



GREENE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS



Pull honey (or not), and
add supers if necessary.



Monitor for pests and
manage any
infestations.



Provide water and
top ventilation for
heat.



Add robbing screens and
avoid unnecessary
inspections to prevent
robbing

GREENE BEE NEWSLETTER JULY 2026



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JULY 2026 SPEAKER

July 21 2026; 7:00 PM; In-Person Meeting and Speaker
Xenia Community Center, 1265 W. 2nd. St., Xenia, Ohio

Roger Myers

Myers Honey

Swanton, Ohio

BEESWAX PRODUCTION and USES



Seventeen years ago Roger and his wife Judie noticed they had a garden but no pollinators so began with just a few hives and have expanded to over 100 hives. They are active members and instructors in Maumee Valley Bee Keepers Association. In 2025 the Ohio State Beekeepers Association awarded him as the Beekeeper of the Year! ***We are so pleased he agreed to speak to our group this year!***

President's Message

July 2026

It's now officially the second half of the year. The flow is essentially over but there are still resources there for bees to harvest. However, you may not want to rely on that. Consider feeding your hives. Also, as foraging for food becomes difficult for the honeybees, they may start "foraging" in the hive next door. Now is a good time to install robbing boards or other robbing impediments. I started using window screen fabric across the entrance stapled to the bottom board. I would leave a 2-inch opening in the center which is easy to close with a brick or block of wood if needed. I've also used ¼ inch or smaller hardware cloth across the entire entrance with several 1-inch "doors" cut so I could bend them up to open and down to close up the hive. Both approaches allowed ventilation. Don't forget about varroa destructor mites!

I harvested my first supers of the year on July 1st. It was a small harvest, as expected, since all my hives, except one, are 2026 swarms that I captured. I expect I'll get several more frames from each of those hives in late summer or fall. First, I would want those hives to build their stores for winter before I take the leftovers for me. Now is the time to plan for wintering your hives.



In June we held our annual Honey Harvest. It was held on Saturday, June 20th at Camp Greene in Glen Helen. This turned out to be another highly successful event. It was very well attended, fostered plenty of conversations and discussions, vendors and exhibitors stayed busy with the guests, and once again, our continuous honey extraction demonstration was highly attended. Thank you to all the volunteers that made this event so successful and special thanks to Cynthia Olsen who planned and organized the event for us.

Last month's speaker was Barbara Bloetscher. She spoke to us about the bee pests and diseases that challenge us. This month our speaker is Roger Myers, a 30-year beekeeper from Swanton, Ohio, near Toledo, and currently the OSBA communications officer. He has about 100 hives across Northwest Ohio. He will speak on Beeswax Production and Uses. A timely topic as we gather up our wax cappings and wonder what to do with it.

Now is a good time to ask you, our members, if you are interested in running for a GCBA board position. Perhaps you are just curious as to what we board members do behind the scenes. Elections are held in November and that may seem like a long way off but that's not so. 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!

Let's Celebrate Beekeeping and Show Others Our Joy: Enter Your Bee Products in the Greene County Fair 2026



County fairs traditionally demonstrated the agricultural and household prowess of the local communities. Prize hogs, flowers, colorful canned goods, and crafts go on display to show off hard work and treasure. Why shouldn't we pass our joy of beekeeping to our neighbors?

Firstly, you've worked hard all year(s). Celebrate your craft of preparing bee products by entering your honey or other bee-related products, you contribute to this rich tapestry of community skills and traditions.

Participation in fair entries help educate fair attendees about the importance of bees and beekeeping. You can inspire others who have hives to be more involved in our community and join. Remember seeing your first frame of honey and being awed? You can do the same for others.

Recognition and awards aren't everything, but competing can be a rewarding experience. It's a chance to showcase your skills and receive recognition from your local community.

If you sell honey, it can be a boost to your brand. GCBA members are regularly represented in the Honey Class of horticultural entries.

Finally, this is how we can support local agriculture and contribute to the promotion of local, small-scale beekeeping. Your participation helps raise awareness about sustainable food production and the benefits of buying local. I might mention entering items in the fair is just fun and adds another layer of interest to the event.

How to Get Started:

- Check the Greene County Fair 2026 Guidelines. It will contain rules for all entries and the categories for all bee-related products
- Look at the Exhibition Hall rules in agriculture.
- Start preparing your entries now. You want to select your very best honey, wax and frame.
- Download the Non-Livestock entry form and complete. Entry forms must be submitted to the Fair Office by July 20th by 4:30 PM. The entry fee is \$15.00 and you can submit up to five categories; this fee includes two fair passes.
- A complete description can be found at this link [GCFair Entry](#).

What Should You Consider Entering?

