

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



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MCBA Club Meetings

Usually held the 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

The MCBA will not hold any meetings as long as Ohio's Stay at Home order is in effect. At the time of this writing, there will be no meetings through May 1, 2020.

Coronavirus and MCBA – The virus issue is encouraging (forcing) us to find new ways to do business. The first step was holding several sessions of our Beginner Class on the internet. It worked better than we expected. We may use this approach for other classes and informational sessions, such as the intermediate class.



Paul will provide updates through email and posts on the MCBA Facebook page. You can view the club Facebook page even if you do not have an account:

<https://www.facebook.com/medinabeekeepers/>.

Paul provided an update about a new issue with

Coronavirus - This morning I stepped on my bathroom scale. It said, "Please observe social distancing, only one person on the scale at a time!" 😊

Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

The Bee Yard in April

April plus warm weather means it's time to watch your bees.

We always get questions such as should you feed your bees SS now, is it OK to unwrap my hives now, should I reverse the boxes, should I remove the mouse guard, and when do I add supers?

As a rule, you should **NEVER** feed your overwintered hive SS. If you suspect an exception contact one of our more experienced members. An established hive does not need to be fed in the Spring. In fact, we are already scrambling to prevent the hives developing swarm fever. This may not apply if you are actively trying to push your hives to maximum growth to make splits.

Do not rush to unwrap your hives. By the time you read this it should be OK. But Take a look at the forecast (remember last year?) We can still get nights in the low 30's, even 20's for the next few weeks. Remember, 70 degrees is still cool to the bees. This applies to an average hive. A very strong hive may require more immediate attention.

Should I reverse the deep boxes in the Spring? Another one with various answers. Some do some don't. I almost always do. Why? This time of year, the bees are almost always in the upper deep, or in the super if you left one on for food. The bottom box is usually almost empty. Bees like to move up. It may help reduce swarm fever.

Removing the mouse guard can be done any time. Why? The bees are very active. So, a mouse trying to enter now would probably regret it. I watch my hives. As soon as I see them backing up at the entrance on a nice day, I remove it. Or if you see pollen being lost at the entrance as they go through the holes.



This Much Activity, Remove Mouse Guard!

Add supers early to prevent your bees from starting to fill the deeps with nectar. Once they do it is hard to stop. When bees haul a bunch of pollen, they are raising a bunch of brood. Brood fills up frames. The bees right now are also bringing nectar from Trees, among other things. I plan to add at least one super this weekend, and possibly two. There are no SHBs right now to cause a problem (at least around here). Do not feed SS if add a super!

Can I make a split now? Once the temps are steady in the 60's it should be OK. NUC boxes work better due to the smaller area to keep warm. One thought is that if you wait until late April or early May you may find swarm cells. You can then move the original queen and make a split. Remove all but a couple of the queen cells and let the hive raise a new Q. Swarm cells do make nice queens. Also, it can be very hard to buy good new Qs in April.

Isn't Spring exciting? And we have the perfect hobby for such a pandemic. We already like to work alone in our bee yards, playing with bugs that like to sting us!

Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes

No monthly membership meeting in March due to Ohio's Stay Home Order

MBA Club News

Thank You to Our Loyal and Hard-Working Members from Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

I normally do this a couple times a year at meetings....but.... We all want to thank the members who help us so much to run the club.

Ellie Jisa and Sheila Mauer -Ellie and Sheila make every meeting better by making sure we have snacks and drinks. Got to love brownies and muffins! It's a lot of work and greatly appreciated.

John and Barb Vrtachnik – John and Barb attend every meeting and almost every event to help set up and conduct successful meetings and events.

Kim Barkfelt – Kim keeps our minutes for the club, and also attends almost every function to help set up and manage the event. Kim also is responsible for the wonderful Bee Festival at the Medina library each year.

Tania Jarosewich – Tania creates and edits our Newsletter. She takes input from members and adds interesting features such as the Library Bee Books and Medina Park District events, to publish the Newsletter. The result is an excellent issue to keep you informed of current events.

Holly Krieger – Holly does a terrific job running the club's Facebook page. It helps to get information out to members and the public and we get lots of feedback, including several new members and people for the Beginner Class.

Peggy, Kim, Mary Simonelli and Ron – Who participate in our Beginner Class each year and do such a fantastic job. MCBA's class is well recognized for its thorough coverage.

Toni Watson – Toni keeps our books, writes the checks that keep the wheels turning, and deals with some of our online companies such as Eventbrite and PayPal. She is currently stranded in Florida, looking for a safe way to get home.

And thanks to all of our members who help to make the events a success!

MCBA Mentor and Swarm Lists

Medina County bees are likely not aware of the current pandemic situation, and will continue to swarm and cause beekeepers headaches. If you are interested in being added the list of club mentors who are willing to assist other members and those who actively seek swarms, contact Paul Kosmos (president@medinabeekeepers.com).

Mentors: Experienced beekeepers who provide advice about bee yard management and beekeeping techniques. For now, this help will be online or on the phone so that we all keep safe distances and stay healthy.

