

The Official Newsletter of the Kansas Honey Producers Association

www.KansasHoneyProducers.org



Congratulations
Jim Kellie
Bee Keep
Of The Year
2019

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May 2020

WHO'S NEW

Becky Tipton	KHPA President
Joli Winer	KHPA 1st Vice President (Program)
Kristi Sanderson	KHPA 2nd Vice President (State Fair)
Julie Cahoj	KHPA 3rd Vice President (Promotions)
Sondra Koehn	KHPA Secretary
Robert Burns	KHPA Treasurer
Stephanie Brown	KHPA Editor
Nikki Bowman	North Central Area Representative
Brenda Seader	North West Area Representative
Chad Gilliland	North East Area Representative
Norbert Neal	South East Area Representative
Candy Vinduska	South Central Area Representative
Amy Dikeman	South West Area Representative

OUR PRESIDENT BECKY TIPTON

Greetings from the American Beekeeping Federation meeting in beautiful Schaumburg, Ill. (just west of Chicago). Here are a few of the highlights from a fantastic conference.

Dr. Sammy Ramsey continues his research into the little known and even less understood mite ravishing bee hives in Thailand, *Tropilaelaps*. This menace to beekeeping has many peculiar behaviors but none more odd than it probably winters on rats because honey bee brood is not available. Dr. Ramsey spent a good deal of the summer building moats around select hives in an attempt to keep the “Tropi” mite at bay....yes, his research time is just that glamorous.

Blake Shook and a panel of experts was asked a very thoughtful question from the audience: what advice would they give their young beekeeping self as they began their beekeeping careers? Join a beekeeping club, get a mentor, and learn all you can were good answers. But, Blake’s was best. He said, “Saturate yourself in beekeeping. Learn everything you can about bees; make learning your total focus. Get into your hives 2 or even 3 times per week while you are learning to observe everything and do not concern yourself with the bees making anything [honey]. Let the bees teach you what you need to know.” I love it! During this same discussion another panelist said, don’t lie to yourself by doing a quick glance and saying, ‘They are fine.’ Are they fine? Do you really know? Another member wants every new beekeeper to take an oath written in blood to look at every frame of every hive every week of his/her first season of beekeeping. It’s just that important.

These people have seen it all in the beekeeping world and what do they believe in....education.

Beekeeping is not a fairy tale of fields of clover transformed into sweet honey, it is hard work and our most valuable insect in harmony. These are not “tree huggers” but they might be “bee huggers.” Seeing hundreds of people all concerned about the welfare of the honey bee is inspiring. Our problems seem insurmountable. Each issue must be addressed with the science of understanding and action and leave behind the temptation to follow fad beekeeping.

Many sessions have focused on nutrition as the key to bee health. The viruses that plague our bees are not new. The strangle hold upon the bees seems to stem from their compromised immune systems and that from poor nutrition. The lack of vital nutrition may be traced to farming practices that seemed modern, innovative, and poised to put more food on our tables but which have led to our inability to nourish our bees and ourselves. Plant more flowers. Enrich the earth.

Please join us in March for the spring meeting of the KHPA in Hays, KS. Our focus is and will always be on education. Let’s work together on better ways to bring that richness of learning to our beekeeping community.

Kansas Honey Producers Association Spring Meeting

March 6&7, 2020 Hays KS

Meeting: **Whiskey Creek Wood Fire Grill, 3203 Vine St., Hays**

Sleeping Rooms: Days Inn, 3205 Vine St., Hays 785-628-8261

The next meeting of the Kansas Honey Producers will be held in Hays KS. Please make your room reservations by February 7th to get the special price of \$72.99 per night. Mention the Kansas Honey Producers to get this rate. Call the Days Inn at 785-628-8261.

Kim Flottum, newly retired editor of the Bee Culture Magazine, will be one of our guests.

Our other guest is Nathalie Steinhauer, the Research Coordinator of the Bee Informed Partnership, she is based out of the University of Maryland's Entomology Department where she completed her PhD working under Dennis vanEngelsdorp. She previously obtained a Master in Biology from *Université Libre de Bruxelles* (Belgium). During her PhD, she worked on applying epidemiological approaches to honey bee health and identifying best management practices associated with reduced colony mortality.

We are honored to have several speakers from Fort Hays State University. Dr. Balthazor, Assistant Professor of Chemistry will speak on "Saving Bees By Killing Them: A Preliminary Research Topic. Ryan Engel a graduate student will speak on "The Influence of land Use on the Pollen Diet of Honey Bee Colonies in Western Kansas". [Sara Nansel-Lantz](#), A graduate student, will speak on "Determining Effective Levels of Antibacterial Qualities of Kansas honeys".

Check the Kansas Honey Producers website www.kansashoneyproducers.org to register.

