

June 2025

THE BEE HERDER

Published by the Medina County Beekeepers Association



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MCBA Monthly Meeting June 16th, 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 - Extracting honey from your hives
Speaker – Tim Moore

MCBA June Meeting

Monday, June 16th, 2025

Topic: Extracting honey from your hives

Speaker: Tim Moore

During our April meeting we'll be diving into the sweet art of honey extraction! Whether you're a seasoned beekeeper or just getting started, this session is perfect for anyone eager to learn how to harvest honey from their hives efficiently and responsibly. We'll cover everything from the best tools for the job to tips on keeping both you and your bees stress-free during the process. Expect plenty of hands-on advice, friendly discussion, and maybe even a little taste-testing! Come share your experiences, ask questions, and connect with fellow bee enthusiasts—you won't want to miss it!

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

Upcoming Events

June – Apiary [Registration](#) Due

June – Pollinator week

July – Bee Festival

July – Fair Booth Cleanup

August – Club picnic, Medina County Fair

September – Ag Day

December – Christmas Party

MCBA July Meeting

Monday, June 21st, 2025

Fair Booth Cleanup, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Join us to help prepare the Fair Booth for selling at the Fair. There may also be a final meeting to prepare sellers and get everyone on the same page.

Location: Medina County Fairgrounds, 720 W. Smith Road, Medina OH 44256

MCBA 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

Come on Summer! I know that I will be regretting that statement, but I really want warmer weather to stay. The bees are finally settling into a rhythm, and I can smell the honey aroma when I open my hives. Queen rearing is finally on track with some consistency now. Beautiful queens with hygienic traits that we can start sharing in our club. Brood patterns are looking awesome. Maybe it's time for a queen rearing day at the club bee yard.

Looking for a bee yard experience on Saturdays – just come any Saturday at 1 pm to see what's going on in the club yard at Parks and Rec. Always weekly inspections going on – just check the weather and temps and if no rain and over 70 degrees come on over. Personal protection gear is required but no hive tools.

Swarm season should be about done now and the hives curing all that spring nectar. Still time for some cut comb boxes – Black locust is still blooming!



This month our meeting is on extracting, and you want to learn from one of our very successful members, Tim Moore, on how to get the job done efficiently and keep those supers in rotation. June 16 at 7 pm at the Medina Library. Come early and sit in on the Board meeting – hear what's new going on in the club from the officers' side of the table.

Maybe you would be interested in trying out a director position in the fall...

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

Ten Minutes with the Bees – The bee yard in June

By Paul Kosmos

This is a great time of year to take advantage of swarms and splits to control Varroa. I've heard from a number of members who have had a swarm from their hive or have made a split to start a new hive. These normal bee activities give us an excellent opportunity to reduce the mites in a hive due to the brood break.

So how does this work? When you have a swarm or make a split, the hive will normally reach a period with little

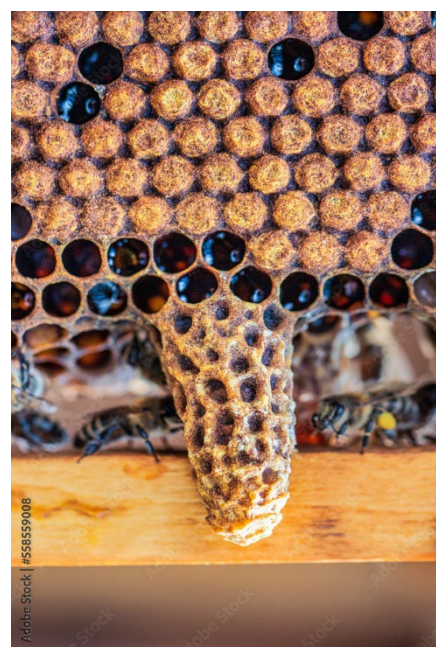
capped brood in 2-3 weeks. Why? Depending on the type of new queen you introduce it will take her time to get ready, get mated, and start laying. If she is from a Q cell, that can take 2-3 weeks. And when she does start laying you have ten more days before the bees cap the cells.

