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From: Steve Tipton, Pres.

A beekeeper wears many hats: entomologist, botanist, meteorologist and if you sell honey and hive related products, skills in marketing and product development can be helpful. (Becky wants to add psychic to predict the future.)

The honey flow in NE Kansas is about over. Most beekeepers didn’t have a bumper crop, but probably made a lot more honey than last year. Our weather patterns, running about 3 weeks later than last year, seem to be ultimately headed for another hot dry summer and fall. With this in mind, a lot of us can learn from the mistakes we made last year. Feeding early for winter stores and adequate populations of bees the right age to live through winter is going to be essential. Monitoring mite levels and health levels and treating (if necessary) are another consideration. The weather has added a monumental stressor to your colony’s life, removing the other stressors will help them maintain optimal health through difficult times.

For all of our Newbee’s—it is important to remember that beekeeping is a year-round endeavor. Don’t ignore your hives! Be proactive and pop the lids to see what is going on. If you don’t keep track of the condition and needs of your hive, you are setting yourself up for failure.

Small hive beetle (SHB) is a pest I have had to become familiar with this summer. You may not realize it but nearly all of the beekeepers in Kansas probably have them even though you may have never seen one. They are a secondary predator that can infest a weak/small colony. The bees will not tolerate the slimy beetle larvae and will abscond. Space and comb management are more important now than ever. If your past practice was to leave harvested honey supers set for a few days before extracting, you might be in for a nasty surprise. Pull and extract honey the same day and store empty combs properly.

Contact Grace Schmied if you are available to help in the honey booth at the State Fair. All help is appreciated, even if you can only work a few hours.
The South Central Kansas Honey Producers Assn. had its Spring meeting on May 18th at the new home of Bill and Candy Vinduska in Marion Kansas. It was attended by over fifty people and had guests from as far as Garden City Kansas and Stillwater Ok.

The day started at 10am with a meet and greet followed by a trip to the bee yard where we did hive inspections, expanding and manipulating brood nests, finding queens, and explaining how bees organize their nests. Upon inspection we found queen cells and made up a nuc. We also showed and explained how we wehn broke for a wonderful pot luck dinner and socializing. Everyone bought their favorite item to share, too numerous to account for here, but it was a very nice spread. Following the dinner we took a plant walk identifying all kinds of flowering plants native to Kansas and talked about their importance to honey bees. Then we took a quick look at our new honey house, still under construction, and explained how we are setting it up for efficient processing of honey from field to jar.

We again went back to the bee yard to make splits and super hives. Afterward we had a question and answer session in the bee yard that our new beekeepers learned a lot from and left invigorated to begin their new journey into beekeeping. The Metzgers picked up their new hives and we enjoyed each others company until late in the evening.

We also have some good public relations as of late, see the article in the Wichita Eagle. http://www.kansas.com/2013/07/06/2878084/saving-honeybees-one-hive-at-a.html

Our Yahoo group has 65 members on it letting us communicate with each other. It has been very helpful planning meetings and information pertinent to club activities and beekeeping in general. We have also been sharing information for people that have unwanted bees and getting members out to help them with their problems. Bill and Candy Vinduska

Summer 2013 Cappings

Many of you have no doubt heard me talk of my wife, Sandy and her seemingly insatiable appetite for garage sales and auctions. In her defense, I suppose that ‘somebody’ has to stimulate the economy and apparently I’m not doing my share so she takes every opportunity to fulfill her patriotic duty. Once in a while she even finds an item that comes in handy for me in addition to the ‘bling’ and other items she happens to fill her SUV with seemingly every weekend. I jokingly ask her upon each return to the micro-farm “what did you buy me?” Well, once in a while it is a pleasant surprise to hear “I found this _____ that I thought you might need” (fill in the blank, her definition of what I ‘need’ is pretty boundless). The rest of my story is about one of her recent finds.

One thing I tell new and aspiring beekeepers is “read all you can about bees & bee keeping; read some more and then keep on reading”. OK I’m not one who necessarily has a lot of spare time but I do make time to read once in a while, mostly technical articles and documents, but Sandy did actually find something that I found very useful recently – a book! Not one you’re likely find on Oprah’s ‘must read’ list, but I sure do have one I suggest you keep your eyes out for. Kansas Prairie Wildflowers by Clenton Owensby. Owensby received his PHD at K-State, undoubtedly the finest higher education facility in the great state, but don’t let me digress here. This book is even available at Amazon for anywhere from $6.75 to $22 depending on condition, etc. Or... if you’re lucky, at your favorite neighborhood garage sale for a quarter!

