

LORAIN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2026

President's Message

Hello Beekeepers of Lorain County,

Winter Prep

It is time for serious winter preparation. As discussed at last month's meeting, please keep up with your mite treatments and ensure your bees have enough food stores.

October Meeting: 20th Anniversary Celebration

In 2006, Denzil St. Clair and fellow beekeepers attempted the Guinness World Record for a bee cloak. Join us at our next monthly meeting on October 9th at 7:00 PM to celebrate the 20th anniversary of this event. Hear the story from those who were there and watch video footage of the attempt. We will also have bingo, prizes, and cake!

-Honey Contest:

Bring your honey samples for the Best Tasting Honey Contest. There is a limit of one entry per family apiary, and samples will be collected at the door.

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A **big** thank you to **Lori Keleman** for being the Buzzworthy newsletter for the past eight years! We appreciate all you have done for the club! Thank you again!

President's Message *continued*

2027 Executive Board Nominations

Nominations are now open for the 2027 Executive Board positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Trustee. Please consider serving one of the largest beekeeping organizations in Ohio.

A brief description of duties is available on the LCBA website under "About," then "Executive Board and Trustees." To be eligible for nomination, candidates must have attended a minimum of six regular meetings during the current year. Voting will take place at the December meeting.

Ms Honey Bee's High Tea Preparation

We will meet on Sunday, October 11th at the QRC Blue Warehouse to sort china for the High Tea. If you have ideas for party favors, please bring them along. It is also a great time to start assembling or recruiting raffle baskets.

All help is appreciated—please let me know if you can assist on October 11th.

November Meeting Preview

Our speaker for the November 13th meeting will be Wes Stein, who will share the story of his family's commercial beekeeping business.

See you Friday October 9th.

Marilyn
President
Lorain County Beekeepers Association

Let's Celebrate Our Beekeeping Community!

There's always something buzzing in our local beekeeping community—and we want to help spread the word!

Have an important announcement to share?

Captured a great photo from your apiary, honey harvest, or recent beekeeping event?

Send it our way! Let's shine a spotlight on the beekeepers, events, educational opportunities, and accomplishments that make our beekeeping community so special.

Together, we can share knowledge, support one another, and help our local pollinators thrive!

Send your submissions to Marilyn at m.teep70@gmail.com by noon the last Monday of the month to be considered for the next newsletter!

TWENTY YEARS LATER: THE BEE CLOAK WE'LL NEVER FORGET

Celebrating 20 Years of Courage, Community, and 74 Pounds of Bees



LORAIN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Attempted Guinness World Record

As in every endeavor that requires a group effort it is without fail the person who stands center stage that receives all the accolades. This is true in organizations, businesses, hobbies, family etc. I have been fortunate to work with some great beekeepers who were unflappable in the face of circumstances that would cause many contemporaries to break and run, or not try at all. Many of you will never know what this means because you always want to stay in your own lane and take no chances, be comfortable, safe. This is not a criticism, just an observation; this is who you are, how you were put together or made, and is in no way a reflection of your beekeeping skills. These are two separate thoughts altogether.

The Lorain County Beekeepers Association (LCBA) over the years has been fortunate to have a generous number of fearless beekeepers such as Tom Jefferies, Bonnie Pierson and Don Downs. This is a small, select group of people that stand out no matter where they are; the word "different" comes to mind. This cloak was a joint effort between Queen Right Colonies and LCBA that made national and international news in 2006 and is also featured in The ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture, published by the A. I. Root Co. The people in this organization are the best and have been so for over 100 years, and yes, I am biased; forgive me this flaw. The temptation is to name the people involved, but I am very reluctant to do so as I know I would leave someone out and cause someone I care about harm!

Here is a brief description of the events as they happened. Morris Hinton supplied the majority of the bees, which were stationed at the exact location where the cloak was to take place a week or more in advance. Coupled with colonies of my own there was about 30 colonies and nucs on site. Two days before the event was to occur, all frames were removed from colonies so that bees would form a single cluster in the center of the colony. At this point queens were located, and caged, then rehung with a tack in the center of the cover. With just the cover and empty box remaining, this would make it very easy to remove/dump bees from the box, just by removing the top all bees would lift out instantly hanging from the telescoping cover. A large based 4´ X 4´ scale was already in place, I took my place on the scale, bees were generously smoked and bees dumped on my person. Prior to dumping bees each queen was removed and pinned to



my clothing. Of course my nose and ears were stuffed with cotton and at some point a nose mask was applied additionally to insure enough room was allotted to breath properly, eventually there was about 3 inches of bees on my face and eyes. Time was allowed between colonies for each colony to calm down and settle before the next colony was applied. The end result was 74 pounds of bees, 3 pounds short of a Guinness World Record and about as many bees in the air as made up the cloak. The whole process took about one hour 45 minutes.



