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The Bee Buzzer

Monthly Publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

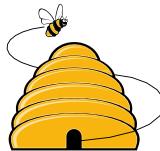
VOLUME 76, NUMBER 9

EDITOR: TIM MARSHALL

September 2024

General Meeting Monday, September 16th, 2024 (7:00 p.m.) Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg. 21N 2110 Harper St., Lawrence KS

Main Program: Bee Rescuing - Todd Preator of "<u>SavetheBeesRescueCompany.com</u>" will speak about his experiences as a bee rescuer in the Kansas City metro area collecting swarms and removals of established colonies from trees, structures, whatever they happen to take up residence in. How he does it, the crazy stories he has, and what happens to the bees after he rescues them.



Beelines By President Cheryl Burkhead

Perhaps your bees made you some honey this season and you don't know what to do with it. That's a good problem to have. The final deadline for getting your supers pulled and commencing mite treatments is Labor Day, if not before, in our area. We've had some periods of cooler weather which has allowed some of us to use Formic acid and leave the supers on for a bit longer; especially if you found that your bees were still bringing in lots of nectar. Whatever mite treatment you use, be sure to follow the label.

Honey is a food product so make sure that you treat it as such. Transport supers out of the bee yard covered to prevent dust and debris from getting into it especially if you must transport down a dusty dirt road. Check your moisture of both capped and uncapped frames of honey with a refractometer. Don't assume that if it's capped that it is good to extract. Your moisture needs to be under 18.6% in your final extracted product otherwise it may ferment. It is easier to bring down moisture in honey while still in the comb. Use a dehumidifier placed in a small room and stagger-stack supers over a drip board and blow a box fax down through them. Keep your relative humidity @ 30% or less. Moisture levels in the uncapped honey will drop rather quickly while capped honey will take a bit longer.

Extracted frames need to be protected from wax moth, mice, and dust. I store my supers stacked 10 boxes high on drip trays and set on a floor dolly so they can be moved easily. I store them in a climate-controlled room. I apply paradichlorobenzene over every 5 supers. Do not use moth balls (naphthalene) so make sure to read the label. One may use a Para Moth treatment drawer, coffee filter wedged between frames, or a paper plate surrounded by a shim to hold moth crystals. Others may choose to freeze frames for 48 hours to store while others may move extracted supers to an out-building after we get freezing

temperatures and the risk for wax moth is gone. Keep covered and use queen excluders, if necessary, to keep mice out.

You may choose to leave your extracted honey in a food-grade bucket while others with smaller harvests may bottle it immediately. Remember, all honey will crystallize over time requiring warming to return it to a liquid state. Many have devised various methods to gradually warm the honey – a converted old freezer with a heat lamp and thermostat, or a honey bucket warming blanket from a bee supply company. I've seen beekeepers even use a Sous Vide machine or a food dehydrator to gradually warm honey containers.

Don't let all the bees hard work go down the drain because you were careless in the handling of your honey. Reach out to a seasoned beekeeper for reassurance or if you have questions. Our veteran club members are a great source of information and are happy to help.

2024 Meeting Dates:

- Sept 16th, Monthly Meeting at the Fairgrounds 7pm
 - Sept 19thth, Open Apiary at Pendleton's at 5:30pm
 - Oct 17th, Open Apiary at Pendleton's 5:30pm
 - Oct 19thth, Beekeepers.com Grand Re-Opening
- Oct 21st, Monthly Meeting at the Fairgrounds 7pm
- Nov 18th, Monthly Meeting at the Fairgrounds 7pm



Ol' Bee Gal

We are quickly approaching the home stretch of the beekeeping season. From now until we really put the bees to bed for the winter, we evaluate. What went well? What went poorly? What should we change? What do we want to increase? Make a list, a Venn diagram, or just have a serious self-talk, but consider these issues.

One of the biggest challenges to successful beekeeping is finding suitable terrain for our apiary. We are looking for a location(s) with sufficient forage, provisions of fresh

water, eliminating the potential for a toxic event, minimizing the chance of vandalism or theft, and mitigating the dangers of natural disaster (fire or flood). Although all of us want bees in our backyard, that may not be the best location for the safety of your bees and the productivity of the hives.

