





Since 1948 Exploring the wonderful world of beekeeping together

The Bee Buzzer Monthly publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

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B EDITOR: CHERYL BURKHEAD

August 2021

General Meeting (In person-check website for updates) Monday, August 16, 2021 (7 p.m.) Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg. 21N

2110 Harper St., Lawrence KS

Directions: The address is 2110 Harper St. It is easily accessible from 23rd Street. Turn north on Harper Street and it is just a few blocks. We are in Building 21 North, which will be on your left after you turn into the fairgrounds.

We will try to have this meeting Live via Zoom as well if the WIFI is strong enough to support this. 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: Honey Extraction – Andy Nowachek. Andy will show us how to extract on a small scale and discuss how to check moisture levels of honey prior to extracting. Mite testing – Joli Winer. Joli will show us how to accurately test mite levels using a powdered sugar roll.



Beelines By President Ed Darlington

This is the time of year when we harvest our honey; first removing our supers, and then extracting the honey from the comb.

Obviously, our results are somewhat variable, weather playing a big part, but also, we need to evaluate if our methods and practices are helpful or detrimental to our bees.

What, if anything, do I need to change in the way I manage my hives? Take stock in the condition of our hives.

The next step is important for the survival of your hive(s) into next year. Of course, that step is first determining the level of varroa mite infestation; followed by an appropriate treatment to draw down their population. This should be done before the queen starts laying the eggs that will produce the over-wintering worker bees.

When we harvest our honey supers, it's a good time to examine the age and condition of our comb. One of the more recent learnings is that the beeswax accumulates chemicals. It can be from contaminated nectar, or pollen the foragers bring into the hive; or chemicals we may use to rid our hive of various pests.

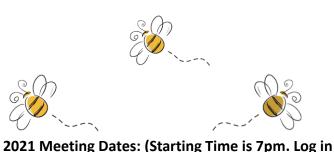
Most studies indicate that for the health of the hive, comb should be no older than 3 to 5 years (depending on what you see in your hive and how

conservative you want to be). If you seem to be experiencing more than normal problems with queen survivability and/or variable laying patterns, you might want to be more conservative.

Experiments have shown that some erratic laying patterns can be attributed to certain chemicals in the beeswax. Those chemicals accumulate faster than we have been aware of in the past. While drawn comb is a very valuable commodity you don't want to be propagating future problems.

Please, as you work at the above tasks remember that heat can be a major factor for your health and well-being.

Please plan on attending our next monthly meeting (which is an in-person meeting at the Douglas County Fairgrounds).



2021 Meeting Dates: (Starting Time is 7pm. Log in a few minutes ahead on Zoom.)

- August 16, 2021 @ Douglas Co. Fairgrounds
- September 13, 2021 (Let's Talk Bees Q & A)
- September 20, 2021
- October 4, 2021 (Let's Talk Bees Q & A)
- October 18, 2021
- November 1, 2021 (Let's Talk Bees Q & A)
- November 15, 2021



Youth Scholarship mentors needed

Youth Scholarship mentors are needed. Please consider being a mentor for the youth scholarship program. We are looking for beekeepers with at least 5 years of experience. Mentors must be flexible in meeting with the youth scholarship families-they have children with a lot of activities, sports obligations, 4-H, family, etc. We work hard to match families with mentors who are within close proximity-no more than 30 minutes each way. You are asked to commit to one year plus helping them through the beginning of the next year- helping them to make a spring split, if needed, and get them started for the season. Mentors will be asked to interview with Joli and perhaps work through a hive. This is a big commitment of time! You will be expected to meet a week or every other week at least in the beginning. Additional visits as the season progresses as needed. If you would like more information, please call Joli at 913-593-3562 or email joli@heartlandhoney.com.

Joli Winer, Scholarship Chairperson



Ol' Bee Gal

Last month's meeting program was presented by Dr. Judy Wu-Smart, UNL. As always, she provided rock solid, practical information along with a sprinkling of tidbits for longer contemplation. (This was a Zoom presentation and is archived on our web page, www.nekba.org.) At the beginning of her talk, she showed us a slide titled, "Multiple Factors in Declining Bee Health." (Fig. Page 8) It divided our bee issues into 6 categories: Pesticide exposure (both from landscape and beekeeper applied), Diseases (viruses, bacteria, and fungi), Hive beetles & Wax moth, Varroa Destructor Mites, Poor landscape/poor nutrition, and Improper Beekeeping Practices. I really appreciate this graphic because this targets the heart of being a good beekeeper and the crux of beekeeping problems. This is what we try to teach with every class, beekeeping event, and meeting presentation. Beekeeping is interdimensional and multifaceted. If you try to ignore any one element, your bees are doomed.

