

July 2025

THE BEE HERDER

Published by the Medina County Beekeepers Association



MCBA Monthly Meeting July 21st, 2025

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

General Meeting 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Topic – Fair Booth Cleanup

Pizza will be provided too!

Association Officers

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

Vice President: OPEN
vp@medinabeekeepers.com

Secretary: Sharon Carpenter 330-723-8492
secretary@medinabeekeepers.com

Treasurer: Kate Reusch 330-416-0284
treasurer@medinabeekeepers.com

Newsletter Editor: Clint Allen
allencli@zoominternet.net

Webmaster: Paul Kosmos
webmaster@medinabeekeepers.com

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

Directors:
2025: Larry Watson
mcbalarry@aol.com
2026: Shari Baker
Shari.Baker.MCBA@gmail.com
2027: Steve Moysen
s9moysan@yahoo.com

Medina County Bee Inspector:
Michael Mohn 330-591-5035
mohnandsonsfarm@gmail.com

State of Ohio Inspector:
Brad Deering
<https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/apiary-program>

MCBA July Meeting

Monday, July 21st, 2025

Time: 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Topic: Fair Booth Cleanup

Speaker: NA

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

Upcoming Events

July – Bee Festival

July – Fair Booth Cleanup

August – Club picnic, Medina County Fair

September – Ag Day

December – Christmas Party

MCBA August Meeting

Monday, August 18th, 2025

Time: 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Annual Picnic

A fun evening with nothing to do but relax, eat good food, and visit with your fellow Beekeepers! Please bring a food dish or dessert!

Location: Buckeye Woods Park, 6335 Wedgewood Rd (162), 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

The heat is still on, and the bees are looking for water to cool their hive! Bee a good beekeeper and neighbor and supply water on your property – even though a swimming pool does sound awfully inviting at this point.

Bee Festival is this weekend, and we are looking at about 1200 folks coming through the library to learn about honeybees. Stop in and visit or better yet volunteer for one of the tables and share your time and knowledge. All levels of learning will be there.



Fair week is right behind Bee Festival so make sure your entries like creamed honey and cut comb are curing... Judging is on the opening day, Monday, so let's have a good number of entries to represent our club.

Next meeting is at the fair booth for cleanup and pizza! If you are planning on being a seller, you are required to attend this meeting and turn in your intent to sell form. I love the fair and our booth and look forward to seeing you there.

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

Ten Minutes with the Bees — The bee yard in July

By Paul Kosmos

There is always something new to learn when keeping bees. Some of those things are somewhat subtle and you wouldn't think about them until they happen. Last week I met Shari at the library to help her clean up the observation hive. The queen was too good and filled almost everything with brood. Shari had to replace several frames of brood with frames of honey and/or open comb. Shari handled the entire project like a pro. Cool, calm, and knew what she was doing.

Why do I mention this? Because Shari is fairly new to beekeeping. But her desire to learn everything she can has paid off. She also volunteers for everything happening with MCBA and others to enable her to see and learn new things. Pretty awesome.

So, what else did I learn while working on the observation hive? (I was the grunt cleaning up all the burr comb). While I was observing the bees in the hive, I realized that I have been missing something in my bee yard. Allow me to explain.

Several years ago, I somehow ended up with bees that are "runny". They are nice enough, give me some honey, and get through the winter. But runny bees never stand

still on the frame. That makes it hard to inspect the bees (or to enjoy inspecting them). I recall last year trying to mark a new Queen in one of my hives. I tried three times to set the corner of the frame down so I could capture the Q and mark her. But before I could even move each time, she was off to the other side of the frame. I finally gave up and let it go to another day.

This has also limited my ability to help others by offering a swarm or split to other beekeepers. I didn't think it would be fair to them, especially to a new beekeeper.

I thought seriously about replacing the Queen, an obvious solution. But since the Queen was still doing most things right, I couldn't do it. I don't like to kill anything!



All cleaned up

Back to Shari and the observation hive. While observing the hive I commented to Shari how much I missed not being able to just watch and enjoy my bees. I watched as the Queen checked out a cell before laying an egg.

Watched her walk around with her retinue beside her, taking care of her every need. It was a special moment and helped me make up my mind to make a change.

As luck would have it my biggest hive swarmed and ended up queen-less. So easy decision. I am adding a new queen, and we will see how it goes. My other hive did requeen from a queen cell (from my big hive) and I'll have to make that decision again in the near future.

I'm sharing this since many times beekeepers have told me their bees are mean, nasty, or doing something that was taking away the joy of being a beekeeper. The decision is always up to the beekeeper. But not making any decision can sometimes be the worst decision. Especially if it takes away your enjoyment of your bees.

The Traveling Swarm

By Kym Lucas

Before we moved, we had such well-behaved swarms. We'd put out a variety of swarm boxes, and when our hives swarmed, they would go to one.

