

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



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MCBA Club Meetings

Third Monday of each month at Williams on the Lake. 787 Lafayette Road, Medina, OH (west of the fairgrounds).

- 6:30-7:30 pm question and answer session,
- 7:00 - 9:00 pm meeting and speaker.

March 18 – Earl Hoffman, Owner Essential Honey Bees LLC.

Earl will talk about using microbials to manage honey bee pathogens and pests, with new data for Varroa and SHBs. Earl and his wife Carol, both EAS Master Beekeepers collaborate with microbiologists from the University of Milwaukee and support research on Chalkbrood, Nosema, European Foul Brood (EFB), Varroa, and small hive beetles (SHB). They manage about 100 hives in Michigan, where they raise and sell bees and Michigan Queens.

The club will have pollen patties, drone comb, dry pollen substitute, and Small Hive Beetle traps for sale at the March meeting.

April 15 - Barb Bloetscher, Ohio State Apiary Inspector, and Ron Zickefoose, Medina County Bee Inspector.

Barbara and Ron will talk about the explosion of Small Hive Beetles in 2018 and ways to deal with them in 2019.

May 20 - OSBA Traveling Trainer. Sustainable Beekeeping Management: Hobbyist Queen-Rearing.

June 17 – Kelly Kulhanek, Bee Informed Partnership (BIP).

MCBA will host an Ice Cream Social as a fun background for a talk by BIP on their survey results and their Sentinel Apiary Program. Kelly is a Ph.D. student studying honey bee health with a focus on the Sentinel Program data. Visit the [BIP website](#) to learn more.

Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

The calendar says March, but today it's hard to tell. It's sort of same-as in the bee yard. One important point is worth noting. This Sunday the forecast says mid 50's, a great time to check on the bees. But be careful. All of my hives are clustered at the top. That means the bees are attached to the inner cover. If you remove the cover you would be "breaking" the cluster. While that might be OK if warm enough, I try not to bother the cluster. So, what to do? I lift the IC just enough to slide a strip of food into the hive. Then use your hive tool to slide it up to the edge of the cluster. Add a couple.

The good news is the Red Wing blackbirds are back in force and the Turkeys are courting their girlfriends. They know spring is coming soon!



Swarms and Splits

While you are learning more about swarms and splits, give some thought to your equipment on hand. If you plan to increase your number of hives you will need enough hives to house them. Plan on a complete set since splits normally grow much faster than packages. Why? Splits contain a couple frames of capped brood and are more like nucs. You'll have 5-10,000 more bees in 7-10 days, weeks ahead of a package. They also have drawn comb.

If you plan to make splits or gather swarms occasionally you may also want to consider a nuc box. It is the same as a deep setup but only houses 5 frames. A small hive grows fast in a nuc box since they can control the environment better (and the critters). A nuc box can be very handy. I use it sometimes to place a frame of bees in while I'm working a hive. Same for removing frames of capped honey to reduce the weight of a super for extracting. It's also great (and light) for catching a swarm.

Using a NUC box to catch swarms



Skunk Cabbage is the FIRST source of pollen in the spring. Comes up under the snow, bees are on them the first warm day in March (about 45 and sunny).



Club News

Supplies for Sale at the March Club Meeting

The club will have pollen patties, drone comb, dry pollen substitute, and small hive beetle traps for sale at the March meeting.

MCBA Mentor and Swarm Lists

We are working on updating the list of club members who are willing to assist other members and those who actively seek swarms. If you are interested in being added to one of these lists, contact Paul Kosmos (president@medinabeekeepers.com)

Mentors: Mentors are experienced beekeepers who are willing to provide advice about bee yard management and techniques. Most mentors invite mentee beekeepers to their bee yard to observe and learn, but mentoring can also happen online or on the phone.

