



# THE HONEYBEE TIMES

## OFFICERS

President

Dennis Eck

[denscritters@yahoo.com](mailto:denscritters@yahoo.com)

Vice President

Larry Theurer,

[larry1724@aol.com](mailto:larry1724@aol.com)

Treasurer

Valerie Eck

[valeck1gcba@yahoo.com](mailto:valeck1gcba@yahoo.com)

Secretary

Tony Indovina

[indotnbs@yahoo.com](mailto:indotnbs@yahoo.com)

GCBA

P.O. Box 30092

Middleburg Hts., OH 44130

[greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com](http://greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com)

## DIRECTORS

David Benedict

[d.benedict@csuohio.edu](mailto:d.benedict@csuohio.edu)

Bruce Sampsell

[merlinme2@gmail.com](mailto:merlinme2@gmail.com)

Paul Buser

[buserpaul@yahoo.com](mailto:buserpaul@yahoo.com)

Web Master:

Melissa Swedlow

[Melissa.swedlow@gmail.com](mailto:Melissa.swedlow@gmail.com)

Editor:

Allyson Kozak

[GCBAeditor@gmail.com](mailto:GCBAeditor@gmail.com)

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## President's Message

Greetings to everyone,

It's November and the sun is shining, it's a fairly warm day, and my bees are out foraging. I still have entrance feeders on all my hives, but they are starting to slow down on taking the syrup. Hopefully, they have enough honey stored, but I'll keep a close watch on them throughout the winter.

Inside the hives the bees are continuing to cluster for winter, but they may not go into a full winter cluster yet. They may break cluster quite frequently on warm days and re-cluster at night. Keep feeding your light hives as long as they take the syrup. Finish up all of your winterization on your hives and then take a much needed break yourself. On cool days while your bees are inside and before the snow flies, clean up your beeyard. Then when spring rolls around, everything is ready to start all over.

Enjoy Thanksgiving and start thinking about next year!

Dennis

## Association Notes

Reminder – the December meeting will have the annual Christmas potluck and have a honey tasting with prizes awards for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. We will also elect the 2015 club officers. Every position is open – trustee, president, VP, treasurer and secretary. **The association is in desperate need of a treasurer ASAP!!!**

## Honey Exfoliator

From Ohio State Beekeepers Association – great holiday gift idea!

Honey exfoliator:

1 cup brown sugar or sea salt  
¼ cup oil – olive, grape seed, almond  
¼ cup honey  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract, optional

Mix thoroughly and pack into a jelly jar.

## Absconding vs Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)

Much to my dismay, while doing a hive inspection after the last association meeting, I realized that my bees had disappeared. Just two weeks previous, the hive was strong and disease free, with plenty of honey and pollen stores and room to grow. Now, the bees were completely gone, including the queen. All that was left were a couple hundred newly hatched bees. The 2 honey supers were full. There was plenty of water available. There was an empty super for them to expand in and there was a ton of pollen stored in the deeps. This shocking discovery lead me to research as to what I was seeing – was this absconding? Was the CCD?

At first glance, it looked like a blurry line between whether a hive has absconded or suffered CCD. The following is what I discovered – everything you every wanted to know about absconding and CCD! There are very clear distinctions.

**Absconding** – is an extreme move where the hive leaves with all bees, the queen and everything else, except the honeycomb. This happens when circumstances are not survivable in the hive. The hive has nothing stored and no room.<sup>1,2</sup>

In the spring, new beekeepers are more likely to experience an absconding hive. A package of bees hived in new equipment many easily decide it would rather live somewhere else. Absconding also occurs frequently during a nectar dearth when food and water are scarce.<sup>2</sup>

Bees that abscond usually leave for one or more reasons<sup>2</sup>:

Lack of food

Lack of water

Overheating

Loud and continuous noise

Fires that cause prolonged exposure to smoke

Bad odors in the hive

Frequent disturbances

Invasion by predators such as yellow jackets, small hive beetles, argentine ants, wax moths

Parasites such as Varroa mites

Diseases such as American foul brood

**Colony Collapse Disorder** – has been attacking honeybee colonies since 2006 - is a name for a bunch of conditions, but explains nothing! There are many theories out there about CCD – we don't know what exactly causes CCD; we just see the effect: bees failing to return to hives that otherwise seem healthy and robust.<sup>1</sup> No cause of CCD has been proven.<sup>2</sup>

Adult bees are gone, but honey, pollen and some brood remain behind – sometimes the queen and a handful of bees are left behind. Opportunists (SHB and wax moths) seem slower to take over when CCD is the cause of dead hives.<sup>1,2,4</sup>

Before a colony collapse, it may contain much more brood than the small workforce can care for.

