

# THE BEE HERDER

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



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## Fall Flow in Northeast Ohio

It's almost time for our fall flow of goldenrod and aster. I have seen a few glimmers of hope in our landscape - early goldenrod is blooming in my neighborhood. There are a few small stands of this variety, with many other varieties not quite yet blooming.

Hopefully we will have the proper rainfall and weather to have a fruitful goldenrod bloom this fall. Asters and goldenrod will be the final source of pollen and nectar for the year, and should help our colonies fill that full box of honey that they will need for the winter.



You will know when the goldenrod flow is on from the distinctive smell that will come from your hives - the scent of final honey curing on cool fall evenings.



## Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

The Bee Yard in August

### August – Getting Ready for Winter.

While there is still work to do, the tasks at hand are more limited. Two main issues to deal with... bet you can guess one of them!

Varroa Mite – Enemy Number One! One member put a sticky board on his insert, only about 2/3 in due to the warm weather. He counted 15 mites. For early August (3<sup>rd</sup>) that is a high number. He needs to treat for mites, and do a sugar or alcohol check to verify the numbers (sticky boards yield red flags, but vary a lot). Remember that the counts will jump heading into September due to reduced capped brood. Sorry to sound like a broken record but now is **so** important to make sure you have healthy bees going into winter. A box packed with bees looks great, **but if their health has been compromised by varroa and viruses from the varroa**, they may not have the physical resources to survive until spring. Remember: The **“Bees are raising the bees that will raise the bees that have to be able to live for five to six months.** You want those bees to be at their best!

The second thing to start watching is food resources for winter. The average hive in Northern Ohio will need about 50-60 lbs. of honey to survive the winter. You want at least 8 to 9 full frames of honey.

The type of bees you have makes a big difference in how much honey needed for the winter. Italians can eat their reserves in August – in a hurry. Never let food stores get fewer than 3-4 full frames of food. Carniolians slow brood production to better conserve food resources. Russians are in a world of their own. They make you think something is wrong as they cut brood production drastically to prepare for winter.

Some beekeepers leave a full super of honey on the hive during the winter for insurance. There is plenty of time to prepare, but you have to know what is going on in the hive.

There are a number of ways to determine how much food your bees already have stored. One way is to inspect the hive and write down how many full frames of honey are in the hive, especially in the top deep. You can also weigh the hive by scale or the lift test.

2020 has been a terrific year for the bees. Strong hives, lots of food, excellent honey production. If it continues and we get a strong goldenrod and aster flow, hives can become honey bound (not often, but in a good year, Yes!). That can lead to fall swarms, which are never good for the bees or the beekeeper.



*One Deep Frame = About 7 lbs.*

The other extreme is not enough food in the hive. In 2018 we had a drought, no fall flow at all. Nearly everybody had to feed 2:1 sugar syrup to help their bees survive the winter.

**Brood Reduction** - By the time you read this, some of you will find your hives with only a couple frames of brood or not even full frames. That is normal as the queen cuts back on laying. You will also start to see drone larva at the entrance and workers chasing (even dragging) drones out of the hives. Also normal. They can't contribute to the hive's survival so they have to go!

## MCBA Club News

### *Borrow the Bee Club Extractor*

A benefit of MCBA membership is the opportunity to borrow the extractor. During this year of Covid, the club is waiving the \$20 rental fee. You will leave a \$20 deposit, which you will receive back when the extractor is returned cleaned and unharmed. Call Peggy at 330-723-6265 to reserve your spot today.

### *48 Hour Q Cell Meeting*

Members who are participating in Jean Knudson's Nuc Project met for a 48-hour Queen Cell meeting. The group asked Peggy questions and discussed key information about finishing two-day old queen cells and introducing them into hives once they emerged (or as queen cells). It was a good time, we social distanced, didn't get stung, and all went home a couple of cells to try our hand with.



