

SMOKER SIGNALS



ISSUE NO 1 | OCTOBER 2026 | VOLUME 1



A message from Med

It continues to be an unusual year for this beekeeper. As I've stated before, I think that we can all appreciate the fact that there was no dearth this year. My bees continue to bring in significant amounts of nectar over the last 3 weeks or so and in fact, I just pulled 10 frames of capped honey. That will be frozen for later use, or I will distribute it to some of my hives, which may need a little bit of extra stored honey.

TOPIC 1

SEE THE MAP ON
PAGE 3 FOR OUR
NEXT GENERAL
MEETING LOCATION

TOPIC 2

DETAILS FOR
UPCOMING
TURKEY SHOOT
ON PAGE 3

TOPIC 3

SIGN-UP FOR
ANNUAL DER
DUTCHMAN
BANQUET,
DETAILS ON PAGE
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Smoker Signals cont.

While the goldenrod was certainly prolific this year, I have yet to smell that unique goldenrod odor in my apiary. Other beekeepers have told me the same thing, although others have noted that finding from goldenrod. The purple and white asters put on quite a show, so perhaps bee colonies have been going to those instead of the golden rod. And then of course there's still the lantern fly issue. The jewelweed (wild impatiens) continue to be in full bloom in my yard. These are being visited, not only by honeybees and bumblebees, but also by migrating hummingbirds. Of note, there is a small cherry tree currently blooming in our neighborhood. And just today I saw a fairly large patch of dandelion seed heads which means the dandelions were available for forage maybe a week to 10 days ago. Again, somethings I've not seen this late in the season.

Next week, we will have our appreciation night at Franklin Park Conservatory. We are expecting a good amount of interesting door prizes. If you're bringing door prizes for the event, several of us will be available to help you get your items labeled and placed on the tables. Remember, before you arrive next Wednesday, take the time to put your name on each of the tickets that you may have accumulated over the year. And of course, we will have our election and results that evening. See you on the 21st.

COBA General Meeting

The next COBA General Meeting will be on October 21, 2026, at Franklin Park Conservatory, in the Garden Pavillion. Event starts promptly at 6:30pm. This meeting features Officer and Board member elections AND Membership Appreciation Night. Bring your bee yard attendance tickets, with your name written on the back, and use them to bid for awesome beekeeping and bee-related equipment, supplies, and gifts. New this year is a Honey-Tasting event, organized by Morgan Rudell, who will offer you honey from the various COBA apiaries. Directions for getting to the Garden Pavillion are included.

**A GREAT BIG
THANK YOU GOES
OUT TO ALL THE
VOLUNTEERS
WHO HELPED
WITH FARM
SCIENCE REVIEW
AND OLD TIME
HARVEST DAY:**

**FARM SCIENCE
REVIEW: JACOB
REED, DALE
GELTER, MARK
ERBAUGH, ANITA
ZYCH, MICHAEL
RUSSELL, TODD
CAMERON, AL
BLYTH, SKIP
HOWELL, SKIP
AND JOHN NITZ,
DARRELL ADKINS,
BOB
WESTENDORF,
BOB & CLAUDIA
BOWERS, MED
LUTMERDING,
AND WINNIE
WILLIAMS**

**OLD TIME
HARVEST DAY:
JON CLARKE, MED
LUTMERDING,
WINNIE
WILLIAMS,
TAMMIE HINTON,
KELLY HART,
ANITA ZYCH, BOB
& CLAUDIA,
JACOB REED, SKIP
HOWELL**





Saturday November 14, 2026 at 10:00am
COBA Charitable Foundation will be holding a **Turkey Shoot at Cardinal Shooting Center.**

Proceeds from this event fund the Veterans Beekeeping School (VBS) scholarships.

There will be your choice of a 50 clay-bird sporting clays course or 50 clay-bird 5-Stand course. We've added prizes for the top 3 shooters on each course to win a Thanksgiving turkey.

Use this link to sign up.

[Donate to Central Ohio Beekeepers Charitable Foundation](#)

TURKEY SHOOT

CENTRAL OHIO BEEKEEPERS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER FOR VETERANS' BEEKEEPING SCHOOL

NOVEMBER, 14TH 2026 AT 10:00AM
CARDINAL SHOOTING RANGE | 616 STATE ROUTE 61 | MARENGO, OH

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER
CALL (330) 353-2316 FOR QUESTIONS

PRIZES FOR TOP 3 SHOOTERS
50 CLAY TARGET PROGRAM
\$50 DONATION



Can't wait for Der Dutchman's pie?

Information about reserving your spot at the COBA Awards Banquet, on Nov.18, will be coming to you in a COBA email. All reservations must be paid in advance, before Nov. 11. Cost for adults is \$25 each, children 3 – 10 are \$10 each.

“October is the month of painted leaves.”