CCD as defined by the USDA<sup>3</sup> -

1. Post collapse, the colony still has a live queen
2. Honey stores are sufficient, even abundant
3. Broods are still alive in capped cells

4. There are hardly any worker bees; the few around are generally very young, “just hatched” specimens
5. There are no bodies in the hives – whatever happened to the worker bees happened while they were in the field

The USDA identifies many suspects, but no culprits<sup>3</sup>

1. Pathogens – various viruses and bacteria
2. Parasites – Nosema and Varroa mites remain high on the probable-cause list
3. New pests or diseases – perhaps an undiscovered or unidentified pest or pathogen is involved
4. Pesticides – neonicotinoids, like imidacloprid and clothianidin. However, one issue with making the link between pesticides and CCD is a lack of a matching pattern between neonicotinoid residues in colonies and CCD outbreaks. France, which banned imidacloprid in 1999, and Germany, which along with France banned clothianidin in 2008, still have CCD problems.
5. Transportation stresses from migratory beekeeping – for honey bees, orientation to their hive is vital, and being relocated regularly must be stressful. Additionally, moving hives around the country may spread diseases and pathogens as honeybees intermingle in the fields.
6. Monoculture – wild honeybees forage on a wide variety of nectar sources. Honeybees for commercial use are mostly limited to one crop at a time, and it is possible that they may suffer nutritional deficiencies that stress their immune system
7. Genetically modified (GM) crops – no correlations have been proven. GM crops have been widely planted since the late 1990s but CCD did not appear until 2006. Also, CCD has been seen in countries that do not allow GM crops (Switzerland). German researchers have noted in one study that there could be a link between exposure to GM crops and compromised immunity to Nosema.
8. High-fructose corn syrup (HFCS) – some researchers have attributed CCD to the practice of feeding high-fructose corn syrup to supplement bee colonies, but there are many instances of CCD in colonies that do not feed HFCS. Others have suggested a possible connection with HFCS produced from GM crops! However, the simple change of eliminating feeding HFCS does not stop CCD.
9. Global climate change – possibly weather changes, such as unusually warm winters, early springs, drought and flooding could impact colonies and lead to CCD
10. Ozone – the level of air pollutant has been steadily dropping since the early 1990s – but since CCD did not appear until 2006, the timing does not match

11. Cell phones and cell phone towers – a study in Current Science, from 2010, claimed evidence suggesting “that colony collapse does occur as a result of exposure to cell phone radiation” while also reporting that the impact of cell phones in both of the test hives resulted in more bees staying in the hive longer – which is the opposite of CCD – more research is needed.
12. Inbreeding – in many countries, particularly the USA where the higher levels of CCD have been experienced, the gene pool is quite limited due to intensive queen rearing by a number of major queen suppliers. The limited gene pool could weaken honeybees.

In summary, absconding and CCD have distinctive characteristics. This research alerted me to the mysterious complexity of CCD and the urgency for an increase in CCD researching funding, and the need for enhanced methods to encourage beekeeping, and increase in the need for public education regarding bee awareness and the importance of collecting your own data on your beehives and submitting suspected CCD hive samples to the USDA. CCD is a huge problem that needs everyone's attention.

#### References

1. [Beekeeperlinda.blogspot.com](http://Beekeeperlinda.blogspot.com)
2. [www.honeybeesuite.com](http://www.honeybeesuite.com)
3. USDA
4. [Popularlogistics.com](http://Popularlogistics.com)

## Association Finances

Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association  
Balance Sheet  
As of October 31, 2014

