



*Greater Cleveland
Beekeepers
Association*



JUNE 2024

the **HONEYBEE TIMES**



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From the President's Desk

Hello Everyone,

Can you believe we are almost half way through the year already? What is even crazier is we are about a third of the way through the most active part of bee keeping season. Hopefully all the brand new colonies are in full swing and have or are almost ready for honey supers. Fear not though as each colony is different and some build up more slowly than others. Colony health is more important and it is not uncommon for new colonies to not even build onto the honey super the first year.

What a perfect segue! Colony health. By now, we should all have multiple inspections under our belts for this year, and I am sure have witnessed many things discussed and not discussed in our meetings and classes. Also, mite treatments should be performed if they have not been already. Let's all do our part to keep our bees and our neighboring beekeepers' bees healthy and the mite loads low!

Finally, I would like to personally thank all of you who were able to take the time to volunteer for any opportunities offered

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A 7,500-Year-Old Cave Painting of Humans Gathering Honey

Within the foothills of the Iberian System Mountain Range in northeastern Spain, archaeologists have discovered a 7,500-year-old cave painting depicting prehistoric humans gathering honey. The exceptionally detailed image shows a figure climbing a rope ladder to reach a colony of bees. It is considered the best preserved image of its kind and, alongside other rock art found at the site, known as Barranco Gómez, provides a picture of humans transitioning from a hunter-gatherer to an agricultural and shepherding economy.

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/honey-cave-painting>

President's Desk *continued*

and especially with World Bee Day. It was a great success and is expected to continue growing. The time and efforts of not only the GCBA, but the other Beekeepers Associations throughout the area and state are making WBD an event to attend by more and more educational institutions.

Second finally, thank you to Rolly Platten for volunteering to be this year's Fair Chair! I am fully confident you will represent the GCBA well.

As always, I look forward to seeing and hearing from you soon.

Mike Alonso
GCBA President

Pollinator Facts

- **June is National Pollinator Month.** This month, people are encouraged to plant pollinator gardens with non-invasive native plants.
- **Pollinators have different preferences for plants.** Although pollinators often visit more than just one plant species, they do have different preferences for plants, depending on floral traits including flower shape, color, size, scent, and nectar and pollen reward.
- **Some of the best pollinator gardens include just a few key features that make them work well.** Food, water, shelter and host plants. Selecting plants that bloom from early spring, like flowering bulbs and trees, to plants blooming into late fall can really help with pollinator survival.
- **Pollinators are declining.** Declines in the abundance and diversity of domesticated and wild pollinators have been reported globally. Several factors responsible for pollinator declines have been identified, including the loss of nesting habitats, decreased floral resources, the introduction of alien pollinators, and insecticide use.



Source: *June is Pollinator Month: Here's why we need pollinators!*
Pollinators, Wildlife: Holden Forests & Gardens



US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:

Pollination services from honey bees and other insects provide the backbone to ensuring our diets are diverse and plentiful with fruits, nuts, and vegetables. In all, there are over 100 crops grown in the United States that depend on pollination.

The Bee Yard & Garden

June is a beautiful month in the Bee yard and Garden. Lots of new plants, bees and everything is so green.

A lot of work was done in May. Trees and perennials planted, mowing, mulching, beekeeping and planning! Volunteers are what makes it all happen. Generous with time and donations, it becomes a place for everyone to enjoy and work.

June goes quickly, July flies by then we find ourselves preparing for the Cuyahoga County Fair. This is a great week with which to share beekeeping and meet the community on a daily basis. It will be here before you know it!

TWO projects that we are excited about this year is the potential donation of a small shed for the back of the bee yard. A place to put a few necessary items that we use monthly would be a great asset. Secondly, we are looking at purchasing an inflatable ballon to use for our events such as World Bee Day and the Cuyahoga County fair. A special honeybee mascot design, 12-14 ft. made locally. A great fund raising idea! Any inspirations, concepts, suggestions, or notions, please let me know.

Sheila St. Clair

Bee Yard and Barn Beautification Project 2024
440-213-4689





The GCBA gardening club, did you know we had one?

We do Now!

Thank you to any and all who have continually given time and donation to make our Pollinator Garden and beeyard the focal point of our Beeyard and Barn Beautification project and the Fairgrounds.

Special thank you to Petitti Garden Centers for this year's perennials and trees!

Bee Yard Hives

The hives in the Bee Yard are doing well! The ability to learn in an on-sight bee yard are invaluable! Not to mention having a Bee Yard manager, priceless! On June the 15 at 1:00, weather permitting Eric will be holding another Bee yard class for all who can attend. A continuation of queen grafting and cell building, opening hives plus any subjects that happen to come up. GCBA has a lot of great things happening and it is all made possible through volunteers, donations, and the Cuyahoga County Fair partnership. There are few organizations that have such a collaborative effort in place with which to benefit. Great Job Everyone!



