

SMOKER SIGNALS



ISSUE NO 1 | JUNE 2026 | VOLUME 1



A message from Med

The fragrance around my neighborhood from Linden trees is quite strong as the blossoms are now peaking. The honeybees have certainly found this rich nectar source. I have checked my hives to ensure that there is room in the honey super for this particular nectar flow. Today I have started extracting frames from two of my hives. As soon as possible I'll get those extracted frames back on the hives for cleanup and hopefully Linden honey.

TOPIC 1

REMINDER ON
GENERAL MEETINGS
AND A POP QUIZ ON
PAGE 2!

TOPIC 2

FAIR SEASON IS
UPON US. SEE THE
UPCOMING
DEADLINES ON
PAGE 4

TOPIC 3

NOT SURE WHAT
TO TAKE TO THE
SUMMER PARTY?
SEE A
REFRESHING
RECIPE ON PAGE
7!

This is the time of year I encourage all of you to consider entering the Franklin County and the Ohio State Fairs. There are numerous categories for you to enter products from your hives. It's always so good to see our COBA members showcase their hard work. Information about entries can be found on the Fair websites. Be aware that the deadline for entries is rapidly approaching.

Remember, Pollinator Palooza is coming up on Saturday, June 20 at the Franklin Park Conservatory. And our annual picnic is scheduled for Saturday, June 27 at the Shadblow Shelter in Blendon woods park. This picnic starts at 12 noon. Hope to see all of you at these events.

There is no June or July general meeting and no July issue of Smoker Signals. The next general meeting is August 19, 2026, at Franklin Park Conservatory. Enjoy your summer.



SINCE SCHOOL IS OUT, POP QUIZ!

1. The main purpose of a queen excluder in a beehive is to:

- A. Prevent drones from leaving the hive
- B. Prevent the queen from entering honey supers
- C. Prevent worker bees from reaching brood frames
- D. Increase honey production artificially

2. Which gland in worker bees produces royal jelly?

- A. Wax gland
- B. Hypopharyngeal gland
- C. Salivary gland
- D. Poison gland

3. Swarming in honeybees is primarily a method of:

- A. Pest control
- B. Reproduction at the colony level
- C. Food storage
- D. Temperature regulation

4. Which disease caused



COBA Picnic
June 27 at 12pm

Rain or Shine (There is a shelter)

Volunteers needed please email:
Dominiquethebeekeeper2018@yahoo.com

Volunteers need to arrive at 11am

**Join us for
our annual BBQ!
Bring a side**

Shadblow Shelter

Blendon Woods Park 4265 E.
Dublin-Granville Rd. 43081

by *Paenibacillus* larvae?

- A. Chalkbrood
- B. European foulbrood
- C. American foulbrood
- D. Nosema disease

5. The main component of honey is:

- A. Sucrose
- B. Fructose
- C. Maltose
- D. Lactose

6. A beekeeper notices wax debris and webbing in the hive. The likely pest is:

- A. Varroa mite
- B. Wax moth
- C. Ants
- D. Hornet

7. The main function of the proboscis in bees is:

- A. Defense
- B. Carrying pollen
- C. Sucking nectar
- D. Egg laying

ANSWERS ON PG. 11

Smoker Signals cont.

Reminders about Swarm/Cut-Out/Feral Lists Participation:

- If you are on the list, please answer your phone if someone unknown calls you. If you are too busy to make the run, encourage the caller to find someone else on the list.
- If you are on the list and wish you weren't, (don't we all feel that way sometimes), just tell the caller you are unavailable.
- All changes to the lists are made at the end of the current month for a revised posting at the beginning of the next month. If you want to change your status on any of the lists, please contact Claudia at claudiakhoureybowers@gmail.com by the last week of the current month.
- Thank you for providing this valuable service to the community. Folks really appreciate your willingness to respond to a swarm or cut out call.



