





Since 1948 Exploring the wonderful world of beekeeping together

The Bee Buzzer Monthly publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

VOLUME 72, NUMBER 1

EDITOR: CHERYL BURKHEAD

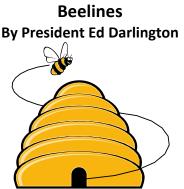
JANUARY 2020

General Meeting Monday, January 13, 2020 (7 p.m.) Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg 21N

2110 Harper St, Lawrence KS

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.

Main Program: "Keeping Bees Alive through Winter and Early Spring before the Spring Nectar Flow"- Robert Burns "Making Fondant"-Steve Messbarger and 2019 Youth Scholarship Presentations by Kamryn Stinebaugh and Maddox "Ox" Shively



I have had the privilege of getting to know the NEKBA board members by working with them this past year; while a very diverse group, I can attest to their commitment to the success of both bees and this association.

While some of our roles have changed, and our specific styles may differ, the aim and goals for the upcoming year are not changing.

I have seen and experienced the workload placed on the board and realize we need more members to become involved, rather than adding additional tasks to the existing list of projects.

This, like any organization, requires people that are willing to do the work, thereby making the group successful. In our monthly meetings I have encouraged others to step up and be willing take on tasks of service to make us better. So, when I was asked by your previous president to take over his role, I had to swallow hard and be willing to follow my own advice.

In preparation for serving NEKBA; I zeroed in on our mission statement and Article 2 of the NEKBA constitution.

Extracting from these documents, I would like to make sure there is clarity of purpose among general membership. I would like identify each of our goals and ask all of our members, should we become more active in attaining our long-held goals?

First goal is membership education, to understand honeybee biology and those things attacking our bees.

Second goal is advancing beekeepers best practices for honeybee health and survivability. Third goal is maintaining or increasing our

scholarship program.

Fourth goal is primarily intended to bring about change in external groups to increase good food sources for our honeybees.

<u>Our first and long-standing goal</u> (is well in control and simply needs your continued support, when asked by a board member; please be willing to step forward and help)

Before, I became your president, the board set in motion plans to expand our training classes that

are aimed at educating beekeepers with best practices. This effort has been expanded into two sessions; "Beginning Beekeeping" set for January 18, 2020; and subsequently, "Year Two and Beyond", is scheduled for February 15, 2020. Please plan on attending these sessions. In addition, Fun Day is a major part of our education and socialization/information sharing programs; giving beekeepers the opportunity to share their ideas and explore new methods.

<u>Our second goal</u> has been, and will continue to be advanced through our monthly meetings and our training classes and events; the mentoring and shadowing by experienced beekeepers.

The third goal of scholarship while expanding, there is a need to advance our funding efforts so we can maintain, and when needed, expand it. The fourth goal; this is the main area where I am asking the general membership to step up and get involved. How do we get local cities, towns, schools, and highway maintenance crews to plant pollinator friendly flowering plants? Ensuring that our bees and other pollinators will have access to better nutrition?

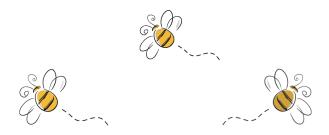
First, has been the expansion of monocrops, which greatly decreased their continuous supply of necessary pollen and nectar. We need to become more effective in actually bringing about modified behaviors on a larger scale.

While we know that pollinators have been stressed by many factors, there appear to be two root causes: lack of good nutrition and damaged immune systems.

Enjoy your quiet time of beekeeping, because shortly we will become very busy: make sure you are prepared.

Please don't forget to renew your membership!

If you care about us, as we care about yous, You'll make no delay and send in your dues-We try awful hard; we work without pay-To help you keep bees, in a practical way. Your continued support, will help us grow; The Editor and staff- thought you'd like to know.



2020 Meeting Dates: (Starting Time is 7pm at Douglas County Fairgrounds unless stated otherwise.)

- Monday, January 13, 2020
- Monday, February 17, 2020
- Monday, March 16, 2020
- Monday, April 20, 2020
- Monday, May 18, 2020
- Monday, June 15, 2020
- Monday, August 17, 2020
- Monday, September 21, 2020
- Monday, October 19, 2020
- Monday, November 16, 2020
- Monday, December 14, 2020

Mark Your Calendars!