Swarms: The MCBA website includes a list of members who are willing to capture swarms. Interest in capturing swarms can wane later in the summer, but we want to be sure that there are club members available throughout the summer to help people who call about swarms

Join the 2019 Fair Committee – March 24, 2pm, Panera in Medina

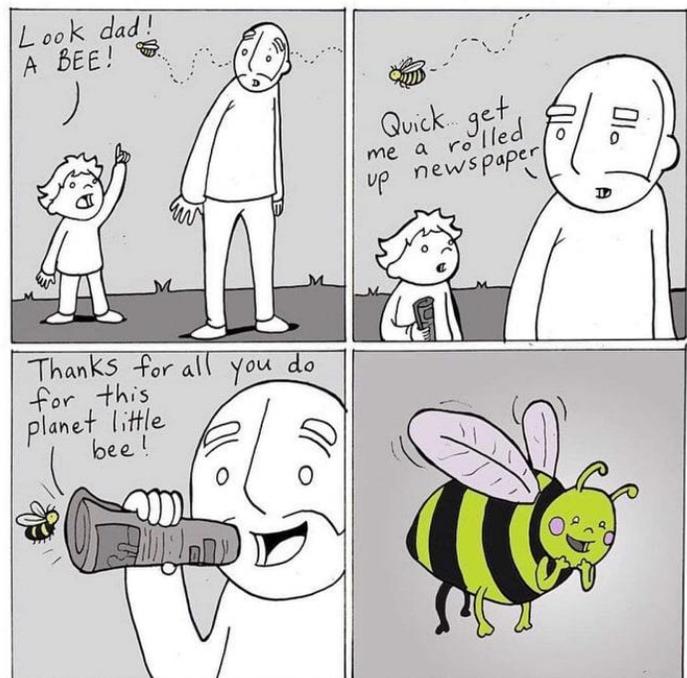
Co-chairs, Laura Cantrel and Peggy Garnes, invite anybody who would like to be a part of the Fair Committee to meet at Panera in Medina at 1:50 on March 24. The meeting will start at 2:00pm. Discussion will include past fair success and issues, rules, potential changes, and other topics that need to be addressed. Please contact either Laura (lamwhatz@yahoo.com) or Peggy (pgarnes001@neo.rr.com) if you have questions.

New Twitter Connection

Tim Moore emailed the MCBA President to let the club know that he will be tweeting about the activities of a sideline honey producer. If you have a Twitter account, you can follow him @elkcreekhoney. If you do not have a Twitter account or do not want to create one, search @elkcreekhoney and you can see all of the tweets.

Fun Cartoon

James Simonelli forwarded this cartoon to include in the newsletter. The MCBA president contacted the company who said that we could print it in our newsletter.



www.lunarbaboon.com

Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes

Regular monthly membership meeting: February 18, 2019 DRAFT

Call to Order: The regular monthly meeting of the Medina County Beekeeper's Association, was held at the Williams on the Lake at 787 Lafayette Rd, Medina, Ohio on February 18, 2019. The meeting convened at 7:00 P.M., President, Paul Kosmos presiding, Kim Barkfelt, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes:

Kim Barkfelt presented the minutes from the January 21, 2019 meeting as published in the newsletter. No corrections were made; minutes were approved as distributed.

Officers' Reports: none

Committee Reports: Peggy Garnes announced the March speaker will be Earl Hoffman of Essential Honey Bees, LLC on using microbial to manage pathogens and pests. In April, Barb Bloetscher, Ohio State Apiary inspector and Ron Zickefoose, Medina County inspector, will speak on the explosion of small hive beetles in our area and methods of control.

Unfinished Business: Paul Kosmos updated the membership on the Beginners' class.

New Business: Paul Kosmos announced the Intermediate Class will be offered in March 30th at the Medina Presbyterian Church 5020 Burgundy Bay Blvd (facing Rt 18 west of I-71). The topics include: swarm prevention, making splits, infused honey, simple Q's Comb Honey.

