



THE HONEYBEE TIMES

OFFICERS

President

Dennis Eck

denscritters@yahoo.com

Vice President

Larry Theurer

larry1724@aol.com

Treasurer

Allyson May

abjmay99@yahoo.com

Secretary

Valerie Eck

valeck1gcba@yahoo.com

GCBA

P.O. Box 30092

Middleburg Hts., OH 44130

greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com

DIRECTORS

Tony Indovina

indotnbs@yahoo.com

Bruce Sampsell

merlinme2@gmail.com

Paul Buser

buserpaul@yahoo.com

Web Master:

Melissa Swedlow

Melissa.swedlow@gmail.com

Editor:

Allyson Kozak

GCBAeditor@gmail.com

Table of Contents

President's Message	2
In Case you Missed it	3
Upcoming Events	4-5
Buzzin' Around the Web A Selection of Bee Forage Plants	6
Meet the Officers	7-8
Treasurer's Report	9

President's Message

Hello to all,

It's March 29th as I sit here writing my April newsletter, and I'm checking out the extended forecast for the first two weeks of April. It sure doesn't look good, mid 40's for daytime highs and 30's for nighttime temps, five days with rain or snow mix and five partly cloudy days. What a start to our beekeeping season!

By now our bees should be in full swing. Sure we'll have a couple of cold snaps the first two weeks, but by the last two weeks of April, the weather is usually good for the bees. They start expanding rapidly with more and more nectar and pollen coming into the hive. The heaviest nectar flows begin in the third week and will last about two months. But in our area this year, it's cold and wet which means our bees have limited chances to fly out for food. So you **MUST** continue to monitor your hives for food. Inspect all of your colonies and take appropriate action as needed depending on the condition of each individual hive. Keep feeding and put pollen patties on top to build up your hives. Once the heavy nectar flow starts, you can slow down on feeding and eventually stop. Check for anything out of the ordinary. You want to see a good brood pattern. If not, now is a good time to replace your queen.

To ensure a successful season, be certain to read and ask questions.

Good luck!
Dennis

In Case you Missed it

Swarm Prevention
By: Denzil StClair
Wednesday March 11, 2015

Swarms cause disruption in a community. You are labeled a nuisance.

When you see queen cups you should be thinking swarm prevention.

When you see queen cells you should be thinking swarm control.

Reasons honey bees swarm:

- *natural reproduction
- *poor beekeeping
- *decrease in the natural queen pheromone
- *congested living conditions
 - *brood bound: no place for the queen to lay eggs
 - *honey bound: no place to store food (honey/pollen)

Timely brood expansion is swarm prevention

Demaree Method was discussed

Factors which affect the swarm impulse

- *age of the queen (new queens are less likely to swarm)
- *race of the bee (every race of bee does the same thing differently)

Ways to prevent the swarm impulse

- *timely brood expansion
- *cage the queen (they will not swarm without a queen-gives you 5-7 days)
- *practice brood expansion (Demaree Method)

Ways to do swarm control

- *cage the queen for 21 days, destroy all the queen cells, allow the brood area to hatch and open up before the queen is released.
- *make splits if desired to sell or keep.

Be Aware: If queen cells are capped you no longer have a queen.

Replacing queen before winter should be done no later than September

Upcoming Events

GCBA Monthly Meeting April 8th 2015, 7PM

Spring Management

Bill Slovak and Tony Indovina will present a funny and factual video of their first

bee dump and early spring management

&

Meet the County Inspector

Phil Bartosh

"Beekeeping for Dummies" books are in and will be available for sale at the April meeting. The cost will be \$23.

Earth Fest 2015

Celebrating the Year of Clean Water

Sunday April 19th

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds

10 AM- 5 PM

come visit the GCBA exhibit in the Bee Barn

GCBA Monthly Meeting May 13th 2015, 7PM

Apitherapy

Come hear Don Down's speak about Venom Therapy

5th Annual GCBA Conference and Field Day

Saturday May 16th 8 AM- 3:30 PM

Berea Fairgrounds

See website for details

21st Annual Queen Right Colonies Field Day
Saturday June 6th

Queen Right Colonies, Spencer Ohio
Details at www.loraincountybeekeepers.org

14th Annual Heartland Apicultural Society Conference
July 9th-11th 2015

Albion University, Michigan



Buzzin' Around the Web

A Selection of Bee Forage Plants

A Selection of Bee Forage Plants



This list is put together out of our experience working with bees in the USA in the Midwest and East Coast, as well as Europe. It is by no means complete but we wanted to offer an easy list for everybody that wants to support the Honeybee by planting forage. You can find many lists on the internet (local beekeeping clubs or cooperative extensions), but they are usually very long and it does not make it easy to know which are the best ones to start with. A great help in fine-tuning the offering in your locality is to look around in the summer: where do you see the pollinators (we've never found any on the forsythia, azalea or rhododendron). Our experience shows that all pollinators, honeybees & native wild bees, as well as beetles and wasps profit from planting these flowers, trees and shrubs.

