



# CAPPINGS

## The Official Newsletter of the Kansas Honey Producers Association

[www.kansashoneyproducers.org](http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org)

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

### Special points of interest:

- Legislative Update
- Beekeeper of the Year
- KHPA Spring Meeting Program
- Meet the Beek
- Recipe Corner

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## The Legislative Committee 2020 by Jim Kellie

Due to Covid-19, we seem to be a ghost committee. We have not had the chance to visit with government officials except by phone. We are still patiently waiting for that future time when we can begin visiting our different officials to make ourselves known to them. Our committee consists of Brian Withrow, Steve Tipton and myself. We do have some plans that we would like to explore and welcome others that the Board approves. So far, our assignment is to check in with the State of Agriculture office, the Department of Pesticide and Fertilizer, to arrange a visit regarding how we as beekeepers should proceed with reporting a pesticide kill. We have worked on this issue before a few years back, but a few things have changed since that time and we wish to have the correct information to report back to you with the latest and correct information. We also want to ensure that the Department is aware of our understanding.

I believe we have solved our 2<sup>nd</sup> issue with the help of Gary LaGrange. This is the subject of obtaining necessary permits to enter into those states that have state regulations.

With the new state administration, a new arrangement was sought to make it easier for Beekeepers to move their bees.

Not all states have bee inspectors nor regulations regarding bees. Those that do, have huge pollination interests and honey bees for Agriculture purposes. For instance, our state of Kansas is third smallest of all the states with honey bees. We currently have 4,500 colonies (current 2020 number), a much smaller number even from last year, due to one of our Commercial beekeepers moving his bees to North Dakota. For comparison North Dakota has over 440,000 colonies, our neighboring state to the north, Nebraska has 115,000.

For beekeepers needing a certification to enter a state you can now contact Dr. Taro Eldredge from the Department of Plant Protection and Weeds. Phone Number 785-210-6240, email is [taro.eldgrege@ks.gov](mailto:taro.eldgrege@ks.gov).

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** The State of Kansas cannot issue permits since we are an open state. What he can do is inspect those colonies going to California and issue a pre-certification that those colonies are

free of unwanted plants, weeds and insects, such as Fire Ants. This certificate makes it much easier to enter the State of California at the state line. It does not guarantee the right to enter the state to your destination in the state. Those permits must be obtained from the state of California. With this new program, it has made transporting bees easier for our commercial beekeepers who have bees in more than one state and winter in different states. This will also help smaller beekeepers who move from our state and wish to take their bees with them to a state that requires a permit or certification to enter that state.

**NOTE:** Mr. Eldredge is not a bee inspector and the department does not come out to inspect bees for diseases or act in any other beekeeping actions.

We have one more issue that we are taking a closer look at, but I must talk with the board and my fellow committee members, before any decision is made beyond monitoring the situation. That information will be in the next CAPPINGS.

## Beekeeper of the Year 2020 Awarded to Greg Swob



At the fall meeting of the Kansas Honey Producers, past president, Greg Swob, was presented with the 2020 Beekeeper of the Year Award. This award is typically given to a member who has shown outstanding skills at promoting beekeeping. Greg has been a regional director of the Northwest region and has been president of the association. He worked tirelessly to help start a Western Kansas beekeeping association. He has started a newsletter to keep folks connected. Greg has arranged for guest speakers for this group. He teaches a beginning beekeeping class in the western part of the state too. He is always willing to volunteer and help out wherever he is needed! Greg is a life member of KHPA and manages a state bee yard with the honey being sold at the Kansas state fair. Thank you, Greg, for your service to the beekeepers of Kansas.

Congratulations!  
If you'd like to see the video presentation of Greg's award at the KHPA Fall 2020 Meeting- <https://youtu.be/snxHV5adjzU>

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Becky Tipton

I am proof that you can teach an old dog new tricks. Technology for meetings, both social and business, has been about my least favorite new thing. But, just like email, it's gained some appreciation and probably changed the way we do things forever. Here is what I really like about Zoom meetings:

1. I can see and hear EVERYTHING being presented! There is never a big guy in front of me.

There is never a chatty person behind me. Even slides with pretty small print are easy to read on my computer screen.