When the location of your hive(s) was chosen, you may not have realized that the hive was receiving nearly full shade. There were no leaves on the trees, the sun was at a different angel, a structure has been added to the bee landscape; any of these could have changed the sun/shade ratio. Your bees need nearly full sun to have optimal health. Small hive beetle and varroa mite numbers will both be less if the hive is in full sun. Moving a hive a few feet can be accomplished without too much stress. We adhere to the 2 feet or 2-mile axiom. A good time to move your hive will be this fall when you can enclose the hive without fear of overheating. We like rainy days for moving bees; it's cool, the bees stay inside, and after 3 days, the bees have reoriented and will fly out like nothing happened.

Now is an excellent time of year to consider, did your bees have good forage all spring, summer, and all fall? The Egyptians put bee colonies on barges and floated them down the Nile to take advantage of blooming crops. (I didn't witness this floating apiary but that's what's been reported). A western Kansas beekeeper we knew put his hives on a trailer to take advantage of scattered rain and the resulting flowers. Senior members of our group have remembered making abundant honey crops from flowers (weeds) that are no longer available to us because of changed farming practices. If your honey crop wasn't what you'd hoped, what forage did your bees have to utilize? Maybe your back yard isn't the best apiary location, but what is? Placing hives too far from your home can result in hives being ignored. If you must drive an hour to get to the hives, a 30-minute inspection just became an all-afternoon chore.

Kansas farmers are trying to mitigate the problems of changing environment by changing some crops. Cotton, canola (rape seed), and sunflower are just a few newcomers to the growing Ag world. Each comes with pest challenges that could impact our bees if placed in the foraging area and each offers a nectar opportunity if bees can access the blossoms. Does the risk outweigh the reward? You'll have to be the judge of that but before moving hives into proximity of those crops, a conversation with the farmer is warranted. Each crop would benefit from honey bee pollination. Helping the farmer realize that and working with the beekeeper to keep our livestock safe takes good communication.

Unfortunately, some of the other risk factors associated with an apiary location may not be apparent until it's too late. Will your neighbor burn a pasture that's close to your hives? The trickling creek could become a torrent in one of our summer storms and threaten hives. Vandalism has been reported more frequently than theft this past year. Neighbors who did not want "the risk" of bees in their neighborhood took aggressive matters into their own hands. Secure your hives as best you can. NO apiary is perfect. Limiting and impactful factors can change year by year and season by season. Just give it some thought.... what to change, what was good, what was great. Don't let it keep you awake at night, just something to think about as you fall asleep dreaming of honey. **Becky Tipton**

SUBSCRIBE TO A MONTHLY BEE MAGAZINE. STAY INFORMED. Bee Culture Magazine (link) American Bee Journal (link)

Use the links to subscribe directly...annual subscription rates under \$6 per month for both! This is fantastic information right at your fingertips. As part of your beekeeping experience, it's important to be up to date with the trends in bee biology, honey processing, the industry, and much more!



The NEKBA Beeyard

At the open apiaries you can expect to go through hives to see all stages of brood, queens, and take part in assessing the hives and queens. A great deal of time is also spent on using your smoker and hive tool and talking to participants about issues they are seeing in their hives. Bee suits are available and only NEKBA hive tools and smokers will be allowed in the

apiary. The hives are located at Pendelton's Country Market 1446 E 1850 Rd, Lawrence, KS 66046. These events are free if you have signed up to be a GPMB member. To sign up to be a part of the Great Plains Master Beekeeping program go to <u>http://gpmb.unl.edu</u>. but we ask for a \$10 donation for others, cash. The money will be used for future maintenance of the club bee yard. We do ask that you preregister at our sign-up genius link:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C48ADA82BABF49-48334714-look Dates subject to change:

Monday, September 16th (before the meeting) 5:30-6:30 winterizing hives Thursday, September 19 5:30-7 winterizing hives Thursday, October 17 5:30-6:30 winterizing hives

Spring Hill - Heartland Honey Beeyard

These open apiaries offer an opportunity to go through hives with another beekeeper- we look for eggs, larva, and queens. A great deal of time is also spent on using your smoker and hive tool and talking to participants about issues they are seeing in their hives. Bee suits are available, wear close-toed shoes and long pants. The hives are located at Heartland Honey at the home of Joli Winer and Cecil Sweeney at 19201 S Clare Rd Spring Hill KS 913-593-3562 call or text or email <u>heartlandhoneyks@gmail.com</u> so that we know that you are coming. Fee is \$10 if not a GPMB (Great Plains Master Beekeeper) participant. To sign up for this free program go to <u>http://gpmb.unl.edu</u>.



