



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

April 2022

# THE HONEYBEE TIMES

Happy spring! Maples are done and buds have fallen off. Next, we are looking at willows, daffodils, crocus, dandelions, pears, and other fruit trees. For those who have overwintered bees, get those mite treatments applied. Check for food and for the new-bees and have equipment ready to house bees. It all happens this month.

This month we are fortunate to have Don Schram from Michigan, and the topic will be queen rearing. Anything he has to say can be applied to a small beekeeping operation as well. Everyone should have a basic knowledge of how queens can be produced to become self-sufficient at some point. There will also be a class/smoker contest for the new-bees and for the experienced beekeeper alike; both will be conducted at the same time a few feet apart. If you wish to be a part of the fun, be there at 6:45 and, of course, this is weather permitting - that means no rain.

Denzil

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Recipe of the Month

April Meeting

04/13/2022

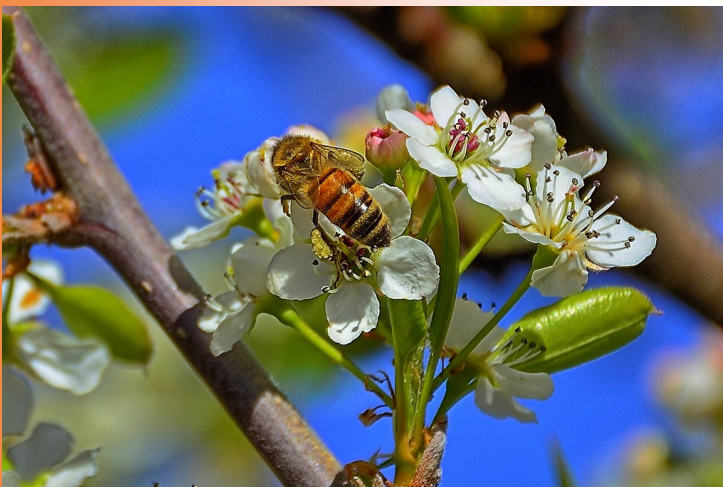
Cuyahoga County Fair Grounds

Building #25

Doors open at 6:30pm

Meeting begins at 7:00pm

# Spring has Sprung



Renew your GCBA membership today!



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# See what happened at our last meeting.

Gene and Audrey Gargas

"Our first 10 years, looking back at what we have learned"



# Fair and Bee Yard Updates

The fair is fast approaching, and a lot has happened since our last newsletter update.

Dennis Eck and the board have discussed, met and/or measured the bee yard area and discussed the new attractions and ideas for the bee barn. We want everyone to contribute ideas and participation as your schedules allow. This is certainly not any one person's project, but a collective labor of love for all things honeybees. Please volunteer!

The Cuyahoga County Fairground is a wonderful opportunity for education and community outreach, a place to share all things honeybees and agriculture. In an endeavor to accomplish all of this, GCBA is fully vested in the project of beautification of the bee yard and creating an exciting venue for fair goers in the bee barn.

We have been given the opportunity to work with The Belmont Prison facility in St. Clairsville, Ohio. We are submitting all the necessary paperwork and protocols to get the ball rolling. Once approved, we can begin work on design and structure plans. As you can see in the photos accompanying this article, their talents and skills are endless. Mr. Shook, Head of Safety and Health, is our liaison with making all the above mentioned become a reality. They have a great work environment and bee club for the inmates.

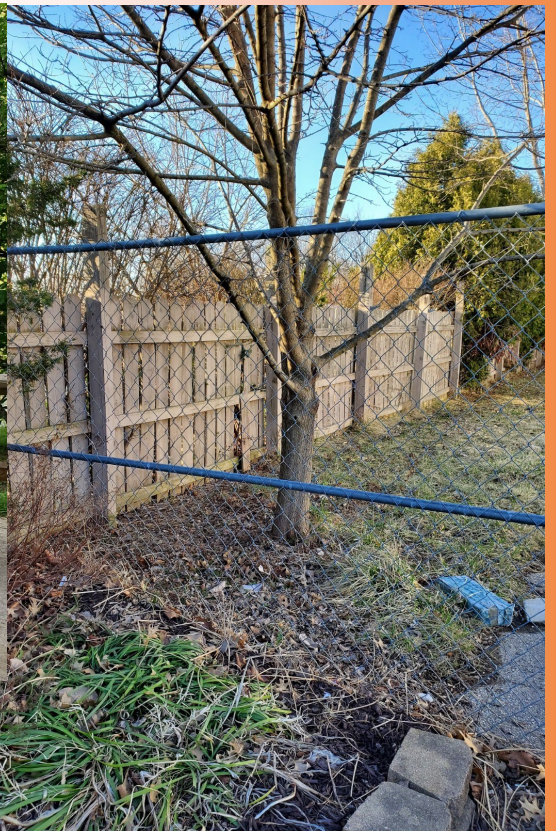
One more item to mention in this update is the landscaping and garden prep work for this year's bee yard of which some pictures are also included with this article. There will be a work/cleanup soon, and then ideas for planting and landscaping. Perennial donations will be needed. If you have a connection to a local garden/landscaping business that is willing to help with some ornamental trees and grasses plants, topsoil, fertilizer - please let us know. We could do some great sponsorship advertising for them at the fair! Don't forget we are a 501C3 organization, too!