Journalists and photographers from all over Ohio were in attendance that most memorable date, the Space Shuttle in Florida was launching that day with live coverage, as the announcement of the Bee Cloak event was running across the bottom of the T.V. screens across the Nation and beyond… a day I will never forget, and all because of all the support from so many.

Beekeepers are the best,
Denzil





2026 Department 8, Bee Apiary Open Class Winners

Class 1 – Bees With Queen
1. Lorain County Beekeepers Association

Class 2 – Water White Honey
No Entries

Class 3 - Extra White Honey
1. Randy Leiby
2. Brad Barnett
3. Audrey Gargas

Class 4 - White Honey
1. Bradley Barnett
2. Randy Leiby
3. Cheri Keller

Class 5 - Extra Light Amber Honey
1. Randy Leiby
2. Ron Knapp
3. Vince Dubesa

Class 6 - Light Amber Honey
1. Brad Barnett
2. Kathy Beal
3. Jerry Hottel

Class 7 - Amber Honey
1. Kathy Beal
2. Michael Gergely
3. Audrey Gargas

Class 8 – Dark Amber
1. Michael Gergely

Class 9 - Herbal Honey w/Herb
1. Audrey Gargas
2. Dave Borling
3. Val Calderwood

Class 10 – Herbal Honey w/Oil
1. Audrey Gargas
2. Dave Borling
3. Christopher Kalogeras

Class 11 – Raw Honey
1. Audrey Gargas
2. Brad Barnett
3. Valerie Weiss

Class 12 - Creamed Honey
1. Christopher Kalogeras
2. Randy Leiby
3. Audrey Gargas

Class 13 - Flavored Creamed Honey
1. Audrey Gargas
2. Kim Funai
3. Val Calderwood

Class 14 – Chunk Honey
No Entries

Class 15 - Pollen
1. Denzil St. Clair
2. Valerie Weiss

Class 16 - Cut Comb Honey
1. Valerie Weiss
2. Brenda Grimmett
3. Audrey Gargas

Class 17 – Section Comb Honey
No Entries

Class 18 - Ross Round
No Entries

Class 19 – Extracting Frames 2 Deep
1. Valerie Weiss

Class 20 – Extracting Frames 2 Medium
1. Amanda Baus
2. Valerie Weiss

Class 21 - Extracting Frames 2 Shallow
No Entries

Best of Show, Class 1-21
Audrey Gargas

Class 22- Beeswax, Minimum 1 Lb
1. Michael Gergely
2. Randy Leiby
3. Dave Borling

Class 23 - Molded Beeswax
No Entries

Class 24 -Molded Beeswax Figurines (not molded)
No Entries

Class 25 - Candles Molded
1. Val Calderwood
2. Patty Weigel

Class 26 – Candles Dipped
1. Vince Dubesa

Class 27 – Candles, Other
No Entries

Best of Show, Class 22-27
Val Calderwood

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Bee Apiary Open Class Winners *continued*

