



# ***The Honey Bee Times***

***January 2026***

Happy New Year to all of our fellow beekeepers!

We hope that you had a safe and healthy holiday season and are ready for the new year of beekeeping.

The December meeting was our annual official business meeting as well as our Christmas party. The election of officers took place. Those who braved the weather were treated to an evening of fellowship, great food, and fun games.

The January meeting will be held on the 14th at 7:00 in Building 25. This will be a good meeting for newer beekeepers to share what they experienced in their first year of beekeeping. Bring a pie to share with everyone, no contest, just sharing your favorite pie recipe.





## Inmates get honey extractor from local beekeeping organizations

SPENCER TWP. — With the help of three local beekeeping organizations, Belmont Correctional Institution inmates will soon have an electric extractor to help produce honey from the facility's nine hives.

The Lorain County Beekeepers met with the Greater Cleveland Beekeepers and the Medina County Beekeepers at Queen Right Colonies, 43655 state Route 162, on Thursday afternoon to present beekeeper Steve Roth with a donated extractor for inmates involved in the institution's bee club.

Roth said the Belmont Correctional Institution's bee club started about seven years ago and has since evolved to where the inmates are practically running the club themselves. He started helping with the club about six years ago and has since implemented a master beekeeping program for the inmates.

"You can't imagine how much that club means to these inmates," Roth said. "We have about 60 inmates in there, and some of them have been with it since inception."

Since the club's inception, the inmates had a honey extractor with a hand crank, Roth said. Recently, the hand crank broke.

"When it did, it showered metal all through their honey, and it contaminated the honey," Roth said.

Roth has wanted to get the inmates an electric extractor, and since the hand-crank extractor broke, he decided to call Sheila St. Clair of Queen Right Colonies.

He asked St. Clair for the wholesale price of an electric extractor so he could set up a fundraiser and later purchase it. After hearing the need, St. Clair told him she'd give him a call back.

Rather than getting a price for Roth, St. Clair contacted local beekeeping organizations and explained what happened. Soon after, the three beekeeping organizations contributed to covering the honey extractor's full cost.

(Continued from page 2)

“We’ve all done this as a group effort to help these men out,” she said.

When Roth came to pick up the honey extractor, he expressed both his and the inmates’ gratitude for what the beekeeping organizations had done.

Roth hopes to use the donation to show the inmates that they are an entity in the community.

“(The community knows) what you're doing,” Roth said. “They think a lot of what you're doing.”

Contact reporter Sara Crawford at (330) 721-4063 or [scrawford@medina-gazette.com](mailto:scrawford@medina-gazette.com).

Special Thank You to reporters Sara Crawford, [scrawford@medina-gazette.com](mailto:scrawford@medina-gazette.com) of the *Medina County Gazette* and Larissa Beriswill, [lberiswill@morningjournal.com](mailto:lberiswill@morningjournal.com) of the *Morning Journal* for great articles and coverage. These local publications have been very supportive of Beekeeping over the years and we appreciate all their help.

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## Research from the University of Oxford in England

Climate change and agricultural intensification have increasingly deprived honeybees of the floral diversity they need to thrive. Pollen, the major component of their diet, contains specific lipids called sterols necessary for their development. Increasingly, beekeepers are feeding artificial pollen substitutes to their bees due to insufficient natural pollen. However, these commercial supplements – made of protein flour, sugars, and oils – lack the right sterol compounds, making them nutritionally incomplete.

In the new study, carried out in collaboration with Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, University of Greenwich, and the Technical University of Denmark, the research team succeeded in engineering the yeast *Yarrowia lipolytica* to produce a precise mixture of six key sterols that bees need. This was then incorporated into diets fed to bee colonies during three-month feeding trials. These took place in enclosed glasshouses to ensure the bees only fed on the treatment diets.

### Key findings:

- ◆ By the end of the study period, colonies fed with the sterol-enriched yeast had reared up to 15 times more larvae to the viable pupal stage, compared with colonies fed control diets.
- ◆ Colonies fed with the enriched diet were more likely to continue rearing brood up to the end of the three-month period, whereas colonies on sterol-deficient diets ceased brood production after 90 days.
- ◆ Notably, the sterol profile of larvae in colonies fed the engineered yeast matched that found in naturally foraged colonies, suggesting that bees selectively transfer only the most biologically important sterols to their young.

