



**Greater Cleveland
Beekeepers Association**
www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com

September 2022

THE HONEYBEE TIMES

A Message from our President

Hello Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association. The fair is in the rearview mirror and was a huge success by any measure, and congrats to all those who participated in and helped to make this possible. The barn never looked better and actually looked full. The plants and alpacas were a big hit for all to see and participate in.

How about the new signage on the front of the bee barn and in the beautiful new garden/bee yard? This was all made possible by Pettites and Hooks Garden Centers and, of course, all those who got dirty/sweaty planting the abundance of flowers and plants in the 90-degree heat - all donated by these two great companies.

This month on Sept 14th, we will start a little early at 6:30 p.m. prompt in the bee yard to discover what is going on with the growth of the bees on the bottom of one hive. If you do not know what this means, come and see. As for the regular meeting on September 14th, we are honored to have John Rose speaking on the subject matter winter prep. This is a must meeting for all inexperienced and new beekeepers. It is also considered a continuation of our beginner classes for 2022. Just a foot note, GCBA is teaching a beginner class in October with more details to come later. GCBA membership can attend at no cost.

~ Denzil

Inside this issue:

President's Message

Inspector's Corner

GCBA Happenings

Resources

Buzz the Beekeeper

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Recipe of the Month

September and October Meetings

09/14/2022 & 10/12/2022

September Board Meeting

09/21/2022

Building #25

Cuyahoga County Fair Grounds



The Inspector's Corner

Hi everyone, Weather has been toasty early in the month, and we had the Cuyahoga Fair going on also, we got a break for about 10 days in the temperatures so treating with Formic Pro was an option. Even with the temperature being hot... chilly weather and short days are coming, Time to think ahead Remember you need somewhere between 60 to 80 pounds of honey for winter stores. We should still get a good flow before the first frost.

As your bee population starts to drop your mite load goes up, also just a suggestion you might want to start and consolidate your honey supers, hive beetles like to hide in supers because fully capped frames don't need attention from the bees. Clear high grass and weeds from around hive and under it helps keep the mice away. Think about attending September GCBA meeting on winter prep. Everything is going to happen quick so be prepared,

Please see mite control schedule on the next page.

Thanks,

Phil Bartosh 216.470.0934 216.351.6190 sd9990@aol.com

Cuyahoga County

Apiary Inspector



Clean out the front and underneath of the hives before the mice make a nice winter home.



Squeak.....
Squeak.....
Squeak.....

Mite Control Calendar for NE Ohio

April – FA if it's an over wintered hive or nuc. OA if it's a package.
May – None needed unless mite signs are noticed. (See note #6)
June – OA touchup treatment
July – None needed unless mite signs are noticed
August – FA treatment – Very important for winter survival
September – None needed unless mite signs are needed
October – FA treatment
November - None needed unless mite signs are noticed
December – OA touchup treatment
January / February – OA touchup treatment on a >40F day

Notes:

1. FA - Formic Acid. See page #3 for instructions and tips.
2. OA – Oxalic Acid. See page #3 for instructions and tips.
3. Treatment Schedules are for the first week of every month.
4. Clean mite board before each treatment to see effectivity of treatment.
5. A single FA treatment can be substituted with 3 OA treatments, each a week apart.
6. Mite signs – Mites on bees or mites seen in drone comb

Lorain County Beekeepers Association

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



4

Varroa treatment options for a new package:

- Oxalic Acid (OA) dribble while bees are still in the package
- OA dribble after installing bees into the hive
- OA vaporization while bees are still in the package
- OA vaporization after installing bees into the hive.
- All methods achieve the same result of cleaning up any residual mites.

OA Dribble Tips:

- Recipe
 - Mix 2.5 tsp. OA crystal with 1.5 cups warm water.
 - Add 2 cups sugar and mix very well
 - Makes enough for about 10 deep boxes
- Separate brood chambers (Usually deep boxes)
- Gently smoke bees down between frames
- Using a syringe, dribble 5ml of solution between frames.
- No more than 50ml of solution / deep box
- No more than 100ml per hive.
- **Multiple OA dribble treatments may result in damage to the queen, but is still better than high mite loads.**



Formic Acid (FA) Tips:

- Watch the video from the manufacturer at: Nodglobal.com
- Do NOT use expired strips – These can kill bees.
- Only add strips if daily temperatures will be **BELOW 85F** for the first 3 days of treatment
- Only add strips if daily temperatures will be **ABOVE 50F** for the first 3 days of treatment.