Honey BBQ Sauce

by Chef Charles Heaton

Yield: ~ 1-1/2 cups

Ingredients

- 1 cup ketchup
- ½ cup honey
- ¼ cup white vinegar
- ¼ cup molasses
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon paprika
- ¼ teaspoon chili powder
- ¼ teaspoon onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper



Procedure: Stir ketchup, honey, vinegar, and molasses together in a saucepan over medium heat until smooth; add liquid smoke, salt, black pepper, paprika, chili powder, onion powder, garlic powder, and cayenne pepper. Stir the seasonings into the ketchup mixture, reduce heat to low, and simmer until thickened, about 20 minutes.

WORLD BEE DAY

A sincere thank you to our sponsors and friends for many years! Without them, World Bee Day in Ohio wouldn't be such a success! The World Bee Day 2024, a two-day event, was the second in-person event at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds.



We tripled the numbers from last year's World Bee Day!

This year we had:

- 13 schools participating & home schoolers
- 620 students
- 70 teachers
- 58 parents
- 9 chaperons
- 17 buses
- And tons of parents' cars

We thank you to the Organizers:

- Collaborative Chambers Alliance
- Slovenian Consul General in Cleveland
- Euclid Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association
- Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds for the barns donation
- Lorain County Beekeepers Association

We thank you to the Sponsors:

- Kiwanis of Greater Euclid
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- World Bee Candle Co
- Costco
- Meijer
- AZ Hives of North America
- VFW Wellington
- Brook Haven Apiary
- Eden Brothers

WORLD BEE DAY
Field trip

Celebrating the bees and other pollinators!
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
- Learn from Certified Master Gardener about Pollinator Gardens
- Learn How Honey Bees Improve Our Agricultural/Food
- Educational Stations; Fruits, Vegetables, and Honey
- Honey Bee Observation Room

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collaborativechambers.org greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com
Contact Nicky Sulonjan at collaborativechambers@gmail.com or call (440) 502-9306.

WORLD BEE DAY
fun day

Celebrating the bees and other pollinators!

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.

- All Day Speakers Series About Honey Bees and Agriculture:
 - Lilia Maria Cuzba - All About HIVE Products
 - Charles Heston - Cooking with Honey
 - Peggy Vau - Pollinator Gardens
- Learn How Honey Bees Improve Our Agricultural/Food
- Honey Bee Observation Room
- Slovenian Corner
- Food & Beverages

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collaborativechambers.org greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com
Contact Nicky Sulonjan at collaborativechambers@gmail.com or call (440) 502-9306.

Thank you all to our volunteers to help out and make this event very successful!!



GCBA EVENTS

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

Inspector's Corner - MAY

Hi Everyone,

Its swarm season, most of us are Urban Beekeepers with neighbors within 50ft. to 100ft of us

It's important to check your hive(s) every 7 to 10 days. I know GCBA stresses this ... why you ask? queen cells hatch in 16 days so if your in your hives every 7 to 10 days you can seek and destroy your queen cells before they are capped this does help greatly in stopping swarming. Losing half your bees to swarming also cuts your honey production.

The beekeeping community has fought hard getting beekeeping legalized. Swarming scares the heck out of the non beekeeper, remember it takes a stroke of a pen to make beekeeping legal in your community but that same pen can also make it illegal to keep bees.

Phil BARTOSH
Cuyahoga County
Apiary Inspector

Inspector's Corner - JUNE

Hi Everyone,

Inspections got a slow start due to the State being behind by almost a month, I have been getting a lot of calls about Queen issues, mainly I lost my queen, no brood or eggs. If you have not been inspecting every 7 to 10 days your hive could have swarmed and the new queen will take approximately 21 to 30 days to start laying. Before you go out and purchase a queen do a very intense inspection looking for your queen. Remember if you have added a honey super remove your feeder. Ants can also become problem Cinnamon sprinkled on your white board and inner cover will help.

If you have any questions please feel free to message me, email or call.

Phil BARTOSH
Cuyahoga County
Apiary Inspector
Sd9990@aol.com
216-470-0934



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 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.



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For more information visit

www.loraincountybeekeepers.org or Facebook

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JUNE 2024

GCBA Officers



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.

President: Mike Alonso
gcbamikea@yahoo.com

Past President: Denzil St. Clair
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VP: Adam Price
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jpetrek3@hotmail.com

Director: Charles Heaton
charlesheaton@mac.com

Fair Committee Chair: Rolly Platten

Hospitality Coordinator: Jan Petrek
jpetrek@hotmail.com

Our Goal:

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