

THE BEE HERDER

A Publication of the Medina County Beekeeper's Association
www.medinabeekeepers.com

March 2009

Meetings are held at 7:00 pm every third Monday at A. I. Root meeting room at 623 W. Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio (at the end of the West Liberty Commons Bldg). Check the website for any changes to our regular schedule.

www.medinabeekeepers.com

**Use Common Sense:
If Medina Schools are closed, we will cancel the meeting or beginner's class that night. If your roads are bad, ours probably are too. Stay home and stay safe. We need our beekeepers. Your bees need you.**

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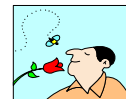
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Next Meeting: March 16, 2009 7:00 PM Speaker: Jim Higgins



Jim Higgins will be our speaker for our March 16th meeting. He will speak on spring management, marketing the different hive products and on apitherapy. Jim is a board member of the American Apitherapy Association, long-time beekeeper, and member of Ohio State Beekeepers.

Our meeting this month features two aspects of beekeeping that are popular. One, spring management is a 'right now' need to know for everybody who keeps bees. Feeding, reversing, swarm control, pest and disease control . . . they all are important for successful colony management, honey production and being a beekeeper. Find out how one successful commercial beekeeper makes it work in his world. At the same time, learn the positive aspects of the products of the beehive . . . honey, pollen, propolis, beeswax and even bee venom. Jim Higgins has a good handle on both of these aspects, and we'll find out what he knows this month. Don't miss this meeting.

Medina County Beekeeper's Beginner's Class

The class began on Monday night, Feb 23, 2009, and runs for 9 consecutive Monday nights from 7 PM until 9 PM, finishing on April 20, 2009. We'll get you familiar with the equipment you'll need early on so you can get it and introduce you to all the places to get bees so you can get those ordered in time. Our classes will cover the equipment you'll need and why, honey bee biology, spring, summer, fall and winter management, what are the important honey plants you should know, harvesting and processing your honey crop and a whole lot more on how to successfully keep honey bees. Official registration will be at the first meeting, but pre-registration notification is strongly, very strongly encouraged so we know you are coming, and how many will be with you so we can have enough packets prepared. Reserve your spot as soon as you can. Registration this year is \$50.00 for an individual, and \$60 for a family. A single packet will be given to an individual or a family, but consists of The BackYard Beekeeper, An Absolute Beginner's Guide to Keeping Bees in Your Yard and Garden, magazines, catalogs and additional information to aid you in getting started. To pre-register, contact Kim Flottum at Kim@BeeCulture.com, or call 330.725.6677 days, or 330.722.2021 evenings.

And, read the common sense statement about weather and closings...travel safe, or don't travel...we need our beekeepers, and your bees need you.

See you Monday night.

Kim@BeeCulture.com

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 2009 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

Medina Co. Beekeeper's Association Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2009

Meeting called to order by President Kim Flottum at 7:05.

Beginners were introduced and members encouraged to meet and encourage them. Members were reminded that they can attend the Beginning class at no cost. *Backyard Beekeeper* will be the text for the class. PowerPoint copies of material will be available.

Treasurer's Report – Motion made and seconded to accept report as published. Mike said he has collected about 50% of dues. If you did not get the form to register your apiaries you can get it online.

The Tri-County meeting is March 7. Mike encouraged all the beginners to attend and especially check out the vendors. And to call ahead to vendors and have them bring what you want and save on shipping. The registration form for this meeting is online. Mike is updating the swarm list. Please let him know if you still want your name on or if you want to be added this year. Motion made and seconded to accept Mike's report.

Mike introduced Ryan Hinkle to the group. He is our new webmaster. We now have a Discussion Forum on our website. You have to register and sign up with a password. Kim expressed appreciation to both Mike Rossander for the website and to Nancy Riopelle for the newsletter. Kudos to both.

Beeyard – Kim Flottum and Buzz Riopelle visited the Association beeyard this past week and found that we have four out of six hives still alive. One of those is a little weak, but overall not bad. There is a plan to do some splits in order to provide bees for the observation hive at the Medina County Library. One of the beginning classes will be held at the Library.

Ohio State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) will have their summer meeting in Troy, Ohio June 20 – north of Dayton. Tentatively scheduled keynote speaker is Clarence Collison. Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS) – a regional beekeeping group - will hold their conference in Oberlin, Ohio this year, July 9-11. Phil Craft is in charge of the program.