Create a Buzz: It's Time to Teach What You Know

Volunteer opportunities are open for Pollinator Palooza, at Franklin Park Conservatory, on Saturday June 20. If you are interested in helping out, contact Claudia at claudiakhoureybowers@gmail.com



**“Let the beauty of summer days
fill your heart with endless
delight”**

-unknown

Bee Joke:

**Q. What do bees say on a
hot summer day?**

A. S’warm, ain’t it?

**Local fair dates are quickly approaching. Time to start
thinking about your honey show entries.**

2026 Franklin County Fair (Hilliard) (Edwards Building) July 20-26

- Be sure to read the General Rules of the fair, especially regarding vehicles and exhibitors’ passes
- Online registration is now open and closes July 11th.
- Entries due by 5:00 P.M. July 21st (Judging begins at 6:00 P.M)
- Honey Competition is under Home, Fine Arts and Horticulture (Edwards Building) Section Honey.
- <https://www.fcfair.org/>

2026 Ohio State Fair (Kasich Hall) July 29 - August 9

It is just released information for those who wish to compete in The Ohio State Fair Honey Show.

- Entry deadline is June 21st
- Honey entries are under Creative Arts: Cooking and Baking
- Honey entries are under Division 3106
- You must enter online via the ShoWorks System. Directions are included under the Creative Arts link
- Entries are judged pre-fair, so make sure to follow deadline and delivery instructions
- The State Fair delivery deadline overlaps the Franklin County Fair, so if you wish to enter both fairs you will need to prepare separate entries for each event
- <https://www.ohiostatefair.com/p/get-involved/arts/creative-arts/cooking-baking?spMailingID=13701369&spUserID=MTQ5NDk2Nzk2NDEoSo&spJobID=2460582509&spReportId=MjQ2MDU4MjUwOQS2>



Habitat



Resources



Deterring Deer from Snacking on Your Plants

Every year our new beekeepers ask “What good bee plants are deer safe?” Oh Grasshopper. Nature does not work that way. Deer are native herbivores who evolved eating native plants while those plants evolved along with native bugs and native birds. When food is plentiful, deer will forage on plants without thorns/spines/fuzziness that irritate their mouth or without alkaloids/resins/tannins that interfere with their digestion. However, when food is scarce, deer will eat whatever is available. In other words, deer will eat “deer resistant” plants when food is scarce.

Various deterrents have been developed, such as: scare tactics, repellents, and gadgets. However, these deterrents are expensive, time consuming, and at best temporary. Sooner or later, the deer will figure out what you are doing and will just ignore these deterrents. Then, they will devour your yummy trees/bushes/plants.

The only deer-proof plants are secured behind a well-designed deer-proof fence. The “gold standard” is an eight (8) feet tall fence secured with ten+ (10+) feet posts. I have personally witnessed deer easily gliding over six (6) feet welded wire fencing. The design of the fence also matters:

- 1) Because their eyes are on opposite sides of their head, deer have poor depth perception. Thus, a line of obstacles that are more-or-less parallel to the inside of the fence and within a few feet of the inside of the fence has deterred jumping over six (6) feet see-through welded wire fencing for over five (5) years and counting. For a line of obstacles, I have used:
 - a. Planting pots filled with stones and with the grass kept mowed around them such that the deer can still see the pots.
 - b. Black plastic weighted down with whatever materials I can find, such as: boulders, cinder blocks, bags of mulch, logs, piles of branches, old tires, etc.
 - c. Our pollinator arboretum has trees and bushes within a few feet of the inside of the see-through welded wire six-foot (6 ft) fence on its south and east sides.
- 2) Deer need a straight runway to gather enough speed to clear a fence.
 - a. Our pollinator arboretum has a fence 30 feet parallel to its south fence and the house is 50 feet parallel to its east fence. Not enough room to build up enough speed to jump over.
 - b. Our first pollinator plant bank was ten (10) by ten (10) feet and six (6) feet tall. Too small of a landing pad to jump into as well as too short of a runway to jump out of.
- 3) To protect themselves from being devoured by carnivores, deer require a clear line of sight through the fence and beyond.
 - a. Our neighbor has a six-foot (6 ft) solid privacy fence. The deer walk around it.

