

CAPPINGS

The Official Newsletter of the
Kansas Honey Producers Association
www.KansasHoneyProducers.org



Promoting Mankind's Most Beneficial Insect – The Honey Bee!

Oct-Dec 2013

Inside This Issue

President's Corner:
Paying It Forward
Pg. 2

2014 Youth Scholarship
Update / Gene Campbell
Passes Away
Pg. 3

Honey Whiskey: And The
Winner Is....
Pg. 4

2014 Applications Due
Now!
Pg. 6



Norwich Students Experience Beekeeping Up Close and Personal

By Sharon Rowan, Norwich, Kan.

The first week of April, Norwich merchants had several school groups tour the businesses. In three days, we had around 125 students come through the shop for a "bee experience."

Of course, groups coming to Rowan's Honey Shop learned about bees. We had an observation hive in the shop and talked about bees in the hive, the jobs they do, and the importance of their work for all mankind.



Students had many good questions about how the bees make beeswax and honey; they also had many interesting stories about their personal experiences with bees. The students were able to get a close up view of the queen, brood, and honey in the cells.

As they left, we gave them a coloring book about bees, a sheet of bee facts, a shop flyer, and of course a honey stick.

KHPA OFFICERS

President

Steve Tipton
785-484-3710

bstbees@embarqmail.com

1st Vice President

Joli Winer
913-593-3851

joli@heartlandhoney.com

2nd Vice President

Kristi Sanderson
(Phone Pending)

sandersonk09@gmail.com

3rd Vice President

Connie Hopkins
620-214-0644

cmhopkins@wbsnet.org

4th Vice President

Becky Tipton
785-484-3710

bstbees@embarqmail.com

Secretary

Marietta Graham

mrsr.graham@pixius.net

Treasurer

Robert Burns
913-831-6096

rburns@kc.rr.com

Cappings Editor

Greg Swob
785-623-3533

gswob@mwenergy.com

President's Corner

Paying it Forward

By: Steve Tipton

In 2012, Becky and I had the opportunity to mentor two youth in Abilene, Kansas—brother and sister, Rogan and Sage Tokach. We live about 1 ½ hours from Abilene so we were kind of mentoring by long distance. Sage and Rogan did a fantastic job. Every week I got an e-mail with detailed descriptions of what they saw in their hives, how many frames the queen was laying on, how much honey/pollen they had in each of their hives. When they saw something they thought was unusual or they were unsure about, they took pictures and e-mailed those as well. Although long-distance mentoring is not the optimal situation, these kids made it work and couldn't have done a better job. I'm sure many of you remember their presentations to



KHPA—Rogan radiated enthusiasm for his year in beekeeping. Sage's PowerPoint slide show was beautiful!

This year they harvested a nice honey crop off their 2 hives and decided that a portion would be set aside to purchase bee hives through the "Heifer Project" to support families in Honduras. They set up a Facebook page called "Honey for Heifer," and sold jars of their beautiful honey for \$10/pound. With the proceeds, they were able to purchase 15 hives!

Rogan is definitely the businessman of these young beekeepers—he always had his focus on productivity! Obviously, they both have extremely generous hearts to have shared their harvest in a way to make a life-changing difference for so many families in Honduras. We are honored by their humanitarianism.



2014 Youth Scholarship Update

By: Becky Tipton, 4th Vice-President

We had a tremendous group of scholarship applicants this year – more than ever! As usual, finding good mentors is one of our biggest hurdles. So, to begin with, I'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our KHPA members who have agreed to mentor these youth. I believe you'll find the experience tremendously rewarding. When we teach, we all learn, too. Sharing our knowledge of honey bees is a labor of love for me.

The 2014 Scholarship students are:

Becca Bailey from Maize, Kan. Mentor: Mike Conkling

Clare Van Zelfden from Valley Center, Kan. Mentors: Marietta and William Graham

Joseph Dewey from Wichita, Kan. Mentors: Jim and Sharon Rowan

Abigail Buchholz from Ogallah Kan. Mentor: Greg Swob

Emily Buchholz from Ogallah, Kan. Mentor: Greg Swob

Megan Milroy from Spring Hill, Kan. Mentors: Joli Winer & Cecil Sweeney

We have another applicant from El Dorado, Kan., but we have been unable to locate a volunteer mentor for this student. PLEASE contact Becky if you would be willing to mentor this student! Turning down a youth who wants to have bees just because we can't find someone to help him get started is sad.