- Bee-Ginning Beekeeping Class January 18th, 2020
- Year 2 and Bee-Yond February 15th, 2020
- KHPA Spring Meeting- March 6 & 7, 2020 in Hays, KS
- Fun Day- June 6, 2020

Bee-ginning Beekeeping Class set for January

Get ready, get set.... Oh wait, it's 3 months until spring. The next best thing is taking a beekeeping class and dreaming about what you can do with your bees when spring arrives. We have 2 great classes planned for the dreary winter months. The first is our annual Bee-ginning Beekeeping Class on January 18, 2020, Douglas County Fairgrounds. The cost is \$35 and includes lunch and GREAT instructional material. The second is NEW this year. It's called, Year 2 and Bee-yond, February 15, 2020. We're going to tackle issues like why hives die and spring management including splits, equalizing and requeening your hives. Noah Summers from the Smithville area will teach us about swarm biology and how to make it work for you. Sheldon Brummel will join us to talk about

IPM and also the opportunities available through the University of Nebraska's Great Plains Master Beekeeper Program. The cost for this class is \$35 and includes lunch and presenter's notes. You can register on line or just see Robert Burns at Monday's meeting. A snow date has been reserved for each class. If in doubt, check our website and/or our Facebook page for class cancelations. Bee the best beekeeper you can bee; take a class. Becky Tipton, <u>bstbees@embarqmail.com</u>

Meet the Beek

My name is Larry Coppinger. Mary and I have been married over 55 years. We live on a farm near Winchester, Kansas.

In the spring of 1988, we bought our farm. I told Mary that I would like to get some bees. I thought they would be interesting. In August Mary went to a garage sale and they had 2 hives of bees for sale. The owner had been stung on two occasions that ended up with him in the hospital, so they decided they had to go. We agreed on a price and later that week they delivered them to us. They also took the honey off and brought it to us and told us about a person that had an extractor I could use. I was now an official 'bee haver'.

I got the extractor and started extracting in the kitchen. Things got sticky so I decided to finish on the deck. About 30 minutes later I had a few bees flying round me. The bees I had just got were about a quarter mile from our house. Soon I had to retreat to the house because most of the bees from my hives were on the deck helping me extract. They did a good job of cleaning everything up and after about 3 days I could go back out and get what was left. Lesson learned, do your extracting in a bee tight room.

The following spring one of the hives swarmed and a member of NEKBA had an ad in our local paper so I called him and he got the swarm and became my mentor. He introduced me to NEKBA. I joined shortly after that and have been a member since.

In 1993, I had 9 hives of bees and varroa mites were becoming established. I thought since I lived out in the country away from other beekeepers that they would not bother me. In the spring of 1994, I had 2 live hives. The varroa found me and I should have paid more attention to the presenters that were warning me about varroa. Lesson learned. Check your hives regularly and treat if necessary.

A few years later I learned another lesson. I bought 4 nucs from another beekeeper and put them in a new yard away from my other bees. They started off good, but soon went downhill. I contacted an experienced beekeeper and found out they all had American foulbrood. I ended up killing the remaining bees and burning all the equipment. A very expensive lesson! None of my other bees were harmed.

In 2002, after 42 years in the printing business, I retired to take care of my 40 hives. After a few years of replacing winter losses and wanting to slow down some more I stopped replacing my dead hives. I now have from 8 to 12 hives and do a better job of taking care of them. My best year- I had 11 hives and harvested over 1,000 pounds of honey. My worst year- I had 10 hives and harvested 370 pounds of honey. Mother nature is always in charge and you can do only what you can.

My advice to new beekeepers in to listen to the speakers at the meetings. They have all made the mistakes you will make. Ask for help if you need it. Attend NEKBA meetings and state meetings and follow the advice of presenters.

Have fun with your bees. Take care of them and they will take care of you. Enjoy life and take time to smell the flowers. Your bees do.

Thank you to the members of the nominating committee for getting a good slate of officers again this year. Please support these officers as you have done in the past. Thanks

Larry Coppinger

Misc. Bee Supply Sale

Bottom Boards, Top Covers, Clothing, Books and more February 1 & 2 2020 9:00-4:00 Heartland Honey 19201 S Clare Rd Spring Hill KS 66083 913-593-3562 In case of bad weather call



HONEY PLANTS

With the start of a New Year, our focus as beekeepers can be pulled in so many different directions. Building new hive bodies, repairing old equipment, looking for new locations to place hives, thoughts of making splits, and re-queening are at the top of our to do list. Each of these activities is important but without proper

nutrition honey bee colony health can be affected. Quality nutrition includes good nectar and pollen source plants. As we progress thru the year, we will discuss what is blooming and whether the plant is a nectar or a pollen source or both. Get an early start on the planting season; study up on seed catalogs, check out a book from the club library, and gear up for the Spring. Plant in groupings, offer plant diversity, and think native.

