

SMOKER SIGNALS



ISSUE NO 1 | AUGUST 2026 | VOLUME 1



A message from Med

I was pleased to see that there were 42 entries in the different classes of the Franklin County Fair Honey Contest. COBA members won ribbons in virtually all of the categories. Likewise, at the Ohio State Fair several of our members took home honors. Congratulations to all of our winners. And of

TOPIC 1

**MORE VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES ON
PAGE 3.**

TOPIC 2

**AFTER SCHOOL
SNACK IDEA ON
PAGE 5.**

TOPIC 3

**NEED TO ESCAPE
THE RAIN &
HEAT? HOW
ABOUT A MOVIE,
SEE PAGE 6.**

Smoker Signals cont.

course, thanks to all contestants for their hard work preparing entries. Personally, I did have two pretty nice frames that I was going to enter. As I was getting them ready to show, I noticed blood dripping down the side of the wooden frame from a scrape on my hand. Fortunately, the blood did not get onto the honeycomb itself. With much effort, including washing the blood off, and then sanding the frame with an emery board, I was pretty satisfied that the stain had been taken care of. However, when I started to scrape some propolis from the top of the frame, the frame slipped and fell onto the showcase, causing a gash across one side. Not happy!!

The next chance to enter honey or other products of the hive will be at the Lithopolis Honeyfest on September 11 & 12. The rules for that contest have been posted on the Lithopolis Honeyfest Facebook site. It would be great to see a lot of COBA entries in that contest also.

Our COBA member appreciation night will be October 21. Please consider donating items of interest to beekeepers for that event. You can contact me for further information.

Finally, I was surprised by the amount of nectar that is being brought into my hives. Not quite sure where this is coming from at this time of the year. The golden rod in my yard is starting to bud but has not opened yet. If the soil stays moist, we should have a good goldenrod bloom. Hope all of your hives are doing well.

(\
-({{8-
(/

COBA General Meeting

The **COBA** August 19, 2026, meeting will be at Franklin Park Conservatory, in the Wells Barn. Social hour and potluck are at 6:30, and the meeting starts at 7 p.m. The featured speakers are the 2026 Youth Scholars. They will be presenting on their early experiences as beekeepers. Please show your support for this great group of young people by coming to the meeting. Their enthusiasm will make you feel like a new beekeeper again.

SWEET SUCCESS AT THE COUNTY FAIR



Small Acts, Massive Impact:

Here is your Opportunity to Give Back



Volunteer opportunities are available for Hebron Farmers Market, Weds. August 19. (This had been rescheduled from August 13.) If you are interested in helping out, fill out the Sign Up Genius.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040849ABAB22A7FF2-64909068-hebron>

Volunteer opportunities are open for Farm Science Review, September 22 - 24. If you are interested in helping out, fill out the Sign Up Genius BEFORE August 22.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040849ABAB22A7FF2-65074523-farm>

**“The bee that sweats in summer
can eat honey in winter”**

-unknown

Bee Joke:

**Q. What would bears be
without bees?**

A. Just ears.

Congratulations to all the winners in the honey competition at the Ohio State Fair: **Dale Gelter, Stacy Taylor, Winnie Williams, Bob Bowers, Carol Smith, Paula Karl, and Claudia Khourey-Bowers.**





Habitat



Resources



Heat Stress Risk Management for Beekeepers

Beekeeping in Heat Advisory Weather:

During heat advisory weather, working hives in full sun is like being in a hot sauna because we are:

- Covered in personal protective equipment from head to toe.
- Repeatedly lifting heavy hive boxes (strength training).
- Moving around all of the bees' "furniture."
- Working carefully, slowly and gently - trying to avoid pissing off the bees.

All too often, heat advisory weather coincides with the July marathon of pulling honey in preparation for mite treatment. The more hives that you have to get through, the higher the risk of a health emergency.

Heat Stress Health Emergencies:

Heat Stress Health Emergencies include:

Heat Stroke, Heat Exhaustion, Rhabdomyolysis, Heat Syncope, Heat Cramps, and Heat Rash.

