

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

November 18 – Dwight Wells – Sustainable Beekeeping.

Dwight is President of West Central Ohio Beekeepers Association, Board Director of OSBA, and an active Ohio queen and nuc producer. Dwight is currently working with several universities, including Purdue, Penn State, Central State, and Kentucky on queen genetics and feral honey bee projects. Dwight collaborates with Purdue University on improving local bee genetics with “Indiana Leg Chewers,” a genetic strain that exhibits a unique grooming habit called mite-biting behavior - bees chew the legs off mites.

At the November meeting we will have several microscopes set up. Check your bottom board inserts for dead mites and bring a few to the meeting. Staff will help you view them under the microscope to see if they are victims of chewed legs, a trait of some varroa sensitive bees and ankle biters.

November Meeting is Election Time! Please attend the meeting to help us elect a new Director! We need to have a quorum. With such a good speaker (Dwight Wells) it should be a good meeting.

December 16, 2019- Holiday Social Gathering

Details to be announced

January 20, 2020 – Speaker TBA

Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

What is happening to our queens?

Now that the active part of our bee season is behind us for this year, it gives us time to think about and discuss interesting issues that we deal with throughout the year.

You've heard about, and shared your numerous experiences this summer regarding apparently healthy hives suddenly going queenless a couple weeks later. In the November issue of *American Bee Journal* Randy Oliver discussed this widespread occurrence in some detail. The topic appeared at the beginning of his regular article on honey bee health. It appeared his purpose was to create awareness of the problem and perhaps let us beekeepers know we are not alone in being concerned about the losses.

Randy added some historical quotes from past beekeeping legends suggesting that the problem is new, something has changed.

He does not attempt to draw any conclusions at this time as there has not been enough time to determine the cause. But he does help us understand the problem. For example, queens have failed forever. They get old, run out of sperm, or fail in some other way. But the bees are very much in tune with the performance of their queen and normally build supercedure cells when the queen's productivity does not meet their standards.

This is the key point – why aren't the bees raising a new queen? If doing so is the norm..... why not now? You open the hive and find little or no brood, healthy looking comb (unless the robbers took over), and possibly a reduced number of bees (depends on how long queenless).



Why are they not raising Supercedure Queens?

Randy wonders if the queen is still producing pheromones, which fools the bees until it's too late (no young brood remaining)?

It appears we will hear more about this topic next year.

So, what else is to be done in November?

It is a good time to do the final cleanup and preparation for storage for boxes, frames, and equipment. Cleaning is actually easier when the temps are lower. Scraping burr comb and propolis in particular is easier, as it gets brittle and flakes right off. No gooey stuff.

Another important reason to do so now is you will hate yourself in the spring when you need the equipment but have to stop and clean it!

That's about it for November. Many of you will treat your bees one last time soon. It helps them get off to a better start in the new year!

It is best now NOT to disturb the boxes and frames any more this year. The bees have prepared their home for winter. Watch for a sunny day for activity, do the hearing/buzz check, and watch for bees on the porch..... it means someone is alive doing housekeeping!

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

Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes

Regular Monthly Membership Meeting - Meeting Date: October 21, 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 October 21, 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 September 16, 2019 meeting as published in the October 2019 newsletter. No corrections were made; minutes were approved as distributed.

Officers' Reports: none

Committee Reports: none

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: none

Announcements: "The Pollinators" is a new documentary film coming out on migratory beekeeping.

The November membership meeting speaker, Dwight Wells, will be presenting on sustainable beekeeping. November is also the time for our annual elections. One director position will be voted on.

Presentation: Bobbi Heider presented: Lotions, Lip Balms, and Soaps. Hands-on demo included to illustrate the steps involved.

Adjournment: November 18, 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 8:35 P.M.

Club Bee Yard Update – Field Day

The bee yard is getting ready for its final wrap up! Please contact Dwain or Peggy about a possible **Field Day the Sunday after Thanksgiving** to wrap and tie down the club hive for winter. Extra equipment will be cleaned and stored in the shed. Winter is almost upon us and the bees are ready with lots of honey stores. Let Peggy know if you're available for this last bee yard event of the year.



Bee Allergies – Epi Pen Availability

Steve Elefter, one of our MCBA members, informed us that he was able to buy an Epi Pen through his Medicare Advantage plan for only \$47. It's generic, but similar in composition to the trademarked version.

Congratulations to One of Our Own!

Peggy Garnes has been elected **President of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association!** Peggy has been VP of OSBA for the past two years. She officially takes office on January 1st. As Peggy works to make OSBA even stronger, her work will also help Ohio's bee clubs. Peggy will remain VP of MCBA for the time being. We are excited for Peggy in her new endeavor. Join us in congratulating Peggy the next time you see her.

It's Time for Elections!

This year we have one director position up for election. Directors are important in helping the Board set policies, plan for events, and assist with events. There are normally three to four board meetings each year. The three Directors and four Officers have equal votes in determining the direction for the club.

If you are interested in helping the club by being a director, please notify Sheila Mauer (spmaurer01@gmail.com) or Laura Weber (ljweber@zoominternet.net) as soon as possible. We will vote at the November meeting.

Thank you for considering your possible role as a director to help MCBA continue to grow and improve.