In Memory: Gene Campbell

Life member Gene Campbell, 73, of McPherson, Kansas, passed away Friday, Oct. 18, 2013 while in the company of family members, at Pine Village, Moundridge.

The son of Orie J. and Mirtie Marie (Tracy) Campbell, Gene was born Dec. 11, 1939 at Larned, Kansas. He was the eldest of seven children born to this union, five sons and two daughters, Gene, Alvin, Tom, Victor "Butch", Charles, Carolyn, and Louise. They also have two half sisters and a half brother, Ollie May, Donald, and Pearl. Gene attended the Larned and Iola schools.

Gene was united in marriage to Mary Spearman on July 5, 1960 at Wichita, Kansas where they established their first home together. Gene was blessed with the birth of five daughters, Jo, Jan, Rose, Mary, and Crystal. Through the years Gene worked at the Coleman Company, and retired as a building maintenance engineer for U.S.D. 259. He also worked other various jobs and was a jack-of-all-trades.

Gene Campbell was united in marriage to Fayneta J. "Fay" Beattie on May 13, 1995 at McPherson, Kansas where they made their home together. Gene was a member of the Kansas Honey Producers Association.

Gene was a Christian, loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, and dear



friend. He enjoyed the out-of-doors, hunting, fishing, bird watching, beekeeping, and nature in general. He loved ice cream. Gene and Fay enjoyed all the trips they took with Village Tours and always was looking forward to their next.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents, Orie Campbell and Mirtie Locut; a daughter, Mary Louise Campbell; 2 half-sisters, Ollie May Kresge and Pearl Branstetter; and a half brother, Donald Speer and a baby brother, Charles Campbell.

Graveside service were held at Larned Cemetery, Larned, Kansas, on Oct. 23, 2013. Memorial contributions in memory of Gene may be made to Pine Village Retirement Comm. or Alzheimer's Association and they can be sent in care of the Glidden - Ediger Funeral Home; 222 West Euclid Street; McPherson, Kansas 67460.

Gene's wife Fay will be offering some well-maintained beekeeping equipment for sale in early 2014. Please keep an eye on future issues of *Cappings* for details.

Honey Whiskey: The Results Are In!

By: Michael Sinclair

With the holidays approaching you may want to give out a bottle of the honey whiskey, but with so many hitting the shelves which one do you want to give. A couple years ago I gave my brother three of them. Knowing that he is a Jack Daniels drinker, I got him a Jack Daniel's Tennessee Honey. I also got him a bottle of Wild Turkey American Honey and a bottle of Seagram's 7 Dark Honey. I assumed that he would like the Tennessee Honey best since it is a product of Jack Daniels. I was wrong however; of the three he rated it second. His first choice was the Seagram's 7 Dark Honey with third place being American Honey. When I tasted them I ranked the Tennessee Honey last but that was probably a bias opinion because I don't like Jack Daniels. So with biased opinions it would be left up to each your own until now.

Recently I purchased 6 different varieties and had a sample panel at work do a panel test on them. In the panel test the six whiskeys were sampled by five people that normally sample gins and neutral grain sprits (vodkas & ever clear) so the honey whiskeys was something a little different to them. The way the sample panel was done was.

First, I put a sample of each whiskey in

a honey container labeled 1 thru 6 and gave them to the lab technician that agreed to help.

Second, she cut the proof of each one with distilled and filtered water. By cutting the proof the odors and flavors are not masked by the higher proof. Which make it easier to detect odors and flavors like citrus or fuel. After cutting the proof the samples were divided into five testers, labeled, covered and placed in a paneling room.

Third, the panelist are emailed that it is ready and one at a time they come to the panel room. Then each sample is given a sniff for the aroma and then a swish across the tongue and spit back out. As each sample is tested comments are put down for aroma and flavor. After all six samples are tested each panelist rated the samples one thru six.

By doing it this way no one had any clue as to what was what. In fact one of the panelists asked me if the samples were of whiskeys that I was making or infusing.

