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The Bee Buzzer

Monthly Publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 12

EDITOR: CHERYL BURKHEAD

December 2023

General Meeting

Monday, December 18, 2023 (7:00 p.m.)

(Zoom ONLY-website for updates)

“In the comfort of your own home”

Download the Zoom App and watch from your computer, smartphone, or tablet

Log in instructions will be posted on the

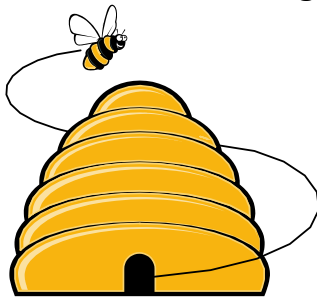
www.NEKBA.org website.

Main Program: Selling Honey in Kansas – Adam Inman, Kansas Dept. of Agriculture.

Adam will discuss selling honey, labeling laws, and answer questions.

Beelines

By President Ed Darlington



It is with a divided heart that I write my final newsletter as president of NEKBA. In January, I turn over the reins to Cheryl Burkhead along with current and new members of the board and I expect greater things from her leadership.

We (our current board) were forced to navigate during a tumultuous time when Covid-19 plagued our country. This and some of the attempts to deal

with this plague greatly restricted our ability to advance our NEKBA goals.

We have a new board which will lead us for the next several years. It is my hope that you will get behind this board and provide the necessary support to enable them to advance great NEKBA goals.



Meeting Dates:

- December 18, 2023, Zoom Meeting only @ 7 pm.
- January 22, 2024, Zoom Meeting only @ 7 pm.
- January 27, 2024 @ 8:30 am – 5 pm, *Year 2 & Beyond* class. (Flory Building) 2110 Harper St., Lawrence, KS
- February 19, 2024 – General Meeting, Douglas County Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper St., Lawrence, KS @ 7 pm
- February 24, 2024 @ 8:30 am – 5 pm, *Beginning Beekeeping* (Day 1)
- February 25, 2024 @ 1:00 pm, *Beginning Beekeeping* (Day 2)

Classes in Jan. & Feb. are \$55.00 each. Enroll online at www.NEKBA.org for both classes. Lunch is on your own. Contact Kristi Sanderson @ 913-768-4961 or sandersonk09@gmail.com if any questions.

Hap-bee Hour Online Training & Discussion Forum
 Friday - December 8 - 5:30 to 7:00 PM CST

Topic:
New Hive Technology




With Guest Speaker
Chuck Dailey
 Senior Beekeeper at St. Peter's Apiary | Vice President for The Beekeepers of Indiana

Registration Link: [click here](#)

 **Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program**

Just a reminder that next Friday, December 8, is our last Hap-Bee Hour of 2023! Chuck Dailey will review New Hive Technology and how to incorporate it into your beekeeping practice in the new year! Don't forget to register beforehand: <https://unl.zoom.us/j/97906464818...> We will be meeting at 5:30 PM CST. You can follow our event page to set as a reminder.

Chuck received a Master Beekeeper certification from the University of Montana in the fall of 2020 and a second Master certification from the Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program in June of 2023 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He currently serves as the Vice President for The Beekeepers of Indiana (TBoI), Chairman of the TBoI Education Committee, and Vice Chairman of the Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program. He travels across Indiana, giving presentations at regional beekeeping conferences, bee clubs, schools, and civic organizations on the topics of beekeeping and regenerative agriculture.

We are so excited to hear from him this Friday! Remember to bring your drinks and questions. We'll see y'all there!



Ol' Bee Gal

Panic! Don't Panic! Winter has arrived and you aren't sure if your bees are ready. Did you treat for mites? Is the hive HEAVY with stored food? Is the population vigorous? Did you install mouse guards and provide a wind break? If yes, you've done as much as you can. The rest is up to the health of your queen and there is nothing you can do about that right now.

Let's talk about a few things you might be worried about and whether they are legitimate worries.

