

# THE HONEYBEE TIMES

## HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

Well, December sure came roaring in, one minute we had nice weather and then snow the next. I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend our December meeting. Shelly Bodkin gave a nice demonstration on soap making using bees wax and the pot luck dinner was a great hit again as usual. Thanks to Barbara and everyone who made the evening festive. We held our election for officers, and I would like to welcome Shannon Warder on board as our new secretary. Carol Gedeon as Treasurer, Denzil St. Clair as Trustee, Jef Collins is our new Vice President and I retain title s President. Karin Wishner and Barbara Krecic retain the titles of Trustee.

Hopefully, everyone was prepared for winter. Now is the time to check your hives, make sure the entrance is not covered up with snow, and then take a rod with a hook on it to remove the dead bees from the bottom of your hive. This is just normal procedure for housekeeping. Do not take the telescoping top off yet because of the temperature - too cold. So remember with any snowfall to check your entrances. I've been going through my equipment and making a list of things I need and repairing other pieces.

The plans for our first ever Bee Conference are moving along quite nicely. We'll be coming to our membership for help in every way possible, much like workers in a hive so stay tuned. Our guest speaker for January is Don Downs, and his subject is Apitherapy, something I'm greatly interested in because of all my aches and pains. Then February comes along and the Beginning Beekeeper's Classes start. It's always interesting to watch everyone's faces and to see the awe and amazement that they encounter much like my first time.

Well, I need to go and get another cup of tea, which is something I've grown quite fond of as I sit and watch the snow fall and ponder how this year will work out for our hives. Good or bad, it is going to be interesting, so until I see you at the next meeting, enjoy!

Dennis

### OFFICERS

#### President

Dennis Eck  
[denscritters@yahoo.com](mailto:denscritters@yahoo.com)

#### Vice President

Jeff Collins  
[jcollins2fan@yahoo.com](mailto:jcollins2fan@yahoo.com)

#### Secretary

Shannon Warder  
[shan.warder@gmail.com](mailto:shan.warder@gmail.com)

#### Treasurer

Carol Gedeon  
[cgedeon@en.com](mailto:cgedeon@en.com)

### TRUSTEES

Karin Wishner  
[beeznthhood@gmail.com](mailto:beeznthhood@gmail.com)

Barbara Krecic  
[barbarakrecic@gmail.com](mailto:barbarakrecic@gmail.com)

Denzil St. Clair  
[qrcltd@hughes.net](mailto:qrcltd@hughes.net)

Web Master  
Melissa O'Grady  
[melissaogrady@ymail.com](mailto:melissaogrady@ymail.com)

Editor: Barbara Krecic  
[greaterclevelandbeekeepers.buzz@gmail.com](mailto:greaterclevelandbeekeepers.buzz@gmail.com)

GCBA Website:  
[greaterclevelandbeekeepers.org](http://greaterclevelandbeekeepers.org)

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## The Five Habits of Highly Effective Hives

Thursday November 11, 2010 Harvard Business Review by Thomas Seeley

### How the hive makes its most important decision

One of the popular misconceptions about honey bees is that their lives are ruled by a queen — or perhaps by even some more fanciful system. But in the forty years that I've spent studying bees, I've learned that their colonies are remarkably complex, in many ways comparable to an animal brain, despite being individually quite simple. And every year, faced with the life-or-death problem of choosing a new home, honey bees stake everything on a process that includes collective fact-finding, vigorous debate, and consensus building. It is a democratic process that humans — especially office drones — might do well to emulate.

When a beehive becomes overpopulated, usually in the late spring or early summer, some two-thirds of the workers and the old queen, often up to 10,000 bees in total, leave home in a swarm and gather on a nearby tree branch in a beard-shaped cluster. From there, a few hundred scout bees, which are often the bees that have the most experience with the world beyond the hive, take off in all directions, searching for tree cavities. The ideal space for a new hive can be difficult to find: the opening should be small, about 10 meters off the ground, and lead to a 40-liter cavity inside a sturdy, living tree. Each scout that discovers a promising site inspects it to see if it is suitably roomy and secure, and then returns to the cluster to announce her find by performing a [waggle dance](#). The dance indicates both the location and the quality of the site.