Tips for September

- BeeKeepers.com has a Grand ReOpening Oct 19th, mark your calendar for the date!
- Store any frames with drawn comb in paradichlorobenzene (moth crystals). Wax moth damage can be devastating to your combs. Do not store your supers in plastic garbage bags, as this acts as an incubator for the wax moth.
- Check your hives for stored honey. Most colonies will need 60-80 pounds of honey to winter successfully. The top deep super/hive body should be packed full of honey.
- Update your record book-you won't remember in the spring!
- Complete a fall inspection of each hive-this means check your hive to make sure that you have a laying queen bee, several frames of brood in all stages, and plenty of honey for them to have in the winter.
- Combine a weak colony with a stronger colony. Colonies may be split again in the spring.
- Take an inventory at your bee yards to see what equipment you need to repair or replace over the winter. Keep a 'wish' list.
- Get your entrance reducers on as the weather cools this month to keep mice out of your hives.
- Make sure your hives are tipped slightly forward so water doesn't pool on the bottom board and cause moisture problems.
- Also make sure that all hives have a brick on top to keep the lids from blowing off.
- If in doubt, ask questions!! Monthly meetings, Facebook, local suppliers, don't be afraid to ask questions.



Military/Veterans Apprentice Program

It's that time of year again! We are now accepting applications for the Military/Veteran Scholarship. Please note that, unlike previous years, applications will not be accepted after October 31st. Help us spread the word to your friends and family. For more details, visit: <u>http://www.nekba.org/scholarship.html</u>.

As a reminder, the scholarship includes:

- 1. A two-year NEKBA membership.
- 2. A beginner beekeeping seminar and textbook.
- 3. A complete set of Langstroth woodenware for a new beehive.
- 4. A package of bees or a nucleus colony to start your hive.
- 5. Essential beekeeping gear: hat, veil, gloves, hive tool, and bee smoker.
- 6. One year of mentoring from a qualified NEKBA member.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Buck Bradley 785-248-1005 Babradley82@gmail.com

Buck Bradley, Military/Veteran Appr. Liaison

Hasta Luego Monarchs!

Saturday, September 28, 2024

Time: 9 am to 1 pm Location: Pollinator Prairie, <u>320 S. Blake Street, Olathe, KS</u>



The Johnson County Extension Master Naturalists, in association

with <u>Monarch Watch</u>, are hosting a **free**, **family-friendly** Pollinator Event to say "hasta luego" to the magnificent Monarch butterfly!

- 'Monarch Watch' demonstrations, including tagging and releasing monarchs.
- "Caterpillar Wonders" by the Johnson County Extension Master Gardeners
- Information on bird conservation efforts, including Bluebirds, Prothonotary Warblers, and Purple Martins.
- Invasive plant species control strategies.
- Exhibits by Johnson County Extension Master Naturalists include caterpillars, bats, milkweed, natural pest control, and ways to help pollinators!
- Games!

For more information:

https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/programs/natural-resources/extension-master-naturalist/pollinatorprairie/hasta-luega-monarchs/

https://www.monarchwatch.org

Honey Plants

Recently, while in rural southern Leavenworth County, I realized that the only blooms visible from the road were yellow. I saw a lot of Partridge Pea (not a honey bee food source), a few lingering native sunflowers, and lots of Goldenrod. Also, there were numerous soybean fields in various stages of growth. Soybean honey is amber in color and is said to have a high fruity flavor with notes of green. Farmers tend to stagger planting times between fields so a big soybean flow may not be possible. Soybeans bloom for about one month with the peak of nectar secretion in the middle of that month. Foraging peaks between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. A field of soybeans can really boost the food stores in summer or generate a bonus honey crop. In return, honey bees can increase soybean production by 20% over self-pollinated fields. To learn best management practices when growing soybeans or placing colonies near soybean fields I recommend this free, downloadable document from the Honey Bee Health Coalition. https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/soybean-best-management-practices/

