking to have a member assist or back up our current webmaster. If you are interested in helping, please let one of the Board Members or Directors know.

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.

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 [here](#), 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: _____