GREENE COUNTY
BEEKEEPERS

GREENE BEE NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2026



Cool weather honeybees take a peek through the mouse guard!

Inventory all beekeeping equipment.

Sign-up for Nov. Potluck and upcoming beekeeping classes & events!



Unclog entrances to hives from snow.



Assure food throughout the season.

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https://gcbeekeepers.org

GCBA Email

GCBA Members Potluck

November 17th, Starts at 6:00 PM

Bring a Side Dish; Chicken, drinks and utensils are provided!

RSVP: At greene.county.beekeepers.com with number of attendees, guest and/or family welcome !



Raffle Give-Away

2027 Board Election Results Announced

"How did your beekeeping year go?"

GCBA IN REVIEW 2026

This past year was a busy year for the organization, resulting in administrative improvements and strong educational offerings. Thank you for the work of our GCBA Board members and the many club member volunteers.

An improved GCBA website, informative newsletters, and strong speaker's meeting have kept you informed on the local beekeeping scene. Our Field Day Skills Workshop and our new Apiary Visits have allowed members to have a more hands-on approach to learning and consultation. The Honey Harvest 26, once again, demonstrated the importance of pollination and local honey to the public.

As a result, the Ohio State Beekeeping Association awarded the GCBA the Gold Award, for the strength of the club, at their Fall Conference in Ashtabula.



President's Message
November 2026



November has arrived! Daylight Savings Time is behind us and it becomes dark sooner. National, state and local elections were held. Cool weather jackets and snow shovels slowly replace summer shorts and garden trowels. Transitions continue. Many of us have transitioned their hives to "winter mode". Verified that honey stores are plentiful, sugar blocks are accessible to the bees for reserve food, hives wrapped to give the colony more winter protection. I'll be finishing up wrapping my hives mid-month and I'll be assessing for mite treatment. And I'll be making plans for next year for my bee yard.

This month's meeting will be our annual holiday potluck. We will transition from our normal individual speaker to you and all the others at your tables will be the speakers to each other.

If you are like me, you will table-hop and talk to more bee people. Meeting different beekeepers is not always an easy thing to do at or regular meetings but it is at our November meeting. I have made new friends and learned a number of different techniques by talking with folks at the potluck. It will be a fun and festive evening and I hope to see you there.

The meeting will be our last for 2026. We will announce the results of the GCBA board elections. I already know I will be transitioning to a position on next year's board as Past President. I've had an awesome time these last two years as president. Our board and all the member volunteers directly caused huge successes including an expanded newsletter, much improved web site, two very successful Indoor Fiend Days (expanding a bit more in February 2027), initiating a county-wide honeybee hygienic behavior study and GCBA earned the OSBA Gold Award recently as a testament to our focus on delivering to our members and community.

I would like to give special thanks to Penny Hogan who has served as the GCBA Director of Communications for the past two years. She is very much responsible for creating the fantastic newsletter we have today and for much of the success we've experienced these last two years.

Frances Abrams is also leaving the GCBA board after this year. She is a huge contributor having served as Secretary, Member-at-Large, President, along with chairing various committees during her time as a board member. I want to thank her for her outstanding service to our leadership team.

I look forward to Penny's and Frances' continued involvement as volunteers with our various events and committees. Thank you both!!

I'll see you at our November party/meeting. Go forth and bee happy!

DOWN MY GARDEN PATH: GATHERING THE SEASON END HARVEST

BY CYNTHIA OLSEN

There are several other fun activities to do with the family that highlights the enjoyment of beekeeping and our yard.



Consider a copy of Beekeeper's Lab by Kim Lehman for numerous kid-friendly crafts, projects and experiments involving the beehive.
One of my favorite ideas is making smoker bundles for next spring's beekeeping tasks. Use a cotton or synthetic-free jute twine to tie up bundles of dried items worthy of your smoker.



Now is a great time to collect pine needles, chunks of bark, pinecones, punk wood, scraps of untreated burlap cloth, dried stems and leaves, pesticide-free flowers and grasses.
Look for wild sumac clusters, as these brown-red seed clusters make an excellent, slow-burning, cool smoke.



Considered a weed by most, mullein stalks produce a smoke and tea used medicinally for respiratory conditions. Along with the dried leaves, the seedy stalks also work as a slow burning, gentle smoker fuel. These are commonly found on roadsides and in fence rows. Take a bag on your next walk as you see what you can collect!



The Beekeeper's Library: Expert Tips and Resources



Recipes | National Honey Board This is a link for recipes located on the National Honey Board. It is a great source for everything from desserts to flavored meats. With the potluck coming up this month, it is an excellent place to find inspiration. I am calling dibs on the sweet honey mango salsa and salmon. Yum!

The Mountain Camp Method: Feeding Dry Sugar for Winter Flurries are expected this week, and we have already had our first frost. Our girls should already be tucked in for the winter, with plenty of tasty snacks to keep them going. For anyone who may procrastinate and wait until the last minute, this is a method to feed through the winter. Some do not recommend it. I will say, I tried it once, and things went okay. That was my personal experience, but everyone's opinions are different. Anyway, this article discusses how to do the Mountain Camp Method.

Bing Videos Bee Wild! The secret life of wild honeybees. This is a documentary about honeybees in the wild. It is just under an hour at 50 minutes to watch. Grab a bottle of water, some chips, salsa, and enjoy the sights and sounds of the bees.



Events, Meetings and More!

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. 6PM. GCBA Annual Potluck and Members Meeting at Xenia Community Center, 1265 W 2nd St., Xenia.





Please review our October 2026 Member Meeting Minutes here
Please review our October 2026 Treasurer's Report here