- The class for bee products is #15, and there are 8 sections.
- The entry for extracted liquid honey is a single 1# jar. You get to decide what category, or color, your honey fits into- white, light, or amber. Refer to a reference color guide for assistance.
- New, clean glass jars make the honey look better.
- Wipe your jar down with alcohol and a micro-cloth beforehand. It is judged on water content, color, clarity (no debris or air bubbles), smell, taste, filled properly to the fill line, and no residue on the underside of the cap.
- Other bee product categories are: 1 lb. comb honey, 1.5 lbs. chunk honey, a single frame of honey, and beeswax.
- Comb honey should have no leaking cells, clean cuts and no missing caps. It should be gently wrapped in clean cellophane and placed on a white paper plate.
- The frame honey is similar but whole within the frame; it can be placed in a frame holder or in cellophane wrap. Additionally, you want the frame itself to be clean and scraped of wax and propolis.
- Chunk honey must be 50% comb and 50% liquid. Using a wide mouth jar gives better results. The total weight should be 1 ½ pounds. The comb and liquid honey should be of the same color, and the comb should have intact caps pointing upwards.
- Beeswax can be in any shape but should be free of stippling, debris or cracks, have a nice honey-wax smell, and be light yellow in color. Beeswax prepared from harvested cappings makes the best product; don't use wax from melted down frames which have discoloration and a potential odor.
- GCBA encourages all the members to consider entering something in the bee products category this year.

***Entries in the 2026
Greene County Fair, Class
15 Honey category
demonstrate the beauty
and clarity of locally
produced honey***

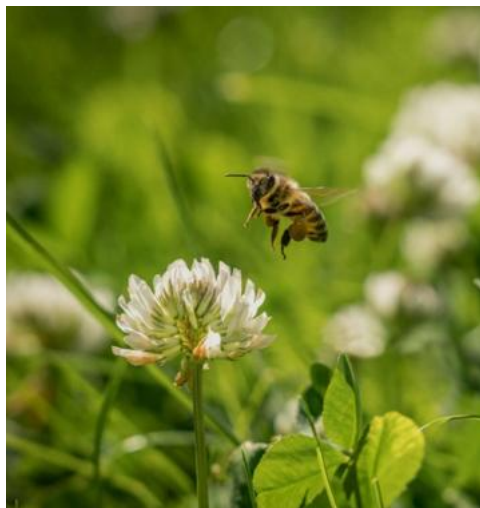
***CLASS 15 HONEY
01 Comb Honey (1 1-lb.
sections, cellophane
wrapped)
02 Chuck Honey (1 ½ lb. jar)
03 Extracted Honey White
(1 1-lb. jar)
04 Extracted Honey Light
(1 1-lb. jar)
05 Extracted Honey Amber
(1 1-lb. jar)
06 Bees Wax
07 Shallow Frame
08 Creamed Honey***

Down My Garden Path: Summertime Clover

by Cynthia Olsen

There is something quietly magical about summertime clover. As the tree blooms fade and nectar flow slows, clover has a humble way of suppling the honeybees with resources.

It does not demand attention with towering blooms or dramatic colors. To homeowners and gardeners, clover has long had a mixed reputation. Some see it as an untidy guest in the lawn. We know it's quiet virtues. Clover is a legume and enriches the soil by helping fix nitrogen, improves moisture retention, and offers a softness underfoot that survives summer heat surprisingly well.



(Dutch white clover fills our lawns)

But perhaps nowhere is clover more appreciated than among pollinators. Common clovers found in Ohio include white Dutch clover, the larger bloomed red clover, and Alsike clover which is pinkish with white tips, (*Trifolium* sp.). Yellow and white sweet clover (*Melilotus* sp.) are



(Alsike clover is pinkish near the stem)

avored by honeybees and beekeepers alike and is planted with the intent of producing a honey crop. They produce long, tapering spikes of yellow or white flowers. It is commonly found along roadside, prairies and ditches.



(Easy to grow, this yellow sweet clover works well along drives and fences)

Down My Garden Path: Summertime Clover

by Cynthia Olsen



(Crimson clover can be sown in late summer or early spring)

Red clover and Crimson clover are two different species. Crimson clover has deep red, elongated cone-like, blooms and is a summer annual used as a seasonal cover crop. Red clover is more commonly found and has a rounder pink-magenta head and is a biennial found in permanent pastures. Although honeybees can readily forage crimson clover, they struggle to access nectar in the long tubular blossoms of red clover. But bumblebees have no difficulty with it.



(Red clover)

Running Buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*) is a rare, native perennial clover unique to this area and once

thought to be extinct by the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources. This clover propagates through horizontal runners, or stolons, and has round leaflets and has a 9-12 mm round white corolla with pink-purple veins. It has been successfully monitored and protected.



