



The Honey Bee Times

February 2026

The January meeting was a round table discussion of members introducing themselves and sharing their bee-keeping experiences. Present were beekeepers just starting out, and those with 1 to 50+ years of experience and having 1 to 40 or so hives.

It was also "Pie Night" with members bringing pies and treats, not in competition, but just enjoying some pie on a cold winter night. Thanks to everyone who brought a pie to share.

Next month's meeting will be one of the classes that will be taking place every Wednesday evening in February. We have many new beekeepers signed up for the classes, but members in good standing (that means you have paid your yearly dues for 2026) are also welcome to attend and share their experience with the "newbees."

There is still time to register for the classes if you know of anyone interested in our fascinating hobby. A registration form is elsewhere in this issue, or they can go to our website to register.



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., an applications for new beekeepers is on our website. As a reminder, members in good standing can attend the classes as a refresher at no charge.

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/>



Upcoming Events

The annual Tri County Beekeepers Spring Workshop will be held on March 6-7 at the Ohio State Agricultural Technical center in Wooster. This is a great one day (Friday night is a mostly socializing) event. Saturday, they have several instructional sessions on different subjects and there are many vendors that attend the show.

Visit their website at www.tricountybeekeepers.org for more information.

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 kids’ 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.

This month in the bee yard

We had some unusually warm days in the first week of January, but since then it’s been in the deep freeze for northern Ohio. Hopefully you had a chance to check on the bees those two days (we didn’t since we visited the bee expo in Louisville.) At this writing, the next two weeks aren’t looking any better, but we generally get a couple of warmer days in February. Watch the weather and be ready to do a mite treatment and do a quick check for stores by hefting the hive to see how much it weighs. Have some fondant ready or a candy board to place on top of the hive, but it’s still too early to be checking beyond that by pulling frames.

February Honey Recipe

Roasted Beet Salad with Hazelnuts,
Thyme with Honey and Balsamic Vinegar

Recipe by Chef Charles Heaton

Serves: 4

INGREDIENTS:

6 medium Beets, washed, trimmed,
skin-on

1/2 Cup Hazelnuts or Walnuts, Toasted

2 Tablespoons Honey

2 Tablespoons Balsamic Vinegar

1 Tablespoon Mild Olive Oil

6 Sprigs Fresh Thyme

Salt and Fresh Ground Pepper



PROCEDURE:

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F
2. Wrap each beet individually in aluminum foil and place them on a baking sheet.
3. Roast the beets for 45-90 minutes, until a knife easily pierces the largest beet.
4. Let cool for about 20 minutes, until cool enough to handle.
5. Reduce the oven temperature to 300. Toss the hazelnuts or walnuts in the oven for 12-15 minutes, or until the hazelnut skins have darkened and are almost falling off.
6. Place them on a damp dish towel and rub vigorously until most of the skins fall off. Discard the skins and roughly crush the hazelnuts/walnuts. Reserve.
7. Carefully unwrap the beets and trim ends. Under cold running water, rub the beet skins off with your fingers. Discard.
8. Slice the beets into 1/4" rounds and arrange 7-12 beet slices on each of 4 plates.
9. Sprinkle a handful of toasted crushed nuts on top of each plate of beets. Add a drizzle of honey, balsamic vinegar and a drizzle of olive oil.

Season to taste- salt and pepper.

Scatter the leaves from 1-2 sprigs thyme all over the beets on each plate and serve.

Enjoy!

The Beekeepers Bookshelf

100 Plants to Feed the Bees: Provide a Healthy Habitat to Help Pollinators Thrive

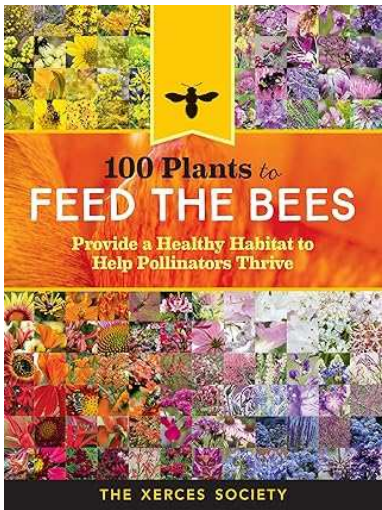
100 Plants to Feed the Bees, published by the Xerces Society, is a practical, nicely focused guide that succeeds at doing exactly what its title promises: helping readers support bees through thoughtful plant choices. Whether you're a beekeeper, seasoned gardener, casual backyard grower, or someone with a few pots on a balcony, this book makes pollinator-friendly planting feel achievable and rewarding.

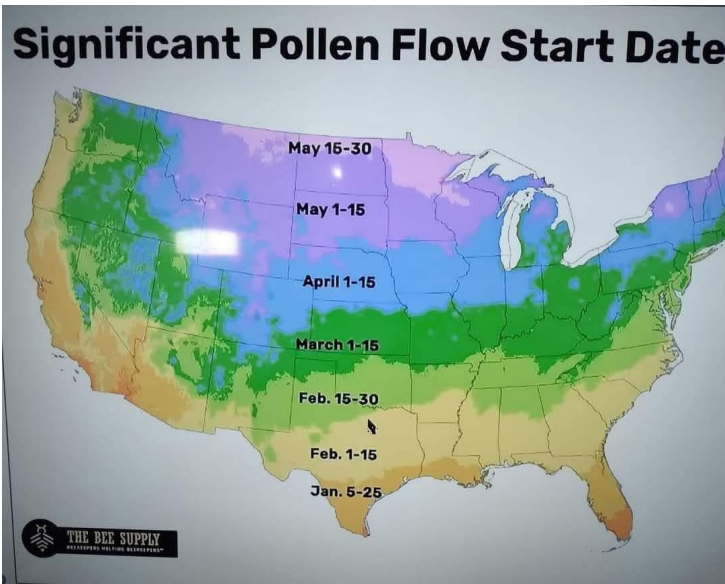
The book is organized in a clear, accessible way, presenting one hundred plants that provide valuable nectar and pollen for bees throughout the year. Each plant entry is concise yet informative, typically highlighting bloom time, growing conditions, and the specific benefits for bees. This makes it easy to plan a garden that offers continuous food sources from early spring through late autumn—something many gardeners overlook.

One of the book's greatest strengths is its emphasis on diversity. Rather than focusing only on flashy flowers, it includes trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and herbs, reinforcing the idea that bees need a wide range of plants to thrive. The guidance feels grounded in real-world gardening, not idealized landscapes, which makes the recommendations especially useful for everyday gardeners.

The tone is encouraging rather than preachy. Instead of overwhelming readers with environmental doom, the book empowers them with simple, tangible actions that genuinely make a difference. Even small changes—like swapping out a single plant—are framed as meaningful contributions to bee conservation.

Overall, *100 Plants to Feed the Bees* is an excellent blend of education and inspiration. It's a book that not only informs but also motivates, reminding readers that supporting pollinators can start right outside their own door. Highly recommended for anyone who gardens with nature in mind—or wants to start.







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: _____	

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

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

GCBA 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



*GCBA meetings are family friendly ***

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

Pay Online or download the Class Registration Form at
greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com



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Mission Statement

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