That gives you several days to treat for mites with almost no capped brood, which means a very high efficacy rate. All mites at that time will be exposed and easier to eliminate.

If you insert a mated Queen, your grace period will be shorter and may not reach a completely capped brood free state. This is common as many beekeepers move the old Queen to a nuc when making a split and let the mother hive raise a new Queen.

Following a swarm it is always best to inspect the hive carefully. Sometimes the bees will stop the old Queen from laying to get her slimmed down for flight. In that case you may not find eggs or as many larva so the period for treating will come sooner.

Such an inspection also gives you the chance to nix extra Queen cells. If there are a lot of cells you will often get multiple swarms, which can leave the hive a bit weak (and with hive mite loads). Never remove all of the cells unless you can find the Queen!! I normally leave two



nice looking Q cells. Here is an example from my bee yard. On May fourth I found sealed Q cells in one of my hives. I could not find the queen (these bees are extremely runny, non stop). So I made a split with two Q cells into a nuc.

I then made a note to take a peak about June 20-22. I can then treat both the

nuc and the mother hive and get a fresh start on my mite load.

So what else is happening? I am hearing about excellent nectar loads, at least on the nice days. Looks like the extra rain and good growth has been worth some of the rainy weather!

It is still a very active swarm season so check your hives often. Just a quick peak to look for Q cells. And remember, they often swarm the same day the cells are capped or the next day if nice weather.

How many is too many?

By Clint Allen

How Many Beehives Can One Backyard Handle? On a quiet afternoon in Medina Ohio, a chorus of bees' buzzes over a stretch of clover-covered land. It's a sound that's growing familiar across the area, as more and more residents take up beekeeping, whether for honey, pollination, or the sheer fascination of tending to a thriving hive.

But, for those new to the hobby, one important question stands out: How many hives can I actually maintain in my yard?

The answer isn't as straightforward as just counting available square footage. Sustainability in beekeeping depends on a delicate mix of space, food resources, colony health, and, perhaps most important, how much work a beekeeper is willing to put in.

"In beekeeping, less is often more," says Dr. Emily Carter, an entomologist with Ohio State University. "A few well-managed colonies can thrive, but too many in one place can lead to competition, food shortages, or even territorial aggression between hives."

And that's only part of the equation. Keeping too many bees in a limited space can lead to unexpected conflicts both with neighboring bees and neighboring humans (I

am up to 10 hives in my apiary, and they are starting to bother my two pups). Beekeepers must consider flight paths, local regulations, and the subtle balance between their colonies and the surrounding ecosystem.

Beekeepers working on city lots must think carefully about space. A typical urban backyard, often well under a quarter acre, might support one or two hives but even that depends on forage availability. If gardens and green spaces are abundant nearby, bees can thrive. If not, they may struggle to find enough nectar, forcing the beekeeper to provide supplements.

Then, there's the issue of neighbors. Not everyone appreciates the presence of buzzing insects in close proximity, and some city ordinances regulate how many hives can be kept within residential areas.

Those with a half-acre lot can typically manage three to five hives, allowing more flight paths and forage without crowding the space. With an acre, beekeepers often push that number to six to ten, especially if they've planted bee-friendly flora or have access to nearby pollination sites.

"For one acre, you're in a good spot," says Carter. "It's enough space that hives aren't stacked on top of each other, and you can establish a real rhythm with colony management."

Then, there are the larger operations such as five-acre lots or more. Here, beekeepers can take on fifteen to twenty-five hives comfortably, turning the practice from a hobby into a small-scale honey-producing venture. The challenge, though, lies in sustainability. Large numbers of bees require steady nectar flows year-round, meaning beekeepers must carefully plan for seasonal shifts, plant pollinator-friendly landscapes, and coordinate with local farmers when necessary.

But space alone doesn't tell the whole story. It's Not Just About Space

While land size is a factor, the real concern is whether a beekeeper has the time and resources to care for the colonies they take on.

“With every additional hive, you’re signing up for more responsibility,” Carter notes. “You need to monitor for pests, diseases, and hive health constantly. What might be manageable with three hives can feel overwhelming once you hit ten or fifteen.”

