

# THE BEE HERDER

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[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 -7:00 pm question and answer session
- 7:00 - 9:00 pm meeting and speaker

**July 15 – Medina County Fair Clean Up.** 6:00-8:00 pm, Booth set up at the Medina fairgrounds. Please come to help with a quick clean up for the MCBA booth followed by pizza and bee talk! If you are planning to sell honey at the fair, come at 5:30 for the **Mandatory Seller's Meeting** and stay to help with clean up. Location: [Medina Fairgrounds](#), 720 W. Smith Rd, Medina, OH 44256.

**July 29-August 4 – Medina County Fair.** Monday through Sunday, 10 am - 10 pm. MCBA will be in the Agriculture Building to provide education, offer awards for best bee products, and sell honey and bee related products. If you have not yet signed up to help, contact Peggy Garnes to see what slots are available.

**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.

**September 16 – Jeff Gabric** - Winterizing your hives to survive our winters

**October 21 – Bobbi Heider** - Lotions, Lip Balms and Soaps. Hands on demo.

**November 18 – Speaker to be announced**

## Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

### July – Honey bees in Mid-Summer

Honey bees respond differently depending on the food resources available, and variables such as the weather. Nectar can dry up after the trees bloom, and the bees wait for the next source to bloom.

Some beekeepers have reported a big slowdown in activity since mid-June. Bees sitting on the front porch, moving forward and back. Almost looks like they are scrubbing the floor. It's called washboarding (it's normal activity).



When the temperature soars, this activity can cause bearding, when a lot of bees hang out on the front of the hive to help the hive stay cool.



### A Quiet time for the bees....

July and August can be fairly quiet for the bees. While there can be days of intense activity mixed in, such activity is very dependent on the weather. Last year (2018) was a good example of how a drought can limit and even weaken the bees. Many beekeepers found their hives too light on honey stores to make it through the winter. A couple years ago the fall flow filled deeps and supers.

**Robbing** – Honey bees, like most creatures in nature, are opportunistic. If they find a good source of food they will go after it. Sometimes that is a weaker hive, often nucs. The most obvious sign of robbing is increased activity. If you see heavy activity in a small hive.... It's probably robbing. Use of a robbing screen will stop the robbing. Put it on late evening or early am.



Not sure if it's robbing? Put a piece of screen over the entrances late evening. If there are bees piled up early in the am.... It's robbing. Robbing does not hurt the beekeeper, but it can make it almost impossible to do an inspection.

## News

### *Bee Informed Partnership Honey Bee Colony Losses 2018-2019: Preliminary Results*

Preliminary results of the responses of 4,696 beekeepers to the 13<sup>th</sup> annual survey of managed honey bee colony losses in the United States indicate an estimated winter loss of 37.7% and a summer loss of 20.5% of managed colonies. Although the winter loss rate is the highest since the survey began in 2006-2007, the overall loss of 40.7% of managed honey bee colonies for the entire survey period (April 1, 2018- April 1, 2019) was similar to the annual loss estimate reported the year prior. You can read the preliminary results [here](#) and learn more about the work of the Bee Informed Partnership, including interactive tools that allow further analysis of the colony loss results [here](#).

### *Report from Boyert's Bee Fest*

Holly Krieger wrote: Thank you to everyone who came out to support MCBA, Boyert's, and most importantly the pollinators we all try so hard to protect. There was a great turnout! Lots of smiling faces and possibly some new beekeepers in the making. In our display we had: a hive, equipment, handouts, coloring pages, honey sticks, honey filled candy, a raffle, and a very beautiful observation hive made by John V! The heat didn't keep people away either. We were very thankful to Boyert's for having us, and look forward to doing this again next year!



### Honey Extraction Time – Rent the Club Extractor

It's one of our favorite seasons - honey season! Many beekeepers are ready to extract some of the honey stores that their bees have tucked away. One method that new beekeepers or beekeepers with just a few frames of honey use is the crush and strain method. You can read about it [here](#). This method involves scraping the comb into a strainer, crushing it, and straining the honey through a sieve or cheesecloth. The left-over wax can be cleaned and stored for other purposes. Although simple, inexpensive, and efficient for a small honey crop, when using the crush-and-strain method, the bees must rebuild the comb structure on the frames that you harvested.



If you have more than a few frames of honey, using an extractor can be more efficient. When you use an extractor, you scrape off the cappings, creating less damage to the actual comb itself. That means that bees do not need to expel energy rebuilding comb, and can go right back to storing honey in the built-out comb.

Don't have an extractor? Don't worry! One of the benefits of MCBA membership is that members can rent the club's extractor and new filtering equipment.

