

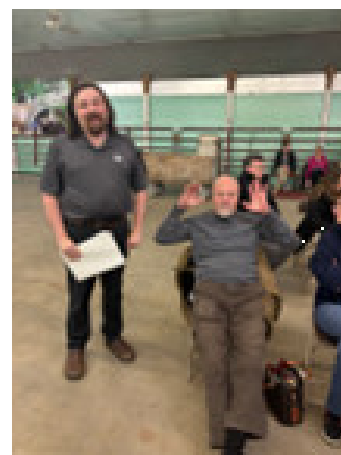


The Honey Bee Times

May, 2025

Another great and informative meeting. The April meeting was held in the Bee Barn (everyone found it even though it was moved at the last minute.) Tristram CP Mizak from the USDA Farm Service Agency spoke to us about programs that are available to beekeepers. There are programs that provide disaster assistance for honey bee losses, low interest loans for expanding an operation and marketing assistance.

There was a smoker lighting demonstration by Eric Manthey and Mike Alonso, and the highlight of the evening was Denzil St. Clair performing necropsies on several hives brought in by members. Issues ranged from a weak or failing queen, mites, and a possible absconding. There was also a surprise visit from a field mouse!



*Fun fact-
"Alveare" is
Italian for
"Hive."*



From the President

Whether you are a new beekeeper just getting started and you are doing some of your first hive inspections or you are a seasoned beekeeper getting supers on and dealing with growing hives, May is a busy month for beekeepers.

May is busy for GCBA as well. On May 14, we have invited John Schwartz to come and speak on OTS Queen Rearing. That same week is World Bee Day. If you are available please volunteer to help out. It is a great way to share what you know.

Thank you to **Dennis Eck**, for providing two bee packages for our apiary. Now that the weather is going to be more reliable, just a reminder that we will be going into the hives at 6pm on the days of our meetings, as weather permits. And that is a great chance for inexperienced beekeepers to come get hands on with guidance from more experienced beekeepers.

Thank you to all the support you provide to our organization. We are still looking for members that would be willing to fill the President or Secretary position. If interested, please reach out to a member of the board.

Adam Price, Acting GCBA President

May in the Bee Yard

Even colonies that didn't come through winter in the best of shape, should be building up nicely. Feeding 1:1 sugar syrup will help them recover.

Spring is here and the nectar flows will be commencing with the many blooming plants.

Swarm season will be kicking into high gear, so weekly inspections are necessary. Control the swarming urge by expanding the brood nest and adding supers sooner than later.

Think about setting up a "resource hive" that you can use to supplement any weak hives. Swarms are great for this because they can build up combs quickly. Making up nucs that can be used to quickly rescue a hive that suddenly went queenless is another valuable habit to get into

Treat for mites every month with oxalic acid dribble or vapor.

Lions and Tigers and BEARS, OH MY!

In case you missed it, an Ohio beekeeper discovered that bears do exist in Ohio. Located south of Warren, Ohio, he discovered the bear on a trail camera by his hives. While uncommon in Ohio, like any other animal, they do migrate and can be very destructive.

We are usually concerned with skunks, but raccoons can be a problem when using hive top bucket feeders as a member recently found out.

<https://fox8.com/news/see-it-ne-ohio-beekeeper-makes-startling-discovery>

2025 Cuyahoga County Fair

Before you know it, it'll be August and time for the fair. We'd like to see more participation from our membership in the various categories. There is no better way to see how your hive products stack up against the other entries.

The 2025 premium book, the publication that describes the various categories will be available soon, but you can look at the 2024 book on the fair's website—www.cuyfair.com under the Fair Info tab.



Sugar Syrup Math

Making sugar syrup to feed your new honeybees is an important part of learning beekeeping. The various ratios can be confusing, but there are some simple rules-of-thumb to help you, even if you're mathematically challenged.

The first basic is that water weighs 8.3 lbs. per gallon. Second, sugar from the grocery store usually comes in 4 lb. bags, but you can also usually find it in 25 lb. bags.

Using the above, it's easy to figure that 1 gallon of water and two 4 lb. bags of sugar will give you roughly 1 1/2 gallons of the desired 1:1 ratio of syrup for spring build up. Conversely, 3 gallons of water and 25 lbs. of sugar will do the same, but yield around just under 5 gallons. This will almost be to the top of a 5 gallon bucket. If you're using a drill and paint mixer, it may overflow, so think about using a larger container, or just be careful. Feeding in the fall usually uses 2:1 syrup, so the amount of sugar should be doubled for the same amount of water.



