



Greater Cleveland
Beekeepers
Association



AUGUST 2024

the HONEYBEE TIMES



Inside this issue:

President's Message
Helpful Honeyguides
July Picnic
Panmelati
Inspector's Corner
Fair – Premium Book
HAS 21st Conference
Fair Time
Classified Ads
GCBA Officers

From the President's Desk

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to August and Fair month! It is hard to believe we are halfway through the beekeeping season and now is the time to start looking toward getting our colonies ready for the winter. These next 3 or so months will fly by so please make sure you are preparing yourselves accordingly. Keep treating your bees! A small mite load today can quickly overtake a hive in the fall and winter as colony sizes shrink.

As we look forward to the Cuyahoga County Fair, I hope anyone able to spare some time and knowledge, will volunteer for our table. Our organization is great because of you, and we are proud to share that with all who visit us in the Bee Barn and elsewhere! Rolly Platten, our Fair Chair, has been sending out emails for the sign up and I hope you will consider it if you are able. **Just a reminder that our monthly meeting will occur in the Bee Barn at the normally scheduled time but during Fair (Wednesday, August 7) which is a week earlier than usual and tickets are required to enter the fairgrounds on that date.** Volunteers will also receive a ticket(s) for

Continued on page 2



Helpful Honeyguides Have a Long and Sweet Alliance With Humans

Across sub-Saharan Africa, these birds lead humans to hidden bee colonies.

You're walking in the woods in Mozambique, humming to yourself. Suddenly, a small brown bird appears. You glimpse him in the trees ahead as he calls out: chatter-chatter-chatter-chatter!

Don't be alarmed. If you can, follow that bird wherever he goes. He's trying to get both of you a snack.

Across sub-Saharan Africa, and potentially over millions of years, people and greater honeyguide birds have forged a skill-sharing deal: The birds find beehives hidden in trees, and the people get the hives out. Then the humans go home loaded with honey, and the birds eat tasty grubs and wax.

READ MORE:

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/wild-life-excerpt-honeyguides>

President's Desk *continued*

the days they volunteer. For meeting day, I advise you to enter at Gate 3 off Eastland Rd. as I will be at the gate with the tickets for current GCBA members.

Finally, thanks to the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, their board members, and the Fairgrounds staff for all their time, generosity, and cooperation with the GCBA. They, along with all our members, is why we continue to be a successful, educational organization in the Greater Cleveland area and beyond.

I look forward to seeing you all and hope you all enjoy the Fair!

Mike Alonso
GCBA President



GCBA July Picnic

Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association annual picnic at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds was a great time, great food, great fun!

Thankful for the hands that prepared the meal!

Fun and games were filled with laughs and great beekeeping skills. Blindfolded beekeepers are very entertaining and great sportsman!



Honey-Orange Cookies Panmelati

Recipe by Lidia Bastianich

Panmelati are a delightful and surprising confection. Sweet, chewy, orange-infused, and crusted in buts, they could be mistaken for fancy candy balls, but they are actually a kind of no-bake cookie, fashioned from simple dough of bread crumbs cooked in honey. A great way to recycle old bread-these are quickly made, fun to roll, and delicious treat with coffee, or a dessert wine.

Directions:

4 MEDIUM ORANGES, WASHED AND DRIED

4 CUPS HONEY

1 CUP FINE DRY BREAD CRUMBS

2 CUPS FINELY CHOPPED TOASTED WALNUTS

VEGETABLE OIL FOR ROLLING THE COOKIES

Procedure:

- With a sharp paring knife or vegetable peeler, shave off the peel of the oranges in long strips. Scrape away the bitter white pith from the inside of the peel, then dice the strips of zest into small pieces, about ¼ inch square. You should have about a cup of diced peel.
- Pour the honey into the saucepan, set the pan over medium heat, and stir in the cut orange peel. Slowly bring the honey to a simmer, and cook, stirring frequently, until the squares of peel are slightly translucent, about 3 minutes.
- Stir the bread crumbs and 1 cup of the chopped walnuts into the honey, and return to a simmer. Stirring frequently, simmer the mixture gently for 6 minutes or so, until the bread crumbs have absorbed most of the honey, forming a dough that pulls away from the sides of the pan. Take the pan off the heat.
- With a brush or your fingers, spread a thin film of vegetable oil on your clean countertop or other hard work surface. Scrape the dough out of the pan onto the oiled surface and, with the lightly oiled blade of the metal spatula, spread it into a rough round or oblong layer, about ½ inch thick.
- Pour the remaining cup of chopped walnuts onto a plate or tray. Run a bit of vegetable oil on your fingers and hands (so the dough won't stick), break off a bunch of teaspoon-sized pieces of warm dough-a dozen or so-and rapidly roll them into bite-sized balls, the size of grapes.
- While still warm, roll the balls in the nuts so the whole surface gets a light nut coating, and place them on the parchment-lined tray. Working quickly, shape another batch of balls, and coat them with nuts.



INSPECTOR'S CORNER

August 2024

Inspection program is in full swing, Queen Certificates are almost complete, Don't forget your treatment programs... treatments in the spring and fall are not enough, follow the directions on the label and heat recommendations. You can check out LCBA web sight the program is on that sight. Please check the expiration dates on your mite away packs do not use if expired. Small Hive Beetles have been a big problem this year. Weak hives have been especially vulnerable. Heat is going to start being a problem with inspections, anytime we have a heat advisory the County Board of Health recommends no inspections. Bee safe out there.

