

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



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MCBA Virtual June Meeting – June 22

Meghan Milbrath to present on Sustainable beekeeping!

Join us to hear Dr. Meghan Milbrath talk about using late season nucs to maintain a bee yard without buying new bees each year. We discuss how to make replacement colonies and expansion from within your operation, so you can be self-sufficient. Never buy bees again!

Dr. Milbrath began working bees with her father over 20 years ago, and now owns and manages The Sand Hill

Apiary, a small livestock and queen rearing operation in Munith, Michigan. She studied biology at St. Olaf College in



Northfield, MN, and received degrees in public health from Tulane University and the University of Michigan, where she focused on environmental health sciences and disease transmission risk. Meghan worked as a postdoctoral research associate at Michigan State University, studying Nosema disease. Currently she works as an academic specialist at MSU, in honey bee and pollinator research and extension, and coordinates the Michigan Pollinator Initiative. Meghan is active in multiple beekeeping organizations, writes for beekeeping journals, and speaks about bees all over the country. She runs the Northern Bee Network, a directory and resource site dedicated to supporting queen producers, and she is passionate about keeping and promoting healthy bees. If you have not heard Meghan speak before you are in for a treat.

Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

The Bee Yard in June

This time of year, one of the most frequent calls we get is “Where is my Queen?”.

Why all of a sudden? Because late spring is when most of the changes take place in our hives. Swarms, after swarms (secondary), and splits all happen right about now. So why the questions?

There are several scenarios that affect how the queen responds following any of these changes. Let’s start with a swarm. When a hive swarms for the first time, the mother queen normally goes with the swarm. If you are lucky enough to catch the swarm, they can draw a whole box of foundation in 7-10 days. And she will begin filling the cells with eggs before they are even half drawn.



A laying Q starts laying almost immediately

The calls come in while waiting for new queens to start laying.... Where are the eggs?

It’s necessary to do a little math here (Sorry). A queen cell is sealed for about 7 days. Once the queen emerges, she needs a few days to “toughen up”. Harden her shell, get used to her surroundings. take an orienting flight, etc. That can take 3 to 4 days. Then she has to wait for a nice day to go out and mate. That can add 4-7 days to the total. Finally, when she returns, she normally will not begin to lay for a couple days.

So where does that leave your search for eggs? Let’s add it up.

Queen to emerge	7 days
Hardening Period	4 days
Mating	6 days
<u>Begin Laying</u>	<u>4 days</u>
Total Days to Laying	21 days

This represents the longest time for a new queen to start laying. It can be longer if poor weather. It can be shorter if the cell is several days old, or if the weather is perfect. Why do I show the worst-case number of days?

Because the phone calls usually start after a week to ten days. Should I buy a new queen? Our answer is always the same... be patient, give her another week. Almost always the eggs suddenly appear. There is joy in bee land!

This is important for swarms as well. Many swarms are after or secondary swarms. That means the hive swarmed twice (at least). But the second one has a virgin queen! So, the numbers above still apply, less the 7 days for her to emerge. That gives an average of about 14 days. Toss in a few cool or rainy days, and sometimes it is more like 16 to 18 days.

The exact same timeline applies to splits. Maybe a bit shorter if you know when the cell was sealed.

The best advice one can give here is to trust the bees. They have been doing their thing for a long, long, long time. Most of the time they get it right. Be patient, keep an eye on them, and enjoy the journey. It is most rewarding.

MCBA Mentor and Swarm Lists

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).

Club Bee Yard Update

Our club hives at Feeding Medina are once again filled with bees. Three colonies were donated to the club and Peggy informs us that they are quietly doing their work at the club site. There have been few opportunities for inspections because of rain, heat, or the lack of time to visit the yard. We have not had field days because of COVID-19 restrictions, but we hope that field days can start again soon.

Extractor for Sale

One of our club members has expanded his apiary and has decided to upgrade to an electric powered honey extractor. He has a 3-frame hand crank extractor with a stainless-steel tank and frame bracket available for \$300. Contact Tom LeBay, 330.256.4859, TLeBay@OSIsoft.com.



