

# THE BEE HERDER

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[www.MedinaBeekeepers.com](http://www.MedinaBeekeepers.com)



**MEDINA**  
beekeepers

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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, October 17**

**WILLIAMS ON THE LAKE**

**787 Lafayette Road Medina OH 44256**

**Speaker: Joe Kovaleski**

**Topic: *Comb Management***

*Question and answer period begins at 6:30PM*

*Presentation 7PM-8:30 PM*

It takes eight ounces of honey to create one ounce of beeswax. Drawn comb is better for bees than foundation because it's ready for them to use immediately and they use it for every key function in the hive. Saving comb for your bees to use saves them a considerable amount of labor.

Joe Kovaleski, a longtime member of Medina Beekeepers, will offer tips about the best ways to manage comb in your hives. Drawn comb is a beekeeper's most valuable asset!



## Ten Minutes with the Bees

by *Paul Kosmos, MCBA President*

### The Bee Yard in October

At our September meeting we had Dave Noble as our guest speaker. It was fun to see 58 members attend the meeting, and they were rewarded with an excellent talk. I don't normally devote one of these articles to such events, but this one was special. Besides, everyone is checking their food supplies and planning their final Varroa treatments... right?

Dave made a good impression from the start by discussing different approaches to issues that we as beekeepers must deal with. Should I feed? *What* should I feed? Should I treat for Mites? What should I use for the treatment?




He explained the need to feed if light on food. He also discussed the need to wrap (or otherwise protect) hives against the wind. Dave stressed that windchill kills bees much faster than the actual temperature.

He then went on to explain some of the risks associated with various treatments for varroa. We were all fairly well aware of those risks. Using Oxalic Acid does not kill Varroa in the capped cells. Formic Pro has a higher risk of killing a few queens, especially when using the two-strip approach.

He then explained the “real” risks regarding whether to treat for mites. Nor did Dave ever suggest that his way should be your way. He just explained the options and why you should consider one or more of them.

But the real value of his talk followed these discussions. Dave talked about our uncanny ability to procrastinate, often doing nothing. That led him to the heart of his talk.

**WINTER PREPARATION CHECKLIST**

**Varroa MITES**  
Reduce mite loads BEFORE winter  
Nearly broodless → mites feed on adult bees  
Mite feeding → winter bees die prematurely  
→ Colony death  
**Manage & Treat for mites**

If we do not treat for mites for fear of killing the queen, she'll probably already be dead – we just won't know it until March when we discover the entire hive is dead. It was a very telling point in his presentation, as we have all been there.

Finally, Dave stressed the point that what you do as a beekeeper for your bees is up to you. It is your choice. And whatever you decide to do,

**THE BEST OPTION TO CHOOSE IS THE OPTION THAT YOU WILL ACTUALLY DO!**

I loved that phrase. Whatever you decide to do, it is your choice. Just look at the options and make your decision. And remember... That makes it...

**THE BEST THING TO DO AT THAT TIME!**



*Dave Noble speaking at the September meeting*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OSBA Fall Conference and Annual Meeting

October 28-29

Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center

[Fisher Auditorium](#) and [Shisler Conference Center](#)

Wooster, OH 44691

Featured speakers:

**Dr. Sammy Ramsey**, Endowed Professor of Entomology at Colorado University Boulder's BioFrontiers Institute, where he applies his fascination with invertebrates to understanding and preserving the ecosystems they make possible.

**Jon Zawislak**, Assistant Professor of Apiculture and Urban Entomology for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

**Dr. James Tew**, an emeritus faculty member of Ohio State University and retired from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System

**Dr. Reed M. Johnson**, Associate Professor in the Department of Entomology at The Ohio State University in Wooster, where he teaches courses on beekeeping and pesticide science.

**Dr. Hongmei Li-Byarlay** received her doctorate from Purdue University at West Lafayette, Indiana. She is the Research Associate Professor of Entomology at Central State University.

**Barbara Bloetscher**, State Entomologist/Apiarist at the Ohio Department of Agriculture since 2009, after 23 years at The Ohio State University Extension.

**Marci Lininger**, graduate of the Masters of Environment and Natural Resources Program at The Ohio State University, she serves as the Director for the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative.

