



*Greater Cleveland
Beekeepers
Association*

April 2024



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the HONEYBEE TIMES

A Message from Our President

Hello and Happy April!

Welcome to one of the most exciting months of the beekeeping calendar! For many of us, this means picking up bees. For some, just new queens. Others, splitting their overwintered hives or catching swarms. Flowers blooming, sun eclipsing. Whatever it may be for you, April is an action packed month for anything bees.

There are a few reminders I wanted to mention. We are looking for volunteers for World Bee Day as well as a volunteer to be the 2024 Cuyahoga County Fair Chair. Please talk to any board member for more details on what those positions entail. Also, on Saturday, April 13, we will be installing bees in the Bee Yard. All are welcome, and please bring your veils! The time will be announced at the meeting on Wednesday.

Lastly, for our new beekeepers, enjoy this wacky world of beekeeping! Soon enough, all the things you question will gain clarity and you will be the resident expert amongst all you know about everything bees. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Mike Alonso
President of GCBA



March Member Spotlight

The Kleban Family: Yurii, wife Nataliia, daughters Nadiia and Yuliia

We came to the USA through the U4U program in 2022. Our hometown is the town of Radekhiv, which is located in Western Ukraine (Lviv region). Now we reside in North Royalton, Ohio. Our entire family is engaged in beekeeping, as it is an exciting, interesting, and extremely useful activity.

Our family has been in beekeeping for three generations. Like my daughters, I have been actively involved in beekeeping since early childhood and my father passed on beekeeping to me in 2002. I never planned or thought about beekeeping, but as I matured, I realized that beekeeping could be a way of life. After all, a beekeeper is an expert who collects all the products of beekeeping - not only honey, known to the vast majority of people - it is beeswax, propolis, pollen, bee bread, royal jelly, drone homogenate, wax moth extract, and bee venom as well. These products are invaluable to humans, and reproducing them in laboratory conditions with current modern technologies is impossible. That said, a beekeeper can take up to 10% of the above-mentioned beekeeping products, but 90% of the other benefits, bees give to people and the surrounding nature in the area where they live, pollinating plants and trees.

I extremely enjoy spring when bees start their work. I understand that my efforts and actions were correct, and they survived the most difficult period - winter.

In Ukraine, before the full-scale war with Russia, there was a state program that supported beekeeping, namely: funds were allocated for medicinal preparations and sugar for winter feeding. Assistance was also provided in finding places to set up apiaries. As well, the program helped with breeding.

I still have to get accustomed more to Ohio to draw conclusions, since we have only lived here for a short period of time. Next year, however, I will be happy to share my observations with you. I really like the openness and sincerity of the members of the Ohio GCBA beekeepers' association. After all, like a bee, a person can achieve maximum results only in unity with like-minded people. I am also looking for a place to accommodate a larger number of bee colonies and will appreciate your support in this matter.

Sincerely,
Yurii Kleban

People News - Kim Flottum

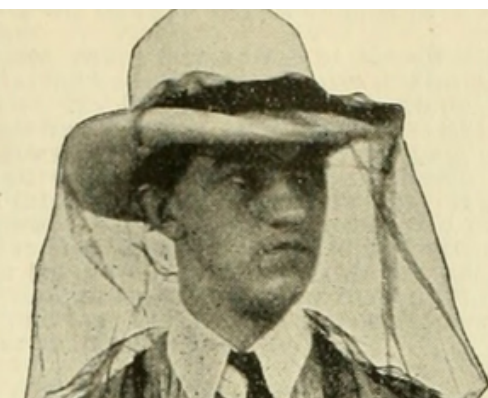
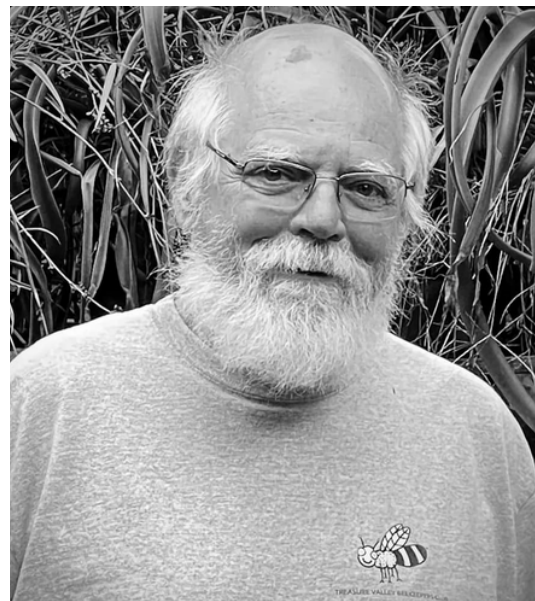


Celebration of Kim Flottum's life, April 13, 2024, 12:00 Noon at Medina Community Church, 416 South Broadway Street, Medina, Ohio.

