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Exploring the wonderful world of beekeeping together

The Bee Buzzer

Monthly publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

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EDITOR: JOLI WINER

OCTOBER 2015

General Meeting
Monday October 19th, 2015
Some 2015 Youth Scholarship
Presentations &
Home Remedies with Honey
And

Gadgets—Please bring a gadget to share if you have made something to make your beekeeping life easier 7:00 p.m.

Program:

1st 15—Home remedies with Honey. We may not be able to cure the common cold, but these will help make you feel better.

Program—Youth scholars present about their year in beekeeping—not all of the youth scholarship students will be presenting but some will—In January when they usually present we hope to have special guest speaker.

Bonus—Calling all gadgets. Did you make something that makes beekeeping easier? Bring it and share your ideas. Trivia—at one time there were more patients related to beekeeping than any other industry. We are creative people!

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.



Upcoming Events

There are some great events coming up in Octoberthis weekend is the Mother Earth News Fair in Topeka at the Expo Center **Mother Earth News Fair –we will have a booth** October 24-25, 2015
Kansas Expocentre, One Expocentre Dr.,
Topeka, KS 66612

Hours Saturday: 9:00 AM-7:00 PM &

Sunday: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Kansas Honey Producers Meeting-McPherson

KS October 30 & 31 go to kansashoneyproducers.org We have a great program planned and just added two fantastic presentations on mead making on Saturday! I would love to see some more of our Northeast members at the meeting!

December Meeting-Auction—

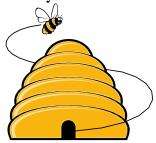
Start thinking about items you can bring to our December 21st, meeting-this is our main fundraising event for our youth scholarship program—the more money we raise here and our Funday auction determines how many kids we can sponsor.



November Elections

At the October meeting the nominating committee may be walking around asking people if they would like to be on the board-according to our bylaws people can serve for up to 3 years in one board position. This year Rose Lee as Honey Plants retires and so does Jo Patrick as Secretary!

Beelines By President Andy Nowachek



Thanks to Alex and Marlene Pantos for their program on *Preparing your Hives for Winter*. We as Beekeepers know that if you do your preparation now your chances of bringing your hives through the winter will be much better. This is why Becky chose this program and it was another timely program. It seems that with the daily events we sometimes become complacent and maybe a little procrastination falls into the equation.

This is why it is important to remind us as beekeepers what we should be doing this time of the year. Thanks again to Alex and Marlene for their time and talent.

In the blink of an eye, the spring build up is over, the summer honey flow and extraction of the supers is over and I wonder how it happened so fast. For me the year has sped by a little faster than last year and not exactly sure why this happens. This spring the bees really looked good and all though the summer and if we hadn't received the rain during the yellow sweet clover period I think we would have all been scrambling for more equipment but that is agriculture and it all turned out ok, maybe not as much as I would have liked but enough. Treatment for varroa has been applied after pulling the honey supers. After extracting honey the supers were all put back on the hives and cleaned out by the bees. I even have some honey being brought back in some supers at different locations. Other than those with supers for fall honey, it's time to go through the hives. Most are good with amble food supplies for now but that has been known to change if the weather turns warm again so will still need to monitor. This for me is the time of year that needs special attention preparing the hives for winter. It can be critical to the bee's survival. Will I see lots of bees or a dead out come spring? I'm not sure it is worth the time and effort to try and keep a weak hive this time of the year. Combining your weak hives now is what has worked

for me. I would rather do splits in the spring with a LOT of bees than nurse a week hive through the winter and have a weak hive in the spring IF it makes it through the winter. Now is the time to make sure the queen is in the bottom brood box and ample food supplies in the upper brood box. Fall preparation is the key to a successful Spring and Summer honey crop.