Class 28 – Honey Candy
1. Denzil St. Clair
2. Tara Gottschling

Class 29 – Honey Cookies
1. Tara Gottschling
2. Amanda Baus

Class 30 – Honey Cake
1. Tara Gottschling

Class 31 – Honey Pie
1. Amanda Baus
2. Audrey Gargas

Class 32 – Honey Jelly Or Jams
1. Brenda Grimmett
2. Ron Knapp
3. Audrey Gargas

Class 33 – Fruit, Vegetable w/Honey
1. Audrey Gargas

Class 24 - Honey Bbq
1. Dave Borling
2. Patty Weigel
3. Audrey Gargas

Class 35 – Honey Mustard
1. Doreen Heinrichs

Class 36 – Honey Quick Bread
1. Audrey Gargas
2.
3. Tara Gottschling

Class 37 – Honey Yeast Bread, White
1. Rebecca Justen
2. Michelle Twining

Class 38 – Honey Yeast Bread, Wheat
1. Gil Eliason

Class 39 – Honey Yeast Bread Rolls
No Entries

Class 40 – Honey Grain Cereal
1. Karen Hottel
2. Audrey Gargas

Best Of Show, Class 28-40
Amanda Baus

Class 41 – Hand Cream
1. Audrey Gargas
2. Dave Borling
3. Ron Knapp

Class 42 – Lip Balm
1. Cheri Keller
2. Audrey Gargas
3. Doreen Heinrichs

Class 43 – Soap, Handmade
1. Audrey Gargas

Class 44 – Honey Gift Package
1. Audrey Gargas
2. Christopher Kalogeras

Class 45 – Honey Pot
1. Bren Leiby
2. Audrey Gargas
3. Vince Dubesa

Best Of Show, Class 41-45
Audrey Gargas

Beekeeper Association
1. LCBA

Educational Booth
1. LCBA
2. LCBA/Randy Leiby

Photography Class 1 - Honeybee Portrait
1. Grace Allbaugh
2. Doreen Hendrichs
3. Megan Schuttleworth

Photography Class 2 - Hive
1. Bri Kuchta
2. Bren Leiby
3. Brad Barnett

Photography, Class 3 - Beekeeping
1. Amy Gerber
2. Jerry Hottel
3. Vince Dubesa

Photography Class 4 – Honey Products
1. Bren Leiby
2. Vince Dubesa
3. Jerry Hottel

Photography Class 5 - Miscellaneous
1. Bren Leiby
2. Vince Dubesa
3. Brenda Grimmett

Best Of Show – Photography 1-5
Grace Allbaugh



LORAIN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The BUZZZZ Advertising Fees

Members can place classified ads—maximum 4 lines (approx. 3/4 in by 3 3/4 inch) for free on a one time basis. If the same ad places for more than 1 month, a fee will be charged. There is also a fee if the ad is larger than the size listed above. Ads will run in the newsletter which is posted on the LCBA website and distributed to our member circulation and billed for 12 issues.

Rates are as follows for ads provided by customer *LCBA Officers reserve the right, at their sole discretion, to change, modify, add, or delete all or portions of ads for content. Terms and policies to change. Information posted is a courtesy to LCBA Members and/or a paid advertisement for business entities. LCBA does not endorse or guarantee quality or pricing.

Full page - $25.00 per month/issue

1/2 page ad - $18.00 per month/issue

1/4 page ad - $12.00 per month/issue

1/8 page ad - $10.00 per month/issue

Questions? Contact Marilyn
(440)355-4419
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Our Mission

To Promote Beekeeping through Education, Cooperation and Any Other Efficient Means

Located in Lorain County, Ohio, LCBA was founded in 1919 as a non-profit organization committed to edu-cating the public about the value of honeybees and the impact honeybees have on our world. We provide educational appearances upon request to schools and groups. LCBA encourages and mentors beginning beekeepers through scholarship programs for students along with adult education.

Monthly Meetings

When: 2nd Friday of each month
7:00 - 9:30 PM

Where: Life Church
1033 Elm Street, Grafton, OH 44044

Did you know donations to Lorain County Beekeepers Association are tax deductible?

Lorain County Beekeepers Association is now a 501c(3) organization. Any donations made to LCBA are now tax deductible!

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ncwcom
www.ncwcom.com

LORAIN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

PREPARE FOR SPRING.

PROTECT THEM NOW.



PLANNING TO GROW YOUR APIARY?

Adding colonies?

Reserve your 2027 package bees with QRC now and be ready to hit the ground buzzing this spring!

FIVE GENERATIONS. STILL DOING BEES RIGHT.



WINTER IS COMING.

Don't let your bees be surprised.

Hurry in and get your winter supplies. Shop QRC today and give your colonies a strong start to winter!

Queen Right Colonies®

440-647-2602 • queenrightcolonies.com

From winter prep to spring packages, Queen Right Colonies has been helping beekeepers keep bees and build colonies for five generations.

Executive Board Members and Trustees

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> A strong beekeeping community is like a healthy hive—everyone has a role, everyone contributes, and together we accomplish far more than we could alone.
>
> — Written for the 20th Anniversary Celebration

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