



Since 1948

*Exploring the wonderful world of beekeeping together***The Bee Buzzer***Monthly publication of the***Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association**

VOLUME 67, NUMBER 9

EDITOR: JOLI WINER

SEPTEMBER 2015

**General Meeting****Monday September 21<sup>st</sup> 2015****7:00 p.m.****Fall & Winter Management**

**Douglas County Fairgrounds  
2110 Harper Building 21 North  
Lawrence KS**

Becky has another great program planned for us this month! Fall & Winter Management—What we do to our bees this fall to prepare them for the winter months can determine if we'll have bees alive in the spring. This is a pretty important program I hope to see you all there!

Topics that will be covered will be arranging your frames, combining hives, feeding and more.

Members may bring "finger food" for refreshments if they desire. Beverages will be available.

**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.



The Kansas Honey Producers Fall Meeting  
October 30 & 31, 2015

The Cedars, 1021 Cedars Dr., McPherson KS

We are going to have a fantastic guest speaker—Judy Wu Smart who has just been hired to be the University of Nebraska Extension Agent. By the time she is our guest she will have received her Doctorate

from the University of MN under the watchful eye of the amazing Dr. Marla Spivak!

Her specialty is Effects of Neonicotinyl Pesticides on Honey Bees and Bumblebees

- Masters degree, May 2010, Washington State University, Advisor: Dr. W. Steve Sheppard. Sublethal effects of pesticide residues in brood comb on honey bee health
- B.S. degree in Zoology, May 2005, from Humboldt State University, CA

She will present some of the work she is completing now on the effects of neonicotinoid insecticides on queen bee behavior and her previous work on pesticide residues in brood comb.

We will try something different at this meeting by staying at one hotel and traveling to a different meeting space that is not in the hotel. The meeting will be held at The Cedars which is a retirement community in McPherson. They have a wonderful conference facility with room rental rates a little less than what we have been paying. They also prepare the food there and the chef is excited to make some dishes with honey for us—honey baked ham for dinner!

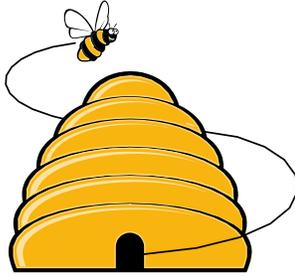
I'm really going to try to get some of our members to talk on subjects that we have not heard yet. I would also be interested in inviting some guests to speak from other areas of the state that have interests close to beekeeping. So if you can think of someone let me know. This meeting is for you so please let me know what you would like to hear—if someone gives me a topic I can usually come up with someone to present it. Please email or call me at 913-593-3562 and leave a message or email me at [joli@heartlandhoney.com](mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com).

The hotel is the Holiday Inn Express at I-135 and Highway 56. The phone is 620-241-5566. Our room rate is \$109.99 and includes breakfast. Reservations must be made by October 8<sup>th</sup>.

(Registration form page 8)

# Beelines

## By President Andy Nowachek



It's State Fair Time at Hutchinson and the program by Kristi Sanderson was right on queue with the timing of the year. Thanks to Kristi for her time of showing how she gets her Fair exhibits ready and she does a fantastic job doing so. For those of you who do not know Kristi personally she is very involved in the State Fair-signing beekeepers up to fill the positions at the Kansas Honey Producers booth, helping make sure that there is ample honey for sale and the list goes on. She also is a Master Beekeeper and has been a judge in numerous honey judging contests. The information came from a person who exhibits entries and knows what to look for.

Another very important part of the program was presented by Robert Burns who has been very active in the state and local bee clubs for years. With honey being pulled and getting ready for fall management there is no better time to check the varroa level. Bob explained the sugar roll method which does not kill the bees. Bottom line if you have a mite problem it is highly recommended to treat with **appropriate** treatments.

Thanks to both Kristi and Robert for their time and talent and Becky Tipton for rounding up of guest speakers, great job all.

As I mentioned earlier the State Fair is coming up and if you can help out during it I'm sure Kristi would be glad to have you help. I had the privilege of helping out last year and signed up again this year. It is a blast to talk to and meet new people and inform them of the importance of Honey Bees and how beekeepers take care of them. If you get the chance you definitely will enjoy the experience.