*Checking on One of Peggy's Mating Nucs*



*Queen Cells - 48 Hours Old*

## Learning Opportunities

### *Xerces Society*

Problems arise in even the most well-planned gardens. It can be frustrating to see your plants suffering from an insect pest or disease. The Xerces Society offers several ways to learn how to identify and respond to pests in your home garden and yard in ways that maintain the health and resilience of your local ecosystem. Read more here: <https://www.xerces.org/blog/how-to-identify-and-respond-to-pests-at-home>. Watch webinars and training videos recorded by the Xerces Society here: <https://www.youtube.com/xercessociety>

### *OSBA Live Webinar Training*

The Ohio State Beekeeper's Association holds live Zoom conference calls on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Information about the webinar series follows.

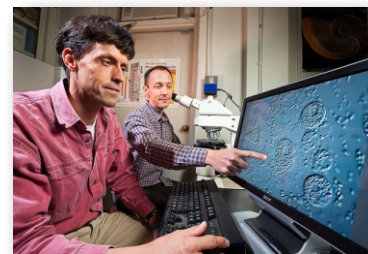


# LIVE WEBINAR TRAINING NEWS

AUGUST 2020 - SPEAKERS & PRESENTATIONS

## Sunday, August 9, 7:00pm - Dr. Jay Evans - USDA-ARS “Tackling Disease issues at the USDA-ARS Bee Research Laboratory”

Dr. Jay Evans will be giving us a summary of ongoing research on mites and viruses and a tour of the Bee Disease Diagnostics Service. The Beltsville Agricultural Research Center is located in Beltsville, MD. The mission of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center is to provide the American public with an exceptionally talented, highly interdisciplinary scientific community in the USDA's largest scientific installation, and leverage these resources to envision, create, and improve knowledge and technologies that enhance the capacity of the nation – and the world – to provide its people with healthy crops and animals; clean and renewable natural resources; sustainable agricultural systems; and agricultural commodities and products that are abundant, high-quality, and safe.



L/R - Dr. Jay Evans, Ryan Schwarzz

### REGISTRATION LINK

<http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/event/osba-live-webinar-training-jay-evans-usda-disease-testing-sending-samples/>

## Sunday, August 23, 7:00pm Danae Wolfe - OSU Educational Technology Specialist “High Magnification, Low Cost: Macro Garden Photography on a Budget”

Danae Wolfe is a digital engagement specialist, photographer, and conservation storyteller. She has over 10 years' experience designing and facilitating learning opportunities that span horticulture, digital engagement, and her personal passion of photography. In 2018, she was invited to speak at TEDxColumbus on the power of photography in fostering appreciation and conservation of insects and spiders and her talk has since been featured on TED.com. Her recent film, Chasing Bugs, explores the importance of insect conversation through interviews with world renowned entomologists. <https://www.facebook.com/chasingbugs/>



Contrary to popular belief, macro photography need not be expensive and need not require highly technical equipment or skills. With just a few simple tools and some practice, high magnification photography can be an accessible and fun way to show the world the tiniest details of your beehives. In this session, award-winning photographer Danae Wolfe, will uncover low cost macro photography tools while highlighting the techniques necessary for capturing intimate portraits of insects.



### REGISTRATION LINK

<http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/event/osba-live-webinar-training-danae-wolfe-high-magnification-low-cost-macro>

You're receiving this newsletter because you "accepted" the invitation through the newsgroup alert. This helps simplify the notifications of the upcoming speakers, presentations, and sending the links for the live webinar training events. You're welcome to share this newsletter with others. They are welcome to sign-up at <http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/contact-us/join-our-mailing-list/> We would like to ask for your feedback and what you might want to see in future presentations. Please take this [\(2-MINUTE SURVEY\)](#)

**Personal Side Note:** Thank you for staying with us as this has grown and taken on a life of its own. The events are well attended, such great feedback, and overall support you have shown. I greatly appreciate it!

