

CAPPINGS

The Official Newsletter of the
Kansas Honey Producers Association
www.KansasHoneyProducers.org



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

2015 #1

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Do you have something to be published in Cappings? A Story, Advertisement, Questions, Events, Recipes, News? Send them to the Cappings Editor Greg Swob—785-639-7766 gswob@mwenergy.com

Propolis Promotes Hair Growth in Mice!

Hair loss can be devastating for the millions of men and women who experience it. Now scientists are reporting that propolis might contain clues for developing a potential new therapy. They found that propolis encouraged hair growth in mice. The study appears in *ACS' Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*.

Ken Kobayashi and colleagues note that propolis is a resin-like material that honeybees use to seal small gaps in their hives. Not only does it work as a physical barrier, but it also contains active compounds that fight fungal and bacterial invasions. People from ancient times had noticed propolis' special properties and used it to treat tumors, inflammation and wounds. More recently, research has shown that the substance promotes the growth of certain cells involved in hair growth though no one had yet tested whether that in turn would re-

sult in new locks.

Kobayashi's team wanted to find out. When the researchers tested propolis on mice that had been shaved or waxed, the mice that received the treatment regrew their fur faster than those that didn't. The scientists also noticed that after the topical application, the number of special cells involved in the process of growing hair increased. Although they tried the material on mice that could grow fur rather than balding mice, the researchers note that hair loss conditions often result from abnormal inflammation. Propolis contains anti-inflammatory compounds, so they expect it could help treat balding conditions. They add that further testing is needed to see if the beehive material affects human hair follicles. (*American Bee Journal Extra - News December 11, 2014*)

Tucker Bees—Nucleus Hives

6 frame nucs - for \$145 you get a laying Queen with five frames of bees and brood. If you want the sixth frame Tim will give you a price depending upon how much brood is on the frame.

Compare with anyone else on the market. Our product is usually ready in early May; however, weather conditions could delay until later in May. With us you get 20% more bees and brood for a much faster start. Delivery to centralized points can be arranged. Quantities are limited. Tim : 620-879-2926 or Norbert : 620-216-0202 norbert@totalcsi.net

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President's Corner

By: Steve Tipton

Spring maybe just around the corner, hopefully! I've noticed the buds on our maples and elm trees have started to swell in the past week. But I'm sure we'll still have winter—we are still here in Kansas. The weight on my hives is good as I have continued to keep liquid feed on my hives all winter. It is amazing how much 2:1 syrup they can consume during the days warm enough for them to break cluster. The feed is offered in a feeder over the second super. When clustered, the bees are well below the feeder on stores within the hive. When the bees go to a loose cluster, they readily move up and consume or store the syrup.

During this week we enjoyed some very unseasonable 60° F days. The bees had the chance to fly (good), and take advantage of pollen substitute I provide for the bees as a free choice. The bees mob the pollen, coating their hairy bodies and then move away from the pollen and groom themselves, pushing the pollen grains into the baskets on their back legs for transport back to the beehive. I fear this erratic weather will confuse the bees and encourage them to try to rear too much brood before the environment is really ready to support them with nectar. This is where spring beekeeping begins—do my bees continue to have enough stored food, and if they run low, making sure I provide for their needs. March can be a very cruel month for the bees.

Recently the Northeast Kansas group did a combined class on soap making and beeswax at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. The event was well attended with many KHPA members present from all over the state and some friends from Nebraska and Missouri, too.

Becky gave a great basic soap making class, as usual, and tried to highlight some value added products that new-bees with only a small amount of beeswax could make; lotions, salves and lip balms to name a few. Joli and Cecil talked about candle making, molded and dipped, as well as tricks to make your beeswax products have a professional look. I rendered a batch of cappings to show how the process is started. Most were surprised to see that a bucket of cappings makes a much smaller quantity of beautiful cleaned wax, ready to make into all the value added products we enjoy producing.

Dr. Clarence Collison from the University of Mississippi, will be one of our guest speakers and will be talking on subjects that will benefit both old and new participants alike. I encourage our members to take advantage of this opportunity and learn something from Dr. Collison.

All of our members will be receiving a revised copy of our constitution and by-laws to be voted upon during the business meeting. This document sets the guidelines for how our organization will operate. Our board has worked long hours on this revision to create a governing document both in step with the current practices of the organization and with enough flexibility to allow growth without growing pains. It is important for the focus and mission of this association to bring our constitution and bylaws up to date. As always, we appreciate your support and consideration.



Pollinator Report

Debbie McSweeney

The last couple of days, at least here, we've had a touch of Spring. Way too early to believe it's here, but enough to get Spring fever for both garden planting and playing with our bees. This week on warm days I was pulled to the greenhouse, cleaning and planting for the coming year. Several times a bee would come up and buzz back and forth in front of my face as if to say "Where are the flowers? You're behind!" They do this to me every year, and every year I smile and tell them, "Not yet!" I always feel bad for the bees on these warm days. They want more than is available. There is nothing but dust from the bird feeders. But, every year I work hard on our farm to add as much as I can in the way of food and habitat for them.

