



Greater Cleveland
Beekeepers Association
www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com

September 2019

THE HONEYBEE TIMES

Meeting is Wednesday, September 11, 2019

**Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center
Doors open at 6:30pm for snacks and socializing.
Meeting begins at 7:00pm.**

Overwintering Honey Bees in Northeast Ohio

Denzil St. Clair, Owner of Queen Right Colonies in Spencer, Ohio
<https://www.queenrightcolonies.com/> will discuss all aspects of, and considerations to, over winter honey bee hives in Northeast Ohio. How to prepare, when and if to open hives, what should have been done and what you can still do to prepare.

Bring your Cuyahoga County Fair entry stubs to the meeting to enter in a cash drawing!

Sweet or savory snacks to share are always welcome!



Inside:

Presidents Message

GCBA Happenings

Resources

Recipe of the Month

Upcoming Meetings and Events

President's Message

As of this week we are at '2511' on the Growing Degrees Calendar for my zip code, 44111. Pretty much everything is in bloom or is already done blooming! I hope you had an opportunity to use this tool in the earlier months of summer to better understand the nutrition available to your bees and make hive management decisions as necessary.

[OARDC Ohio Growing Degree Days Tool](#)

How are you pollen stores? If in doubt, a 2inch by 2inch piece of pollen patty in or above the brood chamber is a quick insurance policy. Small enough for the girls to guard against hive beetles and to use if they need it.

GCBA bylaws put term limits on the office of the President. 2019 will be my second and final year as President of GCBA. A current board member may be stepping up to run for this seat and that will mean that GCBA will need another member to step up for our club. I will remain on the board in the capacity of the Past President. Please, consider volunteering to serve our club and its mission to educate beekeepers and the public about honey bees, pollinators and the joy of beekeeping. It is more fun than work and a great learning experience!

Dr. Samuel Ramsey spoke at Tri-County Spring workshop this year. He is doing very important research on a very serious new threat to honey bees, the *Tropilaelaps* mite. There is a GoFundMe campaign open to ensure that Dr. Ramsey has sufficient funds to complete his planned research. You may consider making a donation. [Fight the Mite](#)

Annette

GCBA Happenings

The GCBA information table at the Cuyahoga County Fair was a great success! Thank you to the many club members who donated a few hours of their time to talk to fair goers about beekeeping and GCBA. The Board very much appreciates all of our club volunteers!

The honey tasting table was a big hit as always. This year we used dry spaghetti noodles as dipping sticks instead of plastic stir sticks. They worked great! We are trying to lessen the club's environmental impact at any gathering or event we participate in. If you have any suggestions to help in this effort, please let any board member know your thoughts.

Lily Erickson, our 2019 GCBA Youth Beekeeping Scholarship Winner, put together a wonderful display with pictures and information for CCF. She shared comments about getting started as a beekeeper and things she has learned. Lily's entire family is involved in her adventure as a new beekeeper. She will be updating you at a future meeting or in a future newsletter edition.

At the August meeting Allyson May gave an engaging and informative presentation on the state of our hives and the bees environment at this time of year.

Additionally, at the meeting it was announced that Phil Bartosh has stepped up to serve as a GCBA board member. Phil will be serving out the remainder of 2019 in the vacant Director's seat and will be on the ballot for elections later this year. Please, welcome and thank Phil! He is an asset to our organization.

The Rocky River Nature Center has hired a new Host to replace Joyce who we have known and worked with for several years. Cathleen Samiec, Cathy, will be the building host for our monthly meetings. Please, stop by the desk and say "hello".

Recommendations for speakers, topics, club activities, article links, etc. are always welcome! Talk to any board member and we will see what we can do to make it happen.

Remember the GCBA library is open before every meeting. There are many resources for members to check out on a monthly basis. The cost of beekeeping books can add up. This is a great way to read, learn or to review a book before you purchase a personal copy.

How much do you like to talk about bees?

As a club we are getting more regular requests for speakers for groups like garden clubs, girl scouts, community events, etc. We would like to put together a list of names of members who are interested in representing GCBA in this capacity. The club owns display items for show and tell and has literature that can be shared. We are thinking about creating a general outline of basic topics to cover if it is a more formal presentation. If you are interested in participating in this group, either as a speaker, to create an outline or to manage the schedule requests and speakers, please talk to Janice or Annette.

