



Good Beekeeping



Good Fellowship



Exploring the wonderful world of beekeeping together

The Bee Buzzer

Monthly publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

VOLUME 71, NUMBER 11 EDITOR: MATTHEW MERZ - November 2019

Monday, November 18th (7 p.m.)

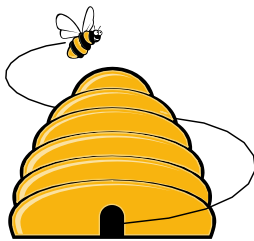
Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg 21N
2110 Harper St, Lawrence KS

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.

Our November meeting highlights our annual auction that is a fun filled evening of fellowship and bidding. If you have any items that you would like to donate bring them to the meeting. Our auctioneer for the evening will be one of our very own members, Matt Edgecomb.

Beelines

By President Steve Messbarger



It's starting to look like holidays are creeping up on us sooner than we think. Working holiday festivals are always very interesting, but can be a lot of work. One thing we always enjoy, is talking to all the good folks about bees and the struggles we beekeepers face every day trying to keep all our hives healthy. It's nice to know that the majority of people are concerned about bees. I always tell them beekeepers can't save the bees - it will take all of us to do that job. We promote "planting for pollinators" to everyone. That's what will bring

back the health of bees. Good nutrition is the best thing we can do for all pollinators, period. If you have a home association, get them involved in pollinator planting. If you see landscapers, tell them to quit planting all that garbage that doesn't benefit anything. One of the greatest things about all our plants at the house is the flowers that bloom all through the year. In fact, here in November, we still have a few flowers blooming. As the season starts to end, we start seeing the butterflies come in on their way south. It's pretty awesome!

Don't forget we have an auction this month, so bring something to put up for the auction. Who knows? You might find something you want to bid on. We always have a lot fun with our auction. It can get pretty competitive at times, trying to keep up on the race for an item. Please come and join us for a good time and lots of snacks.

This Monday is of course VETERANS DAY. We can't thank all these fine, outstanding, men and women, enough for the great service they've done for our country. We are so blessed to live in this great country and to have the freedoms to do the things we choose to do. Thanks to all who have served this great nation, you're the best. I also thank the families of our military personnel for what they also sacrifice while their loved ones are away. Thanks to all of you!

It seems at this time, I always like to thank all of our first responders. They work every day to protect and serve the citizens of our nation. Thanks to all of you. We appreciate your service you bring to us each and every day.

I hope your bees are fat and sassy for the winter. We found quite a few hives lighter than I like, so we have been feeding heavy syrup for the last month. We always monitor hives all winter long to

make sure our bees don't starve. With winter coming on, we always have fondant ready to go for the winter months. Looking forward to the next meeting, hope to see a great turn out for our auction night!

As Always Bees First,
Steve Messbarger



2019 Meeting Dates: (Starting Time is 7pm at Douglas County Fairgrounds unless stated otherwise.)

- Monday, November 18th
- Monday, December 16th

Mark Your Calendars!

- ***Bee-Ginning Beekeeping Class - January 18th, 2020***
 - ***Year 2 and Bee-Yond - February 18th, 2020***
-

Bee-ginning Beekeeping Class

Early enrollment is very helpful for planning because these events include lunch. Spread the word to anyone interested in beekeeping, we have an excellent program planned for both days. If you'd like to receive an email of the ad to post in area businesses, email Becky and she'll send you a printable file. bstbees@embarqmail.com

October Meeting Clarification

Sometimes when we try and give more information then we have time, we go through our talks knowing what we do, but may not make it clear enough for others. After the October meeting on Fall and Winter Management I was asked a question by a beekeeper and over the years I have found out if one asks there is a good chance there are others who did not question it, maybe thinking it would be a silly question. Bottom Line, this is your club, we as presenters need to be questioned if not clear and asked if you are not sure of something we are saying Please ask if not sure

The question was why I taped both sides of the inner cover. This is ONLY when I'm doing an inspection to keep other bees from robbing out frames as I inspect them transferring frames from one brood box to another. Bees are opportunists and with exposed frames of honey can start a feeding frenzy robbing their supply of food required to make it through winter. Remember bees generate quite a bit of heat and that causes condensation in the form of water droplets on the inner cover and could fall on the bees freezing them. This being said you NEED some type of ventilation in the winter months either a slot in the inner cover or some form of spacer under the top telescoping lid. Sorry for any confusion this may have caused. If you still have a question, please do hesitate to call me. Have a Fantastic Day.