Chad Gilliland



Tips for January

 Begin your recordkeeping for 2020; calendars are already ½ price so get one that you can write on.
Vow to keep track of when different plants bloom in your area, if you fed, how your bees did, if you replaced any equipment etc.

- Check a beekeeping book out at the library
- Build or repair any equipment

Order your queens and package bees as soon as possible

 Check the lids on your hives; make sure they have a heavy rock or a cement block on top. We have had some fierce winds this winter.

 Plan next year's garden to include some nectar producing plants that have not been treated with neonicotinoids.

Review your successes and challenges from last year

 Remove dead-outs and clean or store any equipment

 Attend bee meetings and beekeeping classesbring a friend with you to get them started this year! Check food stores in your hives

 Renew your membership, send in your dues—you can do it online now by going to nekba.org

Ask Quinby & Remi



While interviewing one of our youth scholarship applicants we heard a very interesting story about our new president, Ed Darlington. His family shared the following story with us. First a little background on Ed Darlington. Ed had bees early in his life, in 1964, while in Pennsylvania. At that time, he bought a package of bees for \$15.45 which included shipping. He actually got six other swarms before his package of bees arrived. The next year he expanded his operation by adding more swarms. In the spring of 1966, he entered the Air Force and gave his bee hives to his dad.

In the spring of 2017, he got back into beekeeping by purchasing a nuc. His family shared with us that after he and his wife picked up their nuc and put it in their vehicle, the bees soon began flying around the inside of the vehicle. According to them it was quite an ordeal with bees everywhere.

We are glad to have Ed as our new President – it is, of course, good to know that he is human and normal "bee" things have happened to him too!

Quinby is named after Moses Quinby who invented the bee smoker. Quinby and Remi would love to answer your questions and tell your stories please email them to Joli. joli@heartlandhoney.com.

A Word from your Editor:

Welcome 2020 and a new year of beekeeping! I hope your bees are doing well this winter. I'd like to introduce myself as the new editor of *The Buzzer*. Most of you already know me as the

previous Vice President of Honey Plants. I'm switching roles to help the club, but you may find me commenting about plants on occasion.

I want to thank Matt Merz for his previous year in the editorial role. I know it was quite demanding with your young family and so I'm glad that I can help in that respect. I also want to thank Joli Winer for her insight, suggestions, and support as I assume a position that she has held for many years. And lastly, thanks to Robert Burns, for his support and all the other 'behind the scenes' help to get this first issue up and running.

This club is here for YOU, its members, to support each one of you and to help you become

better beekeepers. We are here to teach and inform you in the use of <u>best</u> practices in your own apiaries. Please let us know your needs, what we can do to improve this organization, and how we can best serve you in your beekeeping journey. It is my sincere hope that we, as beekeepers and as individuals, can support each other. Beekeeping can be a stressful endeavor and we need to be supportive of all of our members and be respectful of one another. I am eager and optimistic to serve you as your new editor and do not hesitate to contact me.

Cheryl Burkhead

Kansas Honey Producers Association Spring Meeting March 6&7, 2020 Hays, KS Meeting: Whiskey Creek Wood Fire Grill, 3203 Vine St., Hays, KS Sleeping Rooms: Days Inn, 32056 Vine St., Hays 785-620-8261

The next meeting of the Kansas Honey Producers will be held in Hays KS. Please make your room reservations by February 7th to get the special price of \$72.99 per night. Mention the Kansas Honey Producers to get this rate. Call the Days Inn at 785-620-8261.

We are working on a great line of guest speakers for this meeting. Kim Flottum, newly retired editor of the Bee Culture Magazine, will be one of our guests. Kim has sent me a list of 14 topics – I'll have to pare them down to 5! They all sound like topics you would like to hear.

One of our other guests will be Dr. Liz Walsh. She just recently got her doctorate from Texas A&M. She'll have a new position and location by the time of our meeting! Some of her topics will be: Dissertation research on queen health after miticide exposure, IPM (Integrated Pest Management), Queen rearing basics and more!