EAS is in Ellicottville, NY at the Holiday Valley Resort August 3-7 – 3-day Short Course and 3-day Conference.

No secretary's report. Motion made and seconded to accept as published. Motion passed.

Business meeting done at 7:20.

Dana Stahlman was our speaker for the evening. He addressed beginning issues and then focused on robbing.

Meeting Refreshments

Last month the club provided the refreshments. For the March meeting we're asking members to bring snacks to share with everyone. Since it is the day before St. Patrick's Day we're encouraging you to get creative and bring something Irish, something green or maybe something made with a good ol' Guinness. Use your imagination. The club will provide coffee, tea and soda.

MCBA Class Agenda

March 23 Beekeeping Equipment. Protective gear that's best for you. All about how much forage your bees will need, and you'll need to know. Learn to light your smoker so it stays lit – field demonstration.

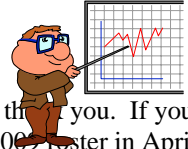
March 30 (meeting may be at the Medina Country Library to work with the observation hive) Honey bee biology Workers, Queens and Drones and everything you need to know to care for each, and how each plays a role in the colony as a superorganism.

April 6 Summer Management. Weather Depending we will install a package in our beeyard, after which we will return to the classroom for an overview of...Honey bee pests, predators and diseases, and how to manage them in spring and summer for honey production and good health

April 13 Harvesting, and Fall and Winter Management. Harvesting honey demonstration, along with extracting and beeswax management, along with fall management and getting ready for winter

April 20 Regular meeting of the Medina County Beekeepers in our Beeyard on Smith Road. Outside meeting for all members where we will open all of our hives, go through them and examine them for problems, for pests and diseases, find the queen, look for signs of swarming, learn to use the smoker and hive tool, how to move boxes and everything else you need to do when working bees.

Treasurer's Report By: Mike Rossander



We're going to try to close out the membership drive this month. If you've already paid your dues for 2009, thank you. If you haven't had the chance yet, please see me at the meeting. We'll clean out and then hopefully publish the club's 2009 roster in April. Please send me a note if we have a mistake with your address.

We have 26 new members who joined MCBA through the Beginner Beekeeper class. Once again, welcome to all. Let us know what we can do to make the club better.

I'll have the swarm list at the front table at the March meeting. If you want to be listed this year, please make sure you're on the list. We'll be publishing them to the local police and fire stations in just a few weeks. The list is also posted online at www.medinabeekeepers.com/Swarm.html.

Don't forget to send in your Apiary Registration form to the state. If you haven't gotten your renewal form in the mail, you can download a copy from our website.

MCBA Financials through February (excluding the library fund) are:

| | Feb 2009 | YTD |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| INCOME | | |
| Education Fees | 1,250.00 | 1,250.00 |
| Member Dues | 180.00 | 840.00 |
| Other Income | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 1,475.00 | 2,135.00 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Charity | 150.00 | 150.00 |
| Education | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Meals & Entertn | 39.66 | 135.61 |
| Newsletter | 52.92 | 93.10 |
| Refreshments | 68.91 | 68.91 |
| Speaker Honorarium | 30.00 | 322.75 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 841.49 | 1,502.37 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | 633.51 | 632.63 |

MCBA Balance as of 28 Feb 2009: \$5,241.44
less Sales Tax Payable: 0.00

Library Fund financials thru February:

| | Feb 2009 | YTD |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| INCOME | | |
| TOTAL INCOME | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Library fund as of 28 Feb 2009: \$1,125.29

MCBA footnotes:

- Other Income represents sale of two additional copies of the textbook from the beginner class plus a \$5 donation.
- The charitable donation in Feb is in lieu of a larger speaker honorarium for last month's speaker.
- Education expense covers the textbooks used in the beginner class

Library fund footnotes:

- none
- <http://medinabeekeepers.com/forum/people.php?PostBackAction=ApplyForm>

Webmaster's Report

Thanks to the folks who have already signed up for accounts to our new discussion forum (forum.medinabeekeepers.com). If you haven't yet signed up, click [here](#), then choose a username and password. (If the link does not work, please paste the URL below into your browser's address bar.) I look forward to talking with you on-line.

By the way, we're still looking for pictures and recipes to add to the website. Send in your favorites and we'll get them published.

