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Exploring the wonderful world of beekeeping together

The Bee Buzzer

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Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

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EDITOR: JOLI WINER

AUGUST 2016

General Meeting**Monday August 22nd 2016**(Please note this is the 4th Monday)**7:00 p.m.****1st 15 minutes-****Kansas State Fair Information****Presented by Kristi Sanderson****Regular Program:****Integrated Pest Management (IPM)****Presented by Robert Burns****& Annual Judged Honey Contest****Douglas County Fairgrounds, Bldg 21 North****2110 Harper St. Lawrence KS**

September may be back to school time for some but it's State Fair time for all Kansans! Kristi Sanderson will lead off our August meeting talking about State Fair opportunities for us all. If you have State Fair Entries, bring them to the August meeting and we will transport them safely to the fair. Also, let our expert judges judge your honey. Whether you want to make a State Fair entry or not, knowing the quality of your honey product is an important element of honey production.

Main program: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is our approach to controlling the deadly pest Varroa mites in our hives. Robert Burns will help us understand the pest and talk about prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. If you don't deal with mites, your hive will die—it is that simple. Robert will talk about approved "organic" treatments, too. Robert, a master beekeeper, is also our club treasurer, web master, and Facebook editor. If you haven't checked out our electronic media, you are missing a great information source. Every meeting is a great place to get questions answered!

Directions: The address is 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.

**Volunteer at the Kansas Honey Producers Booth at the Kansas State Fair
September 9th-18th**

Have fun volunteering at the Kansas State Fair Honey Booth. Receive an entry ticket for each day a 4-hour shift is worked. Sign up at signupgenius.com or contact Kristi Sanderson at 913-768-4961. You may call or text.

**Honey Judging Categories for the
August 22nd meeting**

Entries must be in by 7:00 to be eligible. Honey and beeswax will be judged by the same criteria that will be used for the state fair entries. Cash prizes will be awarded. 1st place \$3.00, 2nd place \$2.00 & 3rd place \$1.00
All jars must be plain and free of labels. No inner seals in lids.

See categories & regulations on page 7—

Johnson County Fair Honey Show Results:

Light Extracted: 1st-Mathew Merz, 2nd – Wendy Nowachek, 3rd- Robin Sieman

Dark Extracted: 1st and Grand Champion -Wendy Nowachek

Frame of Honey: 1st and Reserve Champion- Cecil Sweeney, 2nd –Wendy Nowachek

Youth Light Extracted: 1st and Reserve Champion- Cooper Milroy, 2nd Kelli Instra, 3rd-Jenna Collins

Youth Dark Extracted: 1st Cate Milroy

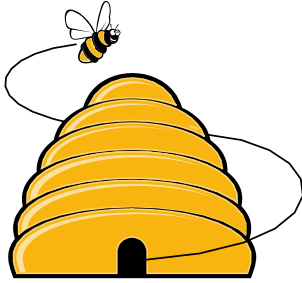
Youth Frame of Honey: 1st –Cate

Milroy, 2nd –Cooper Milroy. 3rd-Jenna Collins

Youth Gift Basket: 1st –Cooper Milroy, 2nd –Cate Milroy

Beelines

By President Andy Nowachek



I would like to thank all the folks who made the annual picnic what it was. It was outstanding with friendly conversation and great food. There has never been any doubt in my mind that if the beekeepers had a restaurant there would be lines of people waiting to get in. Outstanding people and outstanding food, it just doesn't get any better than that. Thanks to all who helped set up all the tables and food without everyone's help these get together would not happen GREAT JOB ALL.

Thanks to Becky for putting a program together with her husband Steve on Varroa mites on how to check the level in a hive. Also included in the program were Joli and Cecil with their part of the program on what to treat with and Bob Burns who demonstrated and told of the Oxalic Acid treatment that is the latest in treatments of Varroa and its effectiveness. Thanks to all for passing on their knowledge and experience. Like I've said in the past this club is loaded with knowledge and great people who are willing to teach others.