From some of the people I have spoken with the honey crop is running around a third to half of the honey we got last year. We pulled supers Sunday and checked hives and still have four more places to pull and check. The moisture has been stranger than

usual this year with it running from around 17.4 to 21.5 in the same bee yard. What I pulled in town has been higher than what I have been pulling in the country. The one thing you need to realize is that you need to have the moisture low enough that your honey will not ferment. We do three farmers markets and I can't remember not talking to at least a couple beekeepers each time. Maybe I talk to beekeepers or some who have acquired bees and do not understand that there is more to beekeeping than having bees. I spoke with a person who has had bees for three years and no honey? My best suggestion was to JOIN a KNOWLEDGEABLE bee club.

This spring I noticed small hive beetles but nothing that really got my attention but the other day I saw more than I had in the past so if you think you are home free and will never get them in your hives I'm afraid you will be in for a surprise. Steve Tipton about them and their characteristics. I saw a couple propolis corrals that the bees had constructed and had them blocked in. It's pretty amazing how these small insects can adapt to the many things that we as humans and beekeepers do to them and they still survive. I still install beetle traps and if I can catch any of the beetles that is a plus in my book.

The hives are probably as strong as I've ever seen in the fall. This is a good thing. The hives have frames of brood, so with that being said how are their food supplies? I have a couple of hives that are lighter than I would like and will address each hive as need be. Do you feed or if the queen has not been a good performer maybe combine her hive with another hive? This is the time to start thinking about getting your bees ready for the fall and winter months. Planning now could make a difference in the spring if you have bees already in the hive instead of buying new ones. It is agriculture and MOTHER NATURE dictates but we can do our part and hopefully help out.

Hope all the other beekeepers prove me wrong and have a bumper crop of honey.

Hope to see you all at the state fair or the next beekeepers meeting. Andy



## The Honey Pot By Becky Tipton



Do you know Pinterest? It's a site devoted to "liking" things. It covers everything from fashion to home gardening to do it yourself (DIY) to (one of my favorites) honey. It's almost like browsing a great magazine where you get to pick the topics and articles. Then, through the magic of your browser, you can share those ideas with a few million of your closest friends. Actually, you can "pin" an item and send it to your truly best friends for them to enjoy, too. Great ideas, inspirations, motivators, funny stuff, holiday stuff, everyday stuff...lots and lots of stuff! Warning! Pinterest can suck up hours of time before you know it. Both of today's recipes were Pinterest posts. Yummy stuff!

### Honey-Roasted Sweet Potatoes with Honey-Cinnamon Dip

2-3 sweet potatoes, washed, peeled, and trimmed into 1" chunks

3-4 TBSP Honey

3-4 TBSP coconut oil (or other cooking oil), melted

1 TBSP cinnamon

salt and pepper (optional) you could also add: pumpkin pie spice, nutmeg, ginger, allspice

### Creamy Honey-Cinnamon Dip

1/3 cup plain or vanilla Greek Yogurt or sour cream

2-3 TBSP Honey

1 tsp. cinnamon

- Preheat oven to 400° F
- Place chunked sweet potatoes into a large bowl (or zip bag) and add honey, oil, cinnamon, s & p, and optional seasonings—toss to coat (make sure all the potatoes are well coated).
- Spoon potatoes onto a parchment lined baking sheet and spread them out so they don't touch. Reserve any remaining marinade and drizzle over the potatoes halfway through baking.
- Bake for about 20-25 minutes. Remove from oven, flip, coat with extra marinade. Return to the oven and bake for an additional 15-20

minutes—until fork tender. Watch the potatoes during final minutes—the honey will burn if overcooked.

### The Dip:

Add all the ingredients to a small bowl and whisk until smooth and combined. Store in an airtight container for up to one week. Serve with the hot baked potatoes.

### Glazed Cinnamon Scones

If you haven't tried scones, this is a dandy recipe—they are like biscuits only easier and tastier!

