



Since 1948

*Exploring the wonderful world of beekeeping together***The Bee Buzzer***Monthly publication of the***Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association**

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EDITOR: JOLI WINER

MARCH 2017

General MeetingMonday, March 20th 2017

7:00 p.m.

First 15 minutes:**Varroa Mite Refresher**

Robert Burns Presents

Main Program:**Package Bee Installation**

Steve Tipton Presents

Bonus Program:**Observations from the Hive**

Chad Gilliland Presents

Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg. 21N

2110 Harper St, Lawrence KS

Chad has another great program planned for us this month. A trifecta! Robert Burns will start us off with a varroa mite refresher-what to look for and why you should be vigilant.

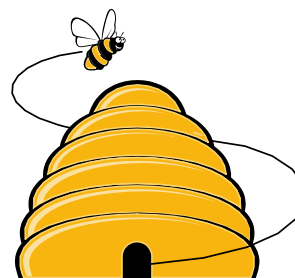
Then Steve Tipton will go over our very best, tried and true method to install a package of bees. There are a lot of methods out there but this one works the best! This method is better than anything you can find on U-Tube.

We'll end with Chad giving a presentation that outlines questions put to pictures that beekeepers have.

Directions: The address is 2110 Harper St. It is easily accessible from 23rd Street, turn north on Harper Street and it is just a few blocks. We are in Building 21 North which will be on your left after you turn into the fairgrounds.

Beelines

By President Steve Messbarger



It's been a busy month with the Kansas Honey Producers meeting in Topeka as well as the two-part session of the beginner Bee-keeping class. It was two weeks packed full of great information. I have never attended one of these events that I haven't learned a great deal. Dr. Keith Delaplane was a guest speaker for the KHP meeting and also our second beginner's beekeepers class. He kept us entertained but also kept us up to date with all the beekeeping education.

A huge thank you to Dr. Delaplane for his valuable seminars! And another huge thank you to all those that were involved in making these two programs a great success!

Who said March Madness was only for college basketball? They must not know any beekeepers! My son and I are starting to go at mach-two with our hair on fire. We've been checking hives, reversing boxes, checking queens and brood and picking out hives for splits. Next, we will be moving our bees to our out yards on top of getting more equipment put together. Maybe I'm just panicking in my old age but we always seem to make it somehow. Thank goodness my son helps me.

I hope is everyone is ready for the upcoming nectar flow which is just around the

corner. But who knows for sure, with this crazy up and down weather.

I hope everyone can make it to the next meeting. It's an important time to gather information before your new bee packages and queens arrive. We want everyone to be successful. Hope to see you all there.

As always, bees first.

Mentoring-Join Joli and Cecil on the 2nd Monday of the month-except for April-which will be the 4th Monday, April-August. This year the dates are April 24th (4th Monday), May 8th, June 12th, July 10th and August 14th. The fee is \$10 per person (Veterans are exempt) with the money going to the NEKBA Scholarship program. We'll work through hives each month and talk about what you should be doing and seeing in your hives. Meet at 6pm at 19201 S Clare Rd. Spring Hill KS 66083 913-856-8356 or joli@heartlandhoney.com. Please just email or call and leave us a message so we know how many to expect. If you have protective clothing please bring it with you.

Finding Reliable Information about Bees



Newbees—and not so newbees-there is so much for you to learn about beekeeping. We only scratched the surface at the class. In the handout we included many beekeeping sites that have university based research and practical information. We want to encourage you to visit those sites. As you visit the computer sites remember that anyone who can type can put information on the web. That doesn't mean that it pertains to the Midwest or that it is not just some knucklehead typing away. We want you to be successful that is why we put so much time, energy and expense into the beekeeping class. The same with u-tube-anyone with a phone can make a video that doesn't mean that you should follow that

advice. As Dr. Delaplane said-don't be distracted by fad beekeeping-read all that you can the world of beekeeping is just opening up to you!

The presentations at our class and our meetings are given by beekeepers passionate about beekeeping-we aren't all expert speakers but what we have a wealth of knowledge that we are happy to share with you.

2017 Meeting Dates

Meetings are held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds at 2110 Harper St. It is easily accessible from K10, turn north on Harper Street and it is just a few blocks. We are in Building 21 North which will be on your left you turn into the fairgrounds. Unless otherwise stated.

