



Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association

www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com

THE HONEYBEE TIMES

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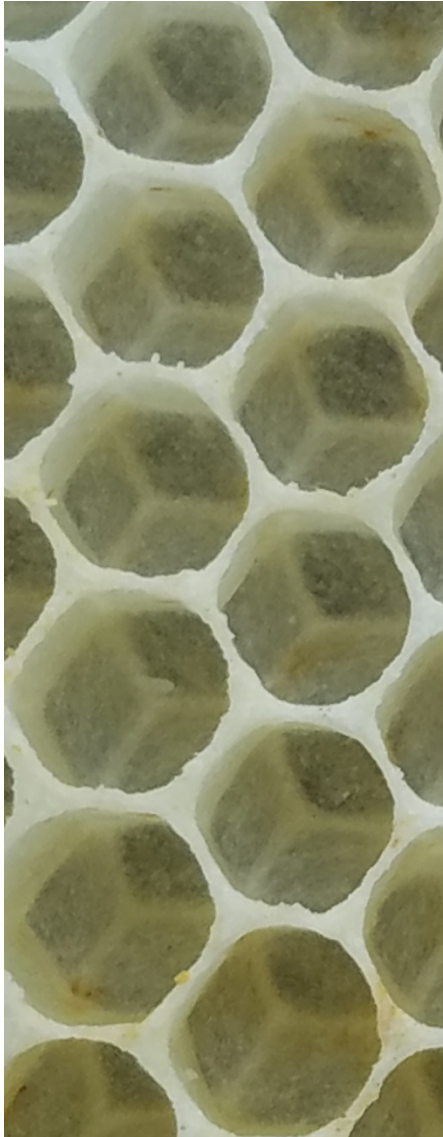
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Wax comb



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Pollen



President's Message May

Our 2018 Field Day Event is shaping up to be a great day of learning with many hands on learning activities. May 19, 2018. We encourage preregistration to plan for food and beverages and you can register at the meeting on May 9th. Day of event registration is also available. Many activities for new beekeepers and experienced beekeepers alike.

We are finally coming into swarm season. As responsible beekeepers we do our best to prevent swarms from occurring in our hives, however sometimes the bees get ahead of us or we miss the signs. For beekeepers, a swarm is just nature. For the uninformed general public, it can be shocking or even scary. If you are asked about a swarm of bees, please use the opportunity to inform the interested party of the facts of the event.

- Swarming is a process in which roughly half of the bees in a hive leave with the queen to establish a new colony.
- Swarming is a natural form of propagation which is generally triggered in response to a crowded hive environment.
- Honey bee swarms are not dangerous in most situations. They do not display defensive behaviors. When resting on a tree branch, bench, stairs or where ever they land, they are waiting for the scout bees to decide on their new home and keeping the queen safe in the middle of the group.
- When left alone swarms will generally move to their new location within a day or two.

Please, be sure to let your neighbors, community groups, business owners, church's, public service agencies, libraries, etc know that there is a Swarm Removal resource on the GCBA website located under the "Resources and Ed" tab. Members listed will travel to collect swarms and rehome them. They may even stop by after honey harvest and share a jar with the home or business owner who called.

<http://www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com/swarm-removal/>

Welcome to all the new bees. Most of you have installed your packages and completed at least one hive inspection. Keep feeding your bees!!! For the bees to draw comb it takes a lot of carbohydrates ie. sugar syrup and/ or nectar. If you do not feed sugar syrup you are not helping you hive to build and establish a viable population for future hive health. When a hive swarms the bees are prepared and engorge themselves on honey so they are ready at their new home. Packages do not have that advantage. They are not ready. They need to be fed.

The board is looking for a new Treasurer. Tony Indovina will be stepping down for personal reasons. If you think you can step in until the next election, please speak to Janice Maund. Most of the 'heavy lifting' has already been done for the year with classes and field. Much less financial activity to track the rest of the year.

Remember, all beekeepers in Ohio must register their apiaries. The cost is \$5 per apiary location. The Ohio Department of Agriculture Apiary registration form is due on or before 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.

