

# THE BEE HERDER

Published by Medina County Beekeepers Association – June 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

### 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. Mugarage 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

### June – Maintenance and Honey

Hopefully you (and your bees) survived swarm season. While hives can still swarm, the peak has passed. Now you get to look forward to keeping your bees healthy and helping them store honey.

**Let's start with maintenance.** As always, varroa takes center stage. There are several ways to check for mites. You can do a sugar shake or alcohol wash for accurate counts. The alcohol method is more accurate, but the sugar shake gives good results if done carefully and some feel is kinder to the bees.



*Drone Frame & Drone Comb on Medium Frame*

One other method is taking advantage of all the drone cells we find between the frames during an inspection. After the inspection take a minute to inspect the larva in the cells. If the larva are solid and bright white it is easy to spot the varroa. Mites in a few cells is OK, but if you find them in multiple cells you need to do the counts! The more cells you find with mites the sooner you need to take action!

If you use drone comb **NEVER forget to remove the frames** after they are capped (about 12-13 days). Forget and they become mite factories!

Packages generally will not have significant numbers of mites....yet. But get in the habit of checking while it is easy.

**Small Hive Beetles.** We have not seen the number of SHB so far this year. Last year we had fairly high numbers by mid May. Use of traps, swiffer sheets, or physical smashing on the inner cover (IC) does help.

### Now for the fun part – Honey!



For packages, only try a super after your bees have begun drawing frames 1 and 10 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> deep. If you add a super **STOP FEEDING Sugar Syrup!**

If adding foundation, as soon as the bees are drawing frames 1 & 10 add a second super.

If using drawn comb start with two supers. Why? Nectar is 80% water, so the bees need lots of room to store incoming nectar while they work to dry it and move into to cells to cap.

Honey supers can get fairly heavy. It is perfectly OK to check to see if some frames of honey are capped and remove those frames to extract honey. That reduces the weight of the super significantly and may even remove a box. Removing frames one at a time, shaking off the bees, and moving the frames to a spare box also works great to keep the lifting down. A bit more time to extract, but easier overall.

## News

Club President, Paul Kosmos, reports that the June 2019 Queen Right Colonies' Field Day was a huge success. Record attendance (over 300 attendees) and a beautiful day made for an ideal day. The presentation by Albert Robertson (developer of the Saskatraz bees) was packed and learning about the history was interesting.

Denzil tearing apart a four box hive to make a two queen system was also a lot of fun. How many of you would tackle four boxes of bees in a tank top?

And part of the fun was the menagerie of beautiful birds and animals at QRC. Two stole the show.... the friendliest deer you'll ever meet and a beautiful young goat. Many kudos to all at QRC for their efforts to organize such a great event.



## Club Bee Yard Update

By Dwain Novak, MCBA Bee Yard Attendant

We hope to soon post an itinerary for this year's bee yard club visits. The reason that we have not posted one yet is because all the rain that we keep getting makes it hard to access the club hives and has also contributed to an infestation of ticks in the yard area. I've encountered ticks three of the six times there. Peggy and I decided that it was in the best of interest of our club members to not expose them to this situation. Hopefully we can remedy this situation shortly.

Here is a post from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on how to remove a tick ([www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing\\_a\\_tick.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing_a_tick.html)) and a CDC page with more information about tick prevention and removal (<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/tickbornediseases/tick-bites-prevention.html>).

### How to remove a tick

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the **tick** as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. ...
3. After **removing** the **tick**, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
4. Never crush a **tick** with your fingers.



## The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – June

- Oh happy days of nectar flow. Keep an eye on your supers. When frames are filled with nectar but not yet capped, add another honey super. Many of our members under super, that is, put the empty honey super under the one that is almost filled. Let your bees have all the room that they need to store nectar. The flow in Northeast Ohio usually ends in early July; enjoy it while it lasts.
- The “Ohio Trees for Bees” page of the Ohio State University Extension website shows photos of the leaves and flowers of the Black locust, Basswood (Linden), and Catalpa trees (<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ent-71>), major sources of nectar for our bees.
- Start researching what varroa treatments you might want to use in July once your supers are off. Talk to a local bee supply store or place an order at an online supplier so that you have what you need when those supers come off.
- Even though summer has just started, the days will get shorter after the summer solstice on June 21. Beekeepers say that winter planning should start after the solstice. We’ll talk about honey extraction and later summer management in next year’s newsletter.

## 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 Beekeepers Association Minutes

Regular monthly membership meeting: May 20, 2019 DRAFT

**Call to Order:** The regular monthly meeting of the Medina County Beekeeper's Association, was held at Williams on the Lake at 787 Lafayette Rd, Medina, Ohio on May 20, 2019. The meeting was proceeded by a Q & A session on spring inspections, and convened at 7:00 P.M. President, Paul Kosmos presiding, Kim Barkfelt, Secretary.