Last thought, this is a large endeavor with a lot of different plans and responsibilities. We are going to get as much accomplished as we can in 2022, and then continue to expand and develop as we go along. Please volunteer and check out the photos on the next page!

Thank You,  
Sheila St.Clair

Contact us with any questions.

Tom Kennish, Fair Chair [tkennish@gmail.com](mailto:tkennish@gmail.com)  
Sheila St.Clair, Bee Yard and Barn Project Coordinator [info@queenrightcolonies.com](mailto:info@queenrightcolonies.com)



Can  
You  
Help?





# Friday, April 22nd

## a guide to making **SEED BOMBS!**



### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Dry powdered clay (try [this](#) or [this](#))
- Compost or organic nutrient-rich soil
- Seeds: wildflower, herb, etc. (to get plants best for your area, enter your zip code [here](#), click the plant guide for your area, and scroll down to plants that attract pollinators. Some gardeners recommend making seed bombs with one species of plant rather than using seed mixes in the seeds may compete with each other for nutrients and sunlight.)
- Water
- Bowl (it will get a little messy!)
- Measuring cups/spoons
- A surface to let your seeds dry on for a few days (parchment paper, aluminum foil, placemats, etc.)
- Optional: ground sidewalk chalk to color your seed bombs

### ABOUT SEED BOMBS

Spring is around the corner and all kinds of bees are looking for flowers to scavenge nectar from and pollinate. Have you ever heard of a seed bomb? Saving bees through seed bombs is fun and easy. A seed bomb is a rolled-up clay and soil ball filled with seeds that you simply toss out in your yard, garden, or even along roads and highways! When it rains, the clay dissolves into the dirt, and when the conditions are suitable for the seeds to grow, they begin to take root. Plus, the ball protects the seeds from birds and harsh weather conditions until the seeds are ready to germinate. Any seeds can be used such as wildflowers, herbs, or vegetables, but you want to use seeds that grow well in poor soil environments.



### HOW TO MAKE

1. Combine 1 part clay with 1 part compost in a bowl.
2. Add in your seeds. It's recommended to have 5 parts of clay/compost mixture to 1 part seeds but it's not too particular.
3. Add water, a couple tablespoons at a time, and mix. Continue alternating between adding water and mixing until your mixture becomes a pasty dough texture.
4. Form your balls! You can make them in any size you want! You can:
  - Roll or press your clay flat on a table and use a butter knife to cut into even squares. Then roll each square into a ball. This makes it easier to make consistent-sized seed bombs. Or..
  - Get fancy and use fun-shaped molds! Press seed bomb mixture into molds and let dry as much as possible.
5. Let seed bombs dry on a surface for 2-3 days. Ensure they don't get wet or the ball may break apart too early.
6. Optional: to add color to the outside of your seed bombs, mix ground chalk with water and paint them!

Once you've created your seed bombs, throw them outside in locations that could use more pollinator-friendly flowers. The bees will thank you and everyone will be able to enjoy the colorful addition to the landscape! Enjoy!



## The Inspector's Corner

Hi everyone inspection season is almost here, please register your apiary. If your buying packages or nucs please make sure they are certified healthy. Again, if you're buying a nuc ask a few questions like are they over wintered in Ohio. Is the queen an overwintered queen, also make sure you have all form of brood, food, and pollen? If your hives made it and are buzzing around don't forget to treat early and start making plans on swarm prevention.

### ANNUAL REGISTRATION

***Anyone who owns or possesses bees in the State of Ohio is required to complete an annual registration application by June 1.***

The application fee is only \$5.00 – a small price to pay considering all of the benefits an Apiary Inspector can provide during an annual inspection.

