



# Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association

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

## THE HONEYBEE TIMES

### OFFICERS

#### President 2018

Annette Birt Clark

[GCBAPresident@gmail.com](mailto:GCBAPresident@gmail.com)

#### Vice-President 2018

Allyson May

[acesaviators@gmail.com](mailto:acesaviators@gmail.com)

#### Acting Treasurer 2017- 2018

Allyson May

#### Secretary 2018

Janice Maund

[GCBASecretary2@gmail.com](mailto:GCBASecretary2@gmail.com)

#### Mailing Address:

GCBA

P.O. Box 30092

Middleburg Hts., OH

44130

### DIRECTORS

Carl Schiller thru 2018

[Carlshiller30@gmail.com](mailto:Carlshiller30@gmail.com)

Gary Laisy thru 2018

[garya.laisy@energizer.com](mailto:garya.laisy@energizer.com)

Brett May thru 2018

[desmondengrave@yahoo.com](mailto:desmondengrave@yahoo.com)

### Past President

Larry Theurer 2016- 2017

Resigned

Dennis Eck 2015

[denscritters@yahoo.com](mailto:denscritters@yahoo.com)

### Web Master:

Kathy Smith

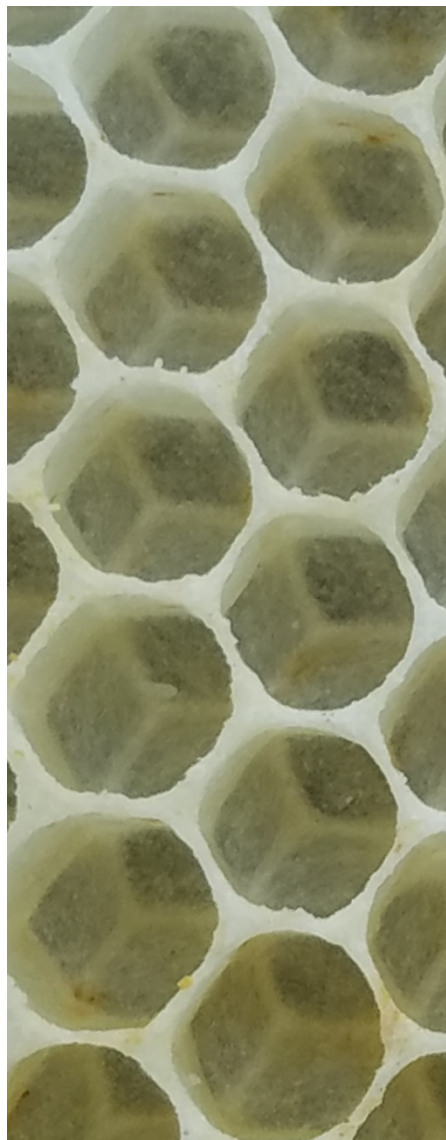
[ksmith@lakenetwork.net](mailto:ksmith@lakenetwork.net)

### Newsletter Editor:

Annette Birt Clark

[GCBAeditor@gmail.com](mailto:GCBAeditor@gmail.com)

## Wax comb



November 2018

### Inside

Presidents Message

In Your Hive

Beginners Corner

GCBA Happenings

Resources

Upcoming Meetings and  
Events

Picture Page

Recipe of the Month

Varroa Mite Testing Sheet

## Pollen



## President's Message November

This month's speaker is Leo Schirokauer the GCBA 2018 Youth Research Grant Recipient. Leo will be updating us on his work. He was featured on the Kim & Jim show in September. You can watch the archived webinar here [Leo Schirokauer on the Kim & Jim Show September 2018](#)

We have received notification that Joyce Masterson, our long time facility host for the Rocky River Nature Center, will be making a career change. This November will be our last meeting with Joyce. Please, make a point to thank Joyce for all her assistance to GCBA over the past several years and wish her well when you see her on Wednesday.

If you still aren't taking your varroa mite problem seriously (yes, it is a problem in every hive where we live), watch this webinar. WOW!

### Dr. Samuel Ramsey - Varroa

Some of our members attended the Ohio State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference which was full of valuable presentations and many vendors. If you have not attended, consider it for next year. Mark Vandayburg, past GCBA Director closely observed the honey judging competition. He commented that he "will be a tough one." I look forward to seeing Mark as a honey judge for the Cuyahoga County Fair in future years.

Nominations for all board positions will be held at the November meeting. All board seats are up for election; President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and three Directors seats. Club elections will be held at the December meeting.

Additionally, as all board members are volunteers, and there are only so many hours in a day, there is often a need for assistance from members.