Thanks to all our Military Veterans

I would like to start off by Thanking all our Military Veterans for their devoted service to our country. All these men and women have given and some still are serving and protecting our country, for this We All Thank You.

By the time you receive this newsletter Veterans Day on November 11 will be over. I hope every one of you had the privilege of being honored for your sacrifices in some way either parades or meeting other Veterans.

This coming month I would like to invite ALL Military Veterans if possible, to attend the November meeting with the proceeds of the auction going toward our Youth Scholarship and Military/Veterans Apprenticeship programs. This is a very special month as one time of the year we ask all Military Veterans to stand up and be recognized for their service to our country we proudly live in. This year we would like all those who can possibly attend to be recognized with the branch of service you were in. Those who can't attend for reasons to please contact me if you would like your name, branch of service town and county announced at the November meeting. You can reach me by Telephone or e-mail which is listed on the back of the Buzzer and I will return your call to confirm you name. It would be interesting to see how many beekeepers we have in our club and possibly developing a list of those who would be willing to share their time and talent with another Veteran

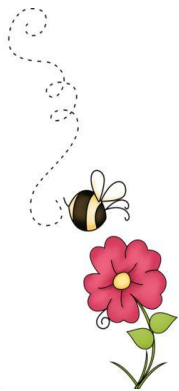
needing help getting started in beekeeping. This is something we had discussed in the past and was brought to light at this past October's meeting. Our thoughts are to have a list of all our clubs' Military Veterans either experienced and able to help out another beginner Vet by a phone conversation, text, etc. or a visit to their place. The other would be if you were starting out and needed help who you could call for assistance. I do not know of anyone who started out knowing everything and we believe this would be another way of promoting a very important part of our club. Hopefully at the November meeting we will see some of our Military/Veterans and share a cup of coffee and Thank them for their service. We would also like to invite any Police officers or Firemen and women to also be recognized for their service to our communities on a daily basis. Whether you can make it or not we hope you had a great Veterans Day and we Thank You for your Service.

Have a Fantastic Day,

Military/Veterans Apprenticeship Chairperson
Andy Nowachek

HONEY PLANTS

By: Cheryl Burkhead



The colder weather has definitely arrived. Temperatures dipped into the lower 20's October 30 at my house so I think my aster bloom has all but ended. We had a lovely fall. I went out before our first dusting of snow in late October and cut some remaining seed heads from the Stiff Goldenrod.

I've been collecting seeds from several of my perennials this fall. I've collected Common Milkweed, Coneflower, Wingstem, and Stiff Goldenrod this season. I like to share them with friends and neighbors. It's a great way to get some new plants at no cost. Perhaps you have some seeds you'd like to share too. Bring them to our meetings and I'm sure you'll find others that are more than happy to take them off your hands! I enjoy attending the Kaw Valley Seed Fair every February in Building 21 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. Check them out on Facebook. It will

be held February 8 next year from 9-3 so come check it out. They'll have some vendors too. It's free but they do ask that you bring some sort of seed, if possible, to share. One year I brought red canna rhizomes which aren't particularly pollinator-friendly, but the hummingbirds enjoy them. I like to visit the flower seed table, but they have many varieties of vegetable seeds as well. Courtney Masterson is there with native wildflower and grass seed. She's a great resource and can answer your questions on harvesting most any type of seed and about site preparation.

Native wildflowers are great nectar and pollen sources for our bees. They typically require a prolonged period of cold weather before germination can occur. Now through February is a good time to dormant seed outside. You'll need to get good soil to seed contact. Some may choose to start their seeds indoors, but the seeds will require a period of cold moist stratification in order to sprout.

If you are interested in establishing a pollinator meadow, Xerces.org has some informational literature regarding site preparation, plant selection, planting techniques, and ongoing management. Herbicide-free methods of site preparation tend to be a little more labor intensive, but a smaller area can be accomplished quite easily using black plastic to solarize existing vegetation. Expect any modifications to take approximately 18 months and the area to look pretty ugly for some time. I worked a quarter acre area on my property last year but failed to effectively kill the cool season grasses like fescue and brome before seeding a wildflower and native grass mix. I also failed to realize that I had an invasive species- *Lespedeza sericea* that took over and suffocated out any seedlings that did manage to germinate. I'll likely have to resort to several glyphosate herbicide applications and then sow a wildflower mix next fall. We have several seed vendors in Kansas: Sharp Brothers Seed in Healy, Feyh Farm Seed in Alma, Star Seed Inc. in Osborne, Tri Star Seed in Spring Hill, and Delange Seed in Girard.

