

# THE BEE HERDER

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



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## MCBA Club Meetings

Join the MCBA to take advantage of a great lineup of virtual speakers. Information about how to become a member is included later in this newsletter.

### **September 14, 7:00 pm. Joe Kovalski discusses *Sustainable Overwintering* (Zoom Meeting)**

Join the call to hear Joe Kovalski, OSBA traveling trainer and long-time member of MCBA talk about one of the most important aspects of keeping bees successfully. Knowing what to look for and taking action going into winter play a huge role in sustainable beekeeping.

### **September 21, 7:00 pm. Randy Oliver discusses his *Latest Honey Bee Research* (Zoom Meeting)**

Randy Oliver owns one of the top websites in the world of Beekeeping, [Scientific Beekeeping](#). Randy explores every aspect of Beekeeping to learn what actually works, what doesn't work, and why. His website contains a treasure trove of information on diseases, mites, food, and best practices. Every issue is questioned and explored to help us better understand our bees.

### **October 18, 7:00 pm. Larry Connor discusses *Everything Queens!* (Zoom Meeting)**

Larry will discuss everything Queens! Details to follow.

Keep an eye on your email and the MCBA Facebook for upcoming events! Anyone can access the MCBA FB page.

# Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

The Bee Yard in Sept

## September– Look out for the Yellow Jackets!

I don't see them attacking my bees, but they are everywhere this year. Most I've ever seen. I don't dare drop anything bee related on the ground. Even far from the bees. Yikes!

Fall plants that the bees like are finally opening (writing this Sept 9). First saw some bees on the Goldenrod two days ago. A lot of wasps, hornets, bumblebees, and yellow jackets – and a few bees. On a bright note, I'm seeing increased activity for both nectar and pollen for the first time in several weeks.



*Honey Bee on Goldenrod*



*Honey Bee on Sweet Autumn Clematis*

Some of you may be familiar with Sweet Autumn Clematis. Grows 15-25 feet high first year, covered with beautiful white flowers in late Autumn and September. See the big one at QRC.

**Update:** I got a whiff of Goldenrod aroma from one of my hives today!

By the time you read this we will have watched the Zoom meeting on Sustainable Overwintering. Any advice to help us get our bees through the winter is **ALWAYS** appreciated. And it is especially important to newbees. Read stuff, listen, and then use your best judgement for what you think will work for you.

A final reminder to watch the mites! I check my inserts regularly this time of year. If I see any on the insert I do a shake or wash to double check. Same number of mites, a lot less brood, so the visible number can jump! ***It is very rewarding to see our newer beekeepers checking regularly.*** Years ago, I was the Varroa Mite King of Medina! (A dubious honor!) I kept thinking I was doing better, and then late fall... Yikes!!!



*Mite drop max was about 15-30 in 24 hrs. One of mine had more than that in the one little square! (Couple hundred squares per sticky board). Total 1,735 in 24 hrs.! I had to scramble to save the hive.*

## MCBA Club News

### *Nominations for Medina's club*

## Medina Beekeepers Needs Your Help!



Each year at this time MCBA asks our members to consider helping the club by serving on our Board. This year, 2020, we have a number of positions that are coming open. We regret losing some really good members from the board, but appreciate the time, energy, and ideas they have contributed to making MCBA grow and improve.

MCBA has 4 Officer positions and 3 Directors-at-Large. The officer positions are President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers have specific “duties” connected with their positions. The treasurer keeps our books, writes the checks, and manages most of our financial transactions. The secretary keeps the meeting minutes for the club meetings, the board meetings, and handles related communications. The Vice-President has the main responsibility for finding and scheduling our speakers. The President attempts to oversee all of the above and assist where needed.

The Directors-at-Large are positions to assist the club in planning and making decisions. Each director and each officer have one equal vote on all matters.

All officers and directors are encouraged to attend some of the club meetings and functions, for obvious reasons. There are approximately four board meetings per year.

At the time of this letter, we know that the Secretary, Treasurer, and one Director positions are open. Members interested in ANY of the club positions (things do change) should contact one of the members on the nominating committee (names listed below). The club accepts nominations starting today. The nominating committee will submit the names of nominees at the October meeting (by email or zoom this year). We then vote in November. We will probably use a virtual vote method (Survey Monkey) for the vote as well.