The temperature. If the night time temperatures dip into the single digits, should you be concerned? No. Bees evolved in a temperate climate. They are well adapted to tolerate a wide range of temperatures. When temps drop, the bees cluster over their food. Through trophallaxis (the sharing of food) they can feed all members of the hive. Honey is nearly pure carbohydrate. The bees shiver their flight muscles and generate heat. When there is no brood in the hive, the core temp will drop to about 45°F. Once brood rearing begins in January, after winter solstice, the bees will need more food and will keep their brood core at about 91-93°F. The bees do not heat their hive, they heat only the brood area. No wasted energy here.

Does my hive need insulation? A lot of people on the internet seem to think that more is better. In actuality, most bee researchers think moisture trapped inside the hive is a greater threat to overwintering success. Trapped condensation caused by bee respiration freezes on the lid and when it thaws, can drip onto the bees. Bees frozen in water don't do well. Tilting the hive slightly forward will allow any excess moisture to run toward the entrance of the hive. Another option is adding a little ventilation. An option that seems both practical and effective is a quilt board. Create a super-sized box filled with wood chips or burlap to absorb the excess moisture. Do not block the entrance of the hive and make sure dead bees

don't block it. I have a great video of bees flying while there is snow on the ground. Sunshine and calm winds let the bees take much needed cleansing flights. Also, don't be overly alarmed if you see dead bees on top of the snow. That's typical winter cleaning.

Go heft the back of your hive. Does it feel light? They may have gobbled up all their stored honey sooner than you expected. Once the temps turn really cold, they aren't as likely to break cluster to access sugar syrup. A solid sugar supplement is an option to help them make it through the winter. There are lots of recipes for a cooked "candy board," but our favorite is a recipe we got from Clarence Collison (Univ of Mississippi entomologist). Mix together: 25# of sugar, 1 quart apple cider vinegar, 3 TBSP citric acid, and 3 TBSP Honey B Healthy (or other food supplement – Clarence said this is optional). Mix until it resembles wet sand. Press the sugar into paper plates. Let air dry for 24-48 hours. Add a feeder rim to your hive just above the top box and lay the sugar cookie on the top bars. Because bees work up through their winter stores, a hungry hive is usually clustered directly under the inner cover. That makes this a great location for emergency feed. Occasionally, the bees will treat a sugar block like trash and try to remove it from the hive. But we've had excellent luck with this recipe and the bees usually eat it up.

Is it too late to treat for mites? Yes and no. Most miticides are temperature specific. None are designed for winter's cold. But, if you did treat after you pulled your honey crop, you aren't quite done and there is still time to make a significant impact on your hive's health. A final treatment with oxalic acid this month will help your bees start spring with extremely low mite counts. Those low mite counts will result in strong hives ready to make abundant honey crops. If you aren't sure how to do it, check out the Honey Bee Health Coalition website. You don't need fancy equipment and for a few dollars, you can change the health of your colony in a very positive way. Remember, most mites are found in the brood. Your hive has little or no brood now—all those remaining mites are ON your bees. The OA treatment will get them! We consider this final mite treatment the most

important single thing we do for mite control. A day with temperatures between 45°F and 50°F is perfect.

Last, make this season about learning. National conferences are held in December and January because it is our slower time. Treat yourself and plan to attend. There are lots of zoom options available from very reputable organizations. Learn about your bees!

Really last—we have already noticed many suppliers offering bee classes or packages or nuc colonies for 2024. Not all bee suppliers are the same. ASK FOR REFERENCES. Ask for references for classes, ask for package bees, ask for nuc colonies. Ask the officers of NEKBA what they know about "Mr. A" advertising a set up that sounds too good to be true. (It probably is.) If you have had bees less than five years, consider attending one or both classes offered by NEKBA in January and February. These are people who know bees and want you to be successful (not just sell you equipment or more bees).

Becky Tipton

ASK QUINBY & REMI



Dear Quinby and Remi: I'm thinking of starting with bee's next spring. Do you have any suggestions for me?