Of course we try to prevent swarms, splitting hives as they build up in the spring, but inevitably something happens — the weather prevents regular checks, or we simply miss the signs — and a few hives swarm.

It was the weather this year — too cold or wet to get in the hives — and suddenly the bees were feeling crowded, and the next thing you know, they're in the air.

But apparently at our new location, they don't want to go in the strategically located, carefully prepared swarm boxes.

The first one went to a tree branch about 10-15' from the ground. We used the "bucket on a pole" trick to catch it and put the bees in a hive box. Unfortunately, we somehow lost (or possibly killed) the queen. That swarm was combined with a new split. The second cloud of bees was a big one, which chose to settle in the old chicken coop (now our berry patch) directly below a swarm trap.

It took four days, but we eventually managed to coax them into two deeps we propped on my husband's folding multi-position ladder directly below the cluster. They now reside in our long Langstroth.

Then came the traveling swarm.



On Wednesday, Dave found it in the same location where the first one landed. Unwilling to risk losing another queen, we decided not to use the bucket on a pole and instead hoped the bees would eventually choose to move to one of our four lovely swarm boxes. On Thursday, it seemed like they were doing just that. Dave went up to check on them and literally followed them as they flew away from their original landing spot. But no, we watched as they flew up, up, away from our property, over our neighbors' house, and into the top of a 50-60' tree. So that was that. At least that's what we thought.

The next day (Friday), they were back. Two-thirds of the bees were in a completely different tree, and one one-third were buzzing around a swarm box, with some flying back and forth between the two locations. A few, perhaps tired from all that flying without having food or water, landed in the pond which lay between. Our fish happily took advantage of the free meal. Eventually, the swarm box bees abandoned the box and joined their hive mates on the tree. Once again, we put an open hive with bait and old frames on the multi-fold ladder directly below the cluster. On Saturday, we were out all day and returned home to find the bees had taken the bait! They were in the hive, orienting and foraging. Great!

Sunday morning, we ever so carefully moved the box to our apiary location. It felt a little light, so after setting it in its new home, I stole a quick look inside. They were about 13 bees. They'd gone again. We didn't really want such flighty, swarmy genetics in our apiary anyway.

Late Summer Splits

By Clint Allen

As summer begins to wane in Northeast Ohio, many beekeepers wrap up honey harvest and turn their focus toward preparing their colonies for the colder months. But this time of year, presents a unique opportunity: making a late summer split. If managed carefully, a well-timed split in July or August can become a robust nucleus colony ready to thrive next spring.

Timing Matters

In Northeast Ohio, the best window for a late summer split is from late July to mid-August. During this period:

- The main nectar flow has ended.
- Colonies are still strong and populous.
- Queens are laying steadily.

Splitting too late in the season—especially into September—can put your new colony at risk, giving it too little time to prepare for winter survival.

How to Make the Split

A summer split involves dividing a strong colony into two separate hives. The goal is to create a small but viable new colony that can build up before winter sets in.

Steps to make a successful split:

- Select a donor colony with good brood coverage, healthy bees, and no major signs of disease or stress.
- Prepare your materials, including a 5-frame nuc box, frames of brood, pollen, and honey, and a mated queen.
- Transfer frames of capped brood and resources into the nuc, along with nurse bees. Shake in extra bees to support growth.
- Introduce the queen, either immediately or after 24 hours.
- Place the split away from the original colony to reduce bee drift.
- Feed generously with a 1:1 sugar syrup to support comb building and brood production.

Why It's Worth It

There are several benefits to making a late summer split:

- Spring Readiness: A healthy overwintered nuc can replace losses or help grow your apiary when the season starts.
- Mite Control: The break in brood rearing helps naturally disrupt the Varroa mite cycle.
- Queen Quality: Late summer queens often have better mating success, which can lead to improved colony performance.
- Swarm Prevention: Splitting helps relieve crowded hives, reducing swarm risk the following spring.

Facing Winter in Northeast Ohio

Winter in this region is unpredictable and harsh. To prepare your split for success:

- Ensure a minimum of three solid frames of bees.
- Provide at least 15–20 pounds of honey or supplement feeding into fall.
- Consider insulating or wrapping the nuc box.
- Some beekeepers opt to overwinter nucs above strong colonies for warmth—a technique known as "double-decking."
- Checklist for Survival
- Confirm the queen is healthy and laying.
- Maintain brood in various stages throughout fall.
- Monitor and treat for Varroa mites.
- Continue feeding as long as bees are flying.
- Provide ventilation to reduce condensation.

Looking Ahead to Spring

A successful overwintered split will grow rapidly once spring arrives. By March or April, your nucleus hive may be ready to:

- Move into a full-sized hive.
- Support weaker colonies.
- Serve as a source for future queens.
- Be sold to other beekeepers.

Late summer splits are not just about creating more hives—they're about planning for stability and strength in the coming year. With some effort now, Northeast Ohio beekeepers can set themselves up for healthier bees and more productive seasons ahead.

