



# GREENE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS

## GREENE BEE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025



Monitor hive weight by  
tipping the back of the  
hive!



Begin 2:1 syrup feeding  
as needed.



Look for weak colonies  
that are vulnerable to  
pests.



Prevent yellow jackets  
with robbing screens  
and wasp traps.



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# **GCBA Members' Meeting Guest Speaker:**

## **FALL MANAGEMENT**

**Chuck Dailey, Master Beekeeper**

**September 16, 2025 at 7pm**

**Where: ZOOM and Xenia Community Center  
1265 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Xenia, OH 45385**



Chuck Dailey is a retired engineer and certified Master Beekeeper who runs an educational apiary at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lebanon, Indiana. He is known for sharing his knowledge about the importance of bees with both children and adults in his community.

After retiring from his engineering job at Rolls-Royce, Dailey began beekeeping to address a lack of pollinators in his church's community garden. He spent a year researching and studying to become a Master Beekeeper. Dailey's main objective is not just to produce honey but to educate the next generation on beekeeping and the importance of bees. Along with his wife, Sandy, Dailey manages the teaching apiary and the adjacent "Growing Common Ground Farm" to help the community learn about pollinators and food production. Chuck is involved with the broader beekeeping community through The Beekeepers of Indiana. He serves as Vice Chairman for the Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program.

**OSBA Fall Conference: Friday October 24, 5 PM through Saturday  
October 25, 6 PM in Mansfield, Ohio**  
**Conference Page -- [HERE](#)**



# Bee Aware: Odds and Ends

September 2025

By: Bill Starrett

One piece of evidence to beekeepers that no new nectar is currently available is honey bees visiting hummingbird feeders. That typically occurs in August in Greene County but it can occur earlier or not at all. The reason that is important is because that is an indicator that surplus nectar above what is needed to meet daily colony needs will probably not be available any more before winter and that is typical beginning in latter half of June. Then bees begin consuming what has already been stored in the brood area for winter use even though colonies have reduced brood rearing. Experience confirms that the bees have all the honey they will get by June 15 so assessing what the bees have available for winter should be done before cold weather. I encourage beekeepers to get into the habit of lifting the back of each hive throughout the season before opening hives to learn what the weight of the colony feels like. Then when the colony is opened for inspection, a visual examination confirms what the weight of the colony revealed, whether well supplied or not.

Goldenrod can supply critical nectar stores, but it generally opens when cold nights begin in late August at the earliest and it rarely supplies sufficient volumes to make up for what should have already been stored to meet successful wintering needs. Therefore, feeding colonies that are inadequately supplied should be done before cold weather begins.

At the same time as the above occurs, the physical size of the housing a colony must maintain should be reduced to only the brood nest area to force the bees to consolidate all their effort. In most cases two deep boxes or three mediums will normally house bees successfully in the winter, but colonies have been successfully wintered in one deep box completely full of honey. Empty combs anywhere in the hive are a detriment to successful wintering so empty honey supers should never be wintered on the hive even if they are placed above an inner cover which tends to keep the bees in the brood boxes.





## President's Message

September 2025



August was a busy month. I finished up a small pond for my bees, merged 2 weak hives with a strong one, helped a friend clean up their apiary, helped another friend with a colony cut-out from above a bay window, worked with a mentee on their hives and went to a Styx concert. Also, given the 2025 beekeeping year is starting to wind down to fall and winter prep, I started thinking about my beekeeping goals for next year. This is a great time for you to do so also. What did you do that worked out well and give yourself a pat on the back. What are things and skills that you want to improve. Did you have enough and the right hardware and tools. Do you want to expand your apiary or perhaps shrink it. Are there fall and winter conferences you would like to attend. If you start thinking about those things, the few important ones will pop up to the top of your to-do list.

