



Greater Cleveland
Beekeepers Association
www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com

April 2019

THE HONEYBEE TIMES

Join us Wednesday, April 10th
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 Chris Merkle.

Chris Merkle is a long time member of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association (TCBA), in Wooster, Ohio. Chris is a third generation beekeeper that has kept bees for 47 years. He is the main organizer for TCBA's live bee and beekeeping display at the annual Wayne County Fair, and is one of the instructors for the association's Beginner Beekeeping Course. Chris enjoys educating the public about honey bees by speaking at local schools, bee clubs, community events, and he also likes mentoring newbees.

Now that our Spring Fever is in full swing, it's time to get out there and enjoy our honey bees. Chris Merkle will discuss what's going on in the beehives right now, and what we can do to help them out. For the package that you just installed, or the colony that survived this winter, Chris will suggest what to look for and give you some options for care

Sweet or savory snacks to share are always welcome.



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President's Message

As of March 31st we were at '47' on the Growing Degrees Calendar for my zip code. Silver Maple is in full bloom and Corneliancherry Dogwood and Red Maple are in first bloom. My crocuses are blooming. All offer pollen and nectar for the hive. This tool can assist us understanding what resources are available for our bees. [OARDC Ohio Growing Degree Days Tool](#)

Do you have your varroa management plan laid out? Do you have necessary supplies, calendar or equipment?

Dr. Ramsey was a speaker for Tri-County Beekeepers Spring Workshop this March. His research has changed our understanding of varroa mites. Here is a quick video. [Dr. Ramsey's 12 minute video](#)

Dr. Meghan Milbrath also has a very good article to help you make a plan for varroa management. [Making A Plan for Varroa](#)

Additionally, the Honey Bee Health Coalition has created a new interactive tool for varroa management decision making. [HBHC Varroa Management Tool](#)

The question is not if your hive will be affected by varroa mites the question is when. **If your race of bees cannot handle their mite population, you must intervene or your bees will die. If your mite counts are out of control, your failing hive can affect every other hive within at least 2 miles of your apiary. Be a beekeeper not a bee haver. It is no fun to watch a hive die.** Ask me how I know.

How confident are you that you can read your frames to understand your hive health? Know if you have a queen right colony? Recognize presence of disease?

Clarence Colson gave a very informative talk at the 2018 National Honey Show in England.

Watch it here: [Examining Combs](#)

Thank you to all the members who saved 2 liter bottles and assisted making simple yellow jacket traps as free giveaway tools to anyone who wanted one at the March meeting. The GCBA Board appreciates your help.

Packages will be arriving soon. Revisit the basics for installation and care of your new bees so you are ready. New beekeepers, find someone who will be there for support and to take pictures. It is fun to look back year after year at your first package installation.

In our resources section there is a link to a hive inspection form from DC Beekeepers. Check it out. Use it or make your own. Taking good notes is key to understanding hive health.

I look forward to seeing you all April 10th.

Annette

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?
4. How far can a hive beetle fly to find a bee hive?
5. How many eggs can a female hive beetle lay?

Answers on page 12.

Have you registered your apiary with the State of Ohio?

[Ohio Apiary Registration Form](#)

GCBA Happenings

At the March meeting Melanie Seal presented a wealth of information to consider the nutritional needs of your colony. Do your bees have enough food until there are abundant resources available from nature and the weather is cooperating for the bees to forage? Take a look. Some extra food now is an insurance policy. Don't let your bees starve after they have made it through the long winter.

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 8th 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 one 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 does it grow, annual or perennial, etc.

GCBA will be represented at "Party for the Planet" Earth Day Celebration at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on April 20th from 10am – 3pm. Stop by and say hello if you are attending. [Zoo Party for the Planet](#)

GCBA Field Day on May 18th is shaping up to be a super event. Put it on your calendar now. 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. [2019 GCBA Field Day Registration Form](#)

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>

As we have granted 2 young ladies the GCBA Educational Scholarship in 2019 the Board has decided to suspend placement of hives in the CCF apiary. All board members will participate in mentoring these young folks and their parents. Look forward to notes about their beekeeping journey in upcoming newsletters.

Sweet or savory treats always welcome to share at our meetings!

Recommendations for speakers, topics, club activities, article links, etc. are always welcome! Talk to any board member and we will see what we can do to make it happen.

The By-Law review process will be finishing up in the next two months. If you are interested in participating, contact Brett May.

Elections will be here before we know it. Consider stepping up to serve on the GCBA board. GCBA is a club of and for all the members. New blood on the board keeps us in touch with the members needs and looks at all activities through fresh eyes.

Interested in GCBA swag?



HomeTown Threads of North Olmstead is the source!
[Order Your GCBA Swag Here](#)

Do you need to order bees?

Queen Right Colonies has packages and queens for sale.

<https://www.queenrightcolonies.com/>

Blue Sky Bee does not sell packages, but usually has postings for packages available at their sales counter and possibly by phone if you call. <https://www.blueskybeesupply.com/>

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.

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

Recipe of the Month Honey Cornbread Muffins

Recipe By: Crisco

"Honey and a hint of cinnamon add sweetness and spice to these cornbread muffins, and sour cream makes them tender and moist."