**Approval of Minutes:** Kim Barkfelt presented the minutes from the April 15, 2019 meeting as published in the newsletter. No corrections were made; minutes were approved as distributed.

**Officers' Reports:** none

### **Committee Reports:**

Bee yard Update - Peggy Garnes reported that ticks have become particularly problematic this year, including at the bee yard.

Earth Day Update - John Rose gave a brief report on another successful Earth Day.

Bee Festival - Kim Barkfelt announced the upcoming Medina County Library Bee Festival on July 13th from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. MCBA as always will be playing a key role in this event by providing educational opportunities and activities for children and adults. Volunteers needed.

Medina County Fair - July 29th through August 4th, 2019. Many volunteers are needed to man the MCBA booth for this important club event. Peggy Garnes gave a brief overview on fair entries. More information, as well as volunteer sign-up sheets will be upcoming.

**Unfinished Business:** none

**New Business:** Boyert's Greenhouse and Farm - June 29th 1 pm - 3pm This is a new event put on by the nursery in which MCBA will have an informational table to talk to the public about the importance of bees. 7171 Wooster Pike Rd., Seville

**Announcements:** Swarm season is in full swing! Many reports of an early start this year. June 1st - Queen Right will be hosting a Field Day

**Presentation:** OSBA Traveling Speaker Topic: Sustainable Beekeeping Management: Hobbyist Queen-Rearing. Ron Zickefoose, speaker.

**Adjournment:** June 17, 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 8:30 P.M.

## Local and Regional Bee Events

*Intensive Wild Bee Field School, Registration June 10, Workshop July 29 – August 1, 2019.*

Sessions of the wild bee ID and biology field school will take place indoors and out, on the OSU Wooster campus and at an assortment of field sites. Collecting, pinning and bee identification under microscopes will be emphasized. This program for those serious about developing bee ID skills, not for the casually curious. Sponsored by The Ohio State University Bee Lab, Stratford Ecological Center, and The University

of Mount Union. Funded in part through a NIFA IPM Pollinator Health grant. The \$250 fee includes all meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner), transportation to field sites and materials. Lodging not included.. The workshop is limited to 15 participants and we anticipate filling all spaces quickly (and will start a wait list as needed). Learn more and register, starting at 9:00 am on Monday, June 10th here: <http://u.osu.edu/beelab/wild-bee-field-school-july-29th-through-august-1st-2019/>.

### ***Pollinator Week, June 17-23, 2019***

There's much to do for pollinator week at home, schools, public places and your local bee club! Lack of forage is a serious issue facing bees and anyone and everyone can help on this level. Planting pollinator friendly plants at your home, schools and other public places not only helps the honey bees with nectar and pollen sources, but other pollinators like moths, butterflies and bumble bees can use a little boost from your kindness.

Look in your local government building areas and see if they have planted pollinator friendly plants. If not, suggest next time they landscape they add some pollinator food! Many pollinator plants are perennials and will return year after year. Many annuals, sunflowers for example, will re-seed themselves. This way the gardener doesn't have to spend more money on new plants each year. Win-Win?



Here is a link to an awesome website with many ideas and photos to help you do your part for pollinator week. Feel free to contact a local beekeeper and ask what they would like to see you plant for their honey bees! Have a great pollinator friendly week! <https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week>.

### ***Boyert's Greenhouse and Farm, Bee Festival, Saturday, June 29, from 1pm to 3pm***

Join the Medina County Bee Association for a fun afternoon celebrating BEES! There will be a raffle, an observation hive, information about our local bee club, and a special sale on pollinator plants. Boyert's will also have hand-outs to show you what kind of plants to put into your garden in spring, summer and fall for our pollinators! Pollinators are vital to our food production system and the vitality of our natural environments. As home gardeners, we can support pollinators by filling even a small corner of our gardens with plants that provide food and habitat for them! No RSVP required, just stop by anytime between 1 and 3. 7171 Wooster Pike, Medina, OH 44256. <http://boyerts.com/>

### ***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](mailto:kimbarkfelt@gmail.com) if you would like to be part of the fun!

### ***Insect Night for Families, Saturday, July 13th from 8:00pm to 10:00 pm***

Join The Ohio State Entomology Department students, staff and volunteers for a free event of insect-themed activities including: The Bug Zoo, cockroach races, maggot art, face painting, firefly catching, and edible insects. Take a guided walk through the arboretum to learn all about insect life after dark. Bring your flashlight, sneakers, and a bug jar (a plastic peanut butter jar works great). OARDC's Secret Arboretum, 1680 Madison Ave. in Wooster. Park in the parking area across from the rose garden, then

head to the Miller Pavilion. This event is free to the public and kids of all ages are welcome! Call 330-263-3723 if it's raining (or looks like it might).

