

# 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

**January 20, 2020 – Bill Stitt – Native bees in Ohio and opportunities for creating native bee habitats.** Bill, a Medina County resident, has been a beekeeper for 21 years, is a certified naturalist, and for many years worked with Medina County Parks. Bill is an OSU extension pollinator specialist and pollinator identification specialist.



Created by Bongoleem from Noun Project

**January meeting Chili Cook Off!** Cold weather is here and its chili time! Bring your favorite chili and recipe for members to share at the January meeting. Red, white, vegetarian, meat or meatless chili – you bring it – let the members sample it! A prize will be awarded for the best chili. A perfect way to warm a cold up month!

**February 17 – Denzil St. Clair – Coming out of Winter.**

Denzil St Clair from Queen Right Colonies will discuss what to look for in your hives as they come out of winter and best practices to help your bees prepare for spring build-up. The session will be informative and entertaining!

**March 16 – Dr. Jay Evans, USDA Beltsville Lab – The state of Honey Bees and Viruses.**

**April 20 – Andrew Connor – How to Read Frames.**

**May 18, 2020 – Dr. Tracey Cook – Herbs and Honey Bees**

## Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

### The Bee Yard in January

January is a great month to do a little planning for the new season and to take some time to learn more about how to manage your bees. Try to find a few of the old books about keeping bees. They are interesting and after keeping bees you will be amazed how much of the information will make sense to you.

Some examples?

**Fifty Years among the Bees** – C.C. Miller

**The Hive and the Honey-Bee** – L.L. Langstroth

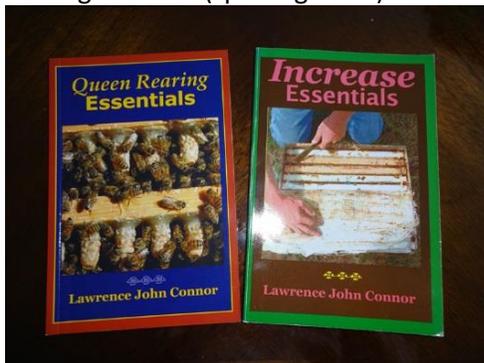
**The ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture** – A.I. Root

These older books are classics. While bee issues have changed, the art of keeping bees has not changed as much as you might think.



*Great general knowledge about Beekeeping*

After your first year there are a couple books written by Larry Connor that are very good, and easy to read. One on Queen Rearing and one on making increase (splitting hives).



A number of members have reported the loss of a hive or misfortunate incident. One member had two top covers blow off in the December storms. Be safe... put two heavy bricks. Another had a hive tip over. The back legs sank a bit into the wet soil due to the warm weather. If the area gets wet, or if slightly sloped, try placing a couple of large pavers under the legs. The 12x12 or 13x13 ones work really well.

If you are unlucky enough to find one of your hives has not made it.... give some thought to cleaning it up now or protecting it from critters and the weather. At the least, cover the openings with a piece of screen. Don't forget the upper entrance. You do not want any critters getting into the hive.

Do you have shims under the inner cover? If not, do so now to make sure there is ventilation thru the hive. Doing so may prevent frames in a dead hive from molding (light blue or gray covering on the frames).

Taking time to clean out as many of the dead bees as possible helps a lot as they will generate a lot of moisture, draw ants, and sometimes get white mold. Dead bees in the cells or larva that have not yet emerged may mold as well. I've taken good frames and picked out the dead bees with a pin or paper clip.

If this is the first time you have had to clean up a dead hive it is an excellent incentive to make sure they all make it next year! It's a bit of work, for sure.

Normally it gets cold and stays cold and frames will mostly be OK until spring. Note I said "normally". It looks like we may get normal January weather starting about the time you read this.

## Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes

There are no meeting minutes for the December holiday party.

### MBA Club News

#### *MCBA Holiday Party - Submitted by Steven Barkfelt*

On December 16, 2019, members and friends of the Medina County Beekeeping Association gathered to conclude the holiday season with acts of generosity and outreach for the underprivileged of our local community. Club members and supporters donated a great deal of food and supplies in order to allow Feeding Medina and Kitten Krazy to carry out their work throughout the difficult winter season. The generous and accommodating hosts at Santosussos Restaurant offered a perpetual stream of delicious food and hospitality, further bolstering the warmth and familiar bond within the club's attendants. Despite the relative inactivity of beekeeping during the winter, such acts of community outreach by the MCBA will hopefully reaffirm that acts of support and charity need not operate under any arbitrary limits to time, place, and circumstance.