Biannual or Perennials

All spring bulbs
Anise Hyssop
Asters
Berries
Calamint
Catnip
Caryopteris
Chives
Comfrey
Coreopsis
Dandelion
Echinacea
Gaillardia
Globe Thistle
Goldenrod
Hazelnut
Hyssop
Lavender
Melissa
Mint
Monarda
Motherwort
Obedient Plant
Oregano
Plantain
Pussy Willow
Rose Mallow
Rosemary
Rudbeckia
Russian Sage
Sage
Sedum
Sunflower (perennial)
Sweet Clover
Thyme
Wild Rose
White Clover
Verbena (perennial)

Annuals

Arugula
Basil
Borage
Buckwheat
Canola (Rape seed)
Cleome
Cornflower (Bachelor Buttons)
Flax
Cosmos
Crimson Clover
Phacelia
Holy Basil
Mustard
Sunflower
Poppies
Scabiosa
Verbena
Zinnia

Trees

Tulip Poplar
Linden
Black locust (Robinie)
Sourwood
Fruit Trees



Space Considerations

Small space or pots:

Alyssum, Arugula, Basil, Borage Holy Basil, Zinnia, Corn Flower, Poppies, Scabiosa, Verbena, Coreopsis, Lavender, Melissa, Spring bulbs, Summer Asters, Oregano, Gaillardia, Sage, Chives, Hyssop, Sedum, Thyme.

Backyard gardens, add to the previous list:

Cleome, Cosmos, Flax, Buckwheat, Phacelia, Sunflowers, Berries, Catnip, Fruit Trees, Goldenrod, Monarda, Rose Mallow, Russian Sage, Anise Hyssop, Calamint, Comfrey, Dandelion, Hazelnut, Motherwort, Rosemary, Wild Rose, Fall Asters, Caryopteris, Echinacea, Globe Thistle, Mint, Obedient Plant, Pussy Willow, Rudbeckia, Russian, white clover, (trees, depending on size of your yard)

Farms, add to the lists:

Fields of crimson clover, mustard, plantain, sweet clover, buckwheat, sunflowers, etc.

We recommend these books for further study:

John Lovell, Honeyplants of North America
Frank Pellets, American Honeyplants

Meet the Officers and Directors

I (Allyson May) asked the 2015 officers and directors to answer 5 questions about their beekeeping experience.

- 1) What is the most important thing from the beginning beekeeper classes you want the new beekeepers to remember?
- 2) What are you most looking forward to this year in beekeeping?
- 3) What important event do you want the new beekeepers to remember for 2015?
- 4) What is the best piece of beekeeping advice you have ever received?
- 5) What is your best memory of your 1st beekeeping year?

Here are their answers:

Dennis & Val Eck (president & secretary)

Dennis & Val live in Strongsville. They started beekeeping in 2009 after attending their first class. They truly got involved when Dennis was elected president and Val was elected secretary at their first election in the fall, and as the saying goes they have been involved ever since. As for their beekeeping, what started as a backyard hobby has expanded into selling their honey and hand creams at local farmers markets and craft shows.

- 1) The most important thing they want you to remember is to take your time and keep it fun.
- 2) They look forward to expanding their beekeeping and making more splits.
- 3) They want you to remember the day you install your first hive and keep your journal up to date!
- 4) The best advice they ever received was to relax and observe, your bees will tell you what's happening in the hive.
- 5) Their best memories are when they installed that very first hive, all the bees flying around us and buzzing, the commotion, are we doing this right and the satisfaction of knowing we are making a difference in our area.

Allyson May (treasurer)

I began beekeeping after attending the GCBA beginner beekeeping classes in 2013. I live in Fairview Park. I have been keeping bees for 2 years.

- 1) The most important thing I want you to remember is to stay 2-3 weeks ahead of your bees, take pictures and have fun
- 2) I am looking forward to being in the beeyard with my bees and learning how to be a better beekeeper
- 3) I want the new beekeepers to remember picking up their package of bees and their first bee dump.
- 4) Best advice: be patient, move slowly, trust your instincts, listen to the bees and know when to ask for help.
- 5) My best memories are how gentle the bees were when I installed my first package, watching them bring pollen into the hive and all that beautiful honey they made.

