



Greater Cleveland
Beekeepers Association
www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com

December 2019

THE HONEYBEE TIMES

Our newly elected board President is Phil Bartosh and second term elected Vice-President is Larry Kelly.

Allyson May will be staying on while a new Treasurer is found. Thank you Allyson for all of your efforts for GCBA.

We are still looking for someone to serve as GCBA Secretary, Director and Treasurer.

The potluck was terrific! About 40 club members and plenty of great food. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to this annual event.

Beekeeping items were raffled, including journals, yard signs and pocket hive tools. Everyone left with a winter patty for their bees.

Get your calendars marked for 2020 now! GCBA meetings will be held on the following dates:

Jan 8th

Feb 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th – Beginners Course

Mar 11th

April 8th

May 13th

June 10th

July 8th – Picnic

Aug 12th

Sept 9th

Oct 14th

Nov 11th

Dec 9th – Elections, Potluck

May 16th GCBA Field Day at Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds



Inside:

Presidents Message

In the Hive

Scholarship Winner Update

Resources

Recipe of the Month

Upcoming Meetings and Events

President's Message

Thank you all for your support in the two years I have served as President of GCBA. I have enjoyed getting to meet and know many members and will continue to do so as I step aside for the newly elected President, Phil Bartosh. I will continue to serve on the board in the role of Past President.

My sincere thanks goes to the members who give their time on a monthly basis to be sure that the coffee is brewed, snacks are ready, chairs and tables are moved, speakers are welcomed, library books are displayed and meetings run smoothly.

Additionally, I want to thank members who step up for special projects like field day, picnic, plant swaps, public and private education events, Cuyahoga County Fair, and mentoring fellow beekeepers.

Our club is like a colony. Many workers are needed to keep the hive humming along. I hope you will all choose to find time in 2020, to give a little extra time and effort to ensure the success of our club.

I would also like to thank the Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau for their continued support of GCBA spec in the form of a very generous donation to facilitate our annual Field Day.

We are still in need of a new Secretary and Treasurer. Please, consider sharing your time and talents to serve on the GCBA Board.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. Thank you again for all of your support. May all your hives come through winter strong and healthy!

Annette



GCBA has been invited to participate by marching in the seventh annual 2020 Kurentovanje Parade on Saturday, February 22nd.

This is a festival to scare winter away and is held in any weather. Last year the parade started and noon and ended at the Slovenian National Home where festivities continued till 6:00pm. Food, beverages, music, local vendors and more. You can find more information about the event <https://www.clevelandkurentovanje.com/>

and the commemorative bee pin available [Commemorative Bee Pin](#)

Please, let any board member know if you are interested in participating so we can respond to the request by January 8, 2020.



In the Hive

The bees should be buttoned up for winter. Now is the time to look back at your year in your apiary and think about next year. How did you do keeping records? What do you want to learn more about? What educational events are coming up in 2020? How many beekeeper buddies did you find this year? How did you manage your mite population?

Warmer temperatures in October and November kept the bees flying and consuming honey stores. Take the time to check your hive for ample food supplies. Go out and lift up the back or front of the hive to estimate it's weight, or use a luggage scale. If in doubt, add a winter patty, sugar brick, fondant or even a single sheet of newspaper to which you pour granulated sugar. There are many ways to put supplemental carbs in the hive. The bees need energy to continue to keep warm.

Pop the cover to see where the cluster is located. Close to the top? You need to take action and feed the bees asap if you do not want them to starve.

If the hive is light and you have installed resources, check them at least once a month to be sure they still have food. Install more as needed until Spring brings natural resources for the bees to collect.

If you are considering splitting next Spring, get your equipment list ready and read up on the different methods you can choose to split your hive. Decide if you will purchase a queen or allow the bees to make their own queen. Each choice will have different options on how to successfully split your colony.

If you do not want, or cannot have, additional colonies in the Spring think about out how you will manage a strong hive to curb its instinct to swarm. *Swarm Essentials* by Steve Repasky and Dr. Larry Connor is an excellent resource. If you have too many bees, what will you do with them?

Plan, Plan, Plan and execute your plan, knowing that you may need to go to plan B after you open the hive!

