



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

December 2021

# THE HONEYBEE TIMES

Hi All,

It's the most Wonderful time of the year!

Well, this is my last Newsletter. I want to thank you for your support this past year.

I also want to thank the Officers who served and the candidates who are willing to serve this coming year. It's a lot of work to keep this Club running smoothly.

Make sure to join us on Wednesday, December 8th for a great night of food, friendship, and the Election of Officers (Very Important).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

Larry

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50/50	
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Upcoming Meetings and Events



The end of the inspection season has ended with a season of firsts, Found American Foulbrood in the Solon Area. Inspected a hive on a raised pool deck, had 8” of rain in one month, Started raining last day of April and rained every day until the 15th of May. Killed 3 hives with approximately 100,000 bees and burned the wooden wear all because of AFB.

I love working with bees but I love this time of year I get a much needed break.

Got to 103 apiaries  
inspected 327 hives  
Found 3 hives with AFB  
Enjoy the holidays

Thanks, Phil Bartosh 216.470.0934 216.351.6190  
[sd9990@aol.com](mailto:sd9990@aol.com) Cuyahoga County Apiary Inspector

A great November meeting at the Cuyahoga County Fair, bldg.25. The topic: "Making Mead " with Dan Zurbish.



thank you!



# Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association

## Beginning Beekeeping Classes



This four-part course is designed for anyone interested in becoming a backyard beekeeper, no experience is necessary. Basic honey bee biology, beekeeping techniques, required equipment, best management practices, and more will be presented.

The Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association's mission is to promote interest in beekeeping through education, training, and community awareness.

**Time:** 7:00-9:00pm (doors open at 6:30pm)

**Location:** Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds  
19201 E Bagley Road, Bldg 25  
Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130

**Cost:** \$50 includes classes, yearly family memberships, and a monthly email newsletter

**Registration:** At door or download form at [greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com](http://greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com)

**Class Descriptions:**

- Feb. 2: Equipment
- Feb. 9: Bee Package Installation
- Feb. 16: Seasonal Inspection/Care of the Hive
- Feb. 23: Threats to the Hive and Treatments

**GCBA Events held throughout the year:**

- Field Day
- Picnic
- County Fair Booth
- Holiday Parties
- Live Hive Installations/Demonstrations

2022  
Class Dates:  
Wednesdays  
February 2, 9, 16, 23

*GCBA meetings are family friendly.\*\**

*"Beekeeping for Dummies" guidebook available for purchase. \*\**

Visit our website to download the Class Registration Form  
[greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com](http://greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com)

## Public Education Provided by Shannon

Back in 2012 I was Public Educator for GCBA and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to educate the public about honeybees. Wide eyes and dropped jaws were common and frequent as I would give my presentation. Questions seemed to be endless, and we also went past our scheduled time. No matter what the age, people just could not seem to get enough information about honeybees once I would warm them up to our favorite fuzzy critters!

About a decade passed before I volunteered for the GCBA Public Education Committee again. It seemed the executive board immediately received requests for presentations. I was worried I was rusty, that maybe I would not appear as enthusiastic as I was back when I was a “Newbie” and all bright-eyed about everything bees. In the past few months, I have given four presentations and I no longer have those worries. Talking about bees and sharing their amazing habits with an audience never gets old! I have presented at an elderly luncheon in Reminderville, to 4–5-year-old students at the Music Settlement in East Cleveland, to a Lakewood church group ranging in age from 2-90 years old, and most recently to three STEM classrooms of 4<sup>th</sup> graders in Parma. Each group was delightful and engaging and the curiosity and awe were evident on each face in the audience.

The non-beekeeper, on average, does not know a lot about honeybees. Every member of GCBA knows enough information to give a meaningful and engaging presentation to any age group. Passing along the incredible news of our beloved bees is so satisfying and an important mission. “The More You Know” saying really applies to honeybees. The more people know, the less fear they may have, and the more support they may give to the “Save the Bees” movement.

Enjoy a few examples of the precious thank you notes I received from the Parma 4<sup>th</sup> graders. One of the notes is from a student who announced to me as she entered the classroom (stomping her feet and with her arms folded tightly across her chest!) that she did not want to learn about bees and that she would always be afraid of them! At the end of my presentation, she thanked me and said, “Bees seem quite nice. I’m not going to fear them anymore!”

Hand made notes on the next page

Thank you for all the facts about bees! I really enjoyed it and now I will be more open-minded, about how bees work and pollinate.

I really enjoyed you teaching!



- Ella, Pleasant Valley Elementary  
Grade 4



Thank  
YOU  
SO MUCH  
MS  
Shannon  
From Emily at Pleasant Valley  
Elementary School

Thank you!  
Mrs. Shannon, I  
loved that  
I was able to  
learn about bees.





