



THE HONEYBEE TIMES

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President's Message



Hello All,

June is here and so are the heat and humidity. I've gotten some calls about, "My bees are all out of the hive, are they going to swarm?" The answer is no. This is normal. On hot and humid nights, many of the bees will spend the night outside of the hive. They may be clinging to the front or forming a beard on the ground in front of the hive. This is commonly called "bearding", which is similar to us spending the night sitting on our front porch to cool off.

The bees are working hard to fill the honey supers, but they still can swarm. Keep an eye on them. Continue to inspect every two weeks to insure that the queen is laying well. The bees need water so a clean water source near your hive is essential. We use a bird bath with stones in it so the bees have a safe place to land and drink. Also, an entrance feeder simply filled with water will provide a water source.

These are the days that I enjoy the most, sitting in my yard watching the girls come and go. In my area, the mock orange is blossoming along with the blackberries. The bees are crawling all over the blooms. I can't wait for extraction day. Until then, I'll just sit and watch.

Have a beautiful summer!
Dennis

Mentorship Request

ATTENTION GCBA MEMBERS

I am looking for a mentor for a new beekeeper in Lyndhust, Ohio.
I would like to hear from some of our east side beekeepers that would be willing to work with this beekeeper this summer.
Please email Allyson May (Treasurer) @ acesaviators@gmail.com
if you would be willing to step up and help this gentlemen.

Mentorship is one of the most important things a beekeeper can do.

Upcoming Events

June 10th GCBA Meeting

Speaker: Stefanie Verish

Topic: Pollination

Stefanie Verish has been a Naturalist-Artist for Cleveland Metroparks for over 10 years. She has worked at Brecksville Nature Center, Look About Lodge, and North Chagrin Nature Center, leading programs and hikes for park visitors of all ages. Her specialty is combining natural history with the arts, and she has contributed to authorship of park field guides featuring ferns and fungi.

She is fascinated by the "art of pollination," how plants "advertise" to attract specific pollinators. She will share with you various ways to attract these pollinators and how plant pollination syndromes are an art onto themselves.

JULY 8th GCBA MEETING

Club Picnic at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds

Berea, Ohio

Potluck Dinner

6:30 pm

Buzzin' Around the Web

A mite that mimics bees by smelling like them - (from Yahoo News, June 4, 2015)

New research reveals that Varroa mites, the most-serious threat to honeybees worldwide, are infiltrating hives by smelling like bees.

Being able to smell like their hostess reduces the chance that the parasite is found and killed.

"The mites from Asian honeybees, or the original host, are more efficient in mimicking both Asian and European honeybees," said lead author Zachary Huang from Michigan State University.

"This remarkable adaptability may explain their relatively recent host shift from Asian to European honeybees," Huang said.

The mites are fooling the bees not only by being able to smell like bees, but also by effectively emitting the specific scents of small, individual colonies.

"They are essentially getting through the door and reaching the inner sanctum by using bees' own complex communication codes against them," Huang said.

The codes in which they communicate are hydrocarbons, the simplest of organic compounds.

By tweaking the proportions of these chemical colognes, the mites give off the correct scents to fool their enemies.

"Our study challenged the mites' ability to modify their hydrocarbons. Conversely, bees are adapting to detect these invaders. Our results give a clear illustration of an arms race between the parasites and the host bees based on chemical mimicry and its detection," Huang said.

The study appeared in the journal *Biology Letters*.



Positively-Charged Bees!

A study published in the journal *Science* conducted by Clarke and Whitney from the University of Bristol shows that bees can sense the electrical field that surrounds a flower. This research also shows that bees can distinguish between fields produced by different floral shapes and bees also use electric fields to know whether a flower has been recently visited by other bees.

As bees fly through the air, they collide with tiny charged particles such as dust and other small molecules. The friction from these encounters strips electrons away from the bee's surface which results in a positive charge on the bee.

In contrast, flowers tend to possess a negative charge – and when positively-charged bee approaches the negatively charged flower, pollen jumps from flower to bee, sometimes even before the bee lands!

This research also showed that the electrical potential in a flower goes up by approximately 25 millivolts when a bee lands on it and last for about 2minutes. The charge in electrical field could be a signal to other bees that this flower was recently visited and might be short of nectar.

This is the first study to show that an insect can sense electric fields.

Reference: Clarke, Whitney, Sutton & Robert. Detection and Learning of Floral Electric Fields by Bumblebees. *Science*
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1126science.1230883>



Treasurer's Report

GCBA Treasurer's Report May 2015

Beginning Balance.....\$15,421.33

Payables:

GCBA Brochure Printing (Valerie Eck) \$331.74
Printing: Handouts for Classes (Allyson May) \$62.06
Class Speaker May 2015 (Don Downs) \$150.00
Conference Speaker (Laura Urban) \$200.00
Conference Speaker (Earl Hoffman) \$200.00
Conference Supplies (Dennis Eck) \$318.54
Conference Supplies (Larry Theurer) \$268.07
Mileage (Dennis Eck) \$71.46

Total: \$1601.87

Receivables:

May Meeting:

Memberships (4 Renewals) \$80.00
Raffles
Hive with Bees \$47.00
Extractor \$115.00
50/50 \$50.00

May Conference:

Admission, Door Prizes, Food, Donation & Raffle \$542.00
Raffles
Hive with Bees \$136.00
Extractor \$95.00
Petty Cash Quarters \$10.00
Farm Bureau Sponsorship \$1200.00

Total: \$2275.00

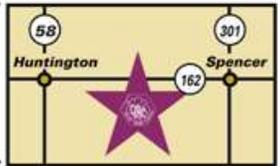
Ending Balance.....\$16094.46



STORE HOURS:
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 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
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