



The Honey Bee Times

February 2025

February is Beginning Beekeeping class month and the regular February meeting will be held in conjunction with the classes on February 12th at 7:00 pm in Building 25 at the fairgrounds.

The class subjects are as follows-

- February 5th- Equipment
- February 12th- Bee package installation
- February 19th- Seasonal inspections / Care of the hive
- February 26th- Threats to the hive and treatments

Several door prizes will be available at the end of the classes. A set of woodenware for a new hive and a split from one of the hives in the club's bee yard later in the spring.

The January meeting was a discussion panel featuring seasoned and lightly seasoned beekeepers Cathy Lohse, Adam Price, and Dave Borling and was moderated by past GCBA President Denzil St. Clair.

There were many great questions and each of the panelists opined on how they handle certain situations. There is always something to learn from this type of meeting, you may think that your problem or situation is unique, but chances are it's been experienced by someone else. Also, the advice you get is from local beekeepers, so it's probably going to be more germane than an answer that you get from a YouTube video.



Speaking of learning something new-

Beekeepers are an inventive lot, if you just look at the beekeeping catalogs, you'll see many items they have been invented over the years to make the job easier. If you've done or invented something that has made your life easier, share it with us and we can put it in here. Send it to beesnplants@dirty-fingernails.com.

As you can see from the picture below, everyone enjoyed the Honey Cake competition. Ellie Jisa was the winner of the Honey Cake competition. All those years of teaching Home Economics paid off!



Ellie took home the Cake Platter pictured and \$50!

From the Acting President's Desk

Hello GCBA Members!

We are in the final months of winter, and while our bees may not be venturing out often, they are ramping up brood production in preparation for spring. Now is the time to make sure you are ready as well! If you need new bees, get your orders in. Check that your equipment is assembled, repaired, and ready to go. For those overwintering colonies, be mindful of food stores, late winter is when many colonies are lost to starvation. A quick check and some supplemental feeding could make all the difference.

If you're planning to expand, make splits, or set up swarm traps, now is the time to prepare. Don't wait until the nectar flow starts, having everything ready ahead of time will save you from scrambling later.

This month, we are once again hosting our Beginner Beekeeper Classes. I'd like to welcome all the new and prospective beekeepers attending.

To our experienced members, your participation in these classes is much appreciated. New beekeepers always have plenty of questions, and your knowledge and experience can go a long way in helping them get started. If you have time, I encourage you to attend.

The look forward to seeing you all each Wednesday this month!

Adam Price, Acting GCBA President

Help Needed!

We are currently without a President and a Secretary. The job descriptions for these positions are listed in the association’s by-laws and are listed below-

From Article V, Section 2-

The President shall preside at all meetings of GCBA and of the Board. The President shall be subject to the direction of the Board and GCBA and direct the activities of the association. The President shall not have a vote on any proposal brought before any meeting except in the event of a tie vote by the Board at a Board Meeting or by the membership at a General Membership Meeting. The President shall have the power to establish and appoint committees for both the Board and the association. The President shall implement decisions of the Board and of the association via committees or otherwise.

The Secretary shall record minutes of all the meetings, including General Membership Meetings and Board Meetings, which shall include the financial statements reported by the Treasurer and the names of all attendees at monthly meetings. The Secretary shall receive and forward mail to the Board for action and respond to such mail at the direction of the Board. The Secretary shall give all notices required by law or provided for by the By-Laws. The Secretary shall provide written minutes to the membership. The Secretary shall prepare election ballots and distribute ballots to members in good standing at the annual meeting in December. The Secretary shall have custody of the official records of GCBA.

[Click here](#) to view the entire By-Laws.

Extreme Beekeeping!

Extreme beekeeping in Turkey-, apparently they have bear problems and this is how they handle the bears.



Dues are Due!

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.

The Beekeepers Bookshelf

There are a lot of great beekeeping books out there, and winter time is good for catching up on our reading.

Another source of information that can be portable- you can listen to it at home, in the office, or in your vehicle when you're traveling between bee yards, are Podcasts. The name Podcast is a throw back to the Apple Ipod, one of the first devices to listen to digital media.

It seems like everyone has a podcast these days, and beekeeping is no exception. Here are a few of the more popular ones, and if you have found one that's not listed here, let me know.

Honey Bee Obscura Podcast: <https://honeybeeobscura.com>

This one is done by Jim Tew and the late Kim Flottom, and there are past podcasts on the web-site.

