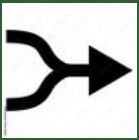




GREENE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS



Combine a weak colony
with a medium strength
one, removing the weaker
queen.



Assure adequate
nutrition for Winter
“Fat” Bees.



Seal up cracks on hive bodies
while leaving the top ventilation
hole open for condensation
escape.



Have what you need for
winterizing: wraps, insulated
lids, mouse guards, sugar bricks,
feeding shim, wind protection.

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<https://gcbeekeepers.org>

[GCBA Email](#)

GREENE BEE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026



Honey bees are lovin' on goldenrod at
the Russ Nature Preserve. Photo: C Olsen

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GCBA Members Meeting

SPEAKER IN PERSON:

Reed Johnson, Ph.D., OSU Entomology

The Effects of Agricultural Pesticides on Bees

Tuesday, October 20th, 2026, 7:00 PM

Xenia Community Center, 1265 W. 2nd St., Xenia, Ohio



Dr. Johnson's program focuses on understanding the relationship between pollinators and their environment, with an emphasis on the effects of pesticides and understanding the physiological basis of pesticide toxicity.

Insect pollinators are vital for the production of many fruits, nuts and vegetables, and these crops are also vulnerable to pests and diseases, which are often controlled through the use of pesticides. However, pesticides may be toxic to insect pollinators, setting up a conflict between the need for pollination and the need for pest and disease control.

In our lab we are seeking to understand how to protect pollinators from the pesticides and other toxins they encounter. The managed European honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, serves as a model pollinator for toxicological testing.

While the honey bee is the most economically important pollinator in the U.S. and serves as an excellent model species, we are also interested in understanding pesticide toxicity in other pollinating insects as well.

President's Message October 2026

October is here! We should all be moving along with winter prep. I like to collect some late summer/early fall honey. It's thicker, darker and has a stronger flavor. I've taken the last few of the supers off my hives and will be extracting the last of the 2026 honey shortly. I also checked that each hive had adequate winter stores in the remaining boxes. Most of my hives have plenty of honey for the winter. The remaining few will get extra feeding to help them fill frames. Although bees continue to forage on late season plants and flowers, they need supplemental feeding or they may start feeding too soon on their winter honey.



A few noteworthy events are coming up. First, the Ohio State Beekeepers Association will hold their fall conference at Kent State University, Ashtabula OH. The event is this month, on October 23rd and 24th. Lots of beekeeper learning, conversation and vendors. In November, GCBA will hold elections followed by our annual members meeting and potluck dinner. Also, GCBA has started planning for our February Indoor Field Day. Once again, we are holding it in collaboration with Ohio State University at their facility at the Greene County Fairgrounds. You will see more information on this event in the coming months.

Another event is our upcoming GCBA member meeting. Last month our speaker was Dr Tracy Farone, a professor at Grove City College in Pennsylvania. She spoke on queen vaccines and miticides. This month we welcome Dr Reed Johnson, a researcher and professor at the Department of Entomology, The Ohio State University. His focus is honey bee toxicology, pharmacology and honey bee foraging. He has written 132 publications and has well over 13,000 citations. His speaking topic will be the Effects of Agricultural Pesticides on Bees and he will be presenting in person. I look forward to his visit and presentation!

Elections for GCBA board positions will be held next month. Please consider running as there is still plenty of time to include you on the ballot. Perhaps you are just curious as to what we board members do behind the scenes. Any board member can tell you about the board positions and some of the work we share. Should you be interested in knowing more or possibly running for a board position, please chat with Cindy Olsen. She is the Nominating Committee Chairperson.

Go forth and bee happy!



DOWN MY GARDEN PATH: GOLDENROD, LATE BLOOMERS

BY CYNTHIA OLSEN



I had to share this gorgeous picture from the Russ Nature Preserve in Beavercreek, of the prairie covered in Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*). Native to the area, it is the most common statewide species, featuring three distinct leaf veins and plumes of small yellow flowers. It can be aggressive in disturbed soils, and is found on roadsides, fields, ditches, and open woodlands.

I wasn't sure where my bees were flying off to, until I went out to the apiary one evening to retrieve some equipment. The pungent smell of goldenrod, a sour sock smell, told me they were flying a quarter mile to a large prairie filled with this species. The orange-yellow pollen pellets being brought in was another clue.