Medina County Fair

The fair had been cancelled but now is back on. The Fair Committee will share information from the Department of Health regarding guidelines for this year's event.

Pollinator Week

June 22-28, 2020 is National Pollinator Week, the week designated by the U.S. Senate to celebrate pollinators. Read more about the work of the Pollinator Partnership, resources, and programs. <https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week>

Learning Opportunities

OSBA Hive Digest

Register to receive the OSBA Hive Digest, which provides an overview of apiary issues and tasks relevant to Ohio beekeepers: <https://ohiostatebeekeepers.org/emailsignup>.

OSBA Live Webinar Training

The Ohio State Beekeeper's Association holds live Zoom conference calls on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Register at <https://www.facebook.com/OhioStateBeekeepers/> or watch recordings on the club's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOFVaRx00YMUvbVtTR2RxsQ>.

The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – June

- Add supers for the summer flow, which, in northeast Ohio, lasts until early July. When frames are filled with nectar but not yet capped, add another honey super. You can under super, that is, put an empty super under the one that is almost filled.
- Continue to feed swarms that you caught and hived with sugar syrup and pollen patties. You want them to build up and get well-established.
- If you started with a package of bees this spring, the colony should be well on their way to drawing out and filling the second brood box.
- If you didn't conduct a mite check earlier in the month, do it now. Decide whether you need to treat for varroa, and if so, which treatments you will use.
- If you use drone comb to manage mites, make sure that you remove the frames after they are capped. Do not leave them in the hive for drones to hatch – and mites to continue to reproduce.

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 Medina Beekeepers, 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: _____

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

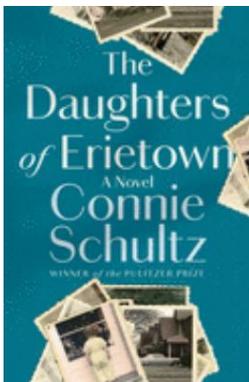
mcdl.info

Medina County District Libraries re-opened to the public on June 15 with temporary reduced hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10 am – 3 pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 3 pm – 8 pm. We look forward to seeing you!

MCDL's eBook and eAudiobook collection is available 24/7:

www.mcdl.info/download

Need help? Call your library during open hours to chat with a librarian. Curbside and locker pickup available!

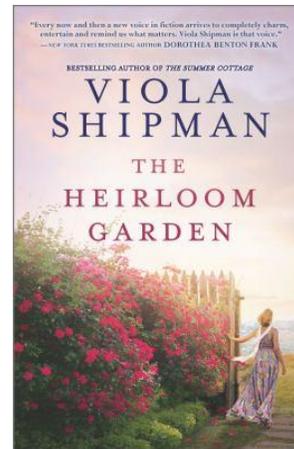


The Daughters of Erietown: A Novel

By Connie Schultz

Hidden desires, long-held secrets, and the sacrifices people make for family are at the heart of this powerful first novel by the popular Pulitzer Prize-

winning journalist. (Random House Pub.)

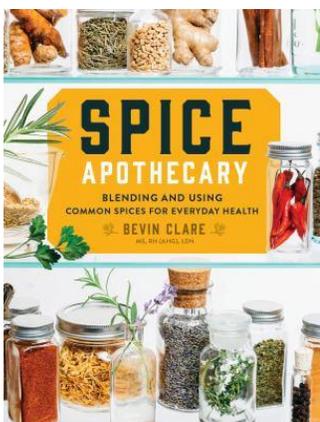


The Heirloom Garden

by Viola Shipman

This novel explores the unlikely relationship between two very different women brought together by the pain of war, but bonded by hope, purpose...and flowers.

(Harlequin Pub.)



Spice Apothecary: Blending and Using Common Spices for Everyday Health

By Bevin Clare

The author combines her training in herbalism and nutrition to inspire a return to the kitchen

spice cabinet for better health and healing. (Storey Pub.)



She Sheds Style: Make Your Space Your Own

By Erika Kotite

A charming primer for women intent on creating their own spaces. (Cool Springs Press)