We are also honored to have several guest speakers from Fort Hays State University; Dr. Balthazor, Assistant Professor of Chemistry will speak on "Saving Bees by Killing Them: A Preliminary Research Topic", and Ryan Engel, a graduate student, will speak on "The Influence of land Use on Pollen Diet of Honey Bee Colonies in Western Kansas".

Please check the Kansas Honey Producers website at <u>www.kansashoneyproducers.org</u> for complete program information and registration information. It should be available online by January 15th or before.

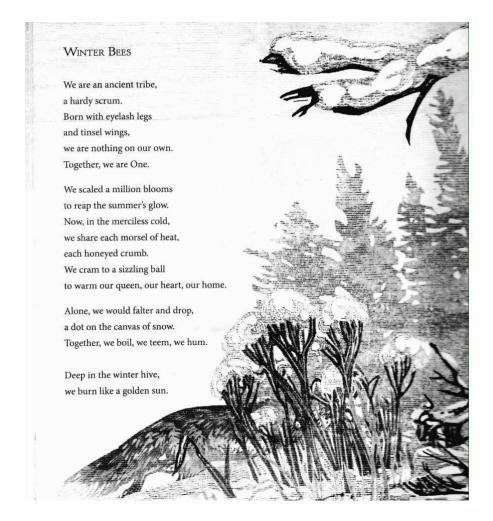
NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME				
ADDRESS				
CITY	STATE	ZIP+4		
PHONE	Email address			
I would like to receive the n	ewsletter <i>, The Buzzer,</i> by em	ail Yes	_No	
Membership Northeastern KS Beekeepers per year (JulyDec. \$7.50)			\$15.00	
Additional family members wanting voting rights \$1.00 per person			\$1.00	
Additional family member's	name			
(Youth Membership (18 yea	rs of age or under)		\$7.50	
Membership for Kansas Hor	ney Producers Association		\$15.00	
American Bee Journal			1 year \$24.65	
Bee Culture Magazine			1 year \$25.00	
Scholarship / Military/Veter	an's Appr. Donation			
		Tota	al	

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, <u>rburnshoney@gmail.com</u> Now you can re-new, register, and pay online at <u>www.nekba.org</u>

[Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold written by Joyce Sidman, illustrated by Rick Allen https://www.amazon.com/Winter-Other-Junior-Library-Selection/dp/0547906501/]



NE KS Beekeepers Class Enrollment

Bee-ginning Beekeeping Class Name(s) of those attending:	January 18	, 2020		
	Number atte	nding	X \$35 each =	
	Everything you nee beekeeping in NE K area. Excellent for experience or less.			
Year 2 and Bee-yond Class February 15, 2020 Name(s) of those attending:	Number attending	X \$3	5 each =	_
	making splits, main	itaining es less t	is for you. Requeen, ghealthy hives. than 5 years will learn	
Membership in NEKBA (includes access and monthly newsletter).				to our library
(membership is not necessary to attend)	Membership	\$15/ ₁	year=	_
Your contact information: Address: Phone:		Total	submitted	
Email:				
Both classes will be held at Douglas County	Fairgrounds, 2110 Har	per Stre	et, Lawrence, KS.	
Registration begins at 8:15.				
Classes: 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM				
Included in the class: Lunch, Snacks, Preser	nters notes and literature			
Enrollment at <u>www.nekba.org</u> PayPal or bank cards accepted	or Mail to Robert Bu		01 W. 54Th Ter. land Park KS 66202	
Questions: Becky Tipton 785-484-3710 785-554-1591 bstbees@embarqmail.com				

Bee-ginning Beekeeping Class January 18, 2020 NE KS Beekeepers Assoc. Douglas County Fairgrounds 9:00 - 5:30 Lawrence, KS

*Bee Biology *Equipment *Managing Colony Growth *Summertime Beekeeping

> Price includes: lunch, snacks & presenters' notes

*Keeping bees Healthy *Diseases and Pests *Varroa management and treatment *Fall and Winter management Is at so at so at so at so at so at so

Year 2 and Bee-Yond

February 15, 2020 9:00 ~ 5:30

*Why hives die. *Spring management year 2 Build your apiary *How & Why to requeen a

hive .

