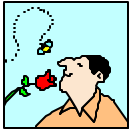


THE BEE HERDER

A publication of the Medina Co. Beekeeper's Assn.

www.medinabeekeepers.com

June 2007



Next Meeting Monday

June 18, 2007

6:30 PM

Speaker: Roy Hendrickson

Bee Yard Meeting

Note: Meeting starts at 6:30 PM

The next meeting of the Medina Co. Beekeeper's Assn. will be held at the club beeyard behind the A. I. Root Co., 623 W. Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio on Monday, June 18, 2007. We have invited Roy Hendrickson to assist us with our field day meeting. He will talk about any interesting discoveries observed in the hives. Don't forget to bring your beesuit and veil if you want to get a close look. After we do our hive work, Kim will quickly make some business announcements and light refreshments will be available. Entrance to the beeyard is on Smith Road directly behind A.I.Root (across from the racetrack at the Fairgrounds). There will be a sign at the driveway entrance. Directions to the beeyard can be found in our website under the Calendar of Events, or you can log onto the following link <http://www.medinabeekeepers.com/AboutTheClub.html#beeyard>.

If we have a rain day, we will all meet at the regular meeting room. Roy will talk about a summer review of feeding bees and preps for making splits. He will also share other pertinent beekeeping knowledge related to this time of year.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

By: Gwen Rosenberg



Medina County Beekeepers Meeting Minutes May 21, 2007

This month club members were invited to bring on perennial plants for a plant swap in the parking lot after the meeting. It appears to have been a big success except for the nasty little invasive ground cover I tried to pawn off on someone but you were all wise to it.

Kim talked about feeding bees and then we got down to business. The treasurer reports that the club has \$3,332.35. The secretary's minutes received only mixed reviews tonight- so everybody's a critic now is that it?!

We reviewed the executive meeting even though I warned Kim that all the surprises in the minutes I just wrote for that meeting would be ruined. Here's a recap of the recap of the meeting I just recapped for you-

- fair honey prices were raised
- pollinator stamp booth at the P.O. needs volunteers
- fair volunteers get a T-shirt for working three shifts and a denim shirt for working four shifts
- Medina library construction is on track and we'll fill the observation hive next spring

Jane Dew was unanimously voted to be a Life member of the bee club. Jane Dew is known to many in the club and at the fair as THE candle roller. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Jane for all she's done for the club during her many years as a member. (Insert applause here)

Mike the treasurer has a new club roster and it should be pointed out that he constructed and maintains the club website so many thanks go to him because none of us can program web stuff.

Next month's meeting is in the bee yard and July's meeting is at the fairgrounds.

On a sad note there will be no more honey candy (although I never really considered sesame seeds "candy" in the first place). The company that made the honey candy has gone out of business. Honey sticks are still available but prepare yourself for some rioting at the fair this year.

Kathy Summers gave a great talk on labeling, marketing and selling bee products.

Executive Meeting Minutes

Also by : Gwen Rosenberg

Medina County Beekeepers Executive Officer Muckity Mucks Meeting Minutes May 16, 2007

The officers and executives all got together tonight and blathered on about bees and the club and future plans and all that stuff. Herein lies most of important details for those of you not elected to a super-duper important post like us. Oh, Tony and George missed this meeting so we really yucked it up about them.

First order of business is fair honey prices. This turned into what can only be described as an all out- no-holds-barred first fight. Once the police were summoned and then smoke cleared and we got Peggy to drop the tire iron here's what was decided:

1# jars for \$5.00
 12 oz. for \$4.00
 8 oz. for \$3.00
 6 oz. for \$2.50
 2# for \$9.00
 5# for \$ 20.00
 Raw honey 2# for \$12.00
 Raw honey 1# for \$7.00
 Raw honey 5# for \$25.00

Ross Rounds for \$6.00
 4 oz. Bee-o-pack for \$3.25

Anything not listed here, like creamed honey and candles for example, is to be priced by the seller.