To obtain additional program information or to schedule an appointment or inspection, please contact the Cuyahoga County Apiary Inspector directly at the phone numbers or e-mail address listed below.

***Please remember that apiary inspectors do not serve in the role of Commercial Pesticide Applicators or nuisance trappers. You should contact a USDA***



Phil Bartosh  
Cuyahoga County Apiary Inspector  
[sd9990@aol.com](mailto:sd9990@aol.com)

#### 2021 INSPECTION SUMMARY:

Active Registered Beekeepers	6,592
County Apiary Inspectors	63
Counties Inspected	81
Apiaries Inspected	4,828
Colonies Inspected	24,788
Colonies with American Foulbrood	21
Colonies with European Foulbrood	34
Colonies with Chalkbrood	9
Colonies with Nosema symptoms	34
Colonies with Varroa Mite	12,510
Colonies with Small Hive Beetle	4,371

**216.470.0934      216.351.6190**



This application will let you renew a previous registration, add new apiaries, or create a new registration for new beekeepers. The registration fee is \$5.00 per apiary; both the application and fee is due by June 1 each year. There is a \$10 late fee if filing after June 1 (the late fee is a total charge of \$10, not \$10 per apiary). Payments can be made by check or money order only, no credit cards or cash are accepted.



Department of  
Agriculture

Division of Plant Health • Apiary Program  
8995 E. Main St., Bldg. 23, Reynoldsburg OH 43068  
Phone: 614-728-6373 • Fax: 614-728-6453  
apiary@agri.ohio.gov • www.agri.ohio.gov

**APPLICATION FOR APIARY REGISTRATION**

PLEASE INCLUDE PAYMENT WITH APPLICATION ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1

<small>THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY APIARY PROGRAM OFFICE</small>		IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	CERTIFICATE NUMBER:
<b>COMPANY:</b>			
<b>NAME:</b>			
<b>ADDRESS:</b>			
<b>CITY, STATE, ZIP:</b>		<b>PHONE:</b>	
<b>EMAIL:</b>		<b>COUNTY:</b>	
Check applicable box:	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered previously	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Locations	<input type="checkbox"/> New beekeeper

**Payment is required with application.** Applications postmarked after June 1st are subject to a \$10.00 late filing fee. Exceptions to late fee after June 1: New Beekeepers or registering additional locations.  
**Fee of \$5.00 per apiary location (property address) made payable to the "Ohio Department of Agriculture"**

Number of Locations: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 each = Total Amount Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00

Payment by check or money order only; Payment Method:  Check # \_\_\_\_\_  Money Order # \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH**

Hive Location	# of Colonies	County	Township	Location Information:			Property Owner's Name	Beekeepers: if you Sell Queens or Nucs from or at this location, Check 'YES' or 'NO'
				Address	City	Zip Code		
1				<i>(Please provide directions for Inspector*)</i>				<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO
2								<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO
3								<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO
4								<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO
5								<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO

*\*Please write on back of form to provide inspector with additional directions and/or hive location information, if needed. (GPS Coordinates are helpful and appreciated; please indicate by Longitude and Latitude, in Decimal Degrees.)*

**My signature below certifies that the information provided above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.**

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Have you used the Ohio State University Phenology Calendar yet? You really need to give it a try. Just put in your zip.

<https://weather.cfaes.osu.edu/gdd/>

The screenshot shows the website's header with the Ohio State University logo and the title 'The Ohio State Phenology Calendar'. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for Home, Weather, Glossary, and Summary. A 'Change Date & Zip' section contains a date input field set to '3/23/2022' and a 'Go' button. The main content area features a 'How to use it:' section with instructions on entering a zip code and a date to view a daily calendar of phenological events. A large arrow graphic points to a form with 'Date:' and 'Zip Code:' input fields and a 'Show me the Calendar' button. The footer includes contact information for Denise Ellsworth and a copyright notice for 2022 Ohio State University CFAES.

This block displays a row of seven event cards for Cleveland. Each card includes a title, a small image, and a description of the event. The events are: Speckled Alder (first bloom), Northern Lights Forsythia (first bloom), Japanese Pieris (first bloom), The GDD for 3/23/2022 (with a map of Cleveland and a GDD value of 62), Red Maple (full bloom), Star Magnolia (first bloom), and White Pine Weevil (adult emergence).

