



# ***The Honey Bee Times***

***September, 2025***

Well that's another Cuyahoga County Fair in the books. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to be at the club's display. There were many prize winning entries in the honey show by club members and other long time local beekeepers. One of the big winners was new club member and first year beekeeper, Cassie Bancroft with her blue ribbon winning frames of honey. Everyone who entered this year's fair was a winner, though.

Our Fall one day beekeeping class will be held on Saturday, September 20th. There were many inquiries about classes at the fair. So if you know anyone who might be interested in the beekeeping "bug," share this with them, or direct them to our website.

The regular club meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10th, 7 pm in the bee barn as usual, but weather permitting there will be inspections in the bee yard at 6:30.





Lots of entries in this year's fair. Congratulations to all the ribbon winners!

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## GCBA Merchandise is available-

Check out the GCBA Store at the link below for cool threads that will have you looking great and supporting the GCBA. You can find it on our website under the "More" tab or just click on the link in this article. Several styles are available to compliment your individual look from tees to hoodies.

<https://rycosportslw.com/businesses/greater-cleveland-bee-keepers-association/>





# September '25 Honey Recipe

## Freddie Wheeler's Hot Honey Barbecue Sauce

This recipe is in honor of classic Cleveland barbecue legend Freddie Wheeler of Freddy's Southern Style Rib House, 159th and St. Clair.

Gone but not forgotten.



Recipe provided by Chef Charles Heaton as published in the book: Black Smoke by Adrian Miller

Makes 1-1/2 qt.

### Ingredients:

- 1 29 oz. can tomato sauce.
- 1/4 cup yellow mustard
- 2 cups water.
- 1 cup cider vinegar
- 1 cup honey
- 1/3 cup light brown sugar.
- 1 large, yellow onion, 1/8" dice
- Juice, one lemon
- 1 tablespoon coarse, ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon chili powder.
- 2 teaspoons red pepper flakes

### Procedure:

1. Combine tomato sauce and mustard and sauce pan.
2. Stir in remaining ingredients.
3. Bring to a simmer.
4. Simmer on low for approximately one hour. Stair occasionally adjust seasonings as needed.

Enjoy!

## This month in the bee yard

We had some cool weather the last week of August and into the beginning of September, perfect weather for doing a formic treatment if you haven't already. Fall flowers such as Asters, Ironweed, Golden Rod and Joe Pye weed are starting to bloom. 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. 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.

Strong Microbials, makers of Super DFM have created a 5 day email course on bee colony survival. You can subscribe to it at <https://beecolonysurvivalcrashcourse.com/>.

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*Ohio State Beekeepers Association*

# 2025 Fall Conference

October 24-25 at Mid-Ohio Conference Center in Mansfield Ohio



## Hands On Labs!!

- Mead Making Lab
- Dissection Lab
- Wax Lab

## Join us for Fellowship, Education and Shopping!

## Get Your Tickets Now:

[OhioStateBeekeepers.org/Fall-Conference/](https://OhioStateBeekeepers.org/Fall-Conference/)

## Vendors:

**Bee Culture**  
The Magazine of American Beekeeping



**Stony Acres Bee Supply**



**Combs Bee Farm**  
Pure Local Honey & Beeswax  
Bee Equipment & Handmade Soap



**Merrie Lane Honey**



## Speakers:

- Dr. Chia Lin	- Frederick Dunn
- Dr. Jim Tew	- Tracy Farone
- Dr. Tammy Horn Potter	- Michelle Wallace
- Dr. Reed Johnson	- Theresa Martin
- OSU Students	- Jeff Gabric
- Barb Bloetscher	- John Grafton



# Acute Bee Paralysis Virus

There has been much media coverage of the large losses of colonies by commercial beekeepers this last winter. One of the primary causes this round, Acute Bee Paralysis Virus, can be attributed to mite resistance to the product Amitraz in commercial beekeeping. This shows the need to use other miticides so that varroa mites don't develop resistance to these products. Beekeepers also need to adopt an even more stringent approach to mite control than is currently recommended. Beekeepers need to get away from mite counts as a method to determine the need for mite control and adapt to a more prophylactic approach to mite control.

