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Exploring the wonderful world of beekeeping together

The Bee Buzzer

The Monthly Publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association

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January 1995

JANUARY MEETING

Because of the fact that New Years is on a Sunday, the January meeting will be on the 2nd Sunday, January 8th this year. It will be in the 4-H building of the Douglas Co. Fairgrounds in Lawrence Ks. This has been a usual place for one of our winter meetings, and most of our members have been there before. But the meeting will NOT be in the same building! We will meet in Building #2 instead.

We have good program lined up too! We will have a panel of beekeeping experts discussing hive equipment. Come see and hear about different types of woodenware, their uses, their care and availability. Bring in some equipment that you may have that is unique and want to discuss. Now is the time of year to be taking care of hive equipment, come learn how.

How to get to the January Meeting

The Douglas Co. Fairgrounds are on the southeast corner of Lawrence. Building 2 is just 2 blocks north of highway 10 on Harper St. See you there☺

FROM THE EAST: Take I-435 or K-7 to the Junction of K-10. Take K-10 west to Lawrence. Look closely on the right for Harper St. just after the speed limit changes from 65 down to 45. Turn right(north) - go 2 blocks.

FROM THE WEST: Take I-70, US. 24 or US. 40 east to US. 59 South, at Lawrence. Take 59 to K-10 east. Traverse the southern edge of Lawrence, until at the southeast tip. Turn left on Harper & go 2 blocks north.

NEW MEMBERS

Frank and Diane Smith, Gardner

Gene Schaaf, Shawnee Mission

[Kari Schaaf is our Honey Queen]

******* Membership Renewal Time Again *******

Enclosed on the inside back cover of this *Bee Buzzer* is a membership renewal form for 1995. The instructions are just above it. Please take the time now to fill it in and mail it with a check to the treasurer, Joli Winer. When you fill in the form, please include your Zip+4 number.

In addition to the *Bee Buzzer* you can also receive reduced subscriptions to three of the most popular beekeeping magazines in America, *The American Bee Journal*, *Bee Culture*, and *The Speedy Bee*. You also have the opportunity to join/renew membership in the Kansas Honey Producers for \$8.00.

***********BEE MANAGEMENT FOR LATE DECEMBER & JANUARY**

1. **JOIN or RENEW** your membership in your local and/or state beekeeping organization. A form is included on the inside back page of this issue.
2. **Check** your hives. Even in the winter, there are usually several good days in which one may open their hives to check on the cluster, the queen, and honey stores. Check for mice, which like to overwinter there.
3. **Read** beekeeping magazines. Learn more about the current diseases and treatments, as well as gain information about useful hints and ideas.
4. **Repair and Prepare** woodenware for the coming season.
5. **Melt and clean** cappings wax.
6. **Inventory** your equipment. I try to do it each year in January.

WHAT'S IN BLOOM?: Good intentions for the New Year!

WITH THE BEES JANUARY

This is one of the months of the least flight activity of the hive, but some activity is still going on in the hive. The cluster will be still quite low in the hive. Since the queen is not laying many eggs at this time, the internal temperature will only be enough to keep the cluster warm. The center of the cluster will thus have a temperature that will usually fluctuate in the 80 degree range.

Later in winter, as more eggs are laid to replace dying adults, the center of the cluster will be maintained at 93 to 95 degrees.

Also in January, it is a good time to inventory your equipment and hives. Take a few minutes to write down your status at the end of this year compared to previous years.

In your equipment count:

- 1) deep bodies
- 2) shallow bodies
- 3) covers
- 4) inner covers
- 5) bottom boards
- 6) pallets
- 7) Nuc boxes
- 8) excluders
- 9) smokers
- 10) hive tools
- 11) veils
- 12) other equipment

For honey count:

- 1) Barrels
- 2) 5 gal pails
- 3) cases of jars
- 4) cut-comb sections
- 5) bears
- 6) other honey

For wax weight:

- 1) raw cappings
- 2) melted wax
- 3) deep foundation
- 4) shallow foundation
- 5) candles.

Count your:

- 1) Apiary sites
- 2) # of colonies

from the Michigan Beekeepers Association Calendar

1993 and 1994 Beekeepers of the Year Awarded at the December Meeting!

Because the Association did not award a Beekeeper of the year last year, it was decided to award two of them this year.

The 1993 NEKBA Beekeeper of the year was awarded one year later to Vera Young. Vera has brought food, coffee, the fixin's and table service to every meeting for at least 4 years in a row! No one could remember her missing a meeting in at least that long. We all owe her a big thank you!! This award was well earned and we hope you appreciate it.