2. The presentations are recorded. If I want to revisit a subject, it's easy to access and watch again.

3. The chat box—I can get my questions answered. Because we always have people monitoring the chat box, my question is either answered by one of our experienced beekeepers or passed along to the guest speaker to answer.

4. These next reasons are really just for me...but still relevant. I can wear my pajamas and slippers and no one cares. Anytime I need a break, it's about 10 steps down the hall. Snacks are about 20 steps down the hall. If I look bad, I can use an alternate picture or no picture at all and it truly doesn't matter!

5. I can join the meeting using my smart phone, tablet, computer, or even my landline phone. The landline doesn't let me see the presentation but it's great for hearing what's being said and allowed me to join an important meeting when my internet was out.

6. Zoom allows us to charge very low fees because of no speaker travel expenses. I've seen speakers I usually only get to see at national meetings! Tom Seeley, Jennifer Berry, Juliana Rangel, Marion Ellis, Jamie Ellis, Gary Reuter, Marla Spivak, Judy Wu and MANY others, all for minimal or no cost.

I've learned a lot this year!

7. Last, think of the gas we've all saved not driving to meetings! I've attended many meetings that I would not have been able to attend because of distance. There is no travel expense, no lodging, no one needed to watch the dogs, no time considerations besides the exact time of the meeting. Win, win, win, win, win!

More than just use of technology and Zoom meetings, 2020 has enhanced my awareness of many things in our world. We are rich beyond measure in so many ways. Take stock of our bounty. We are able to produce food for our tables. We are able to help each other through this difficult time with kindness and generosity. We are able to keep ourselves and our neighbors safe with minimal effort and yet, do so much! As people saw a need, people stepped up to help in new and innovative ways.

We have so many heroes among us. Thank you to those who work in the medical community: nurses, doctors, lab technicians and the myriad of support personnel for all those positions who kept pushing through the exhaustion. Thank you to the emergency workers who willingly walked into emergency situations risking their own lives and the health of their families to keep on doing what needed to be done. Thank you to the essential workers in our grocery stores, meat packing plants, and delivery services that hustled to try to meet the demands of a nation on the brink of disaster. And through it all, we kept the bees. Thank you, beekeepers for making our world a little sweeter. Old folk lore suggests that we should "tell the bees" when the beekeeper has passed. I fear that too many bees heard that sad report this past year. Bee safe, bee well, and keep on keeping bees.

## Silent Auction—Online! March 3-6, 2021

We are planning to have an Online Silent Auction- If you would like to donate an item for the silent auction please call or email Joli and she'll tell you how to proceed. The auction will begin on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and end at 4:30 on Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup>. Joli Winer 913-593-3562 or [joli@heartlandhoney.com](mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com).

We would like to have 10-15 nice items to auction. Payment will be by credit card and the item will state if the buyer or seller is responsible for shipping. Everyone who we have an email address for will get a link at the beginning of the auction to see the items and begin the bidding.

## Kansas State Fair– 2021

This year the state fair is scheduled to take place September 10-19. We will have to wait and see what changes will take place as time draws near. I know they are planning for a new layout of vendors in the Pride of Kansas building. As the dates get closer, I will once again create a SignUpGenius so you can pick a volunteer spot that fits your schedule.

Start thinking about submitting entries for the honey show. You can dream about a theme for your gift basket or what you would like to design for the art and design in bees wax. Plan ways to improve comb honey production to get some really nice comb entries.