- Monday, April 17th, 7 pm
 - Monday, May 15th 7:00 pm (Flory Meeting Hall at the Douglas Co Fairgrounds)
 - Saturday, June 3rd-FUNDAY! Jennifer Berry, Dr. Chip Taylor, Dr. Marion Ellis, Dr. Judy Wu-Smart and Scott Debnam and many more!
 - Monday, June 19th 7:00 pm (note we'll be in Flory Meeting room)
 - Sunday July 16th picnic Gage Park Topeka
 - Monday, August 21st, 7:00 pm
 - Monday, September 18th, 7:00 pm
 - Monday, October 16th, 7:00 pm
 - Monday, November 20th 7:00 pm
 - Monday, December 18th 7:00 pm (note we'll be in Flory Meeting Hall Meeting room)
-

Have a Master Beekeeper come help you at your bee hive. I have an EAS and a Mid-west Master Beekeeper certificate. Evaluating your hives after winter, installing package bees, requeening, making splits, or a one on one lesson at your bee hive are just some of the things we can do. After each visit I will leave you with a written evaluation sheet from each hive we go through. Call or text Kristi Sanderson at 913-768-4961 or email sandersonk09@gmail.com for pricing and appointment times.

Renew Your membership-this is your last Buzzer if you have not renewed

Tips for March and April

- ◆ Consider helping a neighbor get started in beekeeping by selling them a split from your hive. You can buy a queen from a queen breeder. This could keep your bees from swarming later in the year!
- ◆ Equalize hives to minimize swarming: brood from healthy hives may be transferred to a weaker colony. Food frames could also be shared. **WARNING: never move frames unless you know where your queen is. Find the queen first. Never make an exception to this rule.**
- ◆ You should have several frames of brood in your hives now. If you don't, then you have a problem. It may be your queen or there aren't enough nurse bees to take care of brood. The queen won't lay more eggs than the workers can care for.
- ◆ Clean and scrape off your bottom board
- ◆ Keep up or start your recordkeeping.
- ◆ Check the level of your hives, they should tip slightly forward.
- ◆ Entrance reducers can be removed any time after the first of April.
- ◆ Check colonies for food-if they need food, feed. If they have food-don't feed unless you want to make some splits or increases—if you feed too much it encourages swarming
- ◆ Check for pollen stores, usually pollen is on the 2nd frame in on both sides-the outside frame is usually honey and the next frame in is usually pollen.
- ◆ Put a swarm trap in your bee yard. Bees are valuable.
- ◆ Send in your Funday Registration or go online to NEKBA.ORG to register and pay online

Winners of the Beehives from the Class

Congratulations to the winner of the starter hive and package of bees, donated by Heartland Honey. William Boyer from Gardner won that. Brian Merrill from Lees Summit won the 2nd starter hive.



Old Bee Gal By Becky Tipton



Q: What is the EPA? A: The **United States Environmental Protection Agency** is an [agency](#) of the [Federal government of the United States](#) which was created for the purpose of protecting human health and the [environment](#) by writing and enforcing regulations based on laws passed by [Congress](#). The EPA was proposed by President [Richard Nixon](#) and began operation on December 2, 1970. (Wikipedia)

But, what do they do for us? They are the protection for us and our bees from industry toxins. They are the police force for the environment. If you visit their website: www.epa.gov, they have an entire area focusing on pollinator protection. You can find these articles: Four Neonicotinoid Risk Assessments for Public Comment
EPA Finalizes Steps to Better Protect Bees from Pesticides
Pollinator Risk assessment guidance

There is a large section on, "What you can do," "Reporting bee kills," and "Use best management practices." All were full of interesting information. You can sign up for updates and warnings about pesticide changes.

Did you know that we now have a veterinary directive related to honey bees? If you use medication to either treat or prevent American Foulbrood, you will now need a prescription from your local vet. We heard from Abilene Vet, Lisa Tokach at the Kansas Honey Producers meeting. The vet will be required to visit your apiary and assess the appropriateness of using an antibiotic in your hive. There are a couple of issues with this. First, Lisa is one of the few veterinarians that I

know who is also a beekeeper. Most vet's will have no idea whether your bees really need an antibiotic or not. Second, the time frame to accomplish this "visit" may not coincide with the time you have to work your bees. YES, I agree that we have over used antibiotics. We beekeepers are very likely guilty of the abuse of antibiotics, also. But, this particular ruling sounds like a pure annoyance for both vets and beeks alike. Lisa begged us to not kill the messenger—this is not something requested by veterinarians. This change is an FDA ruling and will apply to chickens, pigs and other animals for which over the counter antibiotics have been commonly available. Lisa suggests having a conversation with your vet prior to a time when you'd like acquire any antibiotic.