(Running buffalo clover is found in south and southwest Ohio)

I purposely leave the white Dutch clover tall throughout my lawn by limiting mowing. On my gardens edge I intentionally plant yellow sweet clover along the edges. This thick planting supplies heavy drifts of blooms 3-5 feet tall. Honeybees, native bees, and countless beneficial insects gather there with purpose and persistence. I love hearing the hum as I toil amongst my vegetables.

Alsike clover and sweet clover are the primary floral sources for honey in the U.S. Those modest blossoms can contribute to the light, delicate honey that so many people associate with summer itself.

In my own garden, clover reminds me to leave room for what is useful, beautiful, and perhaps slightly overlooked. Not every valuable thing arrives in neat rows or blooms in grand fashion. Sometimes it spreads quietly beneath our feet and rewards us simply for paying attention.

CELEBRATING THE 2026 HONEY HARVEST AT CAMP GREENE

On June 21, 2026, members of the Greene County Beekeepers Association gathered at Camp Greene in Glen Helen for our annual Honey Harvest—and what a wonderful day it was. Set among the trees and natural beauty surrounding the lodge, the event brought together beekeepers, families, friends, and curious visitors for a day centered on honeybees, pollination, and community. The weather could not have been better, and the setting reminded us why this event has become such a meaningful tradition.

This year's Honey Harvest welcomed more than 200 participants, including many first-time attendees. It was especially exciting to see new faces. We welcomed new vendors whose participation added fresh energy and opportunities for visitors to explore bee-related products, local offerings, and conversations with fellow enthusiasts. Beverages and treats were offered by Double E Coffee Co. One of the highlights of the day was the incredible support shown for the club's honey sales. Seeing such enthusiasm for local honey and the work of our beekeeping community was both encouraging and rewarding.

Events like the Honey Harvest do not happen on their own. They are built through many hands and generous hearts. A special thank you goes to all the volunteers who made the day possible. Thank you to everyone who helped extract honey, discussed beekeeping practices, helped children with crafts, and shared their knowledge with visitors throughout the day.

Teaching others about bees and their cousins and creating opportunities for people to connect with beekeeping is one of the most important things our club does. Your time, patience, and enthusiasm created an experience that was welcoming, educational, and memorable.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the 2026 Honey Harvest. Together, we celebrated not only a successful harvest but also the strength of our county's beekeeping community. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.



Extraction Room Demonstration



HONEY HARVEST 2026 CAMP GREENE, OHIO



Adult Education Table



Observation Hive



Flavored Honey Display



Gift Vendor Display



Activities Table



Honey Vendor Display



Native Plant Vendor



Food Truck

TOOLS OF THE TRADE: HONEY JARS

BY CYNTHIA OLSEN



When it comes to preserving the delicate flavors, enzymes, and aromas of raw honey, choosing the right container is essential. Raw honey never truly spoils, but improper storage can accelerate crystallization or expose it to moisture resulting in fermentation. The 12 oz. glass queen-line jar (which holds 16 oz. of honey) remains a standard industry favorite. Chunk honey which is 50% comb and 50% liquid honey is best put in a 1-pint jar (which holds approximately 1.5 pounds of honey).

Regardless of your jar choice, make sure your custom label will fit and adhere. Several suppliers sell the lids separately, making the unit price higher. Assure you are getting both. Buying in bulk helps reduce the overall price. Although there are several U.S. glass manufacturers that serve the domestic food industry, most glass containers are produced internationally. The weight of shipping, tariffs, and supply-chain issues have driven up the cost of glass honey containers.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE: HONEY JARS (2)

BY CYNTHIA OLSEN

Glass 16 oz. Honey Jars

For purity and presentation, glass is the gold standard. Glass should be used for honey shows.

- **Appearance:** Glass offers a crystal-clear, premium aesthetic. It beautifully showcases the honey's natural hue, clarity, and texture, allowing light to catch the golden liquid.
- **Style:** The standard queen-line jar is used for shows and is the most used. Specialty shapes like hex jars and Muth jars with corks are commonly used for artisanal, infused and varietal honeys. These jars are pricier but customers are attracted to them.
- **New:** Jars and lids should be new without stains or rust.
- **Customer Preference:** Discerning consumers heavily favor glass. Because raw honey is a premium, natural product, glass aligns with eco-friendly and health-conscious values.
- **Utility:** Glass is completely impermeable, ensures zero chemical leaching, and can be safely heated in a water bath if the honey crystallizes.
- **Price:** Standard 1-pint glass mason or classic round jars typically run around \$1 per jar when purchased in cases of 12-24. These hold 24 oz of honey by weight and should be priced accordingly. The fancier queen-line skep shaped honey jars cost around \$0.75- 1.50 each when bought in cases.