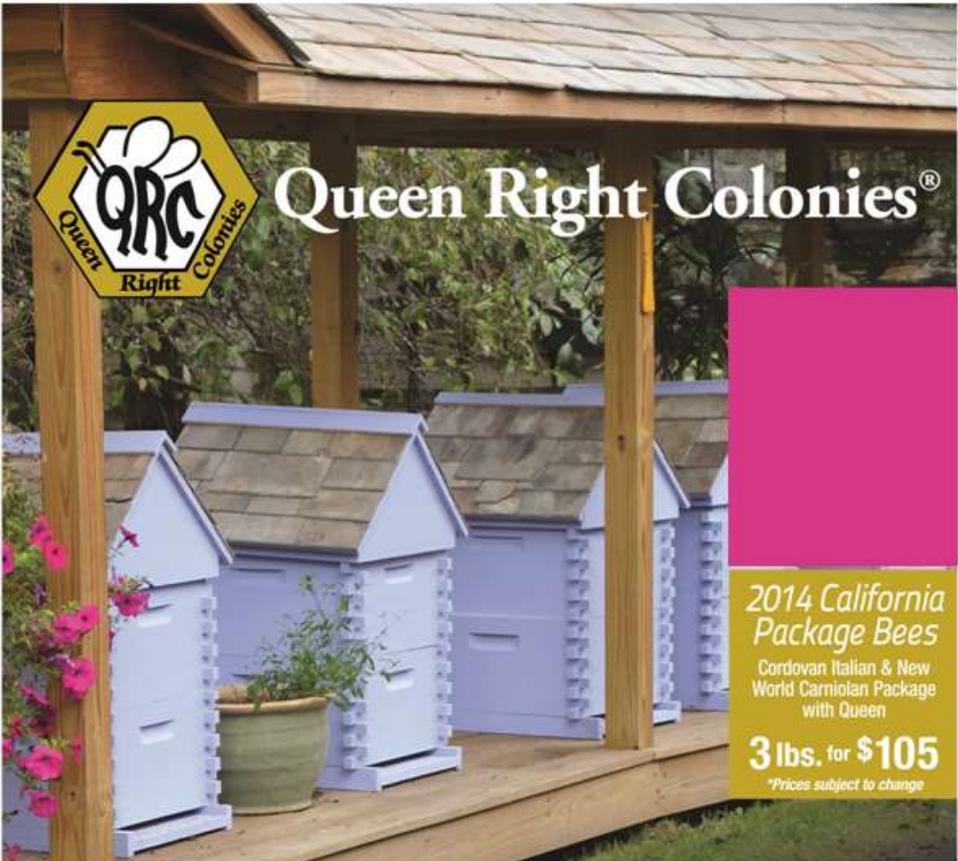
	<u>Oct 31, 14</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Fifth Third Bank	14,248.28
Petty Cash	100.00
Total Checking/Savings	<u>14,348.28</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>14,348.28</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>14,348.28</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	12,126.59
Retained Earnings	31.77
Net Income	2,189.92
Total Equity	<u>14,348.28</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>14,348.28</u></u>

Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association  
Profit & Loss  
October 2014

	<u>Oct 14</u>
Net Income	<u>0.00</u>

## Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association P & L Year-to-Date, October 2014

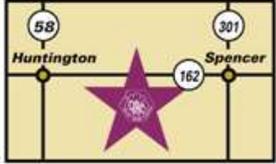
	<u>Oct 14</u>	<u>Jan - Oct 14</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Beekeeping Class Fees	0.00	2,705.00
Books-Beekeeping for Dummies	0.00	20.00
<b>Conference</b>		
Admissions	0.00	130.00
Food Sales	0.00	158.50
Raffle 50/50 - Conference	0.00	20.00
Raffle Hive-Conference	0.00	427.00
Sponsors	0.00	1,000.00
<b>Total Conference</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,735.50</u>
Membership Dues	0.00	1,040.00
<b>Raffles</b>		
50/50	0.00	302.00
Raffles - Other	0.00	214.00
<b>Total Raffles</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>516.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6,016.50</u>
<b>Expense</b>		
<b>Conference Expense</b>		
2014 Conference Raffle Items	0.00	334.00
Conference Speaker Fees	0.00	219.00
Food Expenses	0.00	741.53
Printing and Reproduction	0.00	9.17
Supplies	0.00	46.37
<b>Total Conference Expense</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,350.07</u>
Contributions	0.00	147.00
<b>Cuyahoga County Fair</b>		
Fair Prizes	0.00	90.00
Supplies for Fair	0.00	93.82
<b>Total Cuyahoga County Fair</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>183.82</u>
Drawing Prize	0.00	173.55
Dues and Subscriptions	0.00	57.00
Equipment	0.00	33.90
Exhibitor Fees	0.00	75.00
<b>Insurance</b>		
D&O Insurance	0.00	798.00
Liability Insurance	0.00	348.00
<b>Total Insurance</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,146.00</u>
Marketing / Advertising	0.00	82.50
Office Supplies	0.00	60.70
Ohio Registration Filing Fees	0.00	50.00
Postage and Delivery	0.00	69.20
Printing and Reproduction	0.00	116.80
<b>Professional Fees</b>		
Speakers	0.00	200.00
<b>Total Professional Fees</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
Refreshments	0.00	81.04
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3,826.58</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,189.92</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,189.92</u>



**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](mailto:info@queenrightcolonies.com) | Web site: [www.queenrightcolonies.com](http://www.queenrightcolonies.com)

