



# 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:

Allyson May

[abjmay99@yahoo.com](mailto:abjmay99@yahoo.com)

Secretary:

Valerie Eck

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

GCBA

P.O. Box 30092

Middleburg Hts., OH 44130

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

## DIRECTORS

Tony Indovina

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

Bruce Sampsell

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

Paul Buser

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

## Website Editors:

Melissa Swedlow

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

Kathy Smith

[ksmith@lakenetwork.net](mailto:ksmith@lakenetwork.net)

## Editor:

Allyson Kozak

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

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## President's Message

December 2015

Hello to all. It's December 1<sup>st</sup> and there's no trace of snow. We made it through November with above average temps. My bees were still collecting pollen and foraging in the neighborhood.

But, don't let your guard down. This is still winter and the cold and snow could happen overnight. It's not too late to insulate, wrap or protect your colonies from the frigid weather. Hopefully your bees have enough honey to make it through the winter. If not, there are many examples on YouTube or the web on how to make and use a sugar board, and recipes for making fondant, sugar bricks or patties. With the temperatures as warm as they are, you can sneak a peek into your hives to check food supplies.

I always enjoy our December meeting. It's a time to relax, tell a few jokes, and get to know everyone better. It's also our honey tasting meeting. Bring a sample of your honey to be judged by a panel of your peers. Plus you can make a couple of bucks for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. It also gives you bragging rights about how good your honey is. So, bring your favorite dish, a story and your honey to the meeting.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Dennis

## Upcoming Events

**GCBA Monthly Meeting December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 7PM**

December potluck dinner!!! And election of officers!!  
GCBA will supply ham, beverages, plates and utensils.  
Bring a favorite dish and a story to share!

## Buzzin' Around the Web

### **Scientists Link Honeybees' Changing Roles Throughout Their Lives to Brain Chemistry**

-taken from "[MALDI Imaging Analysis of Neuropeptides in the Africanized Honeybee \(\*Apis mellifera\*\) Brain: Effect of Ontogeny](#)"

*Journal of Proteome Research, June 2014*

Scientists have been linking an increasing range of behaviors and inclinations from monogamy to addiction to animals', including humans', underlying biology. To that growing list, they're adding division of labor — at least in killer bees. A report published in ACS' *Journal of Proteome Research* presents new data that link the amounts of certain neuropeptides in these notorious bees' brains with their jobs inside and outside the hive.

Mario Sergio Palma and colleagues explain that dividing tasks among individuals in a group is a key development in social behavior among Hymenoptera insects, which include bees, ants, sawflies and wasps. One of the starkest examples of this division of labor is the development of "castes," which, through nutrition and hormones, results in long-lived queens that lay all the thousands of eggs in a colony and barren workers that forage for food and protect the hive. Bee researchers had already observed that honeybees, including Africanized *Apis mellifera*, better known as "killer" bees, divide tasks by age. As workers get older, their roles change from nursing and cleaning the hive to guarding and foraging. Palma's team wanted to see whether peptides in the brain were associated with the bees' shifting duties.

They found that the amounts of two substances varied by time and location in the brains of the honeybees in a way that mirrored the timing of their changing roles. “Thus, these neuropeptides appear to have some functions in the honeybee brain that are specifically related to the age-related division of labor,” the scientists conclude.



Examining killer bees' brains lends clues to the chemical underpinnings of their social behaviors.  
Credit: Scott Bauer/U.S. Department of Agriculture



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