

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



Association Officers

President: Paul Kosmos

president@medinabeekeepers.com

330-239-1379

Vice President: Peggy Garnes

vp@medinabeekeepers.com

330-723-6265

Secretary: Kim Barkfelt

secretary@medinabeekeepers.com

330-225-7641

Treasurer: Toni Watson

treasurer@medinabeekeepers.com

330-650-2243

Newsletter Editor: Tania Jarosewich

Tania@HinckleyHoney.com

Webmaster: Mike Rossander

webmaster@medinabeekeepers.com

Refreshments Coordinators:

Elle Jisa ejisa@roadrunner.com

Sheila Mauer spmaurer01@gmail.com

Directors:

2020: Laurene Kiel, lkiel59@gmail.com

2019: John Rose, JohnPRose@msn.com

2021: John Vrtachnik,

jvrtachnik@windstream.net

Medina County Bee Inspector:

Ron Zickefoose

ronz@asap-homes.com

330-466-3642

State of Ohio Inspector:

Barbara Bloetscher

bbloetscher@agri.ohio.gov

614-644-5839

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

September 16 – Jeff Gabric - Winterizing your hives to survive winter.

October 21 – Bobbi Heider - Lotions, Lip Balms and Soaps hands-on demo. Bobbi has been beekeeping for 10 years, after her husband decided he needed a pet. She started making lip balms and soaps for family Christmas gifts shortly after. This quickly turned into a small enterprise selling at local farmers' markets. Bobbi will share her secrets for making lip balms. She will include a hands on demonstration to illustrate the steps involved.

Nominations for the Director position will be presented.

November 18 – Speaker to be announced. November is Election month for the club. There is one director position open.

Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

September – Does your bee yard smell funny?

September is a quieter month in the bee yard – normally. While a bit less to do, the tasks are very important.

Let's start with the good news. The Goldenrod and Green Cone flowers are everywhere and the spectacular weather is making for a bumper crop of fall honey. Asters are just opening.



Goldenrod - This is the one that smells strong (stinky)!



Wild Green Coneflowers are everywhere!

The trade-off is the nice summer and fall are making for more swarms than normal. **We had 9 reported by Sept 10th!** Keep an eye on them as a strong flow can fill a deep box in days.

Many beekeepers leave the fall honey for the bees for winter food. If you have about 60 lbs. of honey going into winter, you will have less to do feeding. One frame weighs about 7-8 lbs.



The best way to winter successfully – 8-10 frames

Don't forget what we preach every month. Checks your hives for mites! We cannot stress how fast they can "appear" once the number of brood drops. Cooler days and nights in the 50's will cause the bees to greatly reduce the brood – from 6-7 frames to 1-2 frames - which means the same number of mites but 75% less capped cells to hide in!

Finally, do a check to make sure you have what you need to winterize your hive. Think about wraps, insulation, inserts, mouse guards and your particular needs for winter. The rumor is true.... **Winter is Coming!**



Severe Side Effects of Bee Stings

Peggy Garnes, MCBA Vice President

Recently two bee stinging incidents hit too close to home, ending in urgent care/emergency room visits. Luckily, both parties are doing well; however, their life with the bees may change drastically now.

Here's the scoop – one person who has spent a lifetime amongst the bees was stung and developed a burning sensation in their feet, itchy hands and blotchy facial skin, then light-headedness and a bit of slurred speech, then downhill to seizures! This person did not have the typical signs that we are told are an indication of anaphylactic shock, there were no tingling lips or scratchy throat. Fortunately, a family member was carrying an epi-pen, knew how to use it, and gave a life-saving injection. Life changed for that family that day.

The second scenario was that of a person who has kept bees for over 5 years. This person had been occasionally stung, but had never experienced more than a localized mild swelling reaction...until just recently. While out checking hives, a bee slipped under this person's veil and delivered a sting on the chin. Very quickly, non-localized symptoms set in –itchy soles of the feet; followed by itchy palms; advancing to labored breath, sweating, full body flushing of the skin and then weakness and trembling. A family member provided a hurried trip to the urgent care for immediate treatment for dangerously low blood pressure. The person was advised to carry an epi-pen and to call 911 in the case of a bee sting in the future.