As information is known, it will be put on our web site and published in future newsletters. If you have any questions concerning the state fair, feel free to contact me. -Kristi Sanderson



## News from Northeast Kansas

What a year 2020 was for the majority of beekeepers in the northeast corner of our great state. Despite having a late cold spell in March and April. Above average rainfall amounts that were perfectly spaced out with milder temperatures later into the summer made for a longer blooming period for Dutch Clover along with Yellow and White Sweet Clover. Fields all across the countryside were painted with White Daisies, Purple Cone Flowers, Butterfly Milkweed, and Black-eyed Susan for many months. With such great weather and an extended wonderful bloom cycle, most beekeepers saw one of if not their best honey production seasons in many years.

Our local club NEKBA has met most of the year via zoom. Although it has been difficult to not meet in person, each month we have had great speakers for our monthly club meeting the third Monday of each month. We've added a Beekeeping Q & A zoom session the first Monday of each month. Always well attended, both zoom meetings allowed our club to stay engaged with each other and continued to allow our board of directors to stay tied in with our members.

In the first couple of months of 2021, we have some great learning opportunities. On January 30th, NEKBA'S "Beginning Beekeeper" Class is set. Then on February 27 our "Second Year and Beyond" class is scheduled. Both are Zoom meetings and you can register online at [www.NEKBA.org](http://www.NEKBA.org). Sign up to ensure you will receive the Zoom meeting invite and it also allows you to access the recordings for future viewing. Best wishes for a wonderful 2021 with great beekeeping experiences and adventures throughout the new year.

Chad Gilliland-Northeast Region Representative

## North Central Region News

Hello bee friends! I never imagined that we would be going a year without meeting in person. My favorite part of beekeeping is getting into hives together and learning from each other. The fact is - beekeepers are usually pretty cool people.

One reason I'm thankful for the various regions of the KHPA is how different our beekeeping environments can be. Last Spring, areas 2 hours away were having swarming begin 2-3 weeks apart. The first week of this year, we saw snow in Topeka and Salina but we haven't had a flake in Riley and we are right in between them. Therefore, it can be confusing for newer beekeepers on one side of the state trying to follow the same schedule as beekeepers on the other side of the state. All beekeeping is local.

I look forward to meeting in person with everyone again, but until then our North Central region will continue via email and Zoom this Spring, and hopefully we can spread out around some hives soon. Please contact me at [nikkibfarm@gmail.com](mailto:nikkibfarm@gmail.com) if you are in the North Central region and I'll add you to our email list.

Nikki Bowman-North Central Region Representative

## Northwest Kansas Early Pollen & Nectar

NW Kansas bees, in most recent years, work very hard for every pollen grain and nectar drop they harvest. I'm in Sharon Springs, very close to Colorado border. I thought a list of our early tree and shrub pollen and nectar producers might be good information for our newer beekeepers. (Keep in mind that lower temps may affect bloom.) These are for the first quarter of the year, by bloom period. These are trees and bushes that I have identified in my area, both domestic and native, and certainly not complete. I'd suggest you keep a list for your area, and update each year.

Brenda Seader, Northwest Region Representative

<u>Bloom Dates</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Pollen Color</u>
Feb-May	Willows	Lemon
Feb-Apr	Box Elder	Light Olive
Feb-Apr	American Elm	Light Grey
Feb-June	Maple	Light Yellow
Mar-April	American plum	Light Green
Mar-May	Redbud	White
Mar-Apr	Pussy Willow	Yellow
Mar-Apr	Maple	Grey brown
Apr-May	Cherry	Dark Yellow
Apr-May	Apple	Yellow to Gold

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## The Mechanics of the Hive

Let us talk about smoker fuel. Although there are many kinds, today I will mention four kinds: burlap, cotton seed hulls, sumac bush, and pine needles.

Burlap is a popular smoker fuel because it is easy to find and burns slow and cool. Put some pieces in the smoker and light it up and it will last a long time. Cotton seed hulls are becoming more common. You can purchase 40-pound bags from your local Co-op, which will last a long time. The fruiting part of the sumac tree is excellent to use because it burns low and long. There is an abundance of pine needles and is favored by bees because of its cool smoke and beekeepers because it is easier to handle the cool smoker.

