

# THE BEE HERDER

Published by Medina County Beekeepers Association – May 2020

[www.MedinaBeekeepers.com](http://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.

- 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 31, 2020.**

Visit the MCBA website and Facebook for updates. You can view the club Facebook page even if you do not have an account: <https://www.facebook.com/medinabeekeepers/>.

## Medina County Beekeepers Association Minutes

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

## MCBA Club Member Ba(bee) News

Seth and Beth Richardson, after trying for several years, were able to adopt a baby boy in February. They are ecstatic, typical proud parents. Charlie, was born on February 9th. They went to California and were there for the birth. Congratulations to two of the nicest people in the club! I think little Charlie hit the jackpot!!!

## Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

The Bee Yard in May

**It's Monday, May 11. 39 degrees, freeze warning for tonight. But....**

The forecast calls for it to finally warm into the 70's later this week. That is certainly welcome news. So, what changes for beekeepers?

I'm being a little redundant, but after a prolonged cold spell (this time of year), there will be a huge pent up swarm urge the first nice day or two. The urge grows, the bees are packed in even more than usual, so the first opportunity....



*May, 2015 After 4 cold, rainy days, 11 am*

When the weather permits try to take a peek to look for swarm cells. For those of you who ask when is the best time to make a split.... This is one of those times as you will have a new queen in a matter of days. It is normally best to move the mother queen into the split and let the bees have the new queen (less chance of swarming again).

You may also consider putting out a swarm box in hopes of catching one of your own swarms. Various boxes can be used. A frame of old brood comb helps to draw them, as do bait scents. Lemongrass oil seems to help as well.



*Swarm Box about 7 feet above the ground*

While you are at it check their food. I see lots of wax debris on the insert indicating they are using up stored food due to the weather and to feed new brood.

I found one hive that had no pollen stored. How to tell? This hive had 4 frames of mostly capped brood, only a few young larvae. They were bringing in pollen, but only on the few nice days. They apparently did not have enough to keep raising more brood. If the bees cannot feed new brood, they will eat the eggs. Put a little pollen patty to help them.

Since I am being redundant.... Now that the bees are raising lots of brood, don't forget to start checking for mites on a regular schedule. You can't see mites on the bees (if you do your hive may be in trouble). Do a sugar shake, alcohol wash, open some drone brood cells and look for mites.... Your choice, but do it regularly. Don't wait until they become a problem.

Your bees will thank you and reward you for taking good care of them!

## Beekeeping during a pandemic

One of our members shared this photo of a bee course during the 1919 pandemic. Beekeepers wearing masks looks too familiar.



*Beekeepers during the 1919 Pandemic - Gleanings in Bee Culture*

## MCBA Mentor and Swarm Lists

Medina County bees are likely not aware of the current pandemic situation, and will continue to swarm and cause headaches. If you are interested in being added the list of club members who are willing to collect swarms or to the list of club mentors, contact Paul Kosmos ([president@medinabeekeepers.com](mailto:president@medinabeekeepers.com)).

**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 members available throughout the year to help people who call about bees in trees (or other inconvenient places).

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

## Take a Little Time to Say Thank You!

Paul Kosmos shared the following with our members.

As President of Medina Beekeepers, I would like to pause for a moment and talk about something not bee related. By now most of you are aware that many people are making masks at home to help out our medical staff and first responders. But did you know that many of our members are contributing their time and energy to help the cause? The masks they make are top notch. Three layers with a pocket and HEPA filter material in the pocket.



Just one group that I am aware of has made hundreds of masks. Some buy their own material and supplies. Some have visited Joann Fabrics and other stores for their free mask kits. All have spent hours and days devoting their talents to protect others.

Pretty special. While I know of a number of members participating, I'm sure that there are many more that I am not aware of. So, I chose not to mention names since not all can be included.

Cleveland Clinic, Akron Children's Hospital, and Walker Testing Covid-19 Testing Lab are using these masks.

Thanks to all of you for all that you do. For helping others. For saving a few lives. Who knows, it could circle back to be a friend or family member!

## 2020 MCBA Membership Application / Renewal

If you have not yet paid your 2020 annual dues, now is the time. 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.

Renew your membership either [online here](#) or complete the form below, make a check payable to Medina County Beekeepers Association, and mail to MCBA Treasurer, PO Box 1353, Medina, Ohio 44258.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Learning Opportunities

### *A few of my favorite podcasts for beekeepers*

Two Bees and a Podcast is a relatively new podcast from the University of Florida / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension (UF/IFAS) Honey Bee Lab. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/two-bees-in-a-podcast/id1494010558>

Five Apple Farms features sustainable beekeeping talk and techniques from a North Carolina mountain apiary. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/beekeeping-at-five-apple-farm-podcast/id1453731151>

Beekeeping - Short and Sweet: A Beekeeping podcast for the inquisitive beekeeper with a short attention span! <https://www.norfolk-honey.co.uk/podcast>

### *Bee Culture Magazine*

If you are experiencing a delay in receiving your issue of Bee Culture Magazine, the digital version of the most recent issue of Bee Culture is available to readers until delays due to Coronavirus are over. Go to [www.beeculture.com](http://www.beeculture.com) and click on the "Latest Issues" tab at the top of the page to access the issue.

### *OSBA Hive Digest*

The OSBA Hive Digest provides an overview of apiary issues and tasks relevant to beekeepers across the state of Ohio. The information is valuable for Ohio beekeepers to think about what to look for and do in their apiary. Register to receive the digest <https://ohiostatebeekeepers.org/emailsingup>.