Now is the time to start thinking of these things, and in some cases starting your own flowers and plantings. This year my focus has changed quite a bit. I plan to grow all my plantings that my bees need myself and bypass the commercial greenhouses. Nothing against greenhouses, but information brought to my attention on a trip to Washington DC for the NAPPC conference has changed my mind on many levels. (I will speak on this at the March meeting)

In my talks on pollinator habitat I have spoken of the rumors that greenhouses back east are using Neonicotinoids to treat Japanese Beetles. Remember that the 'neonics' are systemic and so that means they travel the whole plant. Well, it is far more widespread than we originally thought. I've now heard that they are using these chemicals for whiteflies, which are very, very common and serious in most greenhouses. A **Friends of the Earth** report on this prompted the UC Davis Berkley Bee lab to look to their own plantings in their bee yard.

<http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/93/88/f/3354/Gardeners-Beware-Report-11.pdf>

Subsequent reports:<http://>

libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/93/f0/f/4656/

[FollowTheHoneyReport.pdf](http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/93/3a/3/4738/GardenersBewareReport_2014.pdf) and

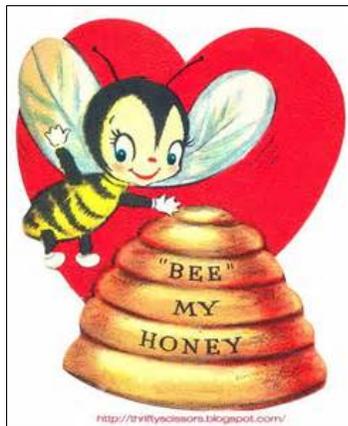
http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/93/3a/3/4738/GardenersBewareReport_2014.pdf

PHD student, Laura Ward was asked to do this. The discoveries they made were very upsetting. More than 50% of their 600 plantings to attract and help feed bees were contaminated with neonics. How devastating to discover this. The **Friends of the Earth** report noted they tested plants from big box stores—names you would all recognize—and found the same results. Even in some veggie crops as well! I guess we could stop here and debate the fact if neonics do

in fact harm bees? I heard a lot of evidence at the NAPPC conference and have heard it for years now. But for some bizarre reason, beyond my science geek mind, it's not enough. Remember that CCD has been ongoing now for nine years or so and still not enough proof! I fear that in this country proof will never be enough when the almighty dollar and stock holders concerns are involved. Thank goodness that wasn't the case when we banned DDT or we would not be seeing any Bald Eagles in this country these days. But what is a bee—just a little old thing—hardly noticed. But it is a really big thing when you think of our food security. (Pardon my soap box)

Pollinator habitat has just gotten more complicated. So you can go to your local nursery and ask if they are using systemic neonics, if you could find someone who knows or who will admit it. Or you can grow your own from seed and KNOW. (At least we hope the seed is not treated—I've heard unconfirmed rumors of that as well—buy organic.) In one of the above reports, which I strongly urge you to read, there is a list of chemicals sold in stores to avoid; a very handy list to have. As a consumer I have the right to KNOW and make my own decisions based on what I have seen in the research. We have a right to make that decision. When I think of how many people I have talked to about planting flowers and food for the bees, and now knowing that many of those plantings could carry the pesticide we are most worried about, it devastates me. I do not want to be a part of the problem.

So, at the March **KHPA** meeting I will be bringing plants that I will grow organically for sale with all monies going to KHPA for education and scholarships. (Lemon Catnip, Calamint, Catmint and maybe others will be available for sale on Saturday only.)



I will be talking to local greenhouses about options in offering pollinator habitat plants marked as pesticide free. I will educate and not just sit by and let someone else do it for me. Go to your nurseries and tell them what you want! Demand to KNOW what they are spraying and let them know you will take your business elsewhere if they choose to use those chemicals on plants designated for pollinators. Be active if you truly care about your bees and the crisis they face. I fear that the only change to take place on this issue will be through the consumer's wallet!! Happy planting!

Spring 2015 Kansas Honey Producers Meeting

Friday and Saturday March 13th & 14th

Holiday Inn at the Campus

1641 Anderson Avenue, Manhattan KS 66502

For reservations call 785-539-7531 or 1-888-477-5276 reservation code “khp”

I have lined up a great hotel and meeting rooms and I'm working on a fantastic program. Our main guest speaker will be **Dr. Clarence Collison**, Beekeeping Specialist, Emeritus Professor/Dept. Head, Dept. of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University. Clarence is retired now and is hard to get out of retirement to make presentations—but he has agreed to spend some time with us in March. We are so lucky! Clarence is an excellent teacher and will be great for both new and experienced beekeepers. The spring meeting is usually primarily our beginning beekeeping class but this year I am going to try something different by having a second series of talks concurrently for 2nd year and more experienced beekeepers. I'm still working on confirming a few speakers and topics and the program for the Friday night dinner.

