

# THE BEE HERDER

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



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

**Monday, February 20**

**Medina County District Library**

**210 S Broadway St, Medina, OH 44256**

**Meeting Room A and/or B**

**Speaker: Glenn Turner**

**Topic: *Beekeeping with Long Hives***

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

*Presentation 7PM-8:30PM*

Glenn Turner, an officer with Summit County Beekeepers and former member of MCBA, has been keeping bees for years using only Long Hives. Long Hives are used to keep bees in one long hive, avoiding the need to lift heavy deep boxes and/or supers. This interesting presentation will share Glenn's methods and his reasons for using long hives.



## Ten Minutes with the Bees

by *Paul Kosmos, MCBA President*

### The Bee Yard in February

What's in the future for beekeeping? Talk about a tough question. The combination of constantly needing to buy more bees and the steady increase in prices points to a few success stories regarding localized, sustainable beekeeping. This topic arose at the December Board meeting. There was general agreement that the idea is worth exploring. First, we need to identify just what "sustainable" beekeeping is. An individual can practice this by making timely splits to protect him/herself against winter losses. That may result in having survivor bees, possibly raising a few queens to lead those hives, and even having a few nucs to sell on occasion.

When we look at the bigger picture of having a community that wishes to try such a program, it's a bit more complicated. So, what would be the goals of such a program? Let's start with the thousands of dollars local beekeepers spend each year for new bees. That leads to how many beekeepers do we lose each year who find it too expensive to continue the hobby. Imagine having a supply of strong local nucs with local queens to replace those bees!



**Strong Nuc in Spring that will explode!**

And think how great it would be to be able to purchase local queens when needed. Both for replacing a lost queen or to start a new hive.

Now we get to the interesting and challenging part of such an endeavor. How do we find members who want to contribute? What specific benefits would help them to buy into the program?

Savings! If you make up a nuc in late summer and you lose one of your big hives, you just saved close to \$200. And you have a survivor hive of your own bees to build with.

If someone else makes up the same nuc and does not need it in the spring, that person can sell it for much less than the retail market. Of course, that would depend on members buying into the idea of making a quick buck without having to kill the golden goose. Such a project can be just that, a project, without being a for profit entity charging so much for bees.

This might even encourage a few members to raise several nucs in hopes of selling them in the Spring. Over-wintered nucs explode in the Spring! They are SO DIFFERENT than nucs made up with bees from all parts of the country with a new queen dumped in to make a "quick" nuc.

I have a feeling the club has members willing to try such a program... with a little help and guidance. And some ground rules, as well.

How to make up healthy nucs, or raise healthy queens? What can be decided regarding prices to keep it interesting and beneficial to all? It would be a big and challenging project, but not impossible to implement. That makes it worth having some discussions starting in March of 2023. If we can figure it out it would be both fun and rewarding. So put on your thinking caps and make some notes. You will hear more about this endeavor in the next month.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MCBA Beginner Classes

Saturdays, February 11 & 25, 10AM -5PM

or

Tuesday evenings February 21, 28, March 7, March 14, March 21

**All classes held at Medina County District Library**

[Click here](#) to register for Saturday classes

[Click here](#) to register for Tuesday classes

It's February and the Saturday classes began on February 11th. The second day will be February 25. The Tuesday class begins on Tuesday, February 21st. We already have about 40 new members registered for the classes.

### Tri-County Beekeepers Association Spring Workshop

**Friday March 3-Saturday, March 4, 2023**

**Fisher Auditorium OSU OARDC & ATI**

**1680 Madison Ave, Wooster OH**

**Topic:** Viable, Vibrant Beekeeping

[Click here](#) for workshop information

[Click here](#) for registration information

Some of the topics slated to be covered during the workshop:

- Pollen Present in Honey – *Dr. Reed Johnson*
- Woodenware of Beekeeping – *Emily Mueller*
- Bee Nutrition – *Dr. Juliana Rangel*
- Organic Beekeeping – *Dr. Margarita Lopez-Urbe*
- Propolis – *Jeannie Saum*
- Beginner Beekeeping I, II, and III – *Emily Mueller*
- Queen Rearing – *Dr. Juliana Rangel*
- Pesticides – *Dr. Juliana Rangel*
- Honeybee Anatomy – *Dr. Robyn Underwood*
- Pollen According to Research – *Dr. Chia Lin*
- Beeswax – *Ms. Jeannie Saum*
- Q&A with Ohio State Apiarist Barbara Bloetscher

