



The Honey Bee Times

August 2026

The July meeting was our annual picnic, a time to take a break from the rigors of beekeeping and just sit down and chat with our fellow beekeepers. Thanks to Phil Bartosh and John Rini for doing the cooking and to everyone who brought a side dish or dessert.

The August meeting will be held during the fair and the speaker will be Connie Skolnicki on the subject of Apitherapy. Members should enter through gate 3 (the one closest to the bee barn) and there will be a GCBA member there to give you entrance tickets (2 per member.) The meeting starts at 7 pm as usual, but plan on getting there earlier in case there's a crowd at the fair.





Cuyahoga County Fair

It's fair time, be sure to visit (free admission for club members on the 12th for the meeting.) After the meeting, browse the various entries in this year's honey competition. Volunteers are still needed for the club's booth at the fair, so if you haven't signed up by now, feel free to drop in and help out.

This month in the bee yard

It was a typical July in the area with the heat and humidity. It can be hard for the bees to keep things cool, so keep propping up the outer corner with a spacer that will help keep things cool. Extracted supers should be put back on the hives for the bees to clean up.

We will be entering into a dearth, if we haven't already, when there's not a lot of nectar coming in. It's important to have strong hives at this time because robbing can start quickly and it doesn't take long for a weak hive to be overcome. Set out traps for yellow jackets. Fall flowers will be starting to bloom. Keep your nose out for the distinctive smell of Golden Rod nectar being brought in.

Mite populations tend to be strongest in August, so it's a good time to treat with formic to knock the mites down. Formic Pro needs temperatures to be at or below 80 for the first three days, so keep an eye on the weather forecast for a relatively cool period.

Mites, mites, mites!

Hospitality Corner

Speaking of tasty treats, our meetings are a great way to meet other beekeepers and for socializing. Members are encouraged to bring treats to share. Thanks to Jan (and Joe) Petrek for setting up for the picnic and to everyone who brought a side dish or dessert!

Late Summer swarm calls

This time of year we start getting calls from home owners about “bees” in their home, lawn, under the eaves, etc. Unfortunately most non-beekeepers don’t know the difference between honeybees and wasps. They just see something yellow and black or anything flying and get excited. Educating people can help, but unfortunately most people don’t care to learn the difference. Before you run out to inspect the situation, get as much information as possible, including a good photo of the situation so you’re not going on a wild goose (bee) chase.

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO YELLOW STRIPEY THINGS



CARPENTER BEE

- ACTS LIKE IT'S TOUGH, BUT CAN'T ACTUALLY HURT YOU
- HAS NO CONCEPT OF WHAT GLASS IS
- LIVES IN YOUR FENCE
- FLIES AGGRESSIVELY TO TRY AND SCARE YOU AWAY



HONEYBEE

- IS THE BEE THAT NEEDS HELP THE MOST
- EXCELLENT POLLINATOR
- VERY FRIENDLY
- CAN ONLY STING ONCE



BUMBLEBEE

- ALSO POLLINATES STUFF VERY WELL
- SO FAT IT SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FLY
- WILL LET YOU PET IT WITHOUT GETTING AGITATED
- ACTUALLY A FLYING PANDA



HOVERFLY

- WEARS YELLOW STRIPEY UNIFORM TO SCARE YOU
- ACTUALLY CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU
- HANGS OUT IN FIELDS
- FOLLOWS YOU IF IT LIKES YOU



PAPER WASP

- LOOKS SCARY, BUT WILL ONLY ATTACK IF PROVOKED
- STING HURTS LIKE THE DEVIL
- WILL CHASE YOU IF YOU SWAT AT IT
- HAS NO CONCEPT OF PERSONAL SPACE



YELLOW JACKET

- WANTS YOUR FOOD AND WILL FIGHT YOU FOR IT
- NEVER LEAVES YOU ALONE
- WILL STING YOU JUST FOR THE HECK OF IT
- IS JUST A JERK



CICADA KILLER

- LOOKS LIKE SATAN'S NIGHTMARES
- EXCLUSIVELY EATS CICADAS
- CAN STING YOU, BUT USUALLY WON'T
- STILL PRETTY TERRIFYING



DIRT DAUBER

- ALMOST NEVER STINGS ANYTHING EXCEPT SPIDERS
- BUILDS NEST IN THE GROUND
- HOARDS SPIDERS IN SAID NEST
- COOLEST LOOKING OF THE WASPS

Feel free to share this guide.

Honey Date Nut Bread

Recipe by Chef Charles Heaton

INGREDIENTS:

- 2-1/2 cups chopped dates
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/2 cup boiling water
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup Honey
- 1 large egg
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup chopped walnuts-toasted



PROCEDURE:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease and flour a 9x5-inch loaf pan..
2. In a medium bowl, combine dates and butter. Pour boiling water over top and let stand until cool.
3. Add buttermilk and stir cooled date mixture to break up any clumps.
4. Add brown sugar and egg; mix until well blended.
5. Combine flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt in a bowl. Stir flour mixture into date mixture until just blended. Stir in walnuts. Pour batter into the prepared pan.

Bake in the preheated oven until a wooden pick inserted into the center comes out clean, about 50 minutes.

Approximately 12 servings

GCBA Merchandise is available-

Check out the GCBA Store Ryco Sports Lakewood for cool threads that will have you looking great and supporting the GCBA. You can find it on our web-site 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



BUCKEYE STATE SANCTIONED

PEDAL TRACTOR



PULL



AT THE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY FAIR

TUESDAY, AUG 11, 2026

AGES 4-11: FREE

AGES 12 & OVER:

\$10.00

REGISTRATION FROM 1PM TO 2PM

EVENT BEGINS AT 2PM



No Need To Bring Your
Own Pedal Tractor.
One will be provided by
the event.

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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.