Future Meetings:

October 23 & 24, 2020 Best Western Wichita North, guest speaker Tammy Horn Potter, KY State apiarist and Dr. Liz Walsh Research Scientist, Beaverlodge, Alberta (**Note date change**)

March 5 & 6, 2021 Best Western Wichita North

October 22 & 23, 2021 Best Western Wichita North

KHPA members if something comes up at a meeting that can possibly be fixed (the room is too hot or too cold, the toilet is plugged up, the lock on your door doesn't work, there isn't a vegetarian option for a meal) please let me know as soon as possible so that I can take care of it. I can't fix something if I don't know if it's broken. Also, if you have a suggestion for a topic you would like to hear please let me know-usually I can find a speaker for a certain topic. And if I forget that you told me, remind me! My cell is 913-593-3562 and my email is joli@heartlandhoney.com. Some of the board members have suggested that we meet at the Best Western Wichita North on a permanent basis. We loved the facility! If you agree or disagree with this let your area representative know so that they can bring those thoughts to the next board meeting.

KHPA OFFICERS

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Nikki Bowman A warm greeting to you all, despite the icy weather.

It's that time of year where most of us are stuck inside, thinking about our beekeeping plans for the new year. What worked, what didn't? Where do we need to be more vigilant? Where are our bees struggling? What equipment do we need to replace or purchase? And are there any newer products, practices or information for

Returning this week from the American Beekeeping Federation Conference near Chicago, there is no question that researchers and beekeepers are in agreement on the issues most affecting our bees. Varroa mites, viruses, poor nutrition, pesticides and poorly mated queens were all commonly identified pieces that contribute to the health of

In the tradeshow and hallways, there were companies and bee breeders claiming their products or bees solved some of those issues our bees face. Feed your bees' gut microbiome! Seaweed! Spirulina! Extracts! Perfect pollen! New breeds of queens! New hive equipment!

But going back to the researchers' reports and work, they cautioned us: those are isolated pieces. There is no magic bullet, feed, bee breed or gizmo. There are many facets to the challenges facing our bees. And it takes an observant beekeeper to find address them in each hive.

While their research may find that bees fed supplements can withstand viruses better than bees fed only sucrose syrup, they haven't identified exactly what in those supplements is the missing piece for every colony, and more importantly, how the other added ingredients affect the bees. A supplement may provide a lacking nutrient in your bees' diet, but are the other ingredients in excess, or detrimental? Where did that pollen or pollen sub

That newer breed of queen may show some excellent traits, but how soon is it lost with following generations? Can that desirable trait be lost in two generations? Do those bees have poorer performance in other areas?

It all goes back to active beekeeping. Inspecting our bees routinely, identifying which of these issues are affecting our bees specifically, and doing our best to address those issues with the options available to us. A supplemental feed may have some great micronutrients for bees located in an area of poor forage, but it doesn't help a poorly-mated queen. A specific queen breed may have some desirable traits, but they won't protect your bees from your

Thankfully, we have many knowledgeable, experienced beekeepers in our state, willing to help one another at local, regional or state meetings and classes. Like the rest of the beekeeping world, no one has the perfect solutions, but we can each be vigilant keepers of our bees, share our ideas, experiences and observations for our specific challenges, and try to help our bees and each other be more successful each year.

North East

Chad Gilliland

A busy bee-ginning of the New Year for the Northeast Kansas Beekeepers Association. In an effort to get an early jump start on our beginning beekeeping course, we decided to move our program from March to January 18th. The program will focus on bee biology, equipment needs, managing colony growth, summertime beekeeping, varroa management, diseases and pests, and Fall and Winter management. In addition, we have added a “Year 2 and Bee-Yond” program on February 15th. Focus will be on Spring management, re-queening, swarm biology, stressors and IPM, and moving bee hives. Both programs will be held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Lawrence. Cost of either program is \$35 and price includes lunch, snacks, presenters notes. Enrollment for classes can be done online at www.nekba.org.



Mark you calendars, volunteers will be needed in Hutchinson at the State Fair September 9-20. Come volunteer and have some fun at the fair. Don't forget the honey show. We had a lot of entries last year and it would be great to see the honey show area filled up again this year.

Thank you , Kristi Sanderson

Honeybee 'Packages' available late March 2020.

**Package bees are a great means to begin beekeeping or to expand your current hobby.
Package = 3 Lbs. Bees + Mated Queen (in her own mini cage) + can of syrup all in a transport cage**

Swobee Honey Farm est. 1978

1569 Toulon Ave.

Hays, Ks. 67601

\$140.00 per package

Greg Swob 785-639-7766

Call or text for details

Queens: Italian – NW Carniolan – Russian Hybrid

Pick up at Hays or Newton locations

Program for Kansas Honey Producers Meeting March 6 & 7 2020

Whiskey Creek Wood Fire Grill, 3203 Vine St., Hays

March 5th, Thursday 8:00 pm- Board meeting at the Whiskey Creek Wood Fire Grill meeting room.

