

May 2024

THE BEE HERDER

Published by the Medina County Beekeepers Association



MCBA Monthly Meeting May 20th, 2024

Medina County Library
210 S. Broadway, Medina OH 44256
Rooms A and B

Questions & Answers 6:30-7:00
General Meeting 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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May Speaker

Speaker: Peggy Garnes

Peggy Garnes has been a beekeeper for over 20 years and has managed over 140 hives for many years. She participates in Farmers Market of Medina County, several County Fairs, and enjoys creating new products for her customers.



Hive products can bring in cash! It's not just about honey – come learn about the many products you can make from your hive and enter those same products in the fair for bragging rights. Soaps, lotion bars, creamed honey, cut comb – all will be discussed.

Upcoming Events

May – Plant Exchange; During our May club meeting please bring a plant to share with other members. Remember, bring a plant, take a plant.

May - World Bee Day.

May – Apiary Registration Due

June – Pollinator week

July – Bee Festival

August – Club picnic, Medina County Fair

September – Ag Day

December – Christmas Party

MCBA June Meeting

Monday, June 17th, 2024

Topic – Sustainable Beekeeping

Guest Speaker – John Swartz

Q & A - 6:30 to 7:00 pm
General Session - 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Location: Medina County Library
210 S. Broadway, Medina OH 44256

Rooms A and B

June Speaker

John Shwartz lives in Randolph, OH. His journey with bees began in Oregon around 2006, and Alaska before moving to Ohio in 2011.

John will talk about sustainable beekeeping in your apiary. He now maintains a small blog you can access at <http://thebee.farm> or join his OTS Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/otsbeekeeping/>

John enjoys helping beekeepers become self-sufficient and can be reached via email with questions at johnschwartz@gmail.com.

MCBA Mission Statement

To promote beekeeping, broaden the knowledge and understanding of honeybees (and all pollinators) and the challenges they face in today's world, and educate by teaching best practices and techniques in apiary management.

President's Corner

By Peggy Garnes

As swarm season kicks into high gear, please manage your hives to prevent swarms! Many swarms end up in neighbor's trees and inside their homes. I have had numerous calls ranging from mason bees in a garage to honeybees in a dryer vent!

I want to thank our volunteers for Earth Day – Kimberly Carey, Shari Baker, Andy Kawac, Roland Sharma, Cooper Claypool and his grandfather, Molly O’Shaughnessy, Chris Fullerton, and Mary Jo Moses. Thank you all so much for your time-sharing information with the public and other beekeepers.

World Bee Day is in need of volunteers! Please let me if you can help out either on Friday, May 17, (10-2pm) with the children or on Saturday May 18, (10-4pm) for the public. It will be a fun day for everyone. There will be a signup genius being sent out soon – stay tuned!

The May meeting will be on hive products, entering fairs, and making money from your hive- also remember it’s our plant swap so be sure to get your bee plants ready to share with the club. Every year we have a great turnout of nicely started pollinator plants to share.

As always, if you have suggestions or comments, please contact me or anyone on the board. We want your input!

Stay healthy, hug your family, and enjoy your bees!

Ten Minutes with the Bees – The bee yard in May

By Paul Kosmos

What to Do with a Really Strong Swarm

Today is Friday, May 10. On April 28 one of my hives swarmed. It was a really big swarm! It landed about 2 feet off the ground in a wet area of my property. Once I got close to it, I knew right away that it would not fit in a nuc box. So, I used the nuc box to put a deep on top to get it closer to the bees. I like to use one frame of drawn comb and the rest foundation since swarms LOVE to draw new comb. I only put five frames in this box since I planned to give it to a fellow beekeeper. After cutting some branches out of the way I then cut a few with small clumps of the swarm on them and carefully shook them into a partial opening at the top. After repeating this

several times, they started to move into the box. Took about 45 minutes.



Swarm Entering Box After 45 Minutes

Once the bees were in the box, I moved it to a hive stand. Wanted to watch it for a few days to make sure things were going well.