Are you able to help now and again at the registration table, with refreshments, 50/50 ticket sales, etc? The GCBA library team is an excellent example of members stepping up and sharing a task for the benefit of all club members. When many folks help out, no one is overwhelmed with the tasks to keep the club buzzing along. Please, consider helping on a committee for a task or event for GCBA.

Thank you to Carl Schiller who represented GCBA at the Makers Faire at the Cleveland Public Library downtown branch on November 3, 2018. People enjoyed tasting honey and making pipe cleaner bees to take home. He ran out of supplies! Great job Carl! He thinks GCBA should participate again next year.

*Annette*

## In Your Hive

If you wrap your hive(s) November is a good time to get the job done. Whether you wrap or not, check to be sure you have a wind break set up if your hive is not located where one naturally exists. The bees can handle a lot of cold, but the wind can be a killer.

Is your hive set up to release moisture in cold weather instead of freezing on the inside of your cover and then dripping down, killing your bees? If not, make necessary adjustments.

What was your last mite count? When did you check? If you do not know your count, assume that you have mites and you can likely assume that you have too many. It is not too late to perform an oxalic acid vaporization treatment. It is not too late to perform an oxalic acid dribble treatment as long as the thermometer gives you a break.

Resource links:

The Honey Bee Health Coalition reference to Oxalic Acid treatment is on page 21 with a link to their video as well. [HBHC Varroa Management Guide](#)

An additional article explaining the methods of treatment. [Using Oxalic Acid for Varroa Mites](#)

How heavy is your hive? Do your bees have enough resources to get them through till April? If not, what steps are you taking to be sure your bees do not starve before the weather breaks and they can forage in the Spring?

Have you inventoried, cleaned and stored your beekeeping equipment?

Have you been keeping good notes in 2018?

What management challenges did you encounter this season? Have you talked to a fellow beekeeper or mentor to get their comments? Have you referenced your bee books?

Do you want to expand your apiary in 2019? How will you reach that goal?

It is said that the bees are getting ready for Winter in July.

Perhaps we, the beekeepers, should be getting ready for Spring in November.

## Check out our Facebook Page!

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

The following is a reprint of information supplied by our State Apiarist. This original message was sent out in the month of February, but pay attention to the comments regarding Fall bees, which is what we have now.

### **Honey Bees Need Winter Attention (originally published February 2018)**

With potentially warmer temperatures this coming week, beekeepers should take the time to check their bees. Steps can be taken now to reduce losses or at least avoid further losses.

Research has shown that with a warmer, prolonged fall and early winter months, honey bees continue to be active and hunt for food. Once the floral sources are gone, they scavenge weaker colonies. As they are robbing, varroa mites on the weaker colonies grab onto the robbers and are taken to the "strong" hive. Even small brood nests can be infested with several mites crawling into each larval cell and reproducing. With a smaller cluster of honey bees, the mites can cause a great deal of damage to the brood and adult bees.

It has been shown that bees in the fall have higher levels and more types of viruses that are vectored by the mites, so honey bees at this time of year can have very high levels of viruses. Sick bees will fly from the nest to die, thus gradually the number of bees in the hive drops to a small grapefruit sized cluster that can no longer keep the colony warm.

Even if you treated for mites in October- early November, the mite population can be extremely high now. This weekend, sample your hives for mites. Check the sticky board under the hive or test 30-50 bees.

The only miticide available this time of year is oxalic acid which can be used as vapor or as a dribble. Follow label directions and protect yourself if you plan to treat. Move frames of honey from the outside walls to the center of each box, and place boxes of honey on top of the cluster.

Bees tend to move straight up and can die with honey one frame away from the cluster. Provide fondant or dry sugar if the bees have consumed all their honey.

Do NOT feed honey from other sources to your bees as they can contract American foulbrood from other bees' honey, even store bought honey.

These tips may prevent more managed hives from dying. Since ODA does not have all the emails of beekeepers, please pass this message along to your beekeeper contacts. If you have any questions please see my contact information below. Thank you!

Barbara Bloetscher State Apiarist/Entomologist

Ohio Department of Agriculture Plant Health Bldg #23

8995 East Main St. Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

ODA Apiary website: <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/plant/apiary/apiary.aspx>

614-728-6373

BBloetscher@agri.ohio.gov



## BEGINNERS CORNER NOVEMBER:

The temperatures in northeast Ohio are ushering in winter and depending where you live you may even have had your first snowfall.

Are your bees ready?

Remember it is recommended that your hive (the equivalent of 2 deep boxes) weigh 120-150 pounds to have enough food stores to survive winter. Sugar syrup feedings should be finished as it is now too cold for the bees to take the syrup and properly store it.

Hives that do not have enough food stores can be supplemented with candy boards, sugar bricks, dry sugar or winter patties.

Will you wrap your hive?