PACKAGE BEES FOR SALE

#3 Italian \$71
#4 Italian \$80
#3 Russian \$75
#4 Russian \$84



\$3 discount on paid package orders before March 20th.
Queens are where they raise the price, so this is a little different for 2009.

Italians queens = \$16.00 ea
Russians queens = \$19.00 ea.

Queens clipped = \$1.50 each by themselves or if in packages.
Queens marked = \$1.50 each by themselves or if in packages.

Tom Jefferies - Phone # 1-440-236-5994 (Best way)
Email: tjeffhwb@aol.com
Snail mail 24564 Squire Road
Columbia Station, Ohio 44028
Or in person at a meeting



Queen Right Colonies, Ltd.

Hello MCBA. Queen Right Colonies is once again offering California package bees.

These come from the best producers Bob Brandi, Can-Am Apiaries, Wayne Harrison, Hill-Ward or Koenen the bees don't get better than these.

Five frame nucs prices are \$85.00

A \$10.00 deposit will hold your nuc and nucs will be available first or second week of May.

Package prices are 2 pounds of bees \$63.00 and 3 pounds of bees \$73.00 NWC or Golden Italian. There is a \$4.00 deposit on the cage that will be returned when cage is returned in good shape.

We will have queens all year Russian, Carniolan and Golden Italian \$18.00 each

For more information contact:

Denzil St.Clair

43655 St. Rt. 162

Spencer, Ohio 44275

Phone 440-647-2602

Fax 440-647-0922

E-mail queenrightcolonies@yahoo.com

More beekeeping meetings and classes you are welcome to attend are as follows:

Lorain County Beekeepers Association 14th Annual Beginner Beekeeping Classes

When: Fridays, March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th Time: 7:00 P.M. - 9 P.M.

Where: First United Methodist Church, 45 S. Professor St., Oberlin, OH

Details: cost of the class is \$35.00 and includes a year membership in l.c.b.a. & a monthly newsletter.

A book will be available for an additional fee

There will also be a hands on "FIELD DAY" to complete these classes. It will be held on Saturday, MAY 9th. at 10:00 A.M. at the home Apiary of DENZIL ST. CLAIR, 43655 ST. RT. 162, SPENCER OH. Experienced beekeepers will take you into an actual beehive and give you the chance to apply the information you learned in the class. Year round mentoring is given by members of L.C.B.A. to help you with any questions or problems you might have. TENTATIVE RAIN DATE IS MAY 16th. If you are interested in these classes, enrollment forms and information are available on

LCBA web site

www.loraincountybeekeepers.org

Watch for any schedule or time changes on the web site.

Stark County Beekeeper's Association 12th Annual Beekeeping Seminar Starting Right With Bees

The Diamond Recreation Center in Canton will be buzzing on March 28 at the 12th Annual Beekeeping Seminar. Classes on setting up an apiary, obtaining bees, managing hives, and other skills will be taught by experienced beekeepers affiliated with the Stark County Beekeeper's Association. Registration at 2782 Diamond Street NE is at 9:00 AM. Classes run from 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM. The fee is \$35 per person or \$45 for a family living at the same address. The seminar includes refreshments, lunch, textbook, and membership in the Stark County Beekeeper's Assn. Please register by March 14th. Walk-ins are welcome, but there is an additional \$5 fee for sign-up on the day of the seminar. Make checks payable to the Stark Co. Beekeeper's Assn and mail to: Deb Stocker, 1837 Stonehenge Ave NW, Massillon, OH 44646. For more information contact Deb at 330-832-0446 or Jeff Dicken at 330-868-3692. Certificates will be awarded upon completion of the seminar. Please include address, phone, and e-mail with the registration fee.



2009

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUES ARE DUE!!

It seems like we just did this, but it is a new year already. Enclosed for your convenience is a membership renewal application. Keep up with the latest in beekeeping and keep your membership active!! If you are still receiving your newsletter via U.S. Mail and your complimentary e-mail version or web site retrieval is working well for you, please consider getting it via computer all year. Thanks to all of you who have signed up for this. The association was able to save a lot of money last year, enabling us to save our funds for speakers and education efforts. Please renew your dues using the application enclosed in this newsletter and check off e-mail if you can! Thanks ☺

The Bee Herder

c/o 701 West River Road

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