



The Honey Bee Times

June, 2025



The May speaker was John Schwartz. John is a beekeeper from Randolph, Ohio and has been keeping bees for almost 20 years. He is a proponent of “On the Spot” queen rearing.

This concept, espoused by Mel Disselkoen from Michigan is a way of raising queens and making splits to increase the number of hives you have, or make nucs and queens to sell. John outlines the method on his website—www.thebee.farm.

His talk and the information on his website gave us information on raising our own queens and making our apiaries more sustainable in the process.

The slides from his presentation are available at <https://share.zight.com/Qwuz4PP5> if you missed the meeting or would like to review them.

June's guest speaker will be Peggy Garnes. Peggy is the President of the Medina County Beekeepers Association and a former president of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association. She will be speaking on Honey/Wax judging. We hope everyone can attend and learn about the judging process.

From the President-

Hello fellow GCBA members,

June is an important month for beekeepers. New colonies' populations should start taking off this month and existing colonies should be well populated and working on those honey supers with nectar flow being in full force. Keep watch for signs of swarming like queen cups and crowded brood areas, and be proactive with adding supers so your bees have room to work.

We are looking forward to this month's guest speaker, Peggy Garnes. She has been a huge asset to the local and state beekeeping community, so we are always blessed to learn from her. This month she will be speaking on Honey/Wax judging. We hope everyone can attend and learn what goes into the judging process.

One last thing we will be doing at this month's meeting is having a Honey tasting competition. Bring in a small sample of honey from your own hives (even if it means you rob a little from the brood nest). It does not need to be a lot, just enough for 3 judges to taste and can be brought in any container. Please do not put your name on your entry, when you arrive we will assign each entry a number and during our meeting we will have 3 judges taste and rank their favorite honeys. **There will be a cash reward for the top 3 entries (\$30, \$20, \$10).** So we hope all will participate.

I hope to see you all at our next meeting!

Adam Price, Acting GCBA President

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/>



Hospitality Corner

Our meetings are a great way to meet other beekeepers and for socializing. Members are encouraged to bring treats to share. Thanks to Jan Petrek for the coffee at every meeting and those who brought in the treats for the May meeting.

World Bee Day news and more!

If you have been following GCBA on Facebook, you know about all the exciting things that have been happening in the last couple of months. GCBA purchased a 30 ft. inflatable Bee Balloon. One very large Queen Bee, appropriately named Ms. Buzzbee. She made her debut at the annual World Bee Days hosted by our organization and in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds.

We greatly appreciate the generosity and kindness of the fair board in support of such a major program such as WBD. I am not aware of another County Fair in the state that has a program of this kind, with upward of 1000 students over a two-day period.



On arrival they are given a passport with which to travel to 10 different learning destinations. They receive a stamp at each port of entry and learn about bee biology at the lab, pollination vital to our food chain, wax and how it is made. The many colors of honey and why, and what colors do bees see in your garden to name a few. Then over to the live pollinator garden, where many held a frame of bees. Teachers were taught how gentle bees are and why they don't need to fear this tiny fragile little insect. Many got to try on bee suits, jackets and gloves. What a day!

So, to all who volunteered their time, money, and more; this type of event doesn't happen without you. You are the people who put action to your words.

In closing, if you think this sounds so great that we have need of nothing, let me finish.

For the past couple of years, the requests to bring schools to the WBD event have been enormous and Nicky Sulandari coordinator and event manager turns down school and puts them on a waiting list for the upcoming year. Every fall the schools who came to WBD get a live in-class program on honeybees to include a honey breakfast.



We have a tendency to think that kids are only interested in technology today. In the sea of children, I never saw the first phone or iPad. They are a sponge and love learning and interacting with people who care about them and their education.

My final thoughts are these. If we want to see this to continue, we need volunteers and donations. GCBA is a 501c3 organization, this is a tax- deductible donation. People who really care about reaching out and helping the kids understand and appreciate honeybees and the environment around them, with every child you can make a great impact.



This is a real request to all who read this, that we need your help for 2026.

Contact anyone on the Board for more information.

Thank you greatly,

Sheila St.Clair, Bee Yard and Barn beautification project , since 2019

Speaking of the Bee Yard...

A big shout out to all who have helped with the bee yard this year, from tending to the hives to helping with the clean up on May 10th.



