

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



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MEDINA BEEKEEPERS MEETINGS

WILLIAMS ON THE LAKE, 787 LAFAYETTE ROAD, MEDINA OH, 44256

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

February 21, 2022 Zoom Presentation

Randy Oliver – Reading the Frames in Your Hives

Join us as one of the leading experts in our field will share his knowledge regarding understanding what is going on in your hives by “Reading the Frames”.



March 21, 2022 Barb Bloetscher (Live and Zoom)

Barb Bloetscher - The Ohio State Bee Inspector

Barb will share recent findings regarding diseases in the bee yard. There have been recent outbreaks of American Foulbrood in Ohio.

April 18, 2022 TBA

Speaker - TBA

Topic - TBA

By Paul Kosmos, MCBA President

The Bee Yard in February

Last month I talked about staying on top of your hives in late March and early April as your bees dramatically increase brood production and begin to store nectar and pollen. As frames fill with brood we need to monitor if they have begun to fill the deep frames with nectar. You will know if they are when you inspect the hive... do you see frames with shiny stuff (nectar) in the cells?

Bees will always store some nectar in the brood boxes. However, if they filling a lot of frames, it will be very difficult to stop and usually leads to swarms. It is worth noting that usually your strongest hives will be the first to build up.



Medium Strength Hive -lots of Burr Comb, April 18

So, what should you look for? Look at the picture above. Just a medium hive, but they are building lots of burr comb. That means they have a nectar flow and are building fast.



Feb 18 - This hive will explode

This picture shows a very strong hive on Feb 18. It will swarm very early if not managed.

One technique that many beekeepers with multiple hives use is to equalize your hives early. That means taking some brood frames and bees from your overly strong hives and giving them to your weaker hives. That slows down the buildup in the strong hives and helps it in the weak hives.

There is a formula that offers some help. Six weeks prior to the start of **YOUR** honey flow,

4 Frames of brood on April 15

5 Frames of brood on April 22

6 Frames of brood on April 29, etc.

(Information from Roy Hendrickson)

These dates assume **YOUR** honey flow starts on June 1. That depends entirely on **your location**.

If you find more frames of brood at any time, swarming is a very real threat.

There are other signs to watch for. Bees hauling tons of pollen early means tons of brood.



This is Serious Pollen!

The same applies to very heavy nectar activity early in the season. You need to observe!

Next month we'll look at other steps you can take early to manage your hives and prevent swarming.

MCBA CLUB NEWS

Volunteers Still Needed!

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

- **Newsletter help** - We continue to search for a volunteer to help with the newsletter - help write, submit stories, or edit the newsletter. Members submit the details, normally in Word. Class dates and speakers, articles, bee news, and other items of interest are submitted and the editor then goes to work to put them together and make the newsletter look good. Maybe add some related pictures to enhance an article, etc.
- **Library Hive Maintenance** - Join the maintenance team for the library hive, located in the main branch of the Medina County District Library. Occasionally the hive has to be maintained. Adding food, cleaning the hive, and possibly swarm control.
- **MCBA Bee Yard Hives** – We also need one or two volunteers to manage the Bee Yard. This is similar to managing the hives in your back yard. Regular checks are necessary to maintain the hives in good order so that they can be used for in-person field days. We are seeking several helpers to make sure that any time demands are shared.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Medina Beekeepers Beginner Class

We are excited to report that turnout for the 2022 Beginner Class is going strong. The Tuesday Class, which starts on Feb 15, has 39 expected for the class. Those of us who help with the class look forward to the class all year. It is so much fun to introduce our newest beekeepers to the fascinating world of Honey Bees!

So You Want to Become a Beekeeper?



How do I get started?
What do I need to know?
Will honey bees help my garden?
Will I get Honey?

2022 Beginner Beekeeping Classes
Starting in February
For Time, Place, and Registration
www.Medinabeekeepers.com

Contacts:
Paul Kosmos 330-239-1379 pkosmos@frontier.com
Peggy Games 330-723-6265 pgames001@neo.rr.com

2022 SPRING WORKSHOP

The 2022 Annual TCBA Spring Beekeepers Workshop March 4-5

SOME VENDORS WILL GIVE A DISCOUNT ON ANY PREORDERS PLUS SAVE SHIPPING, JUST ASK!

This workshop is fun and informative. Excellent speakers, and for beginners the best thing is the opportunity to see all the vendors. You can touch, feel, try on jackets, veils, and hand tools before you buy. Click the link below to visit Tri-Counties website and to register.

<https://www.tricountybeekeepers.org/register>

It's Time for our New Year Review!

Important! It is time to review the members on our **Swarm List** and our **Mentor List**. Many of you enjoy being on the swarm list for the opportunity to collect some free bees. A noble pursuit, I'm sure. If you wish to remain on the list, please send me an email to let me know. Please note that failure to notify me may result in you getting removed from the list.

It is also time to review our list of members on the Mentor List. This list is very important to our newer members. They occasionally need support, have a question or a problem, or some other issue with their bees. Often such questions can be answered over the phone or by email. With the help of pictures email today can be a powerful tool in diagnosing problems.

The club is in dire need of a few more mentors. If you would like to help a newer beekeeper, let me know and I will add you to the list. The club has been working on some guideline to help both the mentor and the mentee know what to expect. Our goal is to make sure each party understands the demands and time commitments during Spring and early Summer, arguably the most demanding time for Beekeepers.

Better help and support will yield better beekeepers who will be more apt to continue in their new hobby.

Inspectors Note February 2022 – Ron Zickefoose

You remember in August when your colonies were being attacked and robbed out by yellow jackets and you said “what can I do to solve this problem”?

Well end of February through March is the best time to take preventative action to keep the yellow jackets from being an issue in August.

Inspect the area around your apiary. Yellow jackets can be found any place where humans live. They often build their nests underground or in hollow logs, tree stumps, attics, between walls, under eaves and inside recycling bins where sugars are common. Destroy any nests you find now.

Yellow jackets are a solitary overwintering bee. They do not winter as a colony only the queens overwinter. This means any yellow jackets caught in early spring are likely to be foundress queens. If you eliminate these, you have eliminated an entire colony of yellow jackets in late summer.

Here is how to build a simple trap (or you can always buy one of the commercial models available)



Gather your materials

- Large 2-liter bottle
- ¼ cup of sugar
- 1 cup of apple cider vinegar
- 1 banana peel
- 4 cups of water
- Razor knife



Mix

Pour ½ cup of water into the bottle. Add the sugar and shake the liquid until the sugar dissolves completely. Once the sugar is dissolved, add the apple cider vinegar and shake well. Add the banana peel (decaying fruit attracts yellow jackets), and then more water until the bottle is about halfway full.



Prepare the trap

Cut a ¾-inch hole in the top half of the bottle and place it close to where you think the yellow jackets are residing. Make sure this is at least 200 yards from your apiary.

2022 MCBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

MEMBERSHIP MAKES A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT!

That's right – it's time to get ready for 2022. And how about an MCBA membership for a friend? Maybe you know somebody who would like to join our friendly beekeeping community and receive a monthly newsletter with tips and beekeeping ideas.

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 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:

Email: (please print):

Mailing Address:

Phone: _____