

THE BEE HERDER

Published by Medina County Beekeepers Association – September 2021

www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



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MCBA CLUB MEETINGS LOCATION:

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

Question and answer period begins at 6:30pm
Presentation begins at 7:00pm.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

Tim Moore, Methods for controlling Varroa Mites

Tim Moore is one of the most successful commercial beekeepers in the area. To be as successful as he is, you have to manage Varroa and keep your hives alive over the winter. Tim excels at both. Tim will discuss the system that has worked for him for many years. 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!

OCTOBER 18, 2021

Holly Krieger, Making Creative Soaps,

Holly, owner of Mae Bee Honey Company, received a BS degree in Zoology in 2010 and has worked in the animal industry for over 15 years. She completed a certified pollinator advocate program at OSU and her home is a Certified Wildlife Habitat. Holly and her husband got their first hive after returning to the Midwest from the beehive state (Utah)—and in 2018 Mae Bee Honey Company was born. What began as a way to supply friends and family with honey has grown into a small 11-hive business selling honey and pollen, making cosmetics, and creating beautiful soaps and beeswax candles.

TEN MINUTES WITH THE BEES

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

The Bee Yard in September

It is still time to think seriously about Winter. But before then, there are a number of issues that are more fun, or at least more interesting to talk about. For example, are you smelling any Goldenrod honey yet? I have just started to notice it and the plants are in full bloom, so here's hoping! Oh, and by the way, Goldenrod Nectar is hard to miss – because it smells pretty bad. **IT IS NOT A DISEASE OR FOULBROOD!!!**



Honey Bees on Goldenrod

Another flower that I always mention this time of year is Wingstem, a late blooming wild flower that the bees just love. It blooms in early August, has lots of bright yellow flowers. As much as the bees like Goldenrod, they love Wingstem even more. I find many more bees on this plant than even Goldenrod. But Goldenrod is better for nectar. You can see it in fields, and along roadsides (5-6 ft). I can get you seeds if interested.



Honey Bees on Wingstem

New beekeepers ask when to put on mouse guards. Some say to put them on Labor Day weekend, but I find it varies with the weather. I like to leave the entrance open for increased bee activity in the Goldenrod flow. Once the temperature drops to 55 or so at night on a regular basis, it's probably time.

Another question is **“Do I need to do anything about wax moths?”** The answer for the backyard beekeepers is “Yes”, but it's easy. Any frames that you remove from the hive (such as honey supers) put back on the hive on top the inner cover for the bees to clean up. Only takes a couple days. Once clean, cover and store in a clean dry place. **CHECK THEM A WEEK TO TEN DAYS LATER** - just to be sure. If you find a larva, remove it (them) and you are good to go. Some place frames in a freezer for two days to be sure.



Damage from Wax Moth Larvae

Thought I'd skip it this month? No way! This is the last good chance you'll get to check and/or treat for mites!

PHOTOGRAPHY CORNER

Mark Wygonski, first year MCBA member, captured this beautiful photo while trying out a new lens for his camera! Mark used a Canon EOS R6 and is planning on using the newest Canon Macro lens!



MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOMED

Please contribute to the newsletter. If you have photographs, stories, information, research, recipes or any other ideas for our newsletter, please [email the editor](#). We would love to highlight our members' work in the newsletter.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

OSBA Live Webinar Training

The Ohio State Beekeeping Association Live Webinar Training is on the 4th Sunday of each month at 7:00 pm and is FREE to attend. We are using Zoom to conference up to 500 available spots per presentation. Read more: <http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/live-webinar-training-2/>

- **September 26** – Mrs. Emily Mueller “A Cut A-Buzz” <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/live-webinar-training-mrs-emily-mueller-a-cut-a-buzz-tickets-169790679493>
- **October 24** – Ph.D. Zachary Huang “How do bees see flowers differently?” <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dr-zachary-huang-how-do-bees-see-flowers-differently-tickets-169733370079>
- **November 28** – Mr. Dylan Westrick “Mead Making Artistry”
- **December 26** – Open Forum “Christmas Special Presentation”

OSBA Fall Conference



Check the OSBA website for registration information: <http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/>

MCBA CLUB NEWS

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 with return of cleaned equipment. Call Peggy at 330-723-6265.