Read the entire article here-

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2025-08-20-saving-bees-superfoods-new-engineered-supplement-found-boost-colony-reproduction>



## Notes-

- ♦ Dues for 2026 are due now. They can be paid in person at the meetings, or on our website. A membership form is included in this month's newsletter.
- ♦ The Spring beekeeping classes will be held every Wednesday in February. Applications for new beekeepers are on our website. As a reminder, members in good standing can attend the classes as a refresher at no charge.

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## This Month in the Bee Yard

Winter is here, December started out pretty cold and snowy, then we had a stretch of warmer weather. Typical NE Ohio up and down weather. January looks to be starting out colder. When we get a 40 degree plus sunny day, the bees will be out doing cleansing flights and there will be yellow spots all over the snow. If you have candy boards or shims with fondant, you should pop the top briefly on a warmish day to see that they are doing ok. It doesn't hurt to have some extra sugar bricks to add, but refrain from adding any pollen patties until March or April, it's still too early to stimulate egg laying.

Do an Oxalic Acid mite treatment on warmer (50+) days since the capped brood is still fairly low this time of year. Clean out the bottom board with a stick or stiff wire to remove any dead bees and keep the entrance open.

If you're planning on expanding or replacing any failed hives, now is the time to order packages or nucs.

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## GCBA Merchandise is available-

Check out the GCBA Store at the link below for cool threads that will have you looking great and supporting the GCBA. You can find it on our website under the "More" tab or just click on the link in this article. Several styles are available to compliment your individual look from tees to hoodies.

<https://rycosportslw.com/businesses/greater-cleveland-bee-keepers-association/>



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## Upcoming Events

World bee Day will be three days during the week (no Saturday event for the general public) from May 13-15 this year. Volunteers are always needed and it's great fun seeing the kid's eyes light up as they learn about bees.

The Cuyahoga County Fair will be held August 11-16 this year. Have some really nice honey that you extracted this year? Set it aside to enter in the fair.

Watch this newsletter for more information as these events get closer.





## GCBA Membership Registration

New ☐ Renewal ☐

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership cost is \$20.00 per family. Membership in Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association means you can learn and enjoy a new hobby, keep current with beekeeping, and meet other beekeeping members who live in the Greater Cleveland area.

GCBA monthly meetings are focused on educational topics including beekeeping best management practices, current events in beekeeping, research, and hive health.

Register at a GCBA monthly meeting or see more options on our website.

Your personal information is for club use only and will not be shared with anyone.

I acknowledge the risks involved in beekeeping activities which include and not limited to: stings, falls, shock, allergic reactions and personal injury. I agree to hold harmless the Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association free from any liability, including financial responsibility for injuries or property damages, regardless of whether injuries are caused by negligence in the State of Ohio.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For Office Use:

Payment Received By: _____	Payment Type: Cash _____ Check # _____
Date: _____	

# Honey Chai Tea Latte

Recipe by Chef Charles Heaton

Serves: 4

## INGREDIENTS

- ◆ 2 cups water
- ◆ 1/4 cup honey
- ◆ 4 black tea bags
- ◆ 1/4 tablespoon vanilla extract
- ◆ 2 cinnamon sticks
- ◆ 6 whole cloves
- ◆ 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- ◆ 1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom
- ◆ 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ◆ 1 tablespoon honey, + to taste
- ◆ 2 cups whole milk



## DIRECTIONS

- ◆ Prep a pitcher/container you are going to use by having a strainer ready and the container available. A strainer with coffee filter works well.
- ◆ In a sauce pot bring 2 cups of water to a boil
- ◆ While stirring - Add honey, vanilla, tea bags, cinnamon sticks, cloves, ginger, cardamon, nutmeg, honey.
- ◆ Let it simmer for about 5 minutes.
- ◆ Remove the tea bags.
- ◆ Add 2 cups of milk and bring it to a boil (continue stirring).
- ◆ Remove from heat.
- ◆ Pour Chai through the strainer into the container you are using to serve it.
- ◆ Top with frothed milk if desired. Enjoy!

# Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association

## Beginning Beekeeping Classes



This four-part course is designed for anyone interested in becoming a backyard beekeeper; no experience is necessary. Basic honey bee biology, beekeeping techniques, required equipment, best management practices, and more will be presented.

The Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association's mission is to promote interest in beekeeping through education, training, and community awareness.