Quinby and Remi answer: First, you'll want to take a good beginner beekeeping class. The one our club offers is the absolute best! This year we are offering two classes. One for beginners and one for those who have had bees for one season. I suggest that if this is your second year, that you take both classes. The beginning class will help everything

that you learned last year fall into place. Information should be in this Buzzer but it can also be found on our website www.nekba.org.

Second, you'll want to get bees either as a package or as a nuc. A package is 3 lbs. of bees plus a queen. We think this is a great way to get started. Your confidence as a beekeeper grows along with your hive of bees. You get the bees and put it in your new equipment. It's a win, win. The other way to get started is with a nuc, short for nucleus or small family group. A nuc typically comes with 5 frames of bees, brood, a queen, and a food/honey frame. This is also a good way to get started but depending on the supplier you could be buying some old frames that should have been culled out, years ago! It is still a good way to get started but you can have more problems.

Both ways you can have queen issues so purchase your bees from an individual who is local and will stand behind the product that they sell. There are so many scammers out there- it's so popular to steal for unsuspecting folks and it's found its way into the beekeeping industry. We caution you NOT to order by Facebook messenger- talk to someone. Make sure they are really local. Look at their Facebook profile- did they just start it? We are finding that most of the scammers are using business names that contain biblical names like Holy or Glory. Things like that—which is even sicker!!!! If you have a question, feel free to call or text or email one of the officers. Their contact information is in this Buzzer. We may be able to guide you. We have some great local beekeepers that sell nucs and packages. You can trust them. Matthew Brandes tries to keep our NEKBA Facebook updated with the names of local suppliers too. Be wary of folks offering packages of bees for pick up in parking lots and rest areas. If your queen is dead or you have issues, you have no recourse- they are long gone.

The club also has a teaching yard- we invite you once or twice a month to go through some hives with an experienced beekeeper. You can get familiar with using a smoker and hive tool, looking for brood, eggs, larva, queens, worker bees, drones. We'll answer your questions, we'll mentor you!

The club also has a great library for the use of members. It is brought to the meetings each month and then the next month you return any books that you have checked out.

Education is the key to your success! Come to our monthly meetings, take a beekeeping class, mark the Funday on your calendar- it's June 1st!

Quinby and Remi would love to answer your questions. Contact them by emailing their owner at heartlandhoneyks@gmail.com.



★ **2023 Beekeeper of the Year** ★
John Edmonds



Tips for December

- Renew your membership to NEKBA. Keep "The Buzzer" coming. It's a great source of information!
- Make sure that your hives have heavy bricks on them to keep our Kansas winds from blowing them off.
- Monitor food stores in each hive. Check your hives by lifting the back of the hive - are they light?
- Monitor hives for flight on warm days (sunny and above 50 degrees) and check for dead-outs throughout the winter.

- Order woodenware for yourself for Christmas so you can spend the winter putting new equipment together and getting it painted.
- Heavy snows can block entrances preventing bees from necessary cleansing flights. Brush snow from the entrance of the bee hive.
- Plan some honey gift ideas for friends and co-workers.
- Make beeswax candles and ornaments for holiday gifts. Try your hand at soaps, lotions, and lip balms and other value-added products.
- Subscribe to a monthly bee magazine and stay informed! Links to ABJ and Bee Culture in this newsletter.



