

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

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.

There will also be a plant exchange at the May meeting – bring one, take one. Label the plant that you bring with the name if you know it, and growing requirements.

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. Come and enjoy good company and good food. Mugar Park, 4895 Windfall Road, Medina. We will provide more details as the date gets closer.

Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

May – The Busiest Month

On May 1st swarm season officially began... with a buzz! After two cool rainy days May 1st was 80 and sunny. And one of my hives took off.

By now you should know how your hives are doing. A complete inspection and hive cleanup revealed which hives are strong and need watching. Several members have reported seeing queen cells in their hives.



Inspections in May

Normally by this time your bees can find enough food to manage. Your focus should be on which hives have too much resources – brood, nectar, and pollen. I found several hives with 9-10 frames of brood. Add several frames of nectar and one or two pollen and you have a hive that will soon head for the trees. It gets tougher if you do not want more hives, but the bees are telling you what they want to do.

Signs leading to Swarms There are a number of signs that indicate a pending swarm. Are you seeing more queen cups on the bottom of the frames? More than the occasional one or two? How about drones? Most of my hives built 1-2

inches of drone comb on the bottom of many of the frames. They are preparing their resources for a swarm. Another way to tell is simply how many frames of open comb do they have? If only a few, they will make plans.



BEAUTIFUL Queen Cells May 1

Of course, if you see large cells or “wet” cells (cells with royal jelly and larva) your swarm is imminent.

So, What to Do?

Once queen cells are sealed, the hive will swarm the first nice day, often late am to early pm (or maybe yesterday?). If you find sealed cells do NOT remove them unless you find the queen. If she already left your hive could end up queenless.

You can make a split and move the mother queen to the split. The hive will think it swarmed since the old queen is gone.

After a split or swarm, check the hive and remove all the queen cells except the two nicest looking, biggest cells you see. The best ones look like Planters peanuts! Good luck!

Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

Special Edition – Catching Swarms

Many members reporting swarms and it isn't even very warm yet! Perhaps a few tips on how to catch a swarm would be timely.

Bees often swarm and regroup close to the mother hive. And often on low trees or bushes. Occasionally they will settle at the base of a tree or shrub.



When bees swarm they plan for their journey. They engorge on honey since they don't know how long it might be before they find a home and they need the resources to begin drawing comb. As a result, they are full, they have no home or brood to defend and are intent on staying clustered for protection. They are normally very docile.

Bees on low branches Place a cardboard box or nuc box under the swarm. Give the branch a sharp tap with your hand (don't shake). A large number of the bees will drop into the box. You may want to wait a minute and repeat. If the Q is in the box, you will see bees up at the top fanning. They are calling their sisters home! Leave the box for a short time and most of the others will join their friends.

If the branch is small or in a tough location, you can cut the branch (gently), carry it to the box or hive and shake the bees into the box.



If the swarm is on the ground, place a box with a frame of old comb (or put a little honey) on the ground up against the edge of the swarm. Within seconds the bees will turn and start marching into the box. It's fascinating!



If the swarm is 15 – 20 feet up, you can try a box taped to a pole. Position the box under the swarm and give an upward tap. Lower the pole and dump them into a box or on the ground.

Once in the hive, if you give them only foundation and some SS/PP, they will draw new comb in record time.

Use caution and common sense. A swarm is not worth falling off a ladder or the top of a truck!

You can also put out a "bait" box... a nuc box or container with a frame of comb. Best if about 6-10 feet off the ground.

Club News

MCBA Mentor and Swarm Lists

If you are interested in being added to the mentor list or the swarm list, 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 and we want to be sure that club members are available throughout the summer to help people who call about swarms. Email Paul if you would like to be included in the list.