2 cups flour (unbleached, all purpose, or 1/2 WW)

2 tsp. baking powder

1/2 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. salt

1/2 cup butter

1 egg, separated

3 TBSP HONEY

1/3 cup buttermilk

### Crumb Topping

1-2 TBSP turbinado sugar or white or brown sugar

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

### Glaze

1 cup powdered sugar

1-3 tsp. milk (to make a glaze consistency)

1/2 tsp vanilla

Preheat oven to 400°F

Combine Flour, Baking powder, baking soda and salt.

Cut in butter until mixture is crumbly.

Separate the egg white and yolk, set the white aside.

In a separate bowl, combine the yolk, honey and buttermilk. Add to the dry ingredients and stir until just combined.

Form dough into a ball on a floured surface. Roll or pat out into a half-inch thick circle approximately 8" in diameter. Cut into 8 equally sized wedges.

Transfer to a greased or parchment lined baking sheet separating wedges slightly. Whisk with egg white until frothy and brush over the tops of the scones. Mix the turbinado sugar and cinnamon together and sprinkle over the egg white topped scones. Bake @ 400°F 10-12 minutes.

Mix together the powdered sugar, milk and vanilla until glaze forms. Drizzle over the scones after they bake but are still warm (not hot).



## Ask Quinby



**Dear Quinby-**What's all this talk about getting bees ready for the winter-can't they take care of themselves?

**Quinby Answers-**Since I haven't made it through a winter yet I thought I would rely on Dewey Caron's "*Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping*". According to Joli if I don't quit biting her with my darling pointy little alligator teeth I may not even make it to winter! She got me that little bone hoping it would take the pressure off of her toes, legs and calves. I can sit really nice and not lunge for treats and I'm mostly house broken.

According to Dewey fall is really the beginning of the beekeepers year. Fall nectar sources can provide honey stores to colonies that will be overwintered.

Fall management consists of:

- Preparing colonies to overwinter
- Determining varroa mite levels
- Making sure colonies have young, productive queens
- Checking for diseases and giving preventative medications if needed
- Ensuring colonies are the proper size for normal cluster behavior
- Providing protective measures from winter weather
- Protecting colonies from pests

- Ensuring venting of moisture from colonies

Fall inspections begin after you take off your honey—if you had any this year! We keep talking about the inspection but what do we mean?

Bee colonies instinctively prepare for winter clustering, organizing their brood centrally with food above and to the sides of the brood sphere. During your inspection you could make sure that your brood frames are in the center of the bottom hive body with honey to the sides and the top hive body full of honey. If it isn't full you can feed a 2:1 (by weight) Sugar to water. It is so much easier and better for your bees to feed now, while it is warm and they can take the feed than to feed when it is cold out-they can't take it when they are in a cluster.

During your inspection you should be seeing frames of brood with honey and pollen. These should be more compact than what we wanted in the spring—in the spring we want frames with brood from edge to edge but in the fall you want frames that are more compact.



Last month we learned about testing your hives for mites. If you have not done so you should do that now and treat for mites if your numbers indicate that you should. More than 3 mites per sample you should treat. If you can't remember how to make Steve & Becky's kit to measure mites you can order one from the University of MN-varroa mite testing kit available from the U of MN bookstore—google it and it comes right up. Steve's kit included a small bucket or kitty litter pail and a pint jar with a wire mesh over the top and a bag of powdered sugar.

Use mouse guards to protect your hives from mouse damage—really it is awful.

FYI in our area wrapping your hives can be very damaging as there is too much moisture and the bees will die-better to protect them with a windbreak and an upper ventilation by providing a Shim, carpet tack or stick in the upper corner under the lid or inner cover.—a small vent is all that is needed. Sunny areas out of the wind are best for wintering.

Quinby would like to take this opportunity to invite you to send your stories & questions to him c/o Joli at the address on the back of *The Buzzer* or via email at [joli@heartlandhoney.com](mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com). She'll let me know of anything you pass on to her.

### 2015 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, Sept 21 7:00 pm *Getting Bees Ready for Winter*
- Monday, October 19 7:00 pm *Evaluating Your Hives and Making Plans for 2016*
- Monday, November 16 7:00 pm TBA
- Monday, December 21 7:00 pm *Holiday Cookies and Youth Scholarship Auction*
- January 11, 2016 (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) Youth Scholarship presentations

### 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](http://kansashoneyproducers.org)



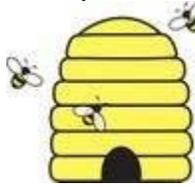
## NEKBA Shirts

Here's the good news and the bad news.

