



# Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association

[www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com](http://www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com)

## THE HONEYBEE TIMES

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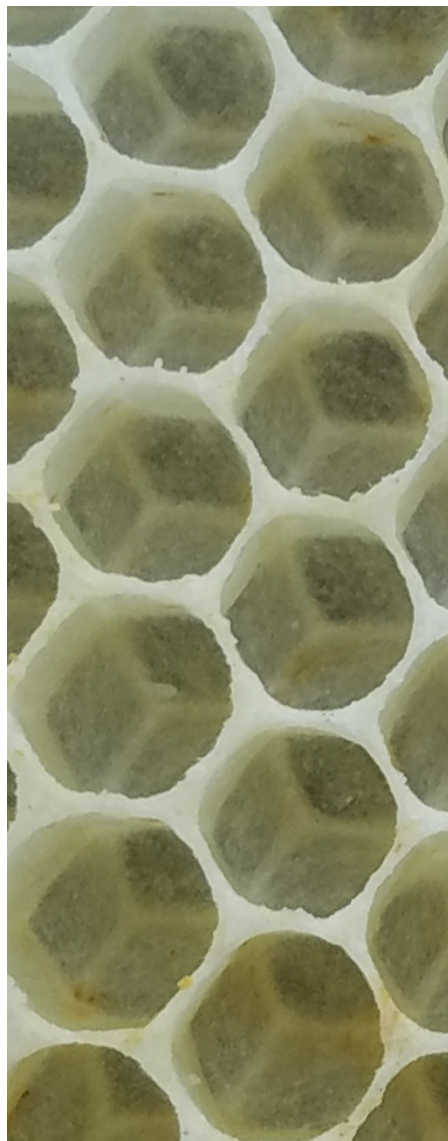
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## Wax comb



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## Pollen



## President's Message

February's Beginner Beekeepers Class brings more than 90 new members/families to our club. Please, make a point to introduce yourself to our newbees when you see unfamiliar faces at upcoming meetings or events and welcome them to GCBA.

Unfortunately, again, we have lost a wonderful beekeeper. Past President of GCBA, Richard Manley.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/richard-manley-obituary?pid=188319125>

Tri-County Spring Workshop in Wooster was packed with great speakers, vendors and education to start the beekeeping season on a confident foot. If you missed it this year, consider attending next year. It is held the first Friday and Saturday of March each year. Look forward to some recapped information, presented by Dr. Jamie Ellis and Randy Oliver, to be shared at upcoming meetings.

A bylaw review process has been ongoing for the past eight months. Proposed changes to our governing documents will be presented for comment at the April meeting.

A new member has ordered, and paid for, a package of bees from Queen Right and is not able to keep bees this year. This member is interested in selling the package to anyone who would like to purchase the bees. The refund/order cancellation date has already past. If you are interested, please ask Annette and she will get you in touch with this member.

A local resident is interested in having a hive placed temporarily in his yard for pollination services. He has several fruit trees on his property and does not use chemicals in his orchard. If you would like to explore this opportunity, please ask Annette for contact information.

Our 2018 Field Day Event is shaping up to be a great day of learning with many hands on learning activities. Save the date, May 19, 2018. There will be many ways to help the club put on another successful event. Stephanie Sadlon is again our Committee Chair. As we all know, several people contributing a little time is a better way to get things accomplished than a few people doing everything.

If you have not already done so, it is membership renewal time. Find the application posted in near the end of newsletter or online at <http://www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com/join/>

If you have not already done so, it is time to register your apiary. New beekeepers should register as soon as they receive their bees and no later than June 1, 2018. Application form posted near end of newsletter or online at

[http://www.agri.ohio.gov/public\\_docs/forms/Plant/plnt\\_4201-002.pdf](http://www.agri.ohio.gov/public_docs/forms/Plant/plnt_4201-002.pdf)

The March meeting topic will cover 'Coming into Spring', considerations for beekeepers new and old to start the beekeeping year with a plan for healthy bees and confidence for a successful year. Denzil St. Clair is the speaker.

*Annette*

## February Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:04p.m.

An announcement was made of Dennis Eck, past GCBA President, mother's death. An arrangement was sent from the club.

Reminder that any motions on the floor must be made by members in good standing.