### *Bees in Your Backyard Workshops, July 29 (Delaware) and August 2 (Alliance)*

Learn about native bees from author and biologist Olivia Carril. Two workshops will be offered; the content of each is the same. Each workshop includes hands-on bee identification using microscopes and field experiences. Monday, July 29, Stratford Ecological Center in Delaware, and the second workshop on Friday, August 2, University of Mount Union's Huston Brumbaugh Nature Center in Alliance. The \$65 per person fee includes lunch and handouts. Sessions run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by The Ohio State University Bee Lab, Stratford Ecological Center, and Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, University of Mount Union. Learn more and register [here](#).

## **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.



## **Labeling Guidelines**

Kim Barkfeltt has prepared a summary of the honey labeling requirements to help members prepare for the fair. She lists each component that must be included on a honey label, shows a sample label, and includes the website address for further information. Thank you, Kim!

# Honey Labeling Requirements



**Statement of Identity** - The common name of the food that accurately describes its characterizing properties or ingredients

**Ingredient List** - Ingredients are listed by common name and are ordered in descending order by weight (heaviest -> lightest)

**Cottage Food Declaration** - Meant to inform public that food was produced in a private home & not subject to inspection. *10-pt font. **Only necessary if honey product was produced under Ohio's Cottage Food Rules**, such as adding flavoring to honey. Pure honey from the hive is a single item food substance and does not fall under cottage food rules. At least 75% of honey must be produced from own hives or commercial processing registration required.*

**Statement of Responsibility** - Shall include Business name, Street Address, City, State, Zip of where "paperwork" is sent. If business name is listed in local phone directory, address can be omitted and PO box is permitted. Phone number, website & email addresses permitted, but not required. This type of extra info is not to be placed between Ingredient List & Responsibility Statement

**Statement of Net Contents** - Weight of contents must be stated in both U.S. customary weight and metric system if sold off site. Bottom 30% of label

Can you believe it; it's June already! Hopefully your girls are rewarding all your hard work with some surplus honey to sell. If this is the case, you will need to label your product in compliance with labeling laws. The above example shows the main components necessary and is meant as a "quick reference".

**Optional labeling, but good to do:** Infant botulism statement, positive marketing descriptives such as "raw" or references to season.

**DON'T Do's:** Do not make health claims. Do not label as "organic" if not certified

For more information on labeling, cottage industry rules, and food safety visit: [www.agri.ohio.gov](http://www.agri.ohio.gov)

*submitted by Kim Barkfelt*



## **RULES & GUIDELINES FOR SELLING PRODUCTS AT THE CLUB'S MEDINA COUNTY FAIR BOOTH**

**\*\* Rules are Subject to Change \*\***

***It is your responsibility to read these rules and guidelines and familiarize yourself with them. To sell honey and/or any other products at the Fair:***

1. You must be a current dues-paying member of MCBA in good standing as of March 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
2. You must enter honey/hive products in the fair for judging. Deadline for entries for the Fair is July 20<sup>th</sup>.
3. Any members planning to sell at the fair are required to attend the mandatory seller's meeting. Our mandatory meeting will be on the date of the regularly scheduled MCBA July meeting - 30 minutes prior before the regular meeting. We will set a date (TBA) for one additional meeting for those sellers who may be out of town. You MUST attend one of these mandatory meetings to sell. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
4. You must complete an "Intent to Sell" form and return it to the Fair Chair by July 15<sup>th</sup>. Forms will be available starting at the May MCBA meeting.
5. You must participate in the cleaning, preparation, setup and teardown of the MCBA booth at the Fairgrounds. This is separate from the hours required for the sales booth.
6. You must work a minimum of two four-hour shifts. Worker schedules for the Fair will be available starting at the June MCBA meeting. You may be called upon to work additional shifts if the schedule is not full by the start of the Fair. If you cannot fulfill your timeslot, **YOU** must arrange a qualified substitute. (sign up early to get desired slots)
7. All items sold must contain bee products in them – honey, wax, propolis or royal jelly.
8. Your honey and hive products must be properly labeled with your label in compliance with Federal and Ohio food labeling laws. You must include your contact information, product name, net weight in both pounds/ounces and metric. **NO MEDICAL CLAIMS ARE ALLOWED ON LABELS- Items will be removed.**
9. Any altered honey (infused or flavored) must list ingredients – from most to least. All hand cream, lip balms, soaps, etc. must also list ingredients in order by amount. People with allergies need to know what they are eating, tasting or putting on their skin.
10. Honey labeled as "Raw Honey" must meet the MCBA definition – pure honey, settled or coarse filtered and never heated beyond ambient temperature of 95F.
11. Honey sold at the fair must be produced by the MCBA member selling the honey. No honey purchased from third parties can be sold by members. Random samples may be sent to Texas A&M University for pollen analysis to verify source. To be fair to all members, MCBA reserves the right to limit the number of products each member may bring to sell.
12. You must fill two squeeze containers supplied by MCBA filled with the same honey of each variety of honey you are selling. You must use the containers provided, labeled with your

label on both sides of the container. No other taster bottles will be accepted. If it is necessary to refill your samplers, a jar of our honey will be removed from the shelf, adjusted on your inventory sheet and noted on the "use sheet". Everyone selling will be assigned a different colored star or dot to be placed on the top of each jar to make it easier to find during the selling process.