Military/Veterans Apprenticeship Program

If you are a member of a veteran organization or know a veteran, please bring this opportunity to their attention. More information about the scholarship can be found at:

<http://www.nekba.org/scholarship.html>

Buck Bradley, Military/Veteran Appr. Liaison



The Honey Pot

Baked Brie with Cranberries, Pecans, Pomegranate

- 8 oz brie cheese (whole wheel of brie cheese)
- ½ cup honey
- ¼ cup balsamic vinegar

- ½ cup dried cranberries
- ½ cup pecans chopped
- 1/3 cup pomegranate seeds

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a small baking dish with parchment paper. Place brie into the baking dish. Bake for 15 minutes until the brie softens. In a small saucepan or skillet, add honey, balsamic vinegar, and dried cranberries. Bring this mixture to a boil, constantly stirring, then reduce heat to low and simmer for 1 minute, stirring until the sauce reduces just a bit, and the cranberries puff up. Carefully transfer the brie to a serving dish, using something flat like a pie server. Top with hot honey-balsamic-cranberry mixture. Sprinkle with chopped pecans and pomegranate seeds. Serve with crackers. This is great for holiday entertaining. (Recipe from juliasalbum.com)



Honey Plants

As the year draws to an end, it is a good time to reflect upon the past year and plan ways to improve not only your beekeeping but your bees forage area as well. Every year I try to keep better records regarding the bees but I encourage you to also make note of nectar and pollen sources throughout the year. Plan ways to incorporate more nectar and pollen sources into your landscape that provide successive bloom periods throughout the season.

Several books may help you improve your pollinator landscape. One of the best books to accomplish this is Peter Lindtner's, *Garden Plants for Honey Bees*. The book progresses through the calendar year, providing colored pictures of plants that are in bloom each month and a 5-star scoring system for both pollen and nectar production. This book has been available through our library or can be purchased through www.wicwas.com or Amazon. Other favorites are *Pollinator Friendly Gardening*, by Rhonda Fleming Hayes and *100 Plants to Feed the Bees* by The Xerces Society. *Attracting Native Pollinators* is another great Xerces Society guide and has native plant lists for bees and other pollinators.

Several websites to consider when planning additional pollinator forage are: www.pollinator.org/guides, www.wildflower.org (Kansas collection), and www.kswildflower.org. Now is the time to dormant seed your native seeds for germination in the spring. Water your newly-planted perennials, shrubs, and trees this winter during warmer days if moisture is lacking.

With these plant lists in mind, one can be better prepared to incorporate these plants into their pollinator gardens for the sole purpose of attracting honey bees. Choose plants with highly attractive qualities. It can be a challenge choosing the right plants for valuable space in the landscape. Focus on planting high quality pollen and nectar producing plants for your honey bees.

Cheryl Burkhead, Editor

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STAY INFORMED.**

[Bee Culture Magazine \(link\)](#)
[American Bee Journal \(link\)](#)

Use the links to subscribe directly...annual subscription rates under \$6 per month for both! This is fantastic information right at your fingertips.

As part of your beekeeping experience, it's important to be up to date with the trends in bee biology, honey processing, the industry, and much more!



From the Editor....

I have so enjoyed the past several years as your editor. I honestly will miss putting the newsletter together each month. *The Buzzer* would not be what it is without all of those that have contributed to its monthly publication. I tried a few new things: *Meet the Beek* and “*What’s Blooming in Your Backyard*” (an email supplement). I hope you’ve enjoyed these new additions. I’m sure Tim Marshall will put his own unique stamp on the newsletter and I look forward to assisting him in anyway that I can. Our outgoing president may think that Covid derailed some ideas or plans that we may have had as a club going into his tenure.

I, on the other hand, think that the pandemic opened the door to new opportunities. It challenged us in ways that we could not have even imagined. It forced us, as a board, to find a way to connect with our members. We brainstormed and with a little help from several within our club, we found a way to do things virtually and we had online gatherings; not just once a month but twice a month. We offered a Q & A session the first week of every month and we also had our normal monthly meetings. We continued to offer timely programs. We even held a FunDay virtually and an online auction. We answered many, many questions and we educated via Zoom and conducted beekeeping classes. I think some of our best work may have perhaps been our recorded classes. Thanks to John Edmonds, we can go back and refer to those courses and subject matter; even if it’s just to watch a particular segment. How invaluable is that?!