### MCBA March Meeting

**Monday, March 20, 2023**

**Medina County District Library**

**210 S Broadway St, Medina, OH 44256**

**Meeting Room A and/or B**

**Q&A 6:30PM-7PM; presentation 7PM-8:30 PM**

**Topic:** Swarm Panel

Join a panel of experienced beekeepers as they share their methods for managing their bees during the main spring swarm season. In addition to sharing techniques that have worked for them, you will be able to ask questions to help you understand what leads to swarm fever and best practices to stay ahead of the swarms. To top it off, March 20 is the first day of Spring!

### MCBA April Meeting

**Monday, April 17, 2023**

**Medina County District Library**

**210 S Broadway St, Medina, OH 44256**

**Meeting Room A and/or B**

**Q&A 6:30PM-7PM; presentation 7PM-8:30 PM**

**Topic:** Sustainable Beekeeping – Mark Beogher

If you are like many beekeepers, having to buy new bees every year gets old fast and is expensive. Mark will share his methods to help achieve a sustainable bee yard by managing the bees you have now.

### MCBA May Meeting

**Monday, May 15, 2023**

**Medina County District Library**

**210 S Broadway St, Medina, OH 44256**

**Meeting Room A and/or B**

**Q&A 6:30PM-7PM; presentation 7PM-8:30 PM**

**Topic:** Making Splits and Plant Exchange

Join us to learn more about making spring splits (or preparing for summer splits) to help achieve sustainable beekeeping in your bee yard. We will also have our regular plant exchange.

## Looking forward to a Good Year in the MCBA Bee Yard

A reminder that member **Kate Reusch** will be managing the Club Bee Yard this year. With her helpers we are hoping to have a successful year and should be able to hold several events in the bee yard. If you have an interest in helping, please contact Kate (our treasurer). You can find her email on the website under the **About** tab and on the first page of the newsletter in the **Association Members** section.

## New Medina Bee Inspector

**Michael Mohn** is the new Bee Inspector for Medina County. Michael is a member of Medina Beekeepers and has been keeping bees for five years. We are fortunate to have an MCBA member in the position. I know you will all wish him well in his new position.

Thanks to member **Kim Lucas** for sharing [this article](#) on a beekeeping aboard

***A-Ž hives in a Slovenian-style apiary: awesome yet practical***

***– Honey Bee Suite***

## A little more about Glenn Turner

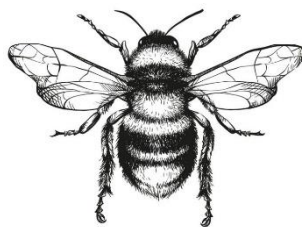
Glenn, along with his wife Julie, live in the Smithville, OH area where they raised their six kids who are now all out of the house and on their own. Glenn is currently a project manager for the Bosch Rexroth Corporation and has been there for 33 years. Previously, Glenn and Julie ran a CSA in the Smithville area. After a couple of years, the need for honeybees became apparent.

“A local beekeeper brought in a couple of hives to help with pollination and our fascination with honeybees began. When we ended the CSA, we made the decision to get into honeybees ourselves and bought our first bees around 2013. From the beginning, we were a little unconventional from ‘the norm.’ We decided from the very first hive to start with horizontal Langstroth hives. We also chose to start with Russian bees (we still raise those today), and we chose to use foundationless frames. We have added other types of hives (eight-frame Langstroth, five-frame nucs) to our apiary along the way for various reasons, but still keep bees in horizontal hives with plans to migrate all our hives to horizontal as time goes on.”

## Genetic diversity in honeybees

A recent study by the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service discovered that the US honeybee population has low genetic diversity, which could have a negative impact on crop pollination and beekeeping sustainability.

***DNA research finds low genetic diversity among US honeybees***



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