The aroma comments were:

Sample #1 "Sugary, candy, buttery; very-sweet/honey-like; fuel like; light honey odor; medicinal"

#2 "n/a; grassy earthy smell; little bitter; too sweet; more citrus than honey; fruity/flowery"

#3 "Bourbon-y but not alcohol-y/flowery; flat/slightly fuel-like/very little sweet; halls cough drop; heavy honey odor; fruity/flowery"

#4 "Like a cleaner; molasses or coffee/very little honey; sweet aroma; coffee odor; butterscotch"

#5 "n/a; fuel-like; old stale; off odor; harsh odor"

#6 "n/a; very good/sweet & light (citrusy); n/a; n/a; citrus odor"

The taste comments were:

#1 "n/a; hardly any alcohol flavor; fuel like; more honey than bourbon; honey taste"

#2 "n/a; slight sweet taste; more citrus than bourbon taste; weak taste"

#3 "Bourbon-ey but not alcohol-ly/flowery; flat/slightly fuel-like/very little sweet; halls cough drop; smooth, heavy honey taste; flowery"

#4 "n/a; very bitter taste; sweet taste; bad flavor; butterscotch"

#5 "n/a; yuck w/bad aftertaste; n/a; off taste; stale taste"

#6 "n/a; awesome flavor; citrus flavor (no bourbon); smooth taste"

Overall Ratings

1st place was sample #6: Seagram's 7 Dark Honey

2nd place was sample #4: Jack Daniel's Tennessee Honey

3rd place was sample #2: Evan William's Honey Reserve

4th place was sample #1: Jim Beam Honey

5th place was sample #3: Wild Turkey American Honey

6th place was sample #5: Jesse James American Outlaw Honey.

SAMPLE#	AROMA points	TASTE points	TOTAL	AVG	OVERALL RATING
1	17	21	38	19	4 th
2	17	18	35	17.5	3 rd
3	18	21	39	19.5	5 th
4	16	15	31	15.5	2 nd
5	24	21	45	22.5	6 th
6	13	9	22	11	1 st

Fall 2013 KHPA Meeting Highlights

Oct. 18-19, Topeka, Kan.



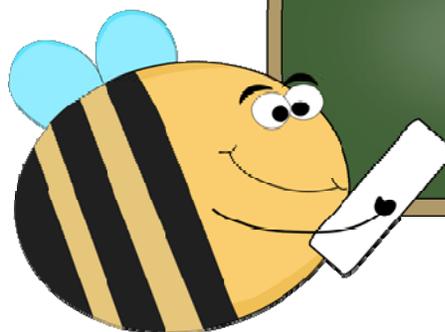
Frank Gieringer of Geringer Orchards in Edgerton, Kan., delivers a talk on Agri-Tourism.



Robert Burns, KHPA Treasurer, multi-tasks during one of the sessions.



Becky Tipton, KHPA 4th Vice-President, speaks on arranging honey gift basket ideas.



Upcoming

American Beekeeping Federation Convention/Trade Show

North American Conference

Jan. 7-11, 2014, The River Center – Baton Rouge, La.

www.nabeekeepingconference.com

American Honey Producers Assn Convention/Trade Show

American Bee Research Conference & American Association of Professional Apicurists

Jan. 7-11, 2014, Omni San Antonio, Texas @ the Collonade

www.ahpanet.com/?page=AHPAconvention

Great Plains Growers Conference

Advanced Beekeeping Workshop

Jan. 9-11, 2014, Missouri Western St. Univ., St. Joseph, Mo.

Sessions include: Advanced Beekeeping, High Tunnels, Tree & Small Fruit, Farm to School, and Soil & Irrigation.

<http://www.greatplainsgrowers.com>

2014 KHPA Meeting

Mar. 14-15, 2014, Hays, Kan. (See Pg. 7)

Tuckerbees Nucs

For \$120 you get a laying Queen with five frames of bees and brood.

Our product is ready sometime in May. Delivery to centralized points can be arranged.

Quantities are limited. Reserve yours now.

Call Tim, 620-879-2926 or Norbert 620-216-0202

Kansas Honey Producers 2014 Spring Meeting
Friday and Saturday, March 14th & 15th
Meeting Room: Whiskey Creek Wood Fired Grill
3203 Vine St, Hays, KS 67601
Hotel-Days Inn
3205 Vine St, Hays, KS 67601
(785) 628-8261

At the suggestion of some of our members we changed the location of the spring meeting. This also meant that we had to change the date. So please get out your calendars and make the needed the change—this is a meeting that you won't want to miss! We tend to gear our spring meeting to focus on some topics for beginning beekeepers with an emphasis on colony management. We have lined up the perfect guest speaker for this meeting!