American Foulbrood is a disease beekeepers have fought since some of the earliest writings about beekeeping in this country. It is a spore forming bacterium carried through food. It can be transferred from hive to hive through robbing or by the beekeeper using used equipment (usually something "given" to the new, unsuspecting beekeeper). The spores live forever (we know they live for over 80 years). They will not be killed by Clorox or other chemical treatment. There is only one real treatment for foulbrood—burn/destroy the hive. If you (the beekeeper) are choosing to treat with antibiotic, you will suppress the symptoms of foulbrood but the underlying disease will still be present in the hive. So, maybe the backyard beekeeper doesn't really need antibiotics and should choose not to pursue this method of dealing with foulbrood. I would literally cry if I was forced to burn a hive because of foulbrood. But, I'd cry harder if I thought I'd propagated the spread of the horrid disease to feral colonies or another beekeeper's hives. We used to use Terrimycin on our hives; it was what we were taught to do as a prophylactic treatment. We mixed it with powdered sugar and applied it to every hive.....then we rethought why we were adding an antibiotic to our hives. We haven't treated in many, many years and have seen no sign of foulbrood. Interestingly, choosing queens with hygienic behavior will also control this and other diseases in your hives.

The EPA is also under attack. Our current administration is trying to gut all their authority to regulate emissions, pollutants, and waste from a multitude of agencies. This is being done in the name of building industry and promoting economics. So, do not expect any of the big chemical companies to have any new restraints on the use of neonic pesticides. Do not expect cleaner, more efficient transportation or energy sources available for our use. Expect big business to flourish and do not expect anyone to put bee hives in the White House garden. Like any government agency, they are not perfect. But, they are the only guardian we have between our pollinators and the industries of the world.

Tips for March

- ◆ Check your bees to see if your queen is laying eggs. If your bees have plenty of food, the warm weather could really stimulate brood rearing.
- ◆ Prevent swarming by having plenty of room for the queen to lay, have plenty of space for the bees to store nectar; young queens should be the head of all of your colonies.
- ◆ Check mite levels in hives using methods we have told you about before, like the powdered sugar roll or ether roll method, to see if you need to treat for Varroa mites this spring.
- ◆ On warm days bees should be bringing pollen in on their legs.
- ◆ Start a little record book and keep track of when you see the plants blooming in your area.
- ◆ Start your record keeping for your beehives when you do your first inspection and stick with it throughout the year!
- ◆ March is unpredictable—keep windbreaks in place and rocks or bricks on your hive lids. March storms can be killers.
- ◆ Feed if your bees don't have ample stores. Bad weather can limit foraging opportunities for your bees. Feed 1:1 sugar syrup (by weight) to stimulate brood rearing—this translates to 1- 4 lb. bag of sugar to ½ gallon of hot water.
- ◆ Repair and replace damaged equipment
- ◆ Check for mouse damage and replace any

combs and frames that have been damaged.

- ◆ Check your hives on a warm, sunny day when bees are out foraging
- ◆ When purchasing plants please make sure that they were not treated with **Neonicotinoid** (sometimes shortened to neonics ("NEE-oh-Nicks")) are a class of neuro-active insecticides chemically similar to nicotine. In the 1980s Shell and in the 1990s Bayer started work on their development. The neonicotinoid family includes acetamiprid, clothianidin, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, nithiazine, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam. They have been shown to be toxic to bees.
- ◆ Check to see if your bees are hungry, only feed if they are. You may have to move frames around in your hives. If your bees are all on one side and you have honey on the other side, then you should move the honey around to center the bees up and get honey on both sides of them. Sometimes you have to take honey from another hive that has a lot of honey. Sort of stealing from the rich to give to the poor!
- ◆ I must caution you, do not feed your bees honey that you have purchased from the store. You can buy foulbrood spores in honey. It doesn't bother people but can give your bees the disease.
- ◆ If you are marking your queen this is a yellow year. There is actually an international code for what color you should mark your queen. The best markers to use are quick drying enamel paint markers. They are available at most craft stores or some of the national bee supply dealers.

International color code for marking queens-

Years ending:

- 1 or 6 - WHITE
- 2 or 7 - YELLOW
- 3 or 8 - RED
- 4 or 9 - GREEN
- 5 or 0 - BLUE



Ask Quinby



Dear Quinby: I would really like to requeen some of my hives this year but I have no clue what to do. Can you guide me?

Quinby answers: Yes, I can help you with that. There are several things that you must do to be successful. We find you have the best queen acceptance when colonies are small, with three or four frames of brood and bees. The very first thing that you must do is to find the old queen and take her out of the hive. We usually just kill her but you could put her in a nuc with a frame of brood and bees and keep her just in case you need a queen somewhere later.

Please note-if you do not find the queen you can't proceed. The old queen will kill your new queen so it's very important to complete step one! To achieve this you could go out to your hive 4 or five days before you expect to get your queen and put a queen excluder between your two hive bodies (assuming you have bees in both hive bodies). Then whichever box has eggs on the frames is the half that your queen is in.