**Eric "Critter" McCool**, the world's foremost leading expert on stinging insect extractions and control.

### MCBA November Meeting

Monday, November 21

Williams on the Lake

7PM-8:30 PM

787 Lafayette Rd, Medina OH 44256

Topic: Four Corner Demonstrations

### MBCA Christmas Party

Monday, December 19, 2022

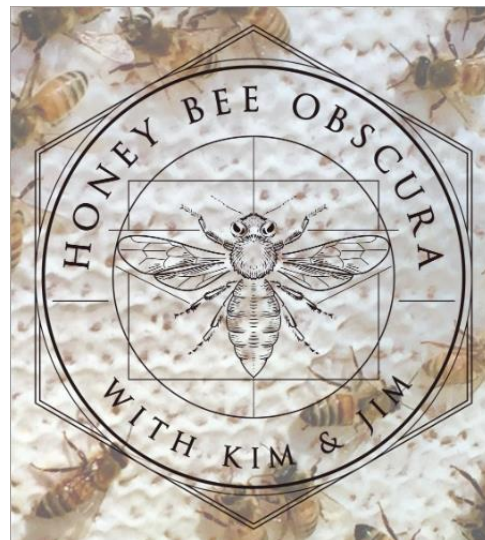
6PM-8:30 PM

Location TBD

#### MCBA Hive Cleanup

The club bee yard is in need of cleanup – details are being firmed up, please reach out to Paul Kosmos if you are available to help.

Have you heard the latest buzz? **Honeybee Obscura** is a weekly podcast hosted by Kim Flottum and Jim Tew. Topics range from phenology and bee management (the most recent episode) to honey extraction, smoker management, bee space, and emergency feeding. There are 95 episodes to date, each under 30 minutes in length. You can listen online at [www.honeybeeobscura.com](http://www.honeybeeobscura.com) or your favorite podcast platform.





## Ag Day 2022 – A Huge Success!

Ag Day was a SO much fun. Over 300 grade school kids, third and fourth graders. I wish I had some of their energy. They visited all the bee setups and especially enjoyed trying on the bee suits and veils. Kudos to **Shari Baker, John Vrchatnik, Neal Klabunde, Kohn and Bonnie Kubankin, and Peggy Garnes**. Thanks also to **Kimberly Carey** who volunteered as a helper with the Ag team.







## Fall Conference and Annual Meeting October 28-29, 2022



## WHY DID MY BEES DIE?



### FEATURED TOPICS

- OHIO APIARY INSPECTION PROGRAM
- REASONS THAT HONEY BEES DIE AND HOW TO PREVENT IT
- GENETICS AND BREEDING MITE-RESISTANT HONEY BEE STOCK IN OHIO AND THE MIDWEST.
- OHIO POLLINATORS HABITAT INITIATIVE PROGRAM
- HONEYBEE PHEROMONES "COMMON SCENTS"
- AGE RELATED TASK OF A WORKER BEE "ETHOLOGY"
- MYSTERIES AND MANAGEMENT OF A LAYING WORKER
- FIGHT THE MITES "UNDERSTANDING THE MYSTERIOUS TROPILAEALAPS MITE"
- VARROA ANATOMY, "WHY IT MATTERS TO YOUR BEES."
- THE LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS OF DOING HONEY BEE CUT OUTS. "KNOWING THE LIABILITIES AND YOUR LIMITATIONS".
- UNDERSTANDING AND MINIMIZING INSECTICIDE BEE KILLS IN SOYBEANS

### FEATURED SPEAKERS

#### Dr. Sammy Ramsey

The Endowed Professor of Entomology at CU Boulder's BioFrontiers Institute, where he applies his fascination with invertebrates to understanding and preserving the ecosystems that they make possible.

#### Jon Zawislak

An Assistant Professor of Apiculture and Urban Entomology for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. He emphasizes understanding the biology and behavior of honey bees and related pests as key to keeping bees healthy, and minimizing the use of pesticides in the hives.

#### Dr. James Tew

Dr. James E. Tew is an Emeritus Faculty member of the Ohio State University, and he is also retired from The Alabama Cooperative Extension System

#### Reed M. Johnson, PhD.

Reed is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Entomology at The Ohio State University in Wooster, Ohio where he teaches two courses: one on beekeeping and the other on pesticide science.

#### Hongmei Li-Byarlay Ph.D.

Received her Ph.D. from Purdue University at West Lafayette, Indiana. She is currently the Research Associate Professor of Entomology at Central State University.

#### Barbara Bloetscher

The State Entomologist/Apiarist at the Ohio Department of Agriculture since 2009, after 23 years at The Ohio State University Extension.

#### Marci Lininger

A graduate of the Masters of Environment and Natural Resources Program at the Ohio State University. Marci serves as the Director for the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative.

#### Eric "Crittter" McCool

The world's foremost leading expert on stinging insect extractions and control.

***Don't forget to check out the Judged Honey Show and vendors!***

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_