Annette

BEGINNERS CORNER

New packages are installed. The queens should have been released and in newly established hives the bees are building new comb for the queen to lay eggs and also for the bees to begin storing pollen and nectar.

As new beekeepers you need to be checking your hives every 7-10 days. These inspections should not take long. You are looking to see comb building: which frames have the bees drawn comb on. You are looking to see if the queen is laying eggs and as the weeks progress you will see larva of different ages and then capped brood. Remember worker bees will emerge from their cell 21 days after their egg was laid. If you had your queen marked you have a good chance of seeing her walking around on the frame. You should always hold the frame over the hive body when looking in case the queen would fall from the frame.

You should be feeding your bees a 1:1 sugar syrup and pollen substitute (pollen patty). There should be a water source near the hive as well. In order to raise new bees they need nectar (sugar syrup), pollen (pollen substitute) and water. The foragers are going from the hive and bringing these to the colony but in order to draw the comb and raise bees for new packages you must feed them as well.

When you plan your inspection think about what you are looking for and follow that plan. If you open the hive and see something you did not expect it is good to close the hive and think about what you will do next. If you aren't sure you should ask a more experienced beekeeper.

Lastly everyday take a few minutes to watch the bees fly in and out of the hive. There are many different movements and dances you will see.

Join me at the upcoming FIELD DAY ON SATURDAY MAY 19 th at the Beginner's Corner. Bring your questions and join the conversation.

Allyson Talbert-May
Vice President

** We have a request from our website to have someone put hives on property in Strongsville. If you are interested in more information, ask Annette.

In the Hive

We are really seeing build up in our hives at this time, finally! Stay in tune with the needs of your hive. Have drawn foundation ready at each hive check to manipulate frames and add a drawn frame between two frames of capped brood to give the queen room to lay more eggs. A frame with wax or plastic foundation is not 'room'. It needs to be a frame of drawn comb.

Many beekeepers see the dandelions as the signal to super up. Are your supers ready? Do you have enough frames? Are you going to use a queen excluder this year? Stay ahead of your bees.

If you are thinking about splitting your overwintered hive, get your equipment ready. Plan the new hive location. Source your new queen. Ask a fellow to assist you if you have not performed splits in the past. Take some pictures to share with others. There will be a hive split demonstration at the GCBA Field Day on May 19th.

Have you completed your first alcohol wash to determine your varroa mite counts? Do you need to make a management decision? Do you have your varroa mite plan ready to react to this challenge?

YOU MUST HAVE A PLAN TO COMBAT VARROA MITES IN YOUR HIVE! And you must execute your plan as well. It is no longer a question as to if you will get varroa mites, the question is when your hive will get mites and how bad the infestation will become.

There are many choices and the Honey Bee Health Coalition has put them all in one place for you to consider. Please, use this comprehensive and free tool to be ready.

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

Dr. Meghan Milbrath also has a very good article to help you make a plan for varroa management posted on her site Sand Hill Bees.

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56818659c21b86470317d96e/t/5900c9798419c2db7622e85b/1493223802902/MakingAPlanforVarroa_2017.pdf

As urban beekeepers our hives are in close proximity. If you do not manage your varroa problem, it also will become your neighbor's problem. When a hive is failing the bees will go to other area hives and bring their varroa and various diseases to share. Yuck!

The ideal situation is to find and foster the queens whose workers display grooming and other hygienic behavior that will allow the bees to manage the mites without human intervention.

We are not there yet. Be responsible, have a plan and execute.

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

** We have a request from our website to have someone put hives on property in Strongsville. If you are interested in more information, ask Annette. **

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

Learn about honey bee dances.

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/honey-bee-dance-language>

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/>

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.beeculture.com/kimandjimshow/>

Upcoming Meetings and Events

GCBA

May 9, 2018

Topic: Varroa Enemy #1

and Roundtable discussion- What's on your mind?

Presentation on current science regarding the Varroa mite and panel of GCBA experienced beekeepers Q & A.

May 16, 2018

Event: Nature in the City

Cleveland Natural History Museum Think & Drink – GCBA will be hosting an information table. A couple more volunteers are needed.