Word of the month-

Parthenogenesis, or “Who’s your daddy?”

This ten-dollar word refers to the development of offspring from unfertilized eggs. In the world of honeybees, drones are created in this way. Drones don’t have a father like worker bees do, but they do have a grandfather. This discovery was made by Johann Dzierzon, a Catholic priest from Germany. Fascinated by honeybees ever since his father gave him a colony when he was 14, Johann longed to know as much as possible about them. To further his research, he developed one of the first hives with movable combs.

At the time, breeding of Italian bees was popular, and crosses with the dark German bees were easy to spot. He noticed that the yellow Italian queens would only produce Italian drones, even when the female worker bees they produced were mixes of the two races. The same was observed in German queens.

Like most scientific discoveries of the time, his findings were met with skepticism from scientists, beekeepers, and the church. His theory was validated by several university researchers by dissection and microscopic examination of queens and eggs.

This month in the Bee Yard

The last two weeks of May were a challenge, cool rainy weather kept the girls inside a lot which means that there was lots of congestion and that made the swarming urge stronger. Even with the less than perfect weather, the Black Locust bloom looks pretty good, and that should be followed by Linden or Basswood trees as well. This spring honey can be very light and seems to be thicker than the later honeys, so if you can, keep it separate because it can fetch a premium price. You should continue the practices of May into June, adding supers and managing the brood nest to give the queen room to lay in. Checking every seven to ten days for queen cups or cells is an essential management practice this time of year.

It never hurts to make some small splits into nucs to have extras for increasing the number of hives that you have, or for that inevitable emergency when a hive becomes queenless.

Your mite treatment regime should be continued.

Apiary Registration

All apiaries in the state of Ohio must be registered with ODA as required by [ORC 909.02](#). Registrations expire on May 31 annually. Please return your application for renewal and payment prior to June 1. Please note that any newly established apiaries are required to be registered within 10 days of receipt of the honey bees. The annual registration form can be downloaded here- https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/forms/plnt_4201-002

If your apiary was registered last year, you probably already received a renewal letter from the ODA. New beekeepers can download the form from the link above.

Beekeepers Bookshelf

Beeswax Alchemy is a nice guide that shows you all the amazing things you can do with beeswax. The book is written by Petra Ahnert, who knows a ton about making items with natural materials. She shares lots of information, recipes, and projects that both beginners and experienced crafters will love.

Chapter 1: The Basics of Beeswax

The first chapter dives into what beeswax is, where it comes from, and what makes it special. Ahnert explains how bees make wax and how to harvest it without harming them. You'll also learn about the different kinds of beeswax and what they're good for.

Chapter 2: Tools and Techniques

Before you start making stuff, this chapter covers the basic tools and techniques you'll need. From melting and filtering beeswax to using natural ingredients, Ahnert makes sure you're ready to go.

Chapter 3: Beeswax Candles

In this chapter, you'll learn how to make awesome candles. Ahnert gives step-by-step instructions for making different types of candles, like rolled, poured, and dipped. She also talks about why beeswax candles are great, such as their clean-burning and air-purifying properties.

Chapter 4: Body and Skin Care Products

Next up, Ahnert shows how beeswax can be used to make natural body products. You'll find recipes for lip balms, lotions, and salves, along with tips on how to customize them with different scents and herbs.

Chapter 5: Household Items

This chapter is all about practical uses for beeswax around the house. Learn how to make beeswax wraps, polish, and even crayons, all while being eco-friendly.

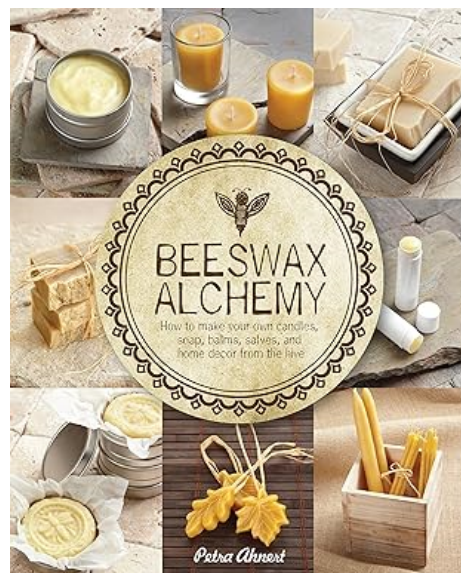
Chapter 6: Artistic Creations

The final chapter encourages you to get creative with beeswax. Ahnert presents projects like encaustic painting and beeswax sculptures, showing the artistic side of this natural material.