What weed is that? This is a question I have been able to answer repeatedly with the help of this book. Did you know that Snow on the Mountain has a caustic sap that can and has been used to brand cattle? Next time my branding iron fire coals die out before I’m ready, all I need to do is gather up some Snow on the Mountain plants, take their milky sap and I’m ready to make my ‘B’ brand mark on the neighbor’s steers! Seriously, this book is filled with nice color photos and a very technical, but detailed description of hundreds of native Kansas’ wildflowers, their traits, growth habits, counties to find them and special notes on any special hazards that some like Snow on the Mountain may have. This book should be in your personal library right up there with anything by Keith Delaplane or Larry O’Connor and the other great authors we have grown to respect. Next time you’re at a yard sale, flea market or other pile of junk for sale location, take time to look the books over – you may just find a real treasure. I have turned down numerous offers to double my money on the book.
Youth Scholarship
From: Becky Tipton, VP, Youth Scholarship Chair

The Kansas Honey Producers awarded two youth scholarships for the 2013 season. Our scholarship recipients are: Bailey Penner, mentored by Debbie McSweeney and Owen Gartner mentored by Marietta and William Graham. Every year brings new challenges and this was no exception. A freak accident left us scrambling to find bees for Bailey. Thanks to Ed Fisher in Smithville, MO for helping us locate another package. The extremely cool/wet spring left us wondering if the young colonies would have anything to eat! Owen began his colony with a nuc colony provided by KHPA past president, Tim Tucker. They, too, experienced delays brought about by the unseasonal weather.

Both students now have honey supers on their hives and both are looking forward to at least a modest honey harvest. Both mentors report that the students are serious about beekeeping. Bailey and Owen attended the Funday hosted by the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association. They particularly enjoyed the youth session with Dr. Marion Ellis. Learning about bees and beekeeping is a life-long enterprise and these young men are off to a great start.

If you know of a youth between the ages of 12 and 17, interested in agriculture and nature, encourage them to apply for our scholarship. You can find complete rules and application at our website: www.kansashoneyproducers.org. Thank you to William Graham (also a past scholarship student) for taking on the web site as his project and contribution to the association.

Honey Granola from Linda Geurin, Colorado Beekeeper’s Wife

Ingredients:
6 Cups rolled oats (1 Lg. box old fashion oats)
Bake for 10 minutes @ 350 degrees.
Stir in:
1/2 Cup Sunflowers seeds or nuts of your choice
1/2 Cup Coconut (Optional)
1/2 Cup Wheat Germ
1/2 Cup Powdered milk
2 Teaspoons Cinnamon
Mix together:
2/3 Cup of oil
2/3 Cup honey
Warm slightly, stir well then add:
1 Teaspoon Vanilla
Add to oat mixture and stir well. Then stir again making sure all is thoroughly coated.
Bake @200 degrees for 15 minutes stirring every 5 minutes.
Remover from oven and slightly and add dates or golden raisins or dried fruit. Stir until thoroughly mixed.
Cool and store in air tight container.

Can you guess what this is a picture of?

If you know what it is, send me an e-mail with your name and your name will be put in a drawing for a hive tool.
My email is hairbender@wbsnet.org

The winner of the bee brush was Greg Swab. Greg can pick up his brush at the next meeting from Hester or Bill Geurin.
Focus | NATURE

A mysterious malady that has been killing honeybees on mass for the past several years appears to have expanded drastically in the last year, commercial beekeepers say, wiping out 40 percent or even more of the hives needed to pollinate many of the nation’s fruits and vegetables.

A conclusive explanation so far has escaped scientists studying the ailments, colony collapse disorder, which first surfaced around 2005. But beekeepers and some researchers say there is growing evidence that a powerful new class of pesticides known as neonicotinoids, incorporated into the plants themselves, could be an important factor.

The pesticide industry disputes that. But its representatives say they are open to further studies to clarify what, if anything, is happening.

“They looked so healthy last spring,” said Bill Dahlke, 50, who owns Big Sky Honey in Fairview, Mont. “We were so proud of them.

“Then, about the first of September, they started to fall on their backs, to die like crazy. We’ve been doing this 30 years, and we’ve never experienced this kind of loss before.”

EPA SENDS EXPERTS

In a show of concern, the Environmental Protection Agency recently sent its acting assistant administrator for chemical safety and two top chemical experts here, to the San Joaquin Valley, for discussions.


BEE DECLINE

Scientists now say one of the main causes of colony collapse disorder (CCD), killing honey bees across the U.S., may be a parasite-carrying honey bee from Australia.

Symptoms of CCD:
- Loss of worker bees, no evidence of dead hives.
- Queen bee and brood area filled with food in leaf patty.
- Other insects, spiders don’t immediately invade abandoned hive.

Mix of causes may indece bees

- Pesticides
  - Beekeepers say latest string of deaths has destroyed a heavy lice.
  - Aede, 52, who owns Aede Honey Farms of South Dakota, the nation’s largest beekeeper, described mounting losses.