More fair talk included discussion of the sign on the fair building. None of us are all that comfortable being referred to as "grange," whatever that may be, so we all agreed that the sign should say something else. Kim's going to talk to Stuart about this. Also, this year's incentive to work at the fair is going to be shirts! A T-shirt for three shifts and a fancy denim shirt if you work four shifts. The club will vote on the logo.

The Medina County Public Library is currently under construction and in the Spring we'll toss some bees in there for the kiddies. The architect is supplying matching wood so we can have two observation hives made to match the interior.

As you all well know June 29, 2007 is the release of the U.S. Post Office's pollinator stamp that doesn't actually have a honeybee on it- but that's OK, we'll be there at a booth proclaiming all the good honeybees do in Medina and elsewhere.

We all heartily agreed that Jane Dew be honored with as a Life member of the club at the next meeting.

Mike says that members who have not paid dues will be terminated from the roster he's recently put together- so pay up or miss out!

Don't Miss the OARDC Meeting & Field Day

Managing Honey Bee Colonies

OARDC Campus, Wooster, Ohio
 Thursday, June 28, 2007 3-8 PM

Keynote Speakers:

Backyard Queen Production: Dr. Jim Tew

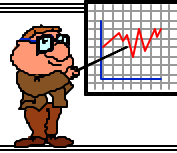
Urban Beekeeping: Kim Flottum

American Foulbrood & Mites: John Grafton

Cost \$20 per person. Pre-registration encouraged.
 The program will provide hands on learning opportunities.
 See attached flyer for details and program times.

2007 Meeting Dates & Agendas

June 18 Bee yard demo
 July 16 Clean Fair Booth (pizza & soda)
 July 29 – Aug 5 Medina County Fair
 Aug 20 Club picnic
 Sept 17 open
 Oct 15 open
 Nov 19 open
 Dec 17 Holiday Party



Treasurer's Report

By: Mike Rossander

We had a number of new members sign up in May. Please welcome them when you see them at the next meeting. By the way, if you didn't get a copy of the membership roster at last month's meeting, please see me for a copy.

The Fair Committee tentatively set the prices for honey for the Medina County Fair. This year, the prices will be raised slightly to more closely match the market prices for premium, local honey. The planned rates for the fair will be:

6 oz jar or bear	\$2.50
8 oz	3.00
12 oz	4.00
1 lb	5.00
2 lb	9.00
5 lb	20.00
1 lb raw honey	7.00
2 lb raw honey	12.00
5 lb raw honey	25.00
Bee-O-Pac	3.25
Ross Round	6.00

All other honey, candles, balms and products will be priced as marked by the person bringing them to the fair. Any current member of the club can sell honey or other hive products on a consignment basis. We will have more details at the next meeting.

We've been invited to participate in the Cleveland Metroparks BugFest 2007. You can read a little bit about it at www.clemetparks.com/events/bug_fest.asp. If anyone is interested in helping to explain about honeybees on 11 August, please contact me or Gwen Rosenberg. Details to follow...

Our financials through the end of May are:

	May 2007	YTD
INCOME		
Sales:honey	17.50	17.50
Education Fees	0.00	765.00
Member Dues	120.00	1,100.00
TOTAL INCOME	137.50	1,882.50
EXPENSES		
Bees	120.00	120.00
Education	0.00	320.00
Insurance	500.00	500.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	10.59
Newsletter	28.27	185.76
Refreshments	0.00	10.00
Speaker Honorarium	0.00	100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	648.27	1,246.35
OVERALL TOTAL	-510.77	636.15

Balance as of 31 May 2007: \$2,821.58
 less Sales Tax Payable: 0.00

Notes:

- Honey sales represent the last of the 2006 crop from the Club's hives.
- Bees are replacement packages and queens for the club's hives.
- Our insurance coverage was expanded this year to cover some additional activities (such as our work at the Fair) but luckily our insurance premium did not go up.

Sales taxes have to be filed at the end of June even though we have no taxable sales.

