



Since 1948

*Exploring the wonderful world of beekeeping together***The Bee Buzzer***Monthly publication of the***Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association**

VOLUME 69, NUMBER 4

EDITOR: JOLI WINER

APRIL 2017

**General Meeting & Auction**  
**Auction to Benefit the Youth Scholarship**  
**Program and our new**  
**Military/ Veteran's**  
**Apprenticeship Program**  
**Monday November 20<sup>th</sup> 2017**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg. 21N**  
**2110 Harper St, Lawrence KS**

This year we have moved our auction to the November meeting. Our auction benefits both our youth scholarship program and our new Military /Veteran's Apprenticeship Program that we'll be starting in 2018. This will be a live auction with a professional auctioneer.

Members are asked to bring items to auction and money, checkbooks or credit cards to purchase items.

Items that go well at the auction are bee equipment, extractors and extracting equipment, any woodware items, gift items with bee motifs, baked goods, gift certificates for classes or mentoring. Steve Messbarger will have at least 3 and maybe 4 refrigerators that can be used as freezers to freeze your frames or as hot boxes to decrystallize your honey or as a box to make creamed honey in. (Bring a truck if you are interested in one of these items!)

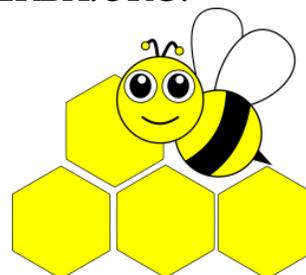
It takes \$400-\$500 to sponsor each youth scholarship student or Veteran Apprentice so this auction along with our silent auction are very important to the club and our mentoring efforts for 2018.

**Directions:** The address is 2110 Harper St. It is easily accessible from 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 you turn into the fairgrounds.

### **Youth Scholarship Applications for 2018 Due by December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Do you know of someone that might qualify for our youth scholarship program? All information is on our website [NEKBA.ORG](http://NEKBA.ORG).



#### **Upcoming Events:**

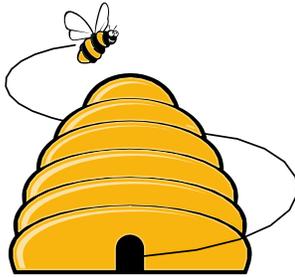
**March 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 NEKBA Beekeeping Class**  
 Dr. Dewey Caron guest on March 11th

**March 9&10 2018 KHPA Spring Meeting Dr. Dewey Caron and Randy Oliver, McPherson KS**

**Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 Funday So far confirmed speakers are Dr. Mark Winston and Dr. Gard Otis and Jose Villa-all were Doctoral Students of Dr. Chip Taylor.** We are dedicating this Funday to honoring Dr. Chip Taylor-who quietly retired last July-2016. We have asked his doctoral students to return for our Funday to honor Chip! Mark your calendars because you won't want to miss this! As Becky said-it's amazing what an influence one person can have on an industry. Watch for more information and guests. **Dr. David Roubik**, one of Chips' doctoral students has said yes too! David was hired by the Smithsonian immediately after graduating from KU! He was their youngest hire! We are waiting for one more yes from one more of his students.

# Beelines

By President Steve Messbarger



Well, I guess it's that time of year - the bees are put up for the winter and it's time to relax. With the holidays coming up, it's a busy time. Speaking of busy, our annual auction will be taking place at this month's meeting. I hope you all can come and enjoy the auction! We always have a great time for a worthy cause - our scholarship and military apprenticeship program. So bring some things to add to the auction and bid on some things you can't live without.

If anyone is interested, we have three small freezers and one large cooler for the auction. They can also be used as a hot box or a honey warmer. So bring your truck or trailer and we'll help you load them.

A special thanks to our presenters last month, Robert Kersey for his presentation on making a honey warmer. Gary LaGrange presented his veterans program - A Pathway to Farming for Service Members and Veterans. An additional thanks to Gary for his dedication in supporting our veterans. That brings up NEBKA's newest cause, our military apprenticeship program, with our own Andy Nowachek leading it. I hope we can all pitch in and help make this a growing, successful, program.

Now that you think it's time to rest, it's a good time to be thinking about what your plans are for the next bee year. Some things to think about - will you expand your number of hives, make splits, make nucs, buy nucs, buy packages of bees, and how much equipment will you

need to build? Swarm calls will come- do you have enough equipment ready for free bees? Better get prepared - Spring has a tendency to sneak up on us. At least it does for me!

I hope you all can come to our auction. It's a great cause and a good time! Bring your items in and look forward to bidding on some more! I hope to see you at the meeting - until then,

As Always, Bees First!

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## The Old Bee Gal by Becky Tipton

There have been so many positive messages on our Facebook page lately. We appreciate the input and the comments. Many people have finished up mite treatments this month with a final Oxalic Acid Sublimation or dribble application. This is a very effective way to clean up mite loads when our hives have little brood in which the mites hide. Lots of folks have talked about feeding, checking hives' weight, and planning for possible emergency feed. This is great for two reasons: first, people are checking their hives regularly and not just guessing what's going on inside and PLANNING. Having a plan is the key to success.