New beekeepers are often encouraged to start small one or two (preferably) hives at most and expand gradually as they gain experience. Beyond time commitment, forage availability plays a major role. Ohio’s natural environment offers seasonal nectar flows, but droughts, urban expansion, and limited floral resources can disrupt hive health.

Then there’s the question of pest management. The varroa mite can devastate colonies if not properly controlled. More hives in close proximity mean a higher chance of mite transmission, making regular inspections and treatment essential.

A long-time Ohio beekeeper, James Hendricks, knows this all too well.

“I learned the hard way that having too many hives without a solid management plan can lead to disaster,” Hendricks says. “I lost half my colonies to mites one year because I underestimated the time commitment. Now, I stick to a number I know I can handle.”

His sweet spot? Eight hives on his two-acre farm, spread across different corners of the property to allow for natural spacing and flight paths.

The Balance Between Hobby and Hustle

Whether keeping bees for leisure or profit, sustainability is key. Overcrowded apiaries can lead to malnutrition, disease, and hive stress, and forcing too many hives into an undersized yard isn’t just bad for bees it’s bad for local ecosystems.

So, while a five-acre spread might handle twenty hives, and a city lot might just support one or two, the real takeaway isn’t just about numbers it’s about balance.

“There’s a temptation to go big fast, especially when you see how amazing these creatures are,” Carter says. “But responsible beekeeping is about understanding limits not just your own, but the environment’s, too.”

For new beekeepers, that means starting slow, monitoring colony health, and making sure there are enough food sources to keep the bees thriving without putting strain on local pollinators. Hendricks agrees.

“I tell every beginner the same thing—start with just one or two hives and focus on learning. You can always add more later.”

That patience often leads to better results, less colony loss, and a beekeeping experience that remains rewarding rather than overwhelming.

Beekeeping is more than just a hobby—it’s a commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible management. Whether in a tiny backyard or a sprawling farm, the goal is not to cram in as many hives as possible, but rather to cultivate thriving colonies that support both the bees and the ecosystem.

So, for us, Ohio beekeepers, wondering how many hives their yard can hold, the answer isn’t just about numbers it’s about balance. And in beekeeping, as in nature, balance is everything.

Beekeeping 101, 102, and 103

By Paul Kosmos

Monitoring Brood in Your Hive - The 4-2-1 ratio.

Most beekeepers understand that honeybees make lots of babies. The queen lays eggs, they hatch as larva. The

larvae grow and are capped to pupate and emerge as new bees.

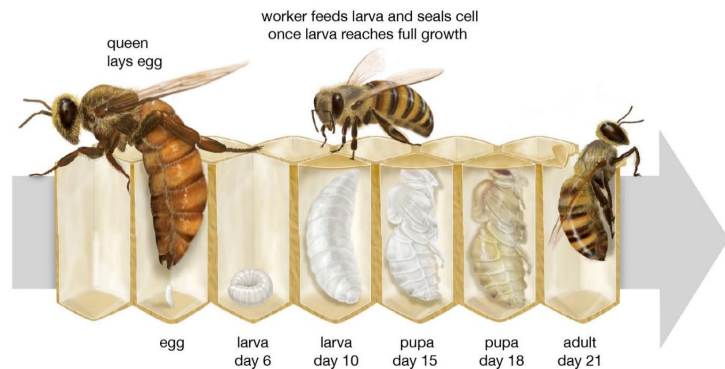
There is a ratio to the amount of brood being raised. The ratio is sometimes mentioned in beginning classes but is often soon forgotten as new beekeepers scramble to learn everything.

So why is this “ratio” important? Let’s see....

An egg is an egg for 3 days. A larva is a larva for 6-7 days. A pupa (capped cell) is a pupa for about 11 days. Total of 21 days (average). Looking at these figures helps us know what is happening in the hive. Let’s do some easy math. If a larva hangs around for 7 days, that is about twice as long as an egg. That means that once a hive is established there should be twice as many larvae as eggs. (7 days vs 3 days). Makes sense, right?

