

# THE BEE HERDER

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

[www.medinabeekeepers.com](http://www.medinabeekeepers.com)

## October 2007



**Next Meeting Monday  
October 15, 2007  
7:00 PM**



**Speaker: Nancy Riopelle  
Wax and Candle Processing  
Wintering: Group Discussion**

The next meeting of the Medina Co. Beekeeper's Assn. will be held on Monday, October 15, 2007 at 7:00 pm in our meeting room at the A. I. Root Co., 623 W. Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio (at the end of the West Liberty Commons Building). Refreshments will be served.

Now that honey extraction should already be done, you may be wondering how to clean your beeswax and what to do with it. Nancy Riopelle will be our speaker this month showing us how to turn your wax into candles and \$\$\$\$. Buzz will start out the discussion on how he cleans the wax and Nancy will finish the presentation with all her tips and secrets to making a perfect candle. Afterwards we will have a group discussion on wintering our bees and what to do next. See you there.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT



We do not have a Secretary's Report this month since our busy secretary was busy having a new addition to our beekeeping family. Please welcome Bernard Christopher Rosenberg who tipped the scales at 8 pounds 13 ounces and stands 21 inches tall.



## "Cool" Refreshments Column

This month's refreshment theme is "fall flavors" All donations will be heartily eaten and appreciated.



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

Thanks....Peggy



## Nametags

Please check the nametag box at the sign up table. They have been updated to include all the new members and any old ones that have been lost or misplaced. Please make an effort to wear yours so we know who you are !

### 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

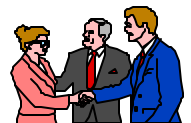
Can you receive the newsletter by email only?  No

(Optional) # of Colonies \_\_\_\_\_

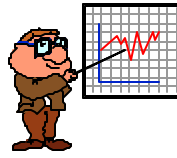
Dues for 2007 are \$20 for individual or family. Make checks payable to **Medina Co. Beekeepers Assn.** and send to care of: Mike Rossander, 1871 Settlers Reserve Way, Westlake, OH 44145

### 2007 Meeting Dates & Agendas

- Oct 15 Speaker: Nancy Riopelle Wax Processing  
Group Discussion: Wintering
- Nov 19 Speaker: Dave Duncan, Bee Removal  
Annual Honey Report  
Election of Officers
- Dec 17 Holiday Party



# Treasurer's Report



By: **Mike Rossander**

Another quiet month financially. Thanks again to everyone who donated items for the two baskets last month.

There was a small correction to the Fair sales numbers. The final Fair report is below.

INCOME	
Sales, honey	4,564.47
Sales, candles	346.34
Sales, lotions etc	197.49
Sales, candy	1,366.64
Sales, candle-rolling	<u>383.71</u>
Sub-total, Sales	6,858.65
Cost of sales, honey	(3,336.80)
Cost of sales, candles	(304.80)
Cost of sales, lotions etc	(173.80)
Cost of sales, candy	<u>(718.09)</u>
Sub-total, member earnings	(4,533.49)
Cost of sales, candle-rolling	(463.54)
<b>Net INCOME</b>	<b>1,861.62</b>

EXPENSES	
Bank Charge	10.00
Fees	175.00
Meals & Entertn	96.14
Miscellaneous	(15.01)
Supplies	234.44
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>500.57</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>1,361.05</b>

**Notes:**

The adjustments correct for a miscount of one jar of extracted honey in the exit inventory. This reduced our calculated shrinkage. Because shrinkage is allocated to everything we sell, the reversal affected all our sales numbers and sales tax owed as well.



Financials through the end of September:

	Sep 2007	YTD
<b>INCOME</b>		
Sales	104.96	6,981.15
Cost of Sales	4.00	(4,997.03)
Education Fees	0.00	765.00
<u>Member Dues</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,140.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>108.96</b>	<b>3,889.12</b>

EXPENSES		
Bank Charge	0.00	10.00
Bees	0.00	120.00
Education	0.00	320.00
Fees	0.00	175.00
Insurance	0.00	500.00
Meals & Entertainment	35.00	131.14
Miscellaneous	0.00	99.58
Newsletter	33.40	323.79
Refreshments	0.00	10.00
Speaker Honorarium	0.00	225.00
Supplies	18.79	253.23
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>87.19</b>	<b>2,167.74</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>21.77</b>	<b>1721.38</b>

Balance as of 31 Aug 2007: \$3,962.46  
less Sales Tax Payable: (55.65)

**Notes:**

- \$105 of the honey sales were for the bulk sale of the remaining club honey.
- The 4¢ reduction in sales and increase in sales tax payable and the \$4 offset of Cost of Sales are the net effects of the reconciliation at left.
- The Meals & Entertainment entry represents the deposit for the pavilion that was to have been used in August. The deposit could not be refunded but was rolled over to 2008.
- Supplies included new nametags and holders and some miscellaneous supplies used to prepare last month's gift baskets.

## 2007 Officers and other VIP's

**Pres:** Kim Flottum 330-722-2021  
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THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE (California)  
October 8, 2007 Monday  
FINAL Edition  
BAY AREA

## Bees in the city?

### Buzz about urban harvest

*Meredith May, Chronicle Staff Writer*

It's time to make honey in San Francisco, and urban beekeepers are extracting it from hives in community gardens, atop apartment buildings, in their driveways and from bee colonies tucked away in Golden Gate Park.