It's unfortunate that Goldenrod is not a better nectar source for honey bees. In our ecosystem it is a keystone species that helps support other species. But I have seen some bees work it. Kansas is home to nine different species of Goldenrod. The most common is the Canada Goldenrod. I like to describe it as waving in the wind. In the past I have observed my bees working the Canada Goldenrod in a pasture. This was a rare sighting. I think a recent rainfall, before my sighting, had a lot to do with increased nectar secretion making it desirable to honey bees. Honey bees do favor Stiff Goldenrod and will readily work it. Those that have native gardens or are establishing pollinator habitat should make sure Stiff Goldenrod, *Solidago rigida*, is included. It isn't as common as the lanky, leaning Canada variety but it grows in a more pleasing upright form. All Goldenrod produce dark yellow pollen.

In home gardens and landscapes, fall blooming sedums, aka stonecrop, are starting to bloom. These fall bloomers are typically in an upright form. A very popular variety is 'Autumn Joy' but there are many different varieties with bloom colors varying from white, pink, dark red, and lavender. Honey bees will readily work these for nectar and their greenish-yellow pollen as there is very little available at this time of year. You might even see a hummingbird feeding on the nectar. This hearty food source can tolerate some of the worst growing conditions and is able to withstand dry conditions. Even if you don't have any gardening skills you can grow these. Cuttings taken early in June will delay blooming longer in the fall, that could fill a nectar gap.

Sweet Autumn Clematis began blooming in mid-August. This clematis variety is appropriately named. It produces a pleasant fragrance through September. Honey bees will collect the dark yellow pollen and nectar in the absence of other nectar sources. I would caution that Sweet Autumn Clematis tends to be aggressive and reseed easily. The vines can drape themselves attractively over other structures and plants. The flowers are white with 4 petals and lots of stamens. The seed heads are feathery in appearance. Flowers attract pollinators and songbirds use the vine as a nesting site. There is also a native clematis that is very similar, but less invasive, to the Sweet Autumn. It is *Clematis virginica* and can be distinguished from the invasive variety by the leaves. The invasive variety has smooth leaves while the native has toothed leaves. The blooms are similar in appearance.

For those in Johnson County, there is an incentive program to encourage planting native trees. <u>ContainTheRainJoCo.com</u> is offering a 50% reimbursement, up to \$150 per tree. A list of eligible trees can be found on the website. That list includes some very good honey bee nectar and pollen sources such as Black Gum, American Basswood, Redbud, Sugar Maple, and Black Cherry. In recent years Black Gum has become a very popular landscape tree. It blooms in April-June as it is leafing out. Black Gum is a good pollen source and a very good nectar source. American Basswood blooms in late May-early June. It is also a good pollen source and great nectar producer. Contain The Rain will also reimburse residents the cost of installing rain gardens and rain barrels.

The Johnson County K-State Research and Extension Office is continuing to offer county residents free soil tests. Call the Extension Office at (913) 715-7000 to learn more.

Recently I saw a cool garden with a water feature that was designed by Naturalized Design who specialize in sustainable landscapes that don't use chemicals or pesticides. Native plants were used in and around the water. These plants are good for pollinators and other wildlife, acting as a cover for some visitors and landing pads for others. Learn more about Naturalized Design at:

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565409385216&mibextid=LQQI4d

Jo Patrick- Honey Plants Chairman

Stiff Goldenrod Blooms.