Walnut Crescent Cookies, Orehovi Kifeljčki- Vanilla Moon Cookies

Traditional Slovenian Christmas Cookie

Recipe by Chef Charles Heaton

INGREDIENTS:

1 + 2/3 cups flour(250g.)

1/2 cup sugar (100g.)

1 cup ground walnuts (100 g.)

3/4 cup butter (150g.)-softened

1 egg

1 Tablespoon sour cream (15 g.)

Vanilla sugar mixture: 1 cup of sugar mixed with 1 package of
vanilla sugar

(200g. Sugar + 1 pack of vanilla sugar)

PROCEDURE:

1.Mix all above ingredients together in a bowl until well combined. Roll tablespoons of dough into half moon shapes.

2.Place on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.

3.Bake in a 350° F oven for 17-19 minutes. Turn pan 180° halfway through bake as needed.

Once removed from the oven, allow the cookies to sit for about 1-2 minutes then we will roll them very gently in a bowl with Vanilla Sugar Mixture.

Enjoy!





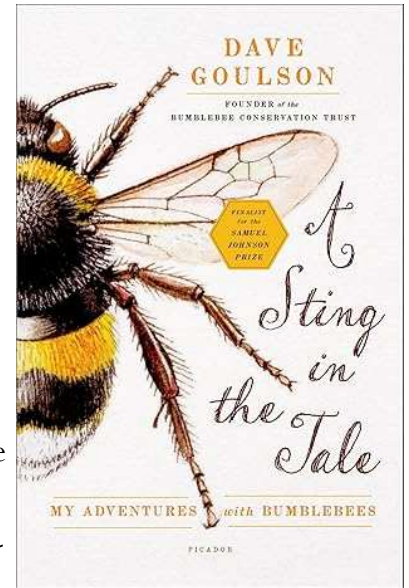
Beekeepers Bookshelf

By Neal Klabunde

One of my favorite books is Dave Goulson's "A Sting in the Tale: My Adventures with Bumblebees" While it diverges from our usual talk about honeybees to the exclusion of other pollinators, it's a fascinating and informative trip into the world of bumblebees. Goulson, a biology professor at the University of Sussex in England, mixes scientific facts with a fun and engaging writing style, making it easy for everyone to understand the complex stuff.

Although focused on bumble bees in Great Britain rather than honeybees, there are many parallels between our honeybees and their chubby, fuzzy cousin.

"A Sting in the Tale" gives readers a deep look at bumblebees, exploring their behavior, biology, and why they're so important for the environment. Goulson's love for these amazing creatures is clear throughout the book, and his excitement is totally contagious. He gets you to share his awe and respect for bumblebees, showing their crucial role in pollination and keeping our ecosystems healthy.



The book is broken down into several chapters, each focusing on different aspects of bumblebee life. Goulson starts with an intro to bumblebees, talking about what they look like and how they're different from other bees. He then dives into the bumblebee life cycle, from the queen popping out of hibernation to the rise and fall of the colony.

One of the coolest parts of "A Sting in the Tale" is Goulson's personal stories. These tales add a personal touch to the science, making the book more relatable and fun. Goulson shares his childhood obsession with bugs, his academic journey, and his fieldwork experiences, giving you a peek into the life of a dedicated bug enthusiast.

Once commonly found in the marshes of Kent, the English short-haired bumblebee went extinct in the United Kingdom, but by a twist of historical fate, still exists in the wilds of New Zealand, the descendants of a few pairs shipped over in the nineteenth century. Dave Goulson's passionate quest to reintroduce it to its native land is one of the highlights of a book that includes original research into the habits of these mysterious creatures, history's relationship with the bumblebee, and advice on how to protect the bumblebee for future generations.

A big chunk of the book is dedicated to the environmental issues bumblebees, like our honeybees, face. Goulson highlights the harmful impacts of pesticide use, habitat destruction, and climate change on bumblebee populations. He pushes for conservation efforts and sustainable practices to protect these vital pollinators. His advocacy is more than just a call to action; it's an invitation for readers to be more aware and involved in saving the environment.

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. See the 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.

Volunteer opportunities are available at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FA9AD2AA6FFC70-55675363-world#/>

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/>



Hospitality Corner

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 those who brought in the treats for the March meeting.

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- https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/forms/plnt_4201-002

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.

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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216-447-8970

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collaborativechambers.org greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com

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



IN GOD WE TRUST

30
YEARS

ANNIVERSARY

Make Beekeeping Great Again | 30th Anniversary

31ST FIELD DAY
Saturday
June 7, 2025

Free Event! Bee part of the excitement.
Guest Speaker: FRED DUNN
HOSTED BY LCBA & QRC

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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.