

October 2025

THE BEE HERDER

Published by the Medina County Beekeepers Association



MCBA Monthly Meeting October 20th, 2025

Medina County Library
210 S. Broadway, Medina OH 44256
Rooms A and B

Questions & Answers 6:30-7:00
General Meeting 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Topic: Single Deep Over Wintering
Speaker: Jay Hadam

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MCBA October Meeting

Monday, October 20th, 2025

Time: 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Topic: Single Deep Over Wintering; a simplified approach to preparing hives for winter using just one deep brood box. Learn the benefits, challenges, and best practices for keeping your bees healthy and thriving through the colder months. Whether you're a seasoned beekeeper or just getting started, this is a great opportunity to expand your knowledge and connect with fellow enthusiasts!

Speaker: Jay Hadam

Upcoming Events

October 25/26 – 2025 OSBA Fall Conference, details can be found [here](#).

December 9th, 2025 – Christmas Party

2026 Beginner Class Dates

Saturday Feb 14th and 21st - 10 am to 5 pm

Tuesday Feb 24th, Mar 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th - 6 pm to 8:30 pm

MCBA November Meeting

Monday, November 17th, 2025

Topic: Hives for Heroes is a national nonprofit organization that empowers Veterans and First Responders through the healing practice of beekeeping. By connecting new beekeepers with experienced mentors, the program fosters purpose, community, and environmental stewardship. Through hands-on training and support, Hives for Heroes helps Heroes transition from service to civilian life while promoting honeybee conservation and sustainable practices. Every hive nurtured is a step toward healing, connection, and a healthier planet. Learn more at hivesforheroes.org.

Speaker: Neil Klabunde

Q & A 6:30 to 7:00 pm
General Session 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Location: Medina County Library
210 S. Broadway, Medina OH 44256

Rooms A and B

Mission Statement

To promote beekeeping, broaden the knowledge and understanding of honeybees (and all pollinators) and the challenges they face in today's world, and educate by teaching best practices and techniques in apiary management.

President's Corner

By Peggy Garnes

Cool, crisp nights remind us to check the weights of our hives – time has almost run out for feeding. I hope your bees are setting up correctly for the cold months ahead.

This month our speaker will talk about over-wintering in a single deep box – I'm still old school and that thought makes me very curious how that scenario would play out. My hives go into winter with 2 deeps and a honey super. This configuration gives me some peace of mind for the hives in out yards. Join us for the interesting conversation!

OSU Ag Day for the Wadsworth schools went very well and the shirts that MCBA purchased were a big hit. John's Nursery Bee Festival was a hit again and we gained a couple new members and had interest in our beginner classes. The table looked great, and the observation hive drew in many interested folks, public and beekeeper.

Our two events at Krabill Lodge were both maxed out with registrations. The extraction demo was attended by both the public and some beekeepers. The questions were well thought out. The Make it/Take it event was maxed out before the class closing date! Some attendees

were from the first Krabill Event and others were lucky to get in before the class closed. Next year our club has 3 events to plan, so anyone with ideas, please contact a board member so we can get a head start on planning.

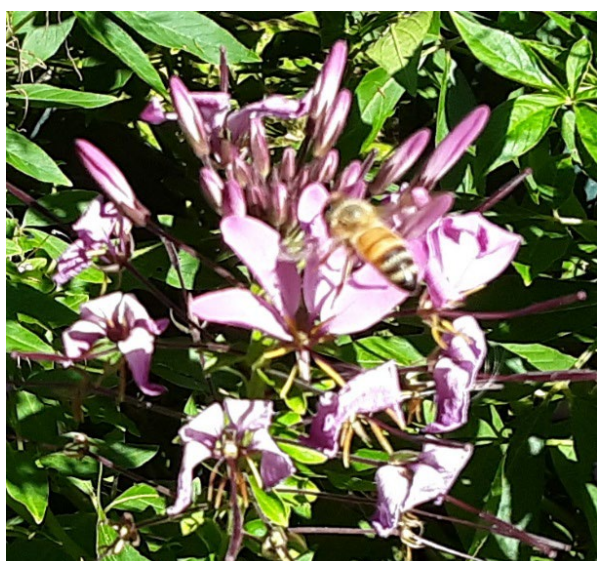
Stay healthy, hug your family, and enjoy your bees!