How about capped pupae? They are capped for about 11 days. That is almost 2 times longer than larva, and almost 4 times longer than eggs. You can see where I’m going here.

Life cycle of honeybees



Example. If there are 100 eggs in a hive, there should be 200 larvae, and 400 capped pupae. This assumes an established hive. If you compare these numbers you get the 4-2-1 ratio mentioned above. Of course, the ratio will change a little due to weather, food availability, and especially time of year (more eggs and larva in spring, more capped brood in fall).

Once again, why is this important? Experienced beekeepers note this without even thinking about it. But

newer beekeepers do not have that experienced eye yet. If you check any hive, including new packages, and find only capped brood.... That violates the 4-2-1 ratio and should alert you that something is wrong. Or no eggs... same problem. Thinking about the ratio will help you note when a hive is in trouble. Failed queen? Perhaps poorly mated? Accidentally squished her or left her sitting on the ground last inspection?

An established hive can survive for a couple weeks without a laying queen. But new hives normally live hand-to-mouth and are weak until the first brood emerges. Then they take off. The flip side of that is they have few bees and if you do not note the lack of brood for a few weeks, it may be too late to save the hive.

One related topic. Laying Workers – If a hive goes without a Queen for more than about two weeks, the lack of queen and brood pheromone can result in workers starting to lay. Since shorter than a queen and not mated, their eggs (all drones) are not centered, laying down, and often 2-4 eggs per cell. A SURE sign you have no queen.



Member Spotlight

Dave and Felicity Blasco



Where do you live: We moved to Seville from North Royalton 2 years ago.

What got you interested in beekeeping? Dave: Years ago, friends of ours had bees and I was super excited about being able to harvest our own honey! Felicity began sitting in on the Medina Beekeepers Beginning Beekeeper course last year and decided she wanted to give it a try.

How long have you been keeping bees? We began beekeeping last year, but our hive swarmed, then the remaining bees were picked off by barn swallows and overtaken by yellow jackets. We were left with an empty hive. Felicity applied for and earned the Ohio State Beekeepers Association Scholarship this year and is excited to grow in her knowledge and love of

beekeeping! Felicity just installed her first hive the first week of June thanks to Peggy Garnes!

How many hives do you have? We have just one hive for now but by the end of summer, we hope to have at least 2, if not 3.

Are you looking to add to your apiary? Felicity has taken interest in queen rearing due to the beginning beekeeper course. Dave hopes to try the Demaree Method soon.

Do you share your beekeeping hobby with anybody else? We share our beekeeping hobby together and hope to grow closer as we develop our apiary.

What is your most memorable beekeeping moment? Dave: My most memorable moment in beekeeping was our first hive swarming just over to our grapevines. Our neighbor noticed them while mowing his grass and notified us. We got everything ready to catch the swarm and just as we were getting to mist them with sugar syrup, away they went, never to be seen again!

Felicity: Spending time with Dave building the beehives.

What is the best and worst part of beekeeping? The best part of beekeeping is observing the bees and knowing that they always know what to do, even when we don't!

What is your favorite food to add honey to? Chicken!

Do you have any tips for beginner beekeepers? Don't be afraid to ask questions!

Other than beekeeping, do you have any other hobbies?

Felicity: working with animals (especially horses) and spending time creating in the kitchen. Dave: hiking, fishing and hunting

What do/did you do for a living? Dave: Carpenter, Felicity: entering 8th grade this fall

Observation Hive

A successful installation of the library observation hive for World Bee Day!




It warmed to 65° in the late afternoon, so we quickly installed the bees. There was a very smooth transition from the nuc box to the observation hive. The bees cooperated and immediately flew back to the frames, allowing us to close up the observation hive quickly with very few stragglers.




The children's section of the library was abuzz with excitement for the return of the bees. "The bees are back!" could be heard all over as children hurried over to find the queen. This simple hive brings so much joy to the children.

Exciting News for our Members!