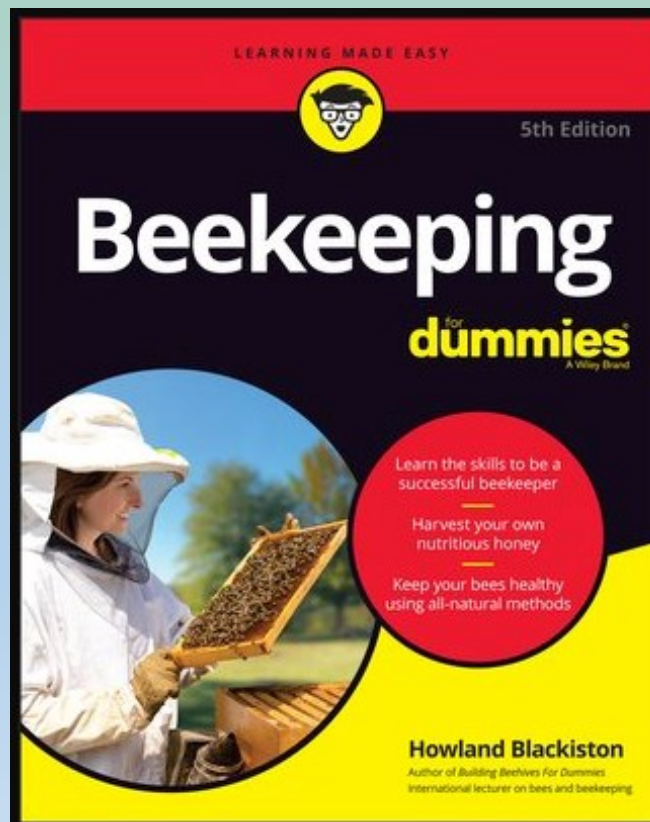


Watch the video from the manufacturer at: Nodglobal.com !

3

7/24/2020

Need this book? Speak to Brenda at the meetings.



See what happened at our last meeting.

Thank you! It was a priceless evening of learning.

Who knew bee venom had so many uses and cures so many ailments?



Bee Barn and Beautification News

What a Great fair experience in 2022. Our members and friends came out in force and put on a fair to remember.

Our pollinator garden looked beautiful, and our signage and mural were the framework of it all.

During the next month or two we plan to have the Pollinator garden sign in place and as soon as possible the beehives will arrive. Wayne Shook will be delivering them from the Belmont Prison as soon as they are completed.

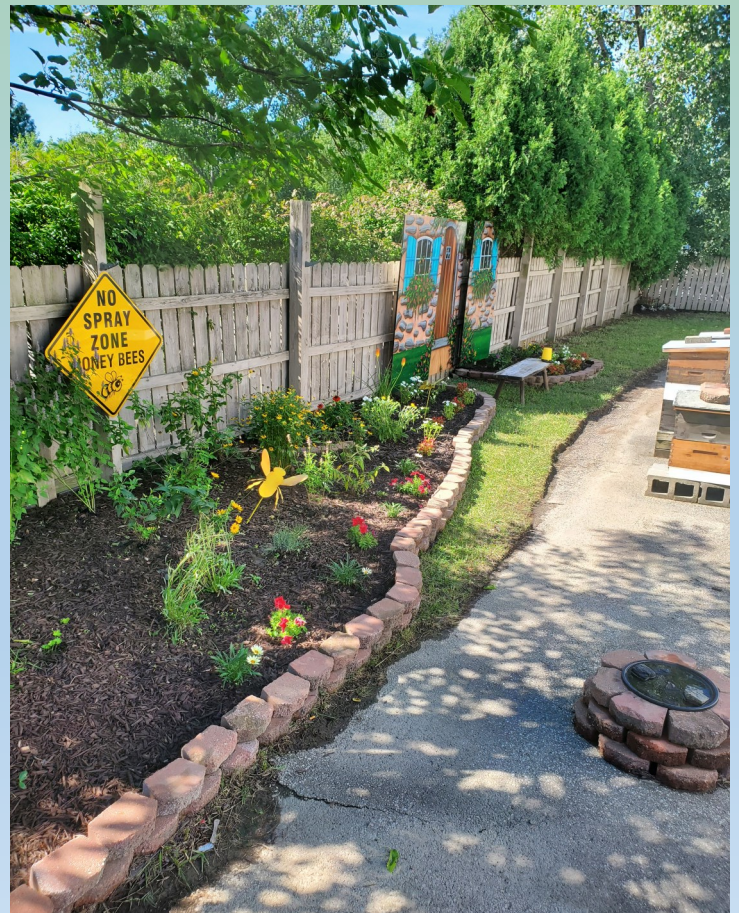
Thank you to all the folks who made this a grand event. Whether you planted, made phone calls, swept, setup, tore down, worked the booth, or simply came, we appreciate all your support. Special Thank you to our Fair Chair for 2022 Tom Kennish and the board for all their efforts.