Paul Buser (director)

Paul lives in Brookpark. He is an electrical mechanical assembler. He studied at ETI and graduated in 1986. He loves the outdoors and traveling to different places. He loves his country, his family and his fellow beekeepers. Paul became a beekeeper after attending a beginner's beekeeping class in February 1999. He brought his son Jared along for the meetings. He was looking for a father and son adventure. Looking back now he can't believe it has been six years since his first beehive. Since then he has met countless and great people. So he says pass it around "Have you considered becoming a beekeeper?" to your neighbor.

- 1) The most important thing he wants you to remember is to ask questions if you are unsure and you can become a better beekeeper.
- 2) He is looking forward to renewing that sense of comradery with his honey bees and is very excited to produce queens and nucs.
- 3) He wants the new beekeepers to remember their first dumping of package bees. Have someone take pictures of your adventure and enjoy them later.
- 4) The best piece of advice he has ever received is that you are not in charge of them (the bees) but you can help them along. He believes they (the bees) know what they are doing.
- 5) His best memory: it was a warm day when he picked up his package of bees. The excitement and awe he felt as he released the bees into their brood box. He was so excited that he went back and purchased another package. Every time he thinks about his first day it brings back a warm spring day.

Tony Indovina (director)

Tony is a current member of GCBA and has held the offices of trustee and secretary. He will be starting his 4th year of beekeeping and his 4th year as a member of GCBA. He lives in Parma, Ohio. He currently has 8 hives, 3 are at his home and 5 are in Hinkley, Ohio on the farm of a friend.

- 1) The most important thing he wants you to remember is don't expect instant results, be patient and don't be afraid to ask for help. The use of a good mentor is crucial and has many, many great benefits.
- 2) This year he is most looking forward to gaining more knowledge of disease management and growing his colonies.
- 3) He wants new beekeepers to remember the joy of dumping their first package, the importance of watching your bees and getting to know them (get a comfortable lawn chair, and wear it out). Plan time so you can absorb all there is to take in.
- 4) The best advice he ever received is to be calm, don't rush or make sudden movements. When you are edgy or in a hurry your girls (bees) will sense it and they will be that way too. Talk to your bees when in the hive. They will get to know you, as you will them. Enjoy it!
- 5) His best memory of his 1st year in beekeeping was capturing his 1st swarm very early in the season. It was Mother's Day. He and his brother-in-law had so much fun doing this, knowing nothing, but following instructions from, of course, their mentor, over the phone no less. It was textbook. They did the ramp method when they installed the bees in their new home. To see them march up the white sheet they used as a ramp, like soldiers, straight up into the hive. It is a memory he will cherish all of his beekeeping days.

Treasurer's Report

March 2015

Beginning Balance.....\$16837.16

Payables:

Earth Day table fee \$100.00
Class supplies (Larry Theurer) \$128.04
Hubbard Insurance \$1160.00
Farm Bureau Memberships \$300.00
QRC ½ extractor \$175.00
Extractor for GCBA (Tony Indovina) \$450.00
Printing (Val Eck) \$88.79

Total: \$2401.83

Receivables:

Memberships:

Renewals (11) \$220.00
Class (1) \$50.00

Total: \$270.00

Newsletter Advertisement \$100.00
Operator Specialty Company

Total: \$100.00

Raffles:

Unassembled Hive Kit \$20.00
Hive with Bees \$28.00
Extractor \$30.00
Package Bees \$110.00
50/50 \$35.00

Total: \$223.00

Ending Balance.....\$15008.33



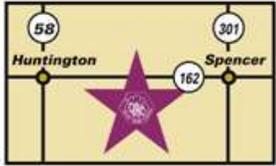
STORE HOURS:
 (March 1 - Oct. 31)
Monday - Friday
 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 (Nov. 1 - Feb. 28)
Monday - Saturday
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 (Dec. 24 - Jan. 2)
 Closed
 (Closed Sundays)



Queen Right Colonies, Ltd.

43655 State Route 162
 Spencer, OH 44275

We are located 2 miles West of Spencer and 2 miles East of SR 58. Look for the big red barn on the South side of the road.



Tel: (440) 647-2602 | Fax: (440) 647-0922
Email: info@queenrightcolonies.com | Web site: www.queenrightcolonies.com



LiftMaster



LiftMaster



Linear



**1
SOURCE
SOLUTION**

MVP



Digi-Code



MULTI-CODE



HEDDOLF



SKY LINK



SOMMER

SOMMER



GENIE



Operator Specialty Co., Inc.

440-234-0890 or 216-299-1320 cell

6 AM - 8 PM - Monday - Saturday

We Repair or Replace any Garage Door or Electric Door Operators, Broken Springs, Broken Cables and New Nylon Rollers for Quiet Operation - Dealer for Anderson Garage Doors.

Web Info & Emails: www.OSCOInc.net or www.DentalPureWaterInc.com

99.999999% - Pure Water for Home, Office or Dental Practices