There are different methods for lighting the fuel. A few are wind-proof lighters, old phone books, and matches. KwikStart smoker pellets are easy to start and will smoke a long time. Because of its burning properties, it is great to use for short-term smoking when you just want to look in a hive. Remember – a happy bee supports our environment!

William (Tiny) Jackson, Jr. –Southeast Region Representative

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## Youth Scholarship Programs

This is a plea for other groups in the state to begin youth scholarship programs. The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers has a youth scholarship program. Every year we get applications from young people who want to be beekeepers from all around the state. Naturally, we have to turn them down. I would love to talk to anyone who is part of a beekeeping club- or I would talk to your club about what all this entails. I will also add a short presentation at the state meeting to give you an idea of what we do- your club could do their own thing, of course. Joli 913-593-3562 or email [joli@heartlandhoney.com](mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com)

Joli Winer, 1st Vice President (Program Chair)

## It Happened on the High Plains

Beekeeping is challenging no matter where you live. If you add in potentially unforgiving weather, the challenge becomes exponentially more difficult. The western third of Kansas feels effects of weather that the remainder of the state may have a difficult time relating to. Blizzards can roll in off the Rocky Mountains with little warning and some years Mother Nature gets amnesia and forgets to let it rain. Many old farmers will tell you, "snow grows your wheat". But with a few exceptions, we have not had much snow this winter. While visiting with a KSU Extension agent in Rawlins county recently, he lamented that very little measurable rainfall hit their area since June. Nonetheless, beekeepers are often an optimistic crowd.

Along the eastern border of NW and SW regions, an unusual thing happened with the wild sweet yellow and white clovers this year. These wonderful honey makers also got amnesia and forgot to grow and bloom in many locations. The usual sea of tiny yellow (and white) flowers that we get to enjoy never made much of an appearance this year in many of the usual locations. Needless to say, most of us in Western KS saw that our honey harvest didn't materialize well overall. There was some sunflower and other late summer 'weed' bloom but not as prolific as we usually see. On a strange but pleasant note, one day in mid-August while working near the Colorado/Kansas border, I noticed a 'patch' of a few acres of blooming clover! It was so nice to see that so late in the season and no doubt this is not normal.

The Northwestern & Southwestern KS groups have combined for meetings the last several years, gathering in Hays and Dodge City alternately. In February 2020, we enjoyed a gathering in Hays at Professor's Sandwich Shop (owned by KHPA members Amy & Mike Jensen). At Dodge City, we meet at an arena at the Western State Bank Expo Center. We had intended to meet in Dodge City after February's meeting but along came COVID-19 restrictions, which all but wiped-out opportunities for in-person meetings indefinitely. To replace the meetings, we have been sharing a Western KS Beekeeper newsletter since April. It is sent out to around 94 members of the NW & SW Kansas groups with various bee-news topics. Also, last March we formed a Facebook group, which enjoys some activity. We will work on using Zoom, or some other means, as a gathering method to replace our in-person meetings while there are COVID restrictions.

As always, we are an optimistic folk here in the western parts of Kansas. That means, "this is going to be one great year!" as our mantra for now. COVID vaccines are rolling out for the essential front-line workers and others of high-risk concern. Sadly, some counties in the western KS regions have had over 10% of their population test positive for the virus. We have had to say goodbye to way too many of our friends and neighbors from this virus. This disease must be like when our bees first felt the ravages of unfamiliar diseases and pests. They still do not have herd immunity or any immunity to many of these things ravaging their hives. We are thankful for researchers like Randy Oliver et al, who work tirelessly to try to make these things a piece of history instead of ongoing.

I believe I can speak for all of us that the days when we can shake hands and sit in the same room once again cannot arrive any too soon. So far, no one I've spoken with has forgotten to write '2021' on their documents as we all want to put 2020 way behind us. Those of us who have experienced a number of calendars have been asking what **The Three Degrees** sang about in 1975 – **When Will I See You Again?** Stay healthy and stay positive (hopefully not on a COVID-19 test) and we **shall** meet again!

