

THE BEE HERDER

Published by Medina County Beekeepers Association – May 2022
www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



MEDINA
beekeepers

Association Officers

President: Paul Kosmos

president@medinabeekeepers.com
330-239-1379

Vice President: Peggy Garnes

vp@medinabeekeepers.com
330-723-6265

Secretary: Chris Fullerton

secretary@medinabeekeepers.com
330-242-2849

Treasurer: Kate Reusch

treasurer@medinabeekeepers.com
330-416-0284

Newsletter Editor: Deanna Rasch

deanna.rasch@protonmail.com

Webmaster: Mike Rossander

webmaster@medinabeekeepers.com

Refreshments Coordinators:

Elle Jisa ejisa@roadrunner.com
Sheila Mauer spmaurer01@gmail.com

Directors:

2022: Larry Watson mcbalarry@aol.com
2023: Tim Moore elkcreekhoney@gmail.com
2024: 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

Join the MCBA to hear a great lineup of virtual and live speakers. Start or renew your membership [online](#), or send in the membership form at the end of the newsletter.

MCBA Meeting Location

WILLIAMS ON THE LAKE

787 Lafayette Road Medina OH 44256

Question and answer period begins at 6:30PM

Presentation 7PM-8:30 PM

Monday, May 16, 2022 – Marci Lininger
Native Plants, Pollinators, and Native Wildlife
(In person – no Zoom call)

In this program, Marci will discuss the issues facing pollinators and other wildlife. Marci will discuss the connections that creating pollinator has with other wildlife. She will also talk about the benefits of planting native plants and connecting the dots between native plants, helping pollinators and creating a healthy ecosystem.

Note: The meeting will be in the second building – the hexagon shaped one behind the main building.



Do you have transplants, cuttings, or divisions from your spring garden cleanup?

Bring them to the meeting and we will have a plant exchange.

*If you can help with refreshments for the meeting, please reach out to our Refreshments Coordinators, **Elle** and **Sheila**.*

Ten Minutes with the Bees

by *Paul Kosmos, MCBA President*

The Bee Yard in May

If you think this year has been wet and cold so far, it's not your imagination. If you take a peek at the **OSU Growing Degree Day** web site, it is sitting at 237 GDD this morning. Last year on this date, it was 318 GDD. Maybe this is OK since last year everything bloomed several weeks early and then our bees had little to do most of the summer. Take a look for yourself: <https://weather.cfaes.osu.edu/gdd/>

So, what is happening now in the bee yard? We have talked about swarm possibilities a lot lately. I do hope it has encouraged you to check your hives before they swarm.

If your schedule – or the weather – will not permit you time to inspect your hive this week, consider using a swarm bait product. I had a HUGE swarm on April 30, couldn't get in the hive for several days due to the cold and rain.



Huge swarm on April 30

I was concerned about the possibility of a swarm, so I sprayed a small crabapple tree with Swarm Commander that I purchased at QRC. It worked like a champ; the swarm landed 15 feet from the hive and only two feet off the ground.

Keep in mind that this is a swarm *capture*, not a swarm *prevention*. It may not always work out so well.

Swarm Baits also work well if you have a swarm box and are trying to catch swarms to expand your hives.



Swarm Commander

The weather should turn warmer soon, which should provide more nectar sources. Get your supers on all your over-wintered hives to take advantage and reduce some risk of swarming.

Thought you might enjoy a picture of what the bees can do when they get creative. **Kim Barkfelt** found this comb on the bottom of her screened bottom board. Possibly a swarm that settled there.



Comb on bottom of screen

MCBA CLUB NEWS

Volunteers Still Needed!

The Club is still looking for helpers. We're happy to report that several members have volunteered to assist with some of our bee events, but we still need more help. Give it a try – you'll be surprised how much fun and how rewarding it is!

To learn more about any of these positions, contact Paul Kosmos at pkosmos@frontier.com.

Newsletter Help – Can you assist by writing or submitting stories for the newsletter? Submit the details, normally in Word. Class dates and speakers, articles, bee news, and other items of interest are submitted and the editor puts them together.

Library Hive Maintenance - Join the maintenance team for the library hive, located in the main branch of the Medina County District Library. Occasionally, the hive has to be maintained. Adding food, cleaning the hive, and possibly swarm control.

MCBA Bee Yard Hives – We need one or two volunteers to help manage the Bee Yard. This is similar to managing the hives in your back yard. Regular checks are necessary to maintain the hives in good order so that they can be used for in-person field days. We are seeking several helpers to make sure that any time demands are shared.

MCBA Facebook Page – We are in need of a member to take over managing the MCBA Facebook page. Holly has done a wonderful job over the past few years, but has recently discovered a need to free up time for her business and family.

Thanks to member **Steve Elefter** for this article about bee packages that ended up at the wrong airport after a transportation error:

[*Alaska-Bound Bee Shipment Winds Up in Atlanta — Dead*](#)

Meet the new Medina County Soil & Water District Conservation Educator, Kellie Docherty

Q. Who are you, and where are you from?

A. My name is Kellie Docherty; I was born and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts. I attended West Virginia University where I earned a degree in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism with a minor in Forestry. After college I moved to Medina, and I worked a few seasonal positions in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, doing work in environmental education and habitat restoration.

Q. Why did you want to work in Medina?

A. These jobs helped me feel more connected to northeast Ohio's habitat, and I wanted to help protect it. Though I loved working in the National Park, I wanted to work in Medina County to help improve the local habitat of my new home.

