

THE BEE HERDER

Published by Medina County Beekeepers Association – June 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

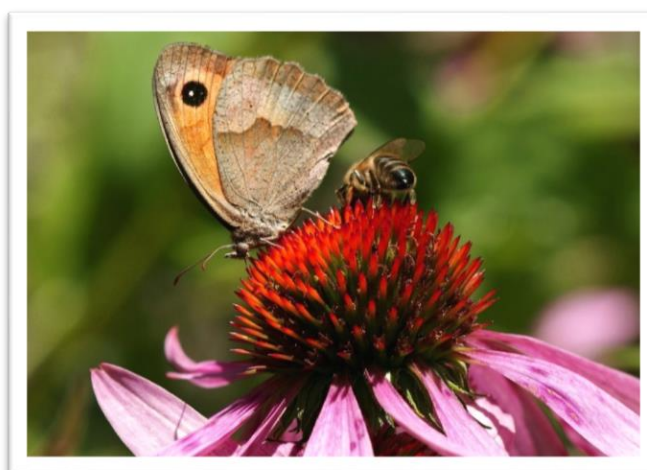
Monday, June 20, 2022 – Melanie Seal

Four Seasons of Feeding

(In person – no Zoom call)

Melanie will discuss feeding requirements for each of the four seasons and how to determine when it might be necessary to supplement their food supplies. In addition, she will focus on what type of feed is best for each situation.

Melanie, co-owner of [Blue Sky Bee Supply](#) in Ravenna, OH, is an experienced beekeeper and an excellent speaker.



*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 June

It is June 10th and many of you have experienced a swarm (or swarms) in the last three weeks. As usual, we can always learn something from the things our bees do. The one thing that comes to my mind is the large number of beekeepers who think their hive is queenless following a swarm.

We get a bunch of calls and emails from members who either can't find a queen or don't see any eggs or brood in the hive. With few exceptions, we almost always advise beekeepers to be patient for another week or so and check for eggs and larva again. And *voila!* It's magic and they have a queen.

To clarify why this happens, let's walk through life in the hive with a queen cell (after a swarm). Most hives swarm the first warm, sunny day after the cell is sealed. Then, it takes about seven days for the new queen to emerge. Another week or so to harden off, and then out she goes to get mated. Once mated, she will often start laying in less than a week. So that adds up to about 20 days, give or take a couple.

But what happens when you get an after (2nd) swarm? The worker bees control the hive, not the queen. Often, they protect some of the cells from the first queen and the hive swarms again 4-7 days later. You may notice the piping sound the queens make following a swarm. If you think about it, if there is an after-swarm, the clock starts over again from the day the 2nd queen emerges. So, you just added an extra 4-7 days for the newest queen to go out and get mated and start laying. Now, you're up to 24-27 days.

So, what does this mean to you, the beekeeper? You should feel free to contact a member who may have more experience for advice. If nothing else, reassurance will help you wait her out. You should give a new queen the extra time needed, if necessary. It's what bees do and they are amazingly good at it.

What else is happening mid-June?

Hives should still be active, hauling nectar and pollen. Late June into July it depends on where you live and resources available for bees. Consider planting some late-season plants that are good for bees and pollinators.

Anise Hyssop – easy plant to grow, not invasive. Fairly tall, purple flowers, blooms late summer. Bees love this plant. Once the flowers die, the Goldfinch take over for the seeds.



St John's Wort – Medium-size shrub blooms in July and is covered with bees.



Wingstem – Wildflower. Tall (6'), blooms in the early fall. Masses of yellow cone-like flowers that are literally covered with bees



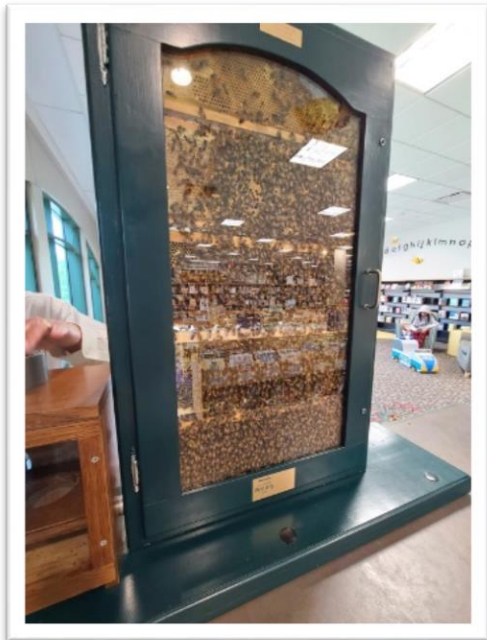
MCBA CLUB NEWS

Bee Yard Bees are Back!

