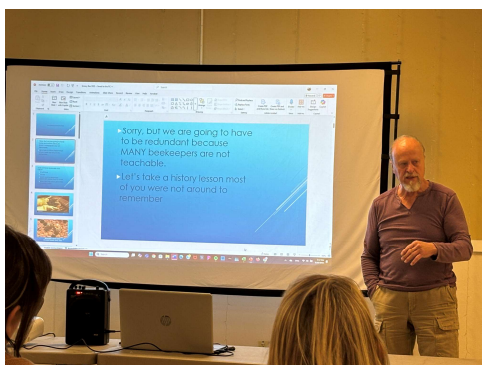




The Honey Bee Times

October 2025



The September meeting featured Denzil St. Clair talking about Acute Bee Paralysis Virus AKA “greasy bee disease.” This virus, like most virus’ that affect honeybees is mainly transmitted by Varroa mites. It’s suspected that this virus is responsible for the losses sustained this last winter, mainly by commercial beekeepers. Continued use by commercial beekeepers of Apivar, which has been shown to have less of an effect on varroa due to them developing resistance to the product.

Many beekeepers depend on mite counts to determine if they have a mite problem, but these counts can be inaccurate for many reasons. Therefore, it’s recommended that beekeepers follow a scheduled preventative program with Formic acid (Formic Pro) and Oxalic acid (vapor or dribble) during the year, each at the appropriate time.

Denzil also stressed the importance of really looking at your bees closely. Look for deformed or ragged wings and bees with their wings out-stretched (K-wing), and looking for bees that have a bare thorax or dark colorization on their abdomen not matching the other bees giving them a “greasy” appearance. Preventative measures include the above treatment program and feeding your bees microbials to maintain a healthy and strong hive.

The October meeting will be Dave Borling, a long time beekeeper, talking about getting your colonies ready for winter and will be held Wednesday, October 8th at seven pm in building 25 at the fairgrounds.

- ♦ Deformed wing Virus
- ♦ Sac Brood Virus
- ♦ Paralysis Virus

What is the next outbreak?

What are Microbials (Probiotics?)

Microbials or probiotics are friendly little microbes—like good bacteria and maybe some yeasts—that, when given in the right amounts, help keep their host healthy. For honeybees, probiotics are basically those helpful bugs introduced to keep the whole hive feeling its best.

Bees have their own version of a “gut squad”—a community of microorganisms living in their digestive system, called their microbiota. These microbes help bees digest food, absorb nutrients, fight off diseases, and stay strong against unfriendly germs. But stress, pesticides, or poor nutrition can mess with this balance, making bees weaker and more likely to get sick.

Probiotics for honeybees are live, helpful microorganisms that keep bees’ guts healthy, build their immunity, and defend against disease. They’re becoming a popular tool in beekeeping to help bees stay strong and thrive.

September Beekeeping Class

The September beekeeping class was held on a beautiful late summer Saturday at the fairgrounds. Sharing their knowledge and experience were Adam Price, Mike Alonso, and Eric Manthey. As a reminder, this class as well as the Spring classes are open to all members who are current with their membership.



Association Elections

Any organization is only as strong as it's leadership, and it's leadership is only as strong as it's membership.

Here are some excerpts from the bylaws of the Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association (GCBA) A complete version of the bylaws is available on the Association's website under "About."

Members in good standing are encouraged to submit their names in November for any of the offices that will be available.

Article 3: Meetings, Section 3: Annual Meeting

An Annual Meeting of the Membership will be held in December of each year. The purpose of the annual meeting is to:

- Elect Board Members
- Provide members with a state of the organization and financial review
- Discuss goals for the coming year
- Conduct other necessary GCBA business as appropriate

Article IV: The Board

Section 2: Composition of the Board

The Board will consist of eight individuals consisting of four elected officers, three elected directors, and the immediate Past President. If the current President is reelected for a second term, the previous Past President will continue to fill the position of the Past President and perform the duty stated in the By-Laws.

Section 3: Eligibility

Each elected member of the Board must be a member of GCBA. Should an elected member of the Board fail to pay annual dues during their term in a timely manner that person will cease to serve in the office held, and their vacancy will be filled by an interim appointment.

Section 4: Officers of the Board

Officers of the Board shall be (in descending order of authority): President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past President.

Section 5: Terms of Office

The Directors shall consist of three GCBA members each serving three years in staggered rotation with one Director elected each year at the annual meeting in December. Directors shall have full voting privileges. All other Board Members are elected annually at December meetings. A person will not be eligible to hold multiple board positions simultaneously.

Section 6: Election Qualifications

A. Election of Board Members will occur at the annual meeting of the membership in December of each year by written ballot.