Beeswax Alchemy is a book that mixes practical advice with creative ideas. Ahnert's writing is clear and easy to follow, making even complex processes simple. The book is filled with photos that not only teach but also inspire.

The projects are varied and cater to all skill levels, so there's something for everyone. Whether you're making a simple candle or an intricate artwork, Beeswax Alchemy gives you the guidance you need.

Beeswax Alchemy isn't just a craft book; it's a celebration of nature and creativity. Petra Ahnert has created a fantastic resource for anyone interested in beeswax and its many uses. Overall, Beeswax Alchemy is a must-read for crafters, artists, and anyone who loves natural, eco-friendly practices. It's a testament to the versatility of beeswax and the joy of creating with nature's gifts.



2025 Cuyahoga County Fair

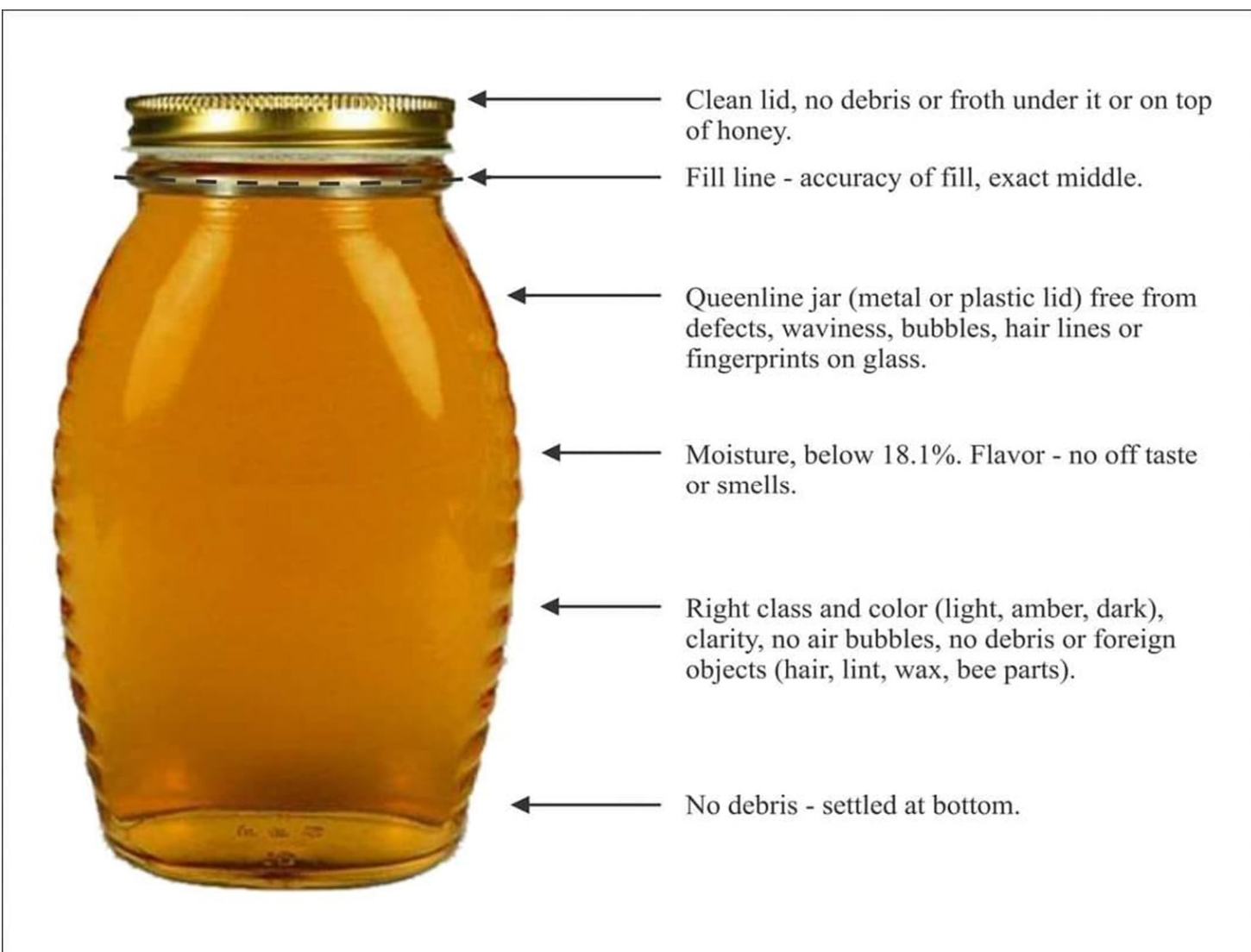
Before you know it, it'll be August and time for the fair. We'd like to see more participation from our membership in the various categories. There is no better way to see how your hive products stack up against the other entries.