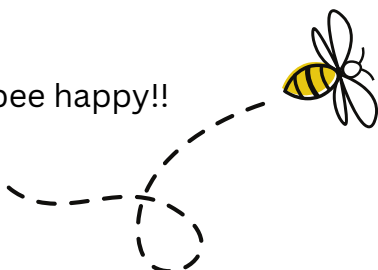
In September, I start taking specific actions to prepare my hives for winter. I know that if I start now, the rest of the autumn activities will go smoothly. I've been doing this for a few years, so I have a fairly good idea of what to do and when. This month, GCBA will have Chuck Dailey, Master Beekeeper at St. Peter's Apiary in Lebanon, IN, come speak to us at our monthly meeting on the 16th. The topic

will be Fall Hive Management, a very timely topic. I'm looking forward to hearing this speaker. For me, "fairly good idea" of what I should do could use some improvement.

Our GCBA new website is up and running! As this is a new website, we will be tweaking it while we make our monthly updates. Thank you to all those who worked to make this real and special thanks to Paul Piszkiwicz for managing this project.

A reminder to our members. Please let us know if you are interested in running for a GCBA board position. Or if you are just curious as to what we board members do behind the scenes. Elections are held in November which is only a couple of months away. Any board member can tell you about the board positions and some of the work we share. Should you be interested in possibly running for a board position, please chat with Cindy Olsen. She is the Nominating Committee Chairperson.

Go forth and bee happy!!



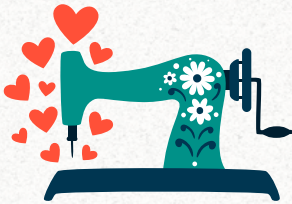


# BBE-THEMED QUILT RAFFLE

Greene County Beekeepers Assoc. is raffling this beautiful, hand-crafted quilt.

Proceeds support our educational programs. This quilt was made by Susan Kinner and Sheryl Fischer in 2018 and was donated to our organization earlier this year.

It is Four Patch Lattice pattern, with backing, 64" x 72" in size, suitable as a throw or coverlet for a twin bed.



Tickets can be purchased at GCBA Meetings

or Check sent to:

GCBA-

Attn: Bee Quilt Raffle

P.O. Box 362; Xenia, Ohio 45385

Include full name, \_\_\_\_\_

phone number, \_\_\_\_\_

email and \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets are:

\$5 each

Three for \$12

All entries *Must be received by Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025* and the winning entry will be pulled Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at the Annual GCBA Holiday Dinner.

Entries after that date will be returned.





## My Garden Path: What's Growing in Fall

### By Cynthia Olsen

You know by now that we are into the dreaded "Summer Dearth" of beekeeping, when very few plants are in bloom and those that are many do not have nectar and pollen resources for insects. There are, however, a few things available and you should be able to identify them. Consider planting these seeds this fall or spring for the 2026 year.

Sunflowers are an excellent resource for honeybees, providing both nectar and pollen for nutrition, with some studies suggesting they can help boost bee immunity and combat pests like Varroa mites and Nosema parasites. Bees are drawn to sunflowers' bright yellow and orange colors and large, open blossoms, which allow them to easily collect the plentiful pollen and nectar.



Photo by Lillian Wong via Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0

Goldenrod and asters are a main bloom found this time of year. These two symbolic keystone plants are bright in color and attract several species of bees, butterflies and pollinators. While this "fall flow" supports bee survival and can produce a distinct-tasting honey, beekeepers should monitor their colonies to ensure they receive enough nutrition, supplementing with sugar syrup if the fall nectar flow is insufficient.



