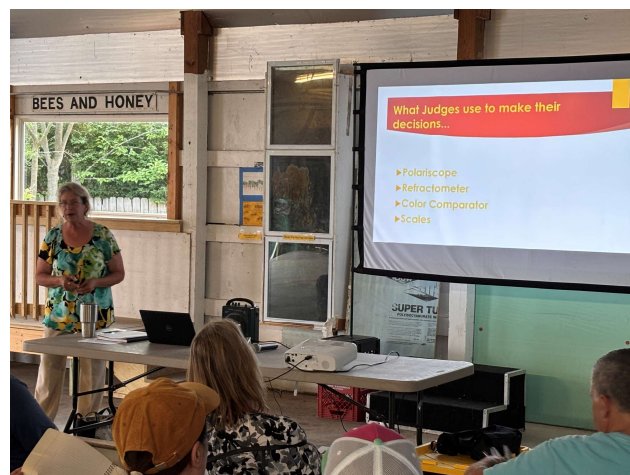


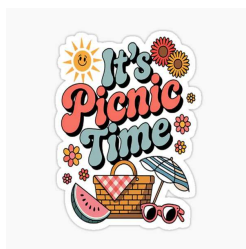


The Honey Bee Times

July 2026



Our speaker at the June meeting was Peggy Garnes from Medina. Peggy is an Ohio State Beekeepers Association certified Honey Judge. She went over the various categories that are available for beekeepers to enter their products in the county fair. Entry details may vary from county to county, but the judging process is essentially the same. This year's Cuyahoga county fair runs from August 11th to 16th. There is a discount for early entries that are postmarked by July 10th and the last day for entries (in person or online) is July 24th.



The July meeting will be our annual picnic and will be held in the pavilion on the east side of the midway. It starts at 6:00 July 10th. As usual, the club will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks. Members are encouraged to bring side dishes or deserts to share.

It's almost Fair Time!

This years Cuyahoga county fair runs from August 11th to 16th. There is a discount for early entries that are postmarked by July 10th and the last day for entries (in person or online) is July 24th.

Premium books will be available at the July meeting or can be had at the Fair office, Members are encouraged to review the categories and enter as many items as you'd like..



This month in the bee yard

June started out in a cooler pattern but ended up with some brutal heat. It can be hard for the bees to keep things cool, so propping up the outer corner with a spacer will help the keep things cool. This time of year you should be doing an inspection weekly to make sure there's enough room in the brood nest for the queen to lay in and space for the bees to store honey. Swarm season may be coming to an end, but still watch out for swarms and swarm conditions. Most new beekeepers start out with the basic two deep set-up, and when the hive population starts to explode this time of year find themselves scrambling for equipment, especially if they are lucky enough to capture a swarm. It never hurts to have too much equipment as a back-up when needed.

.If you treat with Oxalic acid, do three treatments 7-10 days apart every other month using vapor or a dribble.

Capturing Swarms

Setting out swarm traps in the spring is a good way to capture swarms from your own hives (if they get away from you) or other bee hives. Bait the traps with a frame of older comb and some new foundation. Using an attractant such as lemon oil or any of the commercially available swarm lures will help. You should also have some extra equipment available for housing swarms or making splits.

An old proverb states that “A swarm in May is worth a load of hay, a swarm in June is worth a Silver spoon, and a swarm in July isn’t worth a fly.” This highlights the relative value of capturing swarms. In our area, swarm season starts in March ad runs through July, so it’s good practice to manage your hives so they don’t swarm, or be ready to capture them.

A prevailing myth about swarm traps is that they need to be set up high, but that’s just not the case and retrieving traps from high up can be dangerous. This myth probably came from may people seeing swarms up in trees, but they can be effective at a much lower height.

Another thing folks try is setting out a swarm trap when the see a swarm up in a tree. Chances are the scout bees have already found a place to move into and they are just resting wherever the queen landed. Rarely will they be attracted to move into the trap.

GCBA Merchandise is available

Check out the GCBA Store Ryco Sports Lakewood 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.

Ryco Sports is located at 15026 Madison Ave., Lakewood, Ohio 44107 440-427-5828

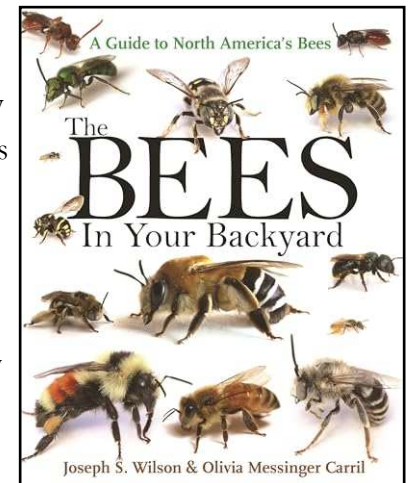


Hospitality Corner

Speaking of tasty treats, our meetings are a great way to meet other beekeepers and for socializing. Members are encouraged to bring treats to share. Thanks to Jan Petrek for the coffee at every meeting and to Lisa Hull for her delicious blueberry dessert for the June meeting.

Beekeepers Bookshelf

The Bees in Your Backyard: A Guide to North America's Bees, by Joseph S. Wilson and Olivia Messinger Carril, is a really interesting guide for anyone who has ever noticed bees outside and wondered what kind they are. The book shows just how many different bees live across North America, and it uses tons of colorful photos to make them easier to recognize.



What makes this book work so well is that it explains a lot of science without making it feel too complicated. The authors talk about where bees live, what they eat, how they build nests, and why they matter as pollinators. Instead of only focusing on honey bees or bumble bees, the book introduces readers to many native bees that people might see in their own yards, gardens, or parks.

The photos are one of the best parts of the book. They are clear, bright, and helpful, especially if you are trying to match a bee you saw outside with one in the guide. The book also gives practical tips for identifying bees and attracting them to your yard, which makes it useful for gardeners, students, or anyone who enjoys nature.

Some parts can feel a little technical because there are lots of scientific names and identification details. Still, that is not really a bad thing. It just means the book has enough information to be useful more than once, especially as you learn more about bees.

Overall, *The Bees in Your Backyard* is a fun and useful book for people who want to learn more about the bees around them. It makes bees seem less confusing and a lot more interesting. I would recommend it to gardeners, nature lovers, students, or anyone who wants to better understand the small creatures buzzing around their



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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.