



**Beginner Beekeeping Classes -  
Please share!**



Summit County Beekeepers Association, Inc. is offering its annual Beginning Beekeeper classes in February. There will be three ZOOM sessions and two sessions in person.

**\$95 per individual  
\$125 per family**

**February 11 - 8:00 AM-12:30 PM  
February 18 - 8:00 AM-12:30 PM  
February 25 - 8:00 AM-12:30 PM**

Two additional in-person sessions will be offered in April and May (TBA)

**To register, please visit  
<https://summitbeekeepers.com>**

**Upcoming Events  
Dr. Kaira Wagoner**

**January 19th @ 7:00 - 8:30 pm**

Zoom along and learn about 'hygienic behavior' (bees have resistance to Varroa) and unique ways to measure their resistance to mites and disease. Listen to Dr. Kaira Wagoner discuss her latest research at UNCG and what's in the queue for the future...

**[Sign up here](#)**



**Inside the hive in January**

*By Robert Najjar  
president@summitbeekeepers.com*

The winter solstice was on Dec. 21st. The bees detect that the days are getting longer and the queen starts to lay 10-50 eggs per day to replenish the hive with fresh new bees.

You will find dead bees at the entrance. While it is sad, it is a good sign that your hive is alive. When warm, bees will take the opportunity to drag their dead sisters outside the hive to keep their colony free of diseases. So, rejoice when you see a few dead bees on the porch. Your colony is alive.

Jan and Feb will bring a lot of snow in NE Ohio. The entrance is often covered with snow. Hopefully you left an upper entrance for the bees to perform their cleansing flights. If not, make sure to keep the entrance clean after a storm to allow the bees to fly in and out.

Check the weight of your hive. It would not hurt to open the top of your hive and take a peek to see if they have enough food to take them through the winter. Add winter patties or

simply place a newspaper on top of the frames and add some granulated sugar. The last thing you want to do is have your bees die from starvation. Do not feed pollen at this time as it could fool them into thinking that Spring is here.

I always take an opportunity when the temperature is over 45 in January to treat my colonies. Since the capped brood is minimal, the OA vapor is very effective. Also, some may use the OA dribble method to rid the bees of any mites after their fall treatments. Do not treat more than once in January.

When cold, bees will cluster to maintain the 80-90 degree temperature of the cluster (not the hive). The bees in the middle of the cluster will vibrate their wings to generate the heat, while their sisters on the outside cluster together tightly to trap the heat inside. When the bees on the outside get cold, they will move to the inside of the cluster to get warm and start generating heat while the bees in the center will move outward.

**Officers, Trustees and Volunteers**

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## Beekeeper of the Month



### John Irvine

A lucky raffle ticket got John Irvine into the world of beekeeping – and he has not looked back.

“My brother gave my father a book on bees, and neither of them read it, but I did and found out about a meeting in Cuyahoga Falls. I went, bought one raffle ticket, and won a package of bees and a queen,” he said. “When I got home, my wife asked what I was going to do with them, and I said take a class and buy equipment.”

John soon found himself serving as president of the Summit County Beekeeper’s Association and has had two hives in Cuyahoga Falls for a dozen years. “I started with one and realized two was better. This was before the city restricted you to just two hives.” He said the most challenging part of beekeeping is treating hives for varroa mites. “I lost both hives last year and I don’t know if this year will survive but I will buy new bees and keep up with it if I have to.”

His most rewarding aspect of beekeeping is giving the honey away. “I only sold it once,” he said. “The bees give it to me, so I give it to others.”

I am a volunteer with the national park and enjoy sharing the honey with other volunteers. People really appreciate it.”

As an active member of the association, John has been keen to mentor new beekeepers and he encourages

members to take part in meetings. “Information exchange is the key,” he said. “If you have a question and ask three beekeepers, you will get three different answers and they will all be right.”

## Recipe of the Month

### Yummy Honey Mustard Dipping Sauce

This honey mustard recipe is an awesome blend of mustard with a wonderful hint of honey. Recipe by

JILLENA

Prep Time: 5 mins

Additional Time: 8 hrs

Total Time: 8 hrs

Yield: 3/4 cup

#### Ingredients

½ cup mayonnaise

2 tablespoons honey

2 tablespoons prepared yellow mustard

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

½ tablespoon lemon juice

#### Directions

- Mix mayonnaise, honey, mustard, and lemon juice together in a bowl.
- Cover and chill in the refrigerator overnight.

#### Nutrition Facts

Per serving: calories 159; total fat 15g ; saturated fat 2g ; cholesterol 7mg ; sodium 225mg ; total carbohydrate 7g ; dietary fiber 0g ; total sugars 6g ; protein 0g ; vitamin c 1mg ; calcium 5mg ; iron 0mg ; potassium 15mg.

*Have a favorite honey or other bee product recipe you'd like to share? Send it to [newsletter@summitbeekeepers.com](mailto:newsletter@summitbeekeepers.com)*