There are many different ways to provide additional insulation to your hive, find the one that works for you. It is important to remember that putting insulation under the telescoping cover will help to prevent condensation from building up which could result in wet bees. Again there are different possibilities, which include foam insulation, moisture boards and quilt boxes. You must make sure to maintain ventilation through the hive to allow the condensation to escape.

Be thinking about a windbreak if your hive is not sheltered by a structure (building or fence). The winter winds can blow fiercely.

Have you put a mouse guard on the hive?

Field mice are looking for a warm place to live during the winter months. Mice in the hive will eat honey and pollen stores that the bees have worked hard to store for themselves.

**Join us at the November meeting if you would like to ask questions and discuss wintering your bees.**

*Allyson*

## GCBA Happenings

For the end of 2018 GCBA Board meetings will be held at the Berea Library on November 28<sup>th</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup> and begin at 7:00pm. Stop in with any ideas or to see what the board is proposing and deciding for the future of GCBA. We welcome all members.

Reminder that **GCBA has logo wear** available through a local small business, Hometown Threads in North Olmsted, Ohio. **A holiday gift for your favorite beekeeper?**

<https://hometownthreadscleveland.com/product-category/gcba/> You can also be directed to this link from the GCBA website under the "Resources and Ed" tab.



Members may also select additional items from the Hometown Threads catalog to have the GCBA logo applied. You can visit their store located at 4636 Great Northern Boulevard North Olmsted, OH 44070 or contact them directly at 440-779-6053.

**The GCBA Lending Library** team members are Laura Brown, Carol Lanigan, Dan Mikoch and Dolores Watson. The library materials will be available on one of the tables at the rear of the meeting room. Donations of new or gently used beekeeping or pollinator friendly gardening books are welcome. Please, bring them to any meeting and give them to the GCBA Library team.

**December** is the year end wrap up and holiday potluck. GCBA supplies a protein for all. Members, please bring a dish to share (appetizer, vegetable, salad, side, desert) **and a serving utensil**. Elections will be held. Bring a short story or comment about your year in beekeeping to share with the group. We are told this annual tradition was started by Denzil St. Clair and is always enjoyable.

**January** will be the club's informal honey tasting competition – blind tasting, best flavor only! Save a small jar and join in the fun. Awards in the amounts of \$30 First Prize, \$20 Second Prize and \$10 Third prize will be issued.

Additionally, our speaker will be Bob Hooker, Harrison County Bee Inspector. Bob is part of the OSBA traveling speaker program and will speak on the topic of "Sustainable Apiary Management Using Nucleus Colonies (Nucs)".

We will learn the basics of what a nuc is and how and when to make a nuc for a sustainable apiary program, how to use a nuc for swarm control, backup queens and to hedge against winter losses.

**2019 Youth Scholarship** applications are being accepted. Deadline is January 6, 2019.  
[GCBA Youth Scholarship Information](#)

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

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



New Do you know about the healthy hives 2020 program?

<https://beehealth.bayer.us/what-is-bayer-doing/bayer-research/healthy-hives-2020>

The Growing Degree Days resource.

[The Ohio State Phenology Calendar](#)

More information about the importance of native plants.

[https://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-non-native-plants-in-homeowners-yards-endanger-wildlife-both-birds-and-bees-ud-researchers-report/?utm\\_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm\\_campaign=caec62f7b9-Catch+The+Buzz+4+29+2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0272f190ab-](https://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-non-native-plants-in-homeowners-yards-endanger-wildlife-both-birds-and-bees-ud-researchers-report/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=caec62f7b9-Catch+The+Buzz+4+29+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-)

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

[http://articles.extension.org/bee\\_health](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. Copy of the monitoring and tracking chart located later in newsletter.

<http://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](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56818659c21b86470317d96e/t/5900c9798419c2db7622e85b/1493223802902/MakingAPlanforVarroa_2017.pdf)

Bee Culture Magazine has a free daily email update.

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

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

### GCBA

**November 14, 2018**

Topic: American Foulbrood

Speaker: Leo Schirokauer

Leo Schirokauer, Recipient of the 2018 GCBA Youth Research Grant and the 2018 Winner of the [Bayer Bee Care Young Beekeeper Award](#).

American Foulbrood (AFB) is a devastating and incurable disease afflicting honeybees nationwide. There is a desperate need for new treatment options. Leo will discuss his research and development using a novel treatment for AFB which harnesses the power of probiotic honeybee gut bacteria to kill the AFB pathogen.