-Henry David Thoreau

Bee Joke:

Q. What do bees use to build roads?

A. Nec-tar



Habitat



Resources



Fall Cleanup – Save the Flower Stalks

In the fall, the habitat that you maintain for your honey bees will be awash with dead flower stalks. These flower stalks are highly valuable overwintering habitat resources for native bees and beneficial insects. The stems likely contain stem-nesting native bees and pupae of beneficial insects who overwinter there and emerge in spring. The seeds provide food for birds and wildlife. The dead stalk material, if left intact, serves as nesting material for birds who gather it once they have migrated to your area in the spring.

Leaving the flower stalks in place has benefits for the beekeeper as well.

1. Leaving the stalks in place means less fall chores to do.
2. Come spring, the remaining plant residue above the roots can make it much easier to identify the plants that made it through the winter when there is little else to figure out which species is which.
3. The ravishes of winter wind and snow tend to naturally flatten the stalks to the ground where they might be left to serve as mulch and soil nutrition.
4. The flattened stalks make it easier to see the “volunteer” plant, bush and tree species to either be removed to maintain the pollinator planting or to be transplanted elsewhere or even contributed to COBA’s plant swap in May.

What to do to tidy-up depends on where these dead flower stalks are located:

- a) Formal foundation planting around the house,
- b) Informal pollinator meadow, or
- c) Wild pollinator acreage.

Foundation Planting:

As a cue-to-care, dead flower stalks are often removed in the fall to create the conventional look of a well-maintained home. In this situation (including HOA requirements), the dead stalks can be cut at the base of the stem and piled loosely in a hidden corner of the yard.

Pollinator Meadow:

As a cue-to-care, mow a path around the meadow to define its edge and plant a “Pollinator Habitat” sign on the side that has the most foot traffic to further demonstrate that this vegetation is intentional.

Wild Pollinator Acreage:

As a cue-to-care, mow along the road’s utility right-of-way as well as a path around the acreage. Plant “Pollinator Habitat” and possibly “Do Not Mow” or “Do Not Spray” or “No Trespass” signage along the road as well as at potential entryways to the acreage.

For more information: www.xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/nesting-overwintering-habitat

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Homemade Honey Candy Recipe

With only 3 ingredients and no complicated equipment required, these easy honey candies are naturally sweetened and delicious.

Cook Time 20 minutes

Chilling Time 30 minutes

Servings 48 candies

Ingredients

- 1 cup raw honey
- 1/4 cup raw apple cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract *optional*

Instructions

1. Add the honey and vinegar to a saucepan and heat it to a boil.
2. Reduce heat so that the ingredients are still boiling but not scorching.
3. Check the temperature with a candy thermometer.
4. When it reaches 275 degrees Fahrenheit, turn the burner off and remove the pot from the heat.
5. Let sit for a minute and then add vanilla in small amounts (important so the vanilla doesn't scorch).
6. Stir the candy to combine.
7. Pour candy into a silicone candy mold, or a baking tray lined with parchment paper.
8. Place in the refrigerator or freezer. Depending on how large the candies are, they will probably take about 30 minutes in the freezer to cool.



Author Tammy Trayer and Dawn Yoder
<https://traditionalcookingschool.com/>

There was so much to see at the Lithopolis Honey Festival...