2 Million Blossoms- The Podcast: <https://2millionblossoms.com>

Dr. Kirsten S. Traynor is a honey bee biologist, who investigates how pesticides and varroa impact social behavior in honey bees.

Beekeeping Today: <https://www.beekeepingtodaypodcast.com/>

Now hosted by Jeff Ott and Becky Masterman, this podcast was originally co-hosted by Jeff with Kim Flottom.

Two Bees in a Podcast: <https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/honey-bee/podcast/>

Produced by the Honey Bee Research And Extension Lab of the University of Florida, it has varied hosts and has a more scientific bent than the others.

Most of these have archived editions of past podcasts that you can access. You can download them to your smart phone to take them with you, or listen to them on your computer.

Around the Bee Yard

This January was one that we haven't had for a few years. Snow and sub-zero temperatures have made it difficult to have a day when we could pop the top off our hives to give them a quick check and add any supplemental feed as necessary. Hopefully everyone took advantage of the couple of mild days back at the end of December.

In addition to checking on the need to add some sugar or fondant, you should also check the bottom entrances to make sure that they are open and not clogged with dead bees. Remove any mouse guards and sweep out the dead bees with a long stick or a hook made from a coat hanger. It's also helpful to have an upper entrance that won't get covered by snow for the bees to do cleansing flights on warmer days.

Keep an eye on the weather and be ready to take advantage of any warmer days (50+) to do an oxalic acid treatment for varroa.

Hospitality Corner

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

All about you and me

We have a diverse membership in our association. In order to get to know everyone a little better, we'd like to start a feature here highlighting a specific member each month. Use the following matrix to tell us all about yourself and send it to beesnplants@dirty-fingernails.com.

1. What city do you live in?
2. What do you do for a living (or to support your hobby?)
3. How did you become interested in beekeeping?
4. How long have you been doing this?
5. How many hives in your apiary?
6. Do you share your interest in beekeeping with family or friends?
7. What's your biggest "oops" or "aha" moment?
8. What do you like (or hate) the most about beekeeping?
9. What is your favorite way to add honey to your meals?
10. What is one thing that you could tell to a beginner to help them along the way?
11. Do you have any other hobbies?

Email Scams

From time to time, internet scammers impersonate someone you know. They ask you to do the 'quick favor' of buying 'gift cards' for them, and they provide a brief, feasible scenario that will entice you to 'help' them. Beekeepers are kind people! We love to help! So we are easy targets!

You can easily tell this is a scam if the thief is asking for gift cards and is pretending to be from GCBA.

Bee club officers and members will NEVER ask you to send them gift cards, or money of any kind. Ever. Simply delete such emails and don't give it a second thought.

There are two situations where a real email from GCBA may mention money: Renewing your annual membership and donating to one of our bee causes. You can tell these emails are legitimate because:

- 1) Legitimate emails will never ask you to send gift cards.
- 2) Legitimate emails will never ask you to send money/gift cards to a person.
- 3) Legitimate emails will never ask you to give credit card info to a person. Not via email, not on the phone, never.

The GCBA website uses secure, encrypted portals that link you directly to the credit card processing company. Our website never sees your credit card number - even the club treasurers cannot see your credit card number. Only the credit card processor's computer. No person is involved.

Just today, a scammer impersonated GCBA Vice President Adam Price, asking for a little help. (Oooh! A familiar name! A plausible scenario! Gift cards! I'm always up for helping a good cause!)

Some members received the trick email, but recognized it was a scam because 1) Gift Cards! 2) We never ask members to send cards/cash directly to a person. Bonus: They noticed that while the text claimed to be from Adam, the return email address didn't belong to Adam.

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Fun Fact-

Honey bees are allergic to pollen

It gives them hives!



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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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!

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- 🐝 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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collaborativechambers.org greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com

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

GCBA Officers

President:

Past President: Mike Alonso, gcbamikea@yahoo.com

Vice President: Adam Price, price.adamc@gmail.com

Treasurer: Brenda Theurer, larry1724@aol.com

Secretary:

Director: Jan Petrek, jpetrek3@hotmail.com

Director: Joe Petrek, jpetrek3@gmail.com

Director: Charles Heaton, charlesheaton@mac.com

Fair Committee Chair: Rolly Platten

Hospitality Coordinator: Jan Petrek, jpetrek@hotmail.com

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



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