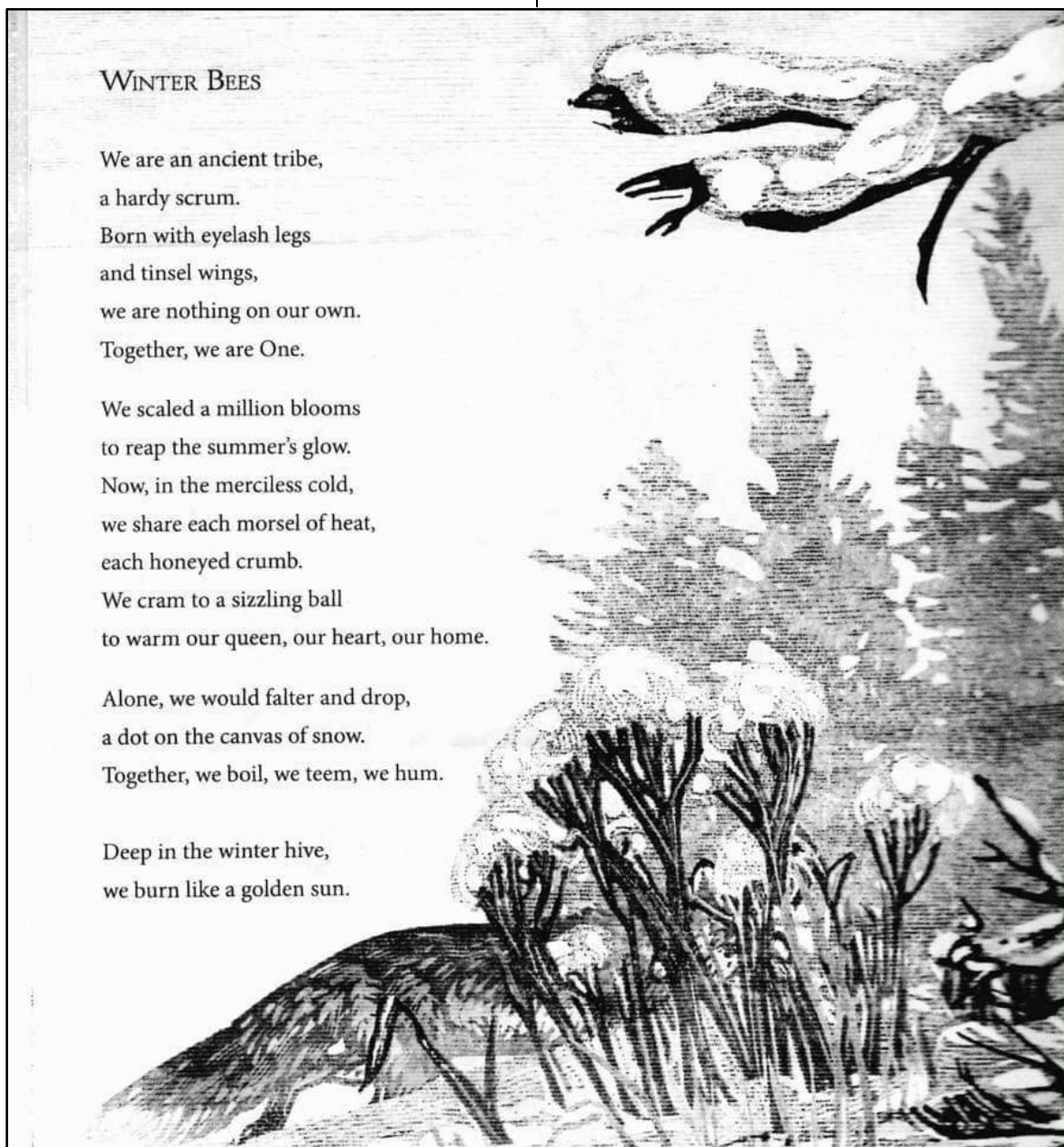
There are many online sites that one can go to. Some have great information and others...not so much. How are you to know what information is good and what information you should throw out? This is where your club is invaluable.