13. A fair inventory sheet must be filled out prior to bringing your honey to the fairgrounds. You must have your products inventoried when you bring them in and counted/inventoried the ending inventory at the close of the fair. All your unsold products must be picked up by you at the close of the fair on Sunday at 8pm. You will be paid for your products sold. 20% of your sales will go to the Medina Beekeepers Association and the Association will pay all applicable sales taxes on your behalf on non-food taxable products. Fair exhibits not picked up by 9pm Sunday on the last day of the fair will be donated to the Medina County Fair Board for fundraising, unless previous arrangements are made with the Fair Chair.
14. Make sure that your honey is clean of bee parts, free of sticky drips, *filled to the proper levels* and organized before you get to the Fair. The Fair Committee (or their assistants) will verify your inventory. All dirty and sticky jars will be refused and must be taken off the premises. NO EXCEPTIONS.
15. All hive products items must be priced. A basket or container of the same item is acceptable with one price listed in lieu of individually pricing each item. A price gun will be used to price your jars as they are inventoried in. All jars will be price marked to avoid confusion in pricing. All other products being sold must be priced by you. Price products in increments of \$0.25 to keep the change-making process reliable.
16. To expedite inventory processing, all honey/hive products to be sold at the fair must be brought to the fair booth on setup Sunday (the Sunday before the Fair begins) from 2pm-5pm. Any new inventory brought in to sell at the fair mid-week must be counted and verified by the shift supervisor on duty at the time and added in the "adjustments" column. Do not change the count on your original inventory amounts.
17. In order standardize containers and simply price lists, extracted honey must be bottled in containers (glass or plastic) of the following sizes: 6oz., 8oz., 12oz., 1lb., 2lb., 5lb. Prices for regular extracted honey (filtered, raw and varietal) will be established by the MCBA Board of Directors and Fair Committee Chair.
18. Shift supervisor on duty has authority to settle any customer disputes on the spot to make the customer happy, as our honey is a reflection of MCBA. This could be a refund or replacement jar of honey from seller's inventory, charged back to the seller and noted on seller's inventory sheet.
19. If the MCBA Rules & Guidelines are not followed, selling privileges will be suspended by Fair Committee Chairs. Fair Committee Chairs must approve or disapprove all decisions.

\*\*\*\*\*Please contact Fair Chair if Selling Honey Stix and Honey Candy for approval\*\*\*\*\*



# MEDINA COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## *Letter of Intent to Sell honey or other hive products at the Medina County Fair*

I am submitting this "Intent to Sell" form for the privilege of selling my honey or other hive products at the Medina County Fair for the Medina County Beekeepers Association. I understand the deadline for me to register to sell with MCBA is **July 15, 2019** and I have met the following conditions:

- I am a current paid MCBA member in good standing as of March 1, 2019
- I must register with the Medina County Fair Board for entries of honey and hive products by their deadline of **July 20, 2019** and I will show my entry in the Association fair display

I understand 20% of the sale of my products will go to the Medina County Beekeepers Association and understand that the Association will pay all applicable sales tax on my behalf on non-food taxable products.

*"Rules for Selling Products at the Fair" and "Intent to Sell" forms will be available at the meetings starting in May and will also appear in the newsletter. Any questions, please contact Fair Chairpersons, Peggy Garnes at 330-723-6265 or [pgarnes001@neo.rr.com](mailto:pgarnes001@neo.rr.com) or Laura Cantrel at 330-410-5678 or [lamwhatzup@yahoo.com](mailto:lamwhatzup@yahoo.com)*

### RETURN BOTTOM PORTION TO FAIR CHAIRPERSON:

**Peggy Garnes, 6045 Lance Road, Medina, Ohio 44256**

.....

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Apiary Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Apiary \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please check items you intend to sell

Honey \_\_\_\_\_ Beeswax \_\_\_\_\_ Creamed Honey \_\_\_\_\_ Candles \_\_\_\_\_

Pollen \_\_\_\_\_ Soap \_\_\_\_\_ Chunk Honey \_\_\_\_\_ Jelly/Jams \_\_\_\_\_

Hand Cream \_\_\_\_\_ Lip Balm \_\_\_\_\_ Comb Honey \_\_\_\_\_ \*Other \_\_\_\_\_

\*List Other \_\_\_\_\_