See where I'm going with this article? We are often instructed that problematic allergic symptoms include itchy eyes, tingling lips, scratchy throats, or difficulty swallowing. According to the [Mayo clinic](#), there are additional symptoms of anaphylactic shock that we should watch for:

- skin reactions such as hives, flushed skin, or paleness
- suddenly feeling too warm
- feeling like you have a lump in your throat or difficulty swallowing
- nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- abdominal pain
- weak and rapid pulse
- runny nose and sneezing
- swollen tongue or lips

Do we see anywhere burning/itching sensation in or on the feet? Or itchy palms? Minutes count. Maybe we should remember not all of us are textbook when it comes to symptoms... hopefully after you read this you will add these other symptoms to your memory.

To end this, always let someone know your bee yard travel plans, especially if you drive alone. Someone or everyone in your family should have the addresses of your out-yards, a contact person there, and your vehicle tag number. Even if you are just in your own apiary, if it can't be seen from the house, let someone know that you're heading out to the hives. Just in case something happens and you can't get to your phone, your family will know where to start to look for their beekeeper.

Bee safe, travel smart and keep your bees happy!

Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes

There were no minutes for the August MCBA picnic meeting.

Borrow the Club Extractor

MCBA members can rent the club's extractor for three days for a deposit of \$20 of which \$10 is refunded upon the return of the cleaned equipment. Call Peggy at 330-723-6265.

Club Bee Yard Update

No club bee yard updates this month.

The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – September

- Address robbing by yellow jackets. You can use a commercial trap – I've caught dozens of yellow jackets in the past few weeks in one. You can also make your own. Here is a link to a video from The Norfolk Honey Company with directions for making a trap out of a soda bottle:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SyTTzl6w_ho. Here is a link to a website with directions for the same type of trap:

<https://www.bobvila.com/articles/homemade-wasp-trap/>

- Install entrance reducer. When nightly temperatures fall to the 40s, put on mouse guards.
- Measure mite counts and if needed, treat! Report your counts to the annual mite-a-thon (read more on page 5).
- Check honey and pollen stores. Each hive will need 60-90 pounds of honey, which is 10 - 15 full frames of honey if you are using 10-frame deep boxes and more frames than that if you are using medium hive boxes or 8-frame equipment.
- If needed, start feeding. After goldenrod and aster blooms, there won't be much nectar available. Feed a syrup of 2 parts sugar to 1-part water using an internal feeder. Here is a link to information written by a northeast Ohio beekeeper about feeding and preparing for winter <https://www.beeeculture.com/winter-starts-today-ignore-these-practices-at-your-bees-peril/>



Local and Regional Bee Events

Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District, Project Nature's Classroom Workshop

September 24, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM. Learn what garden plants attract pollinators, understand the importance of pollinators to food production, see a rain garden and learn about its conservation function, walk through the SWCD's future prairie and understand its environmental function, view different styles of native plant gardens, and discuss how your yard can become a certified National Wildlife Habitat. Presenters will include Medina County SWCS, Medina County OSU Master Gardeners, and the Medina County Bee Inspector (a member of the MCBA!) Register for this free workshop by calling the SWCD office 330-722-9322.

Bee Culture's Fall Event – It all Started with a Swarm of Bees: 150 Years of the A. I. Root Company
October 11 – 13, 2018. Learn more and register for this event: <https://store.beeculture.com/150-years-of-the-a-i-root-company-october-2019/>.