Price includes: lunch, snacks & presenters' notes

NE KS Beekeepers Assoc. Douglas County Fairgrounds Lawrence, KS

> *Swarm Biology *Stressors and IPM *Moving bee hives *Get your questions answered

enroll at: www.nekba.org

MENTORING-SWEET PRAIRIE HONEY

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.

FISHER'S BEE SUPPLIES

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies. We have 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: 1:00 - 5:00pm Monday - Friday and Saturday after 8:30am. Please call before coming to make sure we are here. ED FISHER 4005 N.E. 132nd Street, Smithville MO 64089, 816-532-4698

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.* Nucs for sale. New stainless-steel extractors from 4-frame, 12-frame & up. Raymond Cooper, 220 N Elm, Iola KS 66749. Call: 620-365-5956 after 8:00 p.m.

JORDY'S HONEY

Beekeepers.com is your local Kansas City Bee Company. We carry a full line of Beekeeping Supplies, Bees and Queens. Visit our web site **Beekeepers.com** for your all your beekeeping supplies. Go to our Web Site **BeePackages.com** to order your Bee Packages and **QueenBees.com** to order your Queens. We are available by appointment Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00 and weekends. Robert Hughes, 12333 Wedd Street, Overland Park, KS 66213, 913-681-5777 or email <u>RobertLHughes2000@yahoo.com</u>

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. 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 <u>hardware@sunflower.com</u>

GOLDEN PRAIRIE HONEY FARMS & SAVE FARM AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Our active duty & veteran students learn skills in woodworking & metal work by building beekeeping equipment, while learning beekeeping & honey production in our apiaries and extracting kitchen. We sell beekeeping supplies, containers, bottled & bulk honey, Packaged Bees, and Nucleus Bees. A Charitable, Educational Non-Profit, 501(c)(3), Proceeds go back into the training program. Hours Mon - Fri, 9-4. Golden Prairie Honey Farms, 8859 Green Valley Dr., Ste 4, Manhattan, KS 66502 Phone: (785) 370-3642 - Email gphfarms@gmail.com or order online at goldenprairiehoney.com

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As your local Dadant dealer, let us fulfill your beekeeping supplies and equipment needs. High quality 5 frame Italian nucs with VHS Minnesota Hygienic Queens. Contact us at nexttonaturefarm@gmail.com or call Chad Gilliland at 785-491-1978. Come check us out at <u>www.nexttonaturefarm.com</u>

This 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

Meeting Monday, January 13, 2020

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 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 month of January. Beekeeping classes are held in January and February for 2020. This is a non-profit organization; elected officers serve without pay. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings. Check The 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.

2020 Officers

President: Ed Darlington, 2804 E 174th St., Belton, MO 64012 <u>edarlington@kc.rr.com</u>				
1st VP (Program Chair): Steve Messbarger, 9802 S Burr Oak Circle, De Soto KS 66018 smessbarger55@gmail.com	<u>n</u> 913-226-2849			
2nd VP (Librarian): Cecil Sweeney, 19201 S Clare Rd, Spring Hill, KS 66083 joli@heartlandhoney.com	913-593-3851			
3rd VP (Honey Plants): Chad Gilliland, 23338 Kissinger Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66028nexttonaturefarm@gmail.con	<u>n</u> 785-491-1978			
Secretary:Sara Murry 20785 S Walker Rd., Spring Hill, KS 66083 <u>smmurry6@gmail.com</u>	913-530-2441			
Treasurer: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54 th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 <u>rburnshoney@gmail.com</u>	913-481-3504			
Youth Scholarship Chair: Joli Winer, 19201 S. Clare Rd. Spring Hill KS 66083 youthscholarships@nekba.org	913-593-3562			
Military/Veteran Appr. Liaison: Andy Nowachek, 10921 W 91 st Terr, Shawnee Mission KS- <u>awn@everestkc.net</u>				
Editor: Cheryl Burkhead, 4521 SE 61st St., Berryton, KS 66409 <u>cbfritz@aol.com</u>	785-224-9077			
Special Events Coordinator (Class): Becky Tipton, 9491 X Road, Meriden, KS 66512 bstbees@embarqmail.com	785-484-3710			
Special Events Coordinator (Funday): Jo Patrick, 611 E Sheridan, Olathe KS 66061 brian-patrick@sbcglobal.net	913-645-8947			
Webmaster: Robert Burns , 7601 W 54 th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 <u>rburnshoney@gmail.com</u>				
Visit our Website at www.nekba.org				