Our meeting will be held at the **Holiday Inn at the Campus in Manhattan**. We chose this city because they have a new bee club that is going gangbusters!

Make your hotel reservations by February 10th— call 785-539-7531 and mention the code KHP to get the discounted room rate of \$99.95.

As an added feature this year we are going to have an **Art Show**. It won't be a contest but a show. I thought you might want to work on something over the winter. It can be anything related to beekeeping or something using beeswax. Maybe you have tried batik, encaustic painting, carved something from beeswax, taken a great photo—anything. Have you sculpted a bee from wood or done something cool with stained glass? Did you use beeswax when you made a bronze statue? Maybe someone buys beeswax from you and they do something creative with it – bring a sample.

FYI: At this meeting representatives from **Dadant and Sons**, **Walter T. Kelley Company** from Clarkson KY and **Wicwas Press-beekeeping Booksellers** will have displays.

If you have questions you can email me at joli@heartlandhoney.com or call me at 913-856-8356. Watch the www.kansashoneyproducers.org website for program updates.

Mark your calendars!

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Assn. **2015 Fun Day**, Saturday June 6th 2015. Douglas County Fairgrounds, Lawrence KS (nekba.org) Guest speakers **Dr. Marla Spivak & Dr. Marion Ellis!**

For other events, see the Upcoming Events section of this newsletter on page 13

Spring Kansas Honey Producers Association meeting Schedule
Holiday Inn at Campus—1641 Andersen Ave., Manhattan, Kansas
Thursday night March 12th

8:00 PM Board Meeting Holiday Inn at Campus, Manhattan KS, Presidents Room

Friday, March 13th, 2015 B- Beginners A- Advanced

Meeting in the Ballroom ABC

8:00-8:45 Registration & Silent Auction Set-Up

8:45-9:00 President Steve Tipton

9:00-9:45 Applying the Basics of Honey Bee Biology—Clarence Collison

9:45-10:00 Break

10:00-10:45 B. Equipment Possibilities and Terminology, Steve Tipton

10:00-10:45 A. Evaluating your Over wintered hives and Making Nucs and Re-queening, Kristi Sanderson

10:45-11:30 B. Getting Started How & When and Where to put them, includes installing a package Joli Winer

10:45-11:30 A. Running Your Bee Operation in Singles, Larry Coppinger presents

11:35-12:15 “The Impact Of Systemic Insecticides On Pollinators” Dr. Ray Cloyd, Professor and Extension Specialist in Horticultural Entomology/Plant Protection Kansas State University Department of Entomology

12:15-1:15 Lunch

1:15-2:00 General Business Meeting

2:00-2:45 Management for Maximum Honey Production, Clarence Collison

2:50-3:35 B. The new Drift-Watch Site for Sensitive Crops in Kansas & Small Hive Beetle update. Sharon Dobesh

2:50-3:35 A. Growing your Business From 1 Hive to Commercial, Jim Kellie presents (Tentative)

3:40-4:25 Beekeeping in Kansas 1964-Present, Gary Ross

4:25 Art Show

6:00 Dinner & Program

Kansas Honey Producers Association Spring 2015 conference continued:

Saturday, March 14th

- 8:00-8:30** Registration & Silent Auction Set-Up
- 8:30-8:40** President Steve Tipton
- 8:40-9:30** Integrated Pest Management (IPM): Bee Diseases and Pests, Clarence Collison
- 9:30-10:15** B. Seasonal Management: Removing Honey Supers & Getting Bees Ready for Winter, Gary LaGrange
- 9:30-10:15** A. Chasing Swarms, Bill Vinduska
- 10:15-10:30** Break
- 10:30-11:15** B. Examining Combs What do they tell you, Clarence Collison
- 10:30-11:15** A. Producing Comb Honey, Kristi Sanderson
- 11:15-12:00** B. Growing for your bees –What to plant, Deb McSweeney
- 11:15-12:00** A. Pollen Collecting, John Speckman
- 12:00-1:15** Lunch - Silent Auction ends at 1:15
- 1:15-1:45** Youth Scholarship Presentations –Becca Bailey, Abigail & Emily Buchholz, Josiah Beal
(Some may present on Friday)
- 1:45-2:30** Importance of Genetic Diversity in the Honey Bee Colony, Dr. Clarence Collison

Concurrent Sessions in the afternoon:

- 2:30-3:15** B. Small Scale Extracting, Carolyn Simpson
- 2:30-3:15** A. Queen Rearing With The Jenter® System, John Speckman
- 3:15-4:00** B. TBA
- 3:15-4:00** A. Small Scale Queen Rearing – How I do it “Tricking the Bees” Robert Burns
- 4:00-4:45** Area Representatives meet with the members from their area

Program subject to change

**Kansas Honey Producers' Association Spring Meeting
Friday & Saturday, March 13th & 14th 2015 Registration Form**

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____
 COUNTY _____ PHONE _____
 E-MAIL _____ print email address clearly

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

Registration & payment now accepted with PayPal at www.kansashoneyproducers.org

Pre-registration (must be received by March 1st)