As the scouts report on their respective sites, other scouts observe and follow the directions to the indicated locations. (The direction of the waggle dance shows the direction of the new location relative to the angle of the sun, and the duration of each circuit of the dance indicates distance — I told you this was complicated!) Each scout inspects the site she navigated to and if she agrees that is a desirable dwelling place, she too performs a waggle dance when she returns to the swarm.

Bees are thoroughly honest advertisers. The better she judges the site, the longer she dances, and the more effective she is in recruiting other scouts to make their own forays to the spot. This means that, despite the competing information that scouts bring back to the swarm, eventually, usually over a day or two, enough scouts will agree on the best site to cause them to induce the rest of the swarm to fly there.

Even though an individual bee is not particularly intelligent, the collective intelligence of the group produces impressive results. Almost always — about 90 percent of the time in my experiments — the swarm chooses the best of the options it has found.

### What we can learn from the hive

For millions of years, the scouts on honey bee swarms have faced the task of selecting proper homes. Evolution by natural selection has structured these insect search committees so that they make the best possible decisions. What works well for bee swarms can also work well for human groups. We can learn from the bees the following five guidelines for achieving a high collective IQ. *(continued page 3)*

1. **Remind the group's members of their shared interests and foster mutual respect, so they work together productively.** The scout bees know instinctually that their interests are aligned toward choosing the optimal home site, so they work together as a team. There are no clashing curmudgeons in a bee swarm.
2. **Explore diverse solutions to the problem, to maximize the group's likelihood of uncovering an excellent option.** The scout bees search far and wide to discover a broad assortment of possible living quarters.
3. **Aggregate the group's knowledge through a frank debate.** Use the power of a fair and open competition to distinguish good options from bad ones. The scout bees rely on a turbulent debate among groups supporting different options to identify a winner. Whichever group first attracts sufficient supporters wins the debate.
4. **Minimize the leader's influence on the group's thinking.** By functioning as an impartial moderator rather than a proselytizing boss, a leader enables his group to use its combined knowledge and brainpower. The scout bees have no dominating leader and so can take a broad and deep look at their options.
5. **Balance interdependence (information sharing) and independence (absence of peer pressure) among the group's members.** Only if ideas are shared publicly but evaluated privately will the group be good at exploring its options and making good choices. Scout bees share freely the news of their finds, but each one makes her own, independent decision of whether or not to support a site.

I've used these methods in running my own groups, and they can be remarkably effective at building consensus and producing good decisions. Let the bees show you that with the right organization, democratic groups can be *best of the options it has found*.

[Thomas Seeley](#) is a Professor of Biology in Cornell University's [Department of Neurobiology and Behavior](#). He's the author of three books: *The Wisdom of the hive -The Social Physiology of Honey Bee Colonies*; *Honeybee Ecology – A Study of Adaptation in Social Life* and most recently [Honeybee Democracy](#). **Dr. Seeley is the featured speaker for GCBA's first North East Ohio Honeybee Conference and Field Day this spring.**

## North East Ohio Honeybee Conference!

GCBA will be hosting the first ever honeybee conference May 21 at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Seeley has agreed to be our featured speaker.

GCBA Trustee, Karin Wishner, has taken on the role of organizer for this conference - THANK YOU KARIN!

As you can well imagine, a conference of this size will require many, many worker bees and drones for this to be a success. Currently the planning committee is seeking Coordinators for the following committees: Volunteer Coordinator; Door Prize/Raffle Coordinator; Food (continental breakfast) Coordinator. Volunteers are needed for: The Bee Yard - see Denizil and Sheila; Set-up and Tear Down - see Dennis; Registration - see Valerie Eck. Advertising Committee Members are also needed - see Shannon Warder Chair.

We have a need for a map maker to draw a map of the local eateries during our lunch break. You need not be an expert! Please step up as we expect folks from all over Ohio to attend this conference.

Much planning is taking place now for this event. Please consider this a call from the hive for help. It will take all of us to make this a memorable event hopefully one that will be recurring for a long, long time. If you wish to be part of the planning committee contact Karin her email is [beeznthhood@gmail.com](mailto:beeznthhood@gmail.com). All help is graciously accepted!