**Time:** 7:00-9:00pm (doors open at 6:30pm)

**Location:** Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds  
19201 E Bagley Road, Bldg 25  
Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130

**Cost:** \$50 includes 4 classes and a 1-year Family Membership

**Registration:** At door or download form at [greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com](http://greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com)

**Class Descriptions:**

- Feb. 4: Equipment
- Feb. 11: Bee Package Installation
- Feb. 18: Seasonal Inspection/Care of the Hive
- Feb. 25: Threats to the Hive and Treatments

**GCBBA Events held throughout the year:**

- Field Day
- Picnic
- County Fair Booth
- Holiday Parties
- Live Hive Installations/Demonstrations

**2026  
Class Dates:**

**Wednesdays**

**February 4, 11, 18, 25**



*GCBBA meetings are family friendly \*\**

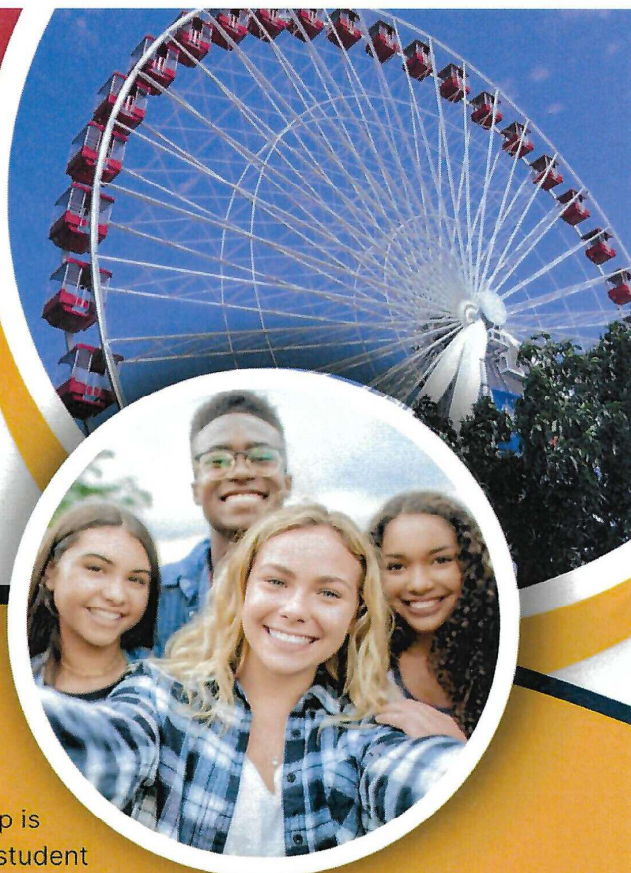
*"Beekeeping for Dummies" guidebook available for purchase. \*\**

**Pay Online or download the Class Registration Form at  
[greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com](http://greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com)**





# Scholarship Program 2026



## Cuyahoga County Agricultural Society Scholarship

The Cuyahoga County Agricultural Society Scholarship is available to any high school senior or current college student applying for the first time, with a preference for residents of Cuyahoga County. Applicants must be enrolling in a post-secondary, two- or four-year accredited program or technical school. Candidates should have participated in the Cuyahoga County Fair as an exhibitor or in a county fair youth program for at least one year prior to applying. These scholarships are a one-time award and cannot be reapplied for if previously received. Applications must be submitted online AT [WWW.CUYFAIR.COM](http://WWW.CUYFAIR.COM). Deadline for applications is 3:00 PM on July 1, 2026.

## Jim Mikesina Law Enforcement Scholarship

A \$1,000 scholarship is available for residents of Cuyahoga County who are seeking a career in any first responder field. This encompasses professions in law enforcement, firefighting, paramedicine, and emergency medicine. Applications can be submitted online at [WWW.CUYFAIR.COM](http://WWW.CUYFAIR.COM). Please note that the deadline for applications is 3:00 PM on July 1, 2026.

## Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau/Cuyahoga County Fair Partnership Scholarship

The Cuyahoga County Fair is offering a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2025-2026 school year. Applicants must have participated in the Cuyahoga County Fair as an exhibitor or in a youth program for at least one year. This one-time scholarship, in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau, is not available to previous recipients. Applications can be submitted online at [WWW.CUYAHOGA.OFBF.ORG](http://WWW.CUYAHOGA.OFBF.ORG), with a deadline of July 1, 2026.



**Applications can be made online.  
Deadline July 1, 2026 @ 3pm**

**CUYFAIR.COM**





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## **GCBA Officers**

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Fair Committee Chair: Rolly Platten

## **Mission Statement**

GCBA Goal: The Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association supports, educates, and connects both beekeepers and aspiring beekeepers alike through monthly meetings and classes.