The 1994 NEKBA Beekeeper of the Year was awarded to Melissa Ostermeyer! Melissa has been instrumental and nearly single-handedly operated a smooth Honey Queen program for Northeast. This program not only helps promote your honey, it also helps develop these girls into ladies. We are very proud of the program you run and the work you have performed.

Congratulations to the both of you!

The Editors Notes

Speaking of inventorying, I try to inventory my equipment each winter. Sometimes over the holidays, and sometimes in early January. It's a slower time of year, and I marvel at how much stuff I accumulate.

I'm still trying to compile a list of the past winners of the Beekeeper of the Year awards. If ANYONE can help me - please HELP. All I really need is the name of the beekeeper and the year they received the award, but I'd also publish what they got the award for if I had that information. If you've been a past recipient, please call me or write me. Whatever I have will be published in the February issue of the *Bee Buzzer*.

Also in the next issue, I'll publish not one, but 2 recipes that use cut comb in cooking. In fact, if anyone else has a recipe that includes cut comb and would like to share it, I'd be very happy to print it. Just think, now you can tell your customers of more ways to use your cut comb honey in the comb besides fresh eating!

Also in the February issue I hope to have interviews with the two MS patients that I supply bees to!

Association Librarian Needs Your Help!

As the new librarian of the Northeastern Beekeepers Association I would appreciate the cooperation of all the members in getting all overdue books back in our library.

The following is a list of books that are out and the name of the last person on record to have checked them out. I would like to request that all members, whether you are on the list or not, to look through your books to make sure you don't have any of our books.

The following list reflects almost half the books in our library. Many of them are irreplaceable. The few books that can still be purchased amounts to a replacement cost of \$150.00. If you find a book that belongs in our library (or you would like to donate a book), please call Cecil Sweeney at (913)-492-1670 during the day, or evenings at (913)-884-5039.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Last Person to Check it out</u>
Bees, their vision, Chemical senses and language	Karl Von Frisch	J. McFarland
Guide to Bees and Honey	Hooper	J. McFarland
Mastering the Art of Beekeeping	Aebi	J. McFarland
Timely Chats	Carlilse	J. McFarland
Beekeeping for Beginners		J. McFarland
First lessons in Beekeeping	Newman	H. Scaife
Starting Right with Bees	A.I. Root	Nancy Lloyd
Honey and Your Health	Beck/Smedley	Dick Pitnick
American Honey Plants	Pellett	G. Lawson
The ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture	A.I. Root	J. Pickett
Honey	Eva Crane	J. Pickett
Honey Bee Brood Diseases	Hanson	P.L. Walters
Contemporary Queen Rearing	Laidlaw	Joe Pate
Bees and the Law	Murray Loring	Velma Vann
Honey in the Comb	Killon	Ron Boots
Beekeeping Tips and Topics	E. Jaycox	W. Ohmes
Best of Bee Talk	Taylor	M. Mausopust
How to Keep Bees and Sell Honey	W.T.Kelley	J. Weiss
How to Keep Bees and Sell Honey	W.T.Kelley	
Beekeepers Handbook	Sammataro	
Drops of Gold, Ohio Honey	Ohio Dept of Ag.	
500 Answers to Bee Questions	A.I. Root	
Honey Plants Manual	Lovell	
Brood Diseases		
What's Buzzin Video		
Honey Bee Diseases and Pests	Capa	R. Bean
Bee Culture Bulletin #357	KS Univ Press	B. James

1994 NEKBA Survey

Here are the results of the NEKBA inventory that I did over the past 4 months. I received 44 replies, which is much better than last years 30! I thank you for this. I also want to thank Cecil and Joli for their help in handing out and forwarding the replies back to me. This provides a better statistical sample of our members. Remember, nearly ALL of our members are hobbyists, and most of our members keep just a hive or two.

I will perform the survey again and I hope that I once again receive a higher number of entries! I will probably do the survey in the October issue, and relate the questions to this past wintering methods, deaths in this winter and how your hives did this year - so PLEASE keep notes on your year (from October 1994 to October 1995) so you can reply to my October survey. One of the things I would like the survey to show is how management of hives can increase yields and/or reduce the death rate over the winter. So, next years survey questions will be more specific about medication, etc.

