

# THE BEE HERDER

Published by Medina County Beekeepers Association – April 2019

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

### **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 (SHB) in 2018 and ways to deal with them in 2019. SHB are now public enemy Number Two!

**May 20 - OSBA Traveling Trainer.** Sustainable Beekeeping Management: Hobbyist Queen-Rearing. The program will cover the basics of what a hobbyist beekeeper needs to consider and the steps to take to raise Ohio queens.

### **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.

**July 15 – Medina County Fair Set Up.** 6:00-8:00 pm, Booth set up at the Medina fairgrounds. Quick clean up and set up for the MCBA booth. Followed by pizza and bee talk!

**July 29-August 4 – Medina County Fair.** Monday through Sunday, 10 am - 10 pm. MCBA will be in the Agriculture Building to provide education, awards for best bee products, and honey and bee related product sales.

**August 18 – MCBA Picnic.** Sunday, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. We will provide more details as the date gets closer.

## Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

### Spring Management

It's the start of the busy season in the bee yard! Extracting honey may be harder work, but spring management of the hives is demanding and important to the success of your hives.

First – Generally, for over wintered hives DO NOT FEED sugar syrup or pollen substitute once they are flying and bringing in food. Unless we have an unusually cold and wet spring.



### Strong early hive

April normally brings some warm days (60-70) that allow you to open the hives (don't linger, 60 is still chilly for brood). How strong is your hive? If real strong, you will want to keep an extra eye on them. By now almost all hives should be in the top box, either the upper deep or the super. If the Queen is laying in the super, you will want to move her down into the deep and put on a queen excluder. At least until the brood in the super emerges.

**Reverse the deeps?** Another decision is whether to reverse the deeps. Many beekeepers move the top deep down to the bottom and then place the bottom deep on top. Why? Bees like to move up and it appears there is more room to expand. Maybe slow the

swarm urge. Close the insert as the lower part of the hive will be colder and there is brood.

If you have more than one hive, consider equalizing your hives in the spring. This time of year, you should find a couple frames of brood. By the end of April, 4 frames. If you find one hive with more frames and one a bit weaker, it is OK to move a frame of brood to even up the hives and slow down the swarm urge.

The same applies to those who have a hive and purchase a new package. By early May it is OK to move one frame of capped brood into your package. It will give the package a huge boost.



### Watch for nectar (shiny) in the deeps

The next step is to decide when to put a super on your hive. If you see pollen coming in, they are making babies! Get ready. I believe it is better to put supers on a bit early than too late. If you have supers of drawn comb put two supers on from the start. They will need the room to store the nectar while drying it. If starting with foundation one super is good until 8-9 frames are drawn. Then add the second.

## Club News

### *Raffle at the April Club Meeting*

Are you interested in making splits this year? At the April meeting, we will have a raffle for a brand new, treated (no need to paint) nuc purchased from Queen Rite Colony. The nuc includes a screened bottom board, two deep five-frame boxes, ten frames with foundation, an inner cover, and a telescoping outer cover. Tickets will be \$5 and all proceeds above the cost of the nuc will go to the MCBA for future events.

### *Items for sale at the April Club Meeting*

The club will be selling drone comb and small hive beetle traps at cost at the April 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 the mentor list or the swarm list, contact Paul Kosmos ([president@medinabeekeepers.com](mailto: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. As of the time of this writing, six members have volunteered to be mentors.

**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 and we want to be sure that club members are available throughout the summer to help people who call about swarms. Our swarm list is up to 15 members. Email Paul if you would like to be included in the list.

### *MCBA Intermediate Class*

The recently concluded Intermediate Class was a big success. A great group of participants made it fun and informative. Thanks to all who helped who helped make the class a success!

The Medina Presbyterian Church called Paul Kosmos, MCBA president, to thank the group for the wonderfully generous food donations from the Intermediate class. She said she could hardly get everything in her trunk. She also said that Feeding Medina was equally appreciative. Makes you feel good! Thanks to all of you for your donations.



*HUGE food donation from participants for Feeding Medina.*

## Club Bee Yard Update

By Dwain Novak, MCBA Bee Yard Attendant

We have officially started the 2019 season. Hives were moved over to Chickmaster's property, right behind the garden, due to the Food Bank selling their property. Our package of Georgia bees arrived via Ron Zickefoose, and was installed on Monday, April 8th. We are waiting for our nuc to be available to start the second hive, and are hoping shortly to catch a swarm to fill the third hive. We are having a diverse set of hives so that we can illustrate different scenarios for one and all. A Field Day itinerary for this upcoming season will be generated soon and posted on the MCBA website. All members are welcome to join the club bee yard days.



