

# THE BEE HERDER

Published by Medina County Beekeepers Association – October 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 -7:00 pm question and answer session
- 7:00 - 9:00 pm meeting and speaker

**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.

**Nov 18 – Dwight Wells – Preserving Honey Bees Ohio**

Dwight's passion is Sustainable Beekeeping. His experience as a beekeeper and his positions as President of West Central Ohio Beekeepers and Board member for OSBA have provided the background for his presentation on how to manage to keep your apiary alive and healthy.

November is Election month for the club. There is one director position open.

**December 16 – To Be Determined.**

## Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

### October – Really Getting Ready for Winter

October is a lot about what we should have done to get to this point with healthy bees ready for winter's challenges.

You've heard it a dozen times... Now is when you will see varroa due to the decrease in capped brood (CB). Why? Seventy percent of varroa are normally in CB making babies. When the hive goes from six frames of CB to two, any Varroa in those 20-25,000 cells that WERE capped are now free to roam (phoretic). The warm fall seems to have delayed things a little. Varroa should be under control. It is still important to check. Use your favorite treatment if necessary and one last treatment in mid to late November to knock down the last of them (no brood to hide in).



*Varroa – After treatment YIKES! Such a hive is in trouble!*

Food stores should be in place. 8-12 deep frames of food, preferably honey, to get them to Spring. If light, leave a super or feed 2:1 SS.

Now the final steps to give the bees a little extra protection. Let's start with mouse guards. Metal ones with holes or slots, ½ inch mesh folded or stapled, or reducer with 1/3" slot, about 4 inches long.



*Metal with 3/8" holes!*



*Half Inch Metal Wire*

Many beekeepers wrap their hives to protect against wind and rain. Bees only heat the cluster area, and dark colors may absorb a little heat on a sunny day. Yes, a degree or two CAN make a difference. Roofing paper works well.



*Waxed Cardboard Box or Roofing Paper*

Add insulation to keep the inner cover warm (heat rises) to prevent condensation and dripping water.



*Figure 1 Pink Foam Insulation is One Method*

Most Beekeepers put the insert in, leave a small gap (1/2") for ventilation.

## Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes

**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 September 16, 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 June 17, 2019 meeting as published in the July 2019 newsletter. No corrections were made; minutes were approved as distributed.

**Officers' Reports:** Paul Kosmos announced that we had a record year for fair booth sales and sellers had to keep replenishing stock. He encourages more members to seize the opportunity and consider bringing product next year.

**Committee Reports:** Paul Kosmos introduced this year's nominating committee for the 2019 elections. Sheila Maurer and Laura Weber will be accepting nominations for a Director's position that will expire on December 31, 2019. This position is a three-year term and will run from January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2022. Candidates will be announced at the October membership meeting. Voting is scheduled to take place in November. If you would like to run for this position or would like to nominate another, please submit names to Sheila and Laura.

**Unfinished Business:** none

**New Business:** Discussion surrounding safety in the bee yard. Two of our club members have recently developed anaphylactic reactions to bee venom. This life-threatening allergic response can develop suddenly, without warning, and turn bad quickly. One member was on hand to answer questions regarding her experience. Call 911. Always seek immediate medical care from a hospital emergency room. UrgiCare clinic staff are not routinely equipped or trained to handle these life-threatening conditions.

General discussion and observations regarding yellow jackets this season.

**Announcements:** September 27, 2019 Ohio State University Agriculture Day will be held at the Medina Fairgrounds from 9:30 am - 2:00 pm. Third grade classes from Medina County will have an opportunity to learn about where their food comes from. Volunteers from MCBA have been invited and will participate in this educational activity for area youth.

**Presentation:** Jeff Gabric presented his techniques for wintering his hives in Ohio. Jeff is the president of the Knox County Beekeepers Association. He also sells bee equipment under the name of My Bee Supplies.

**Adjournment:** October 21, 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 8:50 P.M.

## It's Time for Elections!

This year we have one director position that is up for election. If you are interested in helping the club by being a director, please notify Sheila Mauer or Laura Weber as soon as possible. We normally announce the candidates at the October meeting and vote at the November meeting.

Directors are important in helping the Board set policies, plan for various events each year, and assist with most events. Most are a lot of fun. See the article about the OSU AG Day on page 4 of this newsletter. The three Directors and four Officers have equal votes in determining the direction for the club.

There are normally three to four board meetings each year. Thank you for considering your possible role as a director to help MCBA continue to grow and improve.

Sheila Mauer spmaurer01@gmail.com

Laura Weber ljweber@zoominternet.net

## Club Bee Yard Update

Honey from the club hives at the Feeding Medina County community gardens was extracted with the assistance of Dwain Novak, Bee Yard Steward, and bottled by members Eli Jisa, Shelia Mauer, and Kim Barkfelt, MCBA secretary. The photo shows the donation. Thanks to everyone from MCBA who made this donation possible.

Unfortunately, there is not much else to report about the club bee yard. There is only one hive of bees remaining in the yard and this hive is struggling with damp conditions. The ticks continue to be a problem and prevent us from having field days.



Peggy Garnes, MCBA VP; Melody Costello, Office Manager; Dan Meagher, Operations Manager; Sandy Hinkle, Director; Paul Kosmos, MCBA President.

## Bee Allergies - Additional Reading

The September issue of the Bee Herder included an article about bee allergies. Since then, I've come across two additional articles about bee sting allergies that members might be interested in reading.