Acute honeybee paralysis is one of several viral diseases that affect adult honeybees (*Apis mellifera*). It is primarily caused by the Acute Bee Paralysis Virus (ABPV), which belongs to the Iflavirus genus. The virus is known for its ability to spread rapidly within bee colonies and cause considerable mortality. The disease is named for its most striking symptom: paralysis, which leaves bees unable to fly or move properly, ultimately leading to death.

The primary cause of acute honeybee paralysis is the Acute Bee Paralysis Virus. Transmission of the virus can occur in several ways:

- ◆ Horizontal transmission: Bees can pass the virus to one another through direct contact, contaminated food, or shared hive components.
- ◆ Vertical transmission: The virus can be transferred from infected queens to their offspring via eggs.
- ◆ Vector-mediated transmission: Parasites like *Varroa destructor*, a type of mite, play a significant role in spreading ABPV. These mites feed on bee hemolymph (a fluid equivalent to blood) and transfer the virus during feeding.

Environmental stressors, such as pesticide exposure, poor nutrition, and overcrowding, can exacerbate the spread and effects of the virus, weakening the bees' immune systems and increasing their vulnerability.

The symptoms of acute honeybee paralysis are often dramatic and can be observed in afflicted adult bees:

- ◆ Paralysis: Bees lose their ability to fly and often exhibit trembling or uncoordinated movements.
- ◆ Hair loss: Infected bees may appear shiny or greasy due to the loss of their body hair.
- ◆ Clustered death: Dead bees are often found in large clusters near the hive entrance.
- ◆ Weak colony: The colony becomes increasingly weak as worker bees succumb to the disease.

These symptoms can lead to significant colony losses if not addressed promptly.

Diagnosing acute honeybee paralysis often requires laboratory tests to confirm the presence of ABPV. Common methods include:

- ◆ PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction): This test detects the viral RNA, confirming the presence of ABPV.
- ◆ Microscopic examination: Scientists may examine bee tissues for signs of viral infection.
- ◆ Beekeepers may suspect acute honeybee paralysis based on observed symptoms, but laboratory testing is crucial for an accurate diagnosis.

Acute honeybee paralysis can have devastating effects on bee colonies. The loss of worker bees disrupts colony dynamics, reducing the workforce needed for nectar gathering, hive maintenance, and brood care. Over time, the colony may collapse entirely. Large-scale colony losses threaten pollination services, impacting agriculture and natural ecosystems.

Unfortunately, there is currently no cure for acute honeybee paralysis. However, beekeepers can take steps to manage and reduce the impact of the disease:

- Improved hygiene: Regular cleaning and maintenance of hives can limit the spread of the virus.
- Mite control: Using treatments to reduce Varroa mite infestations can minimize a major vector of ABPV.
- Strengthening colony health: Proper nutrition, reduced stress, and good hive management can enhance bee immunity.

Research is ongoing to develop antiviral treatments and methods to combat ABPV effectively.

Prevention is key to protecting honeybee colonies from acute honeybee paralysis. Beekeepers can adopt several strategies:

- ♦ Monitoring: Regularly inspect hives for signs of disease or mite infestation.
- ♦ Quarantine: Isolate newly acquired bees or hives to prevent introducing ABPV into existing colonies.
- ♦ Selective breeding: Breed bees with genetic traits that confer resistance to ABPV.

These measures, combined with awareness and education, can significantly reduce the risk of disease outbreaks.

Scientists are continually researching ABPV and its effects on honeybees to improve diagnostic tools, develop treatments, and understand the virus's behavior. Collaboration between researchers, beekeepers, and policymakers is essential to safeguard honeybee populations and the critical pollination services they provide.

Acute honeybee paralysis is a serious threat to honeybee health that demands attention and action. By understanding the causes, symptoms, and preventive measures, we can work together to protect these vital pollinators and ensure the sustainability of ecosystems and agriculture worldwide. The health of honeybees is not just a concern for beekeepers; it is a matter of global importance, touching on every aspect of biodiversity and food security.