Motion requested to approve January meeting minutes as posted in newsletter.

Motion made by Natalie Morris. Second by Jackie Kelly. All in favor. Motion carries.

The Treasurer's report will be skipped for February as Tony collecting membership applications, class applications and renewals. The Treasurer's report will be presented in March and going forward.

You may, and are encouraged to, gently collect dead bees from your bottom board or dead out for GCBA Field Day on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Gather 40 -100 bees, gently, place in zip-lock bag in freezer where they will not be jostled around. Peggy Garnes will have microscopes set up to conduct nosema smears and we will have magnifying glasses to check for mites.

Annette is looking for about a dozen foil pie pans for a club project. If you have one, please bring it to the March meeting.

Also at the March meeting there will be an activity which requires empty, rinsed out 2 Liter bottles. If you have one or two, please bring them to the March meeting.

Westlake will be holding the 2018 Rain and Garden Show on March 23, 2018. GCBA will be setting up a educational table and Directors Mark Vandayburg and Mike Gallagher will be coordinating participation of members, set up and break down for the event. The time is 10:00am – 2:00pm and will be held at Market Square in Crocker Park. Please, see Mark or Mike to volunteer an hour or two for the club.

Bees may have been flying today and may tomorrow depending on the rain. Check for the location of the cluster. Do they need food? What will you do?

Consider getting an Ohio State Beekeepers Association "Save the Honey Bee" license plate when you renew this year. OSBA is our statewide organization working for all Ohio Beekeepers. They are sponsoring a Honey Judging class in March to held in Akron. There will be about two years of activities to complete the process to become a honey judge. They are also working to get a nuisance bill passed to protect Ohio beekeepers from nuisance lawsuits. They have sponsors for the bill and have participated in 3 round table discussions to date.

Annette asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Allyson May makes the motion. Delores Watson seconds. All in favor. Motion Carries.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:14pm.

Side note: We are looking for 2 additional members to volunteer either from 9:45am till noon or from noon till 2:15 at the Rain and Garden Show on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our table will contain beekeeping equipment and club information. This is a great opportunity to let the community know that they have a local resource for honey bee information. If Mike or Mark are not available, see Annette.

## FYI

The information below is from the Ohio Department of Agriculture. As urban beekeepers the health of our neighbor's hives can dramatically effect the health of our hives. For anyone purchasing bees, please keep the following information in mind.

"If you are buying queens or nucs from an Ohio breeder, they should have Certificate of Inspection issued by the state of Ohio. If you are purchasing from an unknown source, you should ask to see this certificate before you purchase any bees.

What is a nuc? Per the Ohio Department of Agriculture:

A nuc should be a colony of bees in a box with three to eight frames containing a laying queen bee and her progeny in all life stages. The nuc shall have honey and a viable population sufficient enough to develop into a full-sized colony.

If you purchasing bees or equipment from outside Ohio, these require and official Certificate of Inspection from the state of origin to accompany the shipment.

Anyone who plans to sell or otherwise transfer ownership of any bees or used equipment needs to obtain a Transfer Permit/ Health Certificate. Certificates will not be issued if serious bee diseases or pests are detected above threshold levels."

**Snack contributions for our meetings appreciated.**  
**Sweet or savory snacks always welcome.**

### **In the Hive**

March – The queen is likely laying. A common Spring challenge can be our temperature swings. If there is too much brood and the temperature drops, the bees may cluster and thus not be able to keep all the brood warm. This is referred to as brood chill. If this happens, you will likely see the bees dragging dead larva out the front door.

If you have overwintered bees, be sure you know where the cluster is located and if your bees have enough food. You can pop them open quickly, take a flashlight, look between the frames and determine where the bees are located in your hive. About a week ago the bees were flying and bringing in pollen. Now the hives are covered in snow. You may consider putting a 2x2inch of pollen patty just above the cluster for an easy access pollen/ protein source if the bees cannot leave the hive for resources.

If you are considering reversing your brood boxes, be certain that the cluster has moved into the upper box completely. If some of the cluster is below and you switch the box position you will most likely lose any brood that was located in the bottom box as it is too far away from the rest of the brood to be kept warm. Diagrams of this practice are in most beginner beekeeping books. Revisit that information then either make a choice to do something, or leave the boxes as they are currently set.