"You wouldn't know that there are so many hives in the city, because beekeepers like to stay under the radar," said Bryon Waibel, as he maneuvered a wagon of hives around a cluster of homeless men sleeping on a South of Market sidewalk one recent morning.

With the recent unexplained disappearance of 25 percent of the U.S. honeybee population, interest in beekeeping is at an all-time high among city dwellers, said Peter Sinton, president of the San Francisco Beekeepers' Association.

Membership in the bee club has nearly doubled to 133 in the last three years, ever since apiaries began reporting cases of colony collapse disorder, shocking hive desertions that today threaten the pollination of \$14 billion worth of the nation's fruit and vegetable crops.

"It has caused a lot of people to worry about the bees, and think that maybe they could become a beekeeper," Sinton said. "In the ecologically oriented Bay Area, the idea strikes a nice chord." It turns out bees get by just fine in a concrete jungle. They typically forage for pollen in a 3-mile radius of the hive, and can thrive on the city's buffet of imported ornamental plants on balconies and rooftops and the dozens of community gardens that dot the city.

Lorrie Gallagher put two hives in her backyard garden in Visitacion Valley three years ago. It's her small way to help bring the bees back.

"If there are no bees, there are no almonds, apples, zucchini, watermelon," she said. "The bees are part of a fascinating symbiotic relationship - one that most people take for granted." One of the most widely held theories of the bees' disappearance is that commercial apiaries are overworking the bees, driving them thousands of miles in semi-trucks and renting them out to pollinate almond and fruit farms. The honeybees are stressed, sprayed with pesticides to combat mites, and sharing bee diseases with other colonies on their long travels.

Beekeepers report filling a hive with a queen and thousands of worker bees and drones, then returning to find that all the

worker bees have vanished, leaving just the queen and her brood - the young bees. Without the worker bees, there's no pollen, and without pollen, no honey in the honeycomb to feed the hive. While commercial beekeepers are suffering, there have been no reported cases of colony collapse in San Francisco, Sinton said. That's because most urban beekeepers aren't in it for the money, so they aren't pushing their bees to work, said Barbara Amato, who keeps a hive at the Paige Brothers Clipper Community Garden in Diamond Heights, and two more in her fenced-in driveway in Noe Valley.

A decade ago, she and her son learned from a relative how to tend bees, and now it's become a regular part of her routine. "I come out on my balcony with my coffee every morning and just watch them work - they are just fascinating."

A single hive of up to 60,000 bees can produce 200 pounds of honey. Most of the bees are female worker bees that forage for pollen, point out nectar sources through intricate dances, guard the hive and tend the queen's eggs. Worker bees carry nectar on "saddlebags" on their legs, deposit it in the cells of the honeycomb inside the hive and flap their wings to thicken it. When it's the right consistency, they cap the cell with wax. Each hive also contains a handful of larger, male drones, whose sole job is to mate with the queen so she can produce up to 1,000 eggs over two seasons.

Bryon Waibel wheeled his honey-laden hives down the narrow alley between two homes in the Mission District, to his friend's backyard garden.

There, he opened a hive, took out a frame and slid a hot knife along the comb, peeling back the wax caps and revealing the golden honey.

Neighbors, friends and their children gathered around to watch, peppering him with questions and catching the drips with their fingers.

"San Francisco honey, because it's made from so many diverse pollen sources, tastes different to everyone who tries it," Waibel said.

Like the city itself, San Francisco honey is beautifully undefinable.

## **Honey History Facts**

From: National Honey Board -- [honey.com](http://honey.com)

### **LITERATURE: 21ST CENTURY B.C.**

Honey is alluded to in the Sumerian and Babylonian cuneiform writings, the Hittite code, the sacred writings of India, the Vedas and in the ancient writings of Egypt.

### **BIBLICAL**

Palestine is often referred to as "the land of milk and honey." (Exodus 3:8)

## **EGYPT: 30TH CENTURY B.C.**

Honey was used in most households as a sweetening agent. The people of this time valued honey highly, thus, it was commonly used as a tribute or payment. Honey was also used to feed sacred animals.

## **SUMERIA, ASSYRIA AND BABYLONIA: 21ST CENTURY B.C.**

Honey was poured over thresholds and stones bearing commemorative offerings. Honey and wine were also poured over bolts that were to be used in sacred buildings.

## **GREECE: 7TH CENTURY B.C.**

An ancient custom was the offering of honey to the gods and to spirits of the dead. Mead, an alcohol drink made with honey, was considered the drink of the gods.

## **GERMANY: 11TH CENTURY A.D.**

German beer was sweetened with honey. German peasants were required to give their feudal lords a payment of honey and beeswax.

## **AMERICAS: 16TH CENTURY A.D.**

Conquering Spaniards found that the natives of Mexico and Central America had already developed beekeeping. A distinct family of stingless bees (not true honey bees) was native to these regions.

## **AMERICAN COLONIES: 17TH CENTURY A.D.**

European settlers introduced European honey bees to New England in about 1638. North American natives called these honey bees the "white man's flies." Honey was used to prepare food and beverages, to make cement, to preserve fruits, to concoct furniture paste-polish and varnish and for medicinal purposes.

# THE BEE HERDER

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