



# ***The Honey Bee Times***

***March, 2025***

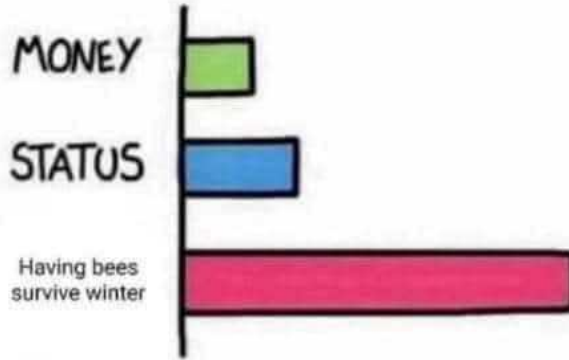
There was a great turnout for the first beginning beekeeping course on February 5th. Thirty aspiring beekeepers had signed up for the course. Over the course of the classes, another five new members signed up for the classes.



The March 12th meeting will feature Sheila St. Clair demonstrating the art of dipping beeswax candles and Neal Klabunde talking about swarm traps. Plans for building your own traps will be available. Also, one of the traps that Neal made from the plans will be raffled off, so don't miss this meeting!

As usual, the meeting will be at 7:00 pm in Building 25 at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds.

# WHAT GIVES PEOPLE FEELINGS OF POWER



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## Apiary Registration

All apiaries in the state of Ohio must be registered with ODA as required by [ORC 909.02](#). Registrations expire on May 31 annually. Please return your application for renewal and payment prior to June 1. Please note that any newly established apiaries are required to be registered within 10 days of receipt of the honey bees. The annual registration form can be [downloaded here](#).

If your apiary was registered last year, you probably already received a renewal letter from the ODA. New beekeepers can download the form from the link above.

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## GCBA Merchandise is available

Check out the [GCBA Store](#) 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.



# Honey Orange Scones

Recipe by Chef Charles Heaton

Serves: 6

## INGREDIENTS

2-½ cups all purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

3 tablespoon Honey

1 cup half and half

5 tablespoon butter 3/8" dice, cold

½ teaspoon baking salt

1 tablespoon orange zest

2 tablespoon orange juice

1 whole egg whisked



## PRODEDURE:

1. Blend dry ingredients: flour, salt, and baking soda.
2. Cut the butter into blended dry ingredients. using either a pastry blender or food processor.
3. Blend or pulse until the flour combines with the butter and forms a grainy, sandy texture.
4. Add the flour butter mixture to a medium sized bowl, forming a well in the middle. Pour in the honey, heavy cream, orange juice and orange zest.
5. Using a spatula or your hands, gently fold in the dough to knead until the dough just comes together.
6. Pour out onto a flour-dusted surface and continue to mix until the dough just forms.
7. Flatten into a disc and cut into 6 equal triangles. Lay flat onto a baking sheet and chill ~ 45 minutes.
8. Preheat the oven to 400° and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
9. Once the dough has chilled, brush with the egg wash.
10. Bake the scones for 20 minutes or until the tops become golden brown. Take out and let cool slightly before serving.

Best served warm with butter, jam and or clotted cream!

Enjoy!

# The Beekeepers Bookshelf

## Honeybee Democracy by Thomas D. Seeley

In *Honeybee Democracy*, Thomas D. Seeley, a biologist and professor at Cornell University, delves into the fascinating world of honeybees to uncover the secrets of their highly effective decision-making processes. Published in 2010, this book combines ethology, entomology, and democratic theory to offer readers a closer look at how honeybee swarms make collective decisions that ensure their survival and success. Seeley's work serves as both a scientific exploration and an inspiration for human organizations seeking to harness collective intelligence.

The book takes readers on a journey into the life of a honeybee colony, particularly focusing on the process of swarming. When a colony becomes too large, it splits, and a portion of the bees, along with a queen, leave to find a new home. The decision-making process these bees undergo to select a new nest site is a marvel of collective wisdom. Seeley meticulously explains how scout bees search for potential sites, communicate their findings through the waggle dance, and reach a consensus on the best location.

Through detailed observations and experiments, he demonstrates how honeybees use a combination of individual expertise and group decision-making to arrive at optimal solutions. The book is rich with anecdotes, illustrations, and scientific data that illuminates the complex behavior of these tiny, yet incredibly intelligent creatures.

*Honeybee Democracy* is a captivating and enlightening book that offers readers a deeper understanding of the sophisticated world of honeybees. The author's thorough research and engaging writing style make this book a must-read for anyone interested in biology, ecology, and the principles of collective intelligence. It is a testament to the remarkable capabilities of these tiny creatures that we all love, and a reminder of the wisdom we can glean from the natural world.

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## Dues are Due! (We don't want to lose you)

A friendly reminder that dues for 2025 are due each January. In order to continue to receive this award winning newsletter, \* please pay if you haven't already. Payment can be made by check mailed to the address at the bottom of this newsletter, in person at a meeting, or online (<https://greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com/join>) .

\*In a recent poll, our newsletter was voted the best in Northeast Ohio.

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## Facebook and Internet Scams

As we mentioned last month, email scams are almost an everyday occurrence anymore. Just as evil are ads and postings on Facebook promising great deals on equipment, packages, or nucs.

These deals can be enticing to new beekeepers (although seasoned ones can fall prey as well.) They will copy items from legitimate businesses and present them as their own and use folksy sounding names to disguise what they are and even act as shills by placing phony comments on their ads.

Your best defense against these predators is to ask at meetings who the other beekeepers are dealing with, and of course, buy local from a physical location.

<https://tinyurl.com/Bee-Scams> is a Google Docs spreadsheet of known scams.