Swarms: The MCBA website includes a list of members who are willing to capture swarms. Interest in capturing swarms can wane later in the summer and we want to be sure that there are club members available throughout the summer to help people who call about swarms.

Thoughts from the VP

With all the cancellations, rescheduling and indefinite postponements here at MCBA, I feel we need to reach out to each other and offer support where we can from a distance. Those who can mentor – please do! So many of the new beekeepers have questions about their hives that overwintered and where do they go from here...

With packages and nucs coming in and being available, we need to remember our social distancing when securing our new bees. Remember to call ahead to be sure the bees are ready for travel and your payments have been made and confirmed. This will allow the bees to be picked up and you to leave without much interaction with the supplier. We certainly don't want anyone contracting/spreading anything! Wear your face mask for safety! Ask your questions before pickup or after you leave. You can always text, email or call the supplier.

Online classes and presentations will continue at MCBA until we are able to meet together safely. April's meeting at Williams on the Lake on Reading Frames has been cancelled. I will try to get Andrew to present possibly online on a platform like Zoom or other... Your health and well-being as well as that of the presenters are our first concern. We will continue to bring current beekeeping news to you as it arrives to us.

If you know any commercial beekeepers, they are in need of bee tending help! In the past, many have hired help from other states, but with the virus, that cannot be safely done. So, if you know someone who keeps bees on the commercial level – reach out and see what they need. We may have folks in our own club with the time and expertise to help. Beekeepers are considered exempt from the stay at home order as we are agriculture. Any questions or concerns can be directed to the local or state health department or the governor's office.

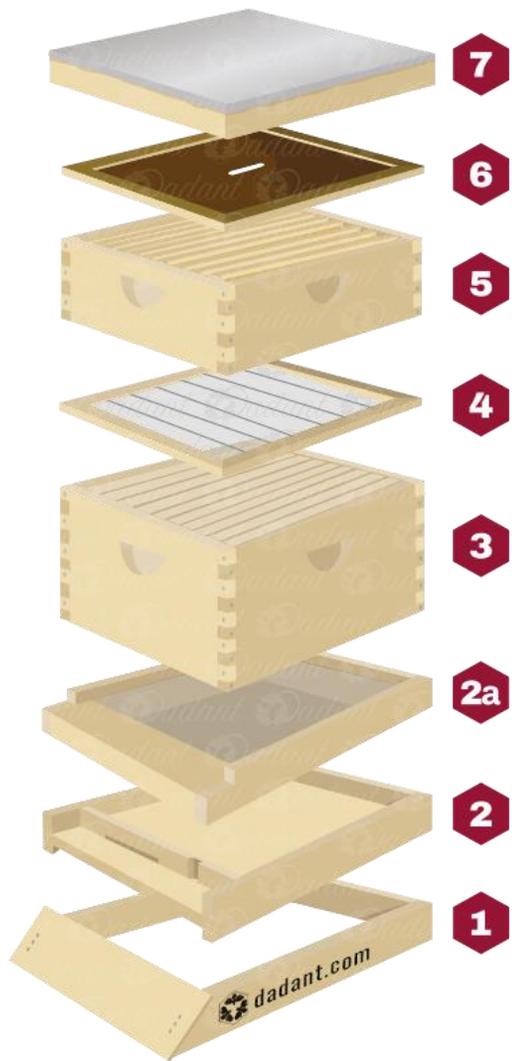
I will be available as much as I can to assist where I can... please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Your beekeeping Vice President,

Peggy

The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – April

- Plan for integrated pest management - put reminders in your calendar to keep on track. Conduct a mite check and treat if the mite load is over 2-3 mites / 100 bees, or 4 - 9 mites / ½ cup bees.
- Hang a few wasp traps to catch wasp queens as they emerge in the spring.
- Replace 2-3 frames of old drawn comb with frames of new foundation.
- Overwintered colonies may swarm, experience queen failure, or supersede the queen. Start thinking about swarm management techniques. Toward the end of the month, set out traps to catch swarms.
- New beekeepers, get your equipment ready! Feed new colonies to build comb.
- Refer back to the beekeeping goals that you set for yourself in January. If you didn't, think about your primary focus for this year – honey production, queen rearing, building, building your apiary, etc. The next page includes a diagram of hive components that you can use to manage your inventory and plan for equipment that you might need to repair or purchase to meet your goals.



Component	# you own and status (needs paint, frames need to be built, etc.)	Number you will need
7. Telescoping cover		
6. Inner cover		
5. Honey super (shallow super)		
4. Queen Excluder		
3. Hive body (brood chamber) frames		
2. Solid Bottom board OR 2a Screened Bottom Board		
1. Hive stand		

Local and Regional Events

With the widespread cancellations of events, we are not including in-person events in the newsletter.

Podcast series for beekeepers

Podcasts are a great way to continue your beekeeping learning now that in-person events are cancelled. The March 2020 MCBA newsletter issue mentioned the [Beekeeping Today podcast](#) as a good source of information for experienced beekeepers, and a recent four-episode series a good source of information for new beekeepers.