Get your hive set up with the brood in the center and the honey and pollen frames on the edges. Then take two frames and toward the top bars scratch out some wax so that you can fit your queen cage with the screen facing down (towards the floor of the hives) and insert that cage between two frames of brood. The bees need to be able to get to her so that they can get used to her pheromones and accept her. Leave her in that cage for 3-4 days with both corks in. Do not remove the cork and do not poke a hole in the candy because you don't want to release her too quickly. After 3 or four days open your hive and take out your queen cage and with a small nail or pocket knife remove the cork to release the queen.

Hold the cage down into hive and let her walk out or take out a frame and let her walk out onto the frame. After you have released the queen carefully replace the frame and put your hive back together. Leave it alone for about 5 or 6 days then go back in and if you see eggs and larvae you have succeeded!



Do not under any circumstances introduce your queen by laying the cage on the bottom board or on the top bars of your hive. She must be placed between two frames. If it turns cool the bees will not cluster around her if she is on the top bars or on the bottom board.

Quinby (named after Moses Quinby who invented the bee smoker) would like to take this opportunity to invite you to send your stories or questions to him c/o Joli at the address on the back of *The Buzzer* or via email at joli@heartlandhoney.com. She'll let him know of any stories or questions you pass on to her.

Newbee Tips

Here are a few of Joli's favorite tips for heading out to the beeyard and working through your hives.

- ❖ Remember that anytime the bees are flying is an indication that the weather is ok for you to work your bees
- ❖ Consider keeping your tools in a bucket or tool box.
- ❖ Make sure that have your smoker, fuel and matches or a lighter with you all the time. Also, keep a cork to put a cork in the hole the smoke comes out of to put out your smoker—many a beekeeper has burned up his vehicle by not taking this small precaution.

- ❖ Always have your hive tool with you and some nails to make quick repairs.
- ❖ Joli likes to take an extra hive body to sit on so she doesn't have to kneel. But you could use a fishing stool or a bucket with a lid.
- ❖ Other items you might consider in your "bee kit" might be a permanent marker to mark on your hive such things as the year you put the queen in or what type she was—2017 Italian marked.
- ❖ Upon leaving the bee yard always glance back and make sure that the lid is completely down on your hive and that your rock or brick is placed on top.
- ❖ We also try to keep newspaper with us and a queen excluder and toilet tissue—you just never know when they will come in handy!



Location, Location, Location

There are so many aspects to consider when finding a location for your bees. We'll take them one by one. Ideally, the closer you can have them to where you live the more successful you will be and the more you will enjoy it. That being said it isn't always possible.

If you have your bees on someone else's property, there are a few rules to follow.

- Never put your bees where another beekeeper already has bees. Find your own place. Also, the other person may not be a very good beekeeper and you run the chance of getting diseases from them and vice versa. You may be a bad beekeeper and give diseases to them.
- Always negotiate a head of time what you will give the property owner in exchange for putting your bees on their property. For instance, we have yards of 10 or 12 hives and we give each land owner 1 gallon of honey in November. We tell them that up front. We have heard horror stories of land owners who expected ½ of the honey and more. So be up front, if you just have one or two hives 2 or 3# would maybe be enough honey to share.

- Make sure that you have access to the bees; do you need a key to the gate? Do you need to call the landowner every time you go out there? Ideally you want year-round access.
- You also want to choose a place that has easy access all year round. You do not want to put your bees on the far edge of a pasture that will be mowed since the landowner isn't going to want you to drive through their hay field when you need to be putting on supers or feeding your bees.
- You also need to be sure when it is a wet season that you can drive in all year round. That the road is solid. There is nothing worse than having to carry in a 60-lb. bucket of syrup into your bees for a ½ of a mile or carry in empty supers or worse yet, carry out full supers.
- Try to find a location that isn't low and where fog doesn't hang there in the morning. It is also a good idea to not set your bees in an area that could flood, such as near a creek.
- While it is tempting to locate your bees under trees, your hive will continue to grow as you add supers to it, the bees just really need afternoon shade. But bees do best in full sun.
- If you live in the city or in a neighborhood with rules you need to get online and see what the regulations are. For instance, in Overland Park, you can have 3 hives in your yard but they must be a certain number of feet from your property line. In Shawnee, you need the signature of several of your neighbors.

Ideally, you want a location with a windbreak on the north. Face the entrance to east or south. If possible you want shade from the late afternoon sun. Rarely is a location "ideal".

You want to get your bees up off the ground, but not too high up. The hives are heavy and awkward and they get heavier when you have full supers on them. If you get them up too high you can't reach to add supers or take them off. It only takes backing the truck up one time to add a super and

hitting the hive and knocking to over to learn your lesson. We like to put two hives on a pallet. We use to put our hives on 2 cement blocks. We also have used railroad ties to put our hives up one. We have a few yards where we are on a cement pad and then you don't need to be up off the ground.

If you are putting your bees in your backyard know in your heart that your dogs and your children will learn quickly to stay out of the way. Try to place the bees out of the main walk way.

