

THE BEE HERDER

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MEDINA
beekeepers

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Join the MCBA to hear a great lineup of virtual and live speakers. Start or renew your membership [online](#), or send in the membership form at the end of the newsletter.

MCBA Meeting Location

WILLIAMS ON THE LAKE

787 Lafayette Road Medina OH 44256

Question and answer period begins at 6:30PM

Presentation 7PM-8:30 PM

April 18, 2022 – Steve Repasky

Swarm Essentials

(In person – no Zoom call)

Steve will talk about all things swarms – Following his book release in 2014, *Swarm Essentials*, Steve travels and gives talks on all aspects of swarm basics and general beekeeping.

Steve is a certified Master Beekeeper through the Eastern Apicultural Society and is the past president of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association, past president and co-founder of Burgh Bees, and a former member of the Board of Directors for the American Beekeeping Federation, among other projects.

May 16, 2022 – Marci Lininger

Native Plants, Pollinators, and Native Wildlife

Question and answer period begins at 6:30PM

Presentation 7PM-8:30 PM

In this program, Marci will discuss the issues facing pollinators and other wildlife. Marci will discuss the connections that creating pollinator habitat has with other wildlife. She will also talk about the benefits of planting native plants and connecting the dots between native plants, helping pollinators and creating a healthy ecosystem.

Ten Minutes with the Bees

by *Paul Kosmos, MCBA President*

The Bee Yard in April

Your bees are doing well, and then you find Queen cells. Let's take a look at the different types of queen cells to see what they tell us about your hive.

The bees build three types of queen cells: swarm cells, supersedure cells, and emergency cells. Why so many types? Each type tells you something about what is happening in your hive.

The first are **Swarm Cells**. When the hive is growing rapidly in late winter and early spring, they can fill the hive with brood and nectar. If the bees decide there is not enough room for the Queen to lay, they begin swarm prep. We call this swarm fever.



Nice Size Swarm Queen Cell

Most swarm cells are near or on the bottom edge of the frames; there can anywhere from a few to dozens. They are easy to spot and look like Planters peanuts. They make excellent queens because the bees planned them. They get the best food, and lots of it. If there are many, you will want to remove all but a couple to prevent secondary swarms. Swarm cells mean a healthy hive.

The second type of queen cells are called **supersedure cells**. They are almost always found in the middle of the frames, and there will not be too many, maybe three to six. The bees build these cells when they sense something is wrong with the existing Queen; maybe she is getting old, maybe her laying is spotty, or maybe something else. These cells make exceptional queens for the same reason as swarm cells.



Supersedure Queen Cells

Sometimes the new queen and the old queen will coexist for a while. I've had a couple make it through the winter together.

The last type of cells are **emergency cells**. The bees build these when something happens suddenly to the queen. Maybe she got injured during an inspection. The key issue here is this is an unplanned queen cell. The bees have to make a new queen in a hurry or risk losing their hive. These are the smallest queen cells.



Emergency Queen Cells

If you make a split without a queen, this is the type of cell they will build.

With supersedure and emergency cells, **the hive is not planning to swarm**. Just watch them to make sure they are successful!

MCBA CLUB NEWS

Volunteers Still Needed!

The Club is still looking for helpers. We're happy to report that several members have volunteered to assist with some of our bee events, but we still need more help. Give it a try – you'll be surprised how much fun and how rewarding it is!

To learn more about any of these positions, contact Paul Kosmos at pkosmos@frontier.com.

Newsletter Help – Can you assist by writing or submitting stories for the newsletter? Submit the details, normally in Word. Class dates and speakers, articles, bee news, and other items of interest are submitted and the editor puts them together.

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 need one or two volunteers to help 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.

MCBA Facebook Page – We are in need of a member to take over managing the MCBA Facebook page. Holly has done a wonderful job over the past few years, but has recently discovered a need to free up time for her business and family. Please contact Paul Kosmos if you are interested.

Thanks to member **Kim Lucas** for these interesting topics:

[The Sticky Subject of Propolis](#) – from *Basic Beekeeping Blog*

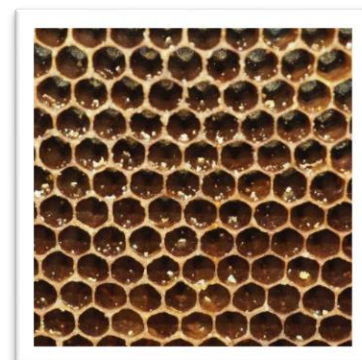
[At the Hive Entrance](#) - By H. Storch

The Inspector's Note – April 2022

by **Ron Zickefoose**, Medina County Bee Inspector

The reports I am receiving from across the county on overwintering vary from 100% success to 100% failure. When I receive calls about dead outs, the question is always, "why did my bees die?" The easy (and most common) answer is to say it was varroa mites – and 80% to 90% of the time I would be correct stating this as the root cause. Varroa weakens the bees and allows other viruses to take hold, further weakening the hive. Furthermore, varroa decimates the brood that has been under development since January. Additionally, the roller coaster temperatures are hard on the bees in March – 70-degree temps the first weekend with pollen coming in and brood rearing in full-swing. Then, 19-degree temps the second weekend, with most of the food stores gone. Many of the larvae die or do not develop properly.

To the right is a photo from one dead colony that is an excellent example of varroa mite damage. The tiny crystals that you see are guanine crystals. According to Barb Bloetscher, the State of Ohio Apiarist, "the mite excrement you see is both pee and poop; lower organisms don't have separate excrements, and it is from the moms and their children." These form in cells all the time, but the bees readily clean them out during the spring and summer months. In the winter, when we have a dead out, there are no bees left to clean the cells so you can see them. In this example, there must have been at least one mite in each cell.



2022 MCBA Beginner Class

A big thank you to the vendors who supported MCBA by donating bee supplies for door prizes at our 2022 Beginner Classes. Kudos to:

American Bee Journal
Bee Culture
Betterbee
Blue Sky Bee Supplies
Dadant
Gaughan Bee Dancing
Mann Lake
My Bee Supply
Queen Right Colonies

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 23 –Earth Day Festival

10AM-4PM

Celebrate Earth Day at the Medina County Park District's Buffalo Creek Retreat with earth-friendly exhibits, family fishing derby, kids' activities, food, and much more! Check out the [Medina County Park District Web site](#) for more information.

Saturday, May 21 – World Bee Day at Queen Right Colonies

10AM-4PM

Special events – Speakers – Demonstrations
Don't forget the Critter Farm – so much fun to visit!

Monday, July 18

6PM-7:30 PM

Join us to help clean up the fair booth at the fairgrounds.

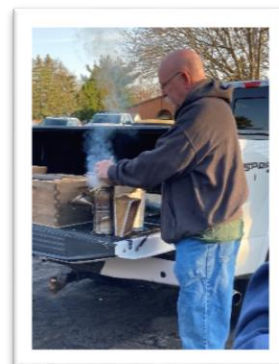
August 1-7 – Medina County Fair

We are in need of volunteers to help in the children's area and to assist with the observation hive.



Smoker Demo

At the March meeting, we were able to enjoy some time outside in the nice weather while Peggy and Neil demonstrated their methods of lighting smokers. Thanks to Peggy and Neil for sharing their expertise!



OSBA Bee Videos on YouTube



The Ohio State Beekeepers Internship videos are available on their YouTube site. Currently, there are over 60 videos covering topics such as honey extraction, performing an alcohol wash, catching swarms, and selecting for varroa resistance. Find them on YouTube at the [Ohio State Beekeepers Association](#).

2022 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 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 address (please print) _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone # _____ (Optional) # of colonies _____