1. How many colonies did you have alive in the spring?

1993: Low: 0, High: 94, Tot: 510, Avg: 17, Note: 5 beekeepers had 1 or none, 24 out of 30 respondents (80%) had 25 colonies or less.

1994: Low: 0, High: 175, Tot: 755, Avg: 17.2, Note: 11 beekeepers had 1 or none, 37 out of 44 respondents (84%) had 25 colonies or less.

2. How many died in the winter?

1993: Low: 0, High: 64, Tot: 178, Avg: 5.93, Note: The percentage loss was between 0 and 83%, with an average loss of 26%.

1994: Low: 0, High: 84, Tot: 206, Avg: 4.7, Note: The percentage loss was between 0 and 100%, with an average loss of 21%.

3. How many colonies did you have in the fall?

1993: Low: 1, High: 194, Tot: 695, Avg: 23, Note: Still 24 beekeepers with less than 25 hives, even though the total number of colonies was up from the spring total of 510, and the previous fall of 688.

1994: Low: 1, High: 430, Tot: 1171, Avg: 26.6, Note: Still 37 beekeepers with less than 25 hives, even though the total number of colonies was up from the spring total of 755, and the previous fall of 961.

4. Did you do anything to winterize them? What? (be specific)

(I don't have the space this year to print the exact comments I received, but following is a summary:)

- Only 17 out of 44 (39%) said they medicated, leaving 27 that either didn't or didn't tell me (most answered the question).
- 4 of the 17 that medicated had more than 25 hives, while 3 of the 27 that didn't medicate had more than 25 hives.
- I could NOT draw the conclusion this year (like I did last year) that nearly every beekeeper with more than 20 hives medicated and made preparations for winter, while beekeepers with less than 20 hives often neither medicated nor prepared. This survey was different. I had some large beekeepers that didn't treat their hives, and many small ones that did.
- The average yield of those beekeepers that said they medicated was 66.1 lbs/colony, while those that did not was 55.3 lbs.
- The average loss rate of those that medicated was 23% while those that did not was 20% [this is one statistic I cannot explain. This is the same way that it was last year, only the numbers are closer together this year. From 2 years of this survey, I can begin to formulate a theory that although medicating doesn't seem to help the average death rate, it SURE DOES provide a higher yield per colony!]
- Only 11 of the 44 (25%) reported providing some form of insulation for their hives. Their yield was 64.9 lbs/hive while those that didn't was 58.9.
- I also had a mix of large and small that insulated and/or did something else to winterize their hives. Nearly 69% reported doing something else besides medicating or insulation, and over 73% did something to winterize their hives. Most of the people reporting a winterizing said they put on mouse guards. Many others said they left honey on, added a full super and/or fed.

5. How many total lbs of honey did you produce?

1993: Low: 0, High: 11,700, Tot: 31,763, Avg/beekeeper: 1058.8, Avg/Colony: 45.7, Note: avg/colony varied from 0 to 112.5 lbs, with 22 out of 30 beekeepers having less than the average of 45.7 lbs/colony.

1994: Low: 0, High: 24,000, Tot: 70,372, Avg/beekeeper: 1599.4, Avg/Colony: 60.1, Note: avg/colony varied from 0 to 123.2 lbs, with 34 out of 44 beekeepers having less than the average of 60.1 lbs/colony. We had a better year!

6. How old are you?

1993: Low: 12, High: 82, Tot: 1648, Avg: 54.9 yrs old, Note: Besides the one 12 yr. old beekeeper, all the respondents were 35 or older.

1994: Low: 13, High: 92, Tot: 2418, Avg: 54.9 yrs old, Note: Besides the one 12 & one 26 yr. old beekeeper, all the respondents were 36 or older. [How come the average age didn't age one year???)

I tried to correlate the age of the beekeeper with the yield per colony with some success. A 44 year old beekeeper had the highest yield, while one 61 and one 71 year old beekeeper had only 11 lbs. As a general rule, the younger (less than 60 yr. old) beekeepers had higher yields. Only 3 of the 17 beekeepers 60 or older had yields above the average, whereas 8 of the 20 between the ages 40 and 60 had yields higher than the average.

7. How many years have you been keeping bees?

1993: Low: 1, High: 66, Tot: 501, Avg: 16.7, Note: This was the first year of beekeeping for 4 respondents, and 20 out of the 30 respondents kept bees less than the average of 16.7 years.

1994: Low: 1, High: 69, Tot: 701, Avg: 15.9, Note: This was the 1st or 2nd year of beekeeping for 5 respondents, and 27 out of the 44 respondents kept bees less than the average of 15.9 years.