Please come and help us as we honor Kim's amazing journey and share memories with each other as we try and manage life without him. If you are coming from out of town or state please let Kathy know so we can help with any questions or details.

There will be a meal served after the service. Questions or messages you can contact Kathy.

kathyksummers@gmail.com
330.461.1081



Inspector's Corner

Hello Everyone, bee season is here! Make sure you send in your apiary registration form. The start of inspections will be late this year - the State Meeting is scheduled mid April. Weather will be warm soon, so any work on your boxes or equipment should be underway. Don't wait until the day your bees arrive to set up your boxes, have everything ready to go!

Thanks,
Phil BARTOSH
Cuyahoga County Apiary Inspector



GCBA Events

Volunteer, Donate, Jump in and Lend a Hand!

- April meeting topic: Queen Rearing
- April pre-meeting inspection at Bee Yard 6pm
- World Bee Day in May
- Picnic in July
- Cuyahoga County Fair Booth in August
- Holiday Party in December
- Live Demonstrations year round

Don't Forget!

Pastries for the bakery table at our monthly meetings are always welcome, especially if they are made with honey!



Jan Petrek, GCBA Hospitality Coordinator



Celebrate World Bee Day - May 17-18th!

Have you heard that GCBA and CCF are hosting their fourth annual World Bee Day?

GCBA, along with numerous other organizations, will once again be hosting World Bee Day at the Cuyahoga County Fair Grounds on May 17 and 18th. We are extremely excited to have this opportunity to teach the public the importance of pollinators.

May 17 from 9 am to 2 pm will be dedicated to school children from all over Cleveland and its outer suburbs. Currently, we have over 700 students signed up to attend! May 18 from 10 am to 4 pm will be open to the public.

We need volunteers to help make this a successful event. You do not need to know a lot about honeybees, because you already know more than most people do! You just need to be willing to give a few hours of your time!

Any questions, please contact the GCBA Secretary Sarah Alonso at s.alonso@myyahoo.com

WORLD BEE DAY
Field trip

Celebrating the bees and other pollinators!

Friday
May 17, 2024
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds Bee Barn
19201 E Bagley Road
Middleburg Heights
Ohio 44130

Honey Bee Passport
Get your Honey Bee Passport stamped when you visit the Bee Observation Room and the Educational Stations.

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Honey Bee Educational Day for Students
World Bee Day celebration raises awareness on the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy, and on the many challenges they face today. The United Nations designated May 20 as World Bee Day thanks to the efforts of the Government of Slovenia with the support of Apimondia.

- Teaching Future Generation Importance of Honey Bees
- Learn from Certified Master Gardener about Pollinator Gardens
- Learn How Honey Bees Improve Our Agricultural/Food
- Educational Stations; Fruits, Vegetables, and Honey
- Honey Bee Observation Room

collaborativechambers.org greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com
Contact Nicky Subandari at collaborativechambers@gmail.com or call (440) 502-9506.

WORLD BEE DAY
fun day

Celebrating the bees and other pollinators!

Saturday
May 18, 2024
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds Bee Barn
19201 E Bagley Road
Middleburg Heights
Ohio 44130

\$2 Donation
The proceeds from this event will be donated to provide Honey Breakfast on November 11-15, 2024, for K-12 students in Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

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WORLD BEE CANDLE EXH

We invite you to join in the fun of World Bee Day!
World Bee Day celebration raises awareness on the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy, and on the many challenges they face today. The United Nations designated May 20 as World Bee Day thanks to the efforts of the Government of Slovenia with the support of Apimondia.

- All Day Speakers Series About Honey Bees and Agriculture:
 - Julia Maria Cujba - All About HIVE Products
 - Charles Heaton - Cooking with Honey
 - Peggy Vasu - Pollinator Gardeners
- Learn How Honey Bees Improve Our Agricultural/Food
- Honey Bee Observation Room
- Slovenian Corner
- Food & Beverages

collaborativechambers.org greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com

View and download the flyers from our Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association website for more information.

Bee Yard & Barn Beautification Projects



Pollinators are out in full force all throughout the county and beyond: Forsythia, Willows, Crocus and more.

Eden Brothers has been very kind to GCBA this year in support of our Pollinator Garden and World Bee Day. In total, they have donated 5# of North East Wildflower seed for WBD (a \$200.00 value) and four Yarrow roots for the Pollinator Garden (\$21.00 value). Their kindness is greatly appreciated.

Eden Brothers started in 2009, in North Carolina. They are a small American-owned business. It is with hard work and much expertise in their field that they are today, a very large quality producer of all the things pollinators love. Please be sure to check out their website www.edenbrothers.com

The Yarrow will be a great addition to the Garden and the bees will love it.