Announcements: Mead Raffle; Pollen Patties will be available again at the March meeting. March 1 - 2: Tri-County Beekeeping Conference

Presentation: Dr. Reed Johnson, Ph.D. Entomology Researcher for OSU and presenter at numerous conferences, speaks on the exposure of honey bees to various sprays while in California for the pollination of Almonds.

Adjournment: March 18, 2019 at 7:00 P.M and Williams on the Lake at 787 Lafayette Rd, Medina, Ohio were fixed as the time and place of the next regular meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Club Bee Yard Update

By Dwain Novak, MCBA Bee Yard Attendant

The Medina County Bee Inspectors report from Beltsville arrived with the news that hive #2 had a high count of mites, which contributed to its demise. This photo is not from our yard, but is an example of what a bee might look like in a highly-infected hive. The Inspector's suggestion was to treat when there is one



mite per one hundred bees. This year we will perform and record inspections from hive start-up, and if treatments are necessary, perform oxalic vaporization in a three week cycle to sustain healthy hives.

The bee yard has placed an order for one three-pound package and one nuc. This will help us to show the differences in startup characteristics so that beekeeper members can see what would be best for them if the need arises. We have to move the hives over to the Chick Masters property because the food bank is selling off their property.

The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – March

Have you seen the signs of spring? Pussy willows and early blooming trees have started to bud and the days are noticeable longer. That means that the queen has started laying and just as soon as the weather warms up and pollen becomes available, we'll be back in beekeeping business.

Welcome to the new beekeepers who completed the Introduction to Beekeeping Workshop! We're looking forward to seeing you at the meetings and hearing about your beekeeping adventures.

Here are a few tasks to consider for March:

- On a warm day, go out to look for signs of life in your hives. If you need, place an order for bees.
- Start stimulating brood rearing with pollen patties. Keep on feeding fondant or sugar if your hives are light. When the bees start flying, you can set out feeders with pollen substitute, and when the nighttime temperatures are above freezing, you can start to feed sugar syrup.
- Once you see pollen coming in, you can stop feeding and remove mouse guards to ease congestion at the hive entrance.



Local and Regional Bee Events

OSU Pollinator Summit: Our Threatened Bees, Columbus Campus, March 28, 2019, 8:45am - 4:00pm

What threats do bees face, and what steps can we take to protect them? Gather in Columbus with bee biologists, conservation experts, educators, gardeners and citizen scientists to learn and network.

Keynote speaker: Laurence Packer, professor at York University and author of *Keeping the Bees: Why All Bees Are at Risk and What We Can Do To Save Them*. Presenters include Reed Johnson, OSU Entomology, Threats facing honey bees; Karen Goodell, OSU EEOB, The rusty patched bumble bee and the Ohio Bee Atlas; Mary Gardiner, OSU Entomology, Shrinking cities, vacant properties and pollinators; Randy Mitchell, University of Akron, Action steps to help native bees.

\$50 registration fee includes lunch, refreshments and handouts. [Details and Registration.](#)

MCBA 2019 Intermediate Class - Saturday, March 30 9:30am – 3:00 pm

Do you have questions coming out of winter? Join Tim Moore, Kim Barkfelt, Peggy Garnes and others to learn how to take your beekeeping to the next level: swarm management, making simple splits, infused honey, easy queen rearing, and marking queens. Refreshments and snacks will be provided, and there will be a short lunch break.

Cost for the class is \$40 per person, OR \$35 with a food donation of \$5 or more. Medina Presbyterian Church works with Feeding Medina and their Weekenders Program to provide food for youths on weekends. They can use peanut butter and jelly in plastic jars, tuna in pouches, and SpaghettiOs. Plastic containers or foil pouches reduce the weight of the food carried in backpacks.