We now have two dedicated teaching apiaries to enhance hands-on learning and beekeeping experience:

 **Yard #1** – Located at 6364 Deerview Ln, Medina, OH 44256, sessions take place **every Saturday at 1:00 p.m.**

 **Bee Yard #2** – Found at 7850 Ballash Rd, Medina, OH 44256, sessions are held **every other Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.** on the following dates: **6/17, 7/1, 7/15, 8/5, 8/19.**

On scheduled bee yard workdays, if the weather is fair and above 60°F, a club member will be present to guide and assist. If you'd like to confirm before heading out, please email Shari - Shari.Baker.MCBA@gmail.com.

If you would like to lead a hive inspection demonstration at one of the yards, please click the link to sign-up. If you would like to learn and observe, just show up. All are welcome!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084DA4A92DA5F4C43-56275913-beeyard>

We hope to see you there!

Library Bee Festival

The Medina County Library and the MCBA are looking for volunteers to help with the Library Bee Festival. This is a great event and special way we give back to our community by educating children and adults alike. If you have time, please consider signing up! The event takes place on July 19th from 11 am to 3 pm.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084DA4A92DA5F4C43-56986165-library#/>

MCBA Bee Yard

The club would like to say thank you to two members who helped build a new hive stand for our expanded bee yard. Thanks to Steve and Dawn for their efforts!



Swarms in the Wild!

If you took any pictures of swarms, you've saved this season and would like to share with the club, please send a picture to our newsletter editor for publication. The picture below was from a swarm in Twinsburg, OH.



From Around the Web

The 10 Best Session Meads in the United States

<https://honeysbest.com/>

Swarm Management in Spring

<https://www.blog-veto-pharma.com/en/swarm-management-in-spring/>

USDA Research Links Major Honey Bee Losses to Viral Infections and Mite Resistance

<https://www.pctonline.com/news/usda-research-links-major-honey-bee-losses-to-viral-infections-and-mite-resistance/>

Bee truck crashes pose steep economic losses for beekeepers, says Illinois expert

<https://www.farmersadvance.com/story/news/2025/06/05/bee-truck-crashes-pose-steep-economic-losses-for-beekeepers-says-illinois-expert/84035384007/>

Honeybees Learn to Fight Deadly Varroa Mites

[Honey Bees Learn to Fight Deadly Varroa Mites | Civil Eats](#)

Club Bee Yard Notes

Library Bees

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

June 5

The bees look good. Queen laying well. Eggs are maturing to larvae. Orange, yellow, and white pollen coming in. Some stored pollen. Very little stored honey or nectar. Remove pollen patty from feed box and replace with syrup. Inside of feed box was foggy again. Continue to monitor moisture and keep lid propped open for ventilation.

May 30

The bees look pretty good. I think they still need pollen. I don't see much, if any, stored and there are areas that were eggs that have not developed into larvae. A sure sign they are protein deficient.

The queen was seen laying eggs in the empty cells in the honey frame. Watch for proper development.

There is also a small amount of moisture developing in the tube. I'm hoping it's just the damp weather and it will resolve with some sunshine. We may have to prop the feed box lid open if it increases. Library staff asked to watch closely and notify if changes.

May 27

Small amount of pollen coming in. Continue with pollen patty on screen.

May 23

Removed the syrup jar and added a piece of pollen patty on the screen. Still no pollen coming in, most of a frame of capped honey available.

May 21

Dropped off some Honey B Healthy and Amino B Booster to be added to syrup. Bees still agitated and running around. Using tube well. No pollen seen coming in. The bees have consumed 90% of the pollen patty. I'll try sneaking some more in the base of the feed jar box tomorrow.

May 20 - World Bee Day

Installed bees into observation hive. Installed at door. Gave 2 - ½" x 3" strips of pollen patty on top of frames. Bees very calm and very few flying.

Julie to give 1:1 sugar syrup and cover at night. Julie reported the bees were a little agitated in the evening.

May 17

Pulled nuc with original queen from Hive 1L. Left hive to requeen.

Club Bee yard #1

#1— east hive - all medium library resource hive

#2—north hive

#3—west hive

Identified as Right and Left hives from the front orientation of hives.

June 7 (Shari - 3 participants)

Hive 1L - requeening, leave one more week. Check for laying queen and mite check next week.