The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – November

After our first Northeast Ohio snowstorm, we can either be (a) comfortably sitting by the fire, picturing our bees clustered together for warmth in the hive that we wrapped and insulated while the weather was still sunny and warm or (b) waiting for the weather to warm up so that we can go outside to finish the beekeeping chores that we hadn't yet gotten to. If you haven't wrapped and insulated, there is still time. In fact, one of the activities that I enjoy over Thanksgiving weekend, is getting outside and taking care of bee business. Here are a few ways that local beekeepers protect their hives in the winter.

- Put a piece of insulation over the inner cover, under the hive cover.
- Leave an upper entrance for ventilation; slide a shim under the top cover for ventilation.
- Tip hives forward to allow any water that might accumulate to drip out the front entrance.
- Insulate your hives in one of the following ways:
 - Wrap hives with tar paper - use all-weather/outdoor duct tape to tape the tar paper around the hive. Make sure not to cover the bottom or upper entrances.
 - Tie rigid insulation around three sides with string or cords; consider leaving the front of the hive un-insulated.
- With hives essentially broodless, November and December are good times to use oxalic acid for mite control. You can apply vaporized oxalic acid when temperatures are at in the 40s and warmer.

Local and Regional Bee Events

Tree Walk, November 13, 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM, Secrest Arboretum, 2122 Williams Road, Wooster, Ohio 44691

Monthly tree walks feature all things trees! Topics include proper selection and planting, insect pests and diseases. Please dress for the weather. No reservations required.

Guided Bird Walk, December 14, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Secrest Arboretum, 2122 Williams Road, Wooster, Ohio 44691

Members of the Greater Mohican Audubon Society guide birders of all skill levels. Spot birds, learn their calls and discover their habitats in the arboretum. Parking and admission are free. Please dress for the weather.

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

Cost for the class is \$85 for an individual or \$100 for a family. Current MCBA members who have paid for and taken the class before may retake the class for free. In addition to the class tuition, students receive a textbook, 1-year membership in the Medina County Beekeepers Association and a variety of magazines and catalogs from the beekeeping industry. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged so we know how to prepare, but late registration will be available at the door as long as space is available.

Beginner Beekeeper Class 2020 Saturday track: Sat, Feb 15 and 22, 2020; 9:00 AM –4:30 PM at Medina County District Library, 210 South Broadway Street, Medina, OH 44256.

Beginner Beekeeper Class 2020 Tuesday track: Tuesday, March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2020; 6:00 PM – 8:15 PM at Medina County District Library, 210 South Broadway Street, Medina, OH 44256.

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 either [online here](#) or 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 OR
- 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: _____

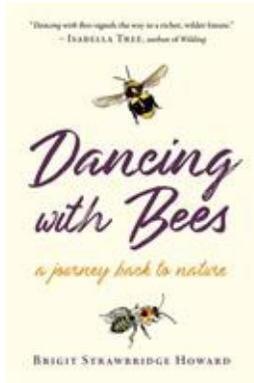
Medina County District Library Books for Beekeepers

Enjoy our quarterly installment of a feature from the MCDL: a list of books on a variety of topics 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

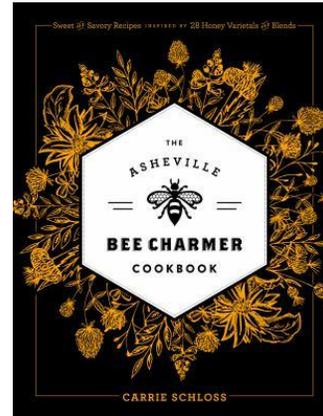


Dancing With Bees: A Journey Back To Nature

by Brigit Strawbridge Howard

A memoir of the author's efforts to reconnect with nature, particularly pollinators, and the impact

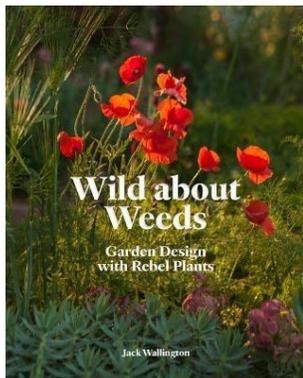
her journey has had on everyday life.



The Asheville Bee Charmer Cookbook

by Carrie Schloss

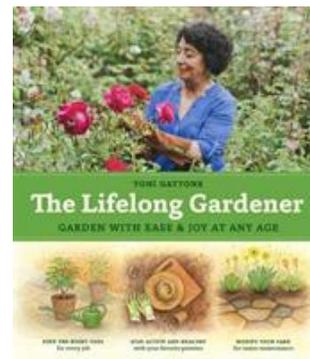
The official cookbook of the renown honey purveyor, including over 130 recipes for the home cook.



Wild About Weeds: Garden Design With Rebel Plants

by Jack Wallington

Learn how to make hearty and interesting weeds part of your garden's mystique and beauty.

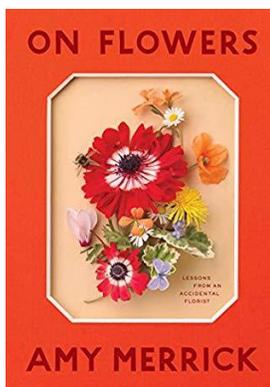


The Lifelong Gardener: Garden With Ease & Joy At Any Age

by Toni Gattone

A thoughtful guide to adaptations that aging gardeners can make to

keep themselves active and able, and their gardens flourishing and accessible.



On Flowers: Lessons From an Accidental Florist

by Amy Merrick

For anyone who would like to learn how to arrange flowers, this is a beautiful homage to the author's learned artistry.



The Modern Cook's Year

By Anna Jones

More than 250 vibrant vegetarian recipes to see you through the seasons.