

THE BEE HERDER

Published by Medina County Beekeepers Association – October 2021

www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



Association Officers

President: Paul Kosmos
president@medinabeekeepers.com
330-239-1379

Vice President: Peggy Garnes
vp@medinabeekeepers.com
330-723-6265

Secretary: Chris Fullerton
secretary@medinabeekeepers.com
330-242-2849

Treasurer: open

Newsletter Editor: Tania Jarosewich
Tania@HinckleyHoney.com

Webmaster: Mike Rossander
webmaster@medinabeekeepers.com

Refreshments Coordinators:
Elle Jisa ejisa@roadrunner.com
Sheila Mauer spmaurer01@gmail.com

Directors:
2021: John Vrtachnik,
jvrtachnik@windstream.net
2022: Larry Watson,
mcbalarry@aol.com
2023: Tim Moore
elkcreekhoney@gmail.com

Medina County Bee Inspector:
Ron Zickefoose
ronz@asap-homes.com
330-466-3642

State of Ohio Inspector:
Barbara Bloetscher
bbloetscher@agri.ohio.gov
614-644-5839

MCBA CLUB MEETING LOCATION:

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

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

November 15, 2021

The November meeting will feature four workstations with four different topics. How to make a honey warmer, wrapping and insulating your hive, melting wax techniques, and one more. Members will be divided into four groups and will spend about 15 minutes at each station, rotating to the next. Should be fun and informative.

The November meeting will also include voting for club Director.



TEN MINUTES WITH THE BEES

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President
The Bee Yard in October

I'm having trouble thinking about the bees in October since it feels like August or September! 79 today, 82 on Monday. It looks like one more week, until October 14th before reality sets in.

This nice weather gives us a Golden opportunity to feed our bees, if necessary. If your hives are light, don't dawdle, you won't get another chance. Make your final winter preparations. Sorry to keep mentioning some of these things but it is important to help your bees get through the winter.



Winter Wrap, Insulation, and Mouse Guard

Varroa Mites - A quick word about Varroa. You have heard me say that it is not how many mites you drop, but how many are still in the hive. One member contacted this week me to say that he treated his two hives with Formic Pro, 2 pads. He waited 14 days and did an alcohol wash. **One hive had 14 and one had 35!** Those are serious numbers. He is going to treat them again. It is possible that he had a fair amount of capped brood when he treated the first time.

Queen Excluders - Make sure you remember to remove your queen excluders if you are leaving a super on for the winter. You don't want your queen to get left behind when the bees move up in the hive.

Bottom Board Inserts – While there are more than one train of thought on whether or not to put them in for the winter, the vast majority of beekeepers do put them in. Some leave them open a half inch or so to help control moisture.

Bricks or Rocks on top – The outer covers are quite heavy but every year a few beekeepers forget to add bricks to secure the top. A strong wind can blow the cover off. Some secure the top with straps.

Winter Food - Some of you will winter feed using candy boards, candy bricks, and other types of food on top the hive. Most beekeepers do not advocate feeding pollen patties in the winter as it may lead to excess brood production.

Another piece of bee wisdom is to avoid doing any more inspections. There is little for the average beekeeper to do inside the hive this time of year. And an accident with the queen will cost you your hive.

What you do now will have to do the job until late February or early March. So, you will have plenty of time to worry about your bees and watch for dead bees on the porch (means somebody is still there doing housecleaning). And it's always fun to put an ear to the hive to listen for their distinctive buzz!



The Waiting Begins for Spring '22

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/>

- **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 – Saturday, November 6, 2021



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

Link to Eventbrite registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/osba-fall-conference-saturday-november-6th-at-900am-tickets-178204784307>

Other Fall State Conferences – Virtual and In-Person

Michigan State University (MSU) Extension will co-host the Michigan Beekeepers’ Association Fall Conference, which will be held virtually October 22nd to 23rd, 2021,

<http://www.michiganbees.org/2021-fall-conference/>

Oregon State Beekeepers 2021 Fall Conference, Friday, October 22 – Sunday, October 24, 2021

<https://orsba.org/events/osba-2021-fall-conference/>

The Beekeepers of Indiana 2021 Fall Conference & Workshops, October 29/30th in Shipshewana, Indiana https://indianabeekeeper.com/events/fall_conference

MCBA CLUB NEWS

Volunteers needed

The club is looking for helpers in several areas. To learn more about any of these positions, contact Paul Kosmos(pkosmos@frontier.com).

- **Library Hive Maintenance** - Join the maintenance team for the library hive, located in the main branch of the Medina County District Library.
- **Newsletter help** – We are looking for volunteers to help with the newsletter - help write, submit stories, or edit

THE NORTHEAST OHIO BEE YARD – OCTOBER

- Measure mite counts and, if you reach the threshold for the season, which is 2% to 3%, treat! Even if you treated for mites in the summer, things could have gone awry since then.
- Many members use oxalic acid vaporization or dribble at this time of the year to treat for varroa mites. You can find more information in the [Honey Bee Healthy Coalition guide](#).
- Bees have begun to organize their hive for winter; they have probably also propolized the boxes of the hive together and filled in cracks and crevices with propolis. The only reason to break the propolis seal once the weather gets cool is to check food stores and reorganize frames if needed. Do a quick inspection to count the frames of food. Don't dawdle – 60 degrees can chill brood. The target is 7 to 9 full frames of food.
- You can do the lift test to check for stores without opening the hive. Lift the back of the hive - it should be very heavy – or use a scale and, since you are only lifting one end, double the number. The hive should weigh a total of 150-160 lbs.
- If your hive does not have enough frames full of honey, feed 2:1 sugar syrup until it gets too cold. Feed fast and lots at a time. One gallon of sugar syrup equals about one frame of food. Feed inside the hive, covering the feeder with a spare box to prevent robbing.
- It's time to put on mouse guards. You can use store bought guards or ½ inch wire mesh folded and inserted into the entrance.

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: _____