The Honey Be Sting, by Jamie Ellis in the January 2016 issue of the American Bee Journal. You can access an excerpt here: <https://americanbeejournal.com/the-honey-bee-sting/>.

Bee Sting Allergy Basics and Allergy Understating for Beekeepers by Toni Burnham in the September 2019 issue of Bee Culture. <https://www.beeeculture.com/downtown-4/>

## Ohio State University Agriculture Extension's 2019 AG Day

In September, Ashley Kulhanek, Extension Educator for the Ohio State University Extension for Medina County invited MCBA to participate in OSU's first AG Day in Medina. On September 27, we joined fourteen other organizations connected to agriculture at the Medina Fairgrounds to host 300 third grade students. Each organization set up a station to display their products or services to educate the students about their particular field.



*Learning About Honey Bees*



*How many kids have ever petted a Honey Bee?*

The result was incredible. One after another, groups of 20 students arrived to learn about Honey Bees, their lives, and what they contribute to our world (honey and pollination). After learning how they live, how they pollinate flowers, and how they make honey they then got to pet the bees! That's right, actually touch the bees. Our own John Vrtachnik built a bee petting box, which the club then stocked with drone bees (male bees that have no stinger). Even the most hesitant had to try it..... and then we had to pull them away!



Special thanks to the MCBA members who volunteered to participate and helped to make this event so rewarding for all. It was one of the highlights of 2019!

OSU plans to make this an annual event. Kudos for all the effort they put into making AG Day a huge success. And thanks to all the Master Gardeners and teachers who volunteered their time and energy to help manage the event.

On behalf of MCBA I sincerely hope we will be invited for future events such as this.

## The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – October – The time is neigh.....

That's is, cool days and cold nights are upon us. The goldenrod has finished flowering and soon the asters will also be finished. And before we know it, we'll be shoveling snow. Before we tuck in for the winter, we need to make sure that the bees have sufficient winter stores and that they are free of mites and disease.

- By the time that you read this, your bees will likely have begun to organize their hive for winter. They have probably also propolised the boxes of the hive together and filled in cracks and crevices with propolis. You won't want to break the propolis seal once the weather gets cool. The only manipulation that you will be able to do now is to reorganize frames in the top box. If you have one or two empty frames on the outside of the top box, move them into the middle of the box.
- If you do have more than two empty frames, likely your hive does not have the 8 - 12 full deep frames of honey that your bees will need for the winter. Your 2-deep hive should weigh about 150 pounds. Monitor weight with a hand-held luggage scale. Hook the scale under the back of the bottom board and lift. Double the number for a good estimate of the weight.
- If the hive is lighter than the recommended 150 pounds, it's time to feed a thick syrup of 2:1 sugar to water using an internal feeder. Put 3 or 4 quart jars at a time. You want them to take it down FAST! Once the night temperatures fall to the 40s, bees will be less likely to take the syrup, so start before it's too late.
- Measure mite counts and if needed, treat! Seriously, if you haven't tested in a while, please do so. Even if you treated for mites in the summer, this is the time when things can go awry. Please test. If you reach the threshold for the season, which is 2% to 3%, treat. You can find more information in the Honey Bee Healthy Coalition guide: [https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/HBHC-Guide\\_Varroa-Interactive-PDF.pdf](https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/HBHC-Guide_Varroa-Interactive-PDF.pdf)
- Many of our members use oxalic acid vaporization late fall or mid-November to treat for varroa mites. The initial investment is a bit high – you will need to purchase a vaporizer and a battery – but once you have the supplies, each treatment is about 25 cents. If you have several hives you recoup the cost quickly (other treatments are much more expensive). The treatment is effective and does not seem to harm the queen or brood.



**NWS Cleveland** @NWSC... · 2h ✓  
Average first snowfall for Cleveland is November 10th. That is less than two months away from today

**NWS Gaylord** @NW... · 3h

We're about one month away, on average, from when the first snowflakes start to fly across parts of northern #Michigan. Who's ready for #snow? #puremichigan



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## Local and Regional Bee Events

**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](mailto:siriccio@yahoo.com), or visit <https://www.facebook.com/AshtabulaCountyBeekeepersAssoc/>

### **One Day Insect University, OSU Columbus Campus**

**October 30, 2019.** A day spent focused on pollinators, insects in the garden and landscape, and the role citizen/community science plays in what we know about insects. The day will include encounters with the OSU Bug Zoo and an optional visit to the OSU Museum of Biological Diversity. The \$35 fee includes morning refreshments, lunch, educational sessions, and an optional tour of the OSU Museum of Biological Diversity (spaces limited). Parking is free and easy at the 4-H Center. Learn more: <https://u.osu.edu/certify/one-day-insect-university/>

### **Ohio State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) Fall Conference; Plain City, OH;**

**November 2, 2019, 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/>.



## **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](http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/4-h)

For full program requirements  
and instructions, visit our website:  
[www.OhioStateBeekeepers.org](http://www.OhioStateBeekeepers.org)



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

## Beginner's Beekeeping Class – A great reason to join the club!

# MEDINA BEEKEEPERS

## *BEEKEEPING CLASSES*

MCBA is pleased to offer two classes for 2020:

Medina Library

(9am - 4:30pm) Saturday Mar. 14 & 21 2020

Medina Library

(6pm - 8:15pm) Tues. eves. Mar 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

Contact: Paul Kosmos, President 330-239-1379

Peggy Garnes, V-President 330-723-6265

Or register online @ [www.medinabeekeepers.com](http://www.medinabeekeepers.com)



### 2020 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 by one of the following:

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_