

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



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Our June MCBA Meeting Will be In-Person!!!

The June meeting will be LIVE and IN-PERSON 7:00 – 8:30 pm at our usual meeting location at:

Williams on the Lake
787 Lafayette Rd,
Medina OH 44256.

It has been 16 long months since our last meeting. We are very excited to see all your smiling faces and meet some of our new members. We are planning to Zoom the meeting as well for the benefit of those who may be able to attend. Watch for further announcements about the Meeting.

June 21, Laurene Keil, Safety in the Bee Yard

Laurene is a long-time member of Medina Beekeepers and has also served as President of Stark County Beekeepers. Laurene has combined her love of bees with her nursing background to create this discussion about safety in the bee yard. The last few years we have seen an increase in bee yard incidents, including reactions to bee stings and bees inside a veil. Those incidents are manageable provided we know what to do if something happens. Laurene will help us learn how to be safe if these types of incidents should occur.

July 19, Medina County Fair Clean Up Day

Join us at the Medina County Fairgrounds to help us set up the booth for the fair in August. **Plan for 6 pm.** Please notify Peggy if you can help out. Good time to talk a little bee talk!

Ten Minutes with the Bees

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

The Bee Yard in June

Bees Can do the Darndest Things!

You go out to inspect your bees on a nice day in June. You have a few minutes and decide it's a good day to take a quick look at your bees. But when you open your hive you say... What are they doing now?

It happens to all of us. One of this year's beginners sent me a couple of pictures this week. One of her hives swarmed and when she checked her hive, she found all kinds of wild vertical comb (bands of comb drawn vertically, filled with drone brood), right next to beautiful regular brood.



Rows of Vertical Drone Brood next to Brood

Here is another one...



Most beekeepers recognize burr comb. Bees build it above and below frames, sometimes between frames. Most often burr comb is shallow. Stick your hive tool into it and check it.

Cross comb, on the other hand is deep, long, and almost always filled with drones or maybe honey. What should you do about it? First, check your new hives regularly. You can't stop them, but if you catch it early you can remove it and encourage them to finish drawing regular comb. Just scrape off the "bad" comb. Then check in a couple days to make sure they have learned their lesson!

Want to see another example of strange comb?



Burr Comb with a Queen Cell on Top!

This picture was taken by a bee inspector when he opened a hive for inspection. Pretty interesting, yes?

The simple truth is that the bees are just doing their "thing" and if it doesn't match what we read in the book we think it's weird!

Please continue to send me unique pictures of life in your bee hives. In addition to being interesting it's how we continue to learn as well!

MCBA Treasurer Position is Open

Tim's schedule became too busy to continue in the position. If you are interested in serving as treasurer for the club, contact Paul Kosmos pkosmos@frontier.com. We appreciate Tim's efforts to help the club.

Helpers Needed to Man the Booth at the Medina Fair

We need volunteers to work the booth at the Fair, August 2-8. It's a lot of fun, you get to talk bees, and also to impress visitors with your vast knowledge about Honey Bees! Please let Peggy know! We also have room for sellers!



A Call for Mentors to Help New Beekeepers

The board is preparing guidelines to assist those who would like to help mentor a new beekeeper and to guide a new beekeeper's expectations. Much of our mentoring is accomplished "online" but there are times when a personal visit is best or when you might want to invite a new member to observe a proper inspection. If you are interested, contact one of the board members.

Pollinator Week

June 21-27, 2021 is National Pollinator Week, the week designated by the U.S. Senate to celebrate pollinators and address the decline of pollinator populations. Pollinator Week is an international celebration. Read more about the work of the Pollinator Partnership, resources, and programs. <https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week>



One of the virtual activities is a map of [My Pollinators My Story Submissions](#). Gardeners report on their pollinator gardens and show the pollinators they are attracting. Are your plants growing and blooming? Which pollinators are visiting? Submit your story!