B. Any member may run for elected position with the following qualifications:

- Candidates for any office must be members of the current year
- All candidates must attend at least six general membership meetings in the current year

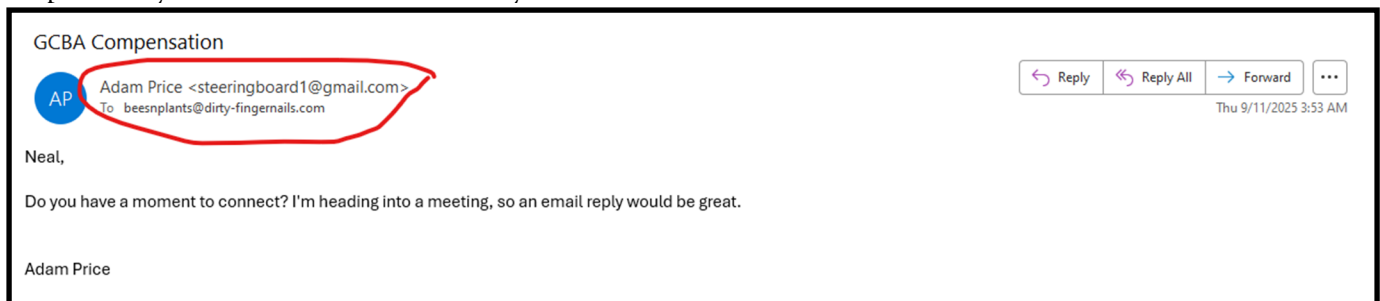
C. Board Members shall assume the duties of their respective positions for a term of one year, commencing January 1st, following their election and shall officiate at the January meeting.

Email Scams

I probably get one of these emails a week purporting to be from Adam Price. If I responded to this, the person would ask me to purchase some sort of gift card so they could pay someone quickly. These emails contain several social engineering points such as-

- 1 Appearing to come from someone you know (in this case Adam Price)
- 2 Creating a sense of urgency based on that connection (I'm in a bind and I need you to act right now)
- 3 A spoofed email address (not Adam's email address)

Please know that none of the officers of the GCBA would ever ask you to do something like this. These scams can come from anyone that may be associated with you, so be vigilant and even if it seems legitimate, contact the person by an alternate means to verify it's a scam.



How to make sugar syrup (or math can be so confusing!)

We're getting into the time of year when a lot of new beekeepers get confused about making sugar syrup and the ratios of sugar to water when they are mixing the various formulas, (1:1, 2:1, etc.) I know that most of you haven't used Algebra since high school, but this is going to be simple math.

It's easy when you understand a few things. Water weighs 8.3 lbs. per gallon and sugar from the grocery store comes mainly in 4 lb. bags. So, two bags of sugar to a gallon of water (the bees won't care about the .3 lbs.) will give you a 1:1 syrup and 4 bags to a gallon will give you 2:1.

Mixing the sugar with very hot water will make it go quicker, (there's that Chemistry class you slept through) but you don't want to boil the syrup. Rather you should heat the water, or use the hottest tap water you have, and mix the syrup in a large container.

You may find it hard to achieve the true 2:1 ratio, but a slightly smaller ratio will be fine and again, the bees won't mind. Mix the syrup and let it stand for a while or overnight and there may be some undissolved sugar at the bottom, but that can be used for your next batch.

What's that smell?

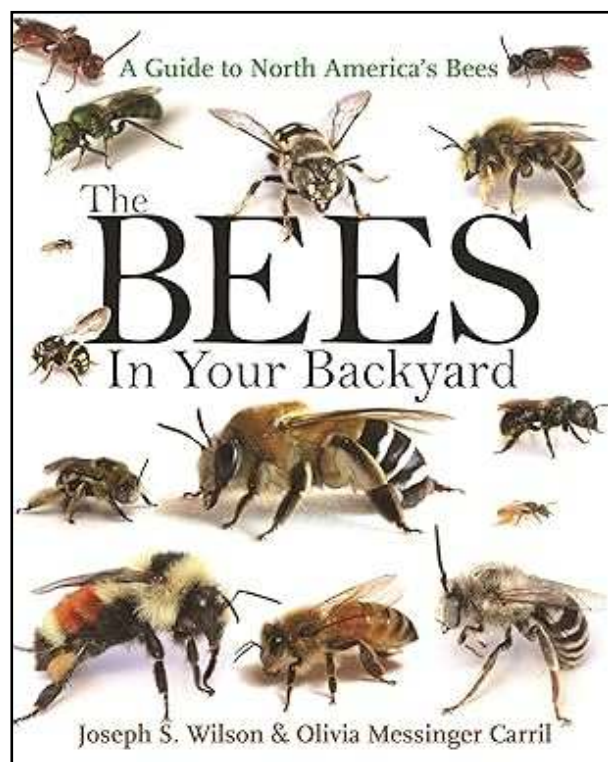
First year beekeepers may be noticing a peculiar odor emanating from their hives. Often described as "dirty socks" or "caramel corn," it's the smell of Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.) nectar being ripened into honey. There are many varieties of Goldenrod and they are often blamed for fall allergies. The real allergy culprit however is ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) which is also blooming, although not as visibly as goldenrod. Goldenrod pollen is heavier and not carried by the wind as ragweed pollen is. Goldenrod honey yield can be unreliable, but it can fetch a premium price due to its taste and allergy fighting reputation.