It seems like in a blink of the eye we were getting ready to make splits and now we are extracting honey. Not sure where the time has gone other than it seems as if we are about three weeks ahead on our floral. That being said I'm not sure what a normal season is anymore. Years ago you could tell all four of the seasons and now it seems as if it is either hot or cold. There is no doubt that in the time I have been keeping bees there has been quite a few changes from our treatments to not treating for tracheal mite to the introduction of small hive beetles. I still have people come up to me at a farmers market and say they would like to get some bees and just put them out and not have to attend to them. Sorry Charlie it does not work that way anymore. I think to be a beekeeper you MUST be a beekeeper and not a bee haver. This is livestock and you need to treat it as such by being diligent about making sure your hives are healthy and

queen right and not being weakened by varroa and other pests. Whether at a Farmers Market or helping at the Johnson County Fair people will stop by and chat, which is great, and say that wax moths or small hive beetles killed their hives, WRONG. These two pests are the end result of the hive becoming weak for some reason. I think that to be a beekeeper now, you will have to be on top of your game and be more involved in your hives. I will tell you there is a lot of good information on the internet, BUT there is some that does not do anyone any good and probably more harm than good. I had driven by three hives for a couple years and one day noticed that the lids were off. I stopped by and talked to the owner and his wife and son. Talking about his hives, he said that he never had varroa in any of his hives (he had never done any checks) and that the garbage truck had disturbed them while turning around to pick up trash =have a nice day and nice talking to you. It's kind of sad to see this type of thought process as it is detrimental to real beekeepers who are trying to do their best to keep their hives alive and healthy. This goes back to an article written by Jim Kellie on Varroa bombs. This is a person who does not treat his hive and is overcome with varroa. The varroa then ends up in another hive or maybe in another beekeepers hive that is nearby. All of these people are invited to come to one of our meeting and learn, we will see, that we will become better beekeepers by necessity if nothing else.

Surprisingly it sounds as if the honey flow did arrive and from what I've heard it did well. It seemed as if the cool wet weather would not stop and presto we have supers of honey. Round one is done for me and the honey is light in color which I can't remember this much being this light. The extracted supers are back on and there are more to pull and extract, which is good and the deeps are full so we are still getting enough to fill them. The soy beans are probably the most likely source of late nectar. Over the years I have enough supers at are drawn out and I run 9 fames in my supers—one weighed 61 lbs. and a couple of new deeps were 82 pounds each. **NO MORE DEEPS WILL BE USED AS SUPERS.**

This tells me that the next step in beekeeping will be getting all the supers off and extracted, cleaned out and CHECK and TREAT for mites if needed.

I hope you all had a super honey crop and I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

2016 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

- Monday, Sept 19th 7:00 pm Preparing Your Hives for Winter-Gary LaGrange
- Monday, October 17th 7:00 pm Youth Scholarship presentations & Value Added presentations
- Monday, November 21st 7:00 pm Jim Kellie-Small Scale Queen Rearing & youth Scholarship presentations
- Monday, December 19th 7:00 pm *Holiday Cookies and Youth Scholarship Auction*
- January 23rd, 2017 (4th Monday) Adding Native Plants to your Landscape, Sami Aaron presents

Notice for Youth Scholarship

Students: Please let Christy Milroy know which month you will be able to give your required presentation to the club. The available dates are either Monday, October 17th or Monday, November 21st. This is the presentation where you talk about your scholarship project. Your presentation can be however you want to present it. Some do PowerPoints, videos, poems, presentation with a picture board—whatever you feel comfortable with.