Ask Annette for details.

<https://www.cmnh.org/thinkanddrink>

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

August 6 - 12, 2018

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - Berea, OH 44017

August 7 - 12, 2108

Event: Cuyahoga County Fair

<http://www.cuyfair.com/>

August 8, 2018

Topic: Winter Prep

Round table discussion, Q & A for winter readiness.

Other Upcoming Meetings and Events

May 21, 2018

MCBA Monthly Meeting

6:30pm Beekeeper Q & A - 7:00pm Meeting

Sheila St. Clair "Making Cream Honey"

http://www.medinabeekeepers.com/index.php?title=Medina_Beekeepers:Current_events

May 21, 2018

LCBO Monthly Meeting

6:00pm in bee yard 7:00pm meeting

Peggy Garnes "Sustainable Apiary Using Nucs"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/237866710043086/>

May 24, 2018

Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association

See letter of invitation on next page.

June 2 Field Day

Queen Right Colonies

9:30 am registration 10:00 am

Tom Nolan "Controlling the Most Devastating Aspect of Beekeeping Today"

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

**June 9 Advanced Beekeeping
Beekeepers**

Sandusky River Valley

9am-3pm Advanced Beginners Class

Tom Rathbun's barn- 4867 CR 175 Clyde - Registration required

<http://srvba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/>

July 11 - 13, 2108

Heartland Apiculture Society

Annual Summer Conference

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

July 30 – Aug 5, 2108

Medina County Fair

<https://www.medina-fair.com/>

August 13-17, 2108

Eastern Apiculture Society

Annual Summer Conference

<http://www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2018.html>

Ohio State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference

November 3, 2018

Dear Beekeeping Colleague:

As President of the Northwest Pennsylvania Beekeeping Association, I cordially invite you to join us on Thursday, May 24th at 6:30 p.m. at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive in Erie, PA 16505 for a presentation featuring Randy Oliver via Skype.

This is a free presentation and is open to the public.

The Tom Ridge Environmental Center is located at the entrance to Presque Isle State Park, across from Waldameer Amusement Park.

Randy is well known in the beekeeping community, and you are probably aware of his frequent contributions to beekeeping publications. He and his two sons manage about 1000 colonies in Northern California. He has over 40 years of practical beekeeping experience, holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biological Sciences, and is the CEO of Scientific Beekeeping.

Randy will be presenting "Reading the Combs" and an update in varroa mite management.

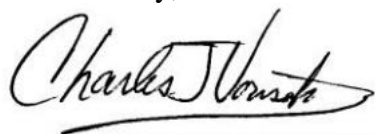
Select members of our Association will also be describing nucleus hive construction in support of our Pa Queen Bee Improvement project.

Please consider joining us for these entertaining and informative presentations!

I request that you register for the event at <https://tinyurl.com/yc9gcwqo>, on our website <http://www.nwpabeekeepers.com/> or on our Facebook page.

You may also contact Bert Howells (bert752@gmail.com or cell: 240-682-1140) to register by phone. Thank you!

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie Vorisek". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Charlie Vorisek President, NWPBA
Email: vbeefarm@windstream.net

[Picture Page](#)

Please, email any pics you have to share with the club! GCBAeditor@gmail.com
We will try to include as many as possible. Please include any caption information.



Photo Credits Janice Maund

Queen and new GCBA package hive at Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds apiary.

[Recipe of the Month](#)

Honey Chia Seed Pudding

INGREDIENTS

2 T honey

2 cups coconut milk

6 T chia seeds

1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

Fresh berries

DIRECTIONS

Combine the coconut milk, chia seeds, vanilla and honey in a medium bowl. Mix well until the honey has dissolved. Cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours, but preferable overnight.

Stir well and divide the pudding into individual portions.

Serve with fresh berries. Add granola, if desired.

Courtesy National Honey Board.

[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 1ST**

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

PAYMENT is REQUIRED with APPLICATION. Applications postmarked after June 1st are subject to a \$10.00 late filing fee. Exceptions to Late Fee, after June 1st; 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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