





Since 1948 Exploring the Wonderful World of Beekeeping Together

The Bee Buzzer

Monthly Publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 1

EDITOR: CHERYL BURKHEAD

January 2023

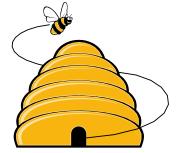
General Meeting Monday, January 16, 2022 (7:00 p.m.) (Zoom ONLY-website for updates)

"In the comfort of your own home"

Download the Zoom App and watch from your computer, smartphone, or tablet Log in instructions will be posted on the www.NEKBA.org website.

Main Program: Pollinator Habitat by Elsa Gallagher. Elsa Gallagher joins us from *The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund* where she is the Habitat Program Director. She will talk about the Habitat Fund and all things pollinator habitat. Elsa is a biologist from north central Missouri and has been focused on managing habitat her entire career.

Beelines By President Ed Darlington



Not much activity is currently required for your hives. Enjoy the lull, it won't last. If you are successful getting your hive to survive this winter, be prepared for the spring build up. Now, most importantly, is to monitor your hives to make sure

that they have the necessary stores to last until we experience the upcoming nectar flow.

This is the time I typically devote to reading and try to keep up with the new information about bees. Hopefully we can extract from last year's experiments and university tests and these should be used to edify and help us learn what we need to do differently in the coming season.

Maybe the best way to ask and answer the question of how responsible beekeepers are for the success or failure of their colonies is to recognize that all insects are dying and not just honeybees! Next question to both new and more experienced keepers; How many insect species are you trying to keep? You may be affecting honeybee colonies but I really doubt that you are killing or affecting other types of insects. Recognize that other things are going on.

I started beekeeping in 1964 until I went into the military in 1966. My biggest challenge was getting enough equipment to keep up with the expansion of my hives.

Picking up the hobby again in 2017, the job, or challenges, had radically changed. But not so much so that it was more difficult than the challenges faced by some of the titans of beekeeping. Shortly after Brother Adam of Buckfast Abby started managing the hives for the Abby, he lost 40% of the colonies in 1915. It turned out that the killer of the colonies was trachea mites. In some areas, they appear to be making a comeback. (American Bee Journal January 2023 starting page 57, "Where Did the Tracheal Mites Go?")

We beekeepers have periodically faced monumental obstacles. We need to rapidly learn to troubleshoot and separate symptoms from root causes. Currently our largest nemesis appears to be varroa mites.

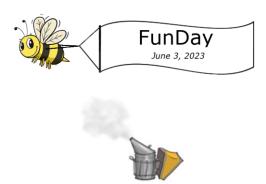
So, while we are dealing with an extremely complex task of managing honeybees, keep in mind that the biggest influencers on year-to-year production is weather. Plus, our bees don't seem to read the same books we do.

Your quandary and your primary job is to figure out what are the root causes of your difficulties and which ones are in your control. If there appears to be enough interest in these subjects, I will attempt to cover them starting next month.



2022 Meeting Dates: (Starting Time is 7pm. Dec. & Jan. sessions are virtual via Zoom)

- January 16, 2023 (Zoom meeting only)
- January 28, 2023 Beginning Beekeeping Class (Bldg. 21)
- January 29, 2023 Beginning Beekeeping Class (Bldg. 21)
- February 20, 2023 (Bldg. 21)
- February 25, 2023 Year 2 and Beyond Beekeeping Class (Bldg. 21)



Beekeeping Classes

This year the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association is proud to announce we will be having the Beginning Beekeepers' class <u>2 times</u> this year! All classes will be held in Lawrence at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in building 21. The 1st Beginning Beekeeping class will be taking place on Saturday, January 28th and Sunday, January 29th.

We will then be having a one-day, *Year 2 and Beyond* class on Saturday, February 25th. The 2nd *Beginning Beekeeping* class will be offered over 3 Monday evenings; April 24th, May 1st and May 8th. Vendors will be present for classes on January 28th and February 25th only.

The cost of the classes is \$55.00 per person and each participant will receive a notebook filled with lots of useful information along with slides from each presenter with space for taking notes. See the January program in this month's newsletter. February's program will be in next month's newsletter. You may see the complete program for each class by going to the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers website at HOME (nekba.org). You may register and pay for the classes online. If you wish to pay with check, you may use the postal service and mail to NEKBA, Attn: Robert Burns, Treasurer, 7601 W. 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission, KS 66202. Please specify which class you are attending or you may go online and print the registration form and include it with your check.

We have many knowledgeable and experienced beekeepers who are freely giving of their time to get you started off on the right foot as a new beekeeper. Come with questions and the expectation of gaining beekeeping knowledge. If you have any questions; call, text, or email Kristi Sanderson at 913-768-4961. Email - Sandersonk09@gmail.com
HOME (nekba.org) for additional information and to register.