[Pollinator Power Party](#) is a virtual event, held June 21 through June 26, 2021 that celebrates pollinators and the role that electric power companies have in protecting them. The event includes activities, scientific lectures, a celebrity cooking class, pollinator art and culture, habitat management stories, and gardening tips. According to the event's website, over 1.2 million people participated in the first Pollinator Power Party 2020, 84% of whom said they learned something that changed how they think of feel about pollinators. The [website has more information and registration information](#). Post selfies, recipes, and photos on social media #PowerinPollinators.



2021 Northeast Ohio Pollinator Symposium – Winter Series

The Northeast Ohio Pollinator Symposium was presented by The Ashtabula County Master Gardeners, The Ashtabula County Beekeepers Association, The Ashtabula County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Ohio State University Extension – Ashtabula County. In the spirit of celebrating Pollinator Week, you might wish to listen to the recordings by using the links below

NORTHEAST OHIO POLLINATOR SYMPOSIUM



[2021 Northeast Ohio Pollinator Symposium – Winter Series](#)

- *Why Native Plants Matter to Bees and Other Wildlife*, Denise Ellsworth, Program Director of Pollinator Education, OSU
- *Invasives-Identification, Eradication, and Native Alternatives*, Rees Davis, Master Gardener, and Andrew Holden, Educator, Ag & Natural Resources for CFAES Ashtabula County OSU Extension
- *Who are the (Non Bee) Pollinators in Your Neighborhood?*, Judy Semroc, CMNH Conservation Specialist
- *Harvesting and Planting Native Seeds*, Red Beet Row, Agroecology Education Farm
- *Our Pollinator Picks for Your Native Garden*, Carol Blake, Master Gardener and Encie Moroski, Master Gardener

The Northeast Ohio Bee Yard – June

- The summer flow has started. Black locust is blooming. Linden (basswood) is almost re. We should see nectar coming in from basswood at the end of the month through very early July, at which time the early summer flow in northeast Ohio will be just about over. When frames in honey supers 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.
- If you started with a package of bees this spring, the colony should be well on its way to drawing out and filling the second brood box.
- Do you know the mite count in your colonies? Do an alcohol wash to check on the mite situation. Decide whether you need to treat for varroa, and if so, which treatments you will use and when the label recommends its use. Order supplies now so that you are ready when you need them.
- 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 emerge – and mites to continue to reproduce.



Linden / Basswood (Tilia Americana) almost ready to bloom – June 9, 2021

You caught a swarm – now what?

I've been putting swarm boxes into trees for the past three years with no luck – until this week! Our MCBA friends gave the flowing advice to hive the swarm: leave the bees in the swarm box for a few days to establish brood before moving them...and...to move the swarm the day that I caught them. Luckily, I didn't have to choose, because the swarm had been there long enough to draw comb and lay brood by the time that I'd realized they were there. Advice for when you catch your first swarm:

- As you hang your swarm box, think about how you will take it down when its full of bees. You will need to close the entrance fully and safely maneuver a heavy box full of bees from its location.
- To move the bees, collect: a sheet, hive tool, smoker, bungee cords or straps, full hive set (bottom board, body, lid), frames to fill the hive body (swarms love to draw comb so foundation is fine), a frame of brood if available, something to fully close the entrance, sugar water, and a pollen patty.
- Set a bottom board and hive body onto the sheet near the tree with the swarm box. Take the swarm box from the tree, open the lid, and give a strong shake into the hive body. Lay the swarm box with the opening near the hive entrance. If the queen is in the hive, the bees will fan at the entrance and those still in the swarm box will march into the new location. It really is an amazing sight.
- Add a pollen patty and a reason to stay - brood that was laid in the swarm box or a frame of brood from a different colony.
- Strap the new hive together, close the entrance, and move it to its permanent location. Once there, add sugar water. Remove the pollen patty and sugar water when the bees stop taking it.



Observation hive at the Medina County District Library

The Bees are Back!

The library bees are back and the crowds (both young and old) are really enjoying them. Peggy Garnes installed them a week ago and check out this picture! Kudos to Peggy!

2021 MCBA Membership Application/Renewal

MCBA offers webinars and lectures by local and national beekeeping experts organized by the MCBA and other bee clubs, a monthly newsletter, and email updates with timely information. Membership is \$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: _____