I tried to correlate the yield per colony with the years of experience with less luck than that of the age of the beekeeper. Some of the beekeepers with less than 5 years of experience had very high yields, as did some beekeepers with average or above average years of experience. Likewise for poor yields - they were spread throughout all experience levels.

8. What kind of changes would you like in the Bee Buzzer?

Once again I'll print each comment. [Next year I'm dropping this question, instead you can always call or write me, as you can at any time.]

- Local Articles.
- Keep up the good work.
- It is very good now.
- OK as is
- I think you shouldn't print what is going on for the month in Michigan as it is very different than Kansas.
- More items for sale by beekeepers. Prices are too high for new equipment
- Keep repeating same good lessons
- add a Presidents article [OK, I'll write to Clinton]
- looks good to me
- Please put in information relative to this area.
- You're doing a good job, keep up the good work!
- I find it amazingly good publication & compliment the crew in getting it out in the third week of the month. [How did he know it was late this month?]
- It is very good now. [What was it before?]
- More info for the young beekeeper. Example - 60 # of honey not enough to winter a strong hive.
- More beginner information and progress reports on MS users.
- very good
- Doing a good job!
- I enjoy it very much, don't know of any changes.
- Doing a good job
- OK as is
- I no longer have bees, but I like to watch bees on my vitex and fall asters
- I appreciated the information on the mites. I didn't know if I had them, but used the strips & the menthol cough drops anyway.

MID-CON AGRIMARKETING

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies, including woodenware, smokers, extractors, books, gifts, candle making supplies, queens, nucs, containers, corn syrup and more! We trade wax for foundation, supplies or cash. Our hours are 8:30-5:30 M-F. We are located at 8909 Lenexa Dr. (between 87th and 95th East of I-35), Overland Park, Ks. 66214, 913-492-1670. Long distance 800-547-1392. Owners: Joli Winer/Cecil Sweeney. Free Advice. We ship by UPS daily.

MURPHY'S BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

Honey Processing Equipment. Extractors for sale or rent. Nucs and Queens for sale April 5th through June 31st. We buy wax or exchange for supplies. Also honey for sale - available in all size containers. Helen & Bob Murphy, 3423 N. 61st Street, Kansas City, KS 66104. Phone: 913-299-2628.

ROBERT DYE BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

Complete line of beekeeping needs, Honey processing equipment, extractors, containers, labels, wooden supplies, hives, frames, supers, QUEENS & PACKAGE BEES. Will work your beeswax into foundation at a big savings. Our prices are lowest, with additional service on quantity orders and commercial grade items. We are located two blocks West of Rainbow on 47th St. ROBERT DYE, 4701 Booth, Shawnee Mission, KS 66205. Phone: 913-722-0417.

<p>WALTER T. KELLEY COMPANY MANUFACTURERS OF BEE KEEPERS SUPPLIES 3107 ELIZABETHTOWN RD. P.O. Box 240 CLARKSON, KENTUCKY, U.S.A. 42726-0240</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serving beekeepers since 1924. • Complete line of wooden goods, 100% beeswax comb foundation, metal goods for bottling and storing honey, and package bees and queens. • Write for FREE catalog. <p>Telephone (502) 242-2012</p>	
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FISHER'S BEE SUPPLIES

Dadant Dealer - We have a complete line of beekeeping supplies, woodenware, containers, cookbooks and beeswax. Extractors for sale or rent. Will trade wax for supplies. Gift Certificates available. Will ship cheapest way to out of town customers. Open 9-6 Mon, Tues., There, & Fri., Sat 8-1 p.m., closed Wednesday and Sunday. Ed and Jean Fisher 4005 NE 132nd St. Smithville, Missouri 64089. Phone: 816-532-4698.

THE HAWLEY HONEY COMPANY

Raymond Cooper, 115 N. First St., Iola, Ks. 66749.

**FOR SALE: White clover honey strained in 5 gallon buckets
60 cents per lb. on 10 buckets or more. We will pack it in your jars for
an extra fee. Bee equipment new and used jars, foundation, bears, comb h
honey, used extractors. BEES: 3 frame brood with queen this spring.**

If you need it, we probably have what you want.

