



The Honey Bee Times

December 2025



Our speaker at the November meeting was Wes Stein of Stein Honey. Wes is a commercial beekeeper that does a lot of pollination work both locally and in the almond groves of California, along the way generating lots of honey as well. He runs around 1,200 hives, all on 4 hive pallets as do most commercial beekeepers.

Wes grew up in beekeeping, helping his father Bill, and he eventually purchased the business from him. They operate out of Collins, Ohio- just west of Wakeman.

Like most small beekeepers, his year follows a predictable pattern with a few exceptions. He “winterizes” his hives in October by moving them south to Georgia for the winter. After checking on them a few times during the winter, they get loaded onto semis for the trip to the almond groves in California in late January. He’ll visit them once they get there and check them, balancing the strength of any weak hives. The California operation is handled through a broker that arranges the hive placement and business end of the pollination contracts.

The hives make it back to Ohio in March and since they’ve been in milder weather, they’re generally stronger than they would have been at that point if they had overwintered in Ohio. Before the hives are moved to Ohio pollination contracts, they’re again checked for strength and any hives that need it are re-queened.

From that point in the year, it’s pretty much the same as most of us, adding supers, checking for mites, and eventually harvesting the honey., only on a larger scale. They bottle much of it under their own label and also sell it wholesale.

It was an enjoyable and educating talk about the scale of beekeeping that most of us just dream about.



The December meeting will be our Christmas party and will start at 6:00 on the 10th. The dinner will be ham, provided by the club and pot-luck dishes and desserts from the membership.

Activities will be club elections and games with door prizes.

See you in Building 25 at the fairgrounds!

When you can't play with your bees-

Winter has set in and there's not a lot to do with our fuzzy little friends. Sure, there's equipment to build and maintain (which usually gets put off until March.) But there's a lot of bee related things to do inside, such as the many learning opportunities.

Most bee clubs, including our own, have classes in late winter. Ours is free to current members, so why not renew your membership while you're thinking about it and come, even if it's just a refresher.

There are also many larger events that attract national vendors and speakers-

- ◆ The American Beekeeping Federation Conference and Trade Show will be held on January 6-10 in Mobile, Alabama
- ◆ The North American Honeybee Expo (formerly Hive Life) will be held on January 8-10 in Louisville, Kentucky
- ◆ The Midwest Honeybee Expo will be held February 6-7 in Madison, Wisconsin
- ◆ The Sustainable Beekeepers Guild of Michigan will hold it's Virtual Winter Conference online on March 7th.

Many colleges and universities offer online beekeeping courses also, but you can always curl up with a new beekeeping book or catch up on reading that stack of beekeeping magazines.

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays in February will be our Beginners Beekeeping course. Cost is \$50 for new members and it's free for current members. Come as a refresher or to share your knowledge with aspiring beekeepers.

World bee Day will be three days during the week and no Saturday event for the general public from May 13-15 this year. Volunteers are always needed and it's great fun seeing the kids eyes light up as they learn about bees.

The Cuyahoga County Fair will be held August 11-16 this year. Have some really nice honey that you extracted this year? Set it aside to enter in the fair.

Watch this newsletter for more information as these events get closer.

This Month in the Bee Yard

Winter is here, and hopefully your hives have all been made ready for it. When we get a 40 degree plus sunny day, the bees will be out doing cleansing flights and there will be yellow spots all over the snow. If you have candy boards or shims with fondant, you should pop the top briefly on a warmish day to see that they are doing ok. It doesn't hurt to have some extra sugar bricks to add, but refrain from adding any pollen patties until March or April, it's still too early to stimulate egg laying.

If you're planning on expanding or replacing any failed hives, now is the time to order packages or nucs.

Honey Tart

Recipe from Chef Charles Heaton.

Serves 8-10

Pastry

Ingredients :

1 cup all purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon fine salt

1/2 teaspoon granulated sugar

1 stick/ 1/2 cup unsalted butter, chilled and diced

2 tablespoons ice water

Procedure:

Butter a 10" tart tin with removable bottom.

Combine dry ingredients in food processor, and mix to combine.

Add cold butter and pulse until it resembles coarse breadcrumbs.

Drizzle in ice water as needed. (all may not be needed!)

Pulse until mix **just** comes together.

Press dough into a disk, wrap and refrigerate for 20 minutes.

Roll out to an even 11" circle, and gently place into buttered tart pan. Gently pressing into edges, corners and flutes of the tart tin. Gently trim edges.

Chill for 30 minutes.

Filling ingredients:

1-3/4 cup fresh breadcrumbs

2 -1/4 cups, honey.

Juice of one large lemon

2 teaspoons of vanilla extract.

1/2 teaspoon salt

Unsweetened whipped cream to serve.



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Procedure :

Preheat oven to 400°F

Place breadcrumbs in a properly sized bowl to mix.

Add remaining filling ingredients.

Mix gently.

Line unbaked tart shell with parchment paper and fill with pie weights.

Bake for 15 minutes, remove parchment and tarts and return to oven for 10 minutes until Golden Brown.

Pour filling into baked tart shell filling to near the edge of the pastry.

Bake for 25 to 30 minutes until filling is toffee colored and set.

Allow tart to cool before removing from tin.

Serve with unsweetened whipped cream.

Enjoy!

GCBA Merchandise is available-

Check out the GCBA Store at the link below for cool threads that will have you looking great and supporting the GCBA. You can find it on our website under the “More” tab or just click on the link in this article. Several styles are available to compliment your individual look from tees to hoodies.

<https://rycosportslw.com/businesses/greater-cleveland-bee-keepers-association/>







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Mission Statement

GCBA Goal: The Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association supports, educates, and connects both beekeepers and aspiring beekeepers alike through monthly meetings and classes.