Two hives have been installed in the MCBA bee yard. We will want to help them build up successfully so that we can conduct an intermediate class in July. We are still looking for a couple volunteers to help with the bee yard – reach out to Paul Kosmos if you can assist.

Library Bees are Back

On Thursday, June 9, we installed the bees in the Library Observation hive. It is a strong colony and they were wonderfully calm. **Jenifer Carey** helped us with the installation. Thank you for your assistance, Jennifer – it sure made the task easier!



Interesting article from Newsweek about testing the DNA in honey to help promote early identification of honeybee diseases:

[*Scientists Develop Honey-Based Bee DNA Test to Monitor Hive Health*](#)

May Meeting Recap

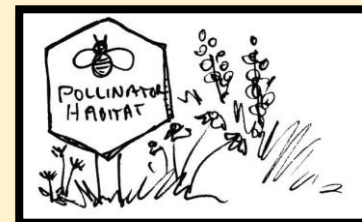
Native Plants, Pollinators, and Native Wildlife

Presented by

Marci Lininger, Medina County Soil & Water District Conservation Educator



Marci had an excellent presentation that covered a variety of topics, including native plants that provide good forage for bees, ways to source seeds and plants, and the cooperative efforts between the MCSWD and other organizations to improve both the quality and the quantity of native plants for pollinators of all kinds. Thanks to Marci for sharing her knowledge and insight!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, June 21 and Thursday, June 23 – Focus on: Varroa Destructor

Online beekeeping class at betterbee.com

These two, one-hour evening presentations (and accompanying Q&A sessions) will cover the history of the relationship between the parasitic mite Varroa destructor and the western honey bee *Apis mellifera*. We will discuss the basic biology of varroa mites and the ways they can spread between colonies. Only then, once we understand our enemy, will we examine methods to monitor mite populations and kill mites in your bee colonies.

An important emphasis of the workshop will be the importance of having (and following!) a year-round mite management plan to keep your bees safe from this pernicious and devastating parasite.

Thursday, June 30 – Stormwater and Drainage Workshop

6PM-7:30PM

Sharon Township Town Hall
6449 Ridge Rd, Wadsworth

Does your property have flooding issues? Attend Medina SWCD's workshop to learn more about what you can do to help address flooding on your property. Register at medinaswcd.org or by scanning the QR code:



Saturday, July 16 – Medina Library Bee Festival

11AM-3PM

Enjoy a day of bee-themed family fun including the opening of a bee hive, beekeeping information fun crafts, and activities for kids.

- Opening of the hive 11AM-1PM;
- Beekeeping Show and Tell; Nate the Great balloon twisting 11AM-2PM;
- 11:30AM Storytime

Monday, July 18 – Fair Cleanup

6PM-7:30 PM

We are fast approaching fair cleanup day. The fair is one of the main programs MCBA supports and in turn revenue from the fair allows us to bring in speakers for the meetings.

Mark **Monday, July 18th** on your calendar! It starts at 6:00 pm and lasts only about an hour. We will have pizza at the completion of our work. It's fun, and important for the club.

Saturday, July 30 – Booth Decoration

9AM-11AM

We can also use some help on Saturday, July 30 to help decorate the MCBA booth. Signs, pictures, decorations, etc. all have to be completed to make sure our booth is the class of the fair. We should finish by 11:00AM.

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 15 – MCBA Club Picnic

6PM-7:30PM

Buckeye Woods Park

6335 Wedgewood Rd (Rt 162), Medina OH 44256

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.

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 _____