Have you checked the OSU Growing Degree Days calendar to see what is available for the bee's nutritional needs? <https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/>

As of March 9<sup>th</sup> in zip code 44070, Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center, the day is 62. This means that the first bloom of Speckled Alder, Silver and Red Maple, Cornelian cherry Dogwood, Northern Lights Forsythia and Japanese Pieris have already occurred. Red Maple trees will be in full bloom at day 75.

This is a great tool to understand when the nectar flow will begin. You can plan to stay ahead of your bees by adding honey supers and/or rotating frames to give the queen room to lay and the bees room to make honey. In the brood chamber a drawn frame is seen as expanded space. (Bees: We have enough room and do not need to think about swarming right now.) Using undrawn frames of foundation in the brood chamber of an overwintered hive may not work as well.

Do you have an action plan? The question is not “will my hive have varroa mites”, the question is “how many mites will my hive have”? What is your plan for varroa mites this year?

Dr. Jamie Ellis, Entomologist at the University of Florida, does not recommend robbing – treating with out sampling the hive to count varroa mites. At the very least, mite sampling should be done once a month to understand mite pressure on the colony. Dr. Ellis commented, several times, during his presentation at TriCounty Spring Workshop, in reference to products

**“NOTHING you treat your hive with is as dangerous to your bees as varroa mites.”**

He highly recommends using the “Tools for Varroa” from the Honey Bee Health Coalition.

<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>

This organization brings together beekeepers, researchers, industry groups, government and others for the health of honey bees and native pollinators. This site offers a guide and instructional videos to help beekeepers. They show you how to monitor and supply all of the legal options available to keep mite counts under recommended thresholds to maintain colony health. Every product option or activity is explained, including when to use it, how to use it and how effective it is.

Barb Bloetscher, Ohio State Apiarist, recommends the number “3” as the mite count threshold to take action for hive health.

If you choose nothing, your bees will get sick and generally within two years your hive will die and negatively affect many of your neighbor’s colonies as it fails.

There are many options. Some take more time than others.

Only you can choose what protocol you will use to help keep your bees healthy.

It all starts with a plan. What will yours be? Think about writing it down for reference, when you need to take action, you will be prepared. Be proactive.

Your reward will be a healthier colony : )

Anytime is a great time to catch up on educational materials to sharpen and hone your beekeeping skills.

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/>

For anyone who takes pictures, shares pictures, likes to look at pictures of nature. Use it on your computer or smartphone.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/>

The Honey Bee Health Coalition has a complete guide to options for varroa treatments.

<http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>

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/>

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

## GCBA

### **March 14, 2018**

Speaker: Denzel St Clair                      Topic: Coming through Spring  
Beekeeper/ Owner Queen Right Colonies

### **April 11, 2018**

Speaker: Melanie Seal    Topic: Making Nucs  
Beekeeper/ Owner Blue Sky Bee Supply

### **May 9, 2018**

Topic: Varroa Enemy #1  
Presentation on current science regarding the Varroa mite, biology, habits and treatment options by GCBA board members.

### **May 19, 2018**

**Event: Field Day**  
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds Bee Barn

### **June 13, 2018**

Topic: Biology Based Management  
Speaker: Dave Noble  
Stratford Ecological Center Apiarist

How can the biology of a honey bee colony inform, and direct, our management practices? How does what we see in the hive, and on the frames, translate into an understanding of what are bees are doing and what they may need.

### **July 11, 2018**

**Event: Club Picnic**  
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds Pavilion



## Other Upcoming Meetings and Events

### **Medina County Beekeepers meeting**

**March 19, 2018**

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Miguel Corona**

Nutritional Stress and Behavioral Development" and "Development and Testing of Seasonal Specific Supplements for Honey Bees"

[http://www.medinabeekeepers.com/index.php?title=Medina\\_Beekeepers:Current\\_events](http://www.medinabeekeepers.com/index.php?title=Medina_Beekeepers:Current_events)

**Medina County Beekeepers** are hosting a free one-day **Intermediate** Class with Roy Hendrickson on Saturday, **March 17, 2017**. This is not a beginner's class. Registration is requested to plan for seating.