North Central Kansas Beekeepers:

Beekeepers and those interested in beekeeping ... we will have a live demonstration of the oxalic acid vaporizer treatment method of controlling mites in bee hives. Experienced beekeeper and friend, Robert Burns, will be here to demonstrate it on **Sunday afternoon, August 21**. This method is organic and is the single most effective method to date for killing mites in hives. Everyone is welcome, especially beekeepers from North Central Kansas. We will gather at **2 pm**, and also have time for general questions and sharing. Morford Lavender Farm, 1376 18th Rd., Kanopolis, Kansas Phone: (785) 472-4984

Beekeeping Groups Around Kansas:

- **Heartland Beekeepers Association of Southeast Kansas, Pittsburg KS** meets the 3rd Saturday of the month at 1:00 pm at Pittsburg State University, Yates Hall room 102 –google them, they communicate by FaceBook
- **Golden Prairie Beekeepers Association**, Meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Garnett County Extension Office, 411 S. Oak, Garnett KS. Contact Marlin McGowin, 78-433-1381
- **Cherokee County Area Beekeepers**, Columbus KS meet at the Cherokee County K-State Research and Extension Office, 124 W County Rd. Columbus KS 66725, 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm, contact them by facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CCABclub/>
- **Konza Beekeepers Assn. Manhattan Kansas**, 2nd Tuesday of Each Month at 7pm @ Sunset Zoo 2333 Oak Street, Manhattan, KS 66502, USA konzabeekeepers@gmail.com
- **Wichita Area Beekeepers South Central Kansas Honey Producers Association SCKHPA** in Yahoo Groups (KS - local affiliate) - South Central KS (FB)
- **Shawnee County Area Beekeeping monthly class**, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8 at the Shawnee North Community Center, 300 NE 43rd St., Topeka KS. For information contact Becky Tipton at bstbees@embarqmail.com 785-484-3710
- **Central Kansas Area-Morford Lavender Farm**, 1376 18th Rd., Kanopolis, Kansas Phone: (785) 472-4984. Join the Morford Lavender Farm FaceBook and you will be notified of the beekeeper meetings that they host there. There is usually one every few months with a guest speaker.

If you have information about another group that meets please get the information to me-we would like to add them to our website and we will make sure that they are on the Kansas Honey Producers website. Also if I've made a mistake please let me know so that I can correct it.

Tips for August

- Use the weed eater and mow around your hives so that the bees can get in and out.
- After pulling off your supers check your hives to make sure they have laying queens—
- Provide water for your bees- this will keep your bees alive in this heat
- Bees are hanging on the outside of the hives to help keep it cooler inside the hives—not much honey coming in so they are just keeping cool.
- ◆ Harvest any fall honey & get it extracted. Any honey that you pull off to extract should be extracted within a few days, in this heat wax moth damage can happen in just a few days also small hive beetle can also do a great deal of damage to your supers and your honey. Don't pull your honey off until you are ready to extract.
- ◆ Check the moisture on your honey-moisture is running very high
- ◆ Complete a fall inspection for each hive (see the Old Bee Gals article this month)
- ◆ Take an inventory at your bee yards to see what equipment you need to repair or replace over the winter.
- ◆ Get your entrance reducers on towards the end of September to keep mice out of your hives. Check for mice before installing mouse guards. Check your bottom boards for holes big enough for a mouse to go through.
- ◆ Store any frames with drawn comb in paradichlorobenze (moth crystals). Wax moth damage can be devastating to your combs. Store them in a cool ventilated area. Do not store your supers in plastic garbage bags as this acts as an incubator for the wax moth.
- ◆ Update your record book—you won't remember in the spring!
- ◆ Check your hives for stored honey. Most colonies will need 40-60 pounds of honey to winter successfully. The top deep super/hive body should be packed full of honey. If it isn't you should feed the bees some syrup. If mixing your own syrup in the fall the mixture should be 2:1 sugar to water by weight. That would be 4 lbs. of sugar to 2 lbs. of boiling water. You can also get high fructose corn syrup. However, you may not use corn syrup or any type of syrup that you purchase at the grocery store. It has things in it that can cause problems with your bees. NEVER

feed honey purchased from the grocery store—it can spread American Foulbrood disease to your bees.

