

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



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SEPTEMBER MEETING

Tim Moore, Monitoring and Treating Varro Mites
Monday, September 20, 7:00pm-8:30pm

Tim Moore is known to many of you. He is a commercial Beekeeper who also happens to be one of the most successful beekeepers in the area. To say that you have to be able to manage Varroa, and keep your hives alive over the winter. Tim excels at both.

We asked Tim to give this talk since he has a system that works. There is so much crazy information flying around out there – treating every month, for example – that we thought a successful and thoughtful approach would help you sleep nights! Masks may be required - we'll advise.

Location: Williams on the Lake, 787 Lafayette Road,
Medina OH, 44256

OCTOBER MEETING

Holly Krieger, Making Creative Soaps
Monday, October 18, 7:00pm-8:30pm

Holly, owner of Mae Bee Honey Company, has been making beautiful candles and soaps as part of her growing business. Holly will share her tips with you and explain how she make various soaps.

Location: Williams on the Lake, 787 Lafayette Road,
Medina OH, 44256

NOVEMBER MEETING

Monday, November 15, 7:00pm-8:30pm
TBA

TEN MINUTES WITH THE BEES

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

The Bee Yard in August

It is time to think seriously about Winter.

August is an in-between month for caring for your bees. The two main concerns are Varroa (always) and food supplies for winter. Today is August 11. If you inspect your hives you will probably find quite a few frames of brood, with lots of capped brood. Sometimes as many as 5-7 full frames of brood. By the end of this month into early September that number will drop dramatically. Many are the calls saying they think they lost their queen. No, it's just the bees reducing brood rearing in preparation for winter.



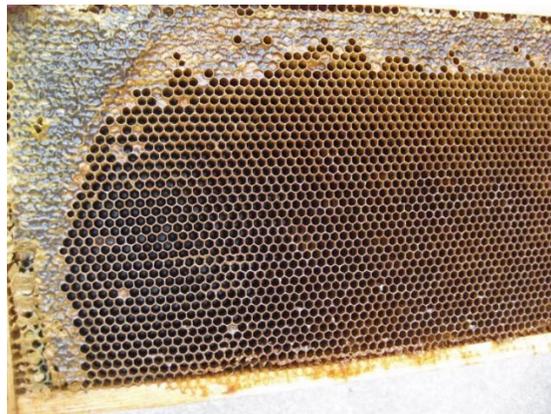
Frames of Capped Brood in August

So, what should we be doing? Keep an eye on the frames of food in your hive. By late August the lower deep is often almost empty. That's normal. Depending on the year, the frames of food in the upper deep can vary widely. You will want 50-60 lbs. of food stored for winter. At 7 lbs. per frame, that means at least 8 - 9 full frames of food. The majority of those frames need to be in the upper deep, available as the cluster moves up during the winter.

Early September is Goldenrod Season. In a good year hives can fill every frame in the brood boxes

and even some supers. In a poor year hives sometimes have to be fed heavy sugar syrup to provide enough food.

Goldenrod is already beginning to bloom as we speak and hopes are for a good crop this year.



Typical Bottom Frame by September

As you think about the now open frames of comb, think about Varroa as well. There are about 6,800 cells on the deep frame shown above. As your hive goes from 7 frames of brood down to one or two, that opens up 30-40,000 cells! And where are 70-80% of the mites in your hives? Under the capped cells! That is why we seem to see an explosion of mites by September. If you have a problem, they have been there all along.

Use the method of your choice, but **DO Monitor** for mites. Sugar shake and alcohol wash are the preferred methods. By September, sometimes even natural drop on the insert can help. If you see mites, you need to take action. Oxalic Acid, drip or vapor methods both work well. Formic Pro also gets good reviews.

**A strong hive with few mites
and lots of healthy winter bees
in September means a strong
hive in Spring.**

The Medina County 2021 Fair is History

The 2021 Fair was a huge success! Attendance was strong, and may have topped 100,000 visitors! Coupled with absolutely perfect weather, it made for a great time.

Our MCBA booth was the best-looking booth in the fair – again. Row upon row of colorful jars of honey and honey products made us proud to represent Medina Beekeepers. It also made us appreciate all of the hard work that went into making the fair such a success.



The Booth Area Looked Fantastic!

And the crowds made the fair a success for the club. Sales were strong all week, which gives the club funds to continue to bring in top speakers.

We **Thank All the Members** who helped to make the Fair a success. That is especially true this year as the Fair celebrated its

**175th
Year!**



Crowds at the Fair



Sheila at the Observation Hive!

MEDINA COUNTY FAIR 2019 BEE AND BAKERY WINNERS

Extracted Honey (white) pfund scale 0-34 mm (3) one-pound jars in glass.

- 1st Peggy Garnes
- 2nd Elk Creek Honey Farm
- 3rd Jay Hadam

Extracted Honey (light amber) pfund scale 35-85 mm (3) one-pound jars in glass.