Plastic 16 oz. Honey Jars

For convenience and transport, food-grade plastics offer a highly functional alternative.

- **Appearance:** High-quality plastic jars—typically made from clear PET (polyethylene terephthalate)—mimic the clarity of glass.
- **Style:** Food-grade plastic jars often feature molded designs like honeycombs, skeps, or bears.
- **Customer Preference:** Families and casual consumers appreciate plastic for its shatterproof durability and lightweight design. It reduces the risk of breakage in the kitchen and many plastic models also feature squeeze tops, minimizing sticky messes.
- **Utility:** Placing a plastic jar of crystalized honey in a heated water bath can cause the container to melt, deform and leak and is not recommended.
- **Price:** Clear plastic 1-pint honey jars are more economical, pricing around \$1 per jar when bought in bulk or small cases

The Beekeeper's Library: Expert Tips and Resources



This started as a search for a basic article to help new beekeepers, as well as those hoping to refresh their memories on basics. What was read turned out to be so much more. This is an article to bookmark! It is written by Melanie Howard, who is a beekeeper along with her husband. They are affiliated with Amazon and might recommend a product or two. Still, there are some great tips on how to inspect your beehives. They write about everything from suiting up, to great inventions like the “hive manipulation cloth.” Wait!!!! What is that? You will just have to read the article to find out! [How To Inspect A Beehive](#)

Secondly, swarming can be a tough thing for all beekeepers to learn. There is always a lot of advice from others, and it is usually to pinch the queen cells or add more room. Sometimes that doesn't always work. This article looks at swarming differently. Think about bees conspiring at the entrance, and the queen dancing. Whoa! Really?!!! She dances?!!! Swarms can't be entirely prevented, but if you are a smart beekeeper, you will help them be less tempted! Grab some tea with honey and savor this article by Anderson James from Beekeeper Corner. [Beehive Swarming 101: Causes, Signs, and Management - Beekeeper Corner.](#)

Finally, this greatly anticipated substantive, meaty article requires some deep thought! It comes to us from EV Ryabov, et al. It is a study about a widespread virus in the United States, that was basically unknown for ten years. Can you even imagine? TEN years!!! If you enjoy scholarly studies, this one is for you! It is a delightful read! Ryabov, E.V., Nearman, A.J., Nessa, A., Grubbs, K., Sallmann, B., Fahey, R., Wilson, M.E., Rennich, K.D., Steinhauer, N., Fauvel, A.M., Chen, Y., Evans, J., vanEngelsdorp, D., 2023. [Apis mellifera Solinvivirus-1, a Novel Honey Bee Virus That Remained Undetected for over a Decade, Is Widespread in the USA. Viruses 2023, 15, 1597.](#) <https://doi.org/10.3390/v15071597>



Events, Meetings and More!

July

July 14: Greene County Master Gardeners, new members Mandatory Orientation 6:00–8:00 PM

July 14: GCBA Board Meeting by ZOOM, 7:00 PM

July 19: “Bringing Nature Home”, 2:00 PM- 5:00 PM. Garden tour 8 properties in Yellow Springs; Tickets required, https://yscf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/event?event_date_id=1726

July 20: 2026 Greene County, Fair non-livestock (honey products) entry form due at Fairgrounds office

July 21: GCBA Members Meeting. In Person & ZOOM 7:00 PM “Wax Production and Uses”, Xenia Community Center, 1265 W 2nd St., Xenia.

July 26-31: Eastern Apicultural Society 2026 Conference in Shephardsville, KY

August

August 1: Midwest Native Plant Conference, Artisan and Native Plant Sale. Open to public. Bergamo Center, 4435 E Patterson Rd, Beavercreek, OH. 10:00 am-5:30 PM. Parking if free but registration is required: <https://www.midwestnativeplants.org>

August 1: 2026 Greene County, Fair non-livestock (honey products/ Horticulture and Floriculture), Items to be exhibited will be accepted: Saturday, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

August 2-8: Greene County Fair. 120 Fairground Road, Xenia, OH

August 11: GCBA Board Meeting by ZOOM, 7:00 PM

August 18: GCBA Members Meeting. “Pollinator Prairies”, by Patrick Higgins. In-Person & ZOOM, 7 PM Xenia Community Center, 1265 W 2nd St., Xenia.

September

Sept 8: GCBA Board Meeting by ZOOM, 7:00 PM

Sept 11-12: Lithopolis Ohio Honey Festival

Sept 15: GCBA Members Meeting. In-Person & ZOOM, 7 PM Xenia Community Center, 1265 W 2nd St., Xenia.



Please review our June 2026 Member Meeting Minutes [here](#)

Please review our June 2026 Treasurer’s Report [here](#)

CURRENTLY PAID MEMBERS LIST [here](#)