- Stress
  - Have been thwarted by predators in January, February and March, with one example reportedly coming from a beekeeper in North Dakota.

- Parasites
  - Varroa mites, a blood-sucking parasite, the cause of mite colony collapse disorder.

- Pathogens
  - Fungal, viral, bacterial infection that affects the bee’s health.

- Nutrition
  - Feed, pollen, water, sugar syrups, sugar, water.

- Neonicotinoids
  - Insecticides that are toxic to bees.

Who’s in the colony

- Queen
  - Fort Be Female, one in each colony, only lays eggs.

- Drone
  - Male, task is to mate with queen, then dies.

- Workers
  - Insecticide, tens of thousands collect pollen, nectar.

- Parasites
  - Varroa mites, blood-sucking parasites.

- Pathogens
  - Fungal, viral, bacterial infection that affects the bee’s health.

- Nutrition
  - Feed, pollen, water, sugar syrups, sugar, water.

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BEE DIE-OFF’S ROLLING EFFECTS

The effects of the bee decline are not limited to beekeepers.

- The Agriculture Department says a quarter of the U.S. diet, including items such as apples, cherries, watermelons and onions, depends on pollination by honeybees. Fewer bees mean smaller harvests and higher food prices.

- Almonds are a bellwether. Eighty percent of the nation’s almonds grow in California’s central valley, and 80 percent of those are exported, a multi-billion-dollar crop crucial to California’s agriculture.

Beekeepers look for queen bees at Aede Honey Farms in Piedra on March 26. A mysterious bee ailment appears to have expanded drastically in the last year.
In the valley, where 1.6 million hives of bees just finished pollinating an endless expanse of almond groves, commercial beekeepers who only recently were losing a third of their bees to the disorder say the past few months have been especially hard.

Some neonicotinoids are on the list of pesticides that have been linked to bee deaths. The ag industry has begun an accelerated review of their effects on bees and other wildlife.

The European Union has proposed barring their use on crops frequented by bees. Some researchers have concluded that neonicotinoids caused extensive die-offs in Germany and France.

Neonicotinoids are hardly the beekeepers’ only concern. Herbicide use has grown as farmers have adopted crop varieties, such as corn and sunflowers, that are genetically modified to survive spraying with weed killers. Experts say some fungicides have been linked with regulators that keep insects from maturing, a problem some beekeepers have reported.

“Where do you start?” he said. “When you have all these chemicals at a sublethal level, how do they react with each other? What are the consequences?”

5/31/2013 Ending Check Book Bal $14,293.52 $12,882.07 (1/113)
Beginning Balance June 1, 2013 = $14,293.52 $12,882.07 reg bal

KANSAS HONEY PRODUCERS’ ASSOCIATION
For Five Months & 1 Month Ended 2013

Treasurer’s Report - Statement of Revenues and Expenses -Modified Cash Basis

Date: June 03, 2013

INCOME
Auction (Silent) $0.00 $0.00 $0.00
Internet (E-logs) $0.00 $0.00 $0.00
KHPA Meals $0.00 $0.00 $0.00
KHPA Meeting Reg $0.00 $0.00 $0.00
KHPA Membership $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

Total $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

Total REVENUES = $4,941.78 $15,363.22

DISBURSEMENTS:
National Assoc (ABF or AHPI) Dues $0.00 $0.00 $0.00
Awards $0.00 $0.00 $0.00
One-night Stay Award $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

Total $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

Bank Charges: $3.00 Check Image Fee ($0.00)
The Coppers (Editor) $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

Total $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

Equipment $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

Total $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

NEKA Dues $0.00 $0.00 $0.00
Membership Dues/Reg Refunds/Mails $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

Total $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

Printing & Editor ($0.00)

Total $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

Scholarships/Expenses $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

Total $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

Subscriptions Paid $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

Total $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

KSI NPTax / Privilege Fee $0.00 $0.00 $0.00

Total ($5,000.00)

Total EXPENSES = $5,045.75 $15,570.77

Ending Balance = $19,093.27 $19,093.27

Current Month/Year Excess of Revenues/Expenses = $4,238.74

2013 Scholarship Funding

Net Excess of Rev/Exp 2004 thru 2013 $2,565.00 ($1000 beg.)
The Kansas Honey Producers Association Fall Meeting
Friday & Saturday October 18th & 19th, 2013
Courtyard by Marriott, 310 Hammons Dr.
I-70 at Exit 298, Junction City KS

Our next meeting will be held in Junction City. I am in the planning stages of the program and should have it finalized soon—please watch our website and we’ll post the final program there.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Courtyard by Marriott at 785-210-1500 mention the Kansas Honey Producers when making your reservation. Reservations must be made by September 17th. We have a fantastic room rate of $79.00!