2024 Honey Show Results

Beeswax

- 1. Stepheni Phillips-Hutchinson
- 2. Kristi Sanderson-Olathe
- 3. Zach Cooper-Wellington

Beeswax Candles

- 1. Kristi Sanderson-Olathe
- 2. Joli Winer-Spring Hill
- 3. Stepheni Phillips-Hutchinson

Chunk Honey

- 1. Jim Putnam-Lawrence
- 2. Dave Korver-Altamont
- 3. Robert Garrett-Hutchinson

Cut Comb

- 1. Kristi Sanderson-Olathe
- 2. Robert Garrett-Hutchinson

Section Comb Honey

- 1. Zach Cooper-Wellington
- 2. Kristi Sanderson-Olathe

Crystallized/Creamed Honey

- 1. Joli Winer-Spring Hill
- 2. Kristi Sanderson-Olathe

Extracted Honey, Light

- 1. Marsha Harmon-Leawood
- 2. Matthew Brandes-Wellsville
- 3. Jim Putman-Lawrence

Extracted Honey, Dark

- 1. Marsha Harmon-Leawood
- 2. Matthew Brandes-Wellsville
- 3. Chad Schlicht-McPherson

Frame of Honey

- 1. Matthew Brandes-Wellsville
- 2. Stepheni Phillips-Hutchinson
- 3. NEKBA Teaching Yard-Lawrence

Honey Gift Package

- 1. Joli Winer-Spring Hill
- 2. Zach Cooper-Wellington
- 3. Matthew Brandes-Wellsville

Black Label

1. Stepheni Phillips-Hutchinson

Sweepstakes

1. Zach Cooper-Wellington

Youth Division

Extracted Honey, Light

- 1. Julia Rogers-Wellsville
- 2. Sammuel Bergerhoffer-Desoto
- 3. Aurora Dugas-Wellsville

Extracted Honey, Dark

1. PHMS Bee Club

Frame of Honey

1. Prairie Hills Middle School Bee Club-Hutchinson

Youth Sweepstakes

1. Prairie Hills Middle School Bee Club-Hutchinson



NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2024 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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| \$25.00 |
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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> You may join, re-new, register, donate and pay online at <u>www.nekba.org</u>

MENTORING-SWEET PRAIRIE HONEY

Need help with your hives? -Spring inspections, installing packages, making splits, queen evaluation, diagnosis of pests and diseases, mite monitoring and treatment, etc. I can help you with your beekeeping needs! I am a certified master beekeeper with 30+ years of beekeeping experience. I will leave you with a written course of action after our session at your hives. Call or text 913-768-4961 or email Kristi Sanderson at sandersonk09@gmail.com for pricing and appointment times.

BEEKEEPERS.COM

Beekeepers.com (Jordy's Honey Company) in Lenexa, KS. Beekeepers.com is your only local full-service beekeeping store. We carry a full line of Beekeeping Supplies, Protective Clothing, Bottles, Bee Packages, Nucs and Queens. Visit our website Beekeepers.com, to view our entire line of beekeeping supplies. You can also shop in-person at our store in Lenexa. We ship queens directly to YOU! Order at QueenBees.com. Queens available March - October. Our hours are Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00, Saturday 9:00-12:00. You can find our honey at The Overland Park Farmers Market. **Robert Hughes**, 14054 W 107th St, Lenexa, KS 66215, 913-681-5777 or <u>email Info@Beekeepers.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 (South of Dillon's). 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>.

CB'S HONEY

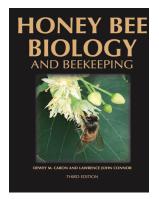
CB's Honey offers pure raw Kansas honey available in 5 gal buckets. Grafted queens and queen cells, and a limited number of nucs/packages. <u>CB's Honey | Facebook</u>. Located just SE of Topeka. 4521 SE 61st Street, Berryton, KS 66409. Call or text Cheryl Burkhead at 785-224-9077 or <u>cherylbhoney@gmail.com</u>

CEDAR RIDGE BEES

5 Frame Nucs for Sale. We are your local Premier Bee Products Dealer specializing in plastic foundation made entirely in the U.S.A. We sell bucket feeders and other bee equipment. Call or text Philip Knaus at 785-581-4216 or contact us at cedarridgebeehives@gmail.com - Check out our bees and products at <u>www.cedarridgebees.com</u> Cedar Ridge Bees 585 N 500 Rd, Overbrook, KS 66524.

T CREEK BEES AND HONEY – Tecumseh/Berryton, KS

Tecumseh Creek winds its way through the home yard lending its name to the brand. Located between Lawrence and Topeka, T Creek offers 5-frame nucs, online honey sales, custom honey packing, wholesale delivery to the Topeka / Lawrence area, 5-gallon buckets of honey, and drop-shipping wholesale service to rural grocery stores and agritourism destinations. Visit www.tcreekbees.com Email: tcreekbees@gmail.com or find the bees on Facebook. Order 2024 5-frame nucs by visiting the website and completing the nuc order form. Owner: Tim Urich. LLC in the State of Kansas and licensed by Kansas Dept of Ag.



Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping, Third Edition, Dewey M. Caron and Lawrence John Connor,

\$90 postage included. *This book should stay on the dashboard of every beekeeper's truck. It's that good, and that necessary. Kim Flottum, Bee Culture.* This comprehensive textbook easily replaces many beginner books while adding comprehensive details of bee biology essential to becoming a successful beekeeper and student of the honey bee. First released in 1999, Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping is widely accepted as a major textbook of Apiculture (beekeeping). Beekeepers and bee clubs use it to teach other beekeepers. Universities use it to teach college students bee biology and beekeeping. It

concentrates on the 'why', 'how' and 'when' of beekeeping. It explains bee and beekeeping basics in a manner meaningful to people who lack an extensive background in biology. Yet it is not over-simplified and provides a meaningful source of beekeeping information for the informed beekeeper. The Third Edition has been carefully edited, updated and expanded to 480 pages. New chapters have been added, as have colorful new graphics and photographs. The Glossary has also been expanded. **Wicwas Press LLC Kalamazoo, MI 49001 -** <u>www.wicwas.com</u>

The 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, September 16, 2024 - Fairgrounds

The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

Membership is open to anyone interested in bees or bee culture. Dues are \$25.00 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 \$12.50 for ½ year. Additional members of a family wanting voting privileges shall be assessed dues at \$1.00 per year. Youth memberships (18 years of age and younger) are \$12.50 per year. Please submit new memberships and renewals to the treasurer or on-line at www.nekba.org.

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 to 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 months of January and July. This is a non-profit organization; elected officers serve without pay. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings. Check *The Bee Buzzer* or website at <u>www.nekba.org</u> 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 or cancelled.

2024 Officers

| President: Cheryl Burkhead, 4521 SE 61st St., Berryton, KS 66409 cbfritz@aol.com | 785-224-9077 |
|--|--------------|
| 1st VP (Program Chair): Matt Brandes, 4741 Highway K 68, Wellsville, KS 66092 <u>matthew@n523rv.com</u> | 913-706-3087 |
| 2nd VP (Librarian): Michael Hewitt, 9221 SE Berryton Rd, Berryton, KS 66409 garlicranch69@gmail.com | 785-230-0827 |
| 3rd VP (Honey Plants): Jo Patrick, 611 E Sheridan St., Olathe, KS 66061 <u>brian-patrick@sbcglobal.net</u> | 913-645-8947 |
| Secretary: Elaine Ellenz, 17650 W 113 th St., Olathe, KS 66061 elaineellenz@gmail.com | 913-515-1607 |
| Treasurer: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54 th Terr., Shawnee Mission, KS 66202 <u>rburnshoney@gmail.com</u> | 913-481-3504 |
| Youth Scholarship Chair: Dale Spurlin, 24964 160 th Ct., Leavenworth, KS 66048 LightedPathHoney@outlook.com | 913-775-0997 |
| Military/Veteran Appr. Liaison: Buck Bradley, 11 E 900 Rd., Baldwin City, KS 66006 <u>buckusmc00@hotmail.com</u> | 785-248-1005 |
| Editor: Tim Marshall, 4736 Halsey St., Shawnee, KS 66216 <u>flyinmonk@yahoo.com</u> | 816-392-6854 |
| Special Events Coordinators: | |
| (Classes): Kristi Sanderson, 1252 E Frontier Ln., Olathe, KS 66062 <u>sandersonk09@gmail.com</u> | 913-768-4961 |
| (Funday): Joli Winer, 19201 S Clare Rd, Spring Hill, KS 66083 <u>heartlandhoneyks@gmail.com</u> | 913-593-3851 |
| Webmaster: Robert Burns , 7601 W 54 th Terr., Shawnee Mission, KS 66202 <u>rburnshoney@gmail.com</u> | 913-481-3504 |

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Please feel free to share the newsletter with others.