



Greater Cleveland  
Beekeepers Association  
[www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com](http://www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com)

February 2019

# THE HONEYBEE TIMES

**Join us Wednesday, February 13th at the Rocky River Nature Center**  
24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted, OH 44070

Doors open at 6:30pm for refreshments and conversation. Meeting begins at 7:00pm.

The first 30 minutes of this evening will be dedicated to our current members. Allyson May will lead a discussion and answer questions. The remainder of the meeting will be the second of four sessions for the GCBA Beginner Beekeeping Course.

Come see some old friends and meet some new folks interested in becoming beekeepers in our area.



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## *President's Message*

As of February 1<sup>st</sup> we were at '5' on the Growing Degrees Calendar for my zip code. February 5<sup>th</sup> we moved to '19' and today the 11<sup>th</sup> we move to '23'. The Silver Maple first bloom starts at '34'. This is the earliest food resource for the honey bees in our area. The Ohio State Phenology Calendar is found here <https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/default.asp>  
This resource is a valuable tool to help guide feeding decisions in our hives.

The February meeting will be brief, but valuable, as Allyson will take the first 30 minutes to answer beekeeper questions before the beginner course instruction.

All members in good standing who have previously taken the GCBA Beginners Beekeeping Course are welcome to one or all of the 2019 classes. I try to attend a different Beginners Class each year at different club or location to pick up new ideas and refresh my memory on things I may have forgotten. I encourage you all to do the same. There may be things that you have not yet encountered in your hive and the class may supply a refresher.

Did you know that the government shut down affected beekeepers?

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-00344-1>

GCBA is planning to participate in the "Party for the Planet", previously known as "Earth Day" on April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. This event is several hours long and we will need volunteers to participate. If you are interested, please talk to Janice or email her at [GCBASecretary2@gmail.com](mailto:GCBASecretary2@gmail.com)

Please, mark your calendar for our GCBA Field Day on May 18, 2019. Rebecca Masterman will be our Key Note Speaker and there will be bee yard and hands on activities. Specific details will be available in March. See our flyer later in the newsletter.

The new year is time for membership renewal. The form is at the end of the newsletter and we will have some available at the meeting.

Many members received donated milkweed pods at a meeting late in 2018. Now is the time to research propagation techniques to successfully raise these very necessary plants for the Monarch Butterfly. Look at our resources section for details.

We are looking for one or more folks to join the GCBA Hospitality Team. A couple hours here and there to help out. Please, talk to Annette if you can assist.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

*Annette*

## **2019 Spring Raffle**

**win nuc equipment and a Saskatraz queen!**

**Tickets \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00**

**Drawing will be held at March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Tickets will be sold at all February beginner classes and the March meeting.**

**We will draw 2 names for this prize.**

Sticking with the concept of sustainable apiaries using nucleus colonies shared at our January meeting we will be raffling off nuc equipment and a queen to get you started!!

Winners will each receive woodenware for a nucleus colony including: Screened bottom board, inner cover, telescoping outer cover, and a Saskatraz Queen from <https://www.ohbees.com/>.

Also included will be **either** 2 deep nuc boxes with frames **or** 3 medium boxes with frames, winner's choice.

- Winner will need to contact Queen Right Colonies to confirm order/ date availability for Saskatraz queen

### **Upcoming Event Invitation**

To commemorate Earth Day 2019, the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club extends an invitation to attend the enlightening program, "Next Silent Spring?" This free event will be held at the Cleveland Museum of Art Recital Hall on Sunday, April 28, from 2 - 4 PM.

Laurel Hopwood, Senior Advisor to Sierra Club's Pollinator Protection Program, will show the outstanding documentary **"Nicotine Bees."**

Pollinator populations are declining. How does this affect our food supply? How does this affect our entire ecosystem? A panel of experts will discuss how everyone can help move things forward.

\* Dr. Mary Gardiner, Associate Professor in the OSU Department of Entomology, and her graduate students have been introducing pollinator pockets throughout vacant lots in Cleveland.

\* Tom Gibson, principal of Green Paradigm Partners, uses his soil building and community organizing skills to help revive neighborhoods.

\* Elle Adams, founder of City Rising Farm, helps people in underserved communities learn to grow fresh local food and create opportunities in their own neighborhoods.

For more info, please contact Laurel at [hopwood@roadrunner.com](mailto:hopwood@roadrunner.com)

## GCBA Happenings

Our lending library is open before each meeting with resources for any member to borrow. If you have any gently used beekeeping or pollinator plant books you would like to donate talk to one of our librarians.

Field Day is shaping up to be a super event. Stephanie Sadlon is our Field Day Chair. She will be looking for volunteers to assist with many planning and event execution activities. Please, consider helping out.