A recent news article examined the increased interest in beekeeping with the startling headline, Do We Have Too Many Beekeepers? (paraphrased).

Do we? We have had steadily declining hive numbers since the end of WWII. At that time, most all farms had a few hives. Years later beekeeping became a novelty, and now, we see a steady rise of backyard beekeepers. How could this be a problem? If you can find a beekeeper of more than 40 years, they will invariably tell you stories of how keeping bees now is not like the "old days." All of these stressors impact our hives like never before with predators not even known 40 years ago, the most problematic being varroa. Dr. Wu-Smart's chart hits the problems squarely on the head. The article's point was more bad beekeepers is not good for the bees. More is not better.

We have finite resources in any given location. If we add honey bees, a non-native species to the fragile ecosystem, are we depriving the native bees of meager forage? It is an old argument but still relevant. If we supplement that forage by vigorous planting of pollinator friendly plants, have we benefited all bees and promoted diversity in nutrition? What is your obligation as a beekeeper besides putting bees in a box? Are you obligated to consider forage and be an advocate for improved bee habitat in your neighborhood?

If our land is polluted with man-made toxins, and we continue to pollute and continue to try to promote beekeeping in poor forage areas, are we helping the bee populations? Should all beekeepers become environmental activists, and act as a steward of earth, repairing the damage and healing the land? Can you become knowledgeable about the real effects of Roundup, Sevin, and mosquito spraying in urban areas, protect your bees and educate your neighbors? Well-meaning people on a quest to rid the world of Japanese beetles have killed so many bees.

If we take a laissez-faire attitude toward our bees, propagate small hive beetles or varroa mites in a way that they are able to infect other hives, how far reaching is our mismanagement? Dr. Wu-Smart lists "Improper Beekeeping Practices" as one of the major factors in declining bee health. Management effects colony health.

We are nearly at the end of the beekeeping year.... honey harvest, winter preparation, evaluation of colony health. If your colony is not healthy and did not experience robust growth, why not? What factor(s) impacted your colony's success? If you don't know, then it's time to investigate and plan to make changes for the health of your bees. Look at Dr. Wu-Smart's list and consider what stressors your bees must face and how to facilitate their good health. If you cannot be a good beekeeper, a conscientious beekeeper, an aware beekeeper, is this the hobby for you? There is no shame is admitting you don't have time and move on. There is no fault in asking for advice from seasoned people and making changes in your approach. There can be tremendous joy in taking care of the environment, the hives, and making your corner of the world a little better. Beekeeping is not for everyone.

Becky Tipton, Special Events Coordinator



Volunteers Needed in the Honey Sales Booth at the Kansas State Fair

This year volunteers will be needed from September 7-19 at the Kansas State Fair. The Pride of Kansas building will be open from 9AM-9PM the 10th-12th. Volunteers will be needed to set up display area on the 7th-9th and label products to be sold in the booth. Our time frames for selling will be 2, 6 hour shifts with the 1st one from 9AM-3PM and the 2nd one from 3PM-9PM. Don't be bashful and think "I don't know enough about bees". You have more knowledge than the general public and there will be other beekeepers present to help. For every day an entry ticket is needed, and one will be provided for you at the guest services office once you get to the fair. Here is the link to sign up to volunteer at the fair.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C48ADA82 BABF49-kansas2 Signupgenius will be available for you to sign up for the times that fit your schedule. If you have signed up this way in the past you have received an email notification to volunteer once again this year. If you need assistance signing up to volunteer contact Kristi by phone or text at 913-768-4961. Thank you for your help and I will see you in Hutchinson.