Kristi Sanderson, Special Events Coordinator



Ol' Bee Gal

"Share your knowledge. It is a way to achieve immortality." Dalai Lama. That's a bit lofty for my contributions but I truly believe we are all obligated to share what we know. No one has learned anything in isolation; we build upon the works of others to create better understanding or expand our knowledge. This week, I'm trying to both share and expand my knowledge. We are

headed to Jacksonville, Florida for the annual American Beekeeping Federation meeting. I'll share some ABF nuggets here next month.

We will also be sharing our knowledge during the beginning beekeeping classes this month. I hope anyone who has had bees for 5 years or less will join us. The program looks terrific!

From the internet: A novice beekeeper reported tearing her hive apart to look for her queen. She had seen a "gueen cell" and was certain that the hive was trying to requeen itself and therefore must be queenless. There are so many layers to this problem. First, this was done on a late December day—that means temp hovering around 50°F. This temperature only seemed warm in comparison to the polar vortex we experienced the previous week! Was the queen cell viable? We don't know. Could a virgin queen be successfully mated any time in the next few weeks—NO. So, the viability of the queen cell is irrelevant. The beekeeper could have opened the cell to see if it even had a larva or pupa. Bees often build anomaly cells. (If the cell did contain a pupa, you could assume this hive was either queenless or had a failing queen. That would be valuable information.) IF this hive is really queenless, what possible solutions could be taken? Purchase a new queen and install her. I do not know of anyone with queens available locally. A shipped queen would likely be damaged by cold temperatures. The likelihood of getting the colony to accept a new queen at this time of year is very small. Overall, poor chance of success. One possible option would be combining this hive with another queen-right colony. But is this hive really queenless? If it isn't queenless, you're taking the chance of damaging the queen-right colony. Best choice—do nothing. Record your concern and on the first truly warm day in a couple months, check again. If you need a replacement colony, you will have saved yourself the extra cost of a queen. The result, her inspection was inconclusive. She couldn't find her queen and, of course, no evidence of brood, which is expected this time of year. And the inspection may have damaged her hive. This was not a good decision.

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 \$5 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!

ASK QUINBY & REMI



December was a rough month for our sweet Quinby. While he is only 7 ½ years old, he suddenly became blind. He has a condition, common in some dog breeds, as Sudden Acquired Retinal Degeneration Syndrome. SARDS is a rare disease in dogs that causes sudden blindness. At present, about 4,000 cases are reported annually with female dogs being more numerous than males, & any breed or mixed breed can succumb. Young dogs are less likely to develop SARDS than middleaged or older dogs. The average age of onset of symptoms is 7-10 years. He is getting along really well in the house and currently can find the doggie door to get outside and get back inside and he has had no trouble finding his bowl for breakfast and dinner. He's had a few issues where he has gotten lost in the house but mostly, he is doing a great job. Dear Quinby and Remi: How can I further my

beekeeping education this year? Last year was my first year of beekeeping.

Quinby and Remi Answer: Sign up for both the Beginning Beekeeping class and the Year 2 class. The Beginning Beekeeping class will be a great

refresher. Last year it was probably overwhelming to you – if you took it. If you did not, then be sure to take it this year and the Year 2, as well. You can never learn too much about beekeeping!

The more you learn, the better chance your bees have of surviving. The club also offers mentoring. These usually involve going through someone else's bees and going through their hives with them. Sometimes there is a voluntary fee involved. There are also some club members who mentor others as a business. These people are very competent and provide a great service too. You can also explore the Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program-(GPMB). The Great Plains Master Beekeeping program is a collaborative group of beekeepers spanning the Great Plains region and integrating beekeeping organizations from Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Missouri. The program is highly dependent on extension professionals and experienced beekeepers to bring their expertise and knowledge to both new and advanced beekeepers. To further your educational experience, you can attend the Kansas Honey Producers meeting in Salina in the Spring and Fall. Watch the club newsletter and the website for details. Subscribe to both the American Bee Journal and Bee Culture magazines. Additionally, on the third Thursday of the month, the Kansas Honey Producers offer a Value-Added Zoom presentation at 7pm CST. The members of NEKBA get the link in their email each month.

Quinby and Remi would love to answer your questions. Contact them my emailing their owner at heartlandhoneyks@gmail.com.



Mad Honey

by Jody Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

This is such a hard book to review. As some of you know, I love to read fiction and mysteries. I especially enjoy them if there is anything about beekeeping in the book. This book checked all of those boxes. It was very relevant to the times and

also very thought-provoking. It covered a lot of topics which I was only somewhat familiar with. All of the parts about beekeeping were accurate and true. I commend them for the fact that they did their homework and research.