Fall is the best time to plant and it's not too late. Trees and shrubs can be planted until the ground freezes. Make sure to mulch and you may have to water a few times through the winter on warmer days if we don't get adequate moisture. Plant now so you and the bees can enjoy them next season.

Library News

I have realized there are numerous ways either, singly or in combination, to learn about honeybees;

1] letting the bees train you, can be a rather stinging experience.

2] shadowing an experienced beekeeper

3] reading periodicals, books, or internet articles.

All three have the advantages and drawbacks. As your librarian, I will focus on books.

I have the distinct advantage of having the NEKBA library in my home and therefore am able to scan many resources I would not have otherwise had access to.

So, when we read extraneous appearing facts how can we put them in perspective? I have found it's done primarily by asking questions.

Two examples:

1] 80% of swarms from natural wild bee swarms (from trees, not managed hives by beekeepers) fail to survive the first winter. Whereas 80% of the original colonies survive the winter.

A] Is the primary object then to increase the number of colonies in a specific area?

B] Or to ensure the survivability of the original hive?

C] What should beekeepers learn and what is it that should we try to duplicate in raising our managed hives?

2] Insulated hives do not need to be ventilated, while in our average managed hive ventilation is a must. Assuming this is true:

A] Why? What is the difference in each type of hive?

B] Do Nature's hives in trees have ventilation ports?

C] What is the difference between the two types?

As an organization, how should we look forward to next year: what strategies or tasks should we use, or take on, in order to;

A] change the statistic that 90% of new beekeepers quit within five years; how can we reduce that percentage?

B] How do we get local governments to stop spraying insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides; and what information or supplies do we need to supply to affect changes in the way they treat insects? Remember we have lost a large percentage of all insects in the last 25 years.

C] How do we get local cities, towns, schools, and highway maintenance crews to plant pollinator friendly, diversely flowering plants, rather than grass; and/or to not cut the areas until they have bloomed?

Thanks,

Edward Darlington

Funday Committee Needs Your Input

Jo Patrick

According to the calendar it's not Thanksgiving yet, but the NEKBA Funday committee is busy planning for the next Funday, June 6, 2020, at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, Lawrence, KS. The committee could use your help, but first let me share the developments. We are working hard on an educational and exciting program for beekeepers of all skill levels.

The following people have accepted our invitation for Funday 2020. Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda, from the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology Extension at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville; Dr. Elina Nino, apiculturist and extension specialist at the University of California Davis; Dr. Judy Wu-Smart, an Extension and Research Entomologist at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Department of Entomology; Dr. Matthew Smart, research assistant professor at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Department of Entomology; Beth Conrey, Colorado businesswoman in "business with her bees"; and Louann Hausner, Lenexa, KS, a 3rd generation beekeeper that was the 1996 American Honey Princess. From her experience gained as a National Spokesperson and her public relations/marketing experience from a career with John Deere, Louann has volunteered her time over the last 21 years to conduct the media training for the American Beekeeping Federation American Honey Queen & Princess.

How can you help? We need a catch phrase that describes our event. Perhaps something like "Come Buzz with Us" or "We Aren't Pollen Your Leg". I know you can think of something better! So, if you have a suggestion, shoot me an email at brian-patrick@sbcglobal.net. The Funday committee will review your submissions and decide the winning catch phrase. No prizes will be awarded, just bragging rights.

NE KS Beekeepers Class Enrollment

Bee-ginning Beekeeping Class

January 18, 2020

Name(s) of those attending:

Number attending X \$35 each = _____

Everything you need to know to get started in beekeeping in NE KS—BEST PRACTICES for our area. Excellent for beeks with 3 years of experience or less.

Year 2 and Bee-yond Class

February 15, 2020

Name(s) of those attending:

Number attending X \$35 each = _____

Starting year 2—this class is for you. Requeen, making splits, maintaining healthy hives. Anyone having hives less than 5 years will learn valuable information.

Membership in NEKBA (includes access and monthly newsletter).

to our library

(membership is not necessary to attend)

Membership \$15/year=_____

Your contact information:

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Total submitted _____

Both classes will be held at Douglas County Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper Street, Lawrence, KS.

Registration begins at 8:15.