Elections

They will be here before we know it. Any member wishing to put their name on the December ballot must inform the GCBA Secretary no later than the November 13th GCBA General Meeting. Please, consider sharing your skills and taking a turn to serve on the GCBA board.

GCBA Treasurer, Allyson May, has been a terrific volunteer for GCBA over several years. She has taught many of the Beginner Beekeeper classes, given informational presentations to our members, been on and lead committees for GCBA events, represented the club at public events and served on the board. Allyson will not be returning as a board member in 2020 and this will leave a vacancy in the Treasurers seat. Please, take a minute to thank Allyson for all her volunteer hours for GCBA and consider stepping up for GCBA. Allyson will be available to assist the new Treasurer for a smooth transition.



In the Hive

The bees can be a bit testier at this time of year. The Fall flow is about here but, the girls may be guarding their hives and honey stores a bit more seriously. If you are opening a hive, have a plan. Keep inspections short. Have your smoker ready. The scent of honey in the air can start a robbing situation in no time. Once it begins, it can be difficult, if not impossible, to stop.

What are your mite counts? What has your integrated pest management strategy been so far this year? What is the next step? The queen is laying less, but the mites continue to reproduce as quickly as they can. The ratio of bees to mites has been reversing for a few weeks in most hives. Your choices now can be the difference of a live hive or losing your hive this winter or early spring.

For the beginners, or just for some quick reminders, check out Randy Olivers Beginner's Page. Randy is in California, so timing may be different, but good beekeeping tips apply anywhere.

<http://scientificbeekeeping.com/first-year-care-for-your-nuc/>

Thinking about going Solar??

There are some upcoming informational meetings about a local solar co-op.

Community information sessions are being held September 24th at 6pm at Melt Bar and grilled in Independence, September 25th at 6 pm at Paragon Wine bar in Euclid, and September 26th at 6 PM at Michael J Zone on west 65th and Lorain. For more information:

<https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/co-ops/ohio/cuyahoga-county-solar-co-op-3/>

Interesting Articles:

[Remembering Eva Crane](#)

[Climate Change Cachet](#)

[Propolis and bee health: the natural history and significance of resin use by honey bees](#)

[There are Queen Cells in my Hive, What shall I do](#)

[Pollinator News Aug - Sept 2019](#)

[Go with what we know](#)

Anytime is a great time to catch up on educational materials.

Resources:

Got mites? Not sure? What to do? Check out your options all in one place:

[Varroa Management Decision Tool](#)

Research based information from America's land-grant universities. This is a national bee health website.

http://articles.extension.org/bee_health

DC Beekeepers Alliance created a nice hive inspection check list.

http://www.dcbeekeepers.org/downloadable_files/DCBA_Hive_Inspection_Form.pdf

George W. Imirie Jr. was a lifelong beekeeper and founder of the Montgomery County (MD) Beekeepers Association. Over a decade or more, George wrote and published detailed articles about beekeeping which he titled "Pink Pages."

<http://pinkpages.chrisbacherconsulting.com/>

Ohio Farm Bureau, Cuyahoga County Chapter

<https://ofbf.org/counties/cuyahoga/>

Check out BeeSpotter and see how many bumble bees you can identify!

<https://beespotter.org/topics/key/>

BeeSpotter is a partnership between citizen-scientists and the professional science community designed to educate the public about pollinators by engaging them in a data collection effort of importance to the nation. It is a web-based portal at the [University of Illinois](#) for learning about honey bees and bumble bees and for contributing data to a nationwide effort to collect baseline information on population status of these insects.

Cuyahoga County Board of Health Apiary Inspection Program

<http://www.ccbh.net/beekeeping-apiary-inspection/>

Bees and Wasps of Ohio Guide

[http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/portals/wildlife/pdfs/publications/id_guides/Pub5488_Bees and Wasps of Ohio.pdf](http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/portals/wildlife/pdfs/publications/id_guides/Pub5488_Bees_and_Wasps_of_Ohio.pdf)

Thinking about planting more pollinator habitat? This may help you choose your plants.