Friday March 6th 2020

- 7:30-8:30 Registration set up for silent auction
- 8:30-8:45 Announcements, President Becky Tipton
- 8:45-9:40 The Rest of the season (after pkgs installed), Kim Flottum presents
- 9:45-10:40 Bee Informed: Who we are & what we do, Nathalie Steinhauer presents
- 10:40-11:00 Break
- 11:00-11:35 The Influence of Land Use on the Pollen Diet of Honey Bee Colonies in Western Kansas, Ryan Engel, Graduate Research Assistant Fort Hays State University presents
- 11:35-12:15 Cecil Sweeney: Calibrating your Refractometer

Steve Messbarger: How to make a hot box and how to make a creamed honey refrigerator

- 12:15-1:15 Lunch
- 1:15-2:10 Common Sense Natural Beekeeping, Kim Flottum presents
- 2:15-2:45 Determining Effective Levels of Antibacterial Qualities of Kansas Honeys, Sara Nansel-Lantz, Graduate Research Assistant Fort Hays State University presents
- 2:45-3:10 Break & End of Silent Auction at the end of the Break
- 3:10-4:05 Saving Bees By Killing Them: A Preliminary Research Topic, Dr. James Balthazor, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics presents
- 4:10-5:05 Sentinel Apiaries: Bring the Science in your Apiary, Nathalie Steinhauer presents
- 5:45 Dinner and After Dinner Program *Beekeeping 2020*, Kim Flottum presents

Saturday March 7th 2020

- 8:00-8:30 Registration, Silent Auction Set up
- 8:30-8:45 Announcements, President Becky Tipton
- 8:50-9:45 Best Management Practices to Reduce Colony Losses, Nathalie Steinhauer
- 9:45-10:40 Second Season – You made it through one, Kim Flottum presents
- 10:40-11:00 Break
- 11:00-11:30 Presentation of Grant Groups
- 11:30-12:15 *Topic To be determined*
- 12:15-1:00 Lunch. the silent auction ends after lunch at 1:00
- 1:00-1:55 Let Your Bees Pay Their Way – make money without even trying, Kim Flottum presents
- 2:00-2:55 The Impacts of Tech Transfer Teams, Nathalie Steinhauer presents
- 3:00-3:55 *Topic to be determined*
- 4:00 General Business meeting

Program subject to change, Please check our website at www.kansashoneyproducers.org

Registration Form for Spring 2020 KHPA Meeting

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

COUNTY _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____ write clearly

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

List names of those registered for name tags

Meeting Registration For members

Fee includes lunch, dinner and breaks on Friday and Saturday lunch and breaks

Per Person 2- day registration-Friday and Saturday	\$60 .00 X _____ = _____ Per Person
day only _____ Friday only (includes lunch & dinner)	\$50.00 X _____ = _____ Per Person
day only _____ Saturday only (includes lunch)	\$35.00 X _____ = _____ ----- Per Person

Meeting Registration for Non-members:

Per Person 2- Day registration-Friday & Saturday	\$75.00 X _____ = _____ Per Person
1- Day _____ Friday only (includes lunch & dinner)	\$65.00 X _____ = _____ Per Person
1-Day _____ Saturday only (includes lunch)	\$50.00 X _____ = _____ Per Person

Children under 18 2-day \$10.00 X _____ = _____

Children under 18-1 day ____ Friday ____ Saturday \$ 7.50 X _____ = _____

I would like Vegetarian meals for _____ people

I would like fish for Lent for _____ people

Total _____

Please note: The reduced rate for this meeting is due to a generous grant from the State Fair Fund. Many thanks to those members who participate in the state fair as volunteers!

Please make checks payable to: Kansas Honey Producers Assn or KHPA and mail to

Robert Burns, 7601 W. 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202

913-481-3504 or email rburnshoney@gmail.com Registration & payment now accepted with PayPal at

www.kansashoneyproducers.org Note: No Receipts will be sent.

Kansas Honey Producer's Association
Robert Burns
7601 W. 54th Terrace Shawnee Mission, KS 66202
Address Service Requested



Kansas Honey Producer's Association Membership Application

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State _____ Zip Code_____

Phone# _____ Email 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 names: _____

Youth Membership (18 years of age or under) \$7.50_____ American Bee Journal 1 year subscription \$24.00_____

Bee Culture Magazine (formerly "Gleanings") 1 year subscription \$25.00_____

Donation Amount_____ Total Due _____

Make checks payable to: KHPA or Kansas Honey Producer's Association. Email: rburnshoney@gmail.com

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

The Kansas Honey Producer's Association is a nonprofit 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.

Renew On Line

www.kansashoneyproducers.org