Purple asters and yellow goldenrod love each other

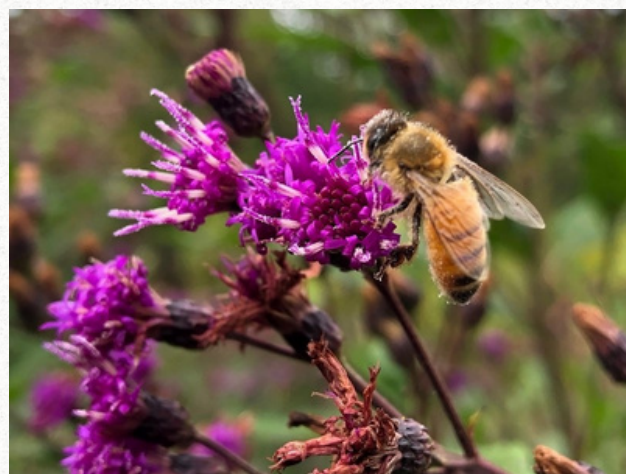




There are several varieties of joe-pye and they support many insects

Joe-Pye Weed is an excellent plant for attracting bees and other pollinators. Its late-season pink to mauve flowers provide essential nectar when many other plants are fading. As a native wildflower, it is a valuable food source for numerous bee species, including honeybees and bumblebees, and its hollow stems offer habitat for native bees after flowering. Joe-pye seed can be purchased and is tall, making a good plant for pollinator gardens, roadways, and fence rows.

Ironweed typically blooms from late summer into fall (August–October), filling a crucial gap in the food supply for bees and other pollinators as they prepare for winter. The flowers are extremely attractive to a wide variety of native bees, including bumblebees, long-tongued bees, and green sweat bees.



Vibrant-magenta purple flowers are highly attractive to bees



Mountain mint is a virtual Bee-TV

One of my favorite fall plant groups is the mint family. While these plants are known to be invasive, with management they can be useful late-summer and fall plants for all pollinators. Native mints include mountain mint, hoary mint and downy mint, and can be found through native plant vendors. Non-native types include common mint, catnip, basil and oregano.

#### References:

Palmer-Young E., Sunflower-Associated Reductions in Varroa Mite Infestation of Honey Bee Colonies. *Journal of Economic Entomology*, 116(1), 2023, 68–77. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/toac196>



# The Beekeeper's Library: Expert Tips and Resources

## The Ultimate Guide to Feeding Bees Sugar Water

This article briefly discusses why we feed sugar water in the first place. Then gets to making sugar water and how to feed it.

<https://beekeeping101.com/feeding-bees-sugar-water/>

## Why Do Bees Have 5 Eyes?

A short article describing the bee's eyes and some additional information regarding bee vision.

<https://www.buzzaboutbees.net/why-do-bees-have-5-eyes.html>

## The Physics of the Winter Cluster, Randy Oliver, ScientificBeekeeping.com

First published in ABJ July 2016, Updated in blue: 21 March 2019

A lengthy, detailed article describing temperature regulation in the cluster, the dramatic changes and regulation of gases compared to the normal atmosphere and water conservation.

<https://scientificbeekeeping.com/understanding-colony-buildup-and-decline-part-13a/>

## Get a Grip: Good Hand Ergonomics in Beekeeping

by Cynthia Olsen

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/aaa0nklocn7n0544olpip/Get-a-Grip-Hand-Ergonomics.docx?rlkey=109uvz3uyz1izz8ewbta6qfb9&st=5fzjcw4l&dl=0>





# Events, Meetings and More!



## Board Officer Election Information

**Please Consider Serving on the GCBA Board for 2026!**

- You must be a paid member for at least one year to be nominated for any position.
- Nominations for all offices will be accepted until 11/7/2025 by email or text, send to Cynthia Olsen, rascal1.co@gmail.com or 937-477-7471.
- Ballots will be emailed to all PAID members on Friday 11/14/2015 and must be returned by Monday 11/17/2025.
- Election results will be announced at Member Meeting/Potluck on Tuesday 11/18/2025

## September

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**September 16** - GCBA Members Meeting 7-8:30 PM (ZOOM and In-Person)

**September 20** - GCP&T Monarch Tagging Event, Russ Nature Preserve-**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

## October

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**October 14** - GCBA Board Meeting 7-8PM (ZOOM)

**October 21** - GCBA Members Meeting 7-8:30 PM (ZOOM and In-Person), XCC Special Room "Feral Bees" with Dwight Wells

**October 24-25** - OSBA Fall Conference Mansfield

## November

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**ELECTION: Nominations Due by 11/7, Ballots EMAILED 11/13 and vote submission by 11/17**

**November 18** - GCBA Members Potluck and Meeting: Quilt Raffle Announcement and Board Election Results!

Please review our August 2025 Member Meeting Minutes [here](#)  
Please review our August 2025 Treasurer's Report [here](#)