## What Do You Know?

By Clarence H. Collison

*Reprinted with permission from the A.I. Root Company (Publisher)*

1. (True or False) \_\_\_\_\_ Foragers are able to distinguish between sweet, salty, sour and bitter tastes.
2. (True or False) \_\_\_\_\_ Throughout the winter honey bees maintain a similar, relatively constant temperature in the center of the winter cluster.
3. (True or False) \_\_\_\_\_ Bees begin to form the winter cluster when the temperature drops below freezing.

### Answers:

1. **True** Honey bees are similar to man in that they can distinguish four qualities of taste: sweet, bitter, salty, and sour.
2. **False** The temperature in the center of the winter cluster varies considerably depending on whether the colony is raising brood or not. The temperature inside the broodless winter cluster varies between 20 and 30 degrees C. When brood rearing is resumed the temperature inside the brood rearing cluster is maintained constantly at approximately 34 degrees C.
3. **False** When the temperature of the air immediately surrounding the bee reaches 57 degrees F (14 degrees C) the cluster becomes well defined. The colder the temperature, the more compact the cluster becomes.

**FYI** - Clarence Collison is the featured speaker for Lorain County Beekeepers Association's Field Day, May 14, 2011!

## GCBA NEWS

### January's Speaker

**Apitherapy** - Don Down speaks on "The many medicinal uses of Bee products: pollen, honey, propolis and venom. Donald Downs, of Wellington, Ohio, has been a beekeeper for 47 years while practicing apitherapy for 30 of those years. He presently has over 40 hives that are cared for without the use of herbicides or pesticides. All of his foundation is home made from their own wax. He produces honey, pollen, beeswax hand cream, and propolis tincture. He uses apitherapy to help individuals with MS, cancer, Parkinson's, arthritis, and other various ailments. He is also known for treating people and pets with unusual conditions. He also takes a special interest in producing his own vinegar. He is our local forefather of organic bee keeping. He is currently a board member of the American Apitherapy Society and a member for sixteen. He is also a member of the Lorain County Beekeepers Association. He has attended and presented at a number of beekeeping and apitherapy conferences both locally and world wide. Donald has been happily married to Norma for 49 years. They have 7 wonderful children and 19 precious grandchildren. He owns DAD's Electric and has been an electrical contractor for the last 38 years.

### HOSPITALITY

Judy Ockuly is our Hospitality Chair. She can be reached at: [GCBAhospitality@gmail.com](mailto:GCBAhospitality@gmail.com). Coffee and tea will be provided by GCBA. Please help Judy by contributing. Many folks come right from work without eating dinner. We like to provide a little something until they go home. Plus it's fun! Watch for themed meetings! A sign up sheet will be provided in the kitchen or you can email her direct. Thank you Judy!

### QUICK RECOVERY

GCBA sends thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery to Sheila St. Clair who is recovering from a broken leg. May she become stronger and healthier than ever!

**Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association**

Meeting Minutes

*December 8, 2010*

*Board Members Present: President Dennis Eck; Vice-President Denzil St. Clair; Treasurer Amy Gasbarre; Secretary Valerie Eck; Newsletter Editor & Trustee Barbara Krecic*

*Next meeting: January 12, 2011 7:00 p.m. Rocky River Nature Center*

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The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. and was attended by 33 people.

Dennis Eck welcomed everyone. This was GCBA's annual potluck dinner. Everyone was invited to begin serving themselves dinner and take time to socialize.

The speaker for the evening was SHelly Bodkin. She demonstrated the technique of soap making. Her presentation covered soap making from the start to finish including safety tips on working with lye. This was followed by a question and answer period. Thanks to Shelly for a very informative lecture.

The annual election was held for open GCBA Board Member positions for the year 2011. Election results are as follows:

President - Dennis Eck

Vice President - Jeff Collins

Secretary - Shannon Warder

Treasurer - Carol Gedeon

Trustee - Denzil St. Clair

The 50/50 raffle of \$18.00 was won by Bruce Sampsell. Bruce generously donated his winnings back to GCBA. Thank you Bruce.

Also, we greatly appreciate Barbara Krecic orchestrating the lovely holiday decor for the tables.