- 1st Jay Hadam
- 2nd Brenda Disbrow
- 3rd Elk Creek Honey Farm

Amber Extracted Honey (dark amber) pfund scale 86 mm & above (3) one-pound jars in glass.

- 1st Jay Hadam
- 2nd Richard Sprague

Creamed Honey (3) one-pound jars in glass.

- 1st Peggy Garnes
- 2nd Bruce Pohl

Chunk Honey (3) one-pound wide mouth jars in glass.

- 1st Jay Hadam – **Best in show!**

Comb Honey (3) round plastic sections in manufacturer container.

- 1st Jay Hadam
- 2nd Elk Creek Honey Farm

Candles, Molded; two pairs (4 identical pieces) weight of exhibit not to exceed 10 lbs.

- 1st Elk Creek Honey Farm
- 2nd Evona Gaughan
- 3rd Bruce Pohl

Bees Wax—1 lb. minimum.

- 1st Elk Creek Honey Farm
- 2nd Evona Gaughan
- 3rd Bruce Pohl

Hand Cream 3 uniform 2 oz. clear containers (recipe of beeswax, honey, propolis, pollen)

- 1st Evona Gaughan

Lip Balm 3 uniform clear lip balm pots (recipe of beeswax, honey, propolis, pollen)

- 1st Angelina Sheetz
- 2nd Evona Gaughan

Soap 3 uniform bars, handmade lye based (recipe of bees-wax, honey, propolis, pollen).

- 1st Elk Creek Honey Farm

Gift Basket
1st Evona Gaughan

Honey Cookies—six cookies, recipe attached
1st Connie Adams – **Best in show!**
2nd Susan Stearns
3rd Carole Linter

Honey Cake—one layer, not frosted or glazed, recipe attached
1st Celeste Beohmerle
2nd Nancy Pound

Honey Yeast Bread—one loaf, recipe attached
1st Kim Craiss

More Excitement from the Medina County Fair

Our members won numerous awards for their expertise in a number of contests, including Knitting, Honey, Honey Wine, Creamed or Churned Honey, among others.



Kim Barkfelt - **Best of Show** for her Knitted Vest



Jay Hadam **1st Place** for his Honey Wine



Peggy Garnes **1st Place** for Creamed Honey



Kim Barfelt **1st Place** for her Knitted Shawl

MCBA CLUB NEWS

MCBA Bee Yard

No news this month from the bee yard.

Volunteers for Library Hive Maintenance

The library hive has been serviced. The club is looking for members to join the maintenance team.

Borrow the Bee Club Extractor

MCBA members can rent the club's extractor and filtering equipment for three days for a deposit of \$20, of which \$10 is refunded upon the return of the cleaned equipment. Call Peggy at 330-723-6265 to reserve your spot today.

MCBA Treasurer Position is Open

If you are interested in serving as treasurer for the club, contact Paul Kosmos(pkosmos@frontier.com).

2021 MCBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

MCBA offers webinars and lectures, a monthly newsletter, the opportunity to sell honey at the county fair, and email updates. \$20 for emailed or \$25 for a printed, mailed newsletter. Membership provides one vote in 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: _____

MITE-A-THON

Mite-A-Thon is a tri-national effort to collect mite infestation data and to visualize *Varroa* infestations in honey bee colonies across North America within a two-week window. The more beekeepers participate, the richer the distribution of sampling sites and the more accurate the data for our region. Please consider participating in the summer testing period, which runs August 14th - 29th, 2021.



To participate, measure the number of mites per 100 bees using a standardized protocol with either the alcohol wash or powdered sugar roll methods. Go to the website (www.mitecheck.com) or use the MiteCheck app (available on Google Play and the Apple App Store) to enter hive location, total number of hives, number of hives tested, local habitat, and the number of Varroa mites counted from each hive. The published information will not identify individual participants.

Read the [report of the 2020 Mite-A-Thon here](#).



US HONEY BEE COLONY LOSSES 2020-21: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The Bee Informed Partnership (<http://beeinformed.org>) has released the [preliminary findings of the 2020-2021 National Colony Loss and Management Survey](#). The results are based on the responses of 3,347 United States

beekeepers who collectively manage almost 200,000 colonies, 7% of the estimated 2.71 million US managed honey-producing colonies.

- Winter 2020-2021 - 32% loss (almost 10 percentage points higher than winter 2019-2020)
- Summer 2020 – 31% loss (slightly lower than summer 2019 loss; 8% points higher than average since 2010)
- Entire year 2020-2021 – 46% loss (2nd highest loss on record, 6% points higher than 10-year average)
- Ohio – 41% loss
- High loss rates require beekeepers to create new colonies every year by splitting strong colonies, purchasing packaged bees or nucleus colonies (nucs), and/or catching swarms.

