



*Greater Cleveland  
Beekeepers  
Association*



JULY 2024

the **HONEYBEE TIMES**



Inside this issue:

President's Message  
Drinking Fountain  
Supporting Pollinators  
Honey Garlic Chicken  
Honeybee Survey  
GCBA Bee Yard  
Bee Practical Award  
Cuyahoga County Fair  
Classified Ads  
GCBA Officers

## From the President's Desk

Hello Everyone,

I am looking to set a personal record for shortest President's Message. Happy July and GCBA Summer Picnic month! Please join us and share a dish or dessert! Fun and games (e.g. smoker competition, so bring yours, cornhole, etc.), food, and good times and conversation. Fair is right around the corner as well. Please volunteer if you are able. Treat your bees if necessary. And enjoy the summer! As always, I look forward to seeing you soon.

Mike Alonso  
GCBA President



## Honeybee Drinking Fountain

*Hitokotonushi Shrine – Joso, Japan*

Bees and wasps drinking water to cool themselves down isn't an unusual sight on a sweltering summer day, but a tiny drinking fountain tailor-made for their kind may be rather rare.

Hitokotonushi Shrine in the city of Joso, Ibaraki Prefecture, is known for such a drinking fountain catering to the thirsty little bees, which has been set up every summer since 2020. This small act of kindness has been appreciated by hundreds of bees—and warmed the hearts of thousands.

The honeybee drinking fountain was first created in 2016, but it did not reappear for the next four years due to the lack of apian visitors during that time. Attached to the ablution pavilion, the fountain's platform is made from bamboo and stuffed with moss, which provides a footing for the bees and creates the feeling of a serene fairytale scene.

## Top Five Tips For Supporting Pollinators This Summer

*Mother Nature's messengers need consideration year-round. Here's what you can do to give them a helping hand.*

When we see the first bit of green finally break through the earth or bud form on a tree outside our window, we know spring has indeed sprung. That's when many of us start to think of our pollinator friends and what we can do to help them as our plants begin to grow and bloom.

Some popular garden plants like roses are usually self-pollinated or pollinated by the wind, but most of the flowers you can buy at a nursery are going to attract and need pollinators. Around

80% of flowering plants need pollinators to reproduce, and over three-quarter of the staple crops that feed people and livestock do too.

Thinking locally is a great way to help pollinators. Using plants native to your region can add some extra help to support both native and other pollinators, and native plants will be better suited for the soil and climate. With any plant, planting a cluster of several of the same type will make it easier for pollinators to find them. A bonus to attracting pollinators is that your local wildflower populations may also increase.

- **Overlap blooms.** Pollinators need flowers that bloom at different times of the year. Be intentional and plant flowers that bloom as others start to fade.
- **Get Colorful!** Plant flowers of all different colors since different pollinators are attracted to different colors.
- **Choose different shapes and sizes of flowers.** Different pollinators are attracted to different-sized flowers--so get creative!
- **Easy on the pesticides!** Your flowers will bloom without all the chemicals--they have been doing it for thousands of years.
- **Give your pollinators shelter.** Whether that is your honeybee hive, or bee house.



Pollinators have preferences when it comes to the plants they choose to pollinate, so splashing different colors is important to supporting them.

Source: *Susan Himes, Texas A&M AgriLife Marketing and Communications*



## Honey Garlic Chicken Stir Fry

*Recipe courtesy of Gayle Bartosh*

### Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 5 cloves garlic, sliced, to taste or minced garlic in water
- salt and ground black pepper to taste
- Red pepper flakes (optional)
- 2 (16 ounce) packages frozen Asian vegetables
- 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms or canned mushrooms - drained
- 1/4 cup honey to taste
- 4 tablespoons low sodium soy sauce,
- 3 cups water or low sodium chicken broth
- 2 Tablespoons of cornstarch, diluted with broth (It was cute so cute optional to thicken sauce if needed.)
- 3 cups instant white rice (such as Minute® cooked)

### Procedure:

- Toss chicken pieces with salt, black pepper and pepper flakes ( if desired)
- Place 1 Tablespoon oil in wok or sauté pan and preheat to smoke point.
- Add chicken to hot oil in two batches, stir fry quickly without overcooking.
- Remove from pan and reserve.
- Add remaining tablespoon of oil to wok or sauté pan and preheat to smoke point.
- Sauté vegetables and mushrooms in hot oil in 2 to 3 batches, remove and reserve.
- Add chicken broth/water, light soy sauce and honey to walk/ sauté pan bring to a simmer.
- Add sautéed chicken to simmering sauce, add vegetables to simmering chicken/sauce mixture. Thicken with cornstarch slurry as needed.
- Serve with rice.



## NATIONAL HONEY BEE SURVEYS

*Last Modified: March 03, 2024*

Since 2009, APHIS has funded an annual national survey of honey bee pests and diseases. The national survey documents which bee diseases, parasites, or honey bee pests are present or likely absent in the United States. Specifically, we have verified the absence of the parasitic mite *Tropilaelaps* spp. and other exotic threats to honey bee populations (e.g., *Apis cerana*).

### Read More:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/honey-bee-surveys>

<https://ushoneybeehealthsurvey.info/>





## GCBA Bee Yard

On June 15th Bee Yard manager, Eric Manthey, held a continuing queen rearing class at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in the Pollinator Garden.

Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association is proud of all those who attended and tried their hand at grafting. Keep learning! Thank you Eric!