Club Meeting Minutes

By Sharon Carpenter

Meeting Date: June 16, 2025

Call to order: The club meeting was held at the Medina Library and was called to order at 8:12 p.m. There were approximately 54 people in attendance including four board members.

1. Financial report was read by Peggy Garnes.

2. Club bee yard: Yard #1 Two of the hives were moved to yard #2 and will be inspected on 6/17 at 6:00 p.m.
1. Mite checks were done on most hives and treated since the mite counts were very high.
2. Two Nucs were sold. Members who logged the most volunteer hours in the yard were given the first opportunity to purchase.
3. The observation hive at the Medina Library overpopulated very quickly. The situation was taken care of by replacing three of the 5 frames with food sources and an open frame. The resource for the hive will be tested for mites when the hive has requeened itself.
4. The following upcoming events were mentioned:
 - a. Bee festival: July 19th
 - b. Club Picnic – August 18th
 - c. Fair – July – Sign-up sheets are now ready
 - d. Christmas Party – December 10th
5. The certificate of insurance for liability was dropped off at the fair office.
6. The newsletter (Clint Allen), Facebook page (Neil Klabunde), and website maintenance (Paul Kosmos and Clint Allen) are all looking great.
7. The Club's bee shed will soon be moved permanently to the bee yard on Deerview lane.
8. The merchandise store with iCandi Graphics will be up and ready soon. The company is finalizing details.
9. Our July meeting will be held at the fairgrounds to clean up the fair booth.

New Business:


A tour of the Planted Flag will take place on August 26th at 7:00


Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

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#/>

From Around the Web

Bee Venom and the Chemistry of OUCH!

<https://beeculture.com/bee-venom-chemistry-ouch/>

The chemical secrets that help keep honey fresh for so long

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20250701-the-chemical-secrets-that-help-keep-honey-fresh-for-so-long>

What is Honeycomb?

<https://carolinahoneybees.com/what-is-honeycomb/>

Bears raid honey store after enclosure escape

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgrxn4x7yx2o>

Club Bee Yard Notes

Library Bees

July 9

Bees are active, bringing in some pollen. Not feeding at this time. Bees have a full frame of honey they are working on. Watch for larval development to determine if pollen patty is needed. Too much pollen will encourage the queen to lay more and over fill the hive again.

July 5

Library staff reports building burr comb on the front side and between frames. Queen is laying in the burr comb.

July 3

Library staff reports these are doing well, adjusted to yesterday's disruption very quickly.

July 2

Active, prolific bees. Took outside and replaced 3 frames, adding 1 partially drawn empty frame, 1 mostly drawn frame of capped honey, and 1 of fully capped honey. Scraped lots of burr comb off the glass and between frames. Burr comb was filled with honey and brood. Side air vents were propolised closed. Opened the best we could. Closed the feed box in hopes that clearing the air

vents would resolve the ventilation issue. Advised library staff to watch for condensation. Bees were very calm and easy to work.

June 28

Bees are active, bringing in pollen. Queen is laying up every cell again. No signs of swarm cells. Advised library staff what swarm cells look like and to notify me immediately if they see any. Later this week I'll pull some frames and give them more pollen and honey.

June 24

Bees are active, not collecting in the feed box. They have consumed about half of the pollen patty. Building some burr comb on the glass and between frames.

Club Bee yard #1

July 12. (Shari & James)

Hive 2 - Calm hive. Good entrance activity, some pollen coming in. Saw queen, eggs, BIAS. Removed mite treatment. Saw a few areas of bald brood. Watch and do another mite check soon. Double deep, getting honey bound. Need to pull some of the honey stored in deep frames, harvest, and return frames.

Hive 3 - Hive was calm. Very active entrance, some pollen coming in. Saw queen, eggs, BIAS. Removed more treatment. Double deep, and super. Super full and mostly capped, filling brood box with honey. Need to harvest some honey soon.

July 9

Caught and caged queen in the swarm trap (marked queen from nuc). Combined with nuc remnant. Placed in a full double deep hive at new location.

July 8

One nuc picked up.

Second nuc had swarmed. There is a swarm in the trap.

July 5 - (Shari 3 participants)

Found queen in both nucs. Prepared nucs for pickup this week. Placed remaining frames in a 10-frame box to create another hive (Hive 4) Add pollen patty ASAP. Knock down extra cells in 5-7 days, new queen should emerge 7/17, check for eggs 8/2

June 28 - Raining

June 21 (Shari 3 participants)

Hive 1L Saw a very small amount of brood. Did not see queen. (Needs mite treatment)

Hive 1R did not see queen. 8 mites per 1/4c bees. Added extended-release OA leave until 7/26.

MCBA Helping Others

Recently a local resident was having an issue with wasp in their mailbox. The homeowner contacted MCBA for help and club member, Martin Krist volunteered to go over to her home and remove the wasp nest. The club would like to say thank you to Martin for helping out someone in our community!

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.

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 could occur.