Beekeepers Bookshelf

If you've ever wondered about those other buzzing visitors besides honeybees in your garden, "The Bees in Your Backyard: A Guide to North America's Bees" by Joseph S. Wilson and Olivia Messinger Carril is the perfect place to start. This book is a friendly, down-to-earth guide for anyone curious about the wide world of bees in North America, not just the well-known honeybee.

Instead of diving straight into heavy science, the authors kick things off with basic bee facts, covering everything from bee biology to why bees matter so much. As you get further into the book, it becomes a handy resource for figuring out which bees you might spot nearby, with easy-to-follow keys, maps, and loads of clear, colorful photos.

One thing that really stands out about this guide is how visually appealing it is. The photos are great and make it much easier to tell bees apart (which, let's be honest, isn't always easy). The writing is straightforward and approachable—no need for a biology degree to enjoy or understand it.



The book takes a look at more than 4,000 different bee species across North America and gives you the scoop on their habits and favorite hangouts. There's even a section to help you tell bees from lookalikes like flies or wasps. Plus, you'll find tons of practical advice on how to spot bees, what to plant to attract them, and how to help them thrive in your own backyard.

All in all, "The Bees in Your Backyard" is a good guide for anyone looking to get to know the other bees buzzing around outside. It makes learning about these important pollinators easy and enjoyable whether, besides being a beekeeper, you're a gardener, a student, or just curious about the nature around you.

This month in the bee yard

The cool weather from August continued into September. Fall flowers such as Asters, Ironweed, Golden Rod and Joe Pye weed are blooming, but we haven't had much rain, so it looks like it'll be another year without a significant fall nectar flow. Honey supers should be off by the end of the month. Winter preparations should be under way. Look for colonies that may be weak and take steps to get them stronger, or possibly combine them with stronger colonies. Check for stores, and feed them if necessary with 2:1 syrup (see the article elsewhere about sugar syrup.) Treating the bees with a product like Super DFM won't hurt and will help you have strong bees going into winter.

Watch for robbing behavior, new beekeepers can confuse this with orientation flights, but the robbing bees will not be flying figure eights in front of the hive but will be flying straight into the hive, and trying any gaps in the supers as well as congesting around the entrance.



October Honey Recipe

Honey Roasted Apples and Cream

Recipe by Chef Charles Heaton

Serves 2

This recipe is a grilled, apple variation of “Peaches and Cream”. It makes a simple dessert, reminiscent of apple pie.

Serve them warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream or allow the ice cream to melt for an easy classic vanilla sauce that creates a delicious contrasting flavor, dessert.



Ingredients

2 Honeycrisp or Fuji apples

3 Tbsp unsalted butter, melted

2 Tbsp brown sugar

1 Tsp ground cinnamon

1 Tbsp Honey, for drizzling

1/4 Tsp Vanilla

Vanilla ice cream frozen or melted to accompany.

Procedure:

1. **Prepare the apples:** Wash the apples and slice them into 1/2 to 3/4-inch thick rounds, removing the core and seeds.
2. **Heat the grill:** Preheat a gas or charcoal grill to medium heat (about 350–400°F). Clean and oil the grates to prevent sticking.
3. **Grill the apples:** In a small bowl, mix the melted butter with the brown sugar and cinnamon. Toss well to spread mixture over all parts of the apple slices.
4. Combine honey and vanilla separately.
5. **Cook:** Place the apples on the hot grill. Cook for ~4–5 minutes per side, or until they are tender with visible grill marks. Thinner slices will cook faster.
6. **Serve:** Remove the warm grilled apples from the heat.
7. Toss with honey/vanilla mixture.

Arrange them on serving dishes, drizzle with honey, and top with a scoop of vanilla ice cream or the vanilla cream sauce.

Enjoy!



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Director: Charles Heaton, charlesheaton@mac.com

Fair Committee Chair: Rolly Platten

Hospitality Coordinator: Jan Petrek, jpetrek@hotmail.com

Mission Statement

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