Greg Swob, Hays, KS



## What's Cookin', Honey?

Hello all you honey producers! Welcome to our new recipe corner! I hope you will enjoy trying some of the recipes that will appear in this column! Have fun with your honey in the kitchen! Feel free to add your recipes to this column! Until next time, happy honey cooking! Marlene Pantos

### Honey BBO-Marinated Chicken Drumsticks

1 lbs. chicken drumsticks  
1/2 c. ketchup  
1/2 c. honey  
1/4 c. vegetable oil  
2 T. soy sauce  
2 tsp. lemon juice  
1/4 tsp. crushed peppercorns  
1/4 tsp. hot chili sauce  
Salt to taste  
Place chicken in a large shallow dish. Combine ingredients. Pour over chicken and marinate for one hour in the refrigerator. Grill until desired doneness or bake @ 350 for about 40 min. Makes 4 servings. ([www.honey.com](http://www.honey.com))

### Honey Apple Salad

3 c. chopped apples  
1/2 c. grapes, halved  
1/2 c. chopped celery  
1/2 c. chopped walnuts  
1/2 c. chopped dates  
1/4 c. sour cream  
1/4 c. honey  
Dash of salt  
Lightly combine first four ingredients. In a separate bowl blend together the sour cream, honey, and salt. Lightly toss the dressing with apple mixture. Chill before serving.  
(From Old-Fashioned Honey Maple Syrup Sorghum Recipes, Bear Wallow Books)

## NEKBA Fun Day, June 5, 2021

### *Pandemics are temporary. Honey lasts forever!*

We hope you will join us for Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association Funday. Funday promises to bring you the latest beekeeping information from top notch apiculturists, researchers, and businesspeople. This daylong event will be held in a virtual format using Zoom. There will be breakout sessions to accommodate those of all skill levels and interests. Look for information about cost, registration, and updates at [www.nekba.org](http://www.nekba.org).

Funday 2021 speakers:

**Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda:** Prior to her work at the University of Tennessee, Jennifer was the beekeeping specialist at Clemson University and is past president of the American Association of Professional Apiculturists. At the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, she teaches bee management and increases awareness of the importance of pollinators. Dr. Tsuruda has an amazing talent for taking fascinating photos and videos of honey bees, which she shares with her audience.

**Dr. Jim Tew:** Many know Jim Tew by his monthly column in Bee Culture magazine and by reading his book *Wisdom for Beekeepers*. In his writings and presentations Jim shares his decades of beekeeping experience mixed with home-spun humor. He can also be heard, with Kim Flottum, on their podcast *The Kim & Jim Show* at [www.beeculture.com](http://www.beeculture.com). Jim also maintains his personal webpage at [www.onetew.com](http://www.onetew.com).

**Dr. Elina Niño:** Dr. Niño is the California State Extension Apiculturist and established the California Master Beekeeper Program in 2016. She operates the E.L. Niño Bee Lab at the University of California Davis. Dr. Niño is also the facilities director of the Haagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven located on the campus grounds at UC Davis. Dr. Niño's research interests are broad and range from understanding reproductive processes involved in queen bee mating to developing and evaluating new control methods to combat Varroa mites. An extensive article about Dr. Niño and her work can be read here. <https://www.beeculture.com/elina-nino/>

**Dr. Walter Sheppard:** We are most fortunate to have Dr. Sheppard join for a rare appearance in the Midwest. Walter is a beekeeper and the department chair at the Department of Entomology, Washington State University. His most recent research focuses on how fungi can be beneficial in the control of varroa mites. To learn more about Dr. Sheppard's research visit <https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2017/06/05/can-a-mushroom-save-honey-bees/?sh=3dd9bd153228>

**Dr. Judy Wu:** Dr. Wu is the Extension and Research Entomologist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Department of Entomology. Judy received her doctorate in Entomology from the University of MN under the direction of Dr. Marla Spivak. She is in the process of establishing a Master Beekeeper Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dr. Wu's presentations at past Fundays, including Trouble Shooting a Hive and her explanation of Pests and Diseases are informative for all. We are fortunate that she is returning.