Deer Biology also matters. Deer are on your property because your property is part of their range. Unless your entire property is surrounded by a “gold standard” eight (8) feet tall fence, there are other accommodations to be made in order to direct the deer to areas where you will tolerate them. Our 14-acre parcel is essentially a private wildlife preserve that is surrounded by mono-crop 100+ acre fields. The mono-crop fields include grassy waterways that direct surface water runoff to streams and rivers. They also include small wooded areas in low spots that are not cost effective to row-crop. The waterways and wooded area are also part of the range of the local deer herd.

Please submit suggestions for future articles to sarah@fruitstrengthfarm.com

Frozen Brazilian Lemonade Bars

YIELDS: 9 SERVING(S)

PREP TIME: 10 MINS

TOTAL TIME: 6 HRS 30 MINS

Ingredients

Crust

2 cups crushed graham crackers (from 12 to 14 cracker sheets)

1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted

1/4 tsp. kosher salt

Filling

1 (14-oz.) can sweetened condensed milk

2 tsp. finely grated lime zest, plus more for topping

3/4 cup fresh lime juice

8 oz. whipped topping (such as Cool Whip), thawed if needed

Honey to drizzle on top



• Instructions

1. Line an 8" x 8" square baking dish with parchment, leaving an overhang on 2 opposite sides.
2. **Step 2** In a medium bowl, stir graham cracker crumbs, butter, and salt. Transfer crumb mixture to prepared pan. Using your hands or the bottom of a metal measuring cup, press into a firm, even layer.

• FILLING

1. **Step 1** In a large bowl, whisk condensed milk, lime zest, and lime juice until smooth.
2. **Step 2** Using a spatula, fold whipped topping into milk mixture. Pour filling over crust. Using spatula, spread into a smooth layer.
3. **Step 3** Freeze bar until set, at least 6 hours and up to 12.
4. **Step 4** Using parchment overhang, lift out bar and transfer to a cutting board. Slice into squares while frozen. Top with more lemon zest and drizzle with honey.

<https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/a71464128/frozen-brazilian-lemonade-bars-recipe/>

Smoker Signals cont.

New Faces, Shared Mission: Meet the Newest COBA Board Members

I am a Franklin County Master Gardener Volunteer, and we are required to do 10 hrs. of CE every year. I saw a 9-hour class on beekeeping and thought "This will be interesting and will knock out my CE Fast!" I took the class and absolutely fell in love! Bees are so fascinating. Decided to start beekeeping the following year. I am now in my third year of beekeeping. I find beekeeping to be very peaceful and a stress reliever. I joined the COBA Board this year and am enjoying serving and getting to know everyone better.



In addition to beekeeping, I love gardening and DIY projects. I am currently building a 10'x12' greenhouse in my yard using old windows, refinishing a bathroom, and am building cabinets to use in my basement. I have a large vegetable garden with 6 raised beds, a mini orchard with apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries and figs and various brambles (elderberry, blackberry, raspberry, honey berries, blueberries and strawberries). Plus, a large pollinator garden along the back of my house. Somehow, I have managed to fit all of this on a .20-acre lot, with plans to incorporate more. The idea is to create a food forest.

I am a full-time licensed Realtor and have been selling real estate for 29 years. I love helping people navigate the real estate market. I have 2 adult children, a couple of cats, and a very needy Boxer.

As you can see, I enjoy keeping busy and challenging myself. Maybe a little too busy some days!
Mary McMichael



My name is Chris Call and I am from Upper Arlington where I live with my wife Katy. Together we raised our two beautiful daughters, Grace and Sofia. Grace graduated from Fordham University in NY in 2024 and is currently living near Brooklyn pursuing her Masters in Fine Arts at NYU. Sofia is currently at home working for the summer after her second year at Miami University where she is studying marketing and fashion. She will have an opportunity to study abroad in Florence, Italy this fall.