2007 Officers and other VIP's

Pres: Kim Flottum 330-722-2021
 Kim@beeculture.com
V-P: Tony Armeni 330-723-2887
 tarmeni@zoominternet.net
Secy: Gwen Rosenberg 330-676-1602
 Rosenberg26@yahoo.com
Treas: Mike Rossander 440-899-0367
 Mike_Rossander@yahoo.com

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Medina Co. Bee Yard

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 Bruce Schneider 330-278-2260 works4meinc@yahoo.com

DIRECTORS:

1st yr: George Hasek 440-237-3424 raabenterprises@mindspring.com
 2nd yr: Judy Fox 330-239-4358 judyfox@apk.net
 3rd yr: Peggy Games 330-723-6265 pgames@neo.rr.com

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 Bloomingdale, OH 43910

Ohio State Extension Specialist

DR. JAMES TEW 330-263-3684

OARDC, Dept of Ent.

330-262-2720 (fax)

1680 Madison Ave.

Wooster, OH 44691

Medina Co. Bee Inspectors

DAVE HEILMAN 330-263-4712

444 Spink St.

Wooster, OH 44691 Apisman@aol.com

**OSBA Summer Meeting
 this Saturday !!**

Saturday, June 16, 2007

The Summer Meeting will take place
 June 16th at the [Kingwood Center](#) in Mansfield.

- 9:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:30 (Keynote Speaker) George Cutler, WV Queen Program
- 10:00-10:15 Break
- 10:30 Jim Tew and John Grafton "Whats happening in Ohio"
- 10:30 Jim Higgins "Apitherapy and hive products other than honey"
- Lunch**
- 1:00 **Outside Activities:**
 Dave Duncan "Removing Bees from Trees"
 Joe Kovaleski "A Look Inside the Beehive"
 Fear Factor???
- Inside Activities:**
 George Cutler "Followup on morning discussion Q&A"
- 2:00 Dave Duncan "Beeswax Production"
- 3:00 **Inside Activities:**
 Round Table Discussion with Ron Hoopes, Bob Hooker, and
 George Cutler
- Outside Activities:**
 "How to Graft Queens" Dana Stahlman and Queen Project
 Coordinators

log onto www.osba.us for directions and more important
 beekeeping information

Membership Application or Renewal

Medina County Beekeepers Assn.

Name _____

Check here if this is a renewal and all information on the roster is correct. Otherwise, fill out the section below:

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Help MCBA keep costs low. Yes

Can you receive the newsletter by email only? No

(Optional) # of Colonies _____

Dues for 2007 are \$20 for individual or family. Make checks payable to
Medina Co. Beekeepers Assn. and send to care of:
 Mike Rossander, 1871 Settlers Reserve Way, Westlake, OH 44145

“Cool” Refreshments Column

I would also like to thank George Emmert and his family for their wonderful contributions to the refreshment table and everyone else who sent bakery along.

If anyone wants to bring something, call Peggy at 330- 723-6265
 All baked contributions or snacks are always welcome.

Thanks....Peggy

Naturalist's Almanac for June

(from the Cleveland Metroparks Emerald Necklace Newsletter)

Birds: Adult chickadees and tufted titmice grow scarce at bird feeders as they busily tend to their young. June evenings bring the flute-like calls of wood thrushes and veerys as twilight settles on the land. Nighthawks (not true hawks but relatives of whippoorwills) grace the evening skies throughout the region as they hunt for their insect prey. Listen for the "b-z-z-t" sound made by their wings as they dive for food. Fledgling chickadees begin to appear at bird feeders with their tired parents. Watch the parents' tattered and worn feathers as they are gradually molted and replaced over the summer.

Wildflowers: Summer flowers begin to dot the open meadows with oranges and yellows of hawkweed and yellows of cinquefoil. Ox-eye daisy adds its tall white blossoms to the colorful mix. Yellow iris adds a touch of bright color to the green of marsh edges. Cow parsnip as tall as a person appears with umbrella-shaped white blossoms along stream banks and marsh edges. A look-alike plant, water hemlock, is poisonous if eaten. Fortunately its distinctive mouse-like odor keeps most people away. By tradition, St. John's Wort first blooms on June 24 to ward away evil spirits on midsummer's night eve. Tiny but delicious wild strawberries ripen in the third week of the "strawberry moon". Watch open field and roadsides for the first of the pale blue flowers of chicory, sometimes called blue sailors. Common milkweed unfolds fragrant purple flowers beginning the fourth week and continuing through July. The flowers turn into green dill-pickle-sized pods and are a prized "wild edible" in some parts of the country. Queen Anne's lace begins to bloom. Yellow and orange spotted jewelweed is blooming on moist sites. Later in summer, their "exploding" seed pods delight hikers brave enough to touch!