**Upcoming Events:**

- The speaker for the January meeting will be **Don Downs**. His topic will be **Apitherapy**.
- Reminder: **Beginning Beekeepers Classes** will take place each Wednesday in February at the Rocky River Nature Center. All members are encouraged to attend - no cost to renewing members.
- The speaker for March is Denzil St. Clair. His topic is Bee Biology 101.
- LCBA's Field Day - May 14th, 2011 at Queen Right Colonies. Featured speaker - **Clarence Collison**.
- GCBA's First Annual Bee Conference - May 21, 2011 at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association					
Financial Statements					
	YTD		PTD	PTD	PTD
			9/30/10	10/31/10	11/30/10
					12/31/10
<b>Income Statement</b>					
Revenue					
Membership Renewals	840.00				100.00
New Member Dues	2,195.00		40.00	40.00	100.00
Equipment/Bee Raffle	485.00				
50/50 Raffle	427.50		30.00	26.00	17.50
Other Revenue	288.00				50.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>4,235.50</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>70.00</b>	<b>66.00</b>	<b>167.50</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Class Expenses	(372.00)				
Speaker	(325.00)		(50.00)	(50.00)	(50.00)
Bank Fees	-				
Club G&A Expenses	(1,148.93)		(200.46)		(85.00)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(1,845.93)</b>		<b>(250.46)</b>	<b>(50.00)</b>	<b>(85.00)</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>2,389.57</b>		<b>(180.46)</b>	<b>16.00</b>	<b>82.50</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>					
	YTD		9/30/10	10/31/10	11/30/10
					12/31/10
Cash	3,970.01		3,859.75	3,875.75	3,958.25
Petty Cash	200.00		200.00	200.00	200.00
	4,170.01		4,059.75	4,075.75	4,158.25
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>4,170.01</b>		<b>4,059.75</b>	<b>4,075.75</b>	<b>4,158.25</b>
AR (AP)	-				
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Current Year Net Income	(2,389.57)	-	(2,279.31)	(2,295.31)	(2,377.81)
Retained Earnings	(1,780.44)		(1,780.44)	(1,780.44)	(1,780.44)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>(4,170.01)</b>		<b>(4,059.75)</b>	<b>(4,075.75)</b>	<b>(4,158.25)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>(4,170.01)</b>		<b>(4,059.75)</b>	<b>(4,075.75)</b>	<b>(4,158.25)</b>



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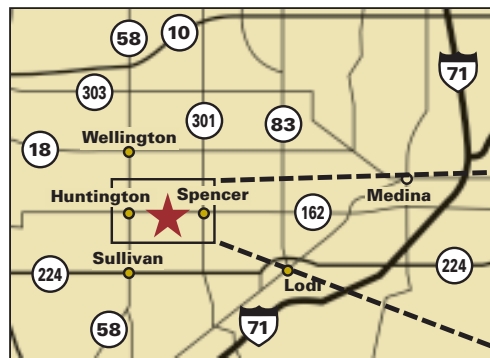
[www.queenrightcolonies.com](http://www.queenrightcolonies.com)

**STORE HOURS:**

**Monday - Saturday**  
*(March 1 - Oct 31)*

**10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**(Closed Sundays)**

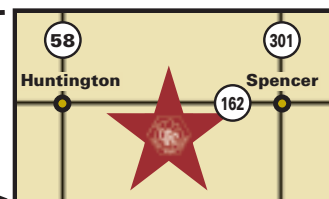


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# GREATER CLEVELAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

**2011 Membership Renewal**

\$20.00/family

**2011 Beekeeping Classes**

\$45.00/family

February 2,9,16 & 23 7 - 9pm

Membership and book "*Beekeeping For Dummies*" included

**Classes and meetings take place at the Rocky River Nature Center, 24000  
Valley Parkway North Olmsted, Ohio 44070**

Please check one:

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Beekeeping Classes \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Only \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

All correspondences will be sent via email. Please include yours. This will never be shared with others. All information is confidential.

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE PAID \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ CASH \_\_\_\_\_

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**Membership and class registration can be done in person at any meeting (second  
Wednesday of every month) or mailed to: GCBA P.O. Box 112104 Cleveland, Ohio  
44111**