

SMOKER SIGNALS



ISSUE NO 1 | SEPTEMBER 2026 | VOLUME 1



A message from Med

If you remember at this time last year, I wrote an article regarding the appearance of what was felt to be spotted lanternfly honey. Our group had harvested an unusually large amount of honey from hives on East Broad Street in August. The honey was unusually dark with a very unique, somewhat smoky taste. Turns out, after some research, the general consensus was that the honey bees had collected honeydew produced by the spotted lanternfly and converted this to that unique honey.

TOPIC 1

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

TOPIC 2

FALL HONEY IS
PERFECT FOR
BAKING. SEE
PAGE 4

TOPIC 3

TIPS ON
PREVENTING
ROBBING SEE
PAGE 6

Based on our observations about spotted lanternfly honey last year, I was curious to see what impact these insects would have on midsummer honey production this year in my Hilliard apiary. And, several beekeepers have commented that there really did not seem to be much of a “dearth” with regard to available summer nectar sources this year. I do think the rainy weather conditions we had during the summer significantly prolonged the bloom period of many flowers providing more nectar to the bees. So, how did my bees do?

This year, my initial pull of honey frames was right around the first of July. I put those frames back on around the second week of July. My next harvest was in the third week of August. This harvest yielded a very surprisingly large amount of amber to dark amber honey with a really good (but not smoky), complex taste. Since I started my apiary in Hilliard several years ago, I have never harvested anywhere near the amount of honey that I got this year. And I have never had amber to dark amber honey from this yard.

Around here, several nectar sources could result in a dark amber honey. This honey from my yard was produced well past the bloom of the catalpas and before appearance of the fall flowers, such as goldenrod and asters. And, as far as I know there are no significant fields of buckwheat around. So, in addition to a less intense dearth, I suspect that spotted lantern fly honeydew greatly influenced the quantity and quality of my second harvest. I have learned that honey can be tested for spotted lanternfly DNA in honey and pollen at Penn State’s Honey and Pollen Diagnostic Lab. I may do that.

Just another reminder that we have two upcoming events to put on your calendar. Our member appreciation night and election for board members will take place on October 21, Our COBA year end banquet will be held November 18 at Der Dutchman restaurant. Hope to see you at both.

COBA General Meeting

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. The title of his talk is “**The Bonds and the Bees.**” To get to the Garden Pavillion, go in the main entrance, then take the ramp on your right-hand side to go outdoors, then into the Pavillion. Please plan to attend.



Dr. Rustin M. Moore was born and raised in West Virginia, the heart of Appalachia. He earned his BS from West Virginia University in 1986 and his DVM and PhD from the Ohio State University in 1989 and 1994, respectively. He became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1994.

He spent 12 years on faculty at the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine where his clinical interests included equine lameness, surgery, and colic and the associated complications. His research led to him being a principal or co-investigator on approximately 120 funded grants. In addition, he has authored or co-authored more than 15 academic book chapters, and his work has been published as 125 peer- or editor-reviewed manuscripts and 175 scientific abstracts.

Dr. Moore was recruited back to Ohio State in November 2006 as the Chair of the Department of Veterinary Clinical



Sciences, a position he served until 2014. He also simultaneously served as the Executive Director of the Veterinary Medical Center and Associate Dean for Clinical and Outreach Programs from 2009 to 2014 and then served as the Associate Executive Dean from 2014-2015 before being named the 11th Dean beginning September 2015.

A passionate advocate for animal health, Dr. Moore has led community outreach and disaster response initiatives, including the rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming of nearly 500 horses after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He has served on multiple boards, including the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and The Wilds, the Ohio Wildlife Center, American College of Veterinary Surgeons, American Association of Equine Practitioners, among others, and is currently the immediate past president of the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges.

Hello COBA Members.

We are accepting nominations for COBA Board of Trustees. The slate of candidates will be assembled and presented to the COBA members at our October 21 General Meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory for voting. If you would like to nominate yourself or a COBA member, please email the name to Mary McMichael by October 1, 2026.

Email is marymcmichael01@gmail.com

Thank you

Mary McMichael
Bob Bowers

He is a sought-after speaker on topics such as the importance of creating and fostering a community in the college, university, community, and the veterinary profession where all people feel welcome, comfortable and can thrive. He is also frequently invited speaker on the topics of the importance of biodiversity to

Honey Pie

TOTAL TIME: PREP: 20 MIN. + CHILLING BAKE: 40 MIN. + CHILLING
RECIPE BY Taste of Home Test Kitchen

Ingredients

- Dough for single-crust pie
- 4 large eggs
- 2-1/2 cups of whole milk
- 1/2 cup packed with brown sugar
- 1/2 cup of honey
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Optional: Whipped cream, additional honey and flaky sea salt



Directions

On a lightly floured surface, roll dough to a 1/8-in.-thick circle; transfer to a 9-in. pie plate. Trim to 1/2 in. beyond rim of plate; flute edge. Refrigerate for 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 400°.

Line unpricked crust with a double thickness of foil. Fill with pie weights, dried beans or uncooked rice. Bake on a lower oven rack until the edge is golden brown, 15-20 minutes. Remove foil and weights; bake until bottom is golden brown, 3-6 minutes longer. Cool on a wire rack.

In a large bowl, whisk eggs. Whisk in next 7 ingredients until blended. Pour into crust. Cover edge with foil. Bake at 400° until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, 40-50 minutes. Cool on a wire rack for 1 hour. Refrigerate for at least 3 hours before serving. Top each serving as desired. Refrigerate leftovers.

conservation and sustainability, competency-based veterinary education and spectrum of care, health and wellbeing of people in the veterinary profession, and the One Health approach to animal, human, and environmental health.