Know someone interested in the 2020 GCBA Beginner Beekeeper Course?

[2020 GCBA Beginners Course Registration Information](#)

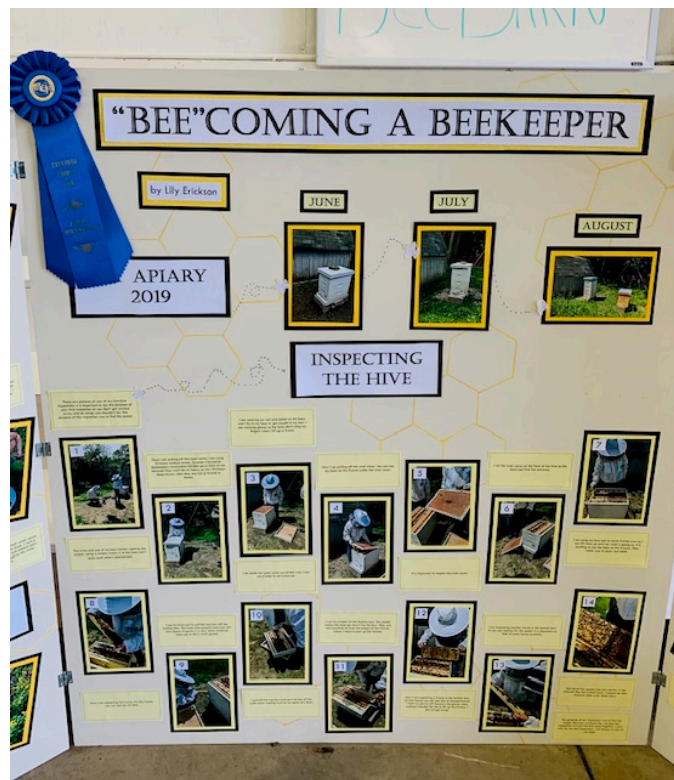
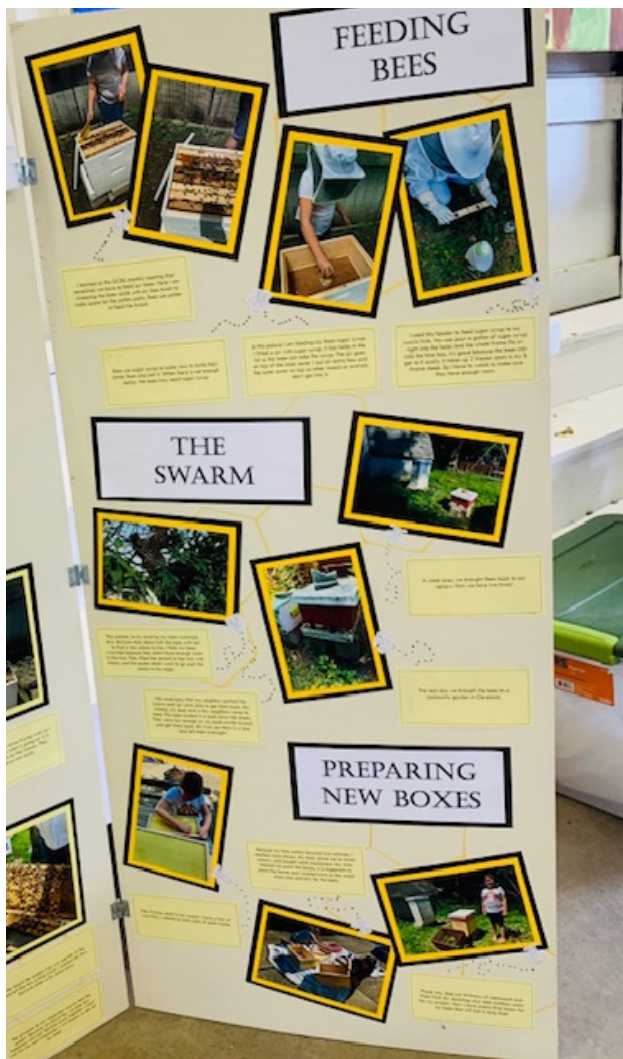


Lily Erickson winner of the 2019 GCBA Youth Beekeeping Scholarship

Lily is one of GCBA's youngest scholarship winners at the age of 9. She and her family have embraced and had an adventurous year as new beekeepers. She put together a terrific display for the Cuyahoga County Fair and shares some of her reflections for her first year as a beekeeper.