Ashtabula County Beekeepers Annual Beekeeping Conference

October 19, 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM, Giddings Hall, 104 East Jefferson St, Jefferson, OH 44047. Speakers will be Dave Noble, apiarist at Stratford Ecological Center; John Schwartz, commercial beekeeper and OTS Queen Rearing expert; and Melanie Seal co-owner of Blue Sky Bee Supply. Light lunch provided. Cost \$20.00 per person. For more information or to RSVP call Sharon at 440-576-8818, e-mail siriccio@yahoo.com, or visit <https://www.facebook.com/AshtabulaCountyBeekeepersAssoc/>

Ohio State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) Fall Conference; Plain City, OH; November 2, 2019

The conference is an all-day event, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm; cost \$10-\$46. Speakers include Kirsten Traynor, Erin Macgregor-Forbes, Dr. Reed Johnson, Dawn Combs, Jay Heselschwerdt, Shannon Trimboli, Andrew Connor, and others. Read more about the featured speakers and vendors, and register for the conference here: <http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/event/osba-fall-conference-2019/>.

2018 North American Mite-a-Thon – September 7 – September 21

The Mite-A-Thon is a tri-national annual effort that asks beekeepers to collect mite infestation data to better understand varroa infestations in honey bee colonies across North America.

Please consider participating – it's easy and you need to measure your varroa loads anyway. Measure the level of mites (number of mites per 100 bees) in your hives using a standardized protocol of powdered sugar roll or alcohol wash. Enter the information from each hive to www.mitecheck.com.

You can see summary data about mite count, management methods, and a map of highest mite count reported per county. The information does not identify individual participants. You can take a look at the site to see historic data, instructions for participating, and the data reporting survey.

Beekeeping Podcasts

With the beekeeping season slowing down, are you looking for ways to fill your time? I've found that beekeeping podcasts are a great way to keep up with news in the industry, learn different management techniques, pick up tips, and hear the successes and challenges that other beekeeper face. Kiwimana Buzz, a great podcast from New Zealand, has put together a list of top beekeeping podcasts, which they periodically update: <https://www.kiwimana.co.nz/top-free-beekeeping-podcasts/>. There are a number of podcasts to choose from; there will probably be at least one that you will enjoy.



Another benefit of listening to podcasts is the potential for making new beekeeping friends. While traveling in Washington state this summer, I had the chance to meet Jeff Ott, co-host of Beekeeping Today Podcast. Jeff was the first editor of the MCBA Bee Herder. He hasn't lived in Medina County for many years, but still has a classic MCBA polo shirt.



Ohio State Beekeepers Association

4-H Partnership Program - 2020

Sponsored by the Ohio State Beekeepers Association, Inc.

The Ohio State Beekeepers Association supports new young beekeepers through our Ohio 4-H Partnership Program. We realize that success of a new beekeeper is not reliant on the work of the student and money alone, but by the effort of a partnership. Thus the Ohio 4-H Partnership Program encourages participation of the guardian, student, local association and mentor.

5 selected applicants will receive:

- Woodenware and tools for two hives
- 1 year membership to OSBA
- Free admission to the OSBA Fall Conference
- Beekeeper Training DVD
- 1 year subscription to Bee Culture
- and more!

Important Dates:

- August 1st, 2019** - Applications and program information will be available.
- November 2nd, 2019** - Application deadline.
- December 2nd, 2019** - Winners announced.

This program is open to members of 4-H, in school, between the ages of 12 and 18.



www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/4-h

For full program requirements and instructions, visit our website:
www.OhioStateBeekeepers.org



Questions, please contact Ohio 4-H Partnership Program by email: 4h@ohiostatebeekeepers.org or call 567-703-6722

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

Membership provides one vote in MCBA club matters and includes one family member in club activities other than voting.

You may renew your membership

- online [here](#)
- complete the form below, make a check payable to Medina County Beekeepers Association, and mail both to MCBA Treasurer, PO Box 1353, Medina, Ohio 44258
- Bring a check and completed membership form to the club treasure at a club meeting.

Membership Form - Please complete so that we have current roster information for the newsletters!

Member Name: _____

e-mail: (please print): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ (Optional) # of colonies: _____