Like most beekeepers, I fed them a little Pollen Patty and a little Sugar Syrup to help them settle in. I checked them after a couple days and they were drawing comb on the foundation. I then contacted my friend and arranged to move the hive today.

However, then things got really interesting. I attempted to check the hive yesterday to make sure they were OK. But when I tried to lift the inner cover I knew the hive was even stronger than I thought. I pried up the cover about one inch and discovered two huge combs on each side of

the five frames, attached to the cover. I could not remove the inner cover for fear of messing up the hive!

To make a long story short, we installed the swarm into his hive today. Took two of us, one to hold the inner cover and one to start brushing bees into their new home and removing the burr comb. Some was full of honey and some capped. And then the rest of the hive had to be brushed into the hive.



All from This Swarm

Word to the wise... Always give a strong swarm lots of new frames to build. They will reward you with lots of new comb!

Oh, and I now know I am an Advanced Beginner!

Creating a bee friendly garden: The best plants for honeybees in Ohio

By Clint Allen

As a beekeeper in the great state of Ohio, promoting a diverse and sustainable nectar and pollen source for honeybees is essential for the health and well-being of our precious pollinators. One of the most effective ways to support honeybees is by cultivating a bee-friendly

garden filled with a variety of annual and perennial plants. Here's a simple guide to some of the best plants to include in your yard to create a thriving habitat for honeybees:

Annual Plants:

Sunflowers (*Helianthus annuus*): Sunflowers are not only a favorite among people for their cheerful blooms but also beloved by honeybees for their abundant nectar and pollen. Plant a variety of sunflower types to provide a continuous food source throughout the growing season.

Cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus*): These colorful annuals are not only attractive to the eye but also attract honeybees with their nectar-rich flowers. They are easy to grow and bloom profusely from summer to fall.

Zinnias (*Zinnia elegans*): Zinnias come in a wide range of colors and sizes, making them a versatile addition to any garden. Their vibrant blooms are rich in nectar and pollen, making them a favorite among honeybees and other pollinators.

Borage (*Borago officinalis*): Borage is a powerhouse plant for honeybees, producing an abundance of blue, star-shaped flowers that are irresistible to pollinators. Plant borage near your beehives or throughout your garden to ensure a steady supply of nectar.

Perennial Plants:

Lavender (*Lavandula* spp.): Lavender is not only prized for its aromatic foliage and beautiful purple flowers but also for its attractiveness to honeybees. Plant lavender in sunny, well-drained areas of your garden to provide a reliable nectar source.

Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*): A native perennial to Ohio, purple coneflower is not only a stunning addition to the garden but also a valuable food source for honeybees. Its daisy-like flowers provide nectar and pollen from summer to fall.

Bee Balm (Monarda spp.): True to its name, bee balm is a favorite of bees, attracting them with its vibrant blooms and sweet nectar. Plant bee balm in moist, well-drained soil to create a buzzing oasis for honeybees in your garden.

Salvia (Salvia spp.): Salvia varieties such as sage and culinary sage are not only aromatic herbs but also excellent sources of nectar for honeybees. Plant salvia in sunny locations with good drainage to attract bees to your garden.

Trees also play a crucial role in providing food for bees, especially during certain times of the year when other flowering plants may not be in bloom. Here are some trees that can serve as excellent sources of food for bees in Ohio:

Maple Trees (Acer spp.): Maple trees, including species such as sugar maple and red maple, produce small clusters of flowers in early spring that are rich in nectar. Bees eagerly forage on these flowers, collecting both nectar and pollen.

Willow Trees (Salix spp.): Willows are early bloomers, producing fluffy catkins in late winter to early spring. These catkins are an important food source for bees emerging from winter hibernation, providing them with much-needed nutrition as they start their foraging activities.

Black Locust (Robinia pseudoacacia): Black locust trees are known for their fragrant white flowers that bloom in late spring to early summer. Honeybees are particularly fond of black locust flowers, which produce abundant nectar.