**Beth Conrey:** Beth is the owner and operator of Bee Squared Apiaries, Berthoud, Colorado. She is a former president of the Colorado State Beekeepers Association. During her tenure as president, Beth recruited and organized area bee clubs across the state into a robust organization of successful beekeepers. She also helped found the People and Pollinators Network and serves on the board of directors of the Pollinator Stewardship Council. Visitors to her website, [www.bethsbees.com](http://www.bethsbees.com), can shop from a variety of products produced from the hive, including varietal honey, bee pollen, and candles. Beth was featured in the December 2020 issue of Bee Culture magazine.

**Dr. Autumn Smart:** Dr. Smart's research focuses on how honey bees and other pollinators interact with the larger landscape and habitats situated among agroecosystems. Her interests are in pollinator health, plant-pollinator interactions, and how habitat conditions impact pollinators. She teaches honey bee biology and beekeeping at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

## 2021 Honeybees



Package bees are to be placed in your fully assembled beehive, (hive is not included in this purchase). Package consists of ~3 Lbs. Bees + Mated Queen (in her own mini cage) + a can of syrup feed to sustain them until arrival, all in a Transport Cage.

It's time to consider your Honeybee 'Packages' for 2021. If you are a beginning beekeeper or want to expand your hobby- our early Packages are for you! We help hundreds of healthy, productive packages find homes with Kansas Beekeepers each year. Arriving before most other packages (usually end of March), our bees will offer you a greater head start.

Sold per package – **\$140.00**

**Swobee Honey Farm**

1569 Toulon Ave.

Hays, Ks. 67601

Call for details & early orders:

**Greg Swob - 785-639-7766**

**Bruce Swob - 620-923-5291**

**Convenient pickup locations at:**

**Hays & Newton, Ks.**

## Meet the Beek -Julie Cahoj



It makes perfect sense that simply reading a book would inspire a lifelong educator to learn about beekeeping.

Julie Cahoj of Atwood, Kansas began her exploits in beekeeping 15 years ago after reading *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kid. The novel tells the story of Lily, a 14-year-old girl troubled by memories of her late mother and an abusive father. In an attempt to learn of her mother's past, the young girl runs away to a Southern town, where she is introduced to three sisters who care for her. As part of their journey together, the sisters teach Lily about beekeeping.

It was the author's use of beekeeping as a theme in developing the story that captured Julie's imagination beyond the poignant tale itself. The novelist employed terms such as broods, supers, honey house and extractors--and Julie was hooked on the world of beekeeping even before having her first hive.

Julie's husband, Greg, usually indulgent of her whims, took some convincing that keeping bees was a good idea. "It took Greg five years to come to the realization that the honey bees wouldn't kill him," she says. Finally, her husband agreed that Julie--not Greg and Julie--could have bees. For the next 12 months, she read everything she could on the subject of bees. The next step was finding a source for bees and beekeeping supplies. When two packages of bees finally arrived six months later, Julie says it took her a mere 10 seconds to realize she needed help. Enter

Richard Fanning. Richard, a retired Rawlins County beekeeper, has been providing Julie with guidance and support since 2015.

As the number of colonies in the apiary grew, so did Julie's knowledge of the art and science of beekeeping. She enrolled in the University of Montana's online beekeeping course and was awarded her Master Beekeeping certification in 2019. In 2020, she took UMT's course, "Natural Beekeeping." This course was to prove more challenging. "The final class project was to build a hive replicating a beehive that would be found in nature," Julie explains. "Using two 10-frame medium boxes, plastic corrugated yard signs, leftover Styrofoam insulation and duct tape, I 'MacGyvered' a natural hive with what I found in the garage." Her resourceful solution worked--and she got an A on the project.