## Bee Practical Award American Beekeeping Federation Request for Applications

The American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) is offering an award for **up to \$2,000** to a beekeeper with a practical beekeeping idea that is relevant to other beekeepers. The \$2,000 will be split in the case more than one awardee is chosen. We are looking to fund one or more individuals that have developed a practical beekeeping practice *OR* have a practical beekeeping idea that needs funding to be developed. Examples of practical ideas include, but are not limited to: a novel way of utilizing old bee boxes, an air conditioned bee suit, a more accurate method of sampling for varroa mites, a method of collecting colony information, or a hive design for people with disabilities. Novel ideas will receive a higher rating.

Awardee(s) will be asked to share their idea with ABF membership in two ways. One, present their idea at the ABF annual conference in January 2025 hosted in Reno, Nevada. Free registration will be included. Two, the awardee(s) must write an article about their idea for the ABF's Quarterly magazine.

**Applications will be accepted through October 1, 2024**  
**Awardee(s) will be notified by October 15, 2024**

### Application Submission:

Submit their applications to [Garrett.slater@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Garrett.slater@ag.tamu.edu). Each application must include:

- Applicant's name, mailing address, email address, and phone number
- Summary of idea (1-2 sentences)
- If the idea has been completed or if it is an idea that will be developed with the award money
- One-page description of the idea for a practical beekeeping practice
- One or more images that describe the idea and does not include the applicant

### Qualifications:

- Must be a member of the American Beekeeping Federation. Go to [abfnet.org](http://abfnet.org) to become a member.
- Must be a beekeeper. Researchers, including students, may apply if you are also a beekeeper.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of distinguished ABF Research Committee members and the funds awarded based on the originality, practicality, and feasibility of the idea. One application per person is allowed. Teams, like a beekeeping club, may apply if at least one person is an ABF member. Prior to submission, anyone interested in seeking a patent for their idea should apply for the patent before applying to avoid invalidating the patent application.

For questions or additional information, contact  
[garrett.slater@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:garrett.slater@ag.tamu.edu)





## 127th Cuyahoga County Fair

Happy July All!

The 127th Cuyahoga County Fair is coming quickly and this is a reminder to get those entries in this month.

Visit [www.cuyahogacountyfair.com](http://www.cuyahogacountyfair.com) and enter, enter, enter!

Nothing enhances your product like a big First place blue ribbon!

GCBA is making plans to decorate the booth, clean up and prep the bee yard and garden for the thousands of fairgoers that will visit the GCBA Bee Barn.

Finally, a big thank you to Rolly Platten who has stepped up to be the Fair Committee Chair. Say hello to him at the next meeting and plan to volunteer. The organization is great only because of its members and its mission.

Blue Ribbon regards,

**Sheila St.Clair**

*Bee Yard and Barn Beautification Project 2024*



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 /month

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.



## GCBA Happenings



### Volunteer, Donate, Jump in and Give a Hand

- Monthly Member Meetings
- Field Day in May
- Picnic in July
- County Fair Booth in August
- Special Event in September
- Holiday Party in December
- Live Demonstrations Year Round





# Queen Right Colonies®

Beekeeping Supplies, Package Bees, Queens, & More

43655 State Route 162 • Spencer, OH 44275  
440-647-2602 • [info@queenrightcolonies.com](mailto:info@queenrightcolonies.com)



## QUEEN BEES



Starting at  
**\$42**

Get your Queen Bees at QRC!  
We offer New World Carniolan, Cordovan,  
Saskatraz, & Three-banded Italian Queens.

**ORDER YOUR QUEENS TODAY!**

## HONEY HARVEST



Visit the QRC showroom or online store for  
all your beekeeping supplies!

**WE CARRY ALL YOUR HONEY  
HARVESTING NEEDS!**

## EXPERIENCE



Over 100 years of combined beekeeping  
experience and 29 years serving the  
beekeeping community.

**YOU CAN RELY ON US!**

*End of Summer Classic*  
**BEST of the BEST**



*Classic Cruisin'*  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2024 | LORAIN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
GATES OPEN 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2024 • 9 AM - 3 PM**

**LORAIN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

For more information visit

[www.loraincountybeekeepers.org](http://www.loraincountybeekeepers.org) or Facebook

**440-647-2602 • [queenrightcolonies.com](http://queenrightcolonies.com)**





# Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association

**JULY 2024**

**N e w s .**



## Looking for a way to participate in our Association?

We're in need of a volunteer for Newsletter Editor. Help out today! If you are interested, contact Sarah Alonso at [s.alonso@myyahoo.com](mailto:s.alonso@myyahoo.com).



## GCBA Officers

**President: Mike Alonso**  
[gcbamikea@yahoo.com](mailto:gcbamikea@yahoo.com)

**Past President: Denzil St. Clair**  
[info@queenrightcolonies.com](mailto:info@queenrightcolonies.com)

**VP: Adam Price**  
[price.adamc@gmail.com](mailto:price.adamc@gmail.com)

**Treasurer: Brenda Theurer**  
[larry1724@aol.com](mailto:larry1724@aol.com)

**Secretary: Sarah Alonso**  
[s.alonso@myyahoo.com](mailto:s.alonso@myyahoo.com)

**Director: Laura Brown**  
[lb68750@gmail.com](mailto:lb68750@gmail.com)

**Director: Joe Petrek**  
[jpetrek3@hotmail.com](mailto:jpetrek3@hotmail.com)

**Director: Charles Heaton**  
[charlesheaton@mac.com](mailto:charlesheaton@mac.com)

**Fair Committee Chair: Rolly Platten**

**Hospitality Coordinator: Jan Petrek**  
[jpetrek@hotmail.com](mailto:jpetrek@hotmail.com)

## Our Goal:

*The Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association supports, educates, and connects both beekeepers and aspiring beekeepers alike through monthly meetings/classes.*