Basswood or Linden Trees (Tilia spp.): Basswood trees produce clusters of small, fragrant flowers in early summer that are highly attractive to bees. The nectar-rich flowers of basswood trees provide bees with a valuable food source during the warmer months.

Sourwood (Oxydendrum arboreum): Although not as common as some other trees, sourwood is highly valued by beekeepers for its late summer blooms. The fragrant white flowers of sourwood trees produce a unique honey prized for its distinctive flavor.

Apple Trees (Malus spp.): Apple trees not only provide delicious fruit but also produce showy blossoms in spring that attract bees. Beekeepers often place hives in apple orchards to take advantage of the abundant nectar and pollen available from apple blossoms.

Tips for Success:

- Plant a variety of flowers to provide a continuous bloom from early spring to late fall, ensuring a steady food supply for honeybees throughout the growing season.
- Choose native plant species whenever possible, as they are well-adapted to Ohio's climate and provide the most benefit to local pollinators.
- Avoid using pesticides and herbicides in your garden, as they can harm honeybees and other beneficial insects. Opt for organic gardening methods to create a safe and healthy habitat for pollinators.
- Provide water sources such as shallow dishes filled with pebbles or a birdbath with rocks for honeybees to drink from and cool off during hot summer days.

By incorporating these plants into your garden, you can create a diverse and sustainable habitat that not only supports honeybees but also enhances the beauty of your outdoor space. Together, we can make a difference in conserving and protecting our precious pollinators for generations to come.

Earth Day

The club would like to say thank you again, to the following members, Kimberly Carey, Shari Baker, Andy Kawac, Roland Sharma, Cooper Claypool and his grandfather, Molly O'Shaughnessy, Chris Fullerton, and Mary Jo Moses. Without members and friends

volunteering it would be impossible to participate in events like the on Earth Day. Below are a few pictures of the table/set up that the club had during the event.



A thank you from, Shelley Tender – Interpretive Services Manager Medina County Parks District

On behalf of the Medina County Earth Day Festival planning committee, I'd like to thank you for helping make our event a great success! We had over 2,000



visitors stop by to learn how to become better stewards of our environment and have a good time on a very cool, but beautiful, Ohio

spring day! Our event depends on all of the wonderful exhibitors, vendors and entertainers that so willingly

share with others their passion for all things sustainability. We appreciate each and every one of you and hope you will join us again next year. Save the date for Earth Day Festival number 29 on April 26, 2025!

Member Spotlight

Cooper Claypool



Where do you live? I live on Ty Drive in Medina.

What grade are you in and what school do you go to? I am in the ninth grade at Medina High School.

What got you interested in beekeeping? I would have to say I got into beekeeping because my neighbor down the street had a couple of hives.

How long have you been keeping bees? I have been keeping bees for about five years.

How many, and what kind of hives do you have? I have three langstroth ten-frame hives. I do not currently have any bees in them, but I am working on catching a swarm.

Are you looking to add to your apiary? Yes, I am looking to add to my apiary. I would like to have five or six.

Do you share your beekeeping hobby with anybody else? Yes, I do, I share my hobby with my grandpa who, I am currently mentoring. He also makes me my hive stands and swarm traps.

What is your most memorable beekeeping moment? My most memorable beekeeping moment is when I got my first hive put in my yard.

What is the best and worst part of beekeeping? The best part is teaching others about bees and talking to others about bees, the worst part has to be losing a hive.

What is your favorite food to add honey to? My favorite food to add honey to is pizza.

Do you have any tips for beginner beekeepers? (Maybe a lesson learned from your mistakes) Prepare for winter, treat mites, and DO NOT move your hive close to sunset or in the evening.

Other than beekeeping, do you have any other hobbies? I like building Legos, fishing, hiking, and camping.