Bad first—you will NOT have your shirts by the September meeting. Boo! Why? We had fewer orders than we really needed to make this work so I want to provide one more opportunity for folks to order their shirts. These are really nice quality denim shirts with a NEKBA bee/logo embroidered on the pocket. So, the good news is that if you meant to order a shirt but time got away from you, you still have an opportunity! I will be placing the order (no matter what) shortly after the September meeting for delivery at the October meeting. I apologize for the delay. It's a crazy busy time of year for us all!!!



## Honey Plants



Rose Lee

Dog days of summer are here. Certain constellations during these days between July and early September are said to depict images of dogs. I haven't done much sky watching lately but have noticed lots of bees and butterflies. Joli's bees are all over her Motherwort (*Leonurus cardiaca*) I've seen this plant but had not realized that it is an important honey bee plant. Its leaves are hairy and



*Leonurus Cardiaca.*  
(Motherwort).

somewhat oak-shaped and can cause itching. It's best known as an herb that helps the heart and supposedly relieves anxiety. Flowers are pale pink to purple (and sometimes white) and bloom late June to early September. Fresh or dried flowers can be used as tea or to flavor split pea or lentil soup, or beer. Peter Lindtner in *Garden Plants for Honey Bees* lists it as Lion's Ear and gives it as a two-star rating for pollen



and nectar, p 34.

Fennel is a swallowtail plant and mine are loaded with larvae, like a half dozen on each plant! I even saw a cocoon clinging on my stepladder and the other day I noticed a honey bee foraging on fennel. I've spent the last few days trying to restore my front yard milkweed patch back to its former rose garden. I'm the only one on my street who has "pasture weeds" as shrubs, but I am richly rewarded by the number of monarchs in my yard.



My Blue Knight spirea (*Caryopteris × clandonensis*) started blooming about the first of August and is still loaded with blossoms and the bees are all over on it. It is about 4 feet wide by 6 feet tall and is a beautiful intense blue.



The Russian Sage is blooming and bees are foraging on that, too. I trimmed the dead blooms on my Vitex and now it is again blooming. Guess everything grows better after a good pruning. All summer long my sunflowers have been growing taller and taller up toward 10 feet but no sign of a flower, but on August 30, the date of my sister-in-law's birthday, they are bursting with yellow flowers. They do that every year and it always surprises me.

We shall see if my white daisy-like chrysanthemum keeps its schedule of blooming on Oct 1, as it has in previous years. There is considerable interest in phenology, the science of the relationship between climate and periodic biological phenomena such as plant blooming time or bird migration. The web site, [www.aldoleopold.org](http://www.aldoleopold.org), has a pdf you can use to chart your observations regarding these phenomena. Another good reference is the article by Denise Ellsworth in *Bee Culture*, "Phenology and its Value to Beekeepers", (April 2015, pages 40-41).

## Apimondia USA 2019 Bid

*Robert Burns*

Well, it's here! We are awaiting the announcement of something really exciting that we are hoping will come to the USA in 2019. Today, in Korea, as the newsletter hits the press, is opening day. The expected announcement for the host country for Apimondia 2019 will be made on September 20, 2015 in Korea.

“What is Apimondia”, you ask?

Apimondia is the bi-annual (every 2-years) congress of the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations. It was in 1949 with the mission of “promoting scientific, technical, ecological, social and economic apiculture development in all countries.”

The Mission is to “Bring the global beekeeping community together for mutually beneficial discussions, collaboration, and education.” This event is really a big deal, and our hopes are that September 2019 meeting will be favored to fall upon the candidate host city of Minneapolis, MN.

So, no excuses! Start budgeting for this trip. There is enough time to save! Beekeepers won't want to miss this opportunity. For many of us, it is a dream to come true. Unlike Joli and Cecil, and a few others, I have never been to such a conference.