Friday & Saturday

Per person (includes 2 lunches & dinner) (\$80.00 x _____) = _____

Friday Only

Per person (includes lunch & dinner) (\$65.00 x _____) = _____

Saturday only

Per person (includes lunch) (\$45.00 x _____) = _____

Children-5-18 (under 5 free)

Both Friday & Saturday (includes 2 lunches & dinner) (\$30.00x _____) = _____

Friday only (includes lunch & dinner) (\$20.00x _____) = _____

Saturday only (includes lunch) (\$10.00 x _____) = _____

Non-Members Add \$15.00 \$15.00 _____

**Our wish is that all attendees who are non-members will join,
however we welcome everyone to the meeting!**

Membership for Kansas Honey Producers Association: Renewal/New \$15.00 _____

Youth Membership 2015 (18 years of age or under) Renewal/New \$7.50 _____

Membership 2015 Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Assn: Renewal/New \$15.00 _____

Donation for Scholarship Project \$ _____

Note: No receipts will be sent **Total**
\$ _____

**Please make checks payable to: Kansas Honey Producers Assn or KHPA and mail to
Robert Burns, 7601 W. 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202913-or email rburns@kc.rr.com
Registration & payment now accepted with PayPal at www.kansashoneyproducers.org**

The Adventures of JT, the beekeeper

JT Forms a Bee Club

Another adventure with Jim Kellie's Friend, JT

In my ever pressing attempt to keep up with the beeks in the know, I studied all the Journals and Chat Forums from the beeks who spend more time on the internet than working their bees. It seems everyone has Bee Clubs. So once again I decided that it was time to form a Bee Club out here in the sticks, just to show all those urban beeks in the city that we, too can be culture-fied. Now the problem was, where was I going to find beekeepers out here in western Kansas that was du---, I mean intellectually motivated to bee keep out here in the great expanse?

So I sat down and began to ponder who was available. There was Stinky Roberts. He was always smelling like 4 day old Bee Go. He only has two hives and uses a gallon of it every year. He was terribly liberal with that stuff and one day it got to 114 degrees when he was pulling the honey. That Bee Go went into overdrive and the wind sent it right into his open pickup. Ever since, he can't get the smell out, so his clothes, truck and him all smell well perfumed of "Ode to Bee Go". He is also down to one hive now. That hive he was working on came out at full speed, picked up on the wind and took off for Oklahoma like geese headed south. Never saw them again.

There was Elvira Burger. Her father had bees on the farm back behind the barn. Now Elvira never married. She seldom leaves the farm except to come to town on Saturday. She is nearly 80 years old but can still milk cows and run the old John Deere when it comes time to plant. She has always kept the bees that her dad had. He has long passed on and Elvira doesn't do a whole lot with them, and in fact waits 'til winter before pulling a super off to get honey. She only prefers that because those bees are one of the last lines of the black German bees that were originally brought to homesteads back in the day. Those bees are so mean, just opening the back door to the house you can see them start to come out lookin' for trouble. I sure would like to graft some queens off of her, but when we tried once we couldn't even get the lid off without being covered in bees and stinging for all they're worth. Then all they did was run as fast as they could across the frame on to the side of the super. We stopped after just trying to see queen, since we figured we was already full of enough venom that we were now immune to any Auto Immune Disease.

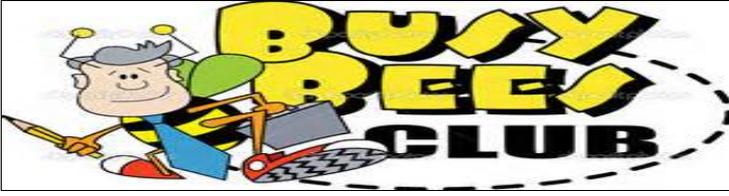
The only other one I could think of was Star. Of course we would have to invite her or be picketed for the injustice and discrimination of humanity for leaving her out. You might remember that I already had enough of picketing with the Temperance Club and surely didn't need any more of that. Star as you can tell by the name was born in 60's in a commune out in California. She grew up there and then ended up out here in the dust bowl. She said her Spirit Guide had brought her here. Star had put together some old wood into a square box. She got the details from "Father Planet" magazine. Danged if a swarm didn't end up in that box. She of course was positive her Spirit Guide had brought them there.

"Father Planet" had suggested to leave the bees alone and let them be free. The article went into detail about how in Spring to get the bees to put forth a new birth of bees. Sure enough, Stinky and me went out that Spring to catch her swar-- I mean observe the birth of bees. There she was in her long sun dress with flowers in her hair beating on a tambourine with long ribbons. (She had several different colored ribbons to attach. It always depended on the color of her Aura for the day.) Finally when she started singing "Kum-ba-ya", the swarm started to come out and head off. We thanked her for being part of the great awakening and Stinky and I headed off to catch the swa--- I mean observe and protect the new bees.