MCBA at the Medina County Earth Day Event

MCBA was again represented at the Medina County Earth Day event at the Buffalo Creek Retreat in Seville, an event full of nature's curiosities with lizards, snakes, turtle, spiders, and of course bees! Mike Cantrell, Laura Cantrell, and Cathy Lohse were there to answer all the kiddo's questions and to guide them in using their five senses to: touch the comb, smell the bee hive, hear the bees buzzing, taste the honey, and of course, see the bees in the observation hive. Always a favorite, the kids most enjoyed searching for and finding the queen.



Club Bee Yard Update

By Dwain Novak, MCBA Bee Yard Attendant

Even with a rainy spring – we had precipitation on 23 of 30 days in May – the overall startup of the Bee Yard hive has been a success.

The hive was set up with plenty frames of honey and drawn comb from the dead outs to be ready for brood rearing. No supplemental feeding was necessary. As of right now there are no small hive beetles present but.....



You can see the queen in the upper right corner of the pictures. The next step, weather permitting, will be to mark the queen and assess the health of the hive for varroa as our brood numbers grow.

We are anxiously waiting for a swarm call to start our second hive. We did receive a call from Smith Brothers on Marks Road, but it turned out to be a leaf cutter species of bee.

Our brood laying frames showing off our queen/s abilities.



Fair Time is Approaching

It's time to start thinking about getting your hives ready to produce this year's winning fair entries. Overwintered hives make great cut comb or comb in a jar for sales. Hive products should be from your own apiary since Medina County Beekeepers represent local beekeepers.

Seller's information will be available at the May meeting so that potential sellers can brush up on rules and changes at the fair booth. As in the past, if you are going to sell at the Medina County Fair, you must submit an entry in either the honey section or the bakery section form in the premium book, be a paid member in good standing, and volunteer to work the booth areas. We have volunteer positions in the sales area, the observation hives, and the candle rolling table in the children's area – so MCBA has a spot for you!

You don't have to enter products to volunteer at the fair booths – educating the public is part of our mission and it's an enjoyable way to interact with Medina fair visitors. We will have more information about volunteer opportunities in upcoming newsletters.



The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – May

- Set out swarm traps to be ready to catch swarms. It's great when you can collect a colony of bees from a tree.
- If you started a package of bees, your colony should have the bottom box of frames drawn out.
- During your inspections, keep an eye out for queen cups along the bottoms of frames. Keep an eye on the empty ones, but there is no need to panic. When an egg is deposited into a cup and the bees begin to elongate the structure, it's time need to be more observant. If you find an active swarm cell, consider taking out that frame along with a few frames of brood and nurse bees into a nuc

- The swarm will issue the before or the day of capping. So, if you see a capped cell, the swarm may have already left. This is a time when it's good to have a mentor. If you don't, Steve Repasky's Swarm Essentials book is a great resource.
- If you haven't yet, put on those honey supers. The summer honey flow will begin around June 1st, which, somehow, is just around the corner. Get your honey boxes ready.

Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes

Regular monthly membership meeting: April 19, 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 April 15, 2019. The meeting convened at 7:00 P.M., President, Paul Kosmos presiding, Kim Barkfelt, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes: Paul Kosmos presented the minutes from the March 18, 2019 meeting as published in the newsletter. No corrections were made; minutes were approved as distributed.

Officers' Reports: Toni Watson presented a financial report through April 11, 2019.

Committee Reports: none

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: A nuc and a bottle of mead were raffled items this month. Proceeds help support the continuing educational efforts of MCBA.

President, Paul Kosmos, thanked the participants from the Intermediate Class for their generosity and tremendous food donation for Feeding Medina.

Announcements: Saturday, April 27th 10 am - 4 pm. Earth Day Celebration Buffalo Creek Retreat 8708 Hubbard Valley Rd, Seville OH

Presentation: Barb Bloetscher, Ohio State Apiary Inspector and Ron Zickefoose, Medina County Bee Inspector, talked about the explosion of small hive beetles in 2018 and way to deal with them in 2019. SHB are now public enemy number two!