The farmers markets are coming to an end for us this year and with mixed emotions as I'm ready to not get up in the middle of the night to set up, but you will not see customers and friend you have made over the years. That being said it is now time to start the craft shows which will go through December for us. I'm not sure as beekeepers there is a break, as I said it is agriculture and Mother Nature waits on no one so we do what we need at that time of year.

This is the second year we were asked to give a talk on bees to 374 fourth graders at the Paola Fairgrounds this past week and as always if we can promote or talk on bees we are in. The problem is we had groups that were there for 12 minutes each. If you know me or any other beekeeper 12 minutes is just a warm up period. I believe you can plan out your presentation down to the dot but when you actually give it you sometimes need to switch gears. The plan was how many like math and science as beekeepers we deal in these two almost all the time from quantity to price to average, how many eggs does a queen lay, how miles will she fly and the list goes on and on. Mother Nature plays an important part of science with weather conditions we adapt to. To me this sounded like a good start and it was but if you have a frame of bees in front of you it seems you need to try change up a little and put more emphasis on them to send them HOPFULLY home with something they can remember. There is always the importance of pollination and surprisingly I did get that answer for the importance of bees and insects so it is always nice to know we have some future beekeepers in the making.

I forgot to mention a type of smoker fuel that Darrel Zimmerman brought and I did not mention even when I made a note. It was tightly rolled up cardboard from a box lid with a screw to hold together in a roll while lighting and putting in the smoker. If you have something to show or inform the group Please let me know and if I have not mentioned it before the end of the program Stand up and get my attention, we appreciate new ideals and need to pass on good information and tips.

Don't forget the Kansas Honey Producers meeting with great speakers and Mother Earth day, both coming up and a real blast to be part of.

Have a Fantastic Day and Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Magazines for Beekeepers



By Joli Winer

Earlier this month one of our members on our Facebook asked about which magazine to get-the American Bee Journal or the Bee Culture Magazine. There were several comments and I thought I would elaborate here-Robert Burns commented to get both and Becky Tipton did the same "ABJ tends to be more scientific with articles written APA format. Excellent publication! Bee Culture tends to have more articles aimed at the hobbiest or sideline beekeeper. Excellent publication. Read both!" Brandon Shaw commented that he liked ABJ.

Before I start I want to remind you that you can "subscribe" to the magazines online and receive them digitally. Our membership form you can pay for the printed magazines and get a discount for the American Bee Journal by subscribing through the club when you renew your membership.

Google **Bee Culture Magazine** and all of these choices come up. Both magazines also have online emails that you can subscribe to and they send you emails as something newsworthy comes out about honey, beekeeping, chemicals, pollinators, research etc. I really enjoy them. Bee Cultures is called **Catch the Buzz.**

The American Bee Journal has the ABJ digitally and they have an emailed newsletter (they frequently ask permission to copy articles from our Buzzer!) They also have an **ABJ Extra** which gives similar current info like Bee Cultures Catch the Buzz I just goggled **American Bee Journal** and all of these choices came up on one page. From ABJ there are two things beside the magazine-the Dadant newsletter and the ABJ Extra.

Speaking of digital newsletters-the Walter T. Kelley Company has one that is really good too.

Here's my 2 cents worth. We love to read and love both magazines and here are some of our reasons.

Bee Culture: Kim Flottum, Editor, has some great columnists. Many of them we know (you all included) and have had at our Kansas Honey Producers meetings. One of my favorites is Ed Colby from Colorado who writes the Bottom Board which is the final article each month. Another favorite is Dr. Clarence Collison who taught this year's New Beekeeping Class! Many years ago we had Ross Conrad, who is a frequent contributor, to a meeting. Ross wrote the book *Natural Beekeeping*. Dr. Jim Tew is another contributor. What a gentle soul—a great person. He was actually the first person that I told that Cecil and I were getting married. He was a teacher at the meeting where Cecil and I met. He's a great beekeeper and storyteller. For many years he has written a column for beginners on all aspects of beekeeping. Occasionally, Dr. Larry Connor writes for them. Recently he has added Jeff Harris who is at the University of MS Extension also a great writer. I've to get him to Kansas with the promise of good birding but have been unsuccessful. One of my favorite parts is that Kim writes a lengthy editorial each month-which frequently angers me-but makes me think. There are many other great contributors! This is a great publication and I respect it a great deal. You can't go wrong with this one.