## News from the Medina Soil & Water Conservation District

### *Demonstration Rain Garden in the Prairie*

Has it really ONLY BEEN A YEAR, since we installed the Demonstration Rain Garden in the Prairie? Have you been back to see it? NOW is a GREAT time to walk the native plant gardens around the building at Medina Soil & Water Conservation District 6090 Wedgewood Road. (next to the Medina County Home). The Rain garden in prairie has sooo many things in bloom right now! Our office is closed to the public but our native gardens are open from dawn til dusk. Take a self-guided tour: map at the front door

and information in holders along the path. Take a break to stroll in our native plant gardens, designed for pollinators. Maybe find a new native plant to put in your own yard. Bee part of the pollinator solution.



### *Rain Garden Workshop*

Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a digital workshop about rain gardens. Working within COVID restrictions, people can watch the online tutorials at their own pace. Medina SWCD staff are available for consultation by phone, email, and site visits with social distancing. Upon registering, participants will receive a packet with: Links to the 2-hour online tutorial: How a rain garden works & how to build one; 2 short digital rain garden tours' percolation test video; native seeds packet; 3 booklets: A Rain Garden Manual, Wildflowers of Ohio Guide, Flowers for Butterflies Guide; rain garden design examples; one page: How to Size and Dig your garden; graph paper for designing your garden; and native nurseries & flower lists. To register call 330-722-9322.

### *Fall Pollinator Native Plant Sale*

Orders are being taken through Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> for three kits: [prairie/sun](#), [woodland/shade](#), or [raingarden/wet](#). Half tray (4 species – 16 plants) \$50.00 and full tray ( 8 species – 32 plants) \$100.00. Pre-order by calling Natives in Harmony at (419) 688-9800, emailing ([gale@nativesinharmony.com](mailto:gale@nativesinharmony.com)), or sending the [order form](#) and check made payable to Natives in Harmony.

## 2020 MCBA Membership Application / Renewal

MCBA membership benefit – access to free webinars and lectures by local and national beekeeping experts organized by the MCBA as well as other northeast Ohio bee clubs.

Annual MCBA membership has two membership options \$20 for emailed newsletters 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 activities other than voting.

Renew your membership [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: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – August

As Paul wrote about in the 10-Minutes article, it's time to get serious about monitoring mite levels and, if necessary, treating for mites to make sure that your bees are healthy. Here are a few additional things to consider in August.

**Prevent robbing.** With little forage, bees can become aggressive as they defend their stores from robbers. Take the following precautions to minimize robbing during this time of dearth:

- Close cracks in hive bodies.
- Reduce hive manipulations. During inspections, have all equipment ready, work quickly, and open only one hive at a time. Cover the top of open hive bodies with a damp towel or sheet.
- Add a robbing screen to allow ventilation in the hive, while decreasing the area that the bees have to defend. This can help with robbers taking honey stores and from robbers infesting the hive with mites. Put screens on late at night or early in the morning so that foragers encounter the new entrance and exit pattern as they leave the hive.

**Trap wasps and yellow jackets.** At this time of the year, wasps and yellow jackets can start robbing precious honey stores. Put out wasp and yellow jacket traps to minimize impact on your colonies.

**Plan for treatments.** An information sheet created by the Honey Bee Health Coalition that lists effective management and medications for honey bee health follows.

**Take note of safety in your bee yard.** We have had reports of bee yard accidents that resulted in several northeast Ohio beekeepers receiving a life threatening number of stings.

# Bee Yard Safety

Safety in the bee yard is critical. Here are a few considerations for safety for beekeepers and their neighbors.

## Wear protective gear

Going out to "just take a quick look" at your bees without proper equipment can be a recipe for disaster. You don't know what you will encounter when you open a hive. A hive that was calm the last time you visited, could be agitated by robbing or animals. In addition to protecting you, having the proper equipment will give you confidence to concentrate and move calmly and quickly through your tasks. Wear your veil, pull long hair back into a pony tail, make sure your smoker is lit. If you don't wear a full bee suit, wear a light colored, loose fitting long sleeve shirt and long pants. Watch a video from the Ohio State Beekeepers Association about protective equipment.