Q. What does your position entail?

A. I'm the new Conservation Educator with Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District, where I educate the community on backyard conservation practices to help improve soil and water resources, which can help improve habitat around Medina County.

Q. What are some of your other interests?

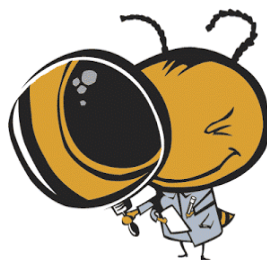
A. In my free time, I like to be creative by sewing or doing hand embroidery. When I'm trying to get outside, you can find me hiking, birding, or roller-skating around Medina.



The Inspector's Note – May 2022

by *Ron Zickefoose, Medina County Bee Inspector*

A strong colony coming out of winter means you did a good job as the beekeeper. Now it is time to make sure they don't swarm. Bees generally swarm as a result of lowered pheromones in the colony, backfilling of the brood nest with nectar, and lack of space for the queen to lay.

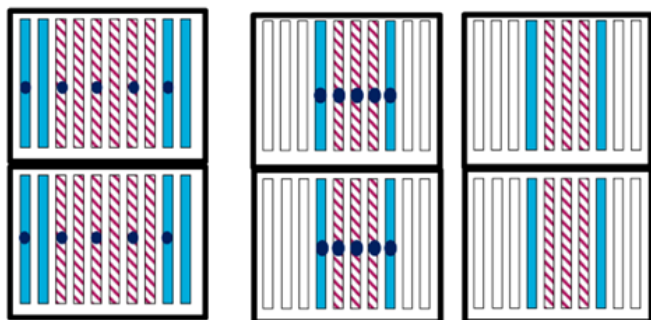


A vigorous young queen can certainly help. Reversals can help if the colony is already perfectly set up so that the brood nest can be kept intact. Do not break up the brood nest.

During the spring honey flow providing adequate space is the number one thing the beekeeper can do to prevent swarming.

Splits have become a go-to for preventing swarms, but realize you can either grow more colonies, or you can grow more honey; your goals need to be evaluated prior to using splitting as a swarm prevention method.

A book split (version of walkaway split) is an easy way to split a large hive. Figure 1 shows the procedure for book split courtesy of Dr. Meghan Milbrath at Michigan State University.



The leftmost hive is the original hive. All the odd frames go into one hive (middle) and even frames to another (right) – keeping all the bees with the frames they are on. The old frames are pushed together, and the boxes filled with empty comb.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 21 – World Bee Day at Queen Right Colonies

10AM-4PM

World Bee Day celebration raises awareness on the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy, and on the many challenges they face today. More information is available at [Queen Right's web site](#).

Monday, June 20, 2022 – Melanie Seal, *Four Seasons of Feeding*

Q&A 6:30; Presentation 7PM-8:30PM

Melanie will talk about the requirements for each of the four seasons and how to determine when it might be necessary to supplement their food supplies. She will also focus on what type of feed is best for each situation. Melanie is co-owner of Blue Sky Bee Supply in Ravenna, OH.

Monday, July 18 – Fair Cleanup 6PM-7:30 PM

Join us to help clean up the fair booth at the fairgrounds. Winter storage in the building means a bit of clean up in the summer. We always have a good turnout and the time goes quickly. After the job is done, we have pizza delivered to end the event. Your help is always welcome as the Medina Beekeepers display is always the best at the fair!

August 1-7 – Medina County Fair

We are still in need of volunteers to help in the children's area and to assist with the observation hive. A signup sheet will be available at the May meeting.

Monday, August 20 – MCBA Club Picnic

Join us to spend some time talking bees and getting to know your fellow beekeepers. We have hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats with all the fixings! This year we have invited a guest speaker from Medina Parks and Services to talk about the pollinator gardens and (weather permitting) give a tour of the bee yards.

Earth Day 2022

By *Paul Kosmos*

Earth Day 2022 was a big success. A steady flow of visitors kept things hopping and lively. Peggy Garnes, Jennifer Carey (Kudos to Jennifer for helping!) and I set up a table and got to meet many interested people with great questions. Sorry Jennifer is not in the picture, it was taken before she arrived. The Medina Raptor Center stole the show as they brought five beautiful birds to show off. The Screech Owl (shown) was the center of attention.



MCBA Display Table



No-Mow May encourages pollinators

When beekeepers see lawns covered in dandelions, they see forage, not weeds. But the average person sees an unmown lawn as a sign of neglect. In an effort to encourage natural growth and destigmatize providing food for our favorite pollinators, homeowners – and communities – are encouraged to participate in [No-Mow May](#), an initiative of

[Bee City, USA](#). Visit the No-Mow May web site for resources, including printable signs and fact sheets.

English pub closes due to honeybee swarm

The Anchor, a pub in the Digbeth section of Birmingham, England, closed its doors on May 5 due to a honeybee swarm. A sign on the door read:

We are temporarily closed due to a honeybee infestation. Honeybees are a protected species (and we love them) so we are endeavoring to have them re-housed without harm.



*Apologies for the inconvenience,
Jules and the team
The Anchor
#SaveTheBees*

On the afternoon of May 6, The Anchor reopened its doors, tweeting:

"We successfully saved and rehoused the honey bees. And The Anchor is back open for business."

- From [msn.com](#)

2022 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 _____