### Using this calendar

The legend explains the components of the event cards. It uses an example card for 'European Fruit Lecanium Scale' with the event 'Egg Hatch' (GDD 79). The legend items are:
 

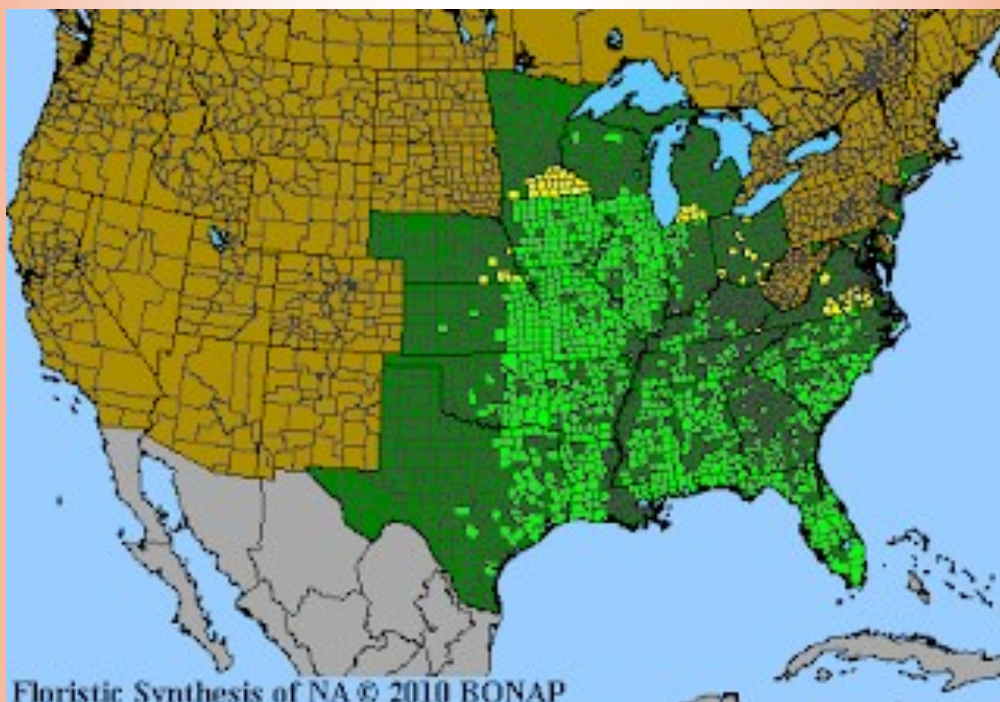
- Event's GDD
- Name of what's being affected by event. May be a plant, insect, or chemical. Plants appear in darker gray, insects in medium gray, and chemicals in lighter gray.
- Picture of what's being affected by event if applicable; not all affected will have pictures
- Name of phenological event

# Phenology Calendar Continued

It may take you a little bit of time and practice to get the full scope of this calendar, but it is well worth the effort when looking to see what is in bloom and what insects are hatching out.

## Growing Degree Days

Growing Degree Days are a measurement of the growth and development of plants and insects during the growing season. Development does not occur at this time unless the temperature is above a minimum threshold value (base temperature). The base temperature varies for different organisms. It is determined through research and experimentation. The actual temperature experienced by an organism is influenced by several factors. These factors affect growth and development. For instance, depending on the weather, an organism's temperature may be a few degrees more or less than that recorded. An organism may spend its time in the shade or under direct sunlight. The fertility and nutrient content of the soil directly affect the growth rate of insects and plants. The presence of weeds and precipitation may indirectly influence development. Due to these factors and some other scientific considerations, a base temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit is considered acceptable for all plants and insects.



# APRIL IS OHIO NATIVE PLANTS MONTH

## What are some native plants?

**White trillium** (*Trillium grandiflorum*)

**Goldenrod** (*Solidago*)

**Wild geranium** (*Geranium maculatum*)

**Trout lily** (*Erythronium americanum*)

### ***PLACES TO BUY NATIVE PLANTS***

- [Avalon Gardens](#) - Chardon, OH
- [Boyert's Greenhouse and Farm](#) - Medina, OH
- [Bremec on the Heights](#), Cleveland Heights, OH
- [Cuyahoga SWCD](#) - Cleveland, OH (native seeds)
- [Gale's Garden Center](#) - Westlake, OH (multiple locations)
- [Genius Loci Inc.](#) - Elyria, OH (appt. only)
- [Grace Brothers Nursery & Supply](#) - North Royalton, OH
- [Native Roots, Inc.](#) - Richfield, OH (appt. only - sells at farmer's markets)
- [Natives in Harmony](#) - Marengo, OH
- [Nodding Onion Gardens](#) - Columbia Station, OH (sells at farmer's markets)
- [OPN seed](#) - Hiram, OH (native seeds, mail order)
- [Perennials Preferred](#) - Chesterland, OH
- [Plant It Native](#) - Willoughby, OH
- [Richardson Farms](#) - Medina, OH
- [Royal Victorian Garden Center](#) - North Royalton, OH