I am a veteran of the United States Army with over 30 years of service (1991-2021). I was enlisted for 4 years with the Ohio Army National Guard (OHARNG) and then I completed Officer Candidate School (OCS) in 1995. I joined the Infantry and served in various positions with the OHARNG and within the infantry community from Platoon Leader to Battalion Executive Officer through 2012. I deployed after 9/11 to Fort Knox Kentucky for a year as our battalion conducted site security missions around critical military infrastructure in the Midwest. I then deployed to Kosovo in 2004-2005 in support of Operation Joint Guardian (KFOR 6A) as a Company Commander, followed by a response to Hurricane Katrina in August of 2005 and an eighteen-month deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom both as a Company Commander. I then served in various positions as an Active Guard Reserve (AGR) officer through 2021 in my final assignment as the Deputy Director for Personnel (Deputy G1) for the Ohio Army National Guard. I retired as a Lieutenant Colonel with 21 years of active federal service and over 30 years total service.

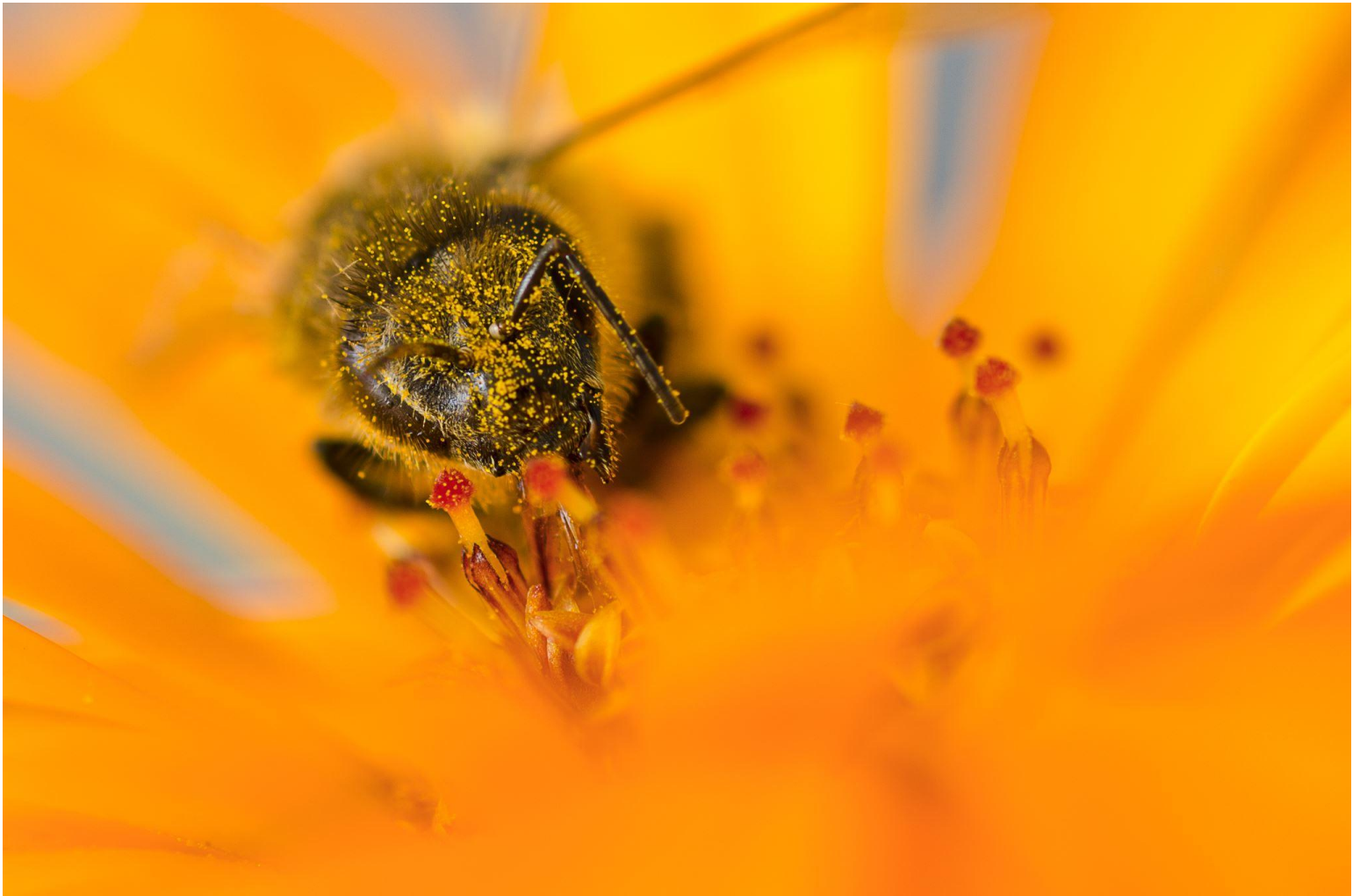
What made me want to keep bees? I think curiosity among other things, but I saw a flyer for the Veteran's Beekeeping School and I thought it sounded like a very interesting program and one that piqued my interest. I had never even seen a beehive up close but I thought it would be amazing to interact with the bees and with the people who care for them so I signed up. I can say now with a great deal of certainty that I only wish I had found beekeeping much earlier in my life as it is one of the most rewarding endeavors I have ever pursued.