Here are the reasons bees die over the winter, make sure you take care of these problems in the fall:

1. Bees run out of honey
 2. Too few bees to maintain the cluster
 3. The bees' digestive tracts compact with too much waste matter
 4. They exhibit parasitic mite syndrome
- ◆ Check your colonies to see if you need to treat for Varroa mites.
 - ◆ Combine a weak colony with a stronger colony. Colonies may be split again in the spring.
 - ◆ Keep a vigilant eye out for small hive beetle. Inspect your hives to make sure you have a good laying queen. You should see brood in all stages (eggs, larvae, capped).
 - ◆ If treating for mites get your treatments on as soon as possible. Mark your calendar with the date they went in and the date they should come out. The earlier you can get your treatments on for Varroa mites the better chance you have of getting healthy young bees into the hive to make it through the winter.
 - ◆ Make sure your brood is in the center of the bottom hive body. Arrange honey frames on the sides and in the top hive body--it should be full of honey. If it isn't, feed your bees syrup.
 - ◆ Make sure your hives are tipped forward, just slightly, so water doesn't pool on the bottom board and cause moisture problems.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Mother Earth News Fair –we will have a booth** October 22-23, 2016
Kansas Expo Centre, One Expo Centre Dr.,
Topeka, KS 66612
Hours
Saturday: 9:00 AM-7:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
- ◆ **Kansas Honey Producers Meeting-Hays KS**
October 28 & 29
- ◆ **Saturday, June 3rd 2017 NEKBA Funday-**
Jennifer Berry-University of Georgia & Scott
Debnam -University of Montana

Old Bee Gal

By Becky Tipton



Troubling, puzzling, frustrating.... losing queens this time of year. It's happened to way too many of us. There was a great article reporting the effect of neonic pesticides on drone fertility and shortened drone life. Their findings supported the research we heard in Wyoming early this spring stating that a bee's life may be shortened by 2 weeks if exposed to neonic infected pollen. Disastrous for our bees. I'm not sure how we (little guys) can combat this except to look for the best locations for our hives. That location may not be in our own backyard.

The start of the 2017 beekeeping year is really now, in the fall of 2016. What you do in the next month can be setting yourself for success or ultimate failure long before the first dandelion even blooms. Soon after harvesting your honey (or this month if you have no honey to harvest). You need to check your hives for mite load. We talked about this at the picnic last month but it is so critically important, we're going to talk about all the features of Integrated Pest Management for Varroa Mites (IPM) at this month's meeting, too. While you are checking for mite load, you also need to check that the colony is queen right. Did you see the queen? Did you see eggs? Did you see all stages of brood? All are measures of colony health. If no, it should be a huge red flag. Several folks have asked about requeening or purchasing queens. If you can find a queen (there are certainly people on line who will sell and ship), it will take another week (or more) to get her installed into your hive. But, installing a queen into a strong hive is much more difficult than into a growing, early spring colony. To be successful, you'll need to make a small split from the parent colony and introduce the queen into the split. Once released, you'll want to make sure she's laying eggs and functioning as a queen. It will likely still take a full 2-3 weeks to ensure she is accepted. Then, using a sheet of newspaper, combine the two colonies together. Put the half with the newly

accepted queen on top of the newspaper. You can cut a couple very small slits in the newspaper to help them start eating through. It will generally take them 24 hours to merge together. The parent colony may still find the new queen and kill her—it happens. You've spent several weeks and \$\$\$ trying to fix this colony and you are right back where you started. Your colony has continued to decline—or worse yet, developed laying workers. Bummer.