Kristi Sanderson, Program Chair



Tips for August

- Harvest any fall honey & get it extracted. Any honey that you pull off to extract should be extracted within a few days. Small hive beetle and wax moth can do a great deal of damage to your supers and your honey. Don't pull your honey off until you are ready to extract.
- Check moisture on your honey. Stack supers and use a fan and dehumidifier, if necessary, to get moisture levels under 18.6.
- After pulling off your supers, check your hives to make sure they have a good laying queen. You should see brood in all stages (eggs, larvae, & capped).
- Store any frames with drawn comb in paradichlorobenzene (moth crystals). Wax moth damage can be devastating to your combs. Store them in a cool ventilated area. Do not store your supers in plastic garbage bags as this acts as an incubator for wax moth.
- Update your record book-you won't remember in the spring!
- Check your hives for stored honey. Most colonies will need 60-80 pounds of honey to winter successfully. The top deep super/hive body should be packed full of honey. If it isn't, you should feed the bees some syrup. If mixing your own syrup in the fall, the mixture should be 2:1 sugar to water by weight. That would be 4 lbs. of sugar to 2 lbs. of boiling water. Do not use corn syrup or any type of syrup that you purchase at the grocery store. It has things in it that can cause problems with your bees. NEVER feed honey purchased from the grocery store-it can spread American Foulbrood disease to your bees.
- Check your colonies to see if you need to treat for varroa mites. Consult Honey Bee Health Coalition to determine how best to manage varroa mites in your hive.
- If treating for mites, get your treatments on as soon as possible. Mark your calendar with the date they went in and the date they should be removed. The earlier you can get your

treatments on for Varroa mites, the better chance you have of getting healthy young bees into the hive to make it through winter.

- Combine a weak colony with a stronger colony. Colonies may be split again in the spring.
- Keep a vigilant eye out for small hive beetle.
- Mow around your hives so the bees can get in and out.
- Provide a water source for your bees.
- Bees are hanging outside the hives (bearding) to help keep it cooler inside the hive.
- Take inventory at your bee yards to see what equipment you need to repair or replace over the winter.



Kansas Honey Producers' Extracting More \$\$\$ from your Hives-

These new, free, virtual, Value-Added programs will be presented on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 pm via Zoom. It is being sponsored by the Kansas Honey Producers Association as part of our membership drive. If you are not a member, please consider joining by going to

www.kansashoneyproducers.org

It's only \$15 per year. You will receive an email before the programs with the link to register. If you registered for a previous program, you will automatically receive the link to view this month via email. To register for the meetings, click on the link below or copy it in your browser <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsd</u> <u>OiqqTwvHNxk7aeR5Hrw7LoC6boCY4dh</u> then Zoom will send you the link

Thursday, August 19th Apitherapy, The Medicine Chest Known as the Bee Hive, Reyah Carlson presents

These programs will be recorded and will be available on the

http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org/archives. html website.

Meet the Beeks



Sandi & Matthew Brandes – Wellsville, KS

I am an avid collector of hobbies which stems from a passion for learning new things. Beekeeping provides many lessons. Many of my hobbies have their roots that were started by my father; beekeeping being just one of them. My wife, Sandi, has joined me in my hobby collecting journey. We became pilots; having built and flown our own airplane. We have both been volunteer firefighters and EMTs. We both are auctioneers and now we are beekeepers! See the trend?

My first exposure to beekeeping was in the early eighties when my dad kept a few hives that he bought from a local beekeeper. His interest was not in producing honey, as a matter of fact, he never extracted any! He was interested in the science of it. After he invested a few years learning all he could, he moved on to other things. I don't recall ever helping him with the bee's but it is a fond memory. I didn't notice it at the time, but my dad would apparently spend hours sitting in a high back metal outdoor chair watching the bee's. So much time, in fact, he left an imprint in the chair. I really wish we would have kept that chair.

Flash forward nearly 40 years. My dad and his wife are living full time in an RV and were staying at our place after being on the road for a while. He had an interest in getting back into beekeeping and so he pulled me along to go grab a swarm that I saw posted in our local FB group. He built a custom bee hive that we affectionately called the

'bee coffin'. It was an insulated box maybe 4' wide and held double-high deep frames that he constructed. The top was hinged. I didn't know it at the time but it was essentially a Layens hive. It did really well but later that summer they bought a house 45 minutes away and it did not survive the winter. Sandi and I harvested the honey frames and extracted it by crushing and straining yielding 40lbs of honey! Even then, becoming a beekeeper really wasn't on my mind. That 40lbs of honey lasted us just about 2 years and sometime in the fall of 2018, Sandi said "Hey...we are about out of honey, we need to get some bees!" We signed up for the NEKBA Beginner Beekeeping class in Spring of 2019 and also took the 2nd year class. We ordered our first package of bees from Cecil & Joli at the end of the class. We made a few mistakes installing the package but it was fun working together. A month later I collected a swarm from another beekeeper in Olathe. It all snowballed from there. The package didn't make it and I merged it with another hive. We went into winter of 2019 with 5 hives and all 5 survived the winter! (Not by any skill on my part for sure.)