### *OSBA Live Webinar Training*

The Ohio State Beekeeper's Association is holding live Zoom conference calls on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 7:00. Join the live webinar by registering at Ohio State Beekeepers Association - Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OhioStateBeekeepers/>. In "Upcoming Events," click on the event title and description, (Reserve a Spot). 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 the club's YouTube channel one week later. Subscribe to and Like the channel to be notified of new videos <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOFVaRx00YMUvbVtTR2RxsQ>.

### *"Stay at Home Beekeeping Series"*

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

### *2 Million Blossoms*

The inaugural issue of a quarterly magazine dedicated to protecting wild and managed pollinators, *2 Million Blossoms: protecting our pollinators*, is free to read online <https://www.2millionblossoms.com/sneakpeak>.

## Need a Goal to Shoot for In Winter?

Tim Moore, one of our most successful beekeepers, sent Paul Kosmos information about winter losses. His results are amazing and should encourage all of us to revisit how we prepare our bees for winter.

Out of 97 honey production hives:

- 5 deadouts
- 5 queenless hives coming out of winter
- 2 weak queens coming out of winter – need to be replaced

Tim's losses for the winter were only 5.1%. That compares to Ohio's 37% the previous year.

Out of 30 nucs:

- 2 deadouts
- 4 starved in March - my fault!! Large brood nests ran out of food during inclement weather.

Results similar to his main hives! We can all learn from Tim's simple approach: lots of food and wrap them with tar paper. It's mostly good diligence in taking care of his bees throughout the year. Nice job!

## Investigating Pollen Colors

One of our members attended a Zoom meeting put on by the Ohio State Beekeepers Association and learned about pollen charts. These charts identify the color of pollen associated with various flowers, which can help in discussions of plants, pollen, nectar flows, and flowering calendars. This type of chart also helps beekeepers to know what types of plants bees are visiting and what pollen they are bringing back to the hive. Eversweet Apiaries sells [seasonal pollen charts](#) and Betterbee sells a book, "[A Colour Guide to Pollen Loads of the Honey Bee.](#)"



## The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – May

- New beekeepers, give your colonies a few weeks to settle in and then make regular inspections to monitor colony progress. Feed new colonies so they have sufficient resources to build comb.
- Hang several wasp traps to catch wasp queens as they emerge in the spring. This might help to keep the wasp population low in the fall when they are particularly bothersome for apiaries.
- Set out traps to catch swarms. It's great when you can collect a colony of bees from a tree. As Paul mentioned in the 10 Minutes with the Bees section, members have already reported swarms.
- Our summer honey flow typically begins around June 1<sup>st</sup>, which, somehow, is just around the corner. Get your honey boxes ready.
- During your inspections, keep an eye out for queen cups along the bottoms of frames. There is no need to panic if they are empty. When an egg is deposited into a cup and the bees begin to elongate the structure, it is time to be more observant and make plans for how you will manage a potential swarm. If there are several frames with queen cells, consider moving one of the frames along with a few frames of brood, honey, and nurse bees into a nuc. If all goes well, in about a month, you will have a nice little colony with a young queen.
- 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. The following page includes a worksheet that you can use to write down mite loads each month, the treatments that you applied, and your plans for upcoming months. Make sure to order what you will need in advance so that you have materials to measure mite loads and treat at the times that you need them.



*Swarm Trap ready for business*



*Monthly record of varroa counts and treatment*

## Ohio Department of Agriculture Apiary Registration

Who Needs This License? Any person keeping one or more colonies of bees. Licensing Period: June 1 through May 31 annually. Annual Fee: \$5.00 per apiary (yard with one or more bee hives). Complete application for registration annually and submit required fee.

## 2020 Varroa assessment and treatment plan

Each month record mite loads, the treatment you applied that month, and your treatment plans for the next month. Make a copy for each apiary and take it with you on inspections.

**April**

**May**

**June**

**July**

**August**

**September**

**October**

**November**

**December**



APPLICATION FOR APIARY REGISTRATION 2020

PLEASE INCLUDE PAYMENT WITH APPLICATION ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1ST

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY APIARY PROGRAM OFFICE
IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:
CERTIFICATE NUMBER:
COMPANY:
NAME:
ADDRESS:
CITY, STATE, ZIP:
PHONE:
EMAIL:
COUNTY:
Check applicable box: [ ] Registered previously [ ] Additional Locations [ ] New beekeeper

PAYMENT is REQUIRED with APPLICATION. Applications postmarked after June 1st are subject to a \$10.00 late filing fee.
Exceptions to Late Fee, after June 1st; New Beekeepers, or registering additional locations.
Fee of \$5.00 per apiary LOCATION (property address) made payable to the "Ohio Department of Agriculture"
Number of Locations: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 each = Total Amount Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00
Payment by check or money order only; Payment Method: [ ] Check# \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Money Order # \_\_\_\_\_
PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH

Table with 7 columns: Hive Location, # of Colonies, County, Township, Location Information (Address, City, Zip Code), Property Owner's Name, Beekeepers; IF You SELL Queens or Nucs from or at this location, Check 'YES' or 'NO'. Rows 1-5.

\* Please write on back of form to provide inspector with additional directions and/or hive location information, if needed. (GPS Coordinates are helpful and appreciated; please indicate by Longitude and Latitude, in Decimal Degrees.)

My signature below certifies that the information provided above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_