



# ***The Honey Bee Times***

***August 2025***

The July meeting was held in the pavilion at the fairgrounds and was well attended. Despite only having half a grill to work on for most of the evening, grill masters Phil Bartosh and John Rini did a yeoman job. There were plenty of delicious side dishes and desserts for everyone to enjoy.

There was a mystery box contest where you could try to identify the contents by feeling them and a "queen" marking contest with drones pulled from the bee yard by Eric Manthey. The winners of both received a case of one lb. honey jars donated by Sheila and Denzil St. Clair of Queen Right Colonies.

Denzil also went over some changes to the beekeeping laws in the state of Ohio which will have an effect on beekeepers in one way or another.

The August meeting will be held in the bee barn on the 13th, just after the fair, so hopefully we'll have some winners to celebrate!



## *More Picnic Fun!*



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## **This Month in the Bee Yard**

The dog days of summer. The term originates from the ancient Greeks and Romans who associated this time with the rising of the star Sirius, also known as the Dog Star. They believed that Sirius's proximity to the sun during this time contributed to the intense summer heat. Mainly it's just hot and humid in our area.

Like humans, the bees can get crankier this time of year. There's not a lot of nectar coming in until the Asters and Goldenrods start blooming. Adding a bit of insulation and ventilation to your hives can help them stay cooler. Mind any nucs or weaker colonies and watch for robbing. Newer beekeepers can confuse robbing with normal orientation flights, but instead of hovering in figure eights, the robbers are trying to fly directly into the hive.

Prepare these hives with reduced entrances or robbing screens to help them defend themselves. It's not just other bees, though. Yellow Jackets, Bald-faced hornets and others are attracted by the smell of honey in your hives. Setting bait stations for them can help, but their nests are at their strongest in late summer.

August is a good time to treat with Formic, but we need at least three days at or below 85 for the first part of that treatment, so watch the weather for a favorable break. This is the time of year when mites can be at their strongest, so monitor for them as well.

Keep an eye towards the coming winter. You may want to re-queen any weak hives so that they go into the winter with a strong queen. This is the start of the time when your winter bees are being bred.



# Honey Garlic Chicken Wings

Recipe by Chef Charles Heaton

Serves:6

## INGREDIENTS:

- 5 pounds chicken wings
- 3/4 large white onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- 1-1/2 teaspoons mustard powder
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic



## PROCEDURE:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Combine onion, honey, brown sugar, soy sauce, butter, mustard powder, and garlic together in a saucepan over medium heat; bring to a simmer.
3. Place wings in a bowl and toss to coat. Cover dish with plastic wrap and marinate in the refrigerator for 1 hour to overnight.
4. Toss wings again and place in baking dish. Drizzle with remaining sauce.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until wings are cooked through. Turning to baste occasionally. Digital thermometer near the bone should read 165 degrees F.

Serve with vinegar coleslaw or pickled vegetables.

Enjoy!

# The Beekeeper's Bookshelf

Beepedia is way more than a bee field guide. It celebrates bees of all shapes and sizes, mixing together science, history, art, and even a bit of mythology. The book comes in an encyclopedia format, so you can flip to any topic that grabs your attention—whether it's how hives work, why bees are so crucial for pollination, or how these insects have inspired stories for centuries.

Laurence Packer's passion for beekeeping is evident on every page. There's plenty of solid research here, but it's delivered in a friendly, down-to-earth style that makes you want to keep reading. Gorgeous photos, cool diagrams, and creative artwork add to the experience, turning every page into a mini adventure.

One of the best things about Beepedia is how easy it is to navigate. You don't have to start at the beginning—just open it anywhere and you'll find something interesting. Entries are alphabetical, but the book does a great job linking related topics together. So, if you get curious about how bees “talk,” you'll quickly find yourself learning about waggle dances, pheromones, and how the hive works as a team.

Each section kicks off with the basics, then digs a little deeper with facts, personal stories, or bits of history. There are also sidebars packed with trivia, info on endangered bees, and quirky bee legends from all over the world.

What really makes Beepedia stand out is how much ground it covers. Here's a taste:

- ◆ **Biology & Anatomy:** Easy-to-understand breakdowns of bee bodies, senses, and life cycles, with lots of helpful photos and diagrams.
- ◆ **Species Diversity:** Profiles of honeybees, bumblebees, solitary bees, and the rarer types, including where they live and what makes them unique.
- ◆ **Pollination & Ecology:** How bees interact with plants, help our farms, and keep ecosystems running smoothly.
- ◆ **Threats to Bees:** Straight talk about habitat loss, pesticides, disease, climate change, and what people are doing to help.
- ◆ **Cultural Significance:** Bees in myths, stories, art, and religion—proof that humans have been fascinated by them forever.
- ◆ **Beekeeping Basics:** Handy tips for new beekeepers on caring for hives, collecting honey, and making sure your bees are healthy and happy.

What's great about the writing is how approachable it is. Packer explains tricky stuff in plain English and uses



fun comparisons and jokes to make the science stick. Personal stories from their own beekeeping adventures add a nice, real-life touch. You'll feel like you're hearing from a friend who really loves what they do.

The full-color photos let you see bees up close—right down to the sparkle of their wings or the pollen they collect. There are plenty of hand-drawn sketches, charts, and infographics, breaking up the text and helping the info sink in. The look and feel of the book make it as fun to flip through as it is to read.

This book scores high as a learning tool. The clear explanations and logical layout make it perfect for classrooms or just your own bookshelf. There's a handy glossary, activity ideas, and discussion questions to keep the learning going. The index is thorough, so you can easily find what you're looking for.

The book doesn't dodge tough issues. It's honest about the problems bees face today and offers practical ways readers can help, like planting wildflowers or using fewer pesticides.

Like any book, Beepedia isn't perfect. The alphabetical format can sometimes scatter related info, so you might need to hop around using the index or follow the cross-references. Some of the more technical sections—like the deep dives into bee genetics—might be a bit much for readers without a science background, but you can always skip ahead.

Beepedia is a blast to read—equal parts fascinating and inspiring. It's a great pick for budding scientists, experienced beekeepers, teachers, or anyone who wants to know more about the amazing world of bees. By showing us how incredible these little insects are, the book makes you see the world differently—and maybe even want to help our buzzing friends.

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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/>



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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.