Well I got everyone contacted, we had to do it on a Saturday because that was when Elvira could come to town. Star checked her planet chart along with the Aura for Saturday and said everything would be a great 'pink pastel' and that she would be there, along with her Spirit Guide. I put an ad in our town paper which comes out once a week on Friday. They only make three copies. One is put at the Library where we decided to meet, another is up on the black board at the CO-OP elevator, and the last is on the front glass window of the Grocery store in town. It is only two pages long. We all went into the Library to commence the meeting and darned if another fellow walked in. Said his name was Herb. He was one of the old guys about 63 or 64.

(continued on pg. 9)

Dues and News!



(JT Forms a Bee Club cont'd)

We thought we had a good program. Before we could start, suddenly Elvira said since we have money, we need to figure out what to do with it and so she wanted a meeting before we started the program.

Elvira decided she wanted to get paid for her speech. Star said she didn't want such a nasty thing as money and moved to have her go outside and the first person she saw with a red Aura around their spirit she would give them money. Now Stinky and I, heard the word Spirit. Both our minds went to Lefty Stewart and his moonshine. We snapped to attention when Elvira started raising her voice and suddenly Star declared her Aura was turning Black and she felt she might faint. Stinky went right into action to save Miss Star. He did the only thing he could think of. He took off his heavy coat, he was sweating in it any way, and commenced to flap it back and forth to give Star some air. About that same time the furnace kicked on and proceeded to suck out the air from the room and spread it throughout the Library. Somewhere off in the distance I thought I could hear sirens. So I turned around and saw people running for the door of Library and heading outside.

Even Ms. Stibling, the Librarian, ran out the door. We were sure there was a silent fire alarm we had missed. So we quickly dismissed the meeting, postponed the speakers for another time and ran outside.

I must say I was proud that we had our first official meeting. I was now up with the beeks in the know. We will have to find a new place to have our next meeting since we were banned from the Library. By the way, if any of you need some speakers we are willing to travel as far as Old Red will take us.

The Next Friday the town paper was three pages long. Stinky and I never got to read it. We spent the day down at Lefty's shed, putting that 5 dollars to good use. Cheers and see ya' at the next meeting.

By Jim Kellie

2015 State Association Dues now Payable

Many of you have paid your 2015 State Association dues either at the Fall Meeting in Wichita, by sending them in the mail, or using the on-line option via the association website. However, there are still many who have not renewed their membership for 2015.

We encourage and invite you to do so at once! (Check your mailing label or look for an email from the Treasurer.) State Association Membership Dues are \$15.00 for the beekeeper and \$7.50 for students and children under the age of 18 – a bargain at today's prices! Your membership dues keep your newsletters (*Cappings*) coming and helps promote bees and honey in the State of Kansas.

Our Constitution requires Membership Dues be paid within 60 days of the beginning of the year or the membership is dropped, so renew now! Go on-line to re-new or send your check for \$15.00 payable to the Kansas Honey Producers Association or KHPA to Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission, KS, 66202-1129. You will need to be paid-up at the Manhattan meeting to be able to vote on the proposed revision of the Constitution and By-laws.

To renew an pay via PayPal online, go to:

<http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org/Membership.html>

By Robert Burns

Kansas Represented at National Honey Show!

Honey entries are divided into six categories based upon color which range from "water white" to "dark". Tim Tucker entered white, light amber and dark. Norbert Neal entered light amber and amber. When the dust cleared, Norbert won first place in light amber and second place in amber.

Tim Tucker won second place in light amber and first place in both white and dark. Tim's dark entry also won best in show.

By Norbert Neal

Nucs or Packages?



Editor's note— *Keeping Backyard Bees* is a newsletter from *Grit* and *The Mother Earth News* family of magazines on bee keeping today. Go to <http://www.keepingbackyardbees.com/author/GritMagazine/> to sign up for this newsletter

Spring is just around the corner. Many beekeepers both new and experienced are making plans for starting new colonies of bees in 2015. Are you one of the many that currently enjoy this amazing hobby? If so, you already know the excitement that comes from bringing home your package or nuc from your local apiary, or perhaps awaiting their arrival in the mail. If you are a “newbee”, you are in for a real treat as a first time beekeeper.

One of the questions that most new beekeepers ask is, “**Which is better for starting a colony of bees? A 2lb or 3lb package of bees, or a nuc?**” An even better question for you might be, “**What is a nuc?**” Well today you will get the answer to both of these questions so that you will be in a better position to determine which is a better fit for you as a beekeeper. So lets clear things up a bit:

What is a nuc? A “nuc” is short for nucleus colony. This is a colony of bees that is relatively small in comparison to a larger production hive. These bees are just getting started, but they are already doing everything that a full production colony does. They have some honey, pollen, baby bees in various stages of development and a queen that is an egg laying machine ready to bring that small colony up to a full scale production colony that will contain upwards of 50,000 – 60,000 bees. If conditions are favorable, this can be accomplished in just a few months, and you could enjoy your first honey harvest sooner than you think..