**December 12, 2018**

Topic: Year End Wrap up,  
Potluck Dinner & Elections

## Other Upcoming Meetings and Events

**March 1 & 2, 2019**

**Tri-County Beekeepers Spring Workshop**

[GCBA Website](#)

## Recipe of the Month – Honey Citrus Glazed Carrots

**YIELD:** Makes 4 servings

### **INGREDIENTS**

1 T butter or margarine

4 cups carrots, sliced

1/4 cup honey

1/2 cup chicken broth

1/2 cup orange juice

1/2 tsp. orange zest, minced

1 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. pepper

### **DIRECTIONS**

In large skillet over medium-high heat, melt butter. Add carrots and sauté for several minutes.

Add honey, broth, orange juice and orange zest.

Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until carrots are cooked and liquid is thick.

Season with salt and pepper.

Recipe Courtesy of the National Honey Board



Photo credit Annette Birt Clark

## Male Bumblebee as described by Denise Ellsworth



Photo Credit Annette Birt Clark

Varroa Mites from hive sampling (circled in pink, mature, brown in color – green, recently emerged from cell, pale, pinkish in color)

Varroa Monitoring Tracking Form from HBHC







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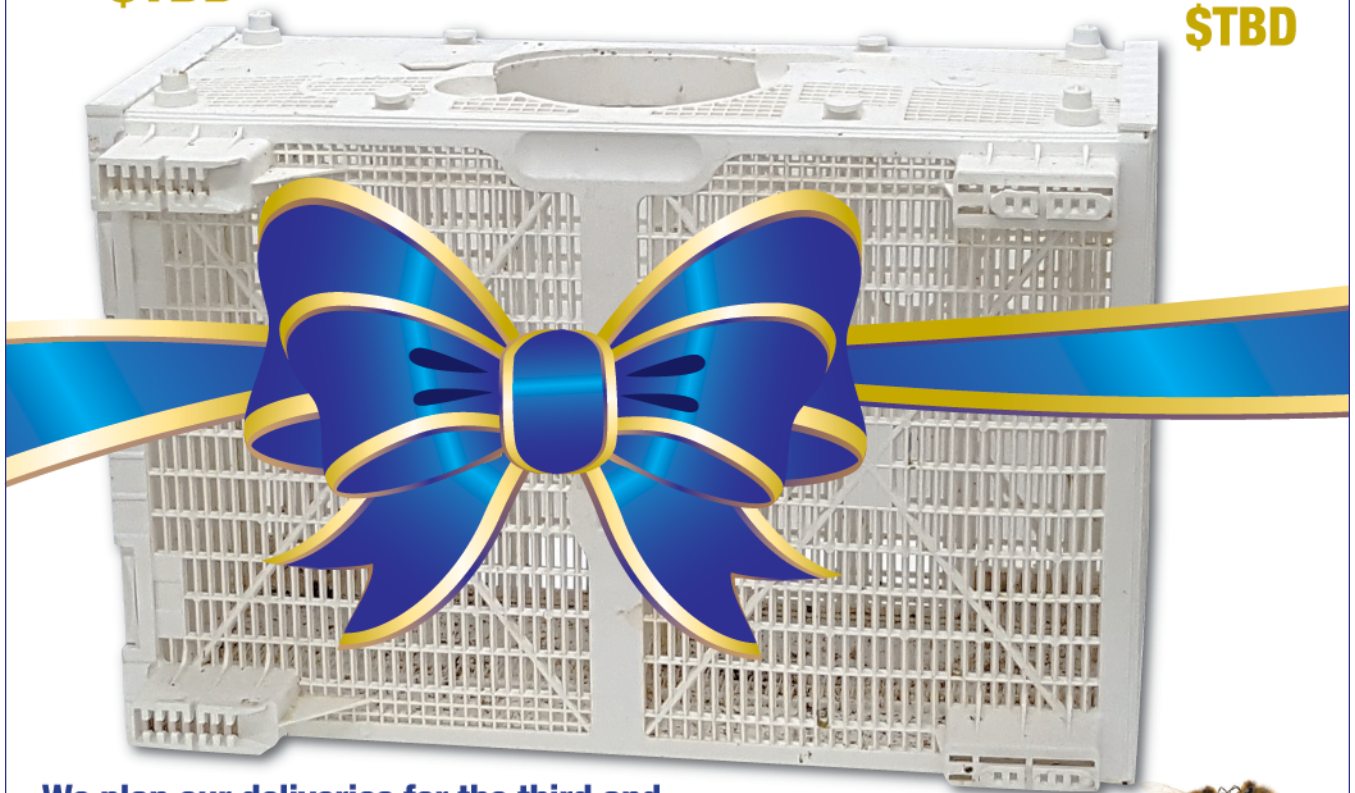
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Italian &  
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We plan our deliveries for the third and fourth weeks of April. Follow us on Facebook.



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43655 State Route 162 • Spencer, OH 44275  
440-647-2602 • info@queenrightcolonies.com