Without medical attention, **Heat Stress can result in disability or death.**

For more information, see: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/heat-stress/about/illnesses.html>

Precautions:

- Have your cell phone, fully charged, and within reach.
- Pre-hydrate, rehydrate, have quarts of water and electrolyte solution handy.
- Practice sweating and condition your body for hot weather and for lifting heavy hive boxes.
- While going through hives, have the following equipment handy so that you can protect your bees from robbing when your own health emergency interrupts you while going through a hive:
 - 2 extra hive lids, 1 extra inner cover, at least 2 extra hive boxes.
- Begin going through a hive by setting the extra hive lid upside-down on the ground for the base of the side stack. Place the extra inner cover on the upside-down lid to serve as bee access to the side stack. Then, add an empty hive box to give the bees space to spread out inside the side stack. Next, place the top box from the hive stack onto the side stack. Go through the hive, transferring hive boxes between the side stack and the original hive stack.
- At any time that you need to stop quickly and walk away:
 - Place the second lid on the side stack.
 - Add the second empty hive box to the top of the original hive stack to give returning bees space while the top boxes are gone. Then, put the original inner cover and hive lid back on the hive.
 - Take care of the emergency. As soon as you can, return to the hive and put it back together.
 - If you are alone, do not wait to see if you feel better. Call a neighbor, friend or family or call 911.

Copyright 2026 by Sarah L Sullivan, PhD all rights reserved. Published with permission in the August 2026 issue of Smoker Signals newsletter of Central Ohio Beekeepers Association (COBA)

Quick and Easy After School Snack

Honey, Peanut Butter & Oatmeal Balls

Ingredients

- 2 cups of old Fashion oatmeal – oats uncooked
- 1 1/2 cups of Natural Peanut Butter
- 3/4 cup of honey
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup of ground flaxseed
- 1/2 cup of mini semi-sweet chocolate morsels



Instructions

Add all ingredients to a large bowl. (If desired: use food processor to grind up oatmeal first, do it before adding in other ingredients)

Use a large spoon to stir the mixture. You want to mix everything together with no dry spots. If the mixture is too sticky – add a little more oatmeal. If it is too crumbly, add a little more peanut butter.

Use your hands to roll the mixture into small balls and place in a flat pan. Chill in the refrigerator for at least 10 minutes.

When firm, store the bites in a sealed container in the refrigerator for 7 – 10 days. For longer storage – freeze.

<https://carolinahoneybees.com/peanut-butter-oatmeal-honey-bites-recipe/#recipe>

Things are buzzing right along at the Franklin Park Advanced Bee yard.



From Hives to Big Screens: What to Expect from the Upcoming Beekeeper Movie



The Rivals of Amziah King

Deep within the backwoods of rural Oklahoma, charismatic and musically gifted Amziah King ([Matthew McConaughey](#)) herds a bluegrass-playing band of misfits while overseeing the premier honey-making operation in town. When Amziah's estranged foster daughter unexpectedly returns, Amziah leaps at the possibility to renew connection and create a family business. But the honey game is ruthless, and Amziah's rivals threaten to destroy everything he has built.

Thriller/Crime 2h 11m Rated: R

Release date: August 14, 2026

Director: [Andrew Patterson](#)

Studio: Elevation Pictures

Producer(s): David Heyman, Jeffrey Clifford, Teddy Schwarzman, Andrew Patterson, James Montague, Michael Heimler, Will Greenfield

Cast: [Matthew McConaughey](#), Angelina LookingGlass, [Kurt Russell](#), Jake Horowitz, Scott Shepherd, [Rob Morgan](#), Tony Revolori, [Cole Sprouse](#), [Owen Teague](#)

Writer(s): Andrew Patterson, James Montague

Too Busy During the Week? Here is Your Chance to Attend Another Bee yard!

Visit the OSU-Marion Apiary, in the Prairie Conservation area on campus, every Friday from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., weather permitting. If you plan to attend, please send an email to Eric Bailey at

bailey.1768@buckeyemail.osu.edu As at all of our apiaries, proper beekeeping attire is required for participation.

Smoker Signals cont.

For September...



The next COBA General Meeting will be on September 16, 2026, at Franklin Park Conservatory, in the Garden Pavillion. The guest speaker will be Dr. Rustin Moore, Dean of The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Please plan to attend.

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

The screenshot displays the Kroger website's login and organization selection process. At the top, the Kroger logo is visible. Below it, there's a login section with fields for 'Email Address' and 'Password', a 'Forgot Password?' link, and a 'Keep me signed in' checkbox. A blue 'Sign In' button is prominent. Below the login section, there's a 'New to Kroger?' section with a 'Create an Account' button. To the right, there's a 'Find an Organization' section with a search bar, a 'Back' button, and a dropdown menu for 'Filter by type of Organization:'. Below this, the 'Search Results' section shows the organization name 'ATC" ALL THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD ACADEMY'.

Kroger

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

[Back](#)

Find an Organization

Search by Organization name or number

Filter by type of Organization:

All

Search Results

Organization Name

"ATC" ALL THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD ACADEMY

Back

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