<http://www.pollinator.org/bee-smart-app>

The Ohio State University Bee Lab has articles and webinars available, at your convenience, and is a great resource for new and experienced beekeepers.

<mailto:https://u.osu.edu/beelab/>

The Honey Bee Health Coalition has a complete guide to options for varroa treatments.

<http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>

University of Minnesota has a comprehensive tool for bee disease and pests.

https://www.beelab.umn.edu/sites/beelab.umn.edu/files/2016_disease_pdf_version_s.pdf

Bee Culture Magazine's Kim and Jim Show brings current technology, science and information to beekeepers with webinars. You can watch live and submit questions in real time, or watch later from their archives. <http://www.beeculture.com/kimandjimshow/>

If you come across any educational material you would like to share with the club, please let us know!

gcbaeditor@gmail.com

Recipe of the Month

Berry Honey Milkshake

- 1 pint nonfat vanilla ice-cream or nonfat frozen yogurt
- 1 basket strawberries hulled; or an assortment of berries (about 2 ½ C fruit)
- ½ C nonfat milk
- ¼ C honey
- 4 small mint sprigs (optional)

In blender, combine all ingredients except mint; blend about 30 seconds until smooth and creamy. Serve immediately in tall, chilled glasses. Garnish with mint sprigs if desired. Makes 4 servings.

Recipe courtesy National Honey Board

Interested is GCBA swag?



HomeTown Threads of North Olmstead is the source!
[Order Your GCBA Swag Here](#)

GCBA Meeting and Events

October Membership Meeting

October 9th

Description: Reading the Frames - Landi Simone is a EAS Master Beekeeper and beekeeping educator. We will review and discuss her presentation from a previous EAS conference as it relates to beekeeping in northeast Ohio.

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

November Membership Meeting

November 13th

Jeannie Saum, Owner of Beepothecary <https://mkt.com/beepothecary>

All you want to know about propolis. Jeannie will discuss methods of propolis collection, washing and cleaning. She will share information regarding health benefits of propolis and value added products you can make.

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

December Membership Meeting

December 11th

Elections, Holiday Gathering

Our annual year end wrap up! Come and enjoy a meal and share stories of your hives this year. Please, bring a salad, side dish, or desert with a serving utensil to share. GCBA will provide meat and vegetarian entrée selections.

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

January Membership Meeting

January 8th

Annual "Best Flavor" Honey Competition for members

Ann Cicarella, Landscape Designer, OSU Certified Pollinator Education,

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

February Membership Meeting

No meeting, but all members are welcome to attend one or all of the Beginner Beekeeping Classes which are held each Wednesday evening in February from 6:30 – 9:00pm

Rocky River Nature Center

Other Meeting and Events

Bee Culture BEETALK

September 16, 2019 6:30pm – 9:00pm

AI Root 623 W. Liberty St Medina, OH

Cleveland Pollinator and Native Plant Symposium

Cleveland Botanical Gardens 8:00am – 4:00pm

*Reservations Required <https://www.clevelandpollinatorsymposium.org/>

Lorain County Beekeepers Association 100th Year Anniversary Celebration

October 5, 2019 5:00pm – 9:00pm

*Reservation Required <https://lcba.app.rsvpify.com/>

Ashtabula County Beekeepers Association Annual Conference

October 19, 2019 10:00am – 3:00pm

<https://ashtabulacountybeekeepers.org/>

OSBA Fall Conference

Plain City, OH

November 2nd

Tolles Career Center, 7877 US Highway 42 S

Plain City, OH 43064 United States + [Google Map](#)

<https://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/event/osba-fall-conference-2019/>

Classified Ads

Any member in good standing may place an ad for beekeeping related items for sale or trade once a quarter free of charge. This ad will not exceed 1/8th of a page in size. Additional ads will be subject to advertisement fees.

Advertisement Fee Schedule:

1/8th Page: \$5 month, 1/4th Page: \$7 month, Half Page: \$10 month, Full Page \$15

Please note: Information posted is a courtesy to GCBA Members and/or a paid advertisement for business entities. GCBA does not endorse or guarantee quality or pricing. Used foundation should not be sold and will not be advertised. Used woodenware cannot be certified free of some diseases like American Foulbrood. Be very cautious when purchasing any used woodenware products. Please, contact the individual or business for details.