The bees are quite resilient and will survive despite our actions sometimes—these are just some hints to help you be more successful.

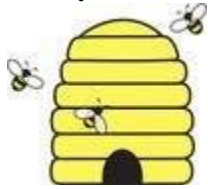
Making Splits

This is how we like to increase our hives and build up from our winter losses. We go through each hive and find our queen. Then we count the brood and leave 3 frames of brood and bees the first week of April, 4 frames the 2nd week. Leaving more than that it is too hard to get them to accept a new queen because the population is too high. Three-four frames are the most ideal. If you are not requeening at the same time you would put your old queen back in with the brood into the bottom hive body of your original hive. If you are requeening, then you would kill your old queen and install your new queen in the brood area of your bottom hive body. We like to leave her caged for 4 days and then come back to release her. If you just took out the cork in the candy end the bees could chew through that candy and release the queen before the bees had gotten used to her.

The extra brood & bees that you have taken away for your new splits you will put into a hive body in the center and install your new queen, leaving her caged for 4 days. Next to the brood add some open frames of foundation or drawn comb. Then in your outside frames, if you have honey and pollen put those in the 1 & 2 and 9 & 10 positions in the hive. Honey frames on the outside in 1 and 10 positions and pollen frames in the 2 and 9 positions. You always want to put your brood down, in the bottom hive body because bees naturally will move up.

When making splits in the same yard as the parent hives the field bees will fly back to the parent hive. This leaves your young split/nuc with fewer bees to take care of the brood. This can cause the split to not make it! It is best to move the split away about 2 miles so that it has a better chance to survive. You can also switch places with the parent colony. Move your smaller new hive to the place that the parent hive was and your old hive to a new spot. The field bees will return to the young hive in the new spot.

Honey Plants



Jo Patrick

If you are new to beekeeping, you may be asking yourself, "What is a nectar flow and how do I know if it is going on?" A nectar flow is when one or more major nectar sources are blooming and the weather permits our honey bees to take advantage of those blooms. Not all nectar is created equal. Not all blooming plants make for desirable honey bee food. Nectar sources, as well as pollen producing plants, are the main topic of this column, so as the calendar year progresses my intention is to keep readers informed in a timely manner.

Pollen, a protein, is also an essential food for rearing honey bee larvae. Pollen can easily be seen in the pollen baskets of foraging honey bees. A quick look at the entrance of hives will tell you if they are bringing in pollen. You should take note of the color of pollen that is being brought in. That is a clue to the pollen source. Not all pollen collected by honey bees is created equal. Honey bees are not as fussy about pollen sources as they are nectar sources, but they do prefer fresh pollen over stored. Pollen is equal in importance to nectar for honey bee colony survival. Inspecting brood frames for pollen is easily done, but honey bees can mix various pollen sources together into cells. It's not as easy to tell the plant source

without a microscope once it is packed in the cell.

Adult honey bees require nectar for food, which is carried into the hive by foraging bees. The honey bee carries the nectar in its honey stomach, sometimes called a crop or reservoir. The honey bees loaded with nectar are not as easy to detect. Honey bees do exhibit behaviors that will signal a nectar flow to the beekeeper. Basic knowledge of which nectar sources are in your honey bees' foraging area will help the experienced and inexperienced beekeeper know what is happening in the hive. Beekeepers see that honey supers are prepped and ready so they can be added to the colony at the appropriate time.

Observing and keeping a record of what plant species are blooming and when will make you better prepared in upcoming years. It doesn't take anything fancy. A small note book kept in the glove box of your car, a calendar or a card file will do. For the techie there is the app Life-Smart Gardening Journal/Diary available for free at iTunes. It is compatible with iOS 7.1 or later. As the name implies, this app allows the user to make notes and to organize them.

Dr. Keith Delaplane stated, at the spring Kansas Honey Producers meeting, "The more you learn, the bigger the subject gets." I interpret that statement to mean that knowledge leads to the realization that there is so much more to learn. It's up to the beekeeper to have the desire to keep learning. Keeping records is certainly one way to retain and access what you have learned.

We have had our weather extremes this month. It started out warm and has done a complete turn-around. The early warm and dry weather this spring had nectar and pollen plants blooming early. The recent hard freeze will certainly nip the blossoms of the very good nectar and pollen producing peaches, plums, apricots, crabapples, and currants that were blooming. Also beginning to bloom in some areas were dandelions, henbit, and native redbud trees. No need to worry about the weeds. They will only be slowed down by freezing temps. The redbud trees will be a case of "wait and see". If the buds were still tight, prior to the freeze, they may be fine and still be a good nectar source. Dandelions are an abundant pollen

producer. While not a complete protein, the dandelion is still a valuable and abundant pollen source.