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Dewey Caron. He started with honey bees as teenager in Vermont. He later studied for a PhD with Dr Roger Morse of Cornell University. He is also interested in insect natural history and pollination biology. He was a Professor of Entomology and Apiculture (honey bees) for 11 years at the University of Maryland and 29 years at University of Delaware. He conducted research and did extension and teaching with honey bees and insects and wildlife conservation. He retired in 2009 and is now living in Oregon to be close to grandchildren. He is still active with insects and honey bees. He is also an active participant of state, local and regional bee meetings (presenting over 100 talks each year). He is the author of the book, *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping*—many of you may have purchased this from Dr. Larry Connor at our fall meeting—bring it back and have Dewey sign it!

The hotel and the meeting room are just across the parking lot from each other. To make your reservation call the Days Inn at 785-628-8261. A complimentary breakfast is offered. Reserve your rooms by February 13th. The room rates are as follows:

	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people
Non Smoking 2 Full size beds 2nd floor	\$54.98	54.98	62.98	70.98
Non Smoking 1 king bed 1st floor	\$59.98	59.98	67.98	75.98
Non Smoking 2 queens 1st floor	\$59.98	59.98	67.98	75.98

As soon as the program & registration form are ready it will be posted on the website at kansashoneyproducers.org. It will also be in the next *Cappings*.

If you have any questions you may call or email Joli Winer at 913-856-8356 or joli@heartlandhoney.com.



Mother Earth Fair – Lawrence, Ks. *by Steve Tipton*

Earlier this fall, Joli Winer, Cecil Sweeney, Becky and I had an opportunity to blow the beekeeper horn at the Mother Earth News Fair in Lawrence, Kansas. Our mission was to answer questions about bees, and explain how and what equipment is needed, to get started in beekeeping. We also wanted to promote the scholarship programs of the KHPA and NEKBA. We also provided information and directed people to beekeepers and beekeeping supply vendors. We gave out a lot of information on the KHPA and NEKBA organizations, their meeting schedules and locations and the programs focusing on new beekeepers (the KHPA spring meeting in Hays and the NEKBA new beekeeper class in March) and the Funday in June. Cecil and I pretty much talked nonstop for two days!

The demographics of the people attending this event were unique. We saw people of all ages but leaning more toward the 40 and up age group. We had a few local beekeepers stop by but many more interested in beginning beekeeping. The event drew huge numbers of folks from all over the central United States. They asked intelligent questions, showing that most had read and acquired some basic beekeeping knowledge.

Becky and I presented a workshop on basic Langstroth equipment, beekeeping terminology, how to acquire bees and some recommendations for getting started and hopefully avoid some pitfalls when starting to keep bees. We had a standing-room only crowd of around 250-300 people; a testament to the number of people interested in beekeeping.

One of the vendors at the fair was offering top bar hives and Warre' hives for sale. He also had literature on how both function. He presented workshops both days with large crowds in each presentation. Cecil and I were both plied with many questions about TBH while we were at our observation hive. Our response, without being too negative, mirrored the thinking of area researchers: limited honey production, poor ability to

All in all, we felt like the MEN Fair was a great success. We all just wanted more time to visit the other vendors and check out all the environmentally friendly, self-sufficient, healthy, organic, back to basic ideas presented.

Just a reminder—get entrance reducer/mouse guards on your hives. Watch your hives food levels and add emergency feed (candy board) if needed. I hope all your bees winter well.



Editor's Note- The Mother Earth News, Ogden Publications of Topeka, Ks. has been a go-to magazine for those wishing a back to basics life, learn more about living with the land, etc. for around 40+ years. Kansas was blessed this year with the first fair located in our great state! Over 10,000 folks attended the event from all over the region. Many well known speakers were presenting their stories. Other MEN Fairs were also held in Pennsylvania & Washington.

2014 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 \$19.50 _____

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

Greg Swob

1569 Toulon Ave.

Hays, KS 67601

gswob@mwenergy.com

Address Service Requested