Ingredients

- 1 cup Martha White(R) Plain Enriched Yellow Corn Meal
- 1 cup Pillsbury BEST(R) All Purpose Flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/3 cup Crisco(R) Pure Corn Oil
- 1/4 cup sour cream

Directions

1. Heat oven to 400 degrees F. Line 12 muffin cups with paper baking cups.
2. Combine corn meal, flour, baking powder and cinnamon in large bowl. Whisk egg, milk, honey, oil and sour cream in small bowl. Add to corn meal mixture, stirring just until moistened. Spoon evenly into prepared muffin cups.
3. Bake 18 to 20 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool 2 minutes. Remove to wire rack to cool completely.

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

Resources:

DC Beekeepers Alliance created a nice hive inspection check list.

http://www.dcbeckeepers.org/downloadable_files/DCBA_Hive_Inspection_Form.pdf

George W. Imirie Jr. was a lifelong beekeeper and founder of the Montgomery County (MD) Beekeepers Association. Over a decade or more, George wrote and published detailed articles about beekeeping which he titled "Pink Pages."

<http://pinkpages.chrisbacherconsulting.com/>

When is it too cold to open a hive?

<https://honeybeesuite.com/too-cold-to-open-hive/>

Ohio Farm Bureau, Cuyahoga County Chapter

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

Great resource Growing and sourcing milkweeds

<https://monarchwatch.org/milkweed/market/>

Check out BeeSpotter and see how many bumble bees you can identify!

<https://beespotter.org/topics/key/>

BeeSpotter is a partnership between citizen-scientists and the professional science community designed to educate the public about pollinators by engaging them in a data collection effort of importance to the nation. It is a web-based portal at the [University of Illinois](#) for learning about honey bees and bumble bees and for contributing data to a nationwide effort to collect baseline information on population status of these insects.

When is it too cold to open a hive?

<https://honeybeesuite.com/too-cold-to-open-hive/>

Cuyahoga County Board of Health Apiary Inspection Program

<http://www.ccbh.net/beekeeping-apiary-inspection/>

You may consider tagging some monarch's in 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbBW3LUFZ6M&feature=youtu.be&t=5m>

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/>

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)

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

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/>

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

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

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

April Membership Meeting

April 10th

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 8th

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 18th

Rebecca Masterman, Entomologist from University of Minnesota, Keynote Speaker

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds

8:00am – 3:00pm

June Membership Meeting

June 12th

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 14th

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

September 11th

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.

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

October Membership Meeting

October 9th

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

November Membership Meeting

November 13th

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.

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

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 April 15th

State Apiarist, Barb Bloetscher and Medina County Inspector, Ron Zickefoose

The evening will focus on the explosion of Small Hive Beetles in 2018 and ways to deal with them in 2019. SHB are now enemy #2.

Williams on the Lake

6:30pm – 9:00pm

Lorain County Beekeepers Association
April Membership Meeting April 12th
Topic: Denzil and Pollen Gatherers (Bonnie & John)

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/>

OSBA Fall Conference Plain City, OH
November 2nd

- Bee Trivia :**
- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. 10 miles per hour | 4. At least 5 miles |
| 2. 60,000 trips | 5. Up to 2000 |
| 3. .003 oz. or 1/12th teaspoon | |

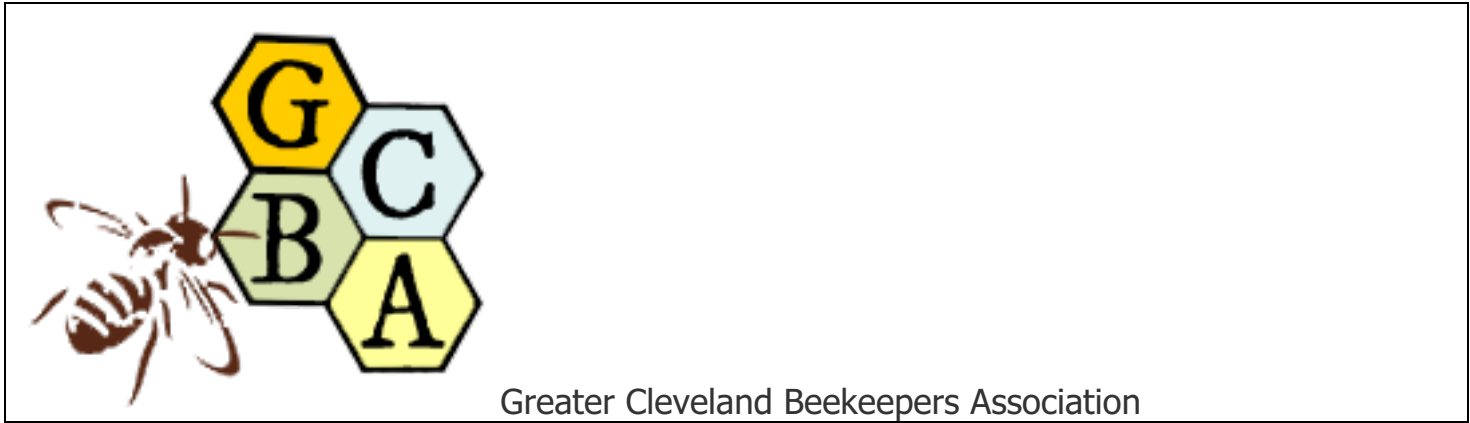
Classified Ads

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 1/8th 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.



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: _____