My first year of beekeeping was great! At the beginning I took classes, went to the field day, and set up our apiary. My dad and I also planted bee-friendly flowers, like milkweed and a pollinator mix, in our backyard. Then I waited for my bees to come.

In June, my bees arrived. Right away we opened up the hive and found the queen. I named her Mrs. McCave. Mr. Carl, Ms. Allyson and Ms. Annette came to teach me how to inspect a hive and take care of my bees. My mom and dad helped a lot, too.



Mrs. McCave is a very good queen. She laid so many eggs and the bees made so much honey that they swarmed. My mentor Mr. Carl and my dad helped me catch the hive! Now I have two hives! My mom took me to the Amish guy's barn and Queen Right Colonies to buy more equipment. Next year

I will make sure to give her enough room to lay her eggs.

Over the summer I watched the hives grow. I saw the bees carrying pollen of all different colors into the hive. I saw the bees getting water out of my neighbor's pool, but he didn't mind. My mom, my little sister, one of my older sisters and I all got stung last summer too! We were all glad that it didn't hurt that much.

Both hives are doing well. This Fall, I treated them with FormicPro to kill the varroa mites. I also got them ready for winter. I put mouse guards on the hive entrances. My dad helped me make special boxes to put on top of the hives. The bottom of the box has room for a pile of white sugar for food and to soak up any moisture. The top is full of burlap to keep them warm.

I hope the bees are still alive in the spring. I am looking forward to getting lots of honey next summer!

Lily Erickson, 2019 Beekeeping Scholarship Winner

Share our Strength!

The GCBA Board voted this past year to make donations to the following organizations to support their important work for honeybees and pollinators. Check them out!

<http://pollinatorstewardship.org/>

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/fundhoneybeerresearch>

<https://beeinformed.org/>

Interesting Articles and videos:

[Extracts of Polypore Mushroom Mycelia Reduce Viruses in Honey Bees](#)

[Propolis and bee health: the natural history and significance of resin use by honey bees](#)

[A Line on Life](#)

[Colony Size, Rather Than Geographic Origin of Stocks, Predicts Overwintering Success in Honey Bees \(Hymenoptera: Apidae\) in the Northeastern United States](#)

[Influence of Honey Bee Genotype and Wintering Method on Wintering Performance of Varroa destructor \(Parasitiformes: Varroidae\)-Infected Honey Bee \(Hymenoptera: Apidae\) Colonies in a Northern Climate](#)

[Action on the Bee Crisis: Paul Stamets](#)

Anytime is a great time to catch up on educational materials. Winter often keeps us indoors more, giving us an opportunity to watch or read more about beekeeping.

Please, take time to continue your education and become better and more confident beekeepers.

All beekeeping is local, but many basics apply everywhere.

There is quite a bit of questionable information on YouTube and in Google searches. Use caution as your bees lives may depend on it.

A couple well respected resources for northern bees can be found here:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/honeybee/videos.shtml>

<https://www.beelab.umn.edu/resources-beekeepers/videos>

Resources:

The Bee Informed Partnership is dedicated to working with beekeepers to better understand which management practices work best.

<https://beeinformed.org/>

The questions is not do you have mites, but what are your bees doing about them?

Got mites? How many? What to do? Check out your options all in one place:

[Varroa Management Decision Tool](#)

Research based information from America's land-grant universities. This is a national bee health website.

http://articles.extension.org/bee_health

Ohio Farm Bureau, Cuyahoga County Chapter

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

Thinking about planting more pollinator habitat? This may help you choose your plants.

<http://www.pollinator.org/bee-smart-app>

[Native Trees and Shrubs for Pollinators](#)

The Ohio State University Bee Lab has articles and webinars available, at your convenience, and is a great resource for new and experienced beekeepers.