In our September 2019 issue, we mentioned a list of top beekeeping podcasts put together by Kiwimana Buzz, a podcast from New Zealand. An updated list, with new podcasts, is here: <https://www.kiwimana.co.nz/top-free-beekeeping-podcasts/>. You may find a series that you enjoy.

OSBA Live Webinar Training

The Ohio State Beekeeper's Association is holding a live Zoom conference call on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 7:00 pm. Each speaker will have a 1-hour presentation with 15 minutes of questions and answers, with an online polling survey at the end. Join the live webinar by registering at Ohio State Beekeepers Association - Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OhioStateBeekeepers/>. Scroll down to "Upcoming Events" and click on the event title and description, (Reserve a Spot) in the blue box. There are only 99 spots available open per event/presentation. You will receive an email, containing the link, meeting ID, and password for each event 1-hour before the start time. The event will be recorded and uploaded to our "new" YouTube channel, one week later after editing. You're welcome to Subscribe & Like the channel to be notified of each video after it's uploaded at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOFVaRx00YMUvbVtTR2RxsQ>.

Free online learning – “Stay at Home Beekeeping Series”

The Alabama Extension beekeeping team has developed the Stay at Home Beekeeping Series, with the remaining online meetings on April 16, April 30, May 14, and May 28 at 7:30 eastern time. To participate in this online series, register on the [Auburn University website](#) or watch the event live on the [Lawrence County Alabama Extension Office](#) Facebook page.

Ohio State Beekeepers Hive Report

The Ohio State Beekeepers Association is making available the Hive Newsletter, which previously OSBA offered only to those who received the ADK Grant. The newsletter provides practical information of what to do in your apiary. To receive the monthly Hive Newsletter, go to <https://ohiostatebeekeepers.org/emailsignup>.

Medina County Park District Weekly Wildflower Report

We enjoyed the article that Shelley Tender shared with us in the March issue of the MCBA newsletter. Take a look at the Medina County Park District's YouTube channel, where Shelly has posted a Weekly Spring Wildflower Report (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOJfwaq1Ng7SqkpsYMIIEQ>). The site includes several other videos of plants and animals in the park. The park website (<http://www.medinacountyparks.com/>) and Twitter (@MedinaCoParks) are a good place to learn about upcoming learning opportunities and park closings and openings.

2019-2020 Loss and Management Survey is Live!

Attention all beekeepers, the 2019-2020 Bee Informed Partnership annual Colony Loss and Management Survey is now live. The survey is available to take throughout the month of April, just click the button for more information. Access the survey here: <https://beeinformed.org/take-survey/>.

2020 MCBA Membership Application / Renewal

If you have not yet paid your 2020 annual dues, now is the time. Take care of this task before beekeeping season really gets going. You know you won't have a lot of free time then.

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

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.

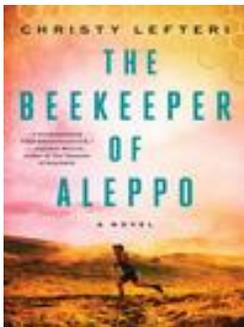


Medina County District Library

mcdl.info

Although the library is closed until at least May 1, we're still serving you through our electronic collection. eBooks, eAudiobooks, movies, music, and magazines are available to you at www.mcdl.info/download.

New to electronic media? Watch a helpful tutorial to get started reading, watching, and listening on your smart phone, laptop, iPad, or eReader. Still need help? Chat with a librarian Monday through Friday from 10-3 and Thursdays from 7-9 pm at www.mcdl.info/chat

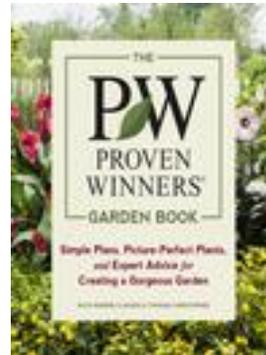


The Beekeeper of Aleppo

By Christy Lefteri

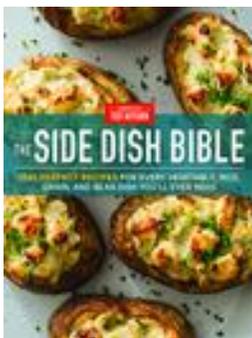
This unforgettable novel puts human faces on the Syrian war with the immigrant story of a beekeeper, his wife, and the triumph of spirit when the

world becomes unrecognizable. (Random House Publishing)



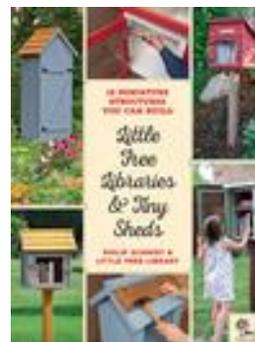
The Proven Winners Garden Book: Simple Plans, Picture-Perfect Plants, and Expert Advice for Creating a Gorgeous Garden

By Ruth Rogers Clausen & Thomas Christopher



The Side Dish Bible: 1001 Perfect Recipes for Every Vegetable, Rice, Grain, and Bean Dish You Will Ever Need

By Cook's Illustrated



Little Free Libraries & Tiny Sheds: 12 Miniature Structures You Can Build

By Philip Schmidt, Little Free Library & Todd H. Bol