

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



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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.

Monday, September 19

WILLIAMS ON THE LAKE

787 Lafayette Road Medina OH 44256

Guest Speaker: Dave Noble

Topic: *Preparing your Hives for Winter*

Question and answer period begins at 6:30PM

Presentation 7PM-8:30 PM

Creating a Winter Prep Checklist – There always seem to be more tasks to get bees ready for winter dormancy than there are hours of daylight to get them done. Figuring out what, how, and when to do winter prep can certainly be overwhelming, but it is arguably the most important job a keeper of bees has. From how to prioritize winter prep tasks to which methods are best for your bees and you, “Creating a Winter Prep Check List” will help you manage and make sense of winter prep.

Dave Noble began his professional beekeeping career at OSU's Honey Bee Research Lab in the mid-1990's. He has been training beekeepers and teaching about bees since the early 2000's. Currently Dave runs and operates Red Beard Bees where he continues to breed bees, harvest honey, educate people about honey bees, and train beekeepers in partnership with the Columbus Garden School. For Dave's full bio, see page 5.



Ten Minutes with the Bees

by *Paul Kosmos*, MCBA President

The Bee Yard in September

There are two priorities right now for the bees; *Varroa* mite control and keeping an eye on hive weight. It is Sunday, September 11 as I write this, and I have smelled goldenrod nectar for several days... as much as 20 feet from my hives. Hope that continues!

The biggest issue – as it is every year in Fall – is mite management. So, let's talk about what happens when you treat your hives. I used Formic Pro, 2 strips, on one hive several weeks ago. I had a few dead bees and larva in the morning – but only the first day. The hive dropped 100 mites the first morning. I slide the insert out and complete a quick count to see how effective the treatment was.

What you may not know is that *after* treatment, the hive will drop large numbers of mites for an extended time. This hive dropped over 100 mites every day for the 11 days. I had treated this hive (a swarm) with OXA vapor after I put them in the hive (no capped brood).

I like to check the inserts when I am in my bee yard to see if I can learn something. I checked another hive that I had not yet treated and found over 400 dead mites on the insert, natural drop, **no treatment!** That surprised me. I had to wait three days to treat due to the high temps, and dropped more than 900 mites while waiting. I suspect that this hive had reduced brood by then, and the mites had no place to hide. Following the 10-day treatment (only one strip), this hive has dropped **over 3900 mites!** Yes, I had treated early in the year. So, keeping an eye open probably saved this hive.

One other decision we have to make is **Do I do the second strip as per the directions?** With the goldenrod off to a good start, I fear another strip right away might prevent the bees from taking advantage of the fall flow. Still deciding.

What else did I learn? When I put the Formic Pro strip on this hive, I discovered that the deeps were very light. I could barely lift the top deep on my other hives. Two supers were quite heavy. Now, I was really watching this hive.



First 2 days after Formic dropped over 1300 mites!

Yesterday, my other hives were very busy hauling nectar. But this hive was noticeably quieter than the others. Something is going on and I will need to inspect this hive first chance. You can actually learn a lot about your bees even without opening them... just by observing.

I know we spend way too much time talking about mites in your hives, but they continue to be enemy number one and are the cause of many lost hives. Just remember that right now hives are going from 5-7 frames of capped brood down to one or two. That means most of the mites are now phoretic (exposed on the bees), since there are few capped cells to hide in. Same number of mites as two weeks ago, but now exposed and making us look bad!

New hope for Varroa management?

Michael Mohn sent in a link to an interesting article about a new – and hopefully safe and less expensive – way of controlling mites. We hope to see more data soon!

[B.C. scientists may have found a new way to protect bee colonies from deadly mites](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

OSU Extension Ag Day

Friday, September 23 8:30AM – 1PM

Medina County Fairgrounds

720 W. Smith Rd.

Medina, Ohio 44256

The Medina County Beekeepers Association has been invited back to participate in the 2022 OSU Extension Agriculture Day. The event was a huge success in 2019, with over 400 children attending. There were stations set up for each area, including horses, chickens, honeybees, etc.

MCBA set up two tables, including an observation hive, a drone petting box, and a lot of bee-related items. In addition, the kids got to try on a bee suit and have their pictures taken. It was a blast! The event was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID, but is back on this year. It is a really worthwhile event and we could use a few more volunteers! Let Peggy or Paul know ASAP if you are interested.