An attentive reader may have noticed that education appears to be a never-ending process for Julie, who officially retired in 2020 from a 40-year career as an educator of children with special needs. In the last 12 years of her career, the emphasis was on developing students' social skills in the Head Start classroom. The "retiree" currently partners with Rawlins County Core Community as facilitator for the "Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World" curriculum for adult learners. She is passionate about her role as a co-learner in this new community endeavor.

However, she also enthusiastically continues to pursue her education in beekeeping: She recently completed the Apprentice level of the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Master Beekeeper Program and is about to begin the MBP series' Advanced Level.

Julie says she is determined to keep beekeeping in the hobby category. The number of colonies in her apiary varies from 10 to 15, which gives her plenty of honey to sell or give as gifts. "Beekeeping is hard work," she says. "I feel that any more than 15 hives would turn my hobby into work. Being recently retired from teaching, I'm done with real work!"

Julie's hives are located within foraging distance of Atwood. "The hive's locations have turned into a great marketing tool," she says. "It's fun to tell Atwood residents that the bees gather nectar and pollen for the honey they purchase right out of their yards and gardens. It can't get more local than that."

She has noticed that people have developed a kind of affection for the bees; when local residents greet her on the street, they will enthusiastically point out that they have seen the bees in their flower or vegetable gardens. "There is no better way to impress upon people the importance of pollinators than by fostering relationships between the people and the bees," she says, adding that she also uses this rapport to gently stress the importance of responsible use of pesticides and herbicides.

Julie has been selling liquid honey for five years. Her first attempt at extracting honey was to warm the plastic frames in the oven, scrape the frames that didn't melt into a large pan, and then scoop and strain "the whole tacky mess" through tulle into quart jars. "Envision the sticky mess that was throughout the kitchen!" she exclaims, noting that after that experience, she learned the importance of having proper equipment. She purchased a small hand extractor with all the extra equipment that makes honey extraction less labor-intensive. Her husband also lent his support.

"For Christmas 2019, Greg indulged me with an electric extractor," she says. "Best Christmas present ever!"

Each year she experiments with another hive product. In addition to liquid honey, she successfully produces creamed honey, bees-wax wraps, and comb honey.

Ever the educator, Julie also enjoys giving honey bee presentations to schools and community organizations. At the time of this article, the weather is cold and the bees are tucked in for the winter. But this lifelong teacher/learner is using this time to read up on current beekeeping issues and to plan for the next great year of beekeeping.

## **Kansas Honey Producers Spring Meeting- Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 Virtual/Zoom Meeting**

Our Spring Meeting of the Kansas Honey Producers will be held virtually again. This time we'll try having it on a Saturday! You must register for the meeting in order to view the program at a later date. One of our guest speakers, Dr. Samuel Ramsey, has requested that his talk not be recorded so the only way to hear his presentations will be to attend on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. At this time, I believe that the other presentations will be taped and will be available for later viewing. It would be a big help if you could register early so that you can receive the zoom link in a timely manner- probably about 36-48 hours before the meeting.

The entire program for the meeting will be listed online at [www.kansashoneyproducers.org](http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org). To register go to association website at [www.kansashoneyproducers.org](http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org). You can join or renew your membership at the same time. Registration is \$20.

We are planning to have an Online Silent Auction- If you would like to donate an item for the silent auction please call or email Joli and she'll tell you how to proceed. The auction will begin on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and end at 4:30 on Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup>. Joli Winer 913-593-3562 or [joli@heartlandhoney.com](mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com). We would like to have 10-15 nice items to auction. Payment will be by credit card and the item will state if the buyer or seller is responsible for shipping. You will get a link at the beginning of the auction to begin the bidding.

Our guest speakers include **Dr. Samuel Ramsey** whose enduring interest in insect biology started 23 years ago and shows no signs of waning. Having earned his doctorate from Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp's lab at the University of Maryland; Dr. Ramsey maintains a focus on how insect research can benefit the public through the development of IPM strategies and STEM-based outreach initiatives. His award-winning research on Varroa biology has changed the standing paradigm on how this parasite ultimately kills honey bees leading to opportunities to share his work nationally and internationally. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Entomology from Cornell University in 2011 focusing his research on predator/parasite behavior. His current work, aptly named the Fight the Mite Initiative, was funded largely by the beekeeping community. It focuses on the poorly understood Tropiclaelaps mite which is rapidly establishing itself as the next threat to apiculture globally. Prior to the pandemic, he was based in Thailand documenting the behavior, lifecycle, and vulnerabilities of this parasite, ensuring that in the event of its arrival in the US, we'll have the knowledge and resources to respond effectively.