A better choice this time of year is to combine the colony with the failed queen with a healthy queen right colony using the same newspaper method. Once you've determined that you do not have a queen, select the colony with which you'd like to combine your failing colony. It should not be a weak colony (the weak colony is probably weak for a reason and adding more bees won't fix their problem). It should not be your strongest colony—really strong colonies are the most defensive. If you must use a very strong colony, you should use a double screen between the two boxes for a period of time before trying to combine. Choose a healthy, medium strong colony and use the newspaper combine. This feels like you are losing a colony but you are not. You've really increased the chances that the combined colony will survive the winter by providing more bees and usually more food, as well. Also, a strong colony will often need to be split next spring and you can start the year with two good colonies instead of one dead one and one struggling to overcome winter. One of Steve's favorite maxims is that more hives gives you more choices. This is certainly an example of that strategy in action.

Monitoring your hives throughout the fall, post honey harvest, will help you build strong healthy hives that will winter successfully. Check frequently for food levels. Drought conditions can end a fall nectar flow suddenly and the bees will start consuming their winter stores long before the weather turns cold. If that happens, supplemental feeding is important while temperatures remain warm enough to utilize liquid feed.

*treat for mites

*check queen health

*check food levels

*feed 2:1 syrup to supplement winter stores

A successful spring starts with fall preparations.

Ask Quinby



Thoughts on Swarming and Facebook

Dear Quinby: What's the deal this year with all of this swarming? I know Joli says every year that this is the worst swarming ever but I think it is true this year! So much talk on Facebook—what do you think?

Quinby Answers: I've noticed on Facebook all of the questions about swarming and people still needing queens and of course I have a theory! The other day a man was over that had his computer and pictures and it got me to thinking – He had several hives all in 6 5/8" supers for his brood boxes and honey supers and his hives keep swarming. When we are on Facebook we just have the barest of information when folks pose questions. We assume that when people are talking about their hives that they are referring to Langstroth hives with 10 frame hive body and then supers on top. Well the world of beekeeping has changed over the last few years and what was the norm a few years ago is now not so much the norm. So many new beekeepers now have hives that simply do not have the capacity to hold as many bees as our fantastic queens produce and why does a hive swarm? Because it's crowded!! All of the hives being touted now are very very small so when you really think about it they promote swarming.

For instance the **Warre Hive** is a 12"X12" Square with 8 frame tops. A complete hive comes with 2 of these small boxes.

So many have gone to using the **6 5/8 supers** which is great for your back! But you need to use at least 3 of these if you are using **10 frame** and maybe 4 if using **8 frame** equipment.

The Garden hive from Brushy Mountain that many have purchased-cute as it is – is only 2 8-frame 6 5/8 supers. It is not enough room for the way our queens are bred now. The queen breeders breed queens to build up to strong hives so that there are a lot of bees to bring in a honey crop!

The Flow Hive- comes with 1 8-frame hive body and 1 6-frame super. Again very small.

Top bar hives typically hold 28-30 frames but since the bottom of the hive is substantially narrower the frame-wax space is anywhere near what 30 Langstroth frames would equal in brood area.

So I think when we are asking and answering questions on Facebook we need to make sure that we ask the right questions before we answer because an answer for one kind of hive would be different for another kind of hive.

Personally we don't want inferior queens that won't lay out a lot of bees –we want bees because we want honey!

Dear Quinby: I like to ask questions on Facebook but sometimes I get so many answers to one little question-what gives?

Quinby Answers: There isn't just one answer to any question. I'm sure that you've heard the saying "If there are 10 beekeepers in a room and you ask a question you'll get at least 12 answers! So when questions are asked the answers are from the writer's experience. If someone gives a different answer than you have given—don't get mad! As you can see from the above answer we all have different experiences that we are bringing to the table.

I will say that there is some etiquette involved –on the NEKBA Facebook we will not tolerate swearing or crudeness weather it's on the Facebook page or if it's private messaged to someone-nor will we tolerate bullying either by being on Facebook or if you have been private messaged. You will be blocked from continuing to communicate on our Facebook page. If you have been private messaged and you feel that it was inappropriate please email either Robert Burns, Becky Tipton or Joli Winer as they are the system administrators.