#### Nominating Committee

Sheila Mauer                      spmaurer01@gmail.com  
Laura Weber                      ljweber@zoominternet.net

Thank you for listening and please consider helping MCBA continue to excel.

Paul Kosmos

## MCBA Club News (continued...)

### Learning Opportunities

#### ***Ohio State Beekeeping Association (OSBA) Live Webinar Training***

The Ohio State Beekeeper's Association holds free, live Zoom conference calls on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from 7:00-8:30 pm. [Information about the webinar series can be found at this link.](#) Upcoming speakers include:

- **September 13** - Jeannie Saum "The Health Benefits and Value-Added Products of Hive Resources" [Register here.](#)
- **September 27** - Mike Retterer "Site Selection & Preparation for Pollinator Habitat" [Register here.](#)
- **Oct 11** – Denise Ellsworth, Program Director – Why native plants matter to bees"
- **Oct 25** – Krispn Given, Purdue University – Honeybee Breeding
- **Nov 8** – Mary Gardiner, Professor of Entomology – Urban Gardening for Pollinators
- **Nov 22** – Andrew Connor – What's Happening in Your Hive
- **Dec 13** – Cameron Jack, University of Florida – Oxalic Acid

#### ***Ohio State Beekeeping Association (OSBA) Fall Conference, November 7, 2020***

This year's OSBA fall conference will be virtual. Take a look at the OSBA website or Facebook page for more information, including how to register for the free event.



#### ***Medina County Park District Programming***

Take a look at the [website of the Medina County Park District](#) for a list of fall and

winter programs. Here are two programs that MCBA members and their families might enjoy.

##### **Trekking Through Autumn**

Self-guided hiking program that allows you to discover the beauty of autumn in the Medina County parks. Participants who hike at least eight (8) of the designated trails will receive an award, which are free for Medina County residents. [Click here to read more about the Trekking through Autumn program.](#)

##### **Monthly Maker series.**

Do you like to build or create things? Take the opportunity this fall to get creative and showcase your artistic endeavors along the trail at Wolf Creek Environmental Center. Each month will have a different theme, and every registered household will be provided an outdoor space to display what it makes. The September theme is mushrooms. [Click here to read more about the September program.](#)

## Pesticides and Honeybees

This information is from the Ohio State Beekeepers Association. [You can read more here](#) or on [this page of the OSBA website](#).

### How to report if you suspect that your honey bee colonies were affected by a chemical?

Honey bees can be affected by pesticides in several ways: by direct spray on them while they are foraging; drift into their colonies; or foraging on flowering plants or water that contains a pesticide. Several honey bee maladies can have symptoms that are similar to pesticide poisoning: *Nosema spp.*; varroa mite damage; viruses; and starvation. Check the colonies for these symptoms. If you suspect that one or more of your honey bee colonies has been affected by a chemical of some type, notify your local inspector to report the symptoms and extent of the injury, and call the Ohio Department of Agriculture Pesticide Section at 614-728-6987.

**IF YOU BELIEVE YOUR PROPERTY HAS BEEN DAMAGED OR CONTAMINATED BY A KNOWN PESTICIDE APPLICATION AND YOU WANT ODA TO INVESTIGATE AND ENFORCE THE OHIO PESTICIDE LAW:**

1. Contact ODA immediately 614-728-6987, [pesticides@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:pesticides@agri.ohio.gov). The longer you wait, the more difficult it will be for ODA to document violations for enforcement action.

2. You should record a detailed description of what you witnessed or what you believed happened.

When you record details about the drift incident, be sure to include:

- The date, time, and location the alleged drift incident occurred.
- The name of the pesticide applicator.
- The wind speed (gusty, high, low) and wind direction (toward or away from your property).
- Take several photos and be sure the photos include a time and date stamp. It may take 7-10 days for herbicide symptoms to appear. You will not usually notice any plant damage or symptoms from insecticides and fungicides.
- Detailed notes of every conversation, phone call, and correspondence related to the incident.
- If you did not see the pesticide application, but noticed injury to plants, honey bees, fish, landscaping, etc., write down the date and details of when you first noticed the injury.
- Collect 50-100 bees in or on the bottom board and freeze asap. Do not collect bees that have been lying on the ground if they have been there over a week, as they deteriorate quickly. Leave at least 100 bees inside the hives for ODA to collect.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture is responsible for regulating the sale, distribution, use and storage of pesticide products in Ohio. ODA also represents the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for inspection and investigation activities conducted under the federal pesticide law (FIFRA).

