

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.

December 21, 7:00 PM Virtual Zoom Meeting - Jenny Harper, Cooking with Honey

Join us for a fun presentation about cooking with honey from an expert in the world of cooking!

Jenny worked for Nestlé USA, based in Solon, OH, for over 32 years. During her tenure, she worked in a variety of jobs from developing preparation directions for STOUFFER'S® and LEAN CUISINE® product lines to product development for a variety of frozen, refrigerated and shelf stable Nestlé products. During her last 23 years with Nestlé, she worked in and managed the Test Kitchen on such brands as NESTLÉ® TOLL HOUSE® (morsels and baking ingredients), CARNATION® Milks and LIBBY'S® Pumpkin. She was responsible for consumer recipe development on the baking website, VeryBestBaking.com.

Jenny has a passion for food history and culture. She loves sharing this knowledge with others and feels there is much left to learn. Many opportunities came her way for travel all over the world, cooking and sampling foods in many kitchens - Germany, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico and South Africa. When not in the kitchen, she enjoys gardening, spending time with family and friends and keeping up with all things food related!

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

Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

The Bee Yard in November

By the time you read this your hives should be buttoned up and ready to make it through winter. There will not be much to do actively for a while. Some of you may wish to treat a last time for varroa since there will be little brood in the hive, which makes it more effective. But perhaps not if you just treated in October?

There are a few things for you to keep an eye on. The first would be deep snow. Some beekeepers will take a walk and remove the snow from the entrance if covered (the reason for cutting a hole in the wrap for the upper entrance).

Make an occasional visit to peek at the entrance to check for dead bees. It is normal to find some dead bees near the entrance when it gets cold. I already see a few each morning. The workers drag them down but it is too cold to fly and carry them away. If you see a build up behind your mouse guard you may want to remove it and gently scrape the dead bees out with a stick. This is not often necessary, but sometimes things happen or the entrance gets blocked.



Dead Bees Blocking the Entrance

Another thing you may notice on a warm day is lots of **yellow spots** on the snow! Yes, it's your bees taking a pee break and is normal. You may also see those dead bees scattered around.



Don't Eat Yellow Snow!

Put several heavy bricks on top your hive! If your hive is tall, such as a nuc with three boxes, even three bricks! Or use a strap to the ground. It may be heavy but as the bees use honey and move up it gets heavier on top, and the wind can blow it over.



Several Bricks on Top

I often walk by my hives and put my ear to the side. You can hear the faint buzz which means they are still there. If not sure a **LIGHT** tap on the side will yield a more noticeable buzz. In fact, try it sometime on a warm day. You will be amazed at the racket they make. It's hard to believe tiny bees are making such so much noise.

Learning Opportunities

[Follow up Materials from the MCBA November 16, 2020 Webinar](#)

One of the benefits of MCBA membership is access to high quality speakers, which in these times are conducted in an online format. On Monday, November 16, the MCBA hosted Dr. Jamie Ellis, who gave an interesting talk about the role of worker bees. Dr. Ellis reminded the audience to visit the University of [Florida Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab](#) website to learn more about the work of the lab, resources available for beekeepers, and a link to listen to the [Two Bees in a Podcast](#). Click on the photo to read Dr. Ellis' 2015 article in the American Bee Journal about worker honey bees.



Worker honey bees are marvelous creatures. These females could have been queens, had their older sisters simply fed them more food while they were developing as larvae. The amount and

somewhat of a chronological order, as long as one remembers (1) workers may skip tasks, (2) workers perform many tasks at each age, and (3) workers spend more time resting and patrolling the nest than they do

task – after all, they cannot feed larvae without being able to produce brood food. Given that worker honey bees perform the vast majority of essential tasks in the colony, their activity ensures that the colony has all of its

[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:

- **Nov 22** – Andrew Connor – What's Happening in Your Hive
- **Dec 13** – Cameron Jack, University of Florida – Oxalic Acid

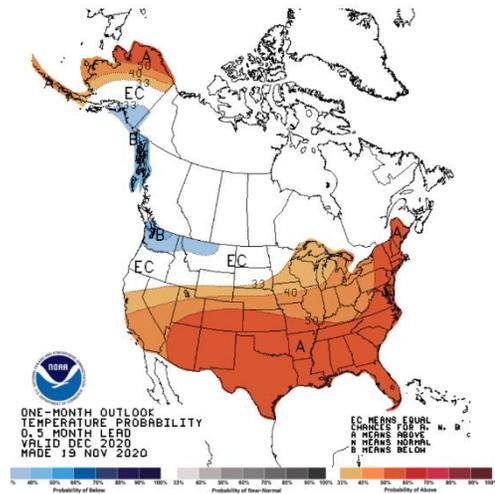
OSBA Ohio 4-Partnership Program

Two applicants from Medina County have applied and hope to be chosen for the OSBA 4-H program. Natalie Cunningham, daughter of Becky Cunningham is an MCBA member and a member of 4-H. Chloe Howard is also a member of Ohio 4-H. The winner(s) receive a set of equipment, tools, and protective gear from OSBA. Winners supply their own bees for their hives, attend a beekeeping class, work to keep two colonies throughout the season, engage with a mentor from MCBA, and provide updates to the OSBA newsletter. We wish them both good luck!

The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – November

The National Weather Service 30-day forecast suggests a temperature outlook for December 2020 with above normal mean temperatures and above normal precipitation in northeast Ohio. Hopefully we will have a mild Thanksgiving weekend for to take care of bee business before the cold really sets in.

- With hives essentially broodless, November and December are good times to use oxalic acid for mite control. You can apply vaporized oxalic acid when temperatures are in the upper 40s and warmer.
- Tip hives a little bit forward to allow any water that might accumulate to drip out the front entrance.
- Insulate your hives in one of the following ways:
 - Wrap hives with tar paper - use all-weather/outdoor duct tape to tape the tar paper around the hive. Make sure not to cover the bottom or upper entrances.
 - Tie rigid insulation around three sides with string or cords, leaving the front of the hive un-insulated.
- Put a piece of insulation over the inner cover, under the hive cover.
- Leave an upper entrance for ventilation; slide a shim under the top cover for ventilation.



2021 MCBA Membership Application / Renewal

Let's close out 2020 and start 2021 on the right foot – with MCBA membership fees paid. In this distanced COVID time, MCBA offers beekeepers many benefits – access to webinars and lectures by local and national beekeeping experts organized by the MCBA and other northeast Ohio bee clubs, our monthly newsletter, and email updates with timely information.

Choose the \$20 option for emailed newsletters or the \$25 option if you would like to receive 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: _____