



GREATER CLEVELAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Honey Bee Times

October 2026

The September meeting featured Eric Manthey sharing tips from the bee yard and getting ready for winter. He was able to share a quick and easy method of insulating your hives before the meeting was disrupted by certain members deciding to have their own meeting. Members should show respect for all of our speakers and if they have something to share, keep it for any speaker questions.

The October meeting will feature Doug Morse, owner of Lil' Morsels Honey Company in Painesville sharing his method of prepping hives for winter. He will be bringing a hive kit that will be raffled off. Again, please show respect for the speaker and keep any comments or questions until they are ready for them.

Hopefully, the meeting will be in the Bee Barn on Wednesday October 14th at 7:00.



This month in the bee yard

Cooler and shorter days signal the coming of winter. You should have performed a formic acid mite treatment by now but it won't hurt to prepare for an oxalic acid vaporizing in November. Fall flowers have been continuing to bloom and the bees are still collecting pollen.

Honey supers should be off and putting insulation on to reduce honey consumption in preparation for the colder nights that are starting.

Check every hive and feed with 2:1 sugar syrup if necessary.. Watch for robbing, yellow jackets are going to be at their strongest, so set out traps for them.

Get ready for winter (and Spring which will be here before you know it) by assessing equipment and replacing any that is needed. .



The **2026 OSBA Fall Conference** will be held at Kent State University's Ashtabula campus, Starting Friday, Oct 23, at 5:00 pm with presentations and labs. Saturday, Oct 24th at 9:00 am with (4) four tracks of education. This provides educational information for all types of beekeepers. You are welcome to jump from track to track or stay with any one track all day, depending on your interest and desire to learn something new.

Visit the OSBA website for more details.

GCBA Merchandise is available-

Check out the GCBA Store at Ryco Sports Lakewood 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.

Ryco Sports is located at 15026 Madison Ave., Lakewood, Ohio 44107 440-427-5828



Beekeepers Bookshelf

From First Hive to Honey Harvest

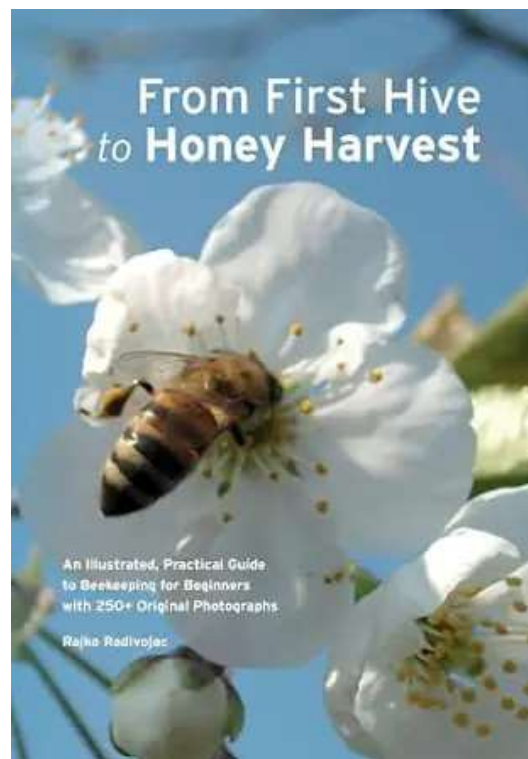
From First Hive to Honey Harvest is an accessible and practical introduction to beekeeping that successfully guides readers from their first encounter with a beehive to the rewarding experience of harvesting honey. Drawing on nearly three decades of beekeeping experience, Rajko Radivojac presents a clear, step-by-step approach designed especially for beginners. More than 250 photographs support the text, making complex concepts easier to understand and apply in real-world situations.

One of the book's greatest strengths is its emphasis on practical knowledge. Rather than overwhelming readers with technical jargon, Radivojac explains essential beekeeping tasks in a straightforward and reassuring manner. The book covers hive management, colony care, common mistakes, seasonal challenges, and honey production, providing readers with the confidence to make informed decisions in their own apiaries.

The author's writing style is friendly and encouraging, reflecting the realities of hands-on beekeeping. His advice is grounded in personal experience, which gives the book authenticity and credibility. Beginners will appreciate the focus on problem-solving and responsible bee care, while more experienced hobbyists may find useful reminders and practical tips throughout.

A minor limitation is that readers seeking highly advanced scientific discussions of bee biology or commercial-scale operations may find the book more introductory than comprehensive. However, this focus is also its strength, as it remains approachable and highly useful for its intended audience.

Overall, *From First Hive to Honey Harvest* is an excellent resource for aspiring beekeepers. Informative, well-organized, and richly illustrated, it serves as both a beginner's guide and a handy reference that readers can return to as their experience grows. Anyone interested in starting a beekeeping journey will find this book a valuable and trustworthy companion.



Hospitality Corner

Our meetings are for socializing and a great way to meet other beekeepers. Members are encouraged to bring treats to share. Thanks to Jan (and Joe) Petrek for setting up for the meetings and to everyone who brings snacks or treats!

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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.