Swarm Traps - Catching Honeybees in the Wild

By Clint Allen

For members that attended our March meeting, the guest speaker, Walt Wozniak, talked about swarm traps and baiting. He also handed out build plans for those that were in attendance. I, like many in attendance, were very excited to build a swarm trap of my own. A few days after the meeting, I did just that, I built a swarm trap, hung it up in a tree about 6' off the ground and baited with Swarm Commander. As soon as the weather broke, and

we started to see consistent warm days and nights, I was able to capture my first swarm. For a few days prior to



Wednesday May 1st, I had noticed scout bees checking out the box, they would fly in, and some would fly out. But not too much activity. Only a few bees throughout the day. This went on for about a week and by Wednesday afternoon, the box was chock-full of bees. I let them stay in the box for another day and by Friday May 3rd, decided it was time to move them. I found an unmarked queen (marked her too) and discovered she was already laying eggs in the drawn comb that was placed inside the trap. The bees had already started



drawing out new comb on the remaining 4 frames that were inside the box. Needless to say, this was an exciting

experience, and proof that the dimensions, attractant and drawn comb are key to attracting bees to your swarm traps. I have an older trap with the dimensions of a 5 frame Nuc and it doesn't get near the attention as this larger trap. Not only was I successful using this Walt's



design, but Cooper Claypool (our spotlighted member of the month) was also successful with his swarm trap. Pictures of Cooper's swarm trap and free bees can be seen pictured above & below. I think I can speak for Cooper on this, and would like to give a huge thank you



to Walt, for sharing his experiences with us during or March club meeting!

Club Bee Yard Update

Remember, if you plan to visit the bee yard this year, consider parking across the street at the Medina Country Parks District Headquarters. We don't want to create traffic issues on Deerview Lane or Wedgewood Road, upsetting the residents in the area.

Notes from the club bee yard colonies

May 8 – Shari Baker

Very calm quiet bees!

Nuc 3b may not be viable. Only a couple dozen bees, including a virgin queen. Pulled two frames of mixed brood and attached bees from nuc 3a to give the little queen a boost.

8 frame; not a single bee in the medium on the 8 frame. It's a small hive, maybe 4-5 frames of bees. Did not see queen. Did see about 1/2 a frame of eggs. No other brood.

Nuc 3a no bees in the medium. LOTS of bees and brood. Found queen. Moved her and brood frames to bottom box. Put medium in the middle. Moved mostly open frames to top box.

Check top box for possible queen cells in a week. By putting the medium in the middle, may have created a Demaree split situation.

4/29/24 - Kate Reusch

Hive 3, knocked down all but 2 queen cells and moved a frame of queen cells (2) to hive #2

Overcast, windy, quite warm -- upper 70s-low 80s.

HIVE #1: Hive inspected by Kym and Dave Lucas

Evidence of Nosema on front and back of 1A, which may have been from previous hives or may be from current

hive. Might it be useful to use DFM if from the current hive? (Didn't open, just noticed from outside.)

Many spider cocoons/nests scraped out of the telescoping cover of #1, probably due to field location.

A reasonable number of bees and brood in hive, with brood in both deep and super. Also saw larvae. Too overcast to see eggs.

No queen cell evidence.

Agree with previous reports -- queen is very slow moving. Bees very calm, almost lethargic.

Not much foraging activity in front of either #1A or #1. This worked to our benefit as new bees could stand all around the hive, and is understandable for split (#1A), but a bit worrisome for #1.

Denise spotted a beetle when looking at a frame being passed around. Recommend beetle traps -- beetle jails are more durable than beetle blasters and work well in our apiary. We're in the woods and hive beetles are always a concern, so we've tried most remedies and found beetle jails work best for us.

Did some scraping of frames and inside of the hive.

When we closed the hive, we made sure to push the telescoping cover to the front so bees could use the top entrance. It was blocked when we opened the hive.

This hive is not a power hive, but it's functioning. Is it worth requeening by pinching the queen and letting them raise a new one? Or replacing her? I'm not sure. The queen is laying ok but not nearly at the level you'd expect at this time of the season.