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Larry Connor owner of WicWas Press. Larry is a monthly contributor to both the American Bee Journal and Bee Culture magazines. Over the last few years he has written many new books for beekeepers: Bee Essentials - a Field Guide, Increase Essentials, Bee Sex Essentials and Queen Rearing Essentials. He will be speaking on both Friday and Saturday. Larry has been a guest speaker in the past and has been very well received. He will also be setting up a booth and selling his books and those of other authors. Other guest speakers will be someone from the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture Promotions board the new Kansas promotions program From the Land of Kansas. I am also working on someone to come and talk to us about Agritourism—waiting for confirmation—this person has done some great things on their farm and has added something new each year. They also use social media as a way to promote their events and U-Picks. Member Robert Burns has agreed to give a presentation on his recent trip to Germany. During that trip he visited several beekeepers and attended a beekeepers meeting! I am also working with K State to get someone to talk to us about setting up a certified kitchen. So I have a lot planned.

For dinner we are planning on taking a little trip to the Brookville Hotel for their family style chicken. This will be limited to the first 60 people who sign up so get your reservations in early.

Your registration for this meeting includes lunch on either Friday or Saturday. You will also be able to purchase lunch on the other day.

If you would like to give a talk or have a topic you would really like to hear give me, Joli, a call at 913-856-8356 or email me at joli@heartlandhoney.com. If you have a question about the meeting or the registration pricing call or email Joli.

Our spring meeting will be held in Hayes KS on Friday and Saturday February 28 & March 1, 2014—mark your calendars.
The Kansas Honey Producers Association Fall Meeting
Friday & Saturday October 18th & 19th, 2013  Registration Form

NAME__________________________________________
ADDRESS__________________________________________________________________________
CITY____________________ STATE_______ ZIP+4______________________________
COUNTY____________________ PHONE______________________________
E-MAIL ________________________________

Pre-registration (must be received by October 11th)
Per person (includes 1 lunch)  ($46.00 x _____)  = _____
Per couple (husband, wife & includes 2 lunches)  $67.00  _____
Children under 18  $16.00  _____
Non-Members Add $15.00  $15.00  _____

Late Registration at the door:
Per person  ($56.00 x _____)  = _____
Children under 18  $16.00  _____
Non-Members add $15.00  $15.00  _____

Lunch-I understand that I get 1 lunch with my registration
I choose Friday_____ or Saturday_____ for that lunch
I would like to purchase lunch on the other day  (16.00 X ______)  = ______

Friday Night Dinner at the Brookville Hotel in Abeline (20 minute drive)

Relishes, Sweet-Sour Cole Slaw, Cottage Cheese, 4 Piece Skillet Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Cream Style Corn, Biscuits, Ice Cream & Beverages.

Limited to 60 people
Adult - $22.25/person  ($22.25 x _____)  = _____
Children (age 4-12)  ($11.00 x _____)  = _____

Our wish is that all attendees who are non-members will join, however we welcome everyone to the meeting!

Membership for Kansas Honey Producers Association: □ Renewal  □ New  $15.00_______
Youth Membership 2014 KHPA (18 years of age or under) □ Renewal  □ New  $7.50_______
Membership 2014 Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Assn: □ Renewal  □ New  $15.00_______

Donation for Youth Scholarship Project  $________

Total  $________

Please make checks payable to: Kansas Honey Producers Assn or KHPA and mail to
Robert Burns, 7601 W. 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202913-831-6096 or email rburns@kc.rr.com (registrations not accepted by email)
2013 Kansas Honey Producer’s Association Membership Application

Name__________________________________________________________

Address________________________________________________________________________________________

City________________________________________ State______________________ Zip Code________

Phone# ____________________________ E-mail Address____________________________________________________

Membership Kansas Honey Producer’s Association per year (Jan.-Dec.) $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___________

American Bee Journal 1 year subscription $20.25___________

Bee Culture Magazine (formerly “Gleanings”) 1 year subscription $21.00___________

Donation Amount___________

Total Due Total___________

Make checks payable to: KHPA or Kansas Honey Producer’s Association.

Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66202 Phone# 913-831-6096

E-mail address: rburns@kc.rr.com

The Kansas Honey Producer’s Association is a non-profit IRC 501(c)5 agricultural-educational organization, run by dedicated volunteers, and supported primarily by membership dues (subscriptions). The IRC status means that the association is a tax-exempt organization. While donations are always welcome, they are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution. However, membership dues and subscriptions may be deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.

Kansas Honey Producer’s Association — Cappings

Hester Geurin

160 S Lovers Lane

Scott City, KS 67871

hairbender@wbsnet.org

Address Service Requested