[http://www.medinabeekeepers.com/index.php?title=Medina\\_Beekeepers:Current\\_events](http://www.medinabeekeepers.com/index.php?title=Medina_Beekeepers:Current_events)

### **Ohio State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference**

**November 3, 2018**

## Picture Page

Please, email any pics you have to share with the club! [GCBAeditor@gmail.com](mailto:GCBAeditor@gmail.com)

We will try to include as many as possible. Please include any caption information.





**Photo Credits Janice Maund**

**Bees are attracted to the bird feeder.**

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/hungry\\_honey\\_bees\\_visiting\\_bird\\_feeders](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/hungry_honey_bees_visiting_bird_feeders)

## Recipe of the Month

### Honey Cough Syrup

#### INGREDIENTS

zest of 2 lemons (approx. 1 1/2 T)

1/4 cup ginger, peeled, sliced, or 1/2 tsp. of ground ginger

1 cup water

1 cup honey

1/2 cup lemon juice

#### DIRECTIONS

In a small saucepan, combine lemon zest, sliced ginger and 1 cup of water. Bring mixture to a boil, simmer for 5 minutes, then strain through into a heat-proof measuring cup.

Rinse the saucepan out and pour in 1 cup of honey. On low heat, warm the honey, but do not allow it to boil. Add the strained lemon ginger water and the lemon juice. Stir the mixture until it combines to form a thick syrup.

Pour into a clean jar with a lid.

**Note:** This can be refrigerated for up to 2 months.

For children ages 1 to 5, use 1/2 to 1 tsp. every 2 hours. For children ages 5 to 12, use 1 to 2 tsp. every 2 hours. For children 12 and older and adults, use 1 to 2 T every 4 hours.\*

\* **Remember, honey is recommended for children after the age of one.**

For Nurse Barb's Honey Lemon Coughsicles Recipe, [click here](#).

*Recipe courtesy of Nurse Practitioner Barbara Dehn, RN, MS, NP.*

## Check out our Facebook Page!

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



Department of  
Agriculture

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**APPLICATION FOR APIARY REGISTRATION 2018**

PLEASE INCLUDE PAYMENT WITH APPLICATION ON OR BEFORE **JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>**

<small>THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY APIARY PROGRAM OFFICE</small>		IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	CERTIFICATE NUMBER:
<b>COMPANY:</b>			
<b>NAME:</b>			
<b>ADDRESS:</b>			
<b>CITY, STATE, ZIP:</b>		<b>PHONE:</b>	
<b>EMAIL:</b>		<b>COUNTY:</b>	
<b>Check applicable box:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered previously	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Locations	<input type="checkbox"/> New beekeeper

**PAYMENT is REQUIRED with APPLICATION.** Applications postmarked after June 1<sup>st</sup> are subject to a \$10.00 late filing fee. Exceptions to Late Fee, after June 1<sup>st</sup>; New Beekeepers, or registering additional locations.

**Fee of \$5.00 per apiary LOCATION (property address) made payable to the "Ohio Department of Agriculture"**

**Number of Locations:** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$5.00 each = Total Amount Due \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **.00**

**Payment by check or money order only; Payment Method:**  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  Money Order # \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT SEND CASH.**

Hive Location	# of Colonies	County	Township	Location Information:			Property Owner's Name	Beekeepers; IF You SELL Queens or Nucs from or at this location, Check 'YES' or 'NO'
				Address	City	Zip Code		
1								<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO
2								<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO
3								<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO
4								<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO
5								<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO

*\* Please write on back of form to provide inspector with additional directions and/or hive location information, if needed. (GPS Coordinates are helpful and appreciated; please indicate by Longitude and Latitude, in Decimal Degrees.)*

**My signature below certifies that the information provided above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.**

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

# 2018 GCBA 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? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you test for varroa mite counts? (please check all that apply)

Sugar roll \_\_\_\_\_

Alcohol Wash \_\_\_\_\_

Sticky Board \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

No answer \_\_\_\_\_

The 2018 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.

**Membership application by mail is encouraged.**

**Please, send your completed application and payment to:**

**GCBA  
P.O. Box 30092  
Middleburgh Heights, OH 44130**

For office use:

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: \_\_\_\_\_



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