2020 was a great year, harvesting 15 supers of honey and going into winter with 15 hives. For Christmas, Sandi wanted an indoor observation hive. Who am I to say "No"?



The reason I enjoy beekeeping is there is SO much to learn. You can choose to learn a little or learn a lot and I fall into the latter category. While recent events have kept us from meeting in person, it has really opened up the opportunity to learn from experts around the world. I am able to do this from the comfort of my own couch or kitchen table which is something that 2 years ago really wasn't happening very much. There is no excuse for any beekeeper not to take the time to learn at least a little. Opportunities are everywhere, any night of the week, from respected industry beekeepers.

I do believe beekeeping is here to stay for us. There is still much to learn and the rewards are certainly sweet!

Sandi & Matthew Brandes



The Honey Pot

By Marlene Pantos

Chewy Honey Choco Bars

1 ¾ c. graham cracker crumbs
1 can (14 oz) sweetened condensed milk
2 T honey
1 ½ T grated orange rind
2 T orange juice
1 c. chocolate chips
¾ c. chopped pecans
Mix all ingredients. Spread into a 9 X 13 pan that has been sprayed. Bake @ 325 degrees for 30 minutes. Cut while warm.

ASK QUINBY & REMI



Dear Quinby and Remi: I'm extracting honey for the first time and I was thinking of doing it in my backyard. What are your thoughts and do you have some other pointers for places to extract? **Quinby and Remi answer:** GRRRRR Extracting in your backyard is a great idea if you want to start a robbing frenzy in your yard. The bees will smell the honey and come out to try to get it back. Extracting on your deck, patio, or backyard is a horrid idea. You could get robbing started between hives and get your friends and family stung. Always use a bee tight room where bees cannot get in. If extracting in your garage, make sure to unhook your garage door so that you don't leave it up by mistake. If you do get a lot of bees in your extracting area, you'll want to turn off the light and open a window just a little bit- so the bees can go out but before other bees get a whiff of honey and come in. Another tip is just at dusk to turn off the light and open the window or garage door and the bees will go out, towards the light.

Dear Quinby and Remi: Last year my honey was all capped over with wax and I extracted it because someone told me that if it was capped then the moisture would be below 18.6%. But now it is all fermented. Why did that happen? Quinby and Remi answer: It is an old wife's tale that just because the honey is capped off that the moisture under the capping has a moisture content below 18.6%. As humid as it has been outside it is hard for the bees to dehumidify the honey. It is a really good idea to check the moisture on a few frames before you extract. It is a lot easier to dehumidify your honey before you extract because you have a greater surface area. You can put your honey in a small room, like a laundry room and crisscross the supers or stand them on end and run a fan and a dehumidifier. By doing this, you can lower the moisture of your honey in a few days.

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



Honey Plants

The dog days of summer are upon us and as beekeepers we have a lot to look forward to over the next few months. The honey harvest, varroa mite treatments, and fall hive management are at the forefront of

our minds. Don't forget to review what floral

sources you have in your neighborhood or your section of the countryside that will offer a quality nectar source for your bees. With the hottest driest part of the summer, we can see a nectar dearth when many of our summer wildflowers begin to fade. As beekeepers we can improve nectar resources for pollinators by planting long lasting mid-season and late season bloomers. Good mid-season choices that have a long bloom cycle include Black-eyed Susan, Purple Coneflower, Russian Sage, Gaillardia (Blanket Flower), Monarda (Beebalm), and Malva Zebrina Hollyhock. The Malva which I have just been introduced to this year has a brilliant purple and white blossom that continuously blooms from June thru September.

Late season blooming perennials that will offer a quality nectar source when many plants are finished for the season include; Autumn Joy Sedum, New England Aster, Showy or Stiff Goldenrod, Joe Pye Weed, and Red Jewel Helenium. Adding these to your pollinator gardens will ensure a quality fall late season bloom cycle. Remember to always plant in groups to make your plantings more attractive and to encourage visits from honey bees and other pollinators.