The advantage of starting with a nuc is your bees have a head start. They have drawn comb – which is a huge plus because it takes approximately 8 lbs of sugar or nectar to draw just 1 lb of comb. The down side to nucs, which in my opinion is not really a down side, is you'll have to wait until mid spring in order to get a one. Obviously they'll need this time in order to build their house, right? But patience can have its reward with a colony that is off to a strong start. The cons to starting a nuc really boil down to just two things: (1) they cost about \$50 – \$100 more than a package and (2) you'll have to wait for a nuc till mid to late spring before they are available.

from **Enjoy Beekeeping**.

Another thing to plan on is getting a few more stings than you would if you start with a nuc. Unless of course you are wearing a full bee suit. (I've never owned a bee suit unless my shorts and T-shirt count as one!) You literally have to shake the bees out of the package into your hive that you plan on using. For some this is a real rush to say the least. I've seen some newbees simply open the package and let the bees figure out where to go inside the bee hive, but this is not recommended by the more experienced bee keepers since they really need to cluster around the queen and unless you literally dump the bees onto the frames where she will be suspended in her temporary cage, things can go wrong. For example, they may not climb out fast enough to cluster around her causing her to lose precious heat on cold nights. Package bees will at times decide that they do not like their new home. Even though you've probably painted it really fancy and it looks like the perfect textbook beehive just like you see in the magazines, they might abscond. Sometimes it's the smell – bees are very sensitive to smells as you'll soon discover in your journey of understanding bee behavior. So your hive is subject to their approval. They may leave your beautiful bee mansion to go live in an abandoned car gas tank or a under a neighbor's birdbath – believe me they've done it more than you think. Bee logic is not like ours, so you just have to anticipate the possibility of the unexpected.

So, to recap the pros and cons of package bees: (1) they cost less than a nuc (2) you'll get them earlier in the spring. The cons are (1) they might not accept the hive you put them in (2) you need to feed (3) they have nothing started yet. Now that you understand the difference between starting a nuc or a package you'll need to decide which is the best route to take. But by all means, get started! Don't let any fears or uncertainty you might feel hold you back from starting this amazing journey. My best advice to you is to seek out a mentor. One thing beekeepers love to do is talk about bees. It's like an obsession for most, and you'll soon join the ranks too!

If you are new or feel that you could use more coaching please feel free to attend one of our spring 2015 organic beginners courses we will be hosting at our farm. We keep our class sizes small so that you'll get the most out of this very informative course. You'll get a good start in the right direction so that you can be a successful beekeeper.

For more information about attending our classes e-mail us at : ENJOYBEEKEEPING@gmail.com

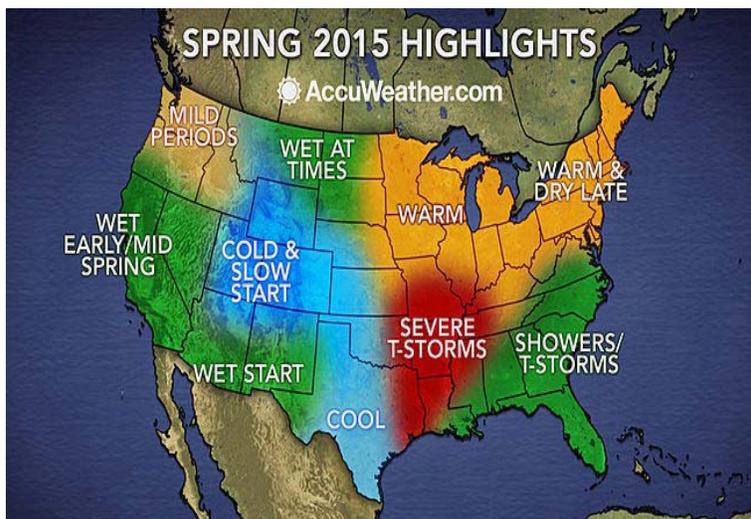
Crystal Ball

From Accuweather.com - via *Armada Executive Intelligence Brief*

First, although the West Coast is showing a wet spring season, forecasters were quick to point out that they don't believe that this will be enough to fully break the drought. In addition, snowfall in the upper Cascades will not provide the volume of snowpack required to replenish reservoirs and ground water sufficiently to alleviate the risk of long term drought. But, it will be an improvement over current conditions and it will also be sufficient enough that we should see California farmers replant fields that have been fallow for a couple of years.

Across the Midwest, we should see a return of some of the strong storm seasons that we saw disappear in the last year. **Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arkansas should see an active spring storm season along with sufficient rain to alleviate abnormally dry conditions that have spread across the area once again.** One of the impacts of the unusually warm weather across the upper Midwest and Northeast is that heating oil (which is also similar in form to diesel) could see demand drop more than we saw last year. If you think back, Q1 of last year was rough for the upper fourth of the country through March. Given this forecast, we would expect to see diesel prices lower (generally), heating oil demand drop, and a much better operating environment for companies throughout much of the country (especially compared to Q1 of 2014). That will make financial performance of many firms seem far better than Q1 of last year, just keep in mind the radical differences between the two years if these weather forecasts hold.