Thank you all,



Sheila St.Clair
440-647-2602

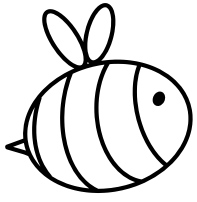
Beyard and Garden
Beautification Project

Eric Mathney
216-313-0550
Bee Yard Manager



Pollinator Fun Facts!

- The first civilization to practice organized beekeeping was the ancient Egyptians around 2,500 BCE.
- Bees were also kept by the Mayans in hollowed long hives decorated with carvings showing the owner of the hive.
- In the Middle Ages, beekeepers kept their bees in trees called "bee forests." They also kept their bees in log hives or in basket-woven hives.
- Honeybees are not native to the United States. They came to America with the European colonists in the 17th century

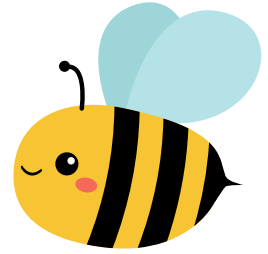


Honey Bees for Natural Habitats Captured in New Report

Global synthesis of data reveals honey bees as world's key pollinator of non-crop plants

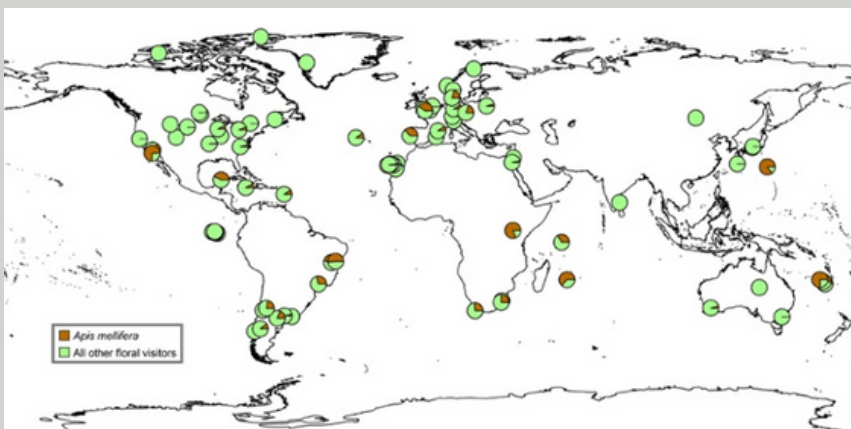
January 10, 2018

By Mario C. Aguilera



An unprecedented study integrating data from around the globe has shown that honey bees are the world's most important single species of pollinator in natural ecosystems and a key contributor to natural ecosystem functions. The first quantitative analysis of its kind, led by biologists at the University of California San Diego, is published Jan. 10 in Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

The report weaves together information from 80 plant-pollinator interaction networks. The results clearly identify the honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) as the single most frequent visitor to flowers of naturally occurring (non-crop) plants worldwide. Honey bees were recorded in 89 percent of the pollination networks in the honey bee's native range and in 61 percent in regions where honey bees have been introduced by humans.



The proportion of all floral visits contributed by the western honey bee in 80 plant-pollinator interaction networks in natural habitats worldwide. Honey bees are generally considered a native species in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and introduced elsewhere.

One out of eight interactions between a non-agricultural plant and a pollinator is carried out by the honey bee, the study revealed. The honey bee's global importance is further underscored when considering that it is but one of tens of thousands of pollinating species in the world, including wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies, moths and other bee species.

"Biologists have known for a while that honey bees are widespread and abundant—but with this study, we now see in quantitative terms that they are currently the most successful pollinators in the world," said Keng-Lou James Hung, who led the study as a graduate student in UC San Diego's Division of Biological Sciences. He's now a postdoctoral researcher at the Ohio State University.

The above article helps us better understand how beekeeping benefits our communities we live in. Under the radar there are untold masses of pollinators hard at work to preserve the balance of nature. You make a difference! Go OSU!

Sheila St.Clair

Bee Yard and Barn Beautification Project



Ingredients

Mocktail

- 2 cups chamomile infusion, cold
- 3/4 cup clover honey
- 1/3 cup blood orange juice
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 5oz soda water to top off
- Ice
- Fresh mint
- Blood orange or lime wedge to garnish

Chamomile Infusion

- 2 chamomile tea bags
- 2 cups boiling water

Honey Blood Orange Mocktail

Recipe by Chef Charles Heaton

Assembly

1. Combine chamomile infusion and honey, mix well to dissolve.
2. Mix with blood orange juice and lemon juice.
3. Pour over ice and top with a splash of soda water as desired.
4. Pour into a rocks glass with a LIGHTLY salted rim.
5. Garnish with mint sprig and a blood orange or lime wedge.
6. Enjoy!



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April 2024

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Our Goal:

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