Phil Bartosh
Cuyahoga County
Apiary Inspector



127th Cuyahoga County Fair – Premium Book 2024

Cuyahoga County Fair website has been updated with a digital copy of the Fair Book to download!

<https://cuyfair.com/pdf/2024/CCF%202024-Premium%20book%20online%202.pdf>



Heartland Apicultural Society – 21st Annual Conference

August 23-24 – Wooster, Ohio

- **WHO:** All beekeepers interested in classroom and hands-on learning to improve their skills and operations - and a great list of speakers
- **WHAT:** 2-day conference with four plenary talks and multiple breakout sessions to choose from; there is an optional ice cream social on the 22nd, and an optional dinner social on the 23rd
- **WHERE:** Shisler Conference Center & Fisher Auditorium Building in Wooster, OH
- **WHEN:** August 23-24, 2024, with an optional ice cream social on the 22nd
- **HOW:** \$90 for both days, \$50 for one day (after Aug. 12th prices go up and tickets to socials will not be available for purchase) – <https://www.heartlandbees.org/>
- You can also check out their Facebook page for posts about speakers and updates: <https://www.facebook.com/HAS.Beekeeping/>



JOIN US IN WOOSTER, OHIO!
August 23-24, 2024

Speakers include:

- ♦ Julia Mahood
- ♦ Reed Johnson
- ♦ Judy Wu-Smart
- ♦ Jerry Hayes
- ♦ Barb Bloetscher
- ♦ Chia Lin
- ♦ Charlie Parton
- ♦ Barry Richards
- ♦ Jim Tew
- ♦ Jennifer Tsuruda
- ♦ Tom Webster
- ♦ Dwight Wells
- ♦ *Plus, vendors!*

Topics include:

- ♦ The Game of Drones
- ♦ Improving Varroa Control
- ♦ The Honey Bee Digestive System
- ♦ Making Nucs for Increase or Profit
- ♦ Basic Hive Inspections (apiary session)
- ♦ Reading the Hives (apiary session)
- ♦ Monitoring for Varroa (apiary session)
- ♦ Finding Queens (apiary session)
- ♦ Maximizing Honey Production
- ♦ Beekeeping Tips and Tricks
- ♦ Marketing for Beekeepers
- ♦ Before Antibiotics
- ♦ Collecting Swarms
- ♦ Water Foraging
- ♦ Trapping Feral Bees
- ♦ Confirmation Bias
- ♦ Nutrition
- ♦ *Plus, vendor topics!*

Early registration is only \$90 for 2 days of great programs!

Register at [Heartlandbees.org](https://www.heartlandbees.org)



It's Time for the Fair!

August is an exciting time for GCBA to meet the thousands of fair goers and share the wonder of Honeybees. Planning meetings have come and gone, and volunteers are signing up. The Pollinator Garden is groomed and ready, the barn is ready for a major open house.

Thank you to Rolly Platten Fair Chair and Mike Alonso President and all the volunteers who make this event a success.

Did you get your entries placed in time? If so we hope you all win! Its a great learning experience. Lots of ribbons, plaques and cash awards will be handed out.

Watch for the winners to be showcased in the September newsletter and on Facebook.

Blue Ribbon regards,

Sheila St. Clair

Bee Yard and Barn Beautification Project 2024



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.

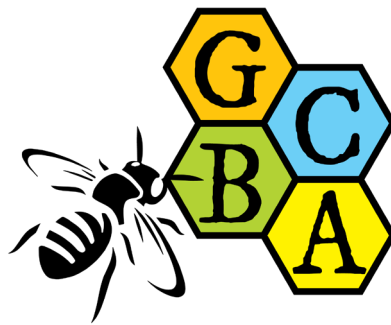
Advertisement Fee Schedule:

- 1/8th Page: \$5/month
- 1/4th Page: \$7/month
- Half Page: \$10/month
- Full Page \$15 /month

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.



GCBA Happenings



Volunteer, Donate, Jump in and Give a Hand

- Monthly Member Meetings
- Field Day in May
- Picnic in July
- County Fair Booth in August
- Special Event in September
- Holiday Party in December
- Live Demonstrations Year Round



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BEST of the BEST



Classic Cruisin'
SEPTEMBER 28, 2024 | LORAIN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
GATES OPEN 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024 • 9 AM - 3 PM

LORAIN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

For more information visit

www.loraincountybeekeepers.org or Facebook

440-647-2602 • queenrightcolonies.com



*Greater Cleveland
Beekeepers
Association*

AUGUST 2024

N e w s .

Looking for a way to participate in our Association?

We're in need of a
volunteer for Newsletter
Editor. Help out today!
If you are interested,
contact Sarah Alonso at
s.alonso@myyahoo.com.



GCBA Officers

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Director: Charles Heaton
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Fair Committee Chair: Rolly Platten

Hospitality Coordinator: Jan Petrek
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Our Goal:

*The Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association
supports, educates, and connects both beekeepers
and aspiring beekeepers alike through monthly
meetings/classes.*