The kids (and volunteers!) had a blast at the 2019 event!

LCBA End of Summer Classic

Saturday, September 24 9AM-4PM

Lorain County Fairgrounds

23000 Fairgrounds Road

Wellington, OH 44090

Fun-filled community educational day including beekeeping experts, family-friendly activities, local artisans, crafters and vendors, fair food, games, door prizes and raffles.

9AM

Opening Announcements

10:30 AM

Susan Cobey, *Selection Methods for Honeybee Breeding*

12:30PM

Kim Flottum, *Honey Adulteration*

2PM

Susan Cobey, *Instrumental Insemination Techniques*

3:15 PM

Drawings

For more information, visit

www.loraincountybeekeepers.org

Friday, September 30-Saturday, October 1 – Bee Culture Annual Event

BEEing Diverse: Inspiring Leaders in Beekeeping

Bee Culture Conference Room

640 West Liberty Street

Medina OH 44256

Speakers will discuss their journeys in beekeeping to the present, and what they are currently doing within the bee world. Keynote speaker is Dorothy Pelanda, Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Visit <https://store.beeculture.com/events/> for ticket and registration information.

Medina Library hit with insecticide kill

On Saturday, Peggy received an emergency call from Gail at the library. She observed tons of dead bees in the hive, in the tube, and even in the entrance box outside the library. It appears the entire hive may die. Peggy also thought she saw the hive in the public garden near the library being cleaned out. If both are from the same incident, that would be serious. The same thing happened this time last year, but it was not quite so bad. Peggy is going to check with the commissioner to see who might be spraying such large volumes of such strong pesticides.



Club Initiative with Hope Recovery Medina

Hope Recovery Medina is a local facility that assists persons with addiction recovery. Hope is a recovery community organization (RCO), which is an independent non-profit organization led and governed by the recovery community. These organizations organize recovery-focused policy advocacy activities, carry out recovery-focused community education and outreach programs, and/or provide peer-based recovery support services.

Recently, MCBA members met with Hope to discuss opportunities for MCBA to help. This past summer, there was a hive located at the Medina facility, and Hope clients assisted with honey extraction. Next year, Hope is interested in expanding client involvement, from attending the beginner's class to hive setup to package installation and colony management. More information to come at the next meeting!

More information about Hope Recovery Medina is available on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Telling the Queen's bees

With the passing of Queen Elizabeth on September 8, a number of royal traditions were kept; from a mourning-attired footman who pinned a black-edged notice to the gates of Buckingham Palace, to bells tolling and flags flown at half-mast. One of the traditions that you probably won't hear about is this one: The Palace Beekeeper informing the Queen's bees that their mistress is dead. John Chapple, 79, has been managing the Royal hives at Buckingham Palace and Clarence House since 2007, and performed the task last week. He placed black ribbons tied into bows on the hives before informing that a new master would be in charge from now on.

"You knock on each hive and say, 'The mistress is dead, but don't you go. Your master will be a good master to you.'" The tradition is believed to be centuries old, and is steeped in superstitions about honey production.

For more information, see this article in the [Daily Mail](#).



Royal hives draped tied with mourning bows

More about our September speaker, Dave Noble

“Listen to the bees and let them guide you.” – Brother Adam

Dave Noble began breeding and keeping honey bees quite by accident just over 25 years ago when he was trying to get some extra credit for a college course while majoring in Plant Pathology at OSU. He ended up working at the Universities' Honey Bee Research Lab for almost a decade. There he discovered a true passion for honey bees as well as developed a joy for teaching others how to care for, and appreciate, these magnificent little beasts. He is the owner and operator of Red Beard Bees, a business dedicated to breeding better bees and training better beekeepers.



You can find Dave on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Dave Noble shows a photo of some of his honey bee hives in winter during his talk at the University of Mount Union's nature center. Taken with a thermal imaging device, the photo shows where the bees are clustered together in the hive. Honey bees vibrate their muscles to stay warm, keeping the temperature of the hive between 88 and 98 degrees even when outside temperatures are below freezing.

(Barbara Mudrak photo)

Medina Goldenrod

Thank you to **Kim Barkfelt** for sharing this photo of the goldenrod at River Styx Park.



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 _____