Peggy

Ten Minutes with the Bees – The bee yard in October

By Paul Kosmos

When October gets here, it is all about getting every last bit of food for the bees. Most plants are finished but there are still a few around. I found lots of bees on Cleomes and Asters.



Bees on Cleome

Not to beat a dead horse, but right now it is ALL about food for the bees. Check again to gauge their weight, feed them 2:1 Sugar Syrup if light. This incredibly nice weather can't last much longer, so time is a wasting.

Feeding your bees is easy. Using jars is the easiest since you don't have to disturb the hive. There are internal feeders that hold more food but require opening the hive to refill.



A Beekeeper's pastime in late fall

What's next? The next step is preparing your hive for the winter. The first step is to remove the queen excluder if in use. As the bees move up in the hive the queen needs to move up with them.

If you plan to provide sugar cakes, fondant, or other winter food, add a shim under the inner cover to provide a little space for the food and not squish bees. Do not feed them PP in the winter unless you have a specific need.



A shim provides space for winter food

Many beekeepers add insulation on top of the inner cover. It prevents moisture from condensing on a cold surface as heat rises.



Insulation to help against moisture

The next step is to decide if you want to wrap your hive or provide wind breaks. Some use roofing paper, some purchase winter wraps. If the hive is exposed to wind some put up barriers such as straw bales as a partial block.



Wrapped hive

Once wrapped, it is important cut the wrap around the lower and upper entrances, so the bees have easy entrance.

You also need to put a mouse guard over the main entrance. A mouse in the hive can often result in the death of the hive.

The final step is to cut the wrap around the lower and upper entrances, so the bees have easy entrance. The final step is to place several heavy bricks on the top cover to protect against strong winter winds.

Ground Nesting Yellow Jackets

By Clint Allen

As a beekeeper, I've come to expect a few surprises during fall yard clean-up, an overlooked hive tool, a rogue smoker lid, maybe even a forgotten frame tucked under a tarp. I even found the head of a rake in my yard this year but worse I found a far more aggressive surprise. While clearing brush piles and trimming back overgrowth, I stumbled upon not one, not two, but three active yellow jacket nests. All tucked neatly into the ground beneath leaf litter, spring brush piles and old wood.

For those of us in Northeast Ohio, yellow jackets are more than just a nuisance. These ground-nesting wasps are highly territorial, aggressive, and pose a real threat to both humans (my dogs) and honeybees. Unlike our gentle *Apis mellifera*, yellow jackets don't hesitate to sting repeatedly (they got me in my arm and wow did that hurt), and they're especially active in late summer and early fall when their colonies are at peak population.

Why should beekeepers care? Yellow jackets are opportunistic predators and scavengers. They'll raid weak hives for honey and protein, attacking bees and stealing resources. If you've ever seen a yellow jacket hovering near your hive entrance, you know how relentless they can be. For beekeepers, preventing ground nests near apiaries isn't just about comfort, it's about colony protection.

Below are some practical ways to reduce the risk of yellow jacket nests forming in your yard or near your bee yard.

Yellow jackets love undisturbed areas. Brush piles, old logs, and leaf mounds are prime real estate for nesting. Make it a habit to clean up these areas early in the season, ideally before mid-summer when queens are actively seeking nesting sites.

Many nests start in abandoned rodent holes. Walk your property and fill in any small ground cavities with soil or gravel. This simple step can eliminate potential nesting spots before they're claimed.

Peppermint oil, clove oil, and citronella are known to repel yellow jackets. While not foolproof, spraying these oils around high-risk areas can help discourage nesting.

Commercial yellow jacket traps or DIY sugar traps can help reduce populations before they become a problem. Set them out in spring and early summer to catch queens before they establish colonies.

Keep an eye out for yellow jacket activity near your hives. If you notice them entering or hovering persistently, consider installing entrance reducers or robbing screens to protect your bees.

Finding multiple nests during fall clean-up was a wake-up call. As beekeepers, we're tuned into the rhythms of nature, but it's easy to overlook the threats lurking just beneath the surface, literally. By staying proactive and keeping our yards tidy, we can reduce the risk of yellow jacket infestations and keep our bees safe and thriving.