Editor's note— Three years ago, the Farmer's Almanac predicted our summer would be "cooler and wetter than normal for Kansas" It was the worst drought since the dust bowl days and temps hovered at or above 100° for days on end. Forecasts are good tools for planning, but not necessarily reliable.



State Fair!



Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Kansas State Fair which is September 11-20. We will once again be selling honey and promoting honey bees to the public. I will need volunteers on the 9th and 10th to help unload, label, organize honey, set up the booth and other odd jobs. Some of these tasks require a good strong back and others anyone can be of great help. Even though the fair doesn't officially start till the 11th the booth needs to be ready for the public by noon on the 10th. People are bringing in entries and are willing to buy after they get their exhibits submitted. These are just a couple of things I wasn't completely prepared for last year and that will show up on the schedule this year.

We had many positive comments in regards to our helpfulness and friendliness from the public and staff in the building last year. We were even nominated as one of the best double booths of the State Fair. This is a great compliment to everyone who volunteered. Anyone volunteering to work a 4 hour shift in the booth will receive an entry ticket to the State Fair for the days you work. The shift schedule will remain the same as last year except for the 9th and 10th so if you know what days and time you want to work contact me and I will get your name in the slot you desire.

As many of you know hotel rooms fill up fast in Hutchinson for the dates of the fair. I have made my reservation at the Days Inn which is on 1420 Lorraine. The phone is (620) 665-3700 and I spoke with DK, he is the one who deals with State Fair. Let him know you are with the Kansas Honey Producers. Looking forward to working with all of you once again.

Kristi

What's in a Name?

Looking At Our Roots

Robert Burns

Have you ever been curious as to how our association got it's current name as ***The Kansas Honey Producers Association?***

This last fall, I had the opportunity, while looking for our most current version of the Constitution and By-Laws, to go through some of the association archive documentation that was handed over to me from the previous Secretary, Mary Coppinger, Winchester, KS. As you may be aware, we are going thru a revision of the association Constitution and By-laws to be more current with the times.

It has been an interesting search and organization of the files. In the archives, I found a delicate newspaper clipping about an association meeting from the 1930's. I also located a few early copies of our newsletter from the 1950's. I had the idea of scanning and posting a few of them to the association website for all to see and read. Let me know what you think at the next meeting. One thing I've noticed is that it seems beekeeper problems and concerns remain the same. For example, pesticides, best beekeeping practices in the state, weather, Africanized bees, and honey! I hope you enjoy reading this re-print from the September 1981 of "The Cappings". This is how we arrived at our current name. See you in Manhattan! ***Robert Burns***

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

(reprinted from September 1981—Duane Levin, Respectfully resubmitted by Robert Burns)

Did you ever consider what a name means to an individual or to an organization? Why is it that schools and school teams use names such as "Tigers", "Wildcats", "Knights", "Shockers", and Jayhawks"? The name gives the students and the participants something to live up to. On the negative side, when someone is referred to as a "Sidewinder", or "Skunk" or "Turkey", the name says something about them and their lifestyle. As you look at the Proposed Constitution printed elsewhere in this *Cappings*, you will note that we are proposing changing the name of our organization from The Kansas State Beekeepers Association to The Kansas Honey Producers Association? You may ask why this change is proposed. We have visited with people whose business is the promotion of agricultural products and we have looked at other organizations such as "The American Honey Producers, Inc." and "The Nebraska Honey Producers" and have concluded that the term "Honey Producer" better spells out who we are and what we are about.

Whether we have one colony or one thousand, most of us make a living from or have bees because of honey production. Granted, the bees' value in pollination services far out-rank the dollar amount of honey produced, but to the aver-

age person a bee is some insect that stings and honey is a sweet heavy liquid that is good to eat. Farmers and farmers-at-heart will recognize the value of bees as pollinators, but the average housewife will not. When she thinks of bees, she thinks of the honey they produce which she can serve to her family. So it would seem more logical to use a positive word in the title of our organization that more people would understand rather than using a word such as "beekeeper" which implies one who moves and manipulates hives and gets stung periodically.

Looking into the future, if the predictions are correct that the Africanized bee will arrive in the United States about 1988 or 1990, then it would seem logical to use the positive term, "Honey" in our title rather than the questionable word "Bee". Otherwise people will become hung-up on the challenge, "Why don't you beekeepers do something about these mean 'killer bees' that are doing so much harm to innocent folks?" Honey is good to eat, but nobody enjoys being stung! So why not accent and lead off with the positive rather than lead off with the negative?

Looking to present circumstances, we have regional Honey Queens and our Kansas State Honey Queen. We do not have "Beekeeper Queens". The task of various Honey Queens from The American Honey Queen through the local Honey Queen is to promote and sell honey. Therefore it would seem logical and consistent that as we as a State Association promote honey that we should carry the name in our title. This would mean that the Kansas Honey Queen would represent the Kansas Honey Producers.