There are several upcoming native plant sales to keep in mind this spring.

- Saturday, April 15 and May 6 the Missouri Prairie Foundation will host a sale at the Discovery Center, 4750 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO. The sale will be from 9:30-2pm both sale days.
- The Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners will be featuring native plants for sale, as well as vegetable, bedding, perennials and succulents. Sale dates are April 27, 11am-5pm; April 28, 8am-5pm; April 29, 8am-noon. The location will be at 300 Baptiste Dr., Paola, KS. All plants are locally grown organically and are neonicotinoid free. Master Gardener Lenora Larson is the club's expert on butterflies. She is often on hand to answer butterfly related questions.
- Be sure to take advantage of the Douglas County Master Gardeners plant sale that coincides with NEKBA's Funday Celebration on June 3. Both will be held at the Douglas County fairgrounds. This sale always has a large collection of pollinator friendly plants at reasonable prices.
- Also interesting is a promotion by Cascadian Farm organic products. Each package of their products urges consumers to go to their website, www.bee-friendlier.com. Cascadian Farm has partnered with the Xerces Society and University of Minnesota Bee Lab. By redeeming codes on the back of their organic products, consumers can choose to donate 25 cents, per code, to plant flowers or fund research at the University of Minnesota led by Dr. Marla Spivak. Many of you will remember Dr. Spivak as our keynote speaker, at Funday, several years ago.

Taking care of Package Bees and Queens until you can get them Installed

If I have a package that you can't install -either it is too late or pouring rain than here are some tips on how to take care of your package.is there anything extra I need to do for the bees?

Packages:

1. When transporting them – in a car on a warm day run your air conditioner. If it is a cool day you can transport them in the trunk. Never put the bees in a cardboard box- as it will block out air and could kill your package. The bed of a pick up is fine- again do not put in a box, let the air get to them if you can't install them right away best to put them in an unheated garage or barn, out of the wind. Heat will kill your package of bees.
2. If your feeder can is empty fill a spray bottle with syrup made of 4# of sugar to ½ gallon of water referred to as 1:1 syrup.
3. As soon as you can get your bees in the hive—your bees are always better in the hive than in those packages.
4. Feed your package bees immediately upon installation into a hive.

Queens:

1. Again, it is always best to use them as soon as possible-but if that isn't possible-keep them on a table or counter, out of direct sunlight and without cold air blowing on them. Room temperature is perfect.
2. Keep them out of the reach of pets
3. Never put them on your dash board or the hood of your vehicle-direct sunlight will quickly kill them.
4. Once a day put water on your finger and run it over the top of the queen cage-just enough so that the bees can get a little drink off of the screen.
5. Never feed honey to the queen, they have a sugar plug in the cage which is adequate for them to feed on.

Frost tolerance of Apricots and Peaches
K State Newsletter, Horticulture
2017 Newsletter,
No. 11 March 14, 017

Growers of apricots and peaches often wonder at what temperature fruit buds are killed especially in years where we have an early spring. These two tree fruits bloom very early and are often caught by a late frost. The following will give you some guidelines but remember that the actual damage is going to be influenced by the weather before the temperature drops. An extended warm spell before the cold snap may result in more damage due to a loss in cold hardiness. The stages listed are for the fruit buds.

Apricot

| Stage | 10% Kill (°F) | 90% Kill (°F) |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| First white | 24 | 14 |
| First Bloom | 25 | 19 |
| Full Bloom | 27 | 22 |
| n the Shuck | 27 | 24 |
| Green Fruit | 28 | 25 |

Peach

| Stage | 10% Kill (°F) | 90% Kill (°F) |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Swollen bud | 18 | 2 |
| Half-inch green | 23 | 5 |
| Pink | 25 | 18 |
| Bloom | 27 | 24 |
| Petal fall | 28 | 25 |
| Fruit set | 28 | 25 |

To check for low temperature injury to fruit buds or blossoms, use a sharp knife and cut them in half longitudinally (from top to bottom). If the tiny seed in the center is white to cream color no damage has been done. But if the seed in several buds or blossoms is dark brown or black, it has been killed.

It is possible to give some protection to blossoms from freezing by covering the tree with a bed spread, blanket or similar fabric.

Old-fashioned Christmas lights distributed around the tree will help to give additional protection. The newer, smaller Christmas lights do not give off enough heat and are not recommended. Of course, the practicality of this method of protection depends upon the size and number of trees.