This is a link to a Facebook group that monitors and exposes scams.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/942871760250354>

## Why make beeswax candles?

Beeswax candles are often considered safer and healthier than other types of candles, particularly those made from paraffin wax. Here are a few reasons why:

- **Natural Material:** Beeswax is a natural substance produced by bees and does not contain the chemicals found in paraffin wax, which is derived from petroleum.
- **Cleaner Burn:** Beeswax candles burn more cleanly, producing less soot and smoke. This results in better air quality and fewer pollutants in the home.
- **Hypoallergenic:** They are hypoallergenic and can help purify the air by releasing negative ions, which can reduce allergens and dust.
- **Longer Burn Time:** Beeswax candles typically burn longer than paraffin or soy candles, providing more value and less frequent replacement.
- **Pleasant, Natural Scent:** When burned, beeswax candles emit a subtle, natural honey scent, unlike the artificial fragrances added to other candles.

Beeswax candles can be a great way to add products to your apiary. Share that their potential health benefits and cleaner burn may be worth the investment for those concerned about indoor air quality and safety.

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## Swarm Traps

Swarm traps are a great way to catch honeybee swarms without harming them. These traps, also called bait hives, attract bees looking for a new home. By placing these traps in the right spots, beekeepers can catch swarms and add them to their hives.

**Why Bees Swarm:** Bees swarm when their colony gets too big. The old queen and some worker bees leave to start a new colony, while a new queen takes over the old hive.

**Picking the Right Trap:** The best traps are about 40 liters in size and have one entrance. You can make them from wood, cardboard, or plastic. Each material has its pros and cons.

**Baiting the Trap:** To lure bees, use attractants like lemongrass oil, commercial bee lures, or old brood comb. Refresh these attractants every few weeks.

**Setting Up the Trap:** Place the trap in a visible, partially shaded spot near water. Secure it to something stable. Check the trap regularly and move captured swarms to a permanent hive in the evening when bees are less active.

This swarm trap has been placed on a tree in my front yard for the last several years, and has caught a swarm for the last two years. It's 4-5 feet off the ground and faces south.



## Around the Bee Yard

Spring will be here before you know it and you should be ready to go with equipment if you're just starting out, or have bees that overwintered and will be building up quickly. What you don't want to do is purchase your equipment the same day that you pick up your packages or nucs.

March is also the time when many colonies die due to lack of resources, so you should be checking on them any 50+ degree days to see that they're doing OK and adding fondant or sugar to get them through and into spring. No deep dives, but just pop the top off and check them.

When it gets to be above 60 and sunny, then you can check honey stores and rotate any frames of honey close to the brood nest. If you want to feed pollen patties, be judicious and only place 1/4 or 1/2 in the hive at one time. Maple pollen should start coming in around March 15th.



This is why mouse guards are important. Some empty supers were inadvertently left on a spare bottom board in the bee yard and the mice discovered them.

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## Hospitality Corner

Our meetings are a great way to meet other beekeepers and for socializing. Members are encouraged to bring treats to share.

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## World Bee Day

World Bee Day(s) will be on May 15th and 16th, and May 17th. The Thursday and Friday dates will be for students from local schools and the Saturday date will be for the general public. The following pages have flyers for the two events. Volunteers will be needed both days. This is an excellent opportunity for our club to educate others on the importance of bees and beekeeping.

World Bee Day for students will be held on May 15th and 16th.



## Celebrating the bees and other pollinators!

**May 15-16, 2025**  
**Thursday & Friday**  
**9:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Cuyahoga County**  
**Fairgrounds Bee Barn**  
**19201 E Bagley Road**  
**Middleburg Heights**  
**Ohio 44130**

### Honey Bee Passport

Get your Honey Bee  
Passport stamped when  
you visit the Bee  
Observation Room and  
the Educational Stations.

### Honey Bee Educational Day for Students

World Bee Day celebration raises awareness on the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy, and on the many challenges they face today. The United Nations designated May 20 as World Bee Day thanks to the efforts of the Government of Slovenia with the support of Apimondia.

- Teaching Future Generation Importance of Honey Bees
- Career in Beekeeping through Research and Science
- Learn How Honey Bees Improve Our Agricultural/Food Educational Stations; Fruits, Vegetables, and Honey
- Honey Bee Observation Room

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### PARTNERS



[collaborativechambers.org](http://collaborativechambers.org) [greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com](http://greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com)

Contact Nicky Sulandari at [collaborativechambers@gmail.com](mailto:collaborativechambers@gmail.com) or call (440) 502-9506.

World Bee Day for the General public will be held on May 17th



## Celebrating the bees and other pollinators!

**Saturday  
May 17, 2025**

**10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Cuyahoga County  
Fairgrounds Bee Barn  
19201 E Bagley Road  
Middleburg Heights  
Ohio 44130**

**\$3 Donation**

All the proceed will be  
donated for the Honey  
Breakfast in November  
2025 for K-12 students  
in Cuyahoga County,  
Ohio.

We invite you to join in the fun of World Bee Day!

World Bee Day celebration raises awareness on the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy, and on the many challenges they face today. The United Nations designated May 20 as World Bee Day thanks to the efforts of the Government of Slovenia with the support of Apimondia.

- 🐝 Cooking Demonstration
- 🐝 Teaching Future Generation Importance of Honey Bees
- 🐝 Career in Beekeeping through Research and Science
- 🐝 Learn How Honey Bees Improve Our Agricultural/Food
- 🐝 Educational Stations; Fruits, Vegetables, and Honey
- 🐝 Honey Bee Observation Room
- 🐝 Slovenian Corner

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Director: Joe Petrek, jpetrek3@gmail.com

Director: Charles Heaton, charlesheaton@mac.com

Fair Committee Chair: Rolly Platten

Hospitality Coordinator: Jan Petrek, jpetrek@hotmail.com

## **Mission Statement**

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