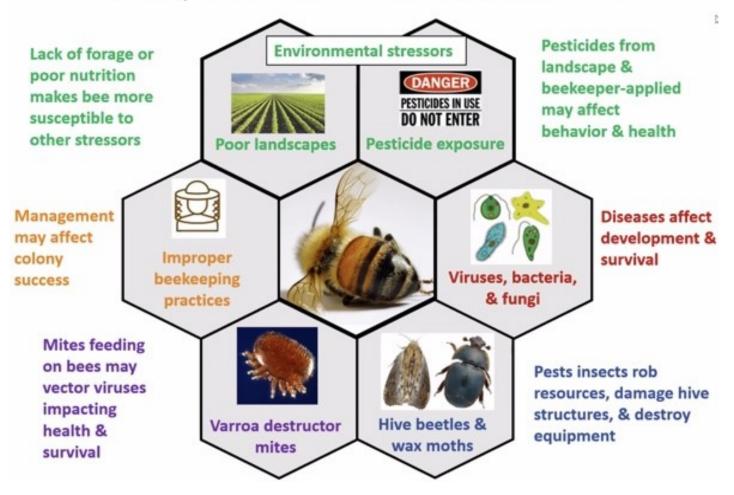
Chad Gilliland- Honey Plants Chairman

NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2021/2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Additional family members wanting voting rights \$1.00 per person			\$1.00		
Additional family member's	name				
(Youth Membership (18 years of age or under)			\$7.50		
Membership for Kansas Honey Producers Association			\$15.00		
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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>

Multiple factors in bee health decline





Consider planting a great pollinator tree this fall. Pick one out in August while the selection is good for planting in September & October. Maple, Locust, Tulip tree, Golden Rain tree, Linden.

MENTORING-SWEET PRAIRIE HONEY

Have a Master Beekeeper help you at your beehive? I have an EAS and a Mid-West Master Beekeeper certificate. Evaluating your hives after winter, installing package bees, re-queening, making splits, or a one-on-one lesson at your beehive are just some of the things we can do. After each visit, I will leave you with a written evaluation sheet from each hive we go through. Call or text Kristi Sanderson at 913-768-4961 or email sandersonk09@gmail.com for pricing and appointment times.

FISHER'S BEE SUPPLIES

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies. We have woodenware, smokers, containers, foundation, beekeeping books, extractors, queens and package bees. We also have extractors for rent. We will trade wax for supplies. Our hours are: 1:00 - 5:00pm Monday - Friday and Saturday after 8:30am. Please call before coming to make sure we are here. JEAN FISHER 4005 N.E. 132nd Street, Smithville MO 64089, 816-532-4698

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For Sale: White Clover honey strained in 5-gallon buckets. We will pack it in your jars for an extra fee. Bee equipment (new and used), Jars, foundation, bears, comb honey, used extractors. Bees: frames of brood. Corn syrup or sugar by the 5-gallon bucket or barrel. *If you need it, we probably have what you want.* Nucs for sale. New stainless-steel extractors from 4-frame, 12-frame & up. Raymond Cooper, 220 N Elm, Iola KS 66749. Call: 620-365-5956 after 8:00 p.m.

JORDY'S HONEY

Beekeepers.com is your local Kansas City Bee Company. We carry a full line of Beekeeping Supplies, Bees and Queens. Visit our web site **Beekeepers.com** for your all your beekeeping supplies and to pre-order any items to be picked up at the Overland Park Farmer's Market. Go to our Web Site and <u>QueenBees.com</u> to order your Queens. We are available Monday-Friday 9:00-4:30, Saturday 9:00-12:00. Robert Hughes, 14054 W 107th St, Lenexa, KS 66215, 913-681-5777 or email <u>Info@Beekeepers.com</u>

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 <u>hardware@sunflower.com</u>

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As your local Dadant dealer, let us fulfill your beekeeping supplies and equipment needs. High quality 5 frame Italian nucs with VHS Minnesota Hygienic Queens. Contact us at nexttonaturefarm@gmail.com or call Chad Gilliland at 785-491-1978. Come check us out at <u>www.nexttonaturefarm.com</u>

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, August 16, 2021

The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

Membership is open to anyone interested in bees or bee culture. Dues are \$15.00 per calendar year (December 31-December 31) for the first in the family joining. Those joining in July or later in the year may pay \$7.50 for ½ year. Additional members of that family wanting voting privileges shall be assessed dues at \$1.00 per year. Youth memberships (18 years of age and younger) are \$7.50 per year. 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 March for 2021. 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 <u>www.nekba.org</u> 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.

2021 Officers

President: Ed Darlington, 2804 E 174th St., Belton, MO 64012 edarlington49@gmail.com	816-331-4934
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