Your Help is Needed!

By Sharon Carpenter

Do you like children and putting smiles on their faces? Here is your opportunity to do just that. As a continuation of the World Bee Day event, Greater Cleveland Beekeeping Association is sponsoring the World Bee Day Honey Breakfasts and is looking for volunteers to help

serve the breakfast to children in several different schools in the Cleveland area. This is a great way to connect beekeeping and beekeepers with the youngsters in the schools. Remember, you don't have to be an expert beekeeper, just a person willing to be a servant for a day. Here is a list of the schools involved. If you would like to help, please contact **Nicki Sulandari** at collaborativechambers@gmail.com

Thank you for considering and possibly serving at one of these schools.

Monday, 11/3/2025

St Bernadette School
2300 Clague Rd, Westlake
40 students – 4th grade

Tuesday, 11/4/2025 at 8:15 AM

The Intergenerational School
11327 Shaker Blvd # 200E, Cleveland
114 students – 4th grade

Wednesday, 11/5/2025 at 8:30 AM

Chardon Hills Elementary School
1750 E 234th St. Euclid
75 – 80 students – 4th grade

Wednesday, 11/5/2025 at 9:30 AM

Our Lady of the Lake
175 E. 200th St, Euclid
42 students – 3rd grade

Thursday, 11/6/2025 at 8:05 AM

Blue Stone
1455 E. 260th St, Euclid
44 students – 5th grade

Thursday, 11/6/2025 at 9:30 AM

Noble Academy Cleveland
1200 E. 200th St, Euclid
27 students – 3rd grade

Friday, 11/7/2025 at 8:15 AM

Shoreview Elementary School

490 E 260th St, Euclid
80 students – 5th grade

Club Bee Yard Notes

Club Bee Yard #1

September 8

Hive 1R - put Formic Pro treatment on hive. Remove in 14 days (9/22)

September 7

OA vaporization on all hives.

Hive 2 - no queen, brood, or eggs seen. Hive still very calm and quiet. Time to combine with another hive or nuc.

September 6 (Shari & James)

Hive 3 - saw Queen, bringing in pollen, bees very cranky. LOTS of bald brood. Mite test of frame with bald brood 4 mites per half cup. Put on 4 strips of Varroxxsan since bald brood is often a mite problem.

Hive 1R - replaced frames. Bees were drawing out comb between frames. Mite check = 20 mites per half cup.

September 3 (Shari)

Hive 1R - pulled several frames of capped honey for the extraction demo. Queen had laid in the honey super. Added a queen excluder. Hive is short frames. Only 9 frames in the upper brood box and 4 in the super. Return frames as soon as they are extracted.

Hive 1L - pulled a couple of frames of capped honey for the extraction demo. Slight smell of goldenrod in this hive. Storing a beautiful red nectar in the 9 frames in the honey super!

Library Bees

2025 - Nuc pulled from hive at club yard #1. Green marked July 2024 queen.

From Around the Web

EPA registers new tool against growing varroa mite threat

<https://www.agdaily.com/news/epa-registers-norroa-tool-against-growing-varroa-mite-threat/>

Bee Venom Therapy

<https://beeculture.com/minding-your-bees-and-cues-48/>

Honey Pumpkin Pie Recipe

<https://carolinahoneybees.com/honey-pumpkin-pie/>

How to Increase Propolis in Your Hive

<https://beekeepinglikeagirl.com/how-to-increase-propolis-in-your-hive/>

Ideas & Suggestions

This newsletter is for you, our members. If you have any ideas for content, format, corrections, or anything else, please, don't hesitate to reach out to me, Clint Allen via email.

References & Citations

Intentionally left blank

The information provided in this newsletter is for educational purposes only and is not intended to guarantee your success as a beekeeper. While MCBA strives to offer accurate and up-to-date advice, beekeeping involves various factors beyond our control. Therefore, MCBA cannot be held responsible for any outcomes resulting from the application of the information provided. By using the advice and tips shared in this newsletter, you agree to hold harmless the MCBA, authors, publishers, and any affiliated parties from any liability, loss, or damage that may occur.

2026 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: _____