So, what are your planning considerations for 2018. I hope you took some good notes during 2017. Start your planning session by reviewing those notes and think about what worked well for you and the bees—when were they the easiest to manage, did you need equipment, did you need help completing manipulations? Now is the time to purchase additional equipment and get it assembled and painted. You can't catch that swarm if you don't have a place to hive it. A nuc box is a terrific tool with a multitude of applications. There are good plans for building your own nuc box available on line and this would be a terrific project for winter days. Come to the NEKBA winter meetings and spend time getting to know other beekeepers in your area. When things get tricky, it's always good to have a beekeeping friend to bounce ideas off. Winter can be tough on bees. Don't be disheartened if your colony dies. Take care of the woodenware and plan to try again.

## **Military/Veteran's Apprenticeship**

The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association with its members would like to show our appreciation of gratitude to selected Military Veterans who were affected physically or psychologically during war. The goal of this Apprenticeship is to provide our Veterans with a means of having a pathway both therapeutically and physically to transition into a more serene life style by learning the proper style of beekeeping which has proven to be very therapeutic. All bee related items and a NEKBA mentor would work with this individual during the course of a year and more if need be. Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers association will provide the following equipment and mentoring to the selected applicant(s):

- A complete beehive with bees (either package or nuc)
- A Beginners course in Beekeeping by the NEKBA club.
- Smoker
- Protective equipment of their desire.
- A year membership in the NEKBA along with a monthly magazine.
- A qualified mentor that will work with the recipient in all the stages of putting the equipment together, installing the bees and working with them on a frequent and as needed assistance for information or advice.

### **The requirements of the Military applicants are:**

- Veteran of any Military Branch of service who served during war.
- All recipients must be a resident of Kansas and live within the area of the NEKBA club membership to be able to furnish a current qualified mentor for teaching beekeeping.
- Recipients have not had any prior experience with bees.
- They must be able to attend meetings on regular basis.

- Be available for a full year to learn a full cycle of beekeeping.
- They must have a secure and full access area that they can keep the bees to prevent damage or harm to the bees or equipment.
- Either the recipient or mentor or combination of both will give a talk of the past year and the progress of learning beekeeping.

Any applicant who starts the course and feels that it is not what they would like to do would be required to return the equipment so it could be passed on to another service person for future use. Any recipient who successfully fulfills a year of beekeeping meeting all the requirements will be given all bee related items for their own.

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### **2017-2018 Meeting Dates**

Meetings are held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds at 2110 Harper St. It is easily accessible from 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 you turn into the fairgrounds. Unless otherwise stated.

- Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 7 pm (note we'll be in Flory Meeting Hall)
- Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday) 7 pm
- Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 7 pm
- Sundays March 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 Beginning Beekeeping Class
- Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 7 pm
- Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 7 pm
- Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, 7 pm
- Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 Funday
- Monday, June 18, 2018 (Flory Meeting Hall) 7 pm
- Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 7 pm
- Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 7 pm
- Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 7 pm
- Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 7 pm
- Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 7 pm
- Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (Flory Meeting Hall) 7 pm

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.

## Extension and Research Person Needed in Kansas and what you can do to help

Kansas beekeepers are seeing a disturbing increase in problems related to all aspects of beekeeping: pesticides of all types, treated seeds yielding toxic nectar and pollens, hive predators and the diseases associated with the Varroa mite are even more problematic. We need someone to be the “go to” person for beekeepers with up-to-date, accurate information here in our state. If you suspect a hive has been poisoned, who do you call? Sharon Dobesh has been the Kansas State University Extension person designated to handle honey bee questions as part of her other duties. Sharon has now taken a job with a Kansas City area company and is no longer associated with K-State Extension. Although she has asked to continue to help out with the honey bees, we think we (Kansas Beekeepers) deserve a real, dedicated beekeeping specialist. To make this happen, K-State Extension needs to know how important this is to all of us. This is a numbers game—recognizing the number of people this type of support would benefit is critical to getting this position staffed. Let’s be heard. Write a letter. Make a call. Send an email. Let’s let Dr. Cloyd, Head of Extension Entomology, know how very important this issue is and the need for Kansas Beekeepers to have a true beekeeping expert to support beekeeping throughout our state. The letter doesn’t need to be sophisticated, it needs to be sent to be counted. Include numbers if you can, not just the number of hives that you own, but places you go and what you do to

promote beekeeping throughout your area. They need to recognize the importance of good bee information. Dr. Cloyd’s information is here:

Dr. Raymond A. Cloyd  
Extension Entomology  
123 W. Waters Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506-4027  
785/532-5891  
[entomology@ksu.edu](mailto:entomology@ksu.edu)

**Editor’s note:** It was suggested to me that letters be sent to Gregg Hadley who is the new head of K-State Research and Extension in Kansas. I would suggest a real letter rather than an email and if you send one to Raymond Cloyd that you send a copy (CC) to Gregg Handley.

Gregg Hadley  
**K-State Research and Extension**  
Kansas State University  
123 Umberger Hall  
1612 Claflin Rd  
Manhattan, KS 66506

**Available at our November Auction-will make a great freezer, hot box or creamed honey machine-**



# Old Bee Guy

## By Robert Burns



This 2017 season has been a great bee season. We try to pass down our knowledge to new learners as part of our history and experience with the bees. I've had bees for just a wee bit longer "post-mite" than I've had them "pre-mite". I'm thinking of this subject while extracting, and here are a few thoughts I wanted to share on why we take our honey harvests when we should. Keep in mind, what and how you are treating for mites may impact your decision on when you should be honey harvesting.

### **Harvest the Spring Honey Crop in early July**

**Why?** It's all about risk! As part of our Best Practices tips, we encourage beekeepers to harvest spring honey as soon as possible in early July. Conditions