If it were our hive, we might consider pinching her and leaving them to it, but MCBA has a lot of hives in transition at the moment, so probably wouldn't consider doing it until the other hives are queenright.

World Bee Day

By Sharon Carpenter

Hello Medina Beekeepers! If you are interested in sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm for beekeeping with others, then we have just the opportunity for you.

World Bee Day is on May 17th and May 18th at the Cuyahoga County fairgrounds. Friday is an event for students in grades K - 12, Saturday is a Fun Day for the public. Please refer to this link for more details. World Bee Day

We are asking for volunteers to cover only a 2-hour shift at one of the 12 booths.

Please sign-up as soon as possible so we can be sure we have enough helpers. Medina County Beekeepers Assoc: World Bee Day

Thank you for considering to help!

MCBA Meeting Minutes

By Sharon Carpenter

MCBA monthly meeting was held at the Medina Library, 62 members were present, including six board members.

The club meeting began at 6:30 p.m. with a time for Q & A. Our featured speaker, Dr. Lawrence Connor, began his presentation at 7:00 p.m. The topic was his presentation was "Beekeeping by the Numbers".

Following the presentation, we had a 10-minute snack break and resumed to a formal business meeting facilitated by the club president. The following updates were presented:

1. The minutes from the March meeting were posted in the April newsletter for all members to read. They were voted on for approval – motion carried.
2. Financial report: given by the treasurer.

3. Beginner class: All classes were completed successfully. Anybody who has taken the class was asked to please leave comments to help improve the class to better equip beginners to feel more confident to begin their beekeeping adventure.
4. Medina County Fair: A sign-up sheet for working at the fair booth this year is expected at the May Membership meeting.
5. Club bee yard: Volunteers are still needed to help demonstrate hive inspections. A sign-up sheet has been posted on "Signupgenius". All the hives are doing well with the exception of one that for now is just being watched closely. The queen may need to be replaced.
6. Bee Festival: Takes place at the Medina Library in July; volunteers will be needed.
7. Club picnic: Will take place in August at Buckeye Woods Park

New Business:

1. Sample shirts and hats with the club logo were shown to the group. Pricing will be investigated for a future decision to have the shirts and hats available by members for purchase.
2. An idea to have our Christmas Party catered by the students of the Medina Career Center was suggested. With many members in agreement, more information will be sought, and a final decision will be voted on at a later.

From Around the Web

World Bee Day Fun Day Flyer

Saturday May 18th, 10AM-4PM @ Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds Bee Barn. 19201 E. Bagley Road, Middleburg Heights OH 44130

https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/93ead71c-4c93-4b5c-b298-c340e7a0d02f/downloads/WBD-May18_half-page_3.24vF3.pdf?ver=1712685636235

Wax Worm Saliva Is the Unlikely Hero of Fighting Plastic Waste

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/wax-worm-saliva-is-the-unlikely-hero-of-fighting-plastic-waste-180980908/>

Honey is said to help with hay fever symptoms – here’s what the research says about this claim.

<https://theconversation.com/honey-is-said-to-help-with-hay-fever-symptoms-heres-what-the-research-says-about-this-claim-225728>

Florida Bans Lab-grown meat as other states weigh it: what’s their beef with cultured meat?

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/food/2024/05/05/florida-lab-grown-meat-ban/73569976007/>

Honey Extractor

The club owns a honey extractor that is available to all paid members to rent for a \$20 deposit. If you need to borrow the extractor, feel free to reach out to Peggy Garnes at 330-723-6265 to make an appointment.

Ideas & Suggestions

This newsletter is for you, our members. If you have any ideas for content, format, corrections, or anything else, please, don’t hesitate to reach out to me, Clint Allen via email.

Did you know that beekeeping evolved from honey hunting with the oldest evidence dating back 8,000 years ago to Mesolithic cave paintings in Spain?





Citations / References