Our mission has never changed. Our goal is unwavering. It is our desire to make you successful as a beekeeper and help you to discover the amazing and complex world of this wonderful insect, the honey bee. We hope you find some enjoyment in this new endeavor or, at the very least, gain some knowledge and a new respect for these industrious creatures. We do this by teaching you the absolute best practices in beekeeping. If you want to explore other methods and additional

hive configurations, that is your choice but we urge you to first be successful for several years in the tried-and-true methods and the Langstroth hive configuration; a model that has been in existence since the 1850's.

So, in closing, I want to personally thank our outgoing president, Ed Darlington, for his leadership during some of the most challenging times and for his steadfast focus on what was important in accomplishing this club's mission – to teach.

Cheryl Burkhead, Editor



NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2023 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____
PHONE _____ Email Address _____
I would like to receive the newsletter, *The Buzzer*, by email Yes _____ No _____

Membership Northeastern KS Beekeepers per year (July-Dec. \$12.50)	\$25.00	_____
Additional family members wanting voting rights \$1.00 per person	\$1.00	_____
Additional family member's name _____ (Youth Membership (18 years of age or under)	\$12.50	_____
Membership for Kansas Honey Producers Association	\$15.00	_____
American Bee Journal (<u>discounted rate through association</u>)	1 year \$29.75	_____
Bee Culture Magazine (or subscribe online at www.BeeCulture.com)	1 year \$34.00	_____
Scholarship / Military/Veteran's Appr. Donation		_____
	Total	_____

Make checks payable to: NEKBA or Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Assn.

Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 ph. 913-481-3504, rburnshoney@gmail.com

You may join, re-new, register, donate and pay online at www.nekba.org

MENTORING-SWEET PRAIRIE HONEY

Need help with your hives? -Spring inspections, installing packages, making splits, queen evaluation, diagnosis of pests and diseases, mite monitoring and treatment, etc. I can help you with your beekeeping needs! I am a certified master beekeeper with 30 + years of beekeeping experience. I will leave you with a written course of action after our session at your hives. Call or text at 913-768-4961 or email Kristi Sanderson at sandersonk09@gmail.com for pricing and appointment times.

BEEKEEPERS.COM

Beekeepers.com (Jordy's Honey Company) in Lenexa, KS. Beekeepers.com is your only local full-service beekeeping store. We carry a full line of Beekeeping Supplies, Protective Clothing, Bottles, Bee Packages, Nucs and Queens. Visit our web site Beekeepers.com to view our entire line of beekeeping supplies. You can also shop in-person at our store in Lenexa. We ship queens directly to YOU! Order at QueenBees.com. Queens available March - October. Our hours are Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00, Saturday 9:00-12:00. You can find our honey at The Overland Park Farmers Market. **Robert Hughes**, 14054 W 107th St, Lenexa, KS 66215, 913-681-5777 or email Info@Beekeepers.com

COTTIN'S HARDWARE & RENTAL

Cottin's stocks a full line of beekeeping equipment year-round including items manufactured by Harvest Lane Honey, Little Giant, and Bug Baffler. Products include hives, supers, frames, foundations, extractors, tools, and protective apparel. We also stock a full line of Home Brewing Mead Making supplies. Located in Lawrence, KS at 1832 Massachusetts Street (South of Dillon's). We are open Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 6:00 pm, Saturday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Sunday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. You can follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Call us at 785-843-2981 or email us at hardware@sunflower.com

CB'S HONEY

CB's Honey is now accepting orders for 5 frame nucs. Queens will be marked upon request. Don't delay as I make a limited number and sell out every year. Order your 2024 Nuc by completing form online at [CB's Honey 2024 Nuc Order Form \(google.com\)](#) or via [CB's Honey | Facebook](#). Pure raw Kansas honey available in 5 gal buckets. Located just SE of Topeka. 4521 SE 61st Street, Berryton, KS 66409. Call or text Cheryl Burkhead at 785-224-9077 or email @ cherylbhoney@gmail.com

