

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

Association Contacts:

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Your name here

DIRECTORS:

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330-239-2523

2nd yr: Mike Stefan
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THE BEE HERDER

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

December 2009



Holiday Dinner
Monday, December 21, 2009
Dinner served at 7:00 PM



Plan on attending the party !! We have secured the fun and always entertaining Dr. Jim Tew to be our speaker for the evening. Dr. Tew has a fun and lively outlook on bees, beekeepers and our unusual beekeeping habits and quirks. You won't be sorry you came ! This year we will again have an elegant Holiday meal catered by Old Schoolhouse Catering at our A.I. Root meeting room. It will be held on our regular meeting date of Monday, December 21st at 6:30 pm. Dinner will be served promptly at 7 PM. The cost will be \$5 and a wrapped present per person...use your imagination here...to swap...it'll be Christmas With The Beekeepers...come on along. If you were unable to sign up at the last meeting and still wish to attend, please contact Mike Rossander and get your name on the list. There is still time to make your reservation by calling him at 216-533-8294 or e-mail him at Mike_Rossander@yahoo.com.

Web Site

Our web site is up and running again. Please check it often for the latest news and current events. www.medinabeekeepers.com



Thank You Officers !

Thank you to our upcoming slate of officers for the 2010 year. We greatly appreciate your talents and efforts in making the Medina County Beekeeper's Assn informative, educational, and accessible for all. A special thank you also to Peggy Garnes, our nominating committee chairperson, for rounding up the troops !

Pres: Kim Flottum
V-P: Larry Arbogast
Secy: Gwen Rosenberg
Treas: Mike Rossander
1st Year Director: Eric Schmiedlin
2nd Year Director: Bruce McAuliffe
3rd Year Director: Mike Stefan

**In Memoriam
Jeanne Schell
1953 – 2009**



We are very sad to report that we have lost one of our beloved beekeeping family. Jeanne Schell was a self-employed beekeeper, sheep farmer and Master Gardener. She served both as Secretary and Treasurer of the Medina County Beekeepers for several terms. She was a very creative person, avid trap shooter, and very interested in family history and genealogy. We will greatly miss her and her inquisitive nature, her engaging personality, and her smiling face at our meetings and club functions. Memorial contributions may be made to the Medina Co. Beekeepers, 7011 Spieth Road, Media, OH 44256.

Medina County Beekeepers - Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2009



First of all we enjoyed a great talk from Ohio Division of Wildlife Officer Eric Moore who gave us an update on the spread of black bears throughout the Ohio area. As of 11/16/2009 there were 83 sightings (2 with cubs unconfirmed) for 2009. Compared to 2008, there were 93 sightings (32 confirmed). Nine out of 1,000 sightings are beehive associated, zero in Medina County. If you have any specific questions or problems with black bears, he may be contacted at 330-245-3043. Much more information is also easily accessible on the website www.wildohio.com.

Elections were then held for the upcoming 2010 year. Nominating Committee Chairperson Peggy Garnes made a motion for one vote to be cast for all since all positions were running uncontested. President: Kim Flottum, V-P: Larry Arbogast, Treas: Mike Rossander, Secretary: Gwen Rosenberg, Director: Eric Schmiedlin. All were unanimously approved.

The details for the Christmas dinner was provided for the date of Monday, December 21, 2009 at 7:00 PM. Dinner will consist of roast beef, roast chicken, red skin potatoes, corn and broccoli, salad, cake and beverages all for the low cost of \$5 per person plus a wrapped gift per person. Dr. Jim Tew will provide our beekeeping entertainment again.

We came with our notes and conducted our annual honey production report for the various quadrants of the county and surrounding counties.

Lastly, Kim entertained us with the photos and stories from his visit to the White House Beekeeper.

**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 _____

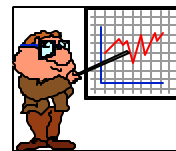
Help MCBA keep costs low. Yes

Can you receive the newsletter by email only? No

(Optional) # of Colonies _____

Dues for 2010 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

Treasurer's Report By: Mike Rossander

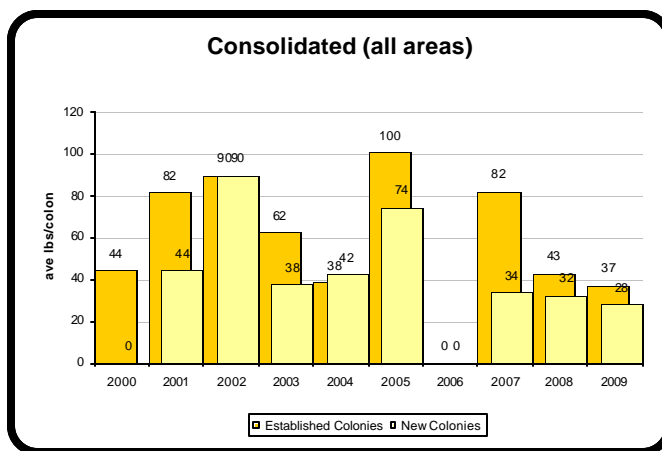


Thank you to everyone who brought in their harvest records last month. 2009 was not a great year for honey. The average harvest across the membership was 37 lbs per overwintered colony and 28 per new colony. This is down slightly 2008 and quite a bit down from years prior.