The American Bee Journal has some incredible columnists too. Keith Delaplane's For the Love of Bees and Beekeeping—I love it. His Book Honey Bees and Beekeeping is in your personal libraries since we used it in our bee class this year. Jamie Ellis's Field Guide to Beekeeping is fantastic-I always get good ideas from his articles to write about for our Buzzer—PLUS he will be our guest for this year's Jam-Bee-Ree Funday (get it Jamie/Jam). Dr. Larry Connor, a good friend, is a prolific writer-we have many of his books in our association library. We've known Larry for over almost 30 years. Wyatt Mangum does a monthly article on Bee Biology that is always thought provoking.

I agree with Becky and Bob-get both the *American Bee Journal* and the *Bee Culture* Magazine and sign up for the newsletters and the *Catch the Buzz* and the *ABJ Extra* today.

The Honey Pot



By Becky Tipton

Fall—wood fires, crisp mornings, football games, and comfort food. Comfort food must include honev because every other person coming to our market booth wants to 'stock-up' for the winter. Stocking up can mean anything between a single bear to a couple of gallons! A friend recently posted a birthday message that included a meal with all her favorite things. It made me wonder what I'd post for my meal of favorite things. I'm the opposite of a picky eater; except Steve says I'm a food snob. If it's not well prepared or properly seasoned, I'll critique a meal without compassion. I dearly love soups and stews and one of my favorites is my Hunter's stew made with venison (it contains no honey so I won't publish the recipe here). Add sour dough bread (in a previous Buzzer) and for dessert, Honey Gingerbread. The gingerbread can be topped with homemade applesauce, lemon sauce, or my new favorite, honey whipped cream. I really am curious about this favorite meal thing. I asked Steve and his answer was so predictable and boring—grilled steak, potato, salad. I'd love to hear your favorite meal picks, too.

Honey Gingerbread

1 egg, well beaten

1 c. sour cream

1 c. HONEY

2 ½ c. all-purpose flour

½ tsp. salt

1 tsp. soda

1 tsp. baking powder

2 tsp. ground ginger

½ tsp. ground cinnamon

¹/₄ c. vegetable oil (I used melted coconut oil)

Preheat oven to 350°.

In small bowl beat the egg. Combine the sour cream and honey and add to the beaten egg. Sift together the dry ingredients. Place in a large bowl. Add egg mixture to the dry ingredients; beat well. Blend in the oil. Pour into a well greased 9 x 9" pan. Bake at 350° for 30-40 minutes or until done in the center. Cool 5

minutes before cutting. Serve warm.

Honey Whipped Cream 1 cup heavy whipping cream 3 TBSP HONEY

1 tsp. vanilla

Pour cream into a medium mixing bowl. Whip until it begins to thicken. Add honey and vanilla and continue to beat until soft peaks form.

Top warm gingerbread with whipped cream. Drizzle with additional honey if desired.

Cold and flu season are just around the corner. This month's first 15 will feature home remedies for winter's ailments. If you have a recipe you'd like to share, bring it, give it to Becky before the meeting and she'll add it to a powerpoint slide. Then you can explain to the members about your recipe (where it came from, how it works, why you love it, etc.) Don't be shy or this could be a very short meeting! Here's a wonderful recipe for cold and flu season. It doesn't use honey but it does contain beeswax. It's like Vicks but NO PETROLIUM! I feel good about using this on my nose, lips, chest—it really helps you breathe.