Classes: 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Included in the class: Lunch, Snacks, Presenters notes and literature.

Enrollment at www.nekba.org

PayPal or bank cards accepted

or Mail to Robert Burns, 7601 W. 54Th Ter.

Overland Park KS 66202

Questions:

Becky Tipton

785-484-3710

785-554-1591

bstbees@embarqmail.com



Bee-ginning Beekeeping Class

January 18, 2020

9:00 ~ 5:30

NE KS Beekeepers Assoc.
Douglas County Fairgrounds
Lawrence, KS

- *Bee Biology
- *Equipment
- *Managing Colony Growth
- *Summertime Beekeeping

- *Keeping bees Healthy
- *Diseases and Pests
- *Varroa management and treatment
- *Fall and Winter management

\$35

Price includes:
lunch, snacks &
presenters' notes



Year 2 and Bee-Yond

February 15, 2020

9:00 ~ 5:30

NE KS Beekeepers Assoc.
Douglas County Fairgrounds
Lawrence, KS



- *Why hives die.
- *Spring management year 2
- Build your apiary
- *How & Why to requeen a hive

- *Swarm Biology
- *Stressors and IPM
- *Moving bee hives
- *Get your questions answered

\$35

Price includes:
lunch, snacks &
presenters' notes

enroll at: www.nekba.org

MENTORING-SWEET PRAIRIE HONEY

Have a Master Beekeeper come help you at your bee hive? I have an EAS and a Mid-West Master Beekeeper certificate. Evaluating your hives after winter, installing package bees, requeening, making splits, or a one on one lesson at your bee hive 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.

HEARTLAND HONEY & BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

We no longer sell bee supplies but will still have package bees and queens. Joli Winer/Cecil Sweeney, Heartland Honey, 19201 S Clare Rd. Spring Hill KS 66083 (913) 856-8356. joli@heartlandhoney.com

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. ED FISHER 4005 N.E. 132nd Street, Smithville MO 64089 816-532-4698

DRAPER'S SUPER BEE

We offer fast and courteous service to all beekeepers. We only sell bee pollen, honey and labels. Business Hours: Monday-Wednesday 9am-3pm; Closed from 12-1. Please call ahead if you want to pick up an order. Brenda and Larry Draper, DRAPER'S SUPER BEE; 914 S St., Auburn, NE 68305 PHONE: (402) 274-3725

THE HAWLEY HONEY COMPANY

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.* 3-frame nucs of solid brood comb of foundation (frames of even exchange) with MN Hygienic queens for \$119.00 each 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. Go to our Web Site BeePackages.com to order your Bee Packages and QueenBees.com to order your Queens. We are available by appointment Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00 and weekends. Robert Hughes, 12333 Wedd Street, Overland Park, KS 66213, 913-681-5777 or email RobertLHughes2000@yahoo.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. 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

GOLDEN PRAIRIE HONEY FARMS & SAVE FARM AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Our active duty & veteran students learn skills in woodworking & metal work by building beekeeping equipment, while learning beekeeping & honey production in our apiaries and extracting kitchen. We sell beekeeping supplies, containers, bottled & bulk honey, Packaged Bees, and Nucleus Bees. A Charitable, Educational Non-Profit, 501(c)(3), Proceeds go back into the training program. Hours Mon - Fri, 9-4. Golden Prairie Honey Farms, 8859 Green Valley Dr., Ste 4, Manhattan, KS 66502 Phone: (785) 370-3642 - Email gphfarms@gmail.com or order online at goldenprairiehoney.com

Next to Nature Farm

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 www.nexttonaturefarm.com.

This 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

Address Service Requested

Meeting

Monday, November 18th, 2019

The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

Membership is open to anyone who is 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. New memberships and renewals should be submitted to the treasurer.

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 for through the treasurer.

The Association meets each month on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. except during the month of January. A beekeeping class is held in March. This is a nonprofit organization; elected officers serve without pay. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting. Check *The Buzzer* or our website at NEKBA.ORG each month for the actual date, time and location. If the weather is bad call an officer or check the www.NEKBA.org website to find out if the meeting will be held.

2019 Officers

President: **Steve Messbarger**, 9802 S Burr Oak Circle, De Soto KS 66018 Smessbarger55@gmail.com 913-226-2849
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2nd VP (Librarian): **Ed Darlington**, 2804 E 174th St., Belton, MO 64012 edarlington@kc.rr.com 816-331-4934
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Visit our Website at NEKBA.org