**Clarence Collison**, Clarence is an Emeritus Professor of Entomology and Emeritus Head of the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS, having retired from the position June 30th, 2010. Prior to his move there, in 1989, he was an Extension Entomologist at Pennsylvania State University, where he served as Beekeeping/Pollination Specialist and Livestock Entomologist. Clarence has written several books they are: ***What do you Know?*** And ***A Closer Look- Basic Honey Bee Biology.***

**Charlotte Wiggins** author of ***Bee Club Basics Or How to Start a Bee Club*** will be our guest speaker. What does a coffee pot have to do with beekeeping? Are you a beekeeper who wants to join forces with others? Are you a 'newbie' who wants to learn about beekeeping? Or maybe you just want to

## Program for Virtual Spring Meeting of the Kansas Honey Producers- March 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 2021

Friday night 7:00 pm Executive Board meeting via Zoom

Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

8:30-8:40 Announcements Becky Tipton, President

8:40-9:40 Dr. Samuel Ramsey- **Drivers of Honey Bee Colony Losses: What the Data Actually Say** For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple, and wrong (H. L. Mencken). This sentiment is clearly evinced in the complex issue of heightened honey bee colony losses. While the data do not present a singular culprit, they do show how the interconnected web of natural and man-made stress factors have negatively impacted honey bee populations. These data further imply that there are actions we can undertake to help the bees. *This presentation will not be recorded*

9:40-9:50 Break

9:50-10:50 Dr. Clarence Collison, **Applying the Basics of Honey Bee Biology**

10:50-11:00 Break

11:00-12:00 **Varroa Management: How Mites Should be Treated**

Dr. Samuel Ramsey presents. Do you want to treat for Varroa but can't figure out what treatment method is right for you? Well, here I got the presentation for you! Hear the how, when, why and what of Varroa treatment. *This presentation will not be recorded*

12:00-12:45 **Lunch**

12:45-1:45 Dr. Clarence Collison **Spring Preparations and Assessment**

1:45-1:55 Break

**Choose one of the following- Break out Zoom Sessions**

1:55-2:55 Jane Kill presents **Value Added – Making Cold-Process Honey Soap-**

1:55-2:55 Ginny Mitchell **Preparing Entries for Honey Shows-** 2 session presentation

Ginny judges our State fair honey show and she'll share tips on making your entries winners! She learned from the best, Dr. Marion Ellis. She'll join us from her home in Iowa!

2:55-3:05 Break

**Choose one of the following- Break out Zoom Sessions**

3:05-4:05 Charlotte Wiggins author of **Bee Club Basics or How to Start a Bee Club**

3:05-4:05 Ginny Mitchell **Preparing Entries for Honey Shows-** 2 session presentation

4:05-4:15 Break

4:15-4:25 Joli Winer **Youth Scholarship programs-** Let's get more programs in the Kansas!

4:25-4:45 Grant Group Presentations

4:45 Online Silent Auction closes

4:45 General Business Meeting

**Kansas Honey Producer's Association**  
**Cappings**  
**R Burns**  
**7601 W. 54th Terrace**  
**Shawnee Mission KS 66202**

**Address Service Requested**

**2021 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 \$24.65 \_\_\_\_\_  
Bee Culture Magazine 1 year subscription \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: KHPA or Kansas Honey Producer's Association or pay on line at [www.kansashoneyproducers.org](http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org)**

**Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66202 Phone# 913-481-3504 or email-  
[rburnshoney@gmail.com](mailto:rburnshoney@gmail.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.