I've read several of Jody Picoult's books and found this one to be one of her best. It is about another dysfunctional family and it has a beekeeper in the story. It's about secrets, growing up, coping with today's societal issues - as both a young teen and as an adult. It's also about trying to come to terms with the world in which we now live. This book wasn't anything like I had expected, but in the end, I was glad that I read it.

Joli Winer



Tips for January

- Begin your recordkeeping for 2023
 calendars are already ½ price so get one
 that you can write on. Vow to keep track of
 when different plants bloom in your area, if
 you fed, how your bees did, if you replaced
 any equipment etc.
- Check a beekeeping book out at the library.
- Build or repair any equipment.
- Order your queens and package bees as soon as possible.
- Check the lids on your hives; make sure they have a heavy rock or a cement block on top. We have had some fierce winds this winter.
- Heavy snows can block entrances preventing bees from necessary cleansing flights. Brush snow from the entrance of the bee hive.
- Plan next year's garden to include some nectar producing plants that have not been treated with neonicotinoids
- Remove dead-outs and clean or store any equipment.
- Review your successes and challenges from last year.
- Check food stores in your hives.

- Renew your membership, send in your dues-you can do it online now by going to nekba.org
- Attend our meetings and beekeeping classes-share with a friend and get them started this year!



Military/Veterans Apprentice Program

I am Buck Bradley. I will be continuing the excellent work that Andy Nowachek and his team have done over the last few years. I was born and raised in Ottawa, Kansas. After a 21-year career in the Marine Corps, I recently returned home from North Carolina and am now settled in the Baldwin City area. I have been keeping bees for the last several years and had up to 25 hives before moving back home.

In following newsletters, I will share more information on the NEKBA Military/Veterans Apprentice program and the connection between veterans and beekeeping that dates back to the end of World War I.

I hope everyone had a good holiday season and that you have your bee equipment ready for Spring.

Buck Bradley, Military/Veteran Appr. Liaison

What Can We Expect to See in Early 2023?

As we sit smack dab in the middle of winter, what should be our early

pollen and nectar opportunities in the New Year? The standard answer is our common deciduous trees that we see in most landscapes. Silver Maple and Siberian Elm are two species that offer a substantial source of both pollen and nectar in the early part of the

year. Depending on weather patterns, as early as the third week of February to the second week of March, is the window when both tree varieties can begin their bloom cycles. The red flower set of the Silver Maple and the reddish-purple flowers of the Siberian Elm are both recognized as quality pollen and nectar sources. Routinely we will see deciduous trees force bloom before many of the deciduous shrubs or perennials in the landscape. There are a few exceptions to this but by far trees offer more blooms per square foot than we see with most other blooming plants. Siberian Elm, Ulmus pumila is an introduced tree species native to northern Asia that was introduced throughout the Midwest and Great Plains region. A shelterbelt and windbreak tree that was utilized as well for a key lumber source during the late 1800's thru the early to mid-1900's. Known for key drought resistance and cold tolerance characteristics, Elm trees became quite prevalent and later even considered an invasive species in some areas.



Siberian Elm flower sets

Silver Maple, Acer platanoides is another common tree found in many landscapes throughout the Midwest. Considered one of the most commonly found trees throughout the central part of the United States, the Silver Maple is one of the fastest growing trees and thus considered a soft wooded tree. Most commonly recognized by the characteristic helicopter shaped seed pods, the leaves are a lush green color with a silver-grey underside. Widely adapted to a variety of growing conditions, silver maples became a tree of choice that could be planted in drought like sites or areas with moist soil conditions. Early settlers found the Silver Maple to be key in maple syrup production

but due to a slower tap and overall lower syrup production fell off and Sugar Maples took over from a commercial production standpoint.



Silver Maple flower sets

Either way you look, both tree varieties offer an early good pollen and nectar source for our honeybees. Additionally, trees allow us to utilize limited space by growing upward or vertically. This offers the opportunity to maximize our available square footage with the largest quantity of blooms per square foot.

Chad Gilliland, Honey Plants Chairman



Third Thursdays- Extracting More Money from your Hives-Value-Added program

The Kansas Honey Producers Association- 3rd Thursday, Extracting More Money from your Hives is at 7pm CST on Thursday, January 19th Cleaning Beeswax, Beeswax Dipped Candles and Fire Starters – Cecil Sweeney, Joli Winer, and Jo Patrick present

If you have never registered for Zoom presentations, go to

www.kansashoneyproducers.org to register. Please

do not re-register if you have already registered, you will be sent the link. KHPA Membership is \$15 per year. You will receive an email before the programs with the link to register. If you registered before or are a NEKBA member or a KHPA member, you will receive the link each month, but you may be asked to register again.