CEDAR RIDGE BEES

5 Frame Nucs for Sale. We are your local Premier Bee Products Dealer specializing in plastic foundation made entirely in the U.S.A. We sell bucket feeders and other bee equipment. Call or text Philip Knaus at 785-581-4216 or contact us at cedarridgebeehives@gmail.com - Check out our bees and products at www.cedarridgebees.com Cedar Ridge Bees 585 N 500 Rd, Overbrook, KS 66524

T CREEK BEES AND HONEY – Tecumseh/Berryton, KS

Tecumseh Creek winds its way through the home yard lending its name to the brand. Located between Lawrence and Topeka, T Creek offers 5-frame nucs, online honey sales, custom honey packing, wholesale delivery to the Topeka / Lawrence area, 5-gallon buckets of honey, and drop-shipping wholesale service to rural grocery stores and agritourism destinations. Visit www.tcreekbees.com Email: tcreekbees@gmail.com or find the bees on Facebook. Order 2024 5-frame nucs by visiting the website and completing the nuc order form. Owner: Tim Urich. LLC in the State of Kansas and licensed by Kansas Dept of Ag.



Honey Bee Biology AND BEEKEEPING, Third Edition, Dewey M. Caron and Lawrence John Connor, \$90 postage included. *This book should stay on the dashboard of every beekeeper's truck. It's that good, and that necessary. Kim Flottum, Bee Culture.* This comprehensive textbook easily replaces many beginner books while adding comprehensive details of bee biology essential to becoming a successful beekeeper and student of the honey bee. First released in 1999, *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping* is widely accepted as a major textbook of Apiculture (beekeeping). Beekeepers and bee clubs use it to teach other beekeepers. Universities use it to teach college students bee biology and beekeeping. It concentrates on the 'why', 'how' and 'when' of beekeeping. It explains bee and beekeeping basics in a manner meaningful to people who lack an extensive back-ground in biology. Yet it is not oversimplified, and provides a meaningful source of beekeeping information for the informed beekeeper. The Third Edition has been carefully edited, updated and expanded to 480 pages. New chapters have been added, as have colorful new graphics and photographs. The Glossary has also been expanded. **Wicwas Press LLC Kalamazoo, MI 49001 - www.wicwas.com**

The Association does not endorse nor evaluate the advertisements, products or services offered in the Buzzer.

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association
Robert Burns, Treasurer
7601 W 54th Terr
Shawnee Mission, KS 66202-1129

Address Service Requested

General Meeting

Monday, December 18, 2023 (Zoom only)

The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

Membership is open to anyone interested in bees or bee culture. Dues are \$25.00 per calendar year (December 31-December 31) for the first in the family joining. Those joining in July or later in the year may pay \$12.50 for ½ year. Additional members of that family wanting voting privileges shall be assessed dues at \$1.00 per year. Youth memberships (18 years of age and younger) are \$12.50 per year. Please submit new memberships and renewals to the treasurer or on-line at www.nekba.org.

The Bee Buzzer is the official publication of the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association, Inc. and is published monthly. Commercial ads are accepted in the newsletter for a fee; non-commercial ads by paid members are accepted & are free.

The library of the association is free to all members. Books may be checked out at the meetings and kept for a period of 30 days. The bee publications, *The American Bee Journal* and *Bee Culture* can be subscribed through the treasurer or on-line. The *American Bee Journal* is offered at a discount through the association only.

The Association meets each month, generally on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. except during the months of January and July. Beekeeping classes will tentatively be held in January and February for 2024. This is a non-profit organization; elected officers serve without pay. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings. Check *The Bee Buzzer* or website at www.nekba.org each month for the actual date, time and location. If the weather is bad, call an officer or check the website to find out if the meeting will be held or cancelled.

2023 Officers

President: Ed Darlington , 2804 E 174th St., Belton, MO 64012	edarlington49@gmail.com	816-331-4934
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