Sprinkling the tree with water throughout the freezing period can also protect the blossoms. Sprinklers should be started before the temperature drops to freezing to be sure ice does not block the garden hose or water line. Continue until the temperature warms. With this protection method, there is the potential of creating an ice storm. If temperatures remain below freezing for several hours, ice will accumulate on the branches and limbs. The weight from the ice may cause branches and limbs to break causing severe, and possibly permanent, damage to the tree structure. Also, if water drainage from the soil is slow and the water displaces oxygen from the roots, damage to trees may result. (Ward Upham)

Renew Your membership—this is your last Buzzer if you have not renewed—how will you know—there will either be a reminder on your email or on the front of your Buzzer if receiving it by mail



Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers 2017 Funday

Saturday, June 3rd 2017-- Registration:7:30-8:30 –Program:8:30-5:00

Douglas County Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper St., Lawrence KS

Fee includes Lunch, Beverages, Snacks & Homemade Honey Ice Cream and a Full Day of Fun!

Bring your hat and veil or bee suit -we'll have workshops at bee hives!

Cost: \$40.00 per person for those Pre-registered, \$50 at the door

Children under 5 free, ages 6-18 \$17.50 for those preregistered \$20 at the door

Pre-Register by May 22nd to be in a drawing to get your registration refunded

To register online visit our website at WWW.NEKBA.ORG

For information contact Becky Tipton at 785-484-3710 or bstbees@embarqmail.com

Guest Speakers

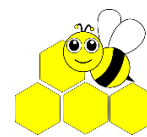
Jennifer Berry M.S., 2000, University of Georgia, Entomology. For the past 17 years, Jennifer Berry has been the Apicultural Research Professional and Lab Manager for the University of Georgia Honey Bee Program. Her research objectives have focused on improving honey bee health, the sub-lethal effects of pesticides on beneficial insects and IPM techniques for varroa and small hive beetle control.

Scott Debnam, a graduate of the University of Montana Wildlife Biology program and has 14 years of experience managing the research colonies for the University. His research focuses on the movement of pollinators through the environment and the ecological patterns that influence their plant choices.

Dr. Judy Wu-Smart, *Entomology Extension Specialist University of Nebraska, Lincoln* whose area of interest was sublethal effects of neonicotinyl insecticides on honey bee and bumble bee queens and colony development. She rocks!

Dr. Marion Ellis, a retired professor of entomology and researcher from the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**, will be a feature speaker. We love him!

Dr. Chip Taylor—the swarm king! He is the *Founder and Director of Monarch Watch; Professor Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS*



Swarm Demo with Dr. Chip Taylor!
Hands-on workshop and presentations all day!

Vendors:

Mann Lake Supply

Brushy Mountain

Dadant and Sons-If you wish to preorder do so by the end of May, ask for -Arlyn or Gina. 217-847-3324

Jordys Honey, Robert Hughes 913-681-5777

Heartland Honey, Cecil Sweeney, 913-856-8356

Douglas County Master Gardeners Flower & Plant Sale Dreher Bldg. Patio

Door Prizes: The swarm from the swarm demonstration will be given away in a single hive. There will be door prizes from supply dealers. You must be present to win and you must fill out an evaluation form to win any door prizes.

Motels that are in Lawrence:

Best Western, 2309 Iowa, 785-843-9100

Hampton Inn, 2300 W. 6th, 785-841-4994

**A Silent Auction will be held to benefit the
NEKBA Scholarship Program
Donations of auction items are appreciated!**

**Program & Speakers Subject to Change
NEKBA.org visit our website to register**

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Funday Registration Form

2017 Beekeeping Fun Day, Saturday June 3rd 2017

Need More Info? Please contact Steve or Becky Tipton at 785-484-3710 or

bstbees@embarqmail.com

You can register and pay online at WWW.NEKBA.ORG. Your contact information will be provided to the club through PayPal—please list all participants in the Paypal notes section

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip+4 _____

Phone # _____

Email address _____

I am a member of the Northeast KS Beekeepers

I am **not** a member of the Northeast KS Beekeepers

I would like to be a member--Club Membership ½ year \$7.50 (membership not required) _____

I would like to receive my *Buzzer* Newsletter by email

Registration for Funday:

Adults \$40 per person (\$50.00 if paid after May 22nd) _____

Registration includes admission to the Funday, lunch, drinks, handouts, and an afternoon snack of homemade honey ice cream

There will be an alternative meal available at lunch for vegetarians.