Adjournment: May 20, 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 8:32 P.M.

Local and Regional Bee Events

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.

Portage County Beekeepers Field Day, May 19th, 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 how to deal with them regarding apiary management. 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 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.

Queen Right Colonies Annual Field Day, Saturday, June 1st, registration at 9:30, program at 10 am

The guest speaker will be Dr. Albert Robertson, who established the Saskatraz honey bee breeding program. He received a PhD from the U. of Saskatchewan and University of Alberta, spent 30 years doing research in molecular genetics and biology at U. of S., and is currently president of Meadow Ridge Enterprises. This free, all-day event is sponsored by Lorain County Beekeepers Association and Queen Right Colonies. A helmet and veil are required to visit the bee yard. Visit the field day page to read about the activities and register <https://www.queenrightcolonies.com/2019/05/10/25th-annual-field-day/>

Bee Festival 2019, Saturday, July 13th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Summer is just around the corner, and so is Bee Festival 2019! Medina County Library's 11th annual day of bee-filled family fun is held in conjunction with MCBA. Over 1,000 people are expected to attend this popular event, which will include the opening of a hive on the front lawn, crafts, activities, and entertainment for all ages. **Volunteers are needed.** See photos of several of last year's volunteers. Contact Kim Barkfelt at kimbarkfelt@gmail.com if you would like to be part of the fun!



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: _____

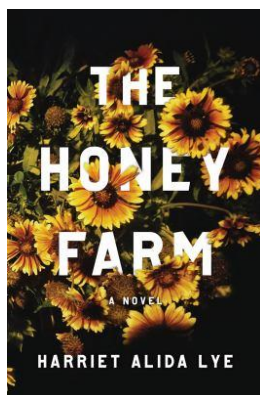
Medina County District Library Books for Beekeepers

Here is the second installment of a new newsletter feature that the MCDL has been helping with: a list of books on a variety of topics that could be of interest to our club members. All of these books are available to borrow at the MCDL. Thank you to the MCDL for providing us with these resources.



Medina County District Library

mcdl.info



The Honey Farm

By Harriet Alida Lye

A literary suspense novel set on a honey farm in Ontario. Determined to get through another year of drought, Cynthia advertises her farm as an artists' retreat, but the consequences are far-reaching.



The Crafty Gardener: Inspired Ideas and DIY Crafts from Your Own Backyard

By Becca Anderson

You can create beautiful, natural objects for your home or gifting as you learn tips for growing herbs, flowers, and vegetables in this lovely volume.

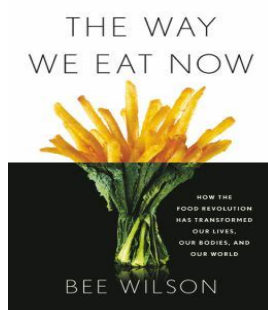


Sweet Nature: A Cook's Guide to Using Honey and Maple Syrup

By Beth Dooley

Fresh uses for honey and maple syrup abound in this

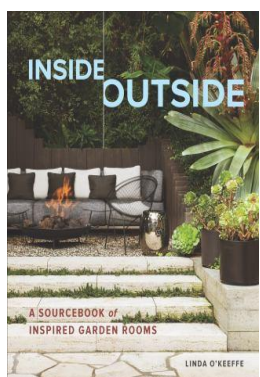
inspired and informational cookbook.



The Way We Eat Now

By Bee Wilson

Explore how the food revolution has changed our lives, bodies, and world.



Inside Outside: A Sourcebook of Inspired Garden Rooms

By Linda O'Keeffe

Outdoor living spaces from around the globe are pictured and described in glorious detail for readers to imitate.



Queen Bee

By Dorothea Benton Frank

A Lowcountry tale from a beloved Southern author. Holly, a beekeeper, obsesses about her handsome neighbor and his children while dodging her powerful mother's criticism and her flamboyant sister's interference in her life.