## The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – September

- As Paul mentioned in the 10-minutes article, yellowjackets can cause damage in bee yards this time of year. Hang a disposable or reusable trap or make your own. Here are links to two video with directions for making your own traps: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SyTTzl6w\\_ho](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SyTTzl6w_ho) and: <https://www.bobvila.com/articles/homemade-wasp-trap/>
- Measure mite counts and if needed, start treating.
- Put entrance reducers on your hives if you haven't already to decrease the area at the entrance and allow bees to more easily protect their colony. Entrance reducers also help discourage robbing by other colonies and reduce the spread of mites across colonies.
- When nightly temperatures fall to the 40s, put on mouse guards. According to the National Weather Services, we might be in for a cool ending to September.
- Check honey and pollen stores. Each hive will need 60-90 pounds of honey. That is 10 - 15 full frames of honey for 10-frame deep equipment and more frames than that for medium or 8-frame equipment.
- If needed, start feeding. After goldenrod and aster blooms, there won't be much nectar available. Feed a syrup of 2 parts sugar to 1-part water using an internal feeder. Here is a link to information written by a northeast Ohio beekeeper about feeding and preparing for winter <https://www.beeculture.com/winter-starts-today-ignore-these-practices-at-your-bees-peril/>



**NWS Cleveland** @NWSC... · 3h ✓  
Cooler than normal temperatures are on their way! 🇺🇸 The latest temperature outlook has about a 50 to 60% chance of below normal temperatures as we head into the second week of September. Who's ready for Fall? 🍂 #OHwx #PAwx



7 27 104

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Spicebush Swallowtail: Master of Disguise

Shelley Tender, Interpretive Services  
Manager  
Medina County Park District  
September 4, 2020



# Medina County Park District

Our Ohio landscape is graced by the presence of six different species of swallowtail butterflies. These delicate, beautifully decorated creatures belong to the family of butterflies known as Papilionidae, which contains over 550 species worldwide. The majority of these large lovelies are tropical, but every continent except Antarctica is fortunate to have several representative species.

In my opinion, the spicebush swallowtail butterfly, *Papilio troilus*, is one of Ohio's most beautiful and interesting swallowtails. Its name is derived from its most common host plant, the spicebush, *Lindera benzoin*, and it is relatively common in natural areas and flower gardens throughout the eastern and parts of the mid-western United States.

Spicebush Swallowtails are masters of deception and camouflage in every stage of their lifecycle. As adults, they exercise Batesian mimicry by resembling a distant relative – the Pipevine Swallowtail. Pipevine Swallowtail larvae feed on plants that contain aristolochic acids. The ingested acids are passed on to future butterflies through each of their life stages and make them distasteful to predators. By adorning a similar color pattern, the Spicebush confuses its potential assailants and is provided some protection from being preyed upon.



But the deception doesn't end there!

After mating, females lay single eggs on the underside of host plant leaves, Spicebush or Sassafras. As they exit their eggs, the diminutive hatchling caterpillars set to work devouring as much of the leaves as they can and continually growing through five stages called instars.



Between each instar they stop eating, shed their outer skin, and get larger. Instars one through four are cleverly camouflaged by way of resembling bird droppings. As if that wasn't protection enough, they have the ability to hide themselves in cozy leaf shelters that they make themselves. They do this by exuding silk from their body and stretching it out along the midrib of the leaf. As the silk dries it contracts, causing the leaf to curl over the larvae. Talk about being snug as a bug in a rug ... wow!

The fifth and final instar isn't content to keep its juvenile wardrobe, opting instead to turning a bright green color and sporting a swollen thorax and large false eyespots. In so doing, it achieves a snakelike appearance.



If the clever camo and sheltering in place do not work, they have yet another defense mechanism to employ. At each of the larval stages, they are equipped with a set of bright yellow-to orange horn-like organs called osmeteria. When threatened, the larva rear up and smear the potential predator with a chemical repellent. Ugh!



As the final instar larva prepares for pupation, it dons another cryptic disguise. The caterpillar turns a muted orange-yellow color. It is believed they do this to more closely resemble the leaf litter that it crawls around on when looking for a suitable site in which to anchor itself before forming the chrysalis.

But wait ... there's more! To stay consistent with its trickery, the chrysalis itself resembles a leaf. I think it is safe to say that the spicebush swallowtail



wins the costume contest, don't you?