Natural Herbal Vapor Balm

1 cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil

1 oz beeswax

1 1/2 tsp menthol crystals

.2 oz eucalyptus (about 25 drops)

15 drops peppermint

15 drops rosemary

3-5 drops tea tree

3-5 drops thyme oil

Melt together EVOO and beeswax. Stir in Menthol and EO until dissolved. Pour into 1oz. jars. Seal. Great for kids—gentle scent, no petroleum!

Help Wanted: This is from Mary McCoy, and my message regards a honeybee colony that has recently taken up residence in my back yard in Lawrence, Kansas. I was hoping that someone in your organization might be willing to collect it and put it in a good spot for the winter. Mary M. McCoy, 1603 West Third Street, Lawrence, KS. 66044 bugs.mccoy@hotmail.com

H: 785-843-7327, Cell: 541-490-4898

OOps Never mind Mary ID'd them as yellow jackets

Meeting Dates for 2015

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 which will be on your left you turn into the fairgrounds.

- Monday, November 16 7:00 pm Jim Kellie-Commercial Beekeeper, "A Year at the Kellie Bee Farm" Larned KS
- Monday, December 21 7:00 pm Holiday Cookies and Youth Scholarship Auction
- January 11, 2016 (2nd Monday) We are pretty sure we'll have a great guest speaker but it's still tentative

Ask Quinby



Dear Quinby: I want to combine my two hives but I want them to live through the winter with both queens so that I can split them—can I do that? Well here's what I did-I combined them with two hive bodies below a queen excluder and a hive body on top of the queen excluder-is that what you would have done?

Quinby Answers: Grrr—my opinion is if it was that weak that you needed to combine it than the cluster probably isn't large enough to keep the queen alive through the winter. My advice would be to take the queen excluder out and in the spring you can purchase a queen and make a split. If you leave the queen excluder on and the bees from the bottom hive move up to the honey in the top box they will leave the queen behind since she can't get through the excluder and you'll have nothing in the spring.

Dear Quinby-I saw this on Facebook what do you think- time to store these drawn frame supers. What's the generally accepted method in this area? I already froze the frames for a number of weeks, but need the space in the freezer. I can't leave them there all winter

Quinby Answers: It's late enough in the year that since you have frozen them for awhile you can store

them in an unheated building without chemicals. Protect them from mice by stacking them up and making sure there are no holes the mice can get through.

Dear Quinby: I saw this on Facebook what do you think? Can I combine honey with different moisture contents (an 18% with a 19%) to make the resulting mix acceptable at 18.5%? Does it work like that?

Quinby Answers: Matt Smith said it really well and Cecil agrees-you are still borderline on the high sidehere's **Matt's answer**-Remember, 19% + 18% honey only comes to 18.5 when the volumes are the same. If you have more 19% than 18% you'll end up higher than 18.5%

Dear Quinby: (From Facebook again) I rendered my wax cappings yesterday by boiling in water and pouring through a sweatshirt. Checked it tonight and looks fine except that the bottom of the wax had some "sandy" feeling areas. What is this? Do I need to boil and strain it again?

Quinby Answers: Becky Tipton said just what I would have said--That's just some impurities that remain in the wax. We probably wouldn't water bath it again unless it was very dirty. We would melt it using a double boiler and filter it a second time through high quality paper toweling, screen printing nylon or through sweatshirt material again. Then, the resulting wax should be ready for use in candles, soap, etc.

Dear Quinby: I am sure you already have your ideas picked out for the newsletters but one more interesting one would be the comparison of feeders, and ways to feed, especially since it's a fall issue.

Quinby Answers: I'm almost out of space so I'll make this short and sweet. Make sure that all of your brood is in the bottom box so that the feed will be on top of the brood. Bees move up during the winter—not sideways. There are a million types of feeders. I'll discuss a few of them.