Youth (6-18) \$17.50 (\$20.00 if paid after May 22nd) _____

Youth 5 and under free

Scholarship Donation _____

Total \$ _____

Please make your check out to "Northeast KS Beekeepers or NEKBA" or register and pay online at WWW.NEKBA.ORG No Receipts will be sent

Mail to: Robert Burns

7601 W 54th Terr

Shawnee Mission KS 66202 [913-481-3504](tel:913-481-3504)

Email: rburnshoney@gmail.com

Names of those attending so name tags can be made:

We appreciate early pre-registrations so much that at the end of the Funday we will hold a drawing of all preregistered people and one person gets his registration fee

HEARTLAND HONEY & BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies including woodenware, smokers, extractors, books, queens, package bees and containers. For your convenience please call in advance to schedule an appt. Joli Winer/Cecil Sweeney, Heartland Honey and Beekeeping Supplies, 19201 S Clare Rd. Spring Hill KS 66083. (913) 856-8356. joli@heartlandhoney.com

FISHER'S BEE SUPPLIES

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies. See us for your woodenware, smokers, containers, foundation, beekeeping books, extractors, queens and package bees. We also have extractors for rent. We will trade wax for supplies. Our hours are: 9:00am - 5:00pm Monday - Friday and Saturday after 8:30am. You should call before you come to make sure we are here. ED FISHER 4005 N.E. 132nd Street, Smithville MO 64089 816-532-4698

DRAPER'S SUPER BEE

We offer fast and courteous service to all beekeepers. We only sell containers, pollen and honey for those who run short. Order is shipped the same day as received in most cases. Free catalog available on request. Pick up orders at our warehouse must be pre-ordered and picked up by appt only. Business Hours: Mon.-Thur. 8-5; closed from 12-1. Brenda and Larry Draper, DRAPER'S SUPER BEE; 914 S St. Auburn NE 68305 PHONE: (402) 274-3725.

THE HAWLEY HONEY COMPANY

For Sale: White Clover honey strained in 5 gallon buckets. We will pack it in your jars for an extra fee. Bee equipment, new and used. Jars, foundation, bears, comb honey, used extractors. Bees: frames of brood. Corn syrup or sugar by the 5 gallon bucket or barrel. *If you need it, we probably have what you want.* 3-frame nucs of solid brood comb of foundation (frames of even exchange) with MN Hygienic queens for \$119.00 each " Raymond Cooper, 220 N Elm, Iola KS 66749. Call: 620-365-5956 after 8:00 p.m.

JORDY'S HONEY

We carry a full line of beekeeping supplies. Bee Hives, Supers, Frames, Foundation, Honey Containers, Smokers, Beekeeping Books, Queens, Packaged Bees and much more. Our hours are 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday-Friday and weekends by appointment. Please call in advance so we can have your supplies ready when you arrive. R Robert Hughes, 12333 Wedd Street, Overland Park, KS 66213 PHONE: 913-681-5777

NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2017 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. \$7.50) \$15.00 _____

Additional family members wanting voting rights \$1.00 per person \$1.00 _____

Additional Family member's names _____

(Youth Membership (18 years of age or under) \$7.50 _____

Membership for Kansas Honey Producers Assn. \$15.00 _____

American Bee Journal 1 year \$24.00 _____

Bee Culture Magazine 1 year \$25.00 _____

Youth Scholarship Donation _____

Total _____

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

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

Now you can pay online at nekba.org

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

Address Service Requested

Monthly Meeting
Monday, March 20th

Funday Information
enclosed

The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

Membership is open to anyone who is interested in bees or bee culture. Dues are \$15.00 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 \$7.50 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 \$7.50 per year. New memberships and renewals should be submitted to the treasurer.

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 for through the treasurer.

The Association meets each month on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. except during the months of January and July. A beekeeping class is held in March. This is a nonprofit organization; elected officers serve without pay. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting. Check *The Buzzer* or our website at NEKBA.ORG each month for the actual date, time and location. If the weather is bad call an officer to find out if the meeting will be held.

2017 Officers

| | | |
|--|--|--------------|
| President: Steve Messbarger, 9802 s. Burr Oak Circle, De Soto KS 66018 | Smessbarger55@gmail.com | 913-226-2849 |
| 1st VP: (youth scholarship) Christy Milroy, 23840 W 207, Spring Hill KS 66083 | Christy.D.Milroy@sprint.com | 913-707-2003 |
| 2nd VP (Librarian): Gayan Stanley, 1988 E 1st Rd., Lecompton, KS 66050 | gayanski@aol.com | 785-865-7315 |
| 3rd VP (Honey Plants): Jo Patrick, 611 E Sheridan, Olathe KS 66061 | brian-patrick@sbcglobal.net | 913-645-8947 |
| Secretary: Marlene Pantos, 2920 Stubbs Rd., Tecumseh KS 66542 | MarlenePantos@yahoo.com | 785-633-6283 |
| Treasurer: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54 th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 | rburns@kc.rr.com | 913-831-6096 |
| Program Chair: Chad Gilliland, 23338 Kissinger Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66028 | nexttonaturefarm@gmail.com | 785 491-1978 |
| Editor: Joli Winer, 19201 S. Clare Rd. Spring Hill KS 66083 | joli@heartlandhoney.com | 913-856-8356 |
| Webmaster: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54 th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 | rburnshoney@gmail.com | 913-481-3504 |

Visit our Website at NEKBA.org