Smoker Signals cont.

How long have you been a beekeeper? I have been beekeeping for just over a year now as I am in my second year of the VBS program with my peers in Cohort 3. I hope to continue beekeeping for as long as possible as it has become a new passion for me. I am so grateful for the mentors and peers in COBA and the VBS that make it such an enjoyable experience.

Fun facts: I am fully retired, so I have a lot of time to try new things. I am interested in watchmaking, I am a hobbyist woodturner/woodworking, I love classic cars, I enjoy cycling, I love to ski. Who knows what I may get into next, but one thing is for sure, I will stick with beekeeping as long as I can.

Our other newly appointed members are: Morgan Rudell, COBA Trustee, 1st Year Bee Yard Co-ordinator. Paul Wilkens, COBA Trustee, 1st Year Bee Yard Co-ordinator and Mike Hall, COBA Trustee



Greener Growth: COBA Cuts Paper

COBA recently switched the membership roster to a new platform called Join It. You should have received an email (or two) with a request to log in and update your membership profile. If you have, thank you. If you haven't, please do so. You will receive a follow-up email to download your digital membership card. Please place this card in your apple or google wallet. You may need to download the wallet app onto your phone or portable device. If you have any issues, please call or email me. Thanks.

Bob Bowers (330) 353-2316 cell bbowers53@att.net

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 two screenshots from the Kroger website. The left screenshot is the sign-in page, featuring the Kroger logo at the top. It has input fields for 'Email Address' and 'Password', a 'Forgot Password?' link, a 'Keep me signed in' checkbox with explanatory text, a blue 'Sign In' button, a 'New to Kroger?' link, and a 'Create an Account' button. The right screenshot shows a search results page with a 'Back' button, a search bar, a filter dropdown set to 'All', and a search result for 'ATC" ALL THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD ACADEMY'. A blue information box at the top right of the right screenshot says 'Earn money for your school or community organization when you use your Plus Card.'

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

Answers to the quiz:

1. **Answer: BA** queen excluder restricts the queen to the brood chamber, ensuring honey supers are free from brood.
2. **Answer: B** The hypopharyngeal gland secretes royal jelly to feed larvae and the queen.
3. **Answer: B** Swarming allows colonies to divide and establish new colonies.
4. **Answer: C** *Paenibacillus larvae* causes American foulbrood.
5. **Answer: B** Honey contains high fructose content for sweetness.
6. **Answer: B** Wax moth larvae damage combs, leaving webbing.
7. **Answer: C** The proboscis is a long, tube-like tongue for feeding.