Hive 1R - added honey super, checkerboard in new frames, a little flighty. Mite check next week.

Hive 2R - Calm, Saw queen, eggs and BIAS. Mite check - 4 mites per ½ cup bees

Hive 2L - Calm, Saw queen, eggs and BIAS. Mite check - 4 mites per ½ cup bees

Hive 3R Eight Frame - Calm, Saw queen, eggs and BIAS. Mite check - 6 mites per ½ cup bees

Hive 3L - Did not see queen, saw eggs and BIAS. Mite check - 7 mites per ½ cup bees

White nuc - Saw queen, eggs and BIAS. Mite check - 2 mites per ½ cup bees

Tan Nuc - Saw queen, eggs and BIAS. Mite check - 7 mites per ½ cup bees

June 3 (Shari)

Hive 1R - saw queen, marked blue. Needs another super added.

June 1 (Shari, Steve Clutter, & James Johnston)

Hive 1L - requeening, did not inspect.

Hive 1R - A little flighty. Did not see queen. Did see a small amount of very young larvae. One small, discolored queen cell seen up high on a frame. Believe this is a dead cell they have not torn down yet. Did not remove since we did not see the queen and only saw a very small amount of very young larvae. Top super mostly full of capped honey.

Hive 2L - Nice calm hive. Saw queen and marked her blue. Saw eggs and larvae. Prepared to move to Yard 2.

Hive 2R - Nice calm hive. Saw queen and marked blue. Saw eggs and young larvae.

Hive 3L - Calm hive. Saw queen, marked her blue. Saw a small number of eggs and young larvae. Honey super mostly full and capped.

Hive 3R Eight frame - Saw queen. Saw eggs and BIAS. Still drawing wonky comb. If possible, replace undrawn frames with drawn frames to solve the wonky comb issue. Pulled hive top feeder, syrup was fermenting. Prepared to move to Yard 2.

White and Tan Nuc - Saw and marked both new queens. Saw eggs and BIAS. Beautiful laying pattern for both queens. Added a second deep box, checkerboarding in blank foundation frames. Both nucs are ready to sell.

May 24 (Shari - 3 participants) too cool to open hives.

Added syrup to 8-frame and both nucs.

May 17 (Shari & James)

Hive 1L - Saw queen, eggs, and BIAS. Very full, active hive. Saw one charged/active queen cell. Split the hive. Left the queen cell in the hive and pulled the queen and 5 frames for the Library Observation hive.

Shallow frames in upper box emerging with mostly drone brood. Beekeeper (Shari) error allowing all those drones to emerge creating a potential mite bomb. Mite test revealed 0 mites at this time. Recheck hive in 4-7 days for replacement queen cells. Knock down to one or two. Also

recheck for mites. Pulled a few more shallow frames and replaced with mediums.

Hive 3R Eight Frame - Saw queen, eggs and BIAS. Not drawing frames well. Consider adding syrup feeder to encourage drawing frames.


Did not disturb the other hives.

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.

Citations

1. **Ohio Beekeeping Regulations**
Ohio Department of Agriculture. *Chapter 909 - Ohio Revised Code*. Ohio Laws, 2025, codes.ohio.gov.
2. **Beekeeping Laws and Zoning Considerations**
LegalClarity. *Ohio Beekeeping Laws: Regulations and Requirements to Know*. LegalClarity, 10 Mar. 2025, legalclarity.org.
3. **Entomology and Beekeeping Research**
Ohio State University. *Bee Lab | Education, Research, and Outreach Related to Honey Bees*. Ohio State University, 2025, u.osu.edu.
4. **Varroa Mite Impact on Honeybee Colonies**
U.S. Department of Agriculture. *USDA Researchers Find Viruses from Miticide Resistant Parasitic Mites Are Cause of Recent Honey Bee Colony Collapses*. Agricultural Research Service, 30 May 2025, ars.usda.gov.
5. **Beekeeping Best Practices**
Ohio Department of Agriculture. *Best Practices - Apiary Management*. Ohio Department of Agriculture, 2025, agri.ohio.gov.



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