## Set up your apiary in a safe manner and keep it tidy

Your hives should be set on flat land so there is no danger of tipping and falling over, which can result in a life-threatening amount of stings. Placing hives on individual stands helps to reduce noise and vibrations in adjacent hives when you work in your apiary. Your hives should not present a nuisance to neighbors - place hives where they not be seen; be aware of pools, foot paths, schoolyards, playgrounds, and livestock. Keep your apiary clean and tidy. Scan for possible tripping dangers before you start working.

## Carry a first aid kit and have a basic understanding of first aid

Put some basic first aid materials in your kit. If you have had an allergic reaction to bee stings, tuck in an antihistamine or an EpiPen if you need it. Make sure that you have water, a cell phone charger, and know the location of the nearest medical facility.

## Tell a friend when you go to your apiary and how long you intend to be there

If you are working in an outyard, make sure you tell somebody the location of your apiary and how long you intended to be there. Even if your apiary is in the back yard, let somebody know that you are going to work bees. If something happens, and you can't call for help, you want somebody to come look for you.

## Try to work hives on calm and sunny days

It is best to work hives on calm, sunny days between 10am and 3pm, when forager bees are outside of the hive. When rainy weather is approaching or after a rain shower, more bees will be in the hive, which can mean a greater likelihood for defensive behavior and stings. Do not work too late into the evening when most bees are back in the hive, not foraging. Try to work on days when the wind is low.

## Read more here:

Agriculture Victoria Safe Beekeeping Practices  
Apis Information Research Center  
Bayer Bee Care  
Honey Bee Suite



HONEY BEE  
HEALTH  
COALITION



## EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT & MEDICATIONS FOR HONEY BEE HEALTH IN THE U.S.

Please note that these controls and medications must be applied according to the labels, and in some cases, a Veterinary Feed Directive is required. If you are using ingredients or formulations that are not listed on the label, there's good reason why applying could be illegal and harmful to yourself and your bees.

### American Foulbrood Controls:

Highly recommended to burn the hive(s) if showing heavy infections as antibiotics are not effective against spores and will only mask the symptoms.

- **Oxytetracycline.** Terramycin® and Tetra-Bee Mix® are product names and these products require a Veterinary Feed Directive or prescription
- **Tylosin.** Can be difficult to find and requires a Veterinary Feed Directive or prescription (note that this control is difficult to find)
- **Lincomycin.** Requires a Veterinary Feed Directive or prescription. (note that this control is difficult to find)

### European Foulbrood Medications:

- **Oxytetracycline.** Terramycin® and Tetra-Bee Mix® are product names and these products require a Veterinary Feed Directive or prescription.

### Nosema:

- **Fumidil-B®.** Does not require a Veterinary Feed Directive or prescription. (Note: just came back on the market in 2019).

### Small Hive Beetles:

- **Checkmite+® (coumaphos).** Checkmite+® the product name and it can be difficult to find in bee supply stores. Does not require a Veterinary Feed Directive, but extreme caution should be used in applying this product.
- **GardStar® (permethrin).** Approved for use as a soil drench.

### Tracheal Mites Treatment:

- **Mite-A-Thol® (menthol).** Does not require a Veterinary Feed Directive or prescription.

### Varroa Mites Treatment:

The products that are approved for varroa mite control do not require a Veterinary Feed Directive, but they do require close reading of the labels for the appropriate season, temperature, and dosage.

- **Apiguard® (thymol)**
- **Apivar® (amitraz)**
- **Formic Pro™ (formic acid)**
- **Hopguard® II, (hops beta acids)**
- **ApiLife Var® (thymol and essential oils)**
- **Mite-Away® Quick Strips, (formic acid)**
- **Oxalic acid**

### Wax Moth:

- **Para-Moth® (paradichlorobenzene).** Does not require a Veterinary Feed Directive.
- **B402 Certan™ (*bacillus thuringiensis*).** A biological larvicide