Cecil's favorite feeder is the **top feeder**. Over the years he has made several designs—the great thing about those is that they are over the bees and the bees don't have far to go to get the feed. Also to feed in inclement weather you don't have to open the main

part of the hive and disturb the bees. Most top feeders hold anywhere from 1-3 gallons so you don't have to go out very often. Another cheap top feeder is a gallon glass jar with a few holes in the lid placed over your inner cover with a hive body around it and then your lid and brick. A plastic jar will not form a vacuum. Another feeder is the division board feeder. It takes the place of an outside frame in your hive body. They usually hold 1 gallon of syrup. You must rig up some way for the bees to get in so that they do not drown (some have ramps and covers and work pretty well others are open topped and need help). Some type of float usually works or screen. These are ok to use but you must open your hive to put feed in—which is ok in nice weather. They are pretty cheap and they work just fine don't forget the floats! Another feeder is the entrance feeder. For fall feeding this isn't very good for feeding from the entrance of the hive. If the weather is cold and the bees are clustered they can't get to the feed so the feeders over the top work better. Steve Tipton swears that the feeder he makes from gallon plastic **baggies** is the best choice! Cecil has never gone for this and we have heard many horror stories of broken bags etc. You also need to have some sort of spacer between your lid or inner cover and your bag so there is room for the bees to get to the syrup as the bag lays flat on top of your top hive body you make a few slits for the bees to get to the syrup.

Tips for October

- Make sure all of your hives have heavy bricks on them to keep our Kansas winds from blowing them off
- Make sure your hives are tipped <u>slightly</u> forward so water won't pool in the back of the hive and cause moisture problems in your hive over the winter.
- Mow and weed-eat around the hive entrances.
- After extracting your honey store your supers with paradiclorbenzene to keep the wax moth out.
 Do not store your supers in plastic garbage bags as this acts as an incubator for the wax moth.
- Take the time to inventory your equipment so you can spend the winter putting new equipment together to replace worn out woodware
- Get your entrance reducers on this month. As the nights turn cool mice are looking for a nice warm place to spend the winter. They can sure cause a lot of damage.

- ♦ Check your hives for food stores the top 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 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.
- ♦ Get your honey off as soon as possible. If you are leaving on supers be sure and take off the queen excluders so the bees won't move up on the honey and leave the queen below!
- ◆ Check the frames in your brood chambers. Make sure you have a queen that is laying and that you have brood. If you find a queenless hive this time of year, it is best to combine it with another hive. Always take your losses in the fall. At this point you can still save your equipment from wax moth damage. You can always make a split or get a new package or nuc next spring.
- Inner covers should have the deep side down over the winter months.
- Prepare a windbreak if your bees are exposed to the north wind.
- ♦ Close off screened bottom boards.
- ♦ Analyze the record book—which queens did best?

With the bees this month—the challenge is to work to keep them alive over the winter. Go through your hives to check that the top hive body is full of honey, if not feed. Check your bees to check on their mite levels and treat if needed. Check your hives to see if you a nice pattern of brood or is it spotty? If spotty, can you combine your hive with another?

- We have seen huge populations of small hive beetle this year, more than ever. I guess the bees are keeping them at bay since we are seeing them on the top covers, but still, so many.
- Get you entrance reducers on, before the mice get in!
- Get your honey off and extracted as soon as possible.
- Spend the time now, replacing your bees are expensive, get them ready for winter.



Honey Plants



By Rose Lee

Good News. My daisy-like chrysanthemum that I mentioned last month has bloomed on Oct 1 as it always does. Amazing. I call is Bernadette's Chrysanthemum because Oct 1 is her birthday.

We're having beautiful sunny days and the bees are all over the sedum, asters, fleabane daisies, Bernadette's mum, borage and lingering goldenrod and sunflowers. Other plants such as Vitex and butterfly bush are enjoying second blooming.