What is happening in your hive?

With all these warmer days you should have popped open the cover to take a peek. All the early winter mild temperatures stimulated more than normal hive activity and thus food consumption. Do your bees have enough food? If not, what are you doing to get them resources? The queen is laying eggs. What does your bottom board slider look like? Varroa mites? You may consider an oxalic acid vaporization treatment if temperatures are above 40 degrees.

Many of our members received donated **milkweed seeds** a couple months ago. Now is the time to start thinking about how to prepare the seeds for the most successful germination rates and plan where you will prepare your planting area.

Find more information <https://monarchwatch.org/milkweed/prop.htm>

You may consider tagging some monarch's in 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbBW3LUFZ6M&feature=youtu.be&t=5m>

There is a program you may be interested in becoming involved:

<https://www.pollinator.org/wingspan>

### ***Package and queen orders have already begun.***

In Spencer, OH Queen Right Colonies has packages and queens for sale.

<https://www.queenrightcolonies.com/>

In Ravenna, OH Blue Sky Bee has postings for packages available at their sales counter and possibly by phone if you call. <https://www.blueskybeesupply.com/>

In Clyde, OH Leibengood Apiaries has packages and queens for sale. (Discount on your first two packages available as a GCBA members in good standing. Ask Annette for a coupon.)

<https://www.facebook.com/LeibengoodFamilyApiaries/>

Early nucleus colonies will contain queens from the south or west. Local queen production is weather dependent and may not be available until late May or June.

***If you purchase an early nuc you can choose to re-queen with a local queen later in the season. This is also true for a package bee installation.***

We have a new Advertisement section in the newsletter. Any member in good standing can place an add once a quarter free of charge. See details on page 10.

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

### **Resources:**

Growing and sourcing milkweeds

<https://monarchwatch.org/milkweed/market/>

Keep up on what is blooming with the Ohio State Phenology Calendar

<https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/>

Cuyahoga County Board of Health Apiary Inspection Program

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

2018 Apiary Inspection Summary Report

<https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/apiary-program/inspection-summary>

What's the buzz about medical grade honey?

[https://journals.lww.com/nursing/fulltext/2014/07000/What\\_s\\_the\\_buzz\\_about\\_medical\\_grade\\_honey\\_.17.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/nursing/fulltext/2014/07000/What_s_the_buzz_about_medical_grade_honey_.17.aspx)

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)

Beekeeping Today Podcast with Samuel Ramsey

<http://beekeepingtodaypodcast.com/dr-samuel-ramsey-the-varroa-fat-body-rediscovery>

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

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

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

[http://articles.extension.org/bee\\_health](http://articles.extension.org/bee_health)

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/>

For anyone who takes pictures, shares pictures, likes to look at pictures of nature. Use it on your computer or smartphone.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/>

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

Copy of the monitoring and tracking chart located later in newsletter.

<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](https://www.beelab.umn.edu/sites/beelab.umn.edu/files/2016_disease_pdf_version_s.pdf)

Dr. Meghan Milbrath also has a very good article to help you make a plan for varroa management posted on her site Sand Hill Bees.

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56818659c21b86470317d96e/t/5900c9798419c2db7622e85b/1493223802902/MakingAPlanforVarroa\\_2017.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56818659c21b86470317d96e/t/5900c9798419c2db7622e85b/1493223802902/MakingAPlanforVarroa_2017.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.beeeculture.com/kimandjimshow/>

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

[gcbaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:gcbaeditor@gmail.com)

## **GCBA Meeting and Events**

### **Beginner Beekeeper Course**

February 6th, 13th, 20th and 27<sup>th</sup>

Registration information available at <http://www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com/>

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

### **February Membership Meeting**

February 13<sup>th</sup>

First 30 minutes of evening will be dedicated to club members. Allyson May will lead a discussion and answer questions.

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 7:30pm

### **March Membership Meeting**

March 13<sup>th</sup>

Melanie Seal, Owner Blue Sky Bee Supply, Beekeeper

Four Seasons of Feeding – honey bee nutrition 12 months of the year

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

### **April Membership Meeting**

April 10<sup>th</sup>

Chris Merkle, Tri-County Beekeepers Association Educator, Beekeeper

Spring management. What is happening in the hive now?