*Tim Moore demonstrating the Demaree method of swarm prevention in the intermediate class*

## The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – April

Here are a few tasks to consider for April:

- Conduct a mite check this month. If your mite load is over 2 or 3 mites per 100 bees, or 4 to 9 mites in a ½ cup sample, consider a spring treatment.
- A good strategy for this time of the year is to start a drone comb removal system. You can use a green drone comb, which you can purchase at the April meeting or empty frames with no foundation, which you place into the brood box. Three weeks after you insert the drone comb or empty frame, pull out the frames, which by that time should be filled with capped drone brood. Cut out or clean out the brood, and put the frames back in the box to repeat the process. Check out Kristen Traynor's newsletter (<http://www.mdbee.com/>) in which she describes her process.
- Lay out your plan for integrated pest management for the rest of the season. Turn reminders on in your phone or calendar to help keep yourself on track.
- Hang a few wasp traps to catch wasp queens as they emerge in the spring.
- Watch food stores until the weather breaks. Some parts of April can be cold and wet, which means that your bees may have limited opportunities to fly out for food. Continue to inspect the hive to be sure there are sufficient food stores.
- Replace 2-3 frames of old drawn comb with frames of new foundation.
- New beekeepers, get your equipment ready for your package or nuc. New colonies will need to be fed continuously to build the new comb on the frames of foundation.
- Second year beekeepers, keep in mind that if your queens are two years old, the colony may swarm, experience queen failure, or supersede the queen. Start thinking about swarm management techniques. The good news is that you probably have drawn comb, which will mean that your bees will need to do less building of comb and more collecting of nectar for honey.
- Toward the end of the month, set out swarm traps to be ready to catch swarms.

## Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes

Regular monthly membership meeting: March 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 March 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 February 18, 2019 meeting as published in the newsletter. No corrections were made; minutes were approved as distributed.

Officers' Reports: none

Committee Reports: Fair Chair, Peggy Garnes and Co-Chair, Laura Cantrell invited interested members to a fair planning meeting at Panera's in Medina on March 24th, 2pm.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: Mentor and Swarm lists will be updated on website. Members should contact Paul Kosmos if interested in being on the list.

Announcements: Pollen patties, dry pollen substitute, drone comb, SHB traps, and dry pollen feeders available for sale at cost at the meeting.

March 30th, 2019 MCBA Intermediate Beekeeping Class held at the Medina Presbyterian Church 5020 Burgundy Bay Blvd. Medina from 9:30 am - 3 pm. Topics include swarm prevention, making splits, infusing honey, cut-comb honey, and simple Q's. Cost \$40 or \$35 + food donation for Feeding Medina's after school program.

April 27th 2019 - Medina County's 23rd Annual Earth Day Festival will be held at Buffalo Creek Retreat 8708 Hubbard Valley Road, Seville from 10 am - 4 pm.

Presentation: 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.

Adjournment: April 15, 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.

## Local and Regional Bee Events

### ***Medina County's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Earth Day Festival, April 27, 10am – 4pm***

The free festival will include earth-friendly exhibits, a family fishing derby, kids' activities, food, and more. No registration is required and all ages are welcome. Buffalo Creek Retreat 8708 Hubbard Valley Road, Seville. Additional parking at Hubbard Valley Park with shuttle service to Buffalo Creek.

### ***Summit County Beekeepers "Make a Swarm Box" Meeting, April 27, 9am-12pm***

Honey bee swarm season is fast approaching and we want to help you to be ready. We will discuss all of the ins and outs of why bees swarm as well as ways to catch your very own swarm of bees. All materials will be provided for you to make and leave with your very own swarm box. The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. This class is limited in number, so please visit <http://www.summitbeekeepers.com/> to RSVP and sign up.

### ***Next Silent Spring? Sunday, April 28, 2pm – 4 pm***

The Northeast Ohio Sierra Club is offering 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 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. Contact Laurel Hopwood, 216-371-9779 or [lhopwood@roadrunner.com](mailto:lhopwood@roadrunner.com) for information

### ***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](http://www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com).

### ***Portage County Beekeepers Field Day, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1pm – 3pm***

Geoff Westerfield - Assistant Wildlife Management Supervisor, Human-Wildlife Conflict / Private Lands Management ODNR Division of Wildlife will give a talk about bears in Ohio (and a few other 4-legged critters, but mostly on bears) and how to best deal with them regarding apiary management. Being a wildlife biologist with a focus on wildlife damage management and a beekeeper, Geoff will bring a unique perspective to the talk. Since bear movement will start at the end of May it is a very timely talk.

Weather permitting, the field day will also include a hive inspection of the club apiary.

The Field Day is open to the public and free of charge. However, the club provides a main dish and asks each attendee to bring a side dish/dessert. Please RSVP by May 13th at [gdw131@msn.com](mailto:gdw131@msn.com) so that the

club can ensure that there is enough food. Information on the event, including location, can be found under the "Calendar" section at [www.portagecountybeekeepers.com](http://www.portagecountybeekeepers.com).

## **NOW LIVE! The 2018-2019 Colony Loss and Management Survey**

The BIP's National Loss Survey, which was first conducted in 2006, has provided information to document and better understand long-term honey bee colony loss trends. [Click here](#) to check out the interactive state loss map. In 2010, the BIP added a National Management Survey to help understand how management practices are potentially linked to colony survivorship. A dynamic management data tool of survey responses can be found by [clicking here](#).

The 2019 survey is now open. Please consider responding to the survey so that information of Medina County beekeepers is including in the national survey. Attend our May meeting to hear about some of the results from previous years. [Click here](#) to take the 2018-2019 survey.

## **2019 MCBA Membership Application / Renewal**

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: \_\_\_\_\_