## GCBA CHRISTMAS PARTY

**When:** December 8th 6:30PM

**Where:** Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Bldg 25.

**How:** Enter Campgrounds off of University Street and park on GRAVEL areas ONLY. Use 332 University Street Berea, Ohio 44017 for your GPS or Navigator and it should get you right to the Campgrounds gate. Please park on the GRAVEL areas and cautiously make your way to Building 25 as there will be Christmas light traffic.

**Who:** GCBA Family Members!

## EVENTS

**SELFIES WITH SANTA!!!**

**Elephant Gift Exchange (bring a WRAPPED gift to participate)**

**Turkey Bowling!!**

Grand prize is a \$50 Gift Certificate to Queen's Right Colonies!

Canned goods COLLECTION~bring your donations they will be donated to Calvary Hill Church Drive.

GCBA will begin the Harvest with Ham & Cheesy Potatoes!!!

**Members bring a dish of your choice!**

# CALVARY HILL CHURCH FOOD DRIVE

An inner-city church that helps families in the  
Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood

**WE WILL BE COLLECTING FOOD  
THROUGH MID-DECEMBER.**

All canned goods and other non-perishable  
donations are welcome. Some suggestions are:

Russet Potatoes (5lb bag)

Turkey Gravy (canned)

Stove Top Stuffing

Canned Cranberry Sauce

Canned Corn

Canned Green Beans



# 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.





# Queen Right Colonies®

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**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

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info@queenrightcolonies.com



Do you have a question for Buzz the Beekeeper?  
Ask anything **ANONYMOUSLY!**

Send your questions to our “contact” button on our website.

Questions will be chosen, answered, and published in next month’s edition.

<https://www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com/contact/>





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

Since my hive is pretty much dormant the next few months what can I do in the off season?

What to do with down time depends on the kind of beekeeper you are. The commercial and sideliner never sees spare time, or time off, it's just running through the gears possibly at a different speed but never in park. So, this leaves the hobbyist, and as a hobbyist, depending on the years in beekeeping, you will need to set different goals for yourself, and these goals will vary greatly from the newest members of possibly just getting your bees through winter, to the most experienced of increasing production while cutting cost, as well as many other ideas and goals. So, I will take the simplistic approach for beekeepers having 1 to 6 years' experience thinking those with more experience already know what to do with down time!

Having a plan (a written plan) is a must for all beekeepers. If it is not in writing you will never knowingly accomplish your goals or knowingly advance to the next step in any kind of measured, successful way. Put it in writing (exactly) what you hope to accomplish and have a plan for the immediate future with (dates and times) all the while you are in this beekeeping hobby, such as winter survivability, try a new race of bee, new market for honey, flavored or creamed honey - make goals realistic. For the more advanced, 3-to-6-year beekeeper with wintering success and not just marginal success, this is what separates the novice from a superior beekeeper. Your written goals can include some of the following, increased honey production, grafting your own queens, producing nucs, expanding market size, etc.

Having a plan of what you want to accomplish then becomes an action plan for the immediate future and any downtime you may have going forward. Have you ever stopped and ask anyone at a store, vegetable stand, etc., if they would be willing to sell your honey/ products, how do you think products get on the shelves of local markets? I began this article with a car simile let me finish with another one. While driving a vehicle you are always looking ahead, far beyond the edge of your hood to avoid accidents. In beekeeping, we should do the same keep looking ahead and occasionally glimpse at the rear-view mirror just to see how far you have advanced and if progress is being made.

~The Beekeeper

Don't forget to get yours at the beginning of every meeting.

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

WINNER: Eric Manthey

Collected: \$64.00; Split \$32.00



Don't forget these items on December 8th.



# Recipe Submitted By Michelle Killin-Keith



## Honey Spice Gingerbread Cookies

Did you know that Martha Stewart has her own beehives...of course she does...she's Martha Stewart! Here's her beekeeper take on a Christmas classic!

### *Ingredients*

5 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for surface and parchment  
1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
4 teaspoons ground ginger  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves  
2 sticks unsalted butter, softened  
1 cup granulated sugar  
2 large eggs  
1 cup honey  
1/2 cup unsulfured molasses  
Royal icing  
Fine sanding sugar

Visit [MarthaStewart.com](http://MarthaStewart.com) for the full recipe:  
<https://www.marthastewart.com/949872/honey-spice-gingerbread-cookies>



From: <https://www.geesbees.ca/post/top-5-honey-christmas-recipes>



# 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



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## GCBA events held throughout the year:

- Field Day in May
- Picnic in July
- County Fair Booth in August
- Special Event in September
- Holiday Party in December
- Live Demonstrations year round

# Thank You From All Of Us

## 2021 Officers

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