



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

March 2019

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# THE HONEYBEE TIMES

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**Join us Wednesday, March 13th**  
**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.

Our March meeting speaker is Melanie Seal, Owner/ Beekeeper of Blue Sky Bee Supply in Ravenna. The evenings topic is Four Seasons of Feeding

Melanie will talk about seasonal nutritional needs of the honey bee. When do you need to supply additional resources? Learn about the role of pollen and pollen substitute in hive management as well as nectar, honey, sugar syrup and more.

Do you know that Cuyahoga County has an active Farm Bureau? Members Alan and Kathy King will share a bit of information and answer questions.

Sweet or savory snacks to share are always welcome.

We will be holding our Spring raffle for a Saskatraz queen and nuc equipment. See details on page 3.



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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. March 10<sup>th</sup> we are still at '23'. The Silver Maple first bloom starts at '34'.

If you were not able to attend Tri-County Beekeepers Spring Workshop you missed a lot of valuable information. Dr. Samuel Ramsey shared information about another mite that will become a threat to our honeybees. Models predict it to arrive in North America in about 15 years. But, for today, we need to be concerned with the mite we are currently battling for the lives of our bees. I encourage you to take a few minutes and watch this video. Are you helping the bees or helping the mites?

[Dr. Ramsey's 12 minute video](#)

Are you able to help out at "Party for the Planet", previously known as "Earth Day" on April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo? If you are interested, please talk to Janice or email her at [GCBASecretary2@gmail.com](mailto:GCBASecretary2@gmail.com)

This is a critical time of year for survival of an overwintered hive. Do your bees still have food stores? Where is the cluster? A sugar brick, newspaper with sugar poured on top of the frames or fondant and small 2-inch x 2-inch piece of a pollen patty could make the difference in their survival until nature supplies resources. If they need the food they will have it, if not, then it was just an inexpensive insurance policy.

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**

**Tickets will be sold and the drawing will be held at the 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 [lhopwood@roadrunner.com](mailto:lhopwood@roadrunner.com)

## GCBA Happenings

At our May meeting we will have a plant swap. If you are thinning out any plants or started too many seeds, please bring them to the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. No plants inside please! We will have a drop off area outside the Rocky River Nature Center with a large tarp where you can drop off your plants. Bring on and take one! Please, bring plant(s) in a container that will not leak and supply a bit of information about the plant. Name, sun or shade, how big, annual or perennial.

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.

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>

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.

Swarm season is coming. Check out a valuable resource from Dr. Meghan Milbrath on our website under the Bee Orgs & Links page <http://www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com/bee-organizations/>

## **Package and queen orders have 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.

## **Honey Bee Trivia**

1. How many miles an hour does a honey bee fly?
2. To make one pound of honey, how many trips from the hive must honey bees make?
3. How much honey does one honey bee make in her lifetime?

Answers on page 10.

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

## **Resources:**

Ohio Farm Bureau, Cuyahoga County Chapter

<https://ofbf.org/counties/cuyahoga/>

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.  
<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)

### **Interesting Articles:**

Whats' the buzz about medical-grade honey

Assessing risks to migratory honey bees from in-hive pesticide contamination in the Eastern United States

FreeBee: Maladaptive Herding & Complicated DWV

## **GCBA Meeting and Events**

### **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 12<sup>th</sup>

Beekeeper Roundtable including beekeepers for Rocky River Nature Center apiary and update from Leo Shirokauer

Leo will present updates on his research into a preventative for American Foul Brood.

Information will be shared about hive conditions and management considerations as well as answers to audience questions.

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

### **August Membership Meeting**

August 14<sup>th</sup>

Beekeeper Allyson May, GCBA Treasurer

Where is your hive now and where does it need to be? Allyson will discuss hive health evaluation and what beekeepers may watch for to prevent late season

swarms. Resources, equipment configurations, food stores and options will be discussed.

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

### **September Membership Meeting**

Rocky River Nature Center



September 11th

6:30pm – 9:00pm

Denzil St. Clair, Owner of Queen Right Colonies in Spencer

Overwintering Honey Bees in Northeast Ohio. Denzil will discuss all aspects of, and considerations to, over winter honey bee hives in Northeast Ohio. How to prepare, when and if to open hives, what should have been done and what you can still do to prepare.

### **October Membership Meeting**

October 9<sup>th</sup>

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

### **November Membership Meeting**

November 13<sup>th</sup>

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

Jeannie Saum, Owner of Beepothecary

All you want to know about propolis. Jeannie will discuss methods of propolis collection, washing and cleaning. She will share information regarding health benefits of propolis and value added products you can make.

### **December Membership Meeting**

December 11th

Elections, Holiday Gathering

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

## **Other Meeting and Events**

### **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

### **Lorain County Beekeepers Association**

April Membership Meeting April 12th

Topic: Pollen Speaker TBA

Life Church

7:00pm

### **Heartland Apiculture Society Conference**

July 8-10, 2019

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

### **Eastern Apiculture Society Conference**

July 14-19, 2019

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

## Recipe of the Month Chewy Honey Oatmeal Cookies

**YIELD:** Makes 24 cookies

### INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened

1/2 cup granulated sugar

1/2 cup honey

1 large egg

1 tsp. vanilla extract

1 1/2 cups quick cooking rolled oats

1 cup whole wheat flour

1/4 tsp. salt

1 tsp. ground cinnamon

1/2 tsp. baking soda

1 cup raisins, chocolate or butterscotch chips

### DIRECTIONS

In medium bowl, beat butter with sugar until thoroughly blended. Blend in honey. Blend in egg and vanilla, mixing until smooth.

In separate bowl, mix together oats, flour, salt, cinnamon and baking soda; blend into honey mixture. Blend in raisins or chips.

Drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls onto greased baking sheet. Bake at 350°F for 12 to 14 minutes until cookies are golden brown.

Remove from oven and allow cookies to cool 2 to 3 minutes before removing from baking sheet.

Cool completely then store in an airtight container.

### TIP

High altitude adjustment: Increase oats to 2 cups and decrease whole wheat flour to 3/4 cup.

Courtesy of The National Honey Board

- Bee Trivia :**
- 1. 10 miles per hour**
  - 2. 60,000 trips**
  - 3. .003 oz. or 1/12<sup>th</sup> teaspoon**

## **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.

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: \_\_\_\_\_