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.

Kansas Honey (the following categories will be judged at the August NEKBA meeting-dollar amounts are \$3 for 1st, \$2 for 2nd and \$1 for 3rd)

You must enter online at kansasstatefair.com by August 15th to enter honey at the state fair for free!!!

Open to all beekeepers, young and old. All jars must be plain and free of labels. No inner seals in lids.

**In addition to premiums, rosettes will also be awarded with 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place unless otherwise stated.

AG400 Extracted Honey; Light \$15.00 10.00 5.00

AG401 Extracted Honey; Dark \$15.00 10.00 5.00

AG402 Chunk Honey \$15.00 10.00 5.00

AG403 Comb Honey \$15.00 10.00 5.00

AG404 Cut Comb \$15.00 10.00 5.00

AG405 Crystallized/Creamed Honey \$15.00 10.00 5.00

AG406 Honey Gift Package \$30.00 20.00 10.00

AG407 Beeswax \$15.00 10.00 5.00

AG408 Beeswax Candles \$15.00 10.00 5.00

AG409 Art Design in Beeswax \$15.00 10.00 5.00

AG410 Frame of Honey (shallow or medium depth) \$15.00 10.00 5.00

Best of Show (**also receives a plaque & rosette) \$15.00

YOUTH ENTRIES, AGE 18 AND UNDER

AG412Y Extracted Honey; Light \$15.00 10.00 5.00

AG413Y Extracted Honey; Dark \$15.00 10.00 5.00

AG414Y Honey Gift Package \$15.00 10.00 5.00

AG415Y Frame of Honey (shallow or medium depth) \$15.00 10.00 5.00

Youth Best of Show (**also receives a plaque & rosette) \$15.00

Best of Show: The Kansas Honey Producers Association will present an engraved plaque to the beekeeper with the greatest total number of points as determined by the judges. In open class adult division you must enter three or more classes to be eligible for this award. You must enter at least two classes in the youth division.

If you enter and can get your honey to Cecil Sweeney –he will take it down for you and pick it up. 913-856-8653 or email

joli@heartlandhoney.com. Or bring it to the August meeting and he can take it from you at that time.

Entry rules and regulations, with tips and scoring for entries:

Extracted Honey: also known as strained honey is honey that has been separated from the comb by centrifugal force, gravity, straining, or other means. Shall consist of (3) three one-pound Queenline or Classic jars, no inner seals in lids. All jars must be plain and free of labels.

Chunk Honey: shall consist of (1) one strip of cut comb (full length of the jar) in three (1) one pound. Round glass jar.

Comb Honey: (3) three "rounds" "cassettes" (clear lids both sides, no pressure sensitive label), or "basswood sections" (cardboard carton with window, no producer name or address).

Cut Comb Honey: (3) three comb honey cut and placed in commercial plastic comb honey boxes (4" x 4").

Crystallized/Cream Honey: Shall consist of three glass jars between (8) eight ounce. and (16) sixteen ounce. All jars must be the same.

Gift Package: Items must be clearly labeled, as they would be offered for sale - except any marks identifying the entrant must be obscured or removed, or fictitious. Fictitious labels must meet legal label requirements. Gift package, if wrapped, must be able to be unwrapped for judging. Homemade food items must have recipes attached. Gift packages must contain at least 50% producer made items. A 3" x 5" note card must be included that states the intended use of package. Youth gift packages may not contain alcoholic beverages.

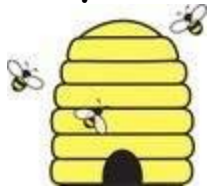
Beeswax: (3) three pound block, geometric shape, not decorative, smooth surface top and bottom

Beeswax Candles: Four molded or dipped candles. No non-beeswax enhancement allowed, except wick.