## SHRINKING YOUR LAWN WITH NATIVE PLANTS





It's time again to rally and support the beekeeping community! We are formally requesting the help of every beekeeper: you, your neighbors, your bee club and all the beekeepers you know.

The survey is open and accepting responses from April 1st to April 30th 2022. Please take a moment to submit your response to help us continue to inform about impacts to honey bee colony health.

Visit [beeinformed.org/take-survey](https://beeinformed.org/take-survey) to join in the effort, learn more, and take the survey!

We rely on word of mouth to reach as many beekeepers as possible. Please share this survey announcement far and wide with your beekeeping friends and local club members!



**Submitted by: Sheila StClair**

## **HONEY COCONUT MACADAMIA NUT + CHERRY BARS**

**YIELD:** Makes 9 servings

### **INGREDIENTS**

1 1/2 cups - oats

1/2 cup - shredded coconut, unsweetened

1/3 cup - macadamia nuts, chopped

1/3 cup - dried tart cherries

1/3 cup - honey

3 T - almond butter

3 T - peanut butter

nonstick spray

### **DIRECTIONS**

Spray an 8x8 baking dish with nonstick spray.

In a bowl, combine the dry ingredients oats, coconut, nuts, and tart cherries. Add the honey, almond butter, and peanut butter and stir until well combined.

Press into the baking dish and chill for 3 hours.

Cut into bars and enjoy.



# What are you WEARING?

“Limited Edition for a Limited Time”

While supplies last, only two hats left. If you are interested in the hats or shirts please [click the “contact” button](#) on our website to inquire.





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# Congratulations to our 50/50 Raffle Winner!!!

**WINNER: Robert Sullivan Take: \$94.00 Split: \$47.00**



As the Club is providing Coffee at our Meetings, we thank the Members who have brought pastry and candy each month. It is greatly appreciated!

Thank you to Joe Petrek and his lovely bride for hosting set-up and tear-down of the table each month.





## Dear Buzz the Beekeeper, I have a question.

Question: I'm a new beekeeper and I have a hive that has overwintered. I've read a lot of articles about early spring swarms. What is your advice for the first-time overwintered beekeeper to avoid swarms.

Residential second year beekeepers really face a challenge with the swarming issue. This is a topic that most experienced beekeepers do not understand and cannot control and as a result believe it cannot be accomplished. This is especially problematic for residential beekeepers because of the neighbor issue and as a result (requires) a solution.

First, the obvious - do not feed pollen substitutes or (stimulus) feedings of any nature in the early spring as this only increases brood production within a colony. Second, check colonies early and often, making sure excess room is always available at all times within the brood nest. Early means in March and going forward often means weekly. Excess means 5 or more frames of empty comb at all times. Third, if you think things are looking like a swarm impulse is starting or you are seeing queen cups, locate the queen and cage her in the cage she came in. Keep her contained within the colony in such a way that she can be fed and cared for. At the same time, remove all cups. Five days later, locate all supersedure cells and remove them as well. At this point, the colony can no longer swarm under any circumstances. Maintain this condition for a minimum of two weeks and be prepared to repeat if necessary. Once the queen is released and laying again the bees may want to supersede her for her failure to lay while caged, which means attention to supersedure cells is a must until the impulse passes.

This whole process is called beekeeping!  
Buzz, the Beekeeper



# lassified

Classified Ads Any member in good standing may place an ad for bee-keeping related items for sale or trade once a quarter free of charge. This ad will not exceed 1/8th of a page in size. Additional ads will be subject to advertisement fees. Advertisement Fee Schedule: 1/8th Page: \$5 month, 1/4th 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.



# oming

### **GCBA events held throughout the year:**

- Picnic in July
- County Fair Booth in August
- Holiday Party in December
- Live Demonstrations

# Thank You From All Of Us

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