Much time, energy, money, and hope as been spent and invested in trying to bring this event to North America, to the USA, and specifically to Minneapolis, Minnesota. There will be many highlights but one will be to visit the University of Minnesota. As many of our members have learned, and even met her at the NEKBA Bee FunDay 2015 in Lawrence, Dr. Marla Spivak is the Director of the Bee Research Lab at the UMN. Her right-hand assistant is Gary Reuter. Gary and his wife, Susan (a few of us know her as Ginger), are favorites to previous Bee FunDays as well as to our Kansas Honey Producers Association (KHPA) meetings.

Apimondia USA 2019 Bid is still pending, as I mentioned above. It is not certain where 2019 will be hosted until it is officially announced, so I don't want to get hopes up too high.

The event lasts several days-nearly a week. There are programs to provide knowledge sharing forums, opportunities for beekeepers from around the world to meet, exchange ideas, learn, and create “satisfying and unique memories.” There will be symposiums and keynote speakers, lunches,

roundtables, chats, sessions to allow attendees to talk with presenters, knowledge fairs, and hands-on workshops. Sounds like a NEKBA Bee Funday on steroids, if you ask me.

Oh, and there will be one-day tours, as noted on the website: Day Tours that include the Mississippi River (kayaking), the UMN Bee Lab (lab tours), Rooftop Hive “Hop” Tour (bee & beer tour?), an American Indian Pow-Wow (dancing), Mall of America (shopping), and more. Also, the MN State Fair will be happening concurrently. The state fair attendance for 2015 was just over 1,779 thousand. That's a crowd, and is held in nearby St. Paul, MN.

These are other tour events to locations in Wisconsin (Cheese & Cranberries), the Dakota's (Commercial Beekeeping Operations, Badlands, Mount Rushmore), and even a river cruise from Hannibal, MO (Sue Bee Honey commercial operation, tour ending in New Orleans). Other tours will be in California, Texas, and Florida, too.

If the USA does get this event, make sure you plan to attend. You know I will plan on being there! Otherwise, you will need to get your passports, if you don't have one, to attend somewhere else overseas in a different year, and different currency. You have time to save and plan for 2019 right now! And, have a few years to get your beekeeping in order!

By the time you get this newsletter via USPS on the 20<sup>th</sup>, we should know! Stay tuned to FaceBook (FB), and the website. If you are on FB, don't forget to like our NEKBA page, and become a member, if you're not already.

Of course, we'll also announce it on our [www.NEKBA.org](http://www.NEKBA.org) home page. On FB, you can search and like “Apimondia USA Bid for 2019” for updates to this once-in-a-life-time event. On the web, check out all the information and status at <http://www.apimondiausabidfor2019.org>. Fingers are crossed, and hope many of you can be there with us, if the USA gets the bid! Now here's where we could use some chanting: USA! USA! USA! Gooo Bees!



**Friday & Saturday, October 30 & 31 2015 Registration Form**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ write email address clearly

- o Check here if you would like to receive your newsletter by email

**Registration & payment now accepted with PayPal at [kansashoneyproducers.org](http://kansashoneyproducers.org)**

**Pre-registration (must be received by October 23)**

**Registration Fee**

(\$35.00 x \_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Lunch

(\$15.25 x \_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Dinner

(\$18.00 x \_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Lunch

(\$15.25 x \_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_

**Children-5-18 (under 5 free) Registration**

(\$10.00 x \_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Members Add \$15.00**

(\$15.00 x \_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_

**Late Registration, after Oct.23rd & at the door \$20 per person:**

(\$20.00 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 2015** (18 years of age or under)  
 Renewal  New \$7.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Membership 2015 Northeastern Kansas

Beekeepers Assn:  Renewal  New \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to: Kansas Honey Producers Assn or KHPA and mail to Robert Burns, 7601 W. 54<sup>th</sup> Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202913-or email [rburns@kc.rr.com](mailto:rburns@kc.rr.com)*

**Registration & payment now accepted with PayPal at [kansashoneyproducers.org](http://kansashoneyproducers.org)**

Note: No receipts will be sent



Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association  
Robert Burns, Treasurer  
7601 W 54<sup>th</sup> Terr  
Shawnee Mission KS 66202

## Address Service Requested

**Fall Winter Management  
Meeting-September 21  
Monday**

### *The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association*

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

The *Bee Buzz*er 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 Buzz*er 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.

### **2015 Officers**

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**Visit our Website at NEKBA.org**