There are other goldenrod species in Ohio, you may have overlooked and they are worthy of planting.

Ohio Goldenrod (*Solidago ohioensis* / *Oligoneuron ohioense*), is found in wet meadows, fens, and calcareous wetlands. This native grows 2 to 4 feet tall with smooth stems, narrow basal leaves, and flat-topped yellow flower clusters. It blooms from August to October, is non-aggressive and well-behaved in gardens.



Check out this site about the many species of goldenrod in Ohio (<https://www.metr oparks.net/blog/goldenrods-galore/>)

Blue-stemmed goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*), showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*), and stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*), are just a few species found.

DOWN MY GARDEN PATH: GOLDENROD, LATE BLOOMERS, CONT.

BY CYNTHIA OLSEN



This sweet little Bluestem goldenrod was found along the trails at Glen Helen Nature Preserve in Yellow Springs. It sat lovely along the native asters. The yellow blooms contrast perfectly with the white-pinks of the asters.



I found this stiff goldenrod at Gallagher's Fen, an unusual habitat, in Clark County.



**2027 4-H Enrollment Opens on November 1st,
2026!**

**If you have changed your email, phone, or
address, please log in and update it.
Please visit <http://v2.4honline.com/> to do so.**

TOOLS OF THE TRADE: ROBBERING SCREENS & MOUSE GUARDS

BY CYNTHIA OLSEN



Above is a photo of my winter prep: a strong metal mouse guard.

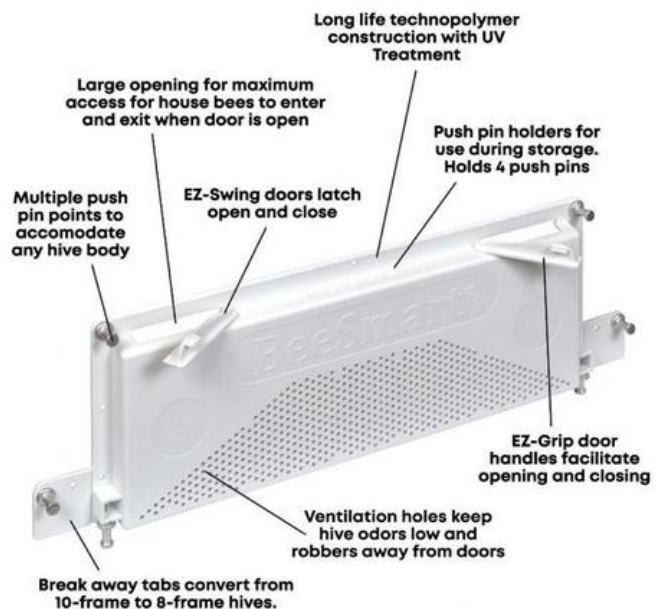
If you haven't done so yet, you should get robbing screens on or mouse guards to protect your hives from predators. The changing weather has brought out robbing bees, yellow jackets and soon it'll be the mice.

Robbing Screens:

These removable entrance devices are used to deter entrance of robbing bees and yellow jackets. They work by several mechanisms. By covering the main entrance with impermeable screen, the robbers follow the hive scent but are stopped by the physical barrier. The hive workers soon learn to use the new entrances off to the side or top of the device. Some of these devices have built-in vents directing hive odors away from the main doors to reduce attraction, while providing vital airflow. Both commercial plastic and wooden designs are available and run anywhere from \$9 -15 each. Pictured is the BeeSmart Ultimate Robbing Screen, a dual-purpose beekeeping accessory designed to prevent hive robbing and assist with moving hives. The problem with plastic devices used overwinter, is that mice can chew through

the plastic if they want in the hive bad enough.

A few pro-tips for installing a robbing screen: Always install robbing screens in the late evening or early morning when the bees are calm inside. This gives your foragers a chance to wake up, exit through the new door, and reorient to the top entrance on their first morning flight.



Secondly, robbers are highly guided by scent and light coming straight from the hive entrance. If your home-made screen allows too much direct light through the top gate, tape a thin strip of plastic or wood over it to act as a light shield.