These programs are being recorded and will be available on our

http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org/archives.ht ml website, under the 'Archives' page.

Upcoming Programs:

*Thursday, January 19th **Beeswax Cleaning Beeswax Dipped Candles and Fire Starters***Thursday, February 16th to be determined
*Thursday, March 16th **Bees and Agritourism**

Success stories from those who have listened to these Zoom talks! Let us know who you are! (Joli 913-593-3562 or heartlandhoneyks@gmail.com.



Honey Pot

Hot Honey Chicken Meatballs

1 lbs. ground chicken

½ c. breadcrumbs

1 egg, beaten

2 tsp. Korean chili pepper flakes

1 tsp. kosher salt

Scallions, sliced, for garnish

Hot Honey

½ c. honey

2 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar

1 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes

Preheat air fryer to 380 F. Mix chicken, breadcrumbs, egg, chili pepper, & salt. Make 16-1" meatballs and place in air fryer. Cook 8-10 min, shaking halfway through cook time. While meatballs are cooking, combine hot honey ingredients in a microwave-safe dish and heat for 1 ½ min. Remove meatballs from oven and toss with the hot honey and scallions. Serve immediately. You may also bake in oven on a sheet pan at 375 F

for 10-12 min. instead of air fryer if you prefer.



Northeastern Beekeepers' Association Beginning Beekeeping Class January 28, 29 2023 Douglas County Fairgrounds, Building 21

January 28 Saturday (vendors only this day)

8:30-8:50	Registration
8:50-9:00	Introduction - Kristi Sanderson
9:00-9:30	Equipment - Jay Francis
9:35-10:15	Honey Bee Biology - Becky Tipton
10:20-10:50	Break/Vendor time (prepackaged snacks)
10:55-11:40	Starting with Bees - Kristi Sanderson
11:45-12:45	Lunch/Vendor time (boxed)
12:45-1:30	Summer Beekeeping - Jo Patrick
1:40-2:25	Fall Management - Steve Tipton
2:25-3:00	Break/Vendor time (prepackaged snacks)
3:10-3:30	Beehive Inspections - Matt Brandes
3:40-4:30	Q & A

January 29 Sunday

1:00-1:10	Welcome (The Resources in your Book) - Kristi Sanderson
1:10-1:30	Location, Location - Bruce Lane
1:35-2:20	Varroa Mites - Joli Winer
2:25-2:40	Break
2:45-3:15	Extracting Basics - Bob Burns (removing supers, moisture content)
2:45-3:15 3:20-4:05	Extracting Basics - Bob Burns (removing supers, moisture content) Keeping a Healthy Hive - Cheryl Burkhead

NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2023 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME		
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATEZIP+4	·
PHONE	Email Address	
I would like to receive th	e newsletter, <i>The Buzzer,</i> by email Yes_	No
Membership Northeaste	ern KS Beekeepers per year (July-Dec. \$12	.50) \$25.00
Additional family memb	ers wanting voting rights \$1.00 per perso	n \$1.00
Additional family memb	er's name	
(Youth Membership (18	years of age or under)	\$12.50
Membership for Kansas	Honey Producers Association	\$15.00
American Bee Journal (d	iscounted rate through association	1 year \$27.65
Bee Culture Magazine (c	r subscribe online at <u>www.BeeCulture.co</u>	<u>m</u>) 1 year \$30.00
Scholarship / Military/Ve	eteran's Appr. Donation	
		Total

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 at 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. We are now accepting pre-orders for 3 lbs. packages and 5 frame Nucs. Choose from MN Hygienic, Italian, or Carniolan queens. Queens will be marked for your convenience. Packages and Nucs have been treated for mites so no treatments needed until Fall. 6 pickup dates to choose from in April so get your orders in soon as we sell out each year. 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 web site 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 email Info@Beekeepers.com

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 hardware@sunflower.com

CB'S HONEY

CB's Honey is now accepting orders for 5 frame nucs. Queens will be marked upon request. Don't delay as I make a limited number and sell out every year. Order your 2023 Nuc by completing form online at CB's Honey Nuc Order Form (google.com) or via CB's Honey | Facebook. Pure raw Kansas honey available in 5 gal buckets. Located just SE of Topeka. 4521 SE 61st Street, Berryton, KS 66409. Call or text Cheryl Burkhead at 785-224-9077 or email @ cherylbhoney@gmail.com

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 www.cedarridgebees.com 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 2023 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 back-ground in biology. Yet it is not oversimplified, 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 - www.wicwas.com**

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, January 16, 2023 (Zoom only)

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 that 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 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. Beekeeping classes will tentatively be held in January and February for 2023. 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 www.nekba.org 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.

2023 Officers

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Visit on-line at www.nekba.org. Save time. Join, re-new, or register.

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