Trees: Is it snowing in June? No, just uncountable millions of seeds of the cottonwood tree are drifting about in the summer breeze.

Mammals: Young woodchucks now emerge to learn the ways of the woodchuck world with their ever-watchful mothers.

Fish: Carp begin to thrash along shorelines of local lakes and slow-moving rivers as they spawn and lay eggs in warm shallow water.

Amphibians: American toadlets finish their metamorphosis and emerge to live new lives on land. As small as a pencil eraser, they are perfect miniatures of their warty parents.

North Union Farmer's Market is looking for a local honey vendor for their weekly market held at the Mustard Seed Market in Montrose (Bath). Saturdays 9-12. It goes until Sept. 24th. They really need to have a honey vendor there every Saturday. Honey and wax products needed. If you have produce too, that will be a bonus. No soaps or lotions, as they already have a vendor there for those items. Contact 216.751.7656 email: northunionfarmersmarket@yahoo.com



Kim Flottum: The Beekeeper

The many — and I mean many — suspects of Colony Collapse Disorder

While waiting for the sampling protocol to settle down I thought I'd list the usual — and not so usual — suspects in the Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) case. In no particular order or logic the following have been studied to some degree...

Cell phones and their radiation. Viruses. *Nosema ceranae*. Varroa mites. Small hive beetle and its accompanying bacteria. Tracheal mites. In-hive pesticide use. African honey bee genes. External pesticide use. Immune system suppression. Stress. Fungi. GMO-tainted high fructose corn syrup. Poor nutrition. Contaminated pollen supplements. Pollen from genetically modified plants. Migratory beekeeping. Lack of genetic diversity. Australian honey bees.

It's difficult to imagine that that many things can go wrong in a honey bee's world, isn't it? Given somewhat less attention have been theories explaining the bees' disappearance on the Rapture, alien abduction, and absconding to Los Vegas to sell pure, natural, un-cut honey. Late night T.V. hosts have offered several ideas, environmentalists fear that CCD is a direct result of global warming, and some think that it's caused by seasonal "jet lag," because bees are moved too much, too often, too far (see migratory beekeeping, above). For a wrap-up of the science background on any of these see this section of the [Bee Culture magazine](#) Web site.

But the research is moving on and scientists in the middle of this, after looking at scores of samples are homing in on what they believe may be the real cause.

One school of thought is that, indeed, there are new pathogens involved. Alien viruses (as in new to honey bees, not viruses from outer space, or maybe from outer space – who knows?), or bacteria or fungi that previously hadn't caused problem, or at least to the degree seen recently may be at the bottom of this. That would certainly explain a lot of things. It leaves open...where did they catch these pathogens, and why doesn't every honey bee have them, thought, doesn't it?

Another thought is that this is simply a case of pesticide poisoning. A new, exotic and particularly dastardly pesticide to be sure, but a farmer-applied pesticide none the less. Malcolm Sanford and Dave Hackenberg do a good job of explaining all about this at the link above.

A third school is that difficult-to-prove anomaly called Immune System Suppression. This brings all of these things together and does a plausible job of explaining what's going on. Stress from new or existing pathogens pushes the bee's immune system to the limit, a new pesticide is introduced that, under less stressful conditions is handled by the honey bee but now, stressed, works its magic on compromising memory and physical ability and finally the total immune system crashes and burns (or abandons the hive).

It could be.

But here's another thought, just for kicks.

In 1935, E.R. Root, writing in *Gleanings In Bee Culture*, described exactly the same symptoms ... missing bees, only the queen and a few young bees remaining and all in a matter of days. He called it Disappearing Disease.

Go figure.

Kim Flottum is the editor of [BeeCulture](#) magazine. He blogs regularly for [The Daily Green](#).