DYI plans are available from homemade versions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRQCSdpa3S0&t=11s> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWqaX2MzYTo&t=6s>.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE: ROBBING SCREENS & MOUSE GUARDS CONT.

BY CYNTHIA OLSEN

Mouse Guards:

Mouse guards are an essential tool for winter management. As temperatures cool the bees cluster together for warmth and stop guarding the hive entrance. The dry, honey-filled box is attractive to mice looking for winter nesting and a ready-made meal. Mice will chew up valuable comb, ruin frames, and contaminate the colony with debris, urine and feces. Gross. Check the hive before installation to ensure a mouse has not already moved inside. Wire mesh (typically around 3/8 inch) is inexpensive and allows worker bees pass through freely while blocking larger pests and maintaining essential airflow. Commercial metal guards with small perforations costs \$5-10 each.



GCBA 2027 Board Nominations:

Board Officer Nomination Information

- You must be a paid member for at least one year to be nominated for any position
- Nominations for all offices will be accepted by Nov 6th @ 5 PM
- Email (rascal1.co@gmail.com), or text (937-477-7471) nominations to Cynthia Olsen, VP
- Voting will occur on-line and be emailed to you on 11/13/26
- PAID members will receive one ballot (one per family membership)
- Ballot must be returned by Monday 11/16/26
- Results will be announced Tuesday 11/17/2026, at the annual Members Meeting & Potluck

The Beekeeper's Library: Expert Tips and Resources



The Classroom - October 2026 - American Bee Journal

This is a question and answer page from Jamie Ellis of American Bee Journal. Beekeepers have shared their stories about what they have seen in their hives. Have you ever found a mud dauber nesting on your honeycombs? One reader has, and Jamie tells them all about what to do.

Urban Beekeeping Guide: Bringing the Buzz to Your Backyard

This article is for those who want to keep hives in urban areas. It provides some helpful information about what to expect, as well as resources.!

<https://www.orkin.com/pests/stinging-pests/bees/honey-bees>

Dun dun dunnnnnnn. Well, this is just hard to believe folks, but some people see honey bees as pests. I like to think that maybe they just don't know who to call (Call the Greene County Beekeeper's Association, of course!). While searching for articles this month, I found this one. I wondered.....what do exterminators really think? This site and article is actually chalked full of some great information. Do you want scientific names, or official measurements? Bingo! This has it and more! NO, NO, NO! Read, but DON'T CALL Orkin! Again, call your local beekeeping group for help. We need pollinators and they need us!



Events, Meetings and More!

October

Oct 13: GCBA Board meeting by ZOOM, 7:00 PM

Oct 15: Ohio Floriculture & Nursery Conference, In-Person & Online; Controlled Environment Agricultural Research Complex (CEARC) The Ohio State University; Columbus; (<https://reg-continuinged.osu.edu/search/publicCourseSearchDetails.do?method=load&courseId=1310765>)

Oct 17: Agraria Seed Fest, 1:00-4:00 PM. Hands-on events. Food available. Open to the public. 131 E. Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd., Yellow Springs

Oct 20: Tuesday. GCBA Members meeting. “Effects of Agricultural Pesticides on Bees”, by Dr. Reed Johnson, IN=PERSON , 7:00 PM. Xenia Community Center, 1265 W 2nd St., Xenia.

Oct 23-24: Ohio State Beekeepers Association, Fall Conference, will be held at Kent State University – 3300 Lake Rd W, Ashtabula, OH. Starting Friday, Oct 23, at 5:00 pm with presentations and labs. Saturday, Oct 25, at 9:00 am with (4) four tracks of education. This provides educational information for all types of beekeepers. *Pollinator Steward Certification* and *Beginning Beekeeper Certification* tracks are available. Registration required.

November(VOTING)

Nov 6: GCBA Board Officer Nominations Due by 5PM to Cindy Olsen, VP via text to 937-477-7471 or email to rascal1.com@gmail.com.

Nov 13: Ballots Emailed to all Paid Members, one vote each to Family Memberships. Voting is online through Google Forms Link.

Nov 16: Voting due by 9PM

Nov 17: Tuesday. 7PM. GCBA Annual Potluck and Members Meeting at Xenia Community Center, 1265 W 2nd St., Xenia.



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

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

CURRENTLY PAID MEMBERS LIST [here](#)