Next year we hope to have more exciting exhibits in the barn, and more beds and perennials in the garden. If you have ideas of anything you would like to see tell a board member. Contributions of plants, money, or chocolate chip cookies are always welcome.

Looking towards 2023 Fair,

Sheila St. Clair

Bee Yard and Barn Beautification Project



More from the Fair





Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association

Hive Inspection Checklist



Date: _____ Time: _____ Temp: _____ Weather: _____

	Hive 1	Hive 2	Hive 3
Hive Appearance			
Are the bees actively entering/exiting the hive?			
Are the bee bringing in pollen?			
Are there signs of robbing?			
Are there signs an animal has been disturbing the hive? (Chew or scratch marks)			
Are the bees calm when you open the hive? (An agitated or disorganized colony can indicate: queenlessness, poor weather/inspection timing, or recent intruder.)			
Reproduction			
Is the queen and/or eggs present?			
Is there one egg or larva per cell?			
Are larvae healthy, white, shiny, and royal jelly present? Capped brood present?			
Is the brood pattern good? (A quick look can indicate the presence of disease or an unwell queen.)			
Signs of Pests			
Was a mite treatment conducted? (Formic Acid, Oxilic Acid, or other.)			
Are ants, wax moth, or hive beetle present?			
Is there an unusual number of dead bees?			
Is there an odor?			
Capacity			
How many frames of bees?			
How many frames with brood?			
How many frames with honey and/or bee bread?			
If in a nectar flow, do the bees have space to store nectar?			
Food provided since last inspection? (Pollen patty and/or sugar water.)			
Hive manipulation conducted? (Frame or box order changed, hive box added or removed)			

Congratulations to our 50/50 Raffle Winner!!!

Abby Kovach

Take: \$90 Split: \$45

THANK YOU!



216-361-9991 | info@RET3.org



Thank you to our friends at RET3 Computers for working with GCBA for some refurbished computers to help with our Outreach and Programs about Beekeeping!

Honey Yogurt Pie with Honey Drizzle and Toasted Walnuts

Kara Culpepper's Honey Yogurt Pie with Honey Drizzle and Toasted Walnuts entry in the Sue Bee® honey Sweet Eats Recipe Contest!



Ingredients

- 1/4 cup Sue Bee® Honey
- 8 ounces block-style cream cheese, room temperature
- 6-ounce container plain Greek yogurt
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 6-ounce package prepared graham cracker crust
- Additional 3 tablespoons Sue Bee® honey for drizzling
- 1/3 cup toasted chopped walnuts

Directions

- 1.** In bowl of electric mixer, beat together cream cheese, yogurt, Sue Bee® honey and vanilla for 5 minutes until well-combined and fluffy.
- 2.** Spoon into prepared pie crust and smooth top.
- 3.** Cover and refrigerate until set, at least 4 hours or preferably overnight.
- 4.** To serve, cut into wedges and drizzle about a half tablespoon of honey over each slice and garnish with some chopped walnuts.

What is that smell?

It is ripening Goldenrod Honey!





Dear Buzz the Beekeeper, I have a question.

Hello Buzz, I have spent the last few months, now doing regular inspections on my beehives. I feel I have gotten to know my bees, and their temperament. They are so docile and agreeable! However, the other day they were quite aggressive to me! I thought they knew me! I thought they could see and know it was just me, not there to do them any harm! So, my question is, do honeybees know their beekeeper? also what made my bees unexpectedly aggressive towards me?