MCBA Treasurer Position is Open

To learn more, contact Paul Kosmos(pkosmos@frontier.com).

THE NORTHEAST OHIO BEE YARD – SEPTEMBER

- 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 and: <https://www.bobvila.com/articles/homemade-wasp-trap/>
- Measure mite counts and if needed, treat.
- Put entrance reducers on your hives to decrease the area at the entrance and allow bees to more easily protect their colony. Entrance reducers also help discourage robbing.
- When nightly temperatures fall to the 50s, put on mouse guards.
- 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 for medium or 8-frame equipment.
- If needed, start feeding. After goldenrod and aster, 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.beeeculture.com/winter-starts-today-ignore-these-practices-at-your-bees-peril/>



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: _____

GLORIOUS GOLDENRODS

Shelley Tender, Interpretive Services Manager
Medina County Park District



**Medina County
Park District**

Summer's end is marked by the fading of some of our more vividly colored summer wildflowers such as monarda, ironweed and Joe-pye weed, and the beginning of the fabulous display of our fall flora – asters and glorious goldenrods.

There are over 100 known species of goldenrod in North America, and, depending on who you talk to, 20-22 of those species occur in Ohio. They thrive in open areas such as roadsides, meadows, and prairies and can be found across the continent, including Mexico. Identifying individual species can be tricky. Many species are distinctive, but several others are quite similar and overlap geographical distributions.

For the most part, goldenrod flowers are golden-yellow in color, giving rise to their common name. There is one species that is white, appropriately dubbed silverrod, but it isn't as common as some of the other species found in our area.

Collectively, goldenrods are a “be-everything-to-everybody” plant. No joke, they serve a plethora of purposes in our ecosystem, and humans have found them useful for innumerable reasons. Here are eight worthy reasons, or at least interesting ones, why goldenrods get a gold star as one of the most beneficial plants to have in our natural landscapes and why we should add them to our home landscapes as well.

1) Goldenrod leaves are edible. They are feasted upon by a number of larval Lepidopteron species, and humans can use the dried leaves to make herbal tea. In fact, it was largely used by colonists after the Boston Tea Party as part of their “liberty tea” blends.

2) Goldenrods are among the most important late-season pollinator plants. Migrating monarchs depend on the nectar to fuel their journeys south, and many species of native bees use the pollen to provision late-season nests.

3) Inventor Thomas Edison experimented with using the goldenrod leaves' milky sap to produce rubber. His research was extensive, and he developed a species with leaves containing 12 percent latex. Experimental trials continued after his death, but, ultimately, synthetic rubber proved less costly to produce.

4) Goldenrods don't make you sneeze! While the large, showy flowers look like they should be allergen factories, the pollen is too heavy to be dispersed in the wind. You can blame ragweed, a more inconspicuous plant that releases its pollen into the air and right up your honker.



Aster Mining Bee



Goldenrod Soldier Beetles

5) Goldenrods serve as small community neighborhoods for numerous multi-appendaged arthropods like moths, spiders, beetles, wasps, flies, etc. Here, they can find places to eat, seek out mates, and secure living quarters.

6) Historically, goldenrod was a panacea for maladies. It was used to calm bellyaches, soothe sore throats, relieve toothaches, heal wounds, treat diseases like diphtheria and tuberculosis, helped to counter inflammation in the kidneys that lead to kidney stones, and dull the sting from bees.

7) Fall décor would be bland without goldenrod. It fills out a fall vase arrangement nicely and looks exceptional in a wedding bouquet. It can even be used as a dye for fabric, creating a most pleasing yellow-gold color as long as you use a mordant to bind the dye to the fabric.

8) Honey Bees! Goldenrod is considered one of the most important “bee plants” since the bees collect large amounts of goldenrod nectar prior to winter. Nectar is most plentiful during years with ample moisture and plentiful warm, sunny days.



Brown-hooded Owlet Moth caterpillar



Gold-marked Thread-waisted Wasp