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## Hospitality Corner

Our meetings are a great way to meet other beekeepers and for socializing. Members are encouraged to bring treats to share. Thanks to Jan Petrek for the coffee at every meeting and those who brought in the treats for the August meeting- Charles Heaton, Greg bender, Gloria Morin, and Ellie Jisa

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## Has someone you know been stung?

Many new beekeepers have gotten involved with the hobby because one of their friends started keeping bees. If you know someone who has been “stung” by the urge to keep bees, our upcoming class on September 21st would be a perfect chance to find out what it takes. The cost of the class includes membership in the club and qualifies them to take the entire course next spring.

**Also, current members are welcome to attend the September 21st class at no charge.**





## Sept. 20, 2025 Beginner Beekeeper Class Registration 2025

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

The course costs \$50.00 which includes 1 classroom session, and a GCBA family membership for the remainder of 2025 and through 2026. This course is designed for anyone interested in becoming a backyard beekeeper, no experience is necessary. Basic honeybee terminology, required equipment, best management practices and more will be presented.

Class will be held on Sept. 20 2025, 9 am -3 pm at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds at 164 Eastland Road Berea, OH 44017. Please ENTER at Gate 3 and proceed to Building #30 – The Bee Barn. Do not park in Baldwin Wallace's parking lot outside of Gate 3, enter and park in the fairgrounds. Registration begins at 8:30 AM with coffee and donuts. Class begins promptly at 9 AM.

A limited number of *Beekeeping for Dummies, 5th Edition* is available for purchase for \$25.00.

Your personal information is for Club use and will not be shared with anyone.

*I acknowledge the risks involved in beekeeping activities, which includes bee stings, falls, shock, allergic reaction, and personal injury. I agree to hold harmless the Greater Cleveland Beekeeping Association from any liability including financial responsibility from injuries or property damages regardless of whether the injuries are caused by negligence in the State of Ohio.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Beekeepers Bookshelf

If you're looking for a book for your kids about bees, this is a lively, creative story that feels just like hanging out with friends in Minecraft, "To Bee, Or Not to Bee! (Minecraft Stonesword Saga #4)" is a great pick. This book keeps all the excitement, teamwork, and clever twists that fans have come to expect from the Stonesword Saga. With a fresh adventure full of bees and big stakes, it's a hit for young readers who love the game.

Morgan, Harper, Po, Jodi, and Theo are back for another wild journey in the Minecraft world. This time, they've got a special mission: rescuing a hive of magical bees. It might sound simple at first, but saving the bees turns out to be way trickier than anyone expects. When the bees go missing, things get weird in the Overworld—flowers start dying, crops fail, and everything just feels off. The friends must figure out where the bees went and how to bring them back before Minecraft turns into a gloomy place.

What's great about this book is that it's not just about adventure, it's about teamwork, caring for the environment, and realizing that even little creatures like bees can make a big difference. The story sneaks in some cool lessons about why bees matter and how every living thing fits together. There's also a lot about solving problems with creativity and how working together is usually the best way to figure things out.

One of the best parts of the Stonesword Saga is watching Morgan and friends grow through every adventure. Morgan feels extra responsible this time around, while Harper is the logical thinker, Po keeps things light with jokes, and Jodi and Theo add energy and loyalty. Their conversations feel real and funny, like actual friends chatting while playing the game together. It makes you root for them, not just in the story but for all their ups and downs.

Even though it's a fun story, the book does a great job teaching kids about why bees are important in real life. Teachers and parents will appreciate how it opens up conversations about nature and teamwork. Plus, it encourages kids to be curious and try new things, both in the story and in their own Minecraft games.

Like the other books in the series, this one has cool, colorful illustrations that make the story even more fun. The cover and art inside are bright and familiar for Minecraft fans, adding to the whole vibe.

All in all, "To Bee, Or Not to Bee! (Minecraft Stonesword Saga #4)" is a super enjoyable read. It's packed with adventure, friendship, and some sneaky lessons about nature. Whether you're a young Minecraft fan or someone just looking for a good chapter book, you'll finish this one with a smile—and maybe even more respect for bees.

Check this book out if you've children between 7 and 12 that love Minecraft, or are just starting to get into reading on their own. It's a fun addition to the Stonesword Saga and proves that you can learn and have a blast—all at the same time.







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## **Mission Statement**

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