

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



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MCBA Club Meetings

Join the MCBA to take advantage of a great lineup of virtual speakers. Start or renew your membership [online here](#) or by sending in the membership form included later in this newsletter.

October 18, Virtual Zoom Meeting – Larry Connor – *Everything Queens*

Dr. Larry Connor is an entomologist and author. He earned his doctorate at Michigan State University. He founded and operates Wicwas Press, specializing in publication of quality bee books. He has written many books, including Increase Essentials (2006), Bee Sex Essentials (2008), Queen Rearing Essentials, Bee-sentials: A Field Guide, Swarm Essentials (with Steve Repasky), Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping (with Dewey Caron), Increase Essentials Second Edition and Mating Biology of honey bees (with G. and N. Koeniger and J. Ellis). In 2019 he published Keeping Bees Alive and in 2020 he released Package Essentials.

November 16, 7:00 – 8:30 pm - Virtual Zoom Meeting – Jamie Ellis, *Worker Honey Bee Behaviors*

Jamie Ellis is a Professor of Entomology in the Department of at the University of Florida. At the University of Florida, Jamie and his team have over 30 research projects involving honey bees. He also teaches and supervises PhD and masters students. husbandry, conservation and ecology, and integrated crop pollination. Jamie also writes the Q & A articles for American Bee Journal.

Keep an eye on your email and the MCBA Facebook for information on speakers for upcoming meetings.

Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

The Bee Yard in Oct

October – It's **ALL** about Food

Before we talk about food stores, a few thoughts for October beekeeping. It is time to **STOP INSPECTING YOUR HIVES** - unless you have a specific reason for doing so. With the colder weather the bees are going to propolise all the cracks and seams to make their home secure against the elements. If you break it apart it may be too cold to redo the damage. And, heaven forbid you should accidentally injure your queen. It is very difficult to find or introduce a new queen this late.

That said, you do need to check food stores NOW so you will know how to help your hive. Some will find full frames in their deeps, especially the top deep. You can do a quick inspection (Don't dawdle – 60 degrees can chill brood), and count the frames of food. The target is 7 to 9 full frames of food.

Some prefer the “lift” test. Lift the back of the hive. If ready it should be very heavy (150-160 lbs.). Some people use a scale to weigh their hives. Either way you double the number since only lifting one end of the hive.



Weighing a Hive

If you find your hive does not have enough frames full of honey, you have to feed them 2:1 SS. **Fast and lots at a time.** Inside feeding covered with a spare box is important to prevent robbing. One gallon of sugar syrup equals about one frame of food.



Like This – but 3 to 4 jars at a Time!!!

Hive top feeders also work well, but you have to open the hive to refill.

The temperatures this week are 50-60 for highs and 38-48 at night. It's time to put your mouse guards on. Store bought, holes, adjustable, or ½ inch wire mesh folded and inserted into the entrance. They all work well.

Don't forget to enjoy your bees while you can! Soon they will be quiet, and you will be going out to listen and check to make sure they are OK. IT's a really good feeling!

MCBA Club News

It's Time for Elections!

This year we have one director position up for election. Directors are important to set policies and plan and assist with events. Directors typically attend three to four board meetings each year. The three Directors and four Officers have equal votes in determining the direction for the club.

If you are interested in helping the club by being a director, please notify Sheila Mauer or Laura Weber as soon as possible. We normally announce the candidates at the October meeting and vote at the November meeting. Thank you for considering your possible role as a director to help MCBA continue to grow and improve.

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:

- **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 held on November 7 in a virtual format. The conference is free but you must register. Take a look at the OSBA website or Facebook page for more information, including how to register for the free event.

<https://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/event/osba-virtual-fall-conference-2020/>



The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – October

- Measure mite counts and if needed, treat! Even if you treated for mites in the summer, things can still go awry. If you reach the threshold for the season, which is 2% to 3%, treat.
- Many of our members use oxalic acid vaporization or oxalic acid dribble at this time of the year to treat for varroa mites.
- You can find more information in the Honey Bee Healthy Coalition guide: https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/HBHC-Guide_Varroa-Interactive-PDF.pdf

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: _____