Members can keep the equipment for three days during the busy season for a deposit of \$20 of which \$10 is refunded upon the return of the cleaned extractor and equipment. Call Peggy at 330-723-6265 to reserve your spot today.

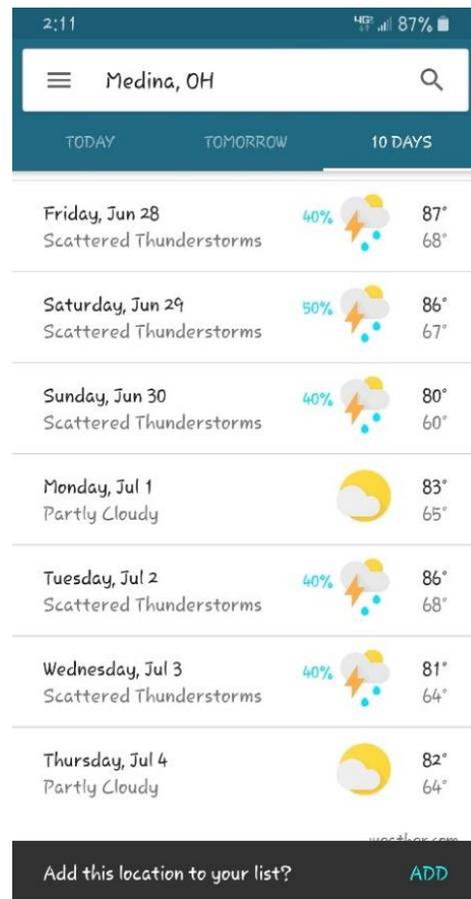
### Club Bee Yard Update

By Dwain Novak, MCBA Bee Yard Attendant

Rain, rain, go away, come back another day or better yet another month. Need I say more?

There has been no resolution about the cutting of grass in our bee yard, so....I took the matter upon myself. I used DEET as a precautionary measure and no (ticks) were detected when the task was finished. My main goal has been trying to find a new location for our yard since our current location is not favorable for the club's vision of using the bee yard as a teaching forum.

Our package is ready to start a second hive, but the weather is too unpredictable for us to plan for a field day on a weekend for our club members to observe us making a split. Our first hive is doing quite well. It is due for another mite check-up, which I was hoping to combine with the package installation for a field day also.



## The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – July

Over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, I spotted a linden (basswood) tree blooming at Hinckley Reservation. Club members whose bees forage on linden are lucky, when very fresh, [linden honey](#) has a greenish color that, with time, changes to amber with a yellow tone. Descriptions of the aroma include woody, fresh, spicy-thyme, mentholated, geranium, hay, phenolic.

According to the [OSU Phenology Calendar](#) the lindens have already reached full bloom. The nectar sources that we expect next in Medina County will be Panicked Goldenraintree and Rose of Sharon. For the most part, however, our nectar flow is over.

Tasks for northeast Ohio beekeepers in July include harvesting honey, managing nectar dearth, treating for varroa, and starting to plan for winter.

**Extract honey.** Now that the nectar flow is about over, the bees will concentrate on drying and capping honey. If all or most frames in a super are capped, remove the entire super, cover the top and bottom, and take it to a bee-proof room. If only a few frames are capped, remove those frames, slide the rest into the middle of the super, and add empty frames to fill in the super.

When you are sure that you have enough frames to extract, call Peggy to reserve the extractor. After extracting, place the super with the emptied frames above the inner cover of the hive from which you removed it. The bees will clean the remaining honey. After a day or two, take the super off to store for the winter.



**Prevent robbing.** As Paul mentioned in his 10 Minutes with the Bees, there is little forage for bees in late summer months. Take the following precautions to minimize robbing:

- Close cracks in hive bodies.
- Reduce hive manipulations. During inspections, have all equipment ready, work quickly, and open only one hive at a time. Cover the top of open hive bodies with a damp towel or sheet.
- Add a robbing screen late at night or early in the morning.

**Monitor, and if needed, treat for varroa.** As the bee population decreases in the dearth, the mite population will continue to increase. This time of year can be perilous for a colony since a higher percentage of bees carry mites and can be infected with viruses. Conduct an alcohol wash or sugar roll. If the count is more than 1 mite per 100 bees, treat, and then check to assess treatment effectiveness.

**Create summer splits.** Splits help with varroa control, protect against winter loss, and result in spring colonies with young queens. Make splits soon to allow for several brood-rearing cycles before the fall nectar flow or the first frost. [Follow this link](#) to a detailed presentation from the Prince William Regional Beekeepers Association with details about making a split.

## Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes

Regular monthly membership meeting: June 17, 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 June 17, 2019. An ice cream social preceded the regular meeting at 5:30 P.M. The regular meeting convened at 7:00 P.M., President, Paul Kosmos presiding, Kim Barkfelt, Secretary.

**Approval of Minutes:** Kim Barkfelt presented the minutes from the May 20, 2019 meeting as published in the newsletter. No corrections were made; minutes were approved as distributed.

**Officers' Reports:** none

### **Committee Reports:**

**Bee Yard** - Ticks have become a significant problem at the bee yard. Out of concern for the safety of the membership, other sites are being explored. Members will be kept updated on the situation and notified when field days can be resumed.

**Fair Committee** - Peggy Garnes gave an overview on how to enter hive products for competition. Members that are interested in selling product at the fair must enter. Premium books that detail the various classes for competition and the competition rules are available at the front table.

Deadline for entries is July 20th. As always, fair booth clean-up will be in lieu of the regular July membership meeting (July 15th). We start somewhere between 5:30 and 6 P.M. and work until it's done. Pizza and pop will be provided.

**Medina County Bee Festival** - This annual and popular community event held in conjunction with MCBA will be Saturday, July 13th. The hours are from 11 A.M. - 3 P.M. Volunteer shifts are available from 11 A.M. - 1 P.M. and/or 1 pm - 3 pm. If you would like participate, please contact Kim Barkfelt.

**Unfinished Business:** none

**New Business:** none

**Announcements:** Boyert's Garden & Farm Pollinator Festival June 19th - 1 P.M. - 3 P.M. Bee Items for Sale - Larry Bognar

**Presentation:** The Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) Sentinel Apiary Program was presented by Kelly Kulhanek. Kelly is a Ph.D student studying honey bee health and management practices. Members can participate by completing a survey at [bip2.beeinformed.org/survey](http://bip2.beeinformed.org/survey)

**Adjournment:** September 16, 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 8:15 P.M.

## Local and Regional Bee Events

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

Bee Festival 2019 is this weekend! 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. The main library is already filled with bee-themed decorations

**Volunteers are needed.** Contact Kim Barkfelt at [kimbarkfelt@gmail.com](mailto:kimbarkfelt@gmail.com) 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 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 about insect life after dark. Bring your flashlight, sneakers, and a bug jar (a plastic peanut butter jar works great). OARDC Sequest 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)**

Author and biologist Olivia Carril will be holding two workshops on hands-on bee identification using microscopes and field experiences. Monday, July 29, Stratford Ecological Center in Delaware or 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](#).

**Germinate International Film Festival, Hillsboro, OH, August 16 and 17**

The Highland County Office of the Ohio State University Extension is holding the inaugural festival of films that represent current technologies, practices, and programs of rural communities and their industries. One of the films that will be screened at this festival is *The Pollinators*, a documentary that followed migratory beekeepers and their truckloads of honey bees through pollination. The film includes interviews with farmers, scientists, chefs, economists, and academics about the threats to honey bees and what that means to food security. See more on the film's website [www.thepollinators.net](http://www.thepollinators.net). Tickets will be available for purchase in July from the [Highland County Extension office](#).



**Bee Festival**  
Saturday, July 13, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Medina Library

**Medina County Beekeepers Association**  
**Opening of the Hive** – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm  
*On the front lawn, weather permitting*  
**Beekeeping Show & Tell** – 11:00 – 3:00 pm  
**Candle Rolling** – 11:00-1:00  
**Nate the Great** – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm  
*Bee balloon art made especially for you!*  
**Honey Tasting** – While supplies last

**All day**  
**Meet Buzz the Bee** – Our Bee Festival mascot!  
**Fun Bee Crafts** – All ages

**And more...**  
Beekeeping displays, information table and products

Enter to win a sweet door prize basket courtesy of Root Candles!

[mcdl.info/BeeFest](http://mcdl.info/BeeFest) • 330-725-0588  
Medina County District Library • [mcdl.info](http://mcdl.info)  
Sponsored by Friends of MCDL



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Time to Register to Sell Products and Volunteer to help at the Fair

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 (deadline for entries is July 20<sup>th</sup>), be a paid member in good standing, attend the mandatory seller's meeting (30 minutes prior to the start of the July 15, 2019 MCBA meeting), and volunteer to work the booth areas. We will set a date (TBA) for one additional seller's meeting for sellers who may be out of town. Please contact Peggy Garnes about the date of the alternate meeting. You MUST attend one of these mandatory meetings to sell. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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.



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_