In the past, we have attempted to find causes such as urbanization of local areas, etc. This year, however, the analysis was complicated by the reported patterns – good harvest in the spring but nothing in the summer and fall. If true, that weather effect obscured anything else we might have seen in the data. (Reminder: 2006 shows zero because of lost records, not poor harvests.)

On a regional basis, northeast and southwest Medina County were actually up a bit from last year, southeast down slightly and northwest down sharply. It's hard to tell whether the variances are statistically significant, though. At the regional level, harvests bounce up and down even in the best of years. The full harvest spreadsheet with the regional charts can be downloaded from the MCBA website.

See you all at the Holiday Party



MCBA Financials through November:

	Nov 2009	YTD
INCOME		
Sales	0.00	9,816.12
Cost of Sales	0.00	(7,304.71)
Education Fees	0.00	1,370.00
Member Dues	0.00	1,400.00
Other Income	80.00	497.00
TOTAL INCOME	80.00	5,778.41
EXPENSES		
Advertising	0.00	232.00
Bank Charge	0.77	5.92
Charity	0.00	150.00
Education	0.00	500.00
Equipment	(2.50)	101.00
Fees	0.00	96.00
Insurance	0.00	500.00
Meals & Entertn	(140.00)	95.89
Miscellaneous	0.00	(10.00)
Newsletter	54.76	467.44
Refreshments	7.08	165.68
Speaker Honorarium	0.00	1,187.25
Supplies	0.00	225.23
TOTAL EXPENSES	(79.89)	3,716.41
OVERALL TOTAL	159.89	2,062.00

MCBA Balance as of 30 Nov 2009: \$6,472.57
 less Sales Tax Payable: 33.76

Library Fund financials thru November:

	Nov 2009	YTD
INCOME		
TOTAL INCOME	0.00	0.00
EXPENSES		
Equipment	0.00	228.29
TOTAL EXPENSES	0.00	228.29
OVERALL TOTAL	0.00	(228.29)

Library fund as of 30 Nov 2009:
 \$897.00

MCBA footnotes:

- Other Income includes calendar sales and donations in memory of Jeanne Schell.
- Meals & Entertn reflects prepayments for the Holiday Party in December.

Library fund footnotes:

- none

Medina County Beekeepers Association Beginning Beekeeping Classes

The Medina County Beekeeper's Association has their Spring Beginner Beekeeping Class Twice this year. To accommodate as many people as possible, the class will be offered on 5 consecutive Wednesday nights, or 2 consecutive Saturdays. Almost everybody can find time to learn to keep bees this spring with this flexible schedule.

Class dates are, for the Wednesday evening classes: February 24, March 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2010. Classes begin at 7:00 PM and run until 9:00 PM. For the Saturday classes: Saturday, February 20, and Saturday February 27, 2010. Classes run from 9 AM until 4 PM, with a lunch break.

Content in both classes is identical and covers basic honey bee biology, getting started with honey bees, all the equipment you will need, fundamental management skills, harvesting your crop and preparing for winter. Students will be advised on kinds of equipment to purchase, where to get bees and how to handle problems.

Weather permitting there will be a field day at the Club's beeyard on Smith Road in late March to examine working colonies, and for live demonstrations.

The instructor for these classes is Kim Flottum, Editor of *Bee Culture* magazine, published by the A. I. Root Company in Medina, and author of *Backyard Beekeeping, A Complete Guide To Keeping Bees In Your Yard Or Garden, Second Edition*, and *A Honey Handbook, A Guide to Producing, Harvesting and Processing Your Honey Crop*. Several members of the Medina Association will also be on hand and involved in giving demonstrations and assisting with the classes.

Cost for the class is \$50.00 for an individual, and \$60 for a family of 2 or more. For that fee students receive a 1 year membership in the Medina County Beekeepers Association (A \$20 value), a copy of Kim Flottum just released *Beginner's Book* (a \$25 value), and a variety of magazines and catalogs from the beekeeping industry.

Pre-registration is required so we know how to prepare, but fees can be made at the first class. There is no limit on the number of students in either class. To register for the class, or for additional information, please contact Kim Flottum at 330.722.2021 or Kim@BeeCulture.com

Paid Medina club members can attend for free, but will not receive the book. That can be purchased separately if wanted.

The Bee Herder

c/o 701 West River Road
Valley City, OH 44280