Art Design in Beeswax: Entries must be (2) two pounds minimum weight, 100% beeswax: may be more than one piece but must be firmly joined together: may be cast in mold or carved. No non-beeswax enhancement allowed.

Frame of Honey: Shallow or medium depth. Frame must be in a display case, both sides visible. Display case available upon request.

Honey Plants



Jo Patrick

DEARTH. The word looks and sounds close to death but is defined as “a scarcity or lack of something”. Nectar, with a few exceptions, has come to a screeching halt for now. That is a dearth of nectar.

I can only hope that everyone in NEKBA is receiving the slow, steady rain that I am, as I write this. This should be quite beneficial to the fall nectar and pollen producing plants. John H. Lovell wrote, in *Honey Plants of North America*, “...nectaries secrete nectar only when their cells are distended, or turgid.” “If the cells are flaccid no nectar will be secreted.” Lovell continues by explaining the same negative effect can occur when inconsistent moisture is provided. Properly timed rainfall is critical to ample nectar and pollen production. When insect pollinated blossoms are engorged with moisture they will provide nectar. While this is basic information to some, it might help some beekeepers decide whether it is worth the time and energy to put honey supers back on in a few weeks or leave the fall flow for winter stores. As beekeepers, we should be aware of what is happening in and around our apiaries so that we can make good hive management decisions.

In August, look for honey bees to be foraging on the heat loving herbs. Mints, basil, oregano, anise hyssop, lavender, sages, borage are a few. This week I observed flower buds forming on my ‘Munstead’ lavender that I purchased at Funday, from the Morford’s. The Morfords operate Morford Lavender Farm, Kanopolis, KS and are NEKBA members. Honey bees really work lavender. I am anxious to see my bees’ reaction to the lavender blooms.

As chance would have it, some annual vines I planted on a trellis near the front porch handrail didn’t take off like I anticipated. A weedy vine moved in and took over. I mean really, really took over. After researching I determined the vine was a Milkweed vine. I have seen plenty of Milkweed vine in the past,

but now I know it is rather attractive with heart shaped leaves. The white flowers form in a tight cyme and have a very pleasant fragrance. Milkweed vine also attracts a variety of pollinators, including honey bees, when there isn’t much else available. The negative aspect is that it has taken over the porch handrail and most of the porch. When choosing plants that attract stinging insects, take into consideration how close unsuspecting visitors might come to those blooms.

Milkweeds and Tall Ironweed are beginning to bloom. Tight buds are forming on Sedums and Caryopteris, or Bluebeard bushes. Sedums and Caryopteris are excellent nectar producers. Crepe Myrtles have been blooming for a few days. Crepe Myrtle is prolific in the southern United States. A few varieties have been adapted to over winter in our area. If you are planning on adding Crepe Myrtle to your garden, be sure to purchase only shrubs that are zone 5 or hardier. If you have a sheltered location protected from winter winds, you might get away with zone 6 varieties. They are quite showy bushes and provide a good source of pollen and some nectar.

Members of the Rudbeckia family, which includes Black Eyed Susan, have been a real show stopper this year with the ample rain we have received. Rudbeckias are good sources of pollen. White Snakeroot, a native member of the Eupatorium family which includes Joe Pye Weed, is quite showy this year. White Snakeroot can be added to the list of good nectar and pollen producers. Native Sunflower varieties are good pollen providers and will begin blooming in a few weeks.

A minor nectar source is *Daucus carota*, aka Wild Carrot or Queen Anne’s lace. This prolific nuisance, from Europe, pops up everywhere. Seed heads cluster and are spread because animals or our clothing, socks and shoes brush up against the plant. I am not convinced this weed is worth the space given its minor nectar contribution. My bees would have to be pretty desperate to not pull it.

Do you need help with your hives? Have an experienced master beekeeper come out and help you with your honey bees. I will help with activities such as finding and marking your queens, evaluating your hives to make splits or any beekeeping tasks you need help with. Call or text Kristi Sanderson at 913-768-4961 for pricing and appointments.