Do any of you grow Viper's Bugloss or Blueweed (*Echium vulgare*)? I read somewhere that it is a good nectar plant for overwintering bees. It looks like borage with fantastic blue flowering spike to 7 ft. or more. It grows in well-drained sandy soil in nutritionally poor soil but not in shade. The most unusual feature of Viper's Bugloss is how nectar inside the flower is protected from vaporization (when it's hot) or flushing away (when it rains). That is why it is a stable source of nectar for almost two months. Unlike most plants, it produces nectar throughout the day. Its nectar sugar content varies depending on the quality of the soil, and not on the amount of rain. The honey is light amber in color and very fragrant with a pleasant taste, and does not crystallize for 9 to15 months.

I have a hard time keeping a smoker lit so am always on the lookout for tinder. I'm finding that twigs from lavender and dried cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*) ignite easily. Cilantro and coriander come from the same plant but the leaves have a lively citrusy flavor and are widely used in Mexican and <u>Asian</u> cooking, whereas the seed, coriander, is sweet and toasty with a warm aroma and flavor and is often paired with <u>cumin</u> and <u>cinnamon</u>, which share some of those traits.

I noted with interest the comment by Susan from the Tricities Bee Association in Washington in her table of honey plants that lavender and coriander protect against Varroa. Coriander is an important essential oil plant and apparently Varroa do not like its smell, so aids bees in ridding themselves of mites. Anecdotal stories of mite control had been surfacing for years but in his study of over 200 naturally-occurring plant compounds, Imdorf et al. (1999), found that while many are effective in the

controlled atmosphere of the lab, very few have proven efficacious in field trials. The most effective are thymol (Apigard), formic acid, and oxalic acid.

In her article "Essential Oils and Organic Acids for the Control of Varroa Destructor in Honey Bees (Apis mellifera" July 12, 2009)(www.honeybeesuite.com)
Rusty Burlew cites a study by Cakmak et al. (2006) who tested the effect of burning dried leaves and directing the smoke into the hive. Cakmak found that the smoke of tobacco, cedar, thyme, pine, and pyrethrum (chrysanthemum) have all been found effective against the Varroa mite, but so far no particular advantage has been found in using smoke as opposed to some other delivery method.

Burlew reports that studies by Imdorf and other researchers show that organic acids lower pH in the hive, a phenomenon easily tolerated by the bees but detrimental to the mites (Wallner 2003) whereas essential oils such as wintergreen, patchouli, and tea tree kill mites on contact (Armine et al 1996)

Further, Ardeshir et al (2002) tested a variety of plant essences exposing Varroa mites to a Petri-dish atmosphere and found that essences of pennyroyal, coriander, cumin, fennel, tarragon, myrtle, lemon and ziziphus, produced no significant mite mortality. They did find, however, that at concentrations of 1 g essence per 100 g water, thyme, savory, rosemary, marjoram, dill, and lavender caused a mite mortality of 95%. At 2 g per 100 g water, the mortality rose to 97%. Spearmint, too, killed 97 % of the mites at the 2 g/100 level, but was ineffective at the lower level. When the essences were sprayed directly on mite-infected honey bees, thyme, savory, spearmint and dill at 2 g/100g water caused 43-58% mortality of Varroa mites.

To conclude, using cilantro and lavender twigs as smoker fuel do not protect against Varroa, but their smoke is pleasant and calms me and seems to calm my bees as well!



Heath Asters with Bees

NORTHEASTERN KANSAS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Bee Culture Magazine () Renewal () New	1 year \$25.00	
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Make checks payable to: NEKBA or Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Assn.

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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, October 19th

The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

Membership is open to anyone who is interested in bees or bee culture. Dues are \$15.00 per calendar year (December 31-December 31) for the first in the family joining. Those joining in July or later in the year may pay \$7.50 for ½ year. Additional members of that family wanting voting privileges shall be assessed dues at \$1.00 per year. Youth memberships (18 years of age and younger) are \$7.50 per year. New memberships and renewals should be submitted to the treasurer.

The Bee Buzzer is the official publication of the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association, Inc. and is published monthly. Commercial ads are accepted in the newsletter for a fee, non-commercial ads by paid 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 Buzzer* 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.

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