It is quite common to attribute human characteristics to animals, beekeepers are no different with their charges, honeybees, the term is anthropomorphism. I know we like to think our wonderful honeybees know us, but let us be brutally honest they could simply care less and merely tolerate our presence and do so as long as we are not perceived as a threat to the colonies well-being. Reduced defensive behavior in honeybees has been an ongoing genetic attempt for decades and will continue into the future as long as beekeepers are being sting.

So, why are my bees so aggressive? In beekeeping, beekeepers are usually satisfied with pat answers because of the simplicity, but nothing is usually that simple. One of the most common pat answers to aggressive behavior in honeybees this time of year is, “they finally have a home and brood to protect,” was this was not true just months ago? Aggression in honeybees can be attributed to several varied factors, environment, state or conditions within the colony or genetics. Genetics can be difficult to diagnose but can be through a process of elimination, meaning it is not environment or colony conditions. The (first and most important) factor with genetics is knowing where the gene pool of bees you have, came from, and staying away from known areas of the country that exhibit Africanized honeybee characteristics!

The simple remedy to genetic problems of any kind is to recognize the problem early on and change the genetics, (requeen).

Environmental issues and colony conditions are going to overlap because the environment can affect the colony both positively and negatively. Most conditions within the colony that cause aggression are usually observable, if you know what to look for, disease, swarm conditions, queen issues, poor or no ventilation, robbing, predation, and just sheer number of bees being greater currently gives the beekeeper more attention than desired.

Environmental conditions that can cause aggression are heat, cold, rain, high humidity, skunks, disturbances such as mowing and other yard work in to close a proximity to the colony or working at the wrong time.

Aggression is a stress indicator in bees, there are passive and non-passive stress indicators in bees, while most are familiar with the non-passive such as alarm pheromone, biting, stinging, the more passive stress indicators are, bearding, and bees lined up peering from between the top bars. Any passive condition can turn to an aggressive state if ignored! Solution to the problem again is recognizing the problem or condition and solving it ASAP. Most often the problem this time of year would be the heat and heat stress associated with it. Colonies that are bearding need ventilation at different points, top, bottom and even in the middle, replace the inner cover with a moving screen this expels unnecessary heat from the brood nest. Also, the beekeeper should purchase three inch Styrofoam and place on the top and all sides exposed to the sun for extended periods of time. Timely adding boxes to avoid congestion are also advisable, expanding the brood area to spread out bees on the comb is helpful, but labor intensive. Practicing all types of beekeeping well in advance will make for a better beekeeping experience for the beekeeper, family, and neighbors, even the family pet.

There is a lot of hot weather ahead try some or all these ideas and expect to see a happier honeybee and better working condition for you the beekeeper.

Do not forget Varroa!!!!

~ Buzz The Beekeeper



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®

43655 State Route 162 • Spencer, OH 44275
info@queenrightcolonies.com

HONEY HARVEST



**We Carry All Your
Honey Harvesting Needs!**

Visit Our Showroom or Online Store for All
Your Beekeeping Supplies!

EXPERIENCE

KNOWLEDGE &



QRC Diagnosis of Your Honeybee Colonies.
Call Today for an Appointment!
Over 100 Years of Combined
Beekeeping Experience!
You Can Rely On Us!



QUALITY, RELIABILITY & COMMITMENT

2022 EVENTS



**Saturday, September 24,
"End of Summer Classic"**
Bee Part of the Excitement!

Susan Cobey, International Authority in the
Field of Instrumental Insemination of
Honey Bees & Kim Flottum, Past Editor of
Bee Culture Magazine & Author of Many
Books on Beekeeping

440-647-2602
queenrightcolonies.com





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



oming

GCBA events held throughout the year:

- 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

President: Denzil St. Clair

info@queenrightcolonies.com

Past President: Phil Bartosh

sd9990@aol.com

VP: Mike Stark

mkstark@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Brenda Theurer

larry1724@aol.com

Secretary: Shannon Warder

shan.warder@gmail.com

(440) 832-1776

Directors:

Laura Brown

lb68750@gmail.com

Sarah Marie

sarah_marie@hotmail.com

Joe Petrek

jpetrek3@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor:

Michelle Killin-Keith

dartwoman@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality Coordinator:

Jan Petrek

jpetrek@hotmail.com

Fair Committee Chair:

Tom Kennish

tkennish@gmail.com