The Honey Pot
By Robin Kolterman

Summer has been hot this year! Hopefully your gardens are giving you plenty of produce so you can try out these garden veggie and fruit recipes.

August

Honey Bees communicate through many avenues including scent, touch, taste and dance. The bees' dances are so sophisticated that a bee can convey, direction and distance of a nectar source to other bees.



Waggle Dance

Honey-Roasted Grape Tomato Crostini

- 1 pt. grape tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 1/2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 (4-oz.) log goat cheese
- 1 (6- to 8-oz.) container crostini
- Garnish: fresh rosemary



Photo by Oxmoor House

Preparation

Toss together first 3 ingredients on a lightly greased rimmed baking sheet. Bake at 450° for 20 minutes or until tomato skins burst and begin to wrinkle (do not stir). Transfer roasted tomatoes to a bowl, scraping accumulated juices into bowl. Stir salt into tomato mixture. Microwave goat cheese at HIGH 8 to 10 seconds to soften. Spread goat cheese evenly over crostini; top with roasted tomatoes. Serve on a platter; garnish, if desired.

Honeydew Melon Sorbet

- 1 Honeydew melon; rind taken off and cut into chunks
- 2 Tbsp. liquid honey
- 1/4 – 1/2 cup water
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice



- ❖ Place melon chunks into the freezer. Freeze for 1 – 2 hours.
- ❖ Once frozen, place the melon into a blender or food processor. Add 1/4 cup of water and blend. Add lemon juice and blend again.
- ❖ Add honey and blend once more. Pour mixture into a loaf pan, cover and freeze for 3 – 5 hours. Add additional water if the mixture is too thick. You want a creamy mixture in the end.

Watermelon Lemonade with Honey



- 1 and ½ pounds watermelon, roughly chopped
- 1 cup of lemon juice
- ½ cup local honey (or to taste)
- 6 cups water

To a high powered blender add the watermelon, lemon juice, honey and 2 cups of water. Blend on high until smooth (about 2 minutes)
Pour into a large jug and add in the remaining water.
Stir to combine and taste for sweetness - add more honey if needed
Serve over ice.

HEARTLAND HONEY & BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies including woodenware, smokers, extractors, books, queens, package bees and containers. We will trade wax for supplies. For your convenience please call in advance –Hours Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Friday 10:30-5:30, closed Wednesday. 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 sell all the supplies for beekeeping, 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 appointment 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

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Raymond Cooper, 220 N Elm, Iola KS 66749. Call: 620-365-5956 after 8:00 p.m.

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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. 2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

PHONE _____ Email address _____

I would like to receive the newsletter, *The Buzzzer*, by email Yes _____ No _____

Membership Northeastern KS Beekeepers per year (July.-Dec. \$7.50) \$15.00 _____

\$15.00 (Jan-Dec)

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 \$21.00 _____

Bee Culture Magazine (formerly "Gleanings") 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 913-831-6096 email rburns@kc.rr.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

Meeting:

Monday, August 22nd

Note this is the 4th Monday!

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 Buzzzer* 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 up members are accepted and 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, March, June 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 Buzzzer* 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.

2016 Officers

President: Andy Nowachek, 10921 W 91 st Terr, Shawnee Mission KS awn@everestkc.net	913-438-5397
1st VP: (youth scholarship) Christy Milroy, 23840 W 207, Spring Hill KS 66083 Christy.D.Milroy@sprint.com	913-707-2003
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3rd VP (Honey Plants): Jo Patrick, 611 E Sheridan, Olathe KS 66061 brian-patrick@sbcglobal.net	913-829-2682
Secretary: Dana Rommelfanger, 818 Orange St., Baldwin City KS 66006 DanaRomm@yahoo.com	785-594-3322

Treasurer: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54 th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 rburns@kc.rr.com	913-831-6096
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Visit our Website at NEKBA.org