Call: (316)-365-7919 after 8:00 PM

WANT ADS

**FOR SALE: Several one-story hives all with 1994 queens, New world Carnolian
or Tollett Italians, Richard Bean, Baldwin, Ks (913)-594-2694.**

**FOR SALE: Innercovers, outercovers, excluders, bottom boards, supers, and
hives bodies, just painted. Will sell all or individually. Call for prices.
Steve Custer (913)-441-3339.**

WANTED: Observation Hives of any sort. Steve Custer (913)-441-3339.

**FOR SALE: Oak observation hives. One is a two frame observation hive for
\$75.00. Two of them are 3 frame observation hives - \$100.00 each. Great for
school talks. Everett Shaw, 9 S. Mechanic, Emporia Ks, 66801 (316)-342-3148**

**Did any of the people who signed up for swarm catching get any swarms?
This is the first year I've not had any calls or seen any. Beekeeping was
very bad this year. Maybe Next Year. A.H. Gross**

**[Tony: I caught 3 swarms on trees this year and pulled 4 hives from the
walls of buildings. Both of these numbers were down from what I did last
year, but not much. The survey says the average beekeeper had a better
year than last. - Miles]**

******* 1994 Membership Renewal Form *******

So that we may update our mailing records, complete the name and address
portion **ONLY** if your name and/or address is different than that on the
mailing label on the reverse side of the form.

For new and/or renewal subscriptions to the *American Bee Journal*, *Bee
Culture*, and/or *The Speedy Bee*, please indicate this on the form as well.
Note that prices for the magazines may have changed since you renewed last
year, so please use the prices stated in this Bee Buzzer. Make checks
payable to: **NORTHEASTERN KANSAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION.**

NAME: _____

Enclose check & mail to:

ADDRESS: _____

Joli Winer
Treasurer NEKBA
8909 Lenexa Dr.
Overland Park, Ks.
66214

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

***** please include zip + 4 *****

PHONE: (____) - ____ - _____

If you want cards mailed, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope.

	1 Year	2 Year	3 year	NEW	RENEWAL
Membership renewal	\$8.00			_____	_____
Kansas Honey Producers.....	\$8.00			_____	_____
<i>American Bee Journal</i>	\$13.00	\$23.85	\$34.40	_____	_____
<i>Bee Culture</i>	\$12.70	\$22.80	N/A	_____	_____
<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	\$13.55	\$25.55	\$34.30	_____	_____
		TOTAL ENCLOSED...		_____	_____

GENERAL INFORMATION

Membership is open to anyone who is interested in bees or bee culture. Dues are \$8.00 per calendar year for the first in the family joining. Additional members of that family wanting voting privileges shall be assessed dues at \$1.00 per year. Anyone in addition to the voting member can ask for membership cards. New memberships or renewals should be submitted to the Treasurer.

The Bee Buzzer is the official organ of the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association, Inc. and is published monthly. Commercial ads are accepted in the newsletter for a fee, and non-commercial ads by paid up members are accepted free of charge for a period of 4 months.

The library of the Association is free to all members. Books may be drawn from the librarian at the meetings, and kept for 30 days.

The bee publications, American Bee Journal, Bee Culture, and The Speedy Bee, can be subscribed for through the Treasurer. You receive a 25% discount as a member.

This association meets each month on the first Sunday at 2:30 p.m. This is a non-profit organization; the elected officers serve without pay. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Check the Bee Buzzer each month for actual meeting date, time and location.

1995 OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT: Richard Bean, Rt. 2, Baldwin KS. 66006.....913-594-2694
VICE PRESIDENT: Don Hendrickson, 5666 Edith, Kansas City, KS 66104.....913-596-1228
2nd VICE PRESIDENT: Cecil Sweeney, 8909 Lenexa DR, Overland Park, KS 66214....913-492-1670
3rd VICE PRESIDENT: Rex Hubbard, 3011 Longhorn, Lawrence, KS. 66049913-842-8659
SECRETARY: Kristi Sanderson, 1012 E. Loula, Olathe, KS. 66061.....913-768-4961
TREASURER: Joli Winer, 8909 Lenexa Dr., Overland Park, KS. 66214.....913-492-1670
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN: Daniel Pfifer, 2544 Minnesota, Topeka, Ks 66605.....913-267-3010
HONEY QUEEN CHAIRPERSON: Melissa Ostermeyer, 24091 Haigwood, Tonganoxie.....913-845-9100
EDITOR: Miles Raymond, 25230 W. 127th St., Olathe, KS. 66061.....913-782-7914

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c/o Joli Winer, Treasurer
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Overland Park, Kansas 66214

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