Location: [Medina Presbyterian Church](#), 5020 Burgundy Bay Boulevard, Medina, OH 44256 Please go to the rear of the church. A sign will be posted by the door. Click here to [REGISTER](#)

Event - Next Silent Spring? Sunday, April 28, 2pm – 4 pm

To commemorate Earth Day 2019, the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club will offer a free program, *Next Silent Spring?*, at the Cleveland Museum of Art Recital Hall. Laurel Hopwood, Senior Advisor to Sierra Club's Pollinator Protection Program, will show the documentary *Nicotine Bees* and a panel of experts will discuss how the decline of pollinator populations affects our food supply and ecosystem and how to help move things forward. The panel will include Dr. Mary Gardiner, Associate Professor in the OSU Department of Entomology; Tom Gibson, principal of Green Paradigm Partners; and Elle Adams, founder of City Rising Farm. For more information, contact Laurel Hopwood, 216-371-9779 or lhopwood@roadrunner.com.

Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Field Day – Saturday, May 18, 2019, 9am – 3pm

The Keynote Speaker will be Becky Masterman, Extension Educator and Program Director, University of Minnesota Bee Squad Department of Entomology, speaking about *Responsible Bee Keeping in the Urban Environment and Understanding the Healthy Hive*. There will also be a bee yard demonstration about making a split, hive inspection, and honey extraction. Veils are required but no gloves needed.

Cost is \$10 per person for preregistration and \$12 at the door (16 and under free with paid adult). A pre-ordered lunch is available for purchase or you can bring your own lunch. Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds 164 Eastland Road; Berea, Ohio 44017. www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com.

Pest of the Month – Surprisingly enough Yellow Jackets

A few months ago, Ron Zickefoose, the Medina County Bee Inspector, wrote an article about enemy #2, small hive beetles. Mark your calendars for the April 15 MCBA meeting, where he and Barbara Bloetscher will talk more about small hive beetles. In the meantime, there is another pest that Ron wants us to keep an eye on.

March and April is the time to be proactive with yellow jackets. Most of us have experienced that August/September day when we noticed the yellow jackets robbing out or at a minimum pestering our honey bee colonies. Well it is in late March and Early April that the foundress queens of the yellow jacket colonies emerge from hibernation and begin feeding. Yellow jackets are mainly carnivorous but in

spring look for high carbohydrate nectar to build new nest sites in underground cavities or soffit cavities on a house to build those all too familiar and recognizable paper nests.

By taking action now with a trap that uses sugar syrup as a lure you can capture the foundress queens and prevent an entire colony from forming. There are several yellow jacket traps available at the hardware and big box stores, or you can make your own out of an old soda or juice bottle. Simply add ½ cup of sugar, ½ cup water, 1 cup apple cider vinegar, and a banana peel to the bottle then fill until the bottle is half full. With a box cutter, cut a ¾” opening in the top half of the bottle for the yellow jackets to enter. Place the trap away from your bee hives on a deck or patio. The idea is that the yellow jackets will enter through the hole and not be able to figure out how to exit and they will die. Preventing yellow jackets now can save your colony in the fall.



Together in beekeeping, Ron Zickefoose

2019 MCBA Membership Application / Renewal

If you have not yet renewed your membership and paid your 2019 dues, **now is the time!** Unpaid members will be removed from the member list on March 30, so get to it before the end of the month.

Annual MCBA membership has two options for members:

- \$20 if newsletters will be emailed or \$25 for a printed newsletter mailed to your postal address

Each Membership has one vote in MCBA club matters and includes one family member in all club activities (of course, other than voting.)

You may renew your membership

- online [here](#)
- complete the form below, attach a check payable to Medina County Beekeepers Association, mail both to MCBA Treasurer, PO Box 1353, Medina, Ohio 44258
- Bring a check and completed membership form to our monthly meeting. Toni Watson, MCBA Treasurer, will be happy to collect your check and form.

Membership Form - Please complete even if this is a membership renewal. This is the major update / double-check on roster information for the newsletters!

Member Name: _____

e-mail: (please print carefully!): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ (Optional) # of colonies: _____