He has been frequently invited to share his passion, perspective, and expertise about the human-animal bond since his 2016 TEDx talk titled “The Power of a Pet.” To that end, Dr. Moore has authored two books, *Unleashing the Bond: Harnessing the Power of Human-Animal Interactions* (June 2025) and *Unlocking the Bond: The Power and Paradox of Human-Animal Interactions* (February 2026) both of which provide broad and deep exploration of the often-mystifying connection between humans and animals. He donates a portion of proceeds of book sales organizations that protect, preserve, and promote the human-animal bond.

Small Acts, Massive Impact:

Here is your Opportunity to Give Back



The next opportunity for helping with honey bee education will be at the Old-time Harvest Day festival in Grove City, on Sunday Oct. 4, from noon to 4 p.m. If you are interested in helping, please contact Claudia at claudiakhoureybowers@gmail.com

“September brings a refreshing shift in the air, marking the gentle goodbye to summer and the cozy welcome of autumn”

-unknown

Bee Joke:

Q. What did the beekeeper say to the apiary?

A. Honey doesn't grow on trees.



Habitat



Resources



Robbing Season

Off With Their Heads:

In the fall, carnivorous insects such as yellow jackets, other wasps and hornets need abundant food to prepare for winter. With all of those delicious honey bees congregated in a stationary contained space, the bee hive is a prized hunting ground. These carnivorous species decapitate honey bees and devour the remains. Once a colony is weakened, they will continue to be attacked. If you see bee heads littering the bottom board of your hives, the feast has begun.

Let's Take Their Food:

With warm-enough flying temperatures lingering later and later into the fall, our honey bees are remaining active long after the plants have gone to bed for the winter. During this climate-change dearth, the only bee food out there is inside of the hives. Strong colonies will try to rob food from weaker colonies, causing a great deal of action and fighting at the entrance of the hives. You may notice the bees are more defensive or cranky. The activity at the front of the hive indicates that, what is going on is really bad for the bees.

And the strong become weak:

In addition to food, the stronger bees return loaded with varroa mites from the weaker hives. Even if you treated your bees, your neighbor might not have. Plus, your bees might have been visiting feral colonies who do not even have a beekeeper. This transfer of mites can cause strong hives to become weak within a few weeks. Varroa mites should be monitored every 3 weeks in the fall. Mite treatment in December, when brood is at a minimum, is recommended to prevent an explosion of the colony's mite population (they won't survive until spring buildup if mite load is heavy.)

Robbing Prevention:

As soon as you see yellow jackets or other predators lingering around your hives:

- Reduce the entrance to the smallest notch on your entrance reducer. If robbing continues, reduce the access to only one hole that is 3/8-inch in diameter. If possible, provide an upper entrance and close the bottom entrance. Honey bees can protect an upper entrance much better than the bottom board.
- Keep the hive closed. No casual social visits with your bees.
- When necessary to open the hive, keep the visit to only a minute or two while also minimizing the amount of the hive exposed.
- If any honey drips on the outside of the colony, smoke the exterior of the colony to obfuscate the scent of honey.
- Maintain the hive in robbing-prevention mode until freezing temperatures stop the robbing process.

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

Signed, Sealed, Delivered:

Real Thank You Letters



Central Ohio Beekeepers Association
On behalf of the Fr. Co. Fair Home
Fine Arts + Horticulture Department
we would like to Express our
Sincere gratitude to you for your
Sponsorship of the Honey division and
some of the Baking events. Your
donation helped pay for ribbons,
premiums and judges for these
Contests.

We had a record number of entries
this year 1149! The Building was full
and we received many compliments
on how the Building looked!
Your Organization Booth was a
Favorite for Fairgoers! We thank you
for hosting this booth as well! We
appreciate your continued support and
hope you will continue supporting us in 2027.
Thank you for your Sponsorships!
Shirley House Director, Bob Mulford Asst. Director

9/5/2026

Dear COBA,

Thank You for sponsoring the Honey &
Wax classes again This year. Last year
was the first time we have entered any
type of fair competition. This year it
was hard to not sign up for everything!
We still have a long way to go to
learn the intricacies of honey judging,
but I've learned a lot the past two
years. Thank you for hosting so many
classes and taking the time to
provide annotated feedback in addition
to the score.

I was thrilled to see all the

8/31/2026

entries this year compared to last
year. My daughter is eagerly awaiting
her fall harvest (her second harvest!).
She's bound and determined to find
the best jars in our lot for her
fair jars. I'll have to settle for her
scraps. Liam always has such nice
things to say about your club.
Living on the border road of Franklin &
Licking county, we are fortunate to be
able to recommend COBA & E COBA to
everyone we meet who is the slightest
bit interested in keeping bees.

Keep up the good work & Thank You!

Sincerely, Rachel Gonzalez

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.

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 image shows a composite of three screenshots from the Kroger website. The top screenshot is a light blue informational box stating: "Earn money for your school or community organization when you use your Plus Card." The middle screenshot is the sign-in page, featuring the Kroger logo, fields for "Email Address" and "Password", a "Forgot Password?" link, a "Keep me signed in" checkbox with explanatory text, and "Sign In" and "Create an Account" buttons. The bottom screenshot shows the "Find an Organization" search interface, including a search bar, a filter dropdown set to "All", and search results for "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

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

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

