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THE HONEYBEE TIMES

December, 2024

December brings our Annual Holiday Potluck, and we can't wait to celebrate with you all. Join us on December 11 at 6:30 p.m. in Building 30. **PLEASE PARK IN THE CAMPGROUNDS PARKING LOT.** (the camp ground parking lot is behind the Arts and Crafts building of the North side of the fairgrounds) Our Holiday Party will be taking place during the Fairground's light show, so please be mindful of the possible traffic.

The Club will be providing ham and beverages, but we ask that everyone bring a side dish or dessert to share. Be sure to wear your ugly sweater—it's going to be a fun and festive evening

filled with good food, great company, and plenty of holiday cheer.

The fun doesn't stop there! Get ready for a Turkey Bowl with a cash prize for the winner. Bring your competitive spirit and join in the holiday fun! We'll also be holding a 50/50 raffle and a White Elephant gift exchange for those who'd like to participate. Everyone who attends will be entered into a raffle to win a special "End of the Season" prize, so don't miss out!

In the true spirit of giving, we're also collecting non-perishable food items for the local Food Bank. If you're able, please consider bringing a canned good or two to help those in need this holiday season.

Looking ahead to January, we're already excited for another great event! We'll be holding a Honey Cake Contest, and we want you to get involved! The entry fee is just \$1. Members will vote to decide the winner, who will receive a cash prize. Please note, that contestants must follow the recipe exactly—no substitutions or additions allowed (see recipe below). We encourage everyone to participate and look forward to tasting all of your delicious creations!

From the President's Desk

Hello, All

First off, I would like to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season! I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving and I hope those great moments continue through to the new year and beyond!

As the year winds down and this cold weather envelops us and our bees, please remember it is never too late to help them.

Seize those opportunities to assist and check them when the weather permits.

As my time as the GCBA President comes to a close, I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to lead this organization. Please know that I can still be reached if needed and I hope to see you all at the upcoming holiday party.

Mike Alonso

GCBA President

From the Secretary's Desk

As we approach the end of the year, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary for the past 2 years. It has certainly been a lot of hard work, but it has also been incredibly rewarding. I've enjoyed working alongside each of you and supporting the growth and success of the GCBA. As we prepare for the transition, I'm excited to assist whoever takes on the role next to ensure a smooth handoff.

Sarah Alonso

GCBA President

Plain Honey Cake Recipe:

2 cups of self-rising flour

8oz of honey by weight

9 1/2tablespoons butter

2 eggs

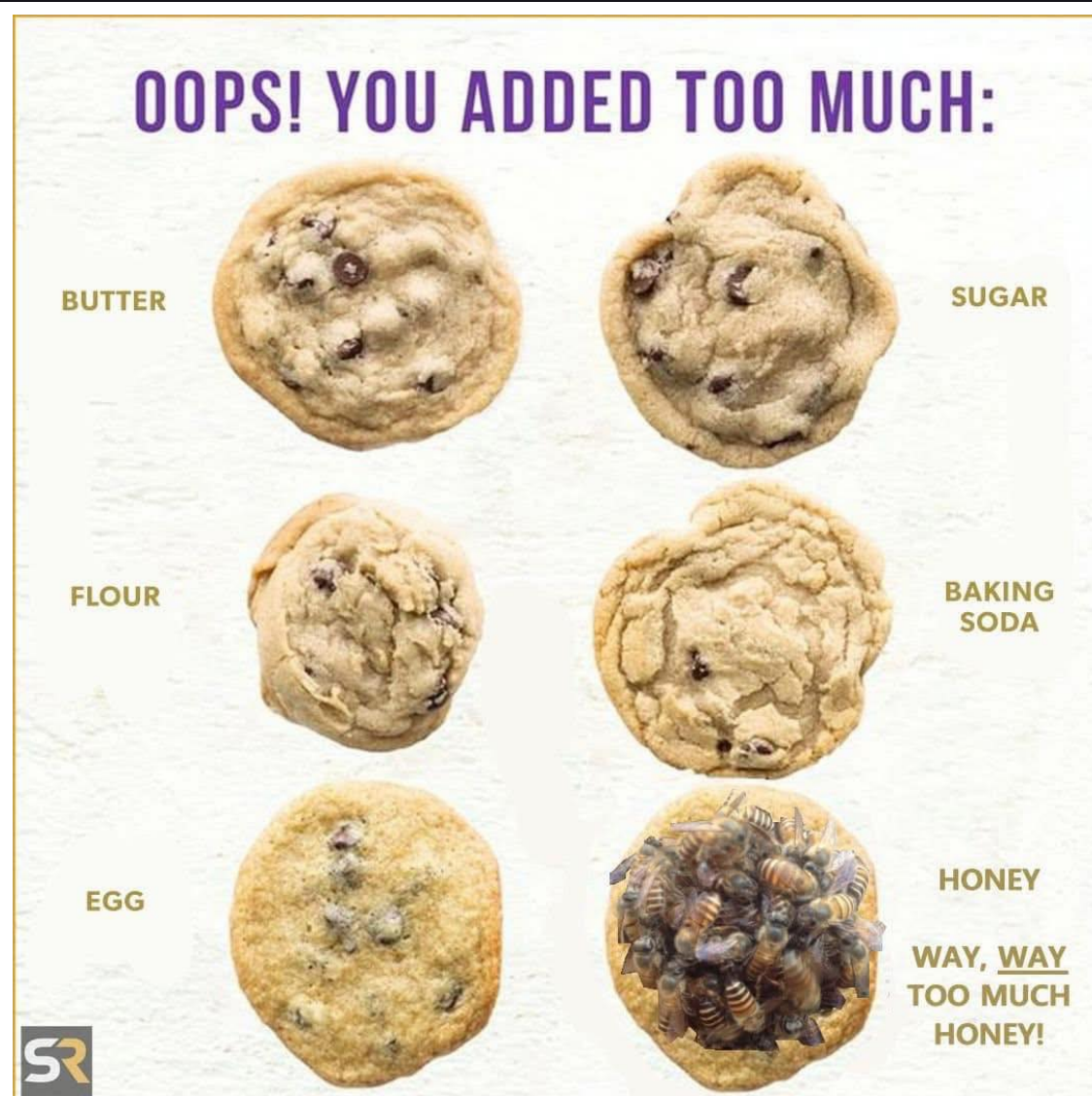
pinch of salt

Cream butter and honey.

Beat eggs well and add alternately with sifted flour and salt to the honey/butter mixture. If needed add a little milk.

Bake in a greased 8-inch round cake pan at 325 degrees for 35-40 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

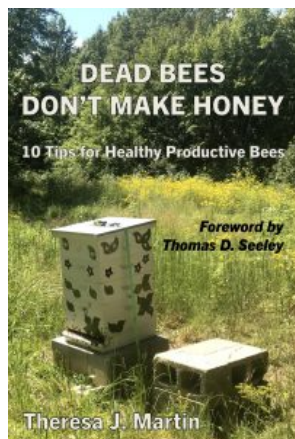
And while we're on the subject of cooking-



Creamed Honey with Sheila and Jan

The November meeting featured Sheila St. Clair and Jan Petrek sharing their method of making creamed honey. No special equipment is necessary. Using a stand mixer, place 9 lbs. of honey and 1 lb. of creamed honey as a starter. Blend on the slow setting until the mixture is a consistent color. Fill your jars and refrigerate for a week or two to have the honey set.

The Beekeepers Bookshelf



A book review excerpt from the November, 2024 issue of *Bee Culture* magazine

<https://www.beeculture.com/book-review-7/>

Dead Bees Don't Make Honey **reviewed by Dewey M. Caron**

Dead Bees Don't Make Honey by Theresa Martin (2024, Little Wolf Farm, ISBN 979-8-9902757-0-6) subtitled 10 Tips for Healthy Productive Bees is an extremely well written, practical guide to help insure success with bee colony care. If you mentor others, this book could be your instructional manual.

Author Theresa Martin is a six year beekeeper from Kentucky. She started with two colonies and now keeps 20, each individually named. Following a treatment-less management approach, she has had only a single colony loss in her beekeeping journey. *Dead Bees Don't Make Honey* clearly and thoroughly explains how she has managed such success.

New Newsletter Editor

Let me introduce myself, I'm Neal Klabunde and have volunteered to put this newsletter out each month. Like beekeeping, there are a lot of details that go into doing a newsletter, and it works the best when I can get information sent to me in a timely manner. Any items should be sent to me via email at nklabunde@aol.com by the first of the month. Feel free to forward any interesting items that you may come across.

A little bit about me- I have been beekeeping off and on for over 40 years and have been married to Catherine for 43 years. We have two daughters and one granddaughter, CaraJane who helps grandpa with his bees sometimes. We live in Strongsville on the cusp of Cuyahoga, Lorain and Medina counties, so we belong to the beekeeping associations in those counties as well as a couple of others.

I am a mentor for the Hives for Heroes program which pairs us with veterans or first responders to help them learn beekeeping. Beekeeping has been shown to help people suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) since WW1. I have been mentoring a former Marine in Valley City for the last three years and he has gone on to become a mentor.

We went into the winter with 12 hives spread out over 5 locations and are planning on doubling the amount next year and adding another location or two.

Cathy and I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

GCBA Officers

- President: Mike Alonso, gcbamikea@yahoo.com
- Past President: Denzil St. Clair, info@queenrightcolonies.com
- VP: Adam Price, price.adamc@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Brenda Theurer, larry1724@aol.com
- Secretary: Sarah Alonso, s.alonso@myyahoo.com
- Director: Laura Brown, lb68750@gmail.com
- Director: Joe Petrek, jpetrek3@hotmail.com
- Director: Charles Heaton, charlesheaton@mac.com
- Fair Committee Chair: Rolly Platten
- Hospitality Coordinator: Jan Petrek, jpetrek@hotmail.com

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

<https://greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com/>



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