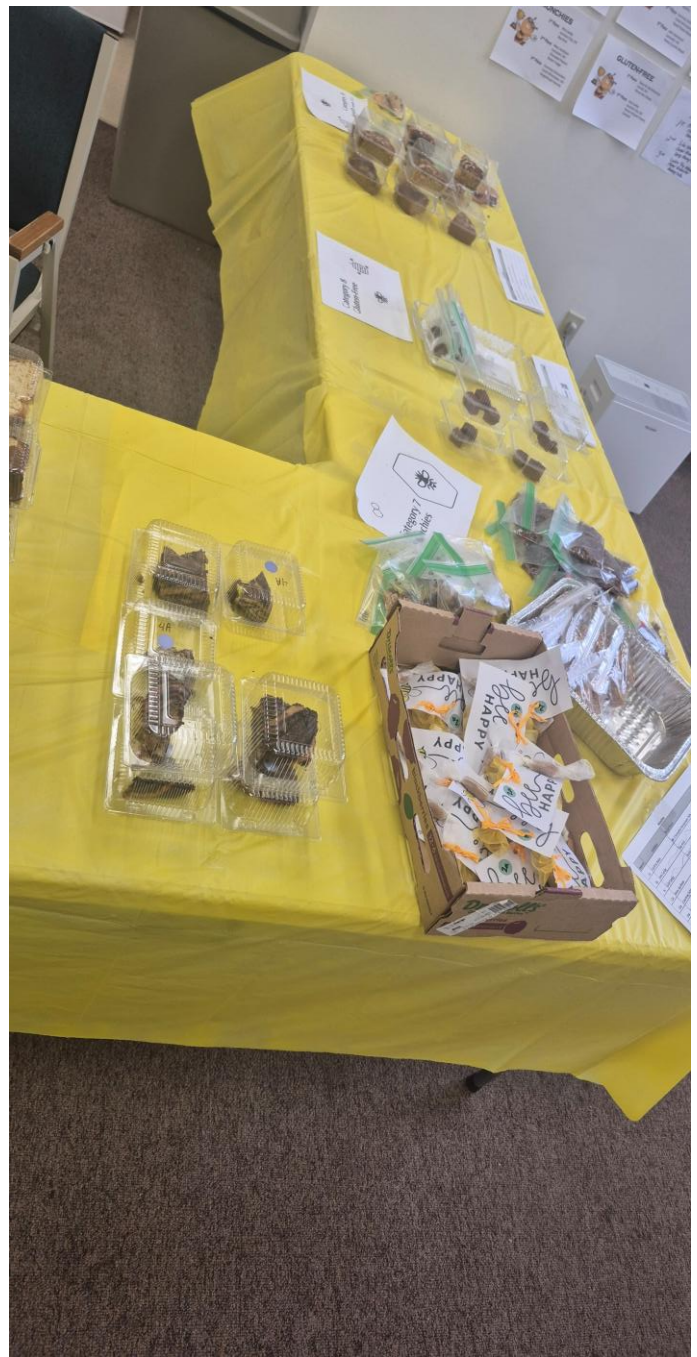


Smoker Signals cont.





Smoker Signals cont.

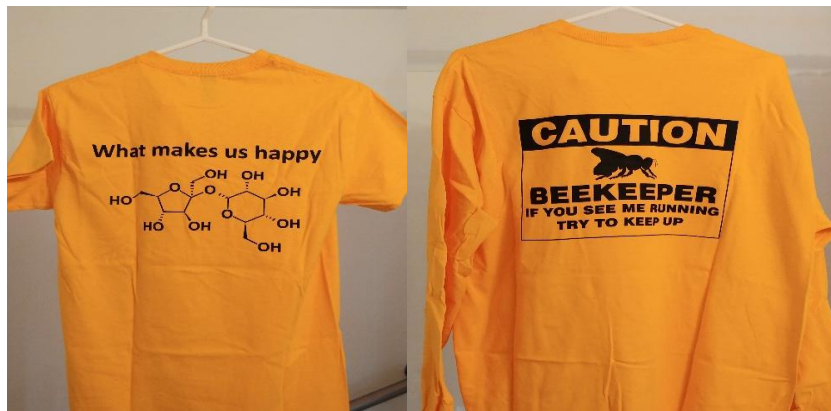


Not even the rain could keep us away from another sweet and successful Honey Festival!

Smoker Signals cont.

Are You Needing a COBA Shirt?

We are taking orders for COBA shirts. They need to be prepaid and ordered by Tuesday, October 27, 2026.



Each shirt is available in Short Sleeves or Long Sleeves

Titles are: **What Makes Us Happy** (Chemical formula)

Caution

Pricing: Long Sleeve \$30.00

Short Sleeve \$25.00

Payment through cash, check (Made out to COBA), PayPal

Sizes available: Small, Medium, Large, XLarge, XXLarge, XXXLarge. Long shirts are available for \$3.00 more.

Standard Unisex sizing, 100% cotton shirts.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the October General meeting, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2026.

Or please place order with Winnie at cobeenews93@gmail.com.

Checking Out for the Good: A Way Shopping Can Help Support COBA

The following screenshots are step by step instructions on how to link your Kroger shopping card to COBA. Each time you shop Kroger will donate pennies towards COBA. Every small amount counts!

<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>

2. Link your Card to an organization.

Selecting the organization that you wish to support is as simple as updating the Kroger Community Rewards selection on your digital account.

1. Sign in to your digital account.

2. Search for your organization [here](#).

3. Enter the name or NPO number of the organization you wish to support.

4. Select the appropriate organization from the list and click "Save".

Your selected organization will also display in the Kroger Community Rewards section of your account. If you need to review or revisit your organization, you can always do so under your Account details.

3. Your organization earns.

Any transactions moving forward using the Shopper's Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the program, at no added cost to you. Kroger donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending



Email Address

Password

[Forgot Password?](#)

☒ Keep me signed in

Checking this box will reduce the number of times we'll ask you to sign in.
To keep your account secure, use this option only on your personal device.

Sign In

New to Kroger?

[Create an Account](#)

Earn money for your school or community organization when you use your Plus Card.

[< Back](#)

Find an Organization

Search by Organization name or n

Filter by type of Organization:

All

Search Results

Organization Name

"ATC" ALL THE CHILDREN OF THE
WORLD ACADEMY

Find an Organization

NPO BI811

Filter by type of Organization:

All

Search Results

Organization Name

Central OH Beekeepers Charitable Fnd

Organization Address

5672 Payton Way
Columbus, OH

43235

Enroll

You have successfully changed your organization.



Donation Summary

Status:

Enrolled

Organization Name:

Central OH Beekeepers Charitable Fnd

Enrollment Date:

03/12/2026

Organization Number:

BI811

Change Organization

Cancel Enrollment