It is with these thoughts and considerations that we recommend to our membership that the Proposed Constitution be adopted with the change in name. That way we can set about promoting that wonderful product of bees, namely HONEY!

As a superb example of the many couples in service to our association, Duane Levin served as association Secretary very well for nearly a decade in the 1980's.

Marene Levin, his wife, served as Editor of the newsletter for many of these years in the 1980's. They resided in Stuttgart, KS until relocating to Versailles, MO. The Levin's are still on the association membership roll and continue to receive the newsletter. Their relocation is the reason they resigned their positions. In going through the archives, I can certainly attest to their tremendous volunteer hours of labor, organization, and dedication of community service to beekeepers and the beekeeping industry in Kansas. And, of course, to Kansas' Honey! ***Robert Burns***

Region gatherings

South Central

We have been taking advantage of the warm days to do some quick checks on our hives. While most of them are in good shape we have lost a few, the two biggest causes seem to be not enough stores or too small of a cluster. One of these days we will learn to take our losses in the fall and combine the weak together to make a strong hive. And those with too big of cluster to make it thru the winter we will get feed on earlier. Right now we are making sure that those hives that are on the light side have candy boards on them. With two more months of cold weather and then a couple of months of crazy weather after that, now is a critical time to keep a close watch on your hives.

The South Central Kansas Honey Producers Association will meet Feb 12, at The Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita. The meeting will mainly be a question and answer session, letting those with questions have the opportunity for discussion on a variety of subjects. But you know how it is about asking beekeepers a question - get ready for multiple answers! And then you have to choose the answer that seems right for you but file the others away because someday they might come in handy. We do plan on discussing late winter management of the hive, including emergency feeding. There is a lot of winter left still and getting the bees to spring build up is important. Also, Britt Hopper will give a presentation on his mission trip to Uruguay and the beekeeper that he met while there.

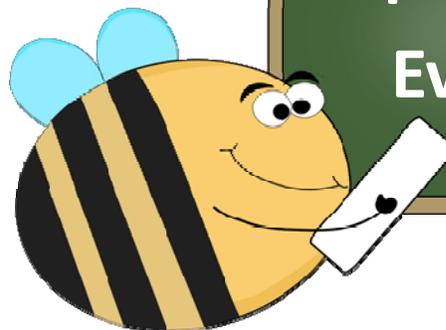
Bill and Candy Vinduska will teach a Beginning Beekeeping Class in February and March. You can contact us at vinduskaapiaries@yahoo.com for details. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Manhattan!

Bill and Candy Vinduska

Northwest & Southwest

The Northwest group met at the Hays Public Library on January 25, 2015. The usual gathering is on the Third Saturday of even months, but this meeting was pushed from December due to holiday conflicts. A total of 32 attendees including a few from the Southwest Region were present at this gathering. **Britt Hopper** spoke on his experiences with Top Bar Hives and bee keeping in Uruguay. Promotion of the upcoming Ks. Honey Producers Assn. meeting in Manhattan, along with tips on winter hive management, spring preparation and suggestions on what a bee keeper should be doing in winter were discussed. A new hive tool was presented for Show and Tell.

The next gathering will be Saturday, February 21st at James & Deb Christopher's shop in Natoma, Ks. at 1:30 PM. Along with soap & lotion presentations, we will see a custom bee trailer and hot dipping tank for hive bodies. Contact **Greg Swob** for further information on this group at 785-639-7766 or gswob@mwenergy.com



2015 Spring

Ks Honey Producers Association Meeting

March 13 & 14, 2015 Holiday Inn at Campus
1641 Anderson Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502
Book 1-888-477-5276 "kha" for discounted rooms

Konza Beekeeping Association

2nd Tuesday each month at the Sunset Zoo
Nature Center, 2333 Oak St, Manha an, KS at 7:00
PM—Bob Brandenburg at Beeman65@gmail.com

Solomon Valley Beekeepers

[https://www.facebook.com/#!/
Solomonvalleybeekeepers/info](https://www.facebook.com/#!/Solomonvalleybeekeepers/info)
Cynthia Goth 785-738-6417 (h) or Kris Jones 785-
545-8783 solomnvalleybeekeepers@gmail.com

Northeast Kansas Bee Keepers Assn.

3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 PM Douglas
Co. Fairgrounds, Lawrence, Ks. at 2110 Harper St.
Bldg. 21 North. For programs and any changes,
see: nekba.org

Western Apicultural Society

October 1-3, 2015—Boulder, Colorado (details still un-
der construction)

Mother Earth News Fair

Oct. 24-25, 2015 at the Kansas Expocentre Topeka,
Kansas 66612 Saturday 9:00 Am—7:00 PM/
Sunday 9:00AM— 5:00 PM for more information:
www.motherearthnews.com/fair/Kansas/

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

Address Service Requested

2015 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 \$21.50 _____

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

Donation Amount _____

Total Due _____

Make checks payable to: KHPA or Kansas Honey Producer's Association or pay on line at www.kansashoneyproducers.org

Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66202 Phone# 913-831-6096 or email- rburns@kc.rr.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.