The 2025 premium book, the publication that describes the various categories is available at <https://cuyfair.com/pdf/2025/CCF%202025-Premium%20book.pdf>.

The relevant information for beekeepers starts on page 24 (26 in the document.)



General Honey Show Guidelines



Honey Garlic Chicken Wings

Recipe by Chef Charles Heaton

Serves:6

INGREDIENTS:

- 5 pounds chicken wings
- 3/4 large white onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- 1-1/2 teaspoons mustard powder
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic



PROCEDURE:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Combine onion, honey, brown sugar, soy sauce, butter, mustard powder, and garlic together in a saucepan over medium heat; bring to a simmer.
3. Place wings in a bowl and toss to coat. Cover dish with plastic wrap and marinate in the refrigerator for 1 hour to overnight.
4. Toss wings again and place in baking dish. Drizzle with remaining sauce.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until wings are cooked through. Turning to baste occasionally. Digital thermometer near the bone should read 165 degrees F.

Serve with vinegar coleslaw or pickled vegetables.

Enjoy!

BUCKEYE STATE SANCTIONED



AT THE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY FAIR

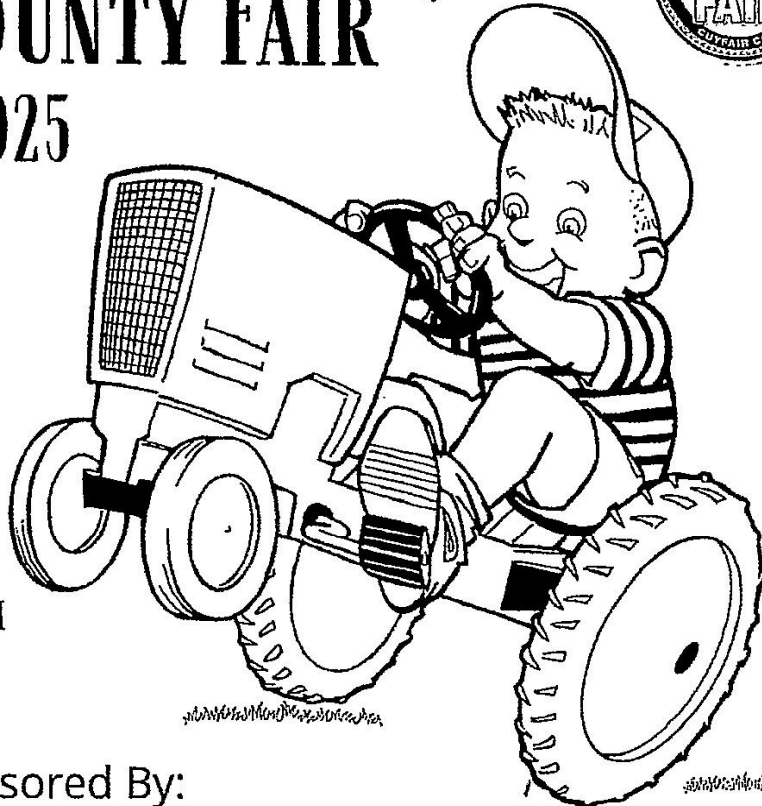
TUESDAY, AUG 5, 2025

AGES 4-11: FREE

AGES 12 & OVER:
\$10.00

REGISTRATION FROM 1PM TO 2PM

EVENT BEGINS AT 2PM



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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.