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

### **May Membership Meeting**

May 8<sup>th</sup>

Dr. Richard Cryberg, Organic Chemist, Researcher, Beekeeper

Oxalic Acid in Glycerin to Control Varroa Mites. Dr. Cryberg will discuss the data Randy Oliver has generated and disclosed, to date, on efficacy of oxalic acid/glycerin mixes

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

### **GCBA Annual Field Day**

May 18<sup>th</sup>

Rebecca Masterman, Entomologist from University of Minnesota, Keynote Speaker

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds

8:00am – 3:00pm

### **June Membership Meeting**

June 12th

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

### **August Membership Meeting**

August 14th

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

### **September Membership Meeting**

September 11th

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

### **October Membership Meeting**

October 9<sup>th</sup>

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

### **November Membership Meeting**

Rocky River Nature Center

November 13<sup>th</sup>

6:30pm – 9:00pm

**December Membership Meeting**

December 11th

Elections, Holiday Gathering

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

**Other Meeting and Events**

**Lorain County Beekeepers Association**

February Membership Meeting February 8th  
Dave Edwards, Comb Honey Production

Life Church

7:00pm

**Medina County Beekeepers Association**

February Membership Meeting February 18th  
Dr. Reed Johnson, OSU

Williams on the Lake

6:30pm – 9:00pm

Chemical exposures of bees in pollination and effects on bees, larva and queens.

**Tri-County Beekeepers Association Spring Workshop**

March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

<http://www.tricountybeekeepers.org/>

Fisher Auditorium

1680 Madison Ave Wooster, Ohio 44691

**OSBA Honey Judging Class**

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>

<http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/>

Waterman Farms in Columbus, OH

**Michigan Beekeepers Association Spring Conference**

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>

<http://www.michiganbees.org/2019-spring-conference/>

Michigan State University

**Lorain County Beekeepers Association**

March Membership Meeting March 8th  
John Reichel, 2018 Beekeeper Reports

Life Church

7:00pm

**Medina County Beekeepers Association**

March Membership Meeting March 18<sup>th</sup>

Earl Hoffman, Owner Essential Honey Bees LLC

Microbials for management of pathogens and pests with new data on Varroa and SHB.

Williams on the Lake

6:30pm – 9:00pm

**Heartland Apiculture Society Conference**

July 8-10, 2019

<http://www.heartlandbees.org/>



## Eastern Apiculture Society Conference

July 14-19, 2019

<http://www.easternapiculture.org/>

## OSBA Fall Conference

November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Plain City, OH

## Recipe of the Month

DIY Honey Nut Puffed Cereal

**YIELD:** Makes about 2.5 quarts of cereal clusters

### INGREDIENTS

4 1/2 cups puffed rice	1/4 cup light brown sugar, lightly packed
1 cup sliced almonds	2 T + 1 tsp. (32g) unsalted butter
1 1/4 tsp. ground turmeric	1/3 cup honey
1/2 tsp. cinnamon	1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/3 tsp. kosher salt	1 T aw sesame seeds

### DIRECTIONS

Heat the oven to 325°F.

Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment and set aside.

In a large heatproof bowl, combine the puffed rice, almonds, turmeric, cinnamon and salt.

In a small pot, stirring occasionally, heat the brown sugar, butter and honey, until they have been simmering in slow, steady large bubbles for 1 - 2 minutes (roughly 250°F).

Remove from heat and whisk in the baking soda. Immediately pour the mixture over the dry ingredients. Stir well with a wood spoon, making sure to mix in all the spices and seeds that have fallen to the bottom of the bowl, and then spread the mixture on the prepared baking sheet.

Bake for 15 minutes, stirring halfway through. Allow to cool completely at room temperature. Break the pieces and place into an airtight container to store.

Serve with your milk of choice, which will become "Golden Milk" when mixed with the cereal!

*Recipe courtesy of Chef Jessica Koslow, made for the National Honey Board*

### TIP

Instead of puffed rice, you can substitute other puffed grains like millet.

Courtesy of The National Honey Board

## **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 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a page in size. Additional ads will be subject to advertisement fees.

\*\*\*\* Honey Extractor for Sale – SAF Natura brand, manual. Holds 2 deeps or 4 mediums. Stainless steel with stainless sieve below extraction tank to filter honey before it flows into bottling tank. Used gently for 2 seasons. Asking \$325.00 Call Mike 440.943.4112

Advertisement Fee Schedule:

1/8<sup>th</sup> Page: \$5 month, 1/4<sup>th</sup> 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.



**2019 Membership**

**New / Renewal** (circle one)

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

Additional Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

How many years have you been keeping bees? \_\_\_\_\_

How many hives do you keep? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you volunteer 4 hours this year for a club activity or need? \_\_\_\_\_  
(This could be over several days or all in one day)

The 2019 Membership cost is **\$20.00** per family which includes email of the monthly GCBA newsletter. One person per family may vote in GCBA elections or other official club votes.

**Please, renew at the next club meeting or send your completed application and payment to:**

**GCBA  
P.O. Box 30092  
Middleburgh Heights, OH 44130**

For office use: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Type: \_\_\_\_\_