***The group donated two tables full of supplies for Kitten Krazy adoption center and Feeding Medina.***



***The venue was great. A honey bee knowledge trivia game added a lot of fun to the festivities.***

## **The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – January**

Happy New Year! Thank you, members for supporting the Medina County Beekeepers Association. Please remember to fill out the 2020 membership form and bring it to a meeting or mail it to our treasurer. We are grateful for your support and are looking forward to a great 2020 beekeeping season. Here are a few January housekeeping activities:

- Provide an upper entrance, particularly if the bottom entrance is covered in snow or ice.
- Lean the hive forward so that any moisture in the hive drips out of the front entrance.
- Take a look at your woodenware – now is a good time to clean and repair equipment and place orders for new or additional equipment. You might also want to order spring varroa treatments so that you have them ready when you need them.
- Now is a good time to make a plan for the new year. What are your 2020 beekeeping goals? Will you be focusing on honey production, preventing swarms, catching swarms, splitting, earning master beekeeping certification, successfully overwintering a hive, or something else? Are there techniques or practices that you might want to try this year? Will you need to replace or invest in new equipment? Will you want to borrow books from the library or purchase some bee books?
- Catch up on your reading of bee journals or books. See Paul's 10 Minutes with the Bees article for a few good suggestions.
- When temperatures are 50 degrees or warmer, peek under the inner cover. If the bees are already clustered at top, consider putting on a winter patty, fondant, or other emergency food.
- Since there is still very little brood, it is a good time to treat with vaporized oxalic acid. Take action now so that your colony comes into the spring with as few mites as possible.
- New beekeepers and those whose bees have already perished, place an order for one or more package or nuc. Think about ordering several different types of bees so that you can observe the differences and decide which works best with your beekeeping practice.

## **Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District Seedling Sale**

The District is offering some new selections as well as many varieties that we offer each year. Deadline for ordering is April 1, 2020, but order early as they are sold on a first come-first served basis and many seedlings will be sold out before that date. Pickup dates for seedlings are Friday, April 24, 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 25, 8:00 a.m. -Noon at Geig's Orchard, 8468 Wooster Pike (State Route 3), Seville. Most seedlings will easily fit in a grocery sack. Details and order form are at:

<https://medinaswcd.org/seedlings/>

## **Bee-Related Airbnb Experiences**

My monthly search for local and regional beekeeping events led to an interesting find – Airbnb Experiences. The Experiences that I saw included a Fairy Pig walk, tea with naughty sheep, a spooky London bat walk, watching humpback whales, and yes, bee experiences. You can experience honey bee therapy in Chicago; urban beekeeping in Hamilton, Ontario; and be a beekeeper for a day in Australia. I have never booked an Airbnb experience, so this is not a recommendation. However, if you'd like to see creative ways in which beekeepers are sharing information about their craft and engaging people in learning about and interacting with bees, do a search for Airbnb bee experiences and see what pops up.

## Local and Regional Events

### ***Ohio Farmer and Farmland Owner Income Tax Webinar, January 13 from 1 pm to 3 pm***

This webinar will focus on issues related to farmer and farmland owner tax returns and the changes introduced in 2019. The two-hour program will be presented in a live webinar format by OSU Extension Educators Barry Ward, Chris Bruynis and David Marrison. Individuals who operate farms, own property, or are involved with renting farmland should participate. Register for \$35 and if you can't attend, you will be sent a link to view it later at your convenience. <http://www.cvent.com/events/ohio-farmer-and-farmland-owner-income-tax-webinar/event-summary-fb104f41796445efa17a620b7782e23d.aspx>

### ***Honey Bee Expo, Parkersburg, WV, January 25, 2020 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm***

The Mid Ohio Valley Beekeepers' Association, in conjunction with the West Virginia Extension Services, presents the 18th annual Honey Bee Expo on the Campus of WVU Parkersburg, in Parkersburg, WV. Keynote speaker Dr. James Tew is a well-known beekeeping specialist for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University and emeritus professor, The Ohio State University. Jim has taught classes, provided extension services, and conducted applied research on honey bees and honey bee behavior. He contributes articles for Bee Culture Magazine and other publications and has authored: Beekeeping Principles, Backyard Beekeeping, Bee, Wisdom for Beekeepers, and The Beekeeper's Problem Solver. There will be workshops for all levels of beekeepers from beginners to advanced. More information is available here: <https://movba.org/index.php/2019-expo/>. Registration forms are available here: <http://movba.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Expo-2020-Pre-Registration-Set.pdf>

### ***Western PA Beekeepers' Seminar, Monroeville, PA, February 14, 2020 (7 pm – 9 pm) and February 15, 2020 (8 am – 5 pm)***

Speakers include Lewis Bartlett, Brock Harpur, and Ian Stepler. In addition to workshops and a vendor area, the conference includes a new tradition called "Operation Honey Drop". Seminar attendees can leave one bottle of their honey at the registration table for a photograph that will showcase local beekeepers. After the seminar, the honey will be donated to local food banks. Follow this link for more information: <https://beavervalleybees.net/index.php/event/western-pa-beekeeping-seminar/>

### ***Tri County Beekeepers' Workshop- Wooster, OH, 3.7.2020***

Save the dates for the 42nd Annual TCBA Spring Beekeepers Workshop on March 6-7, 2020 at 1680 Madison Ave Wooster, Ohio 44691. Registration will open mid-January 2020. Watch this space for more information: <https://www.tricountybeekeepers.org/register>

### ***Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers Association (SEMBA) Conference, Bellville, MI, March 14, 2020***

Save the date for the 82nd Annual SEMBA Conference on March 14, 2020 at the Wayne County Community College District Ted Scott Campus in Belleville, MI. Watch this space for more information: <https://www.sembabees.org/conference>

## **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. 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 22 and 29, 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.

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## **2020 MCBA Membership Application / Renewal**

*Happy New Year! It's time to renew your annual membership!*

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: \_\_\_\_\_