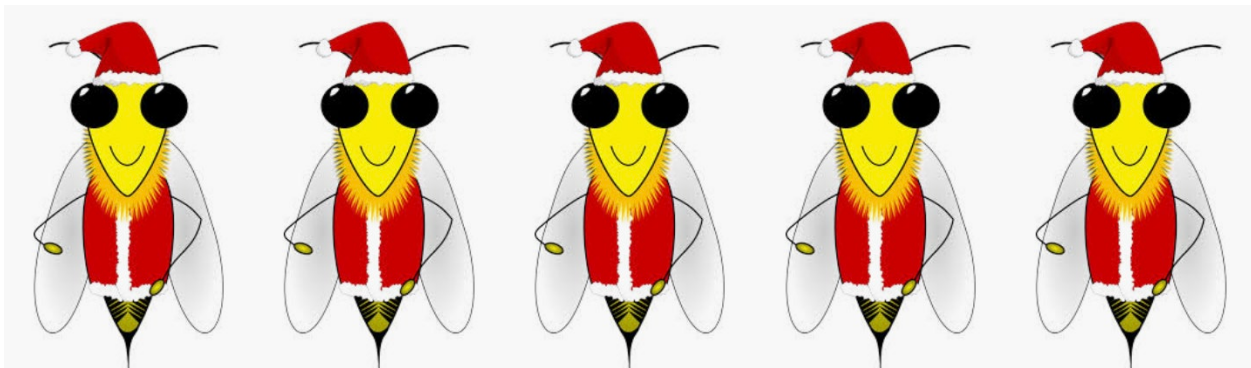
<mailto:https://u.osu.edu/beelab/>

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.beeculture.com/kimandjimshow/>

If you come across any educational material you would like to share with the club, please let us know!
gcbaeditor@gmail.com



Recipe of the Month

Queen Bee Apple Pie

INGREDIENTS

6 cups green apple, pared and sliced	1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
2 T lemon juice	1 cup honey
1 1/4 cups cold water	1 pkg. (15 oz.) 2 unroll and bake 9-inch pie crusts
1/3 cup cornstarch	1/4 cup walnuts, coarsely chopped
1 tsp. cinnamon	1/4 cup walnuts, coarsely chopped
1/3 cup raisins	

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Toss together apples and lemon juice in large bowl; set aside.

In small saucepan, whisk together cold water, cornstarch, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Add honey; mix well. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Continue to cook and stir until mixture thickens and becomes translucent. Pour hot honey mixture over apple mixture; toss to coat evenly.

Turn apple mixture into pastry-lined 9-inch pie plate. Sprinkle walnuts and raisins over apples. Place second crust over filling. Seal and flute edges. Cut slits in top crust for steam to escape. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely on wire rack.

Courtesy National Honey Board

If you try the recipe, let us know at the next meeting! Or bring some to share!

We are looking for a few members to step up and help out!

Below are descriptions of the duties of the open board seats. Will you consider coming on board to keep our club buzzing along?

Contact any board member with questions.

SECRETARY

The Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association Secretary is responsible for recording and maintaining meeting minutes, membership information, and attendance.

TREASURER

The Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association Treasurer is responsible for the collection and disbursement of all club monies. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping accurate books that will enable him/her to give a full financial report whenever requested.

DIRECTOR

The Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association Directors provide support and assistance to both the elected officers and the membership at meetings, public events and club events.

*All board members are expected to attend scheduled board meetings and general meetings.

Hapbee Holidays!



Renew your GCBA membership today!

[Find and Print Membership Forms](#)

Interested in GCBA swag? Nice holiday gift!



HomeTown Threads of North Olmstead is the source!

[Order Your GCBA Swag Here](#)

What is on your license plate?

Did you know you can get a "Save the Honey Bee" plate this year?



GCBA Meeting and Events

Sweet or Savory Snacks to share are always welcome!!

January Membership Meeting

January 8th

Annual "Best Flavor" Honey Competition for members

GCBA 11th Anniversary Cake Served

Bill Stitt, OSU Certified Pollinator Specialist

Discover the many unique mutualistic relationships between plants and insect pollinators including honey bees, native bees of Ohio, flies, moths, wasps and beetles. Enjoy a fascinating look at how "goods and services" are exchanged between pollinators and nearly three quarters of all flowering plants.

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

February Membership Meeting

No general meeting, but all members are welcome to attend one or all of the Beginner Beekeeping Classes which are held each Wednesday evening in February 6:30-9:00pm

Rocky River Nature Center

March Membership Meeting

March 11th

Dave Noble, Apiarist at Stratford Ecological Center

Planning for Success

Create an overall plan for the year; how to use the plan for monthly and weekly task needs. How to change and adapt based on climate, weather and other conditions.

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

April Membership Meeting

April 8th

Allyson May, GCBA Board member

Spring is here, now what ?

Splits and swarms are important considerations in the Spring for overwintered hives and packages alike. Recognize the important signs of colony build up in your hive and learn your options for management decisions.

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

May Membership Meeting

May 8th

Rocky River Nature Center

6:30pm – 9:00pm

Other Meeting and Events

Lorain County Beekeepers

<http://www.loraincountybeekeepers.org/home.html>

Geauga County Beekeepers

<https://sites.google.com/geaugacountybeekeepers.org/geaugacountybeekeepers/home>

Medina County Beekeepers

<https://medinabeekeepers.com/>

The 2020 membership **renewal form** is locate on the following 2 pages.

Please, print and complete both pages, 14 {member information sheet} and 15 {liability waiver form} and bring to the next club meeting or mail it to our new PO Box.

GCBA

P.O. Box 26251

Fairview Park, OH 44126



www.GreaterClevelandBeekeepers.com

2020 GCBA Membership

New / Renewal (circle one)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Will you volunteer 4 hours this year for a club activity or need? _____
(This could be over several days or all in one day)

What is the best way to contact you? Email _____ Phone _____ Either _____

How many years have you been keeping bees? _____

How many hives do you keep? _____

Will you help mentor a new beekeeper this year? Yes please _____ No thanks _____

Will you bring snacks to a meeting this year? Yes please _____ No thanks _____

The Membership cost is **\$20.00** per family or household which includes the monthly GCBA e-newsletter. One person per family or household may vote in GCBA elections, or other official club votes, providing that membership is paid by the last day of February of the current year.

Please, renew at the next club meeting or send your completed application and payment to:

**GCBA
P.O. Box 26251
Fairview Park, OH 44126**

For office use: Date _____

Payment Rec'd By: _____
(Initials/Date)

Payment Type: Cash

Check #
(Circle One)

**Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association
PO Box 26251 - Fairview Park, OH 44126**

Member, Host and Participant Waiver of Liability

To cover the liability issues of possible injury relating to events and/or programs, Members, Hosts, and Participants are required to sign a Waiver of Liability. It is assumed that all parties involved are in good physical health and no health problems exist which make involvement in activities, demonstrations, events, etc. dangerous. Any person who has a demonstrated allergy to bee stings may not participate in events. All Members, Hosts and Participants must assume all risk of injury from stings or accidents that may arise. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.

In consideration of participating in beekeeping events and programs, the undersigned acknowledges and agrees that:

- There is a potential risk of injury from activities involved in beekeeping, and while particular rules, equipment and personal care may reduce this risk, the risk of injury does exist; and,
- I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my involvement and participation; and,
- I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for involvement in activities, demonstrations, events, etc. If, however, I observe any hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation in the event or activity and bring such to the attention of the nearest Host or Member; and,
- For myself, and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association, its owners, members, hosts, and other participants, and if applicable, owners and lessors of the premises used to conduct the event (“RELEASEES”), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE; and,
- I agree to INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS GREATER CLEVELAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION, ALL OWNERS, PROPERTY LOCATION OWNERS, AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities, including attorney’s fees, brought as a result of my involvement in activities, demonstrations, events, etc. and to reimburse any such expenses incurred.

I have read this waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, fully understand its terms, and understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue. I acknowledge that I am signing the agreement freely and voluntarily, and intend by my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law. I also certify that I do not have a demonstrated allergy to bee stings.

Printed Name of Member, Host or Participant

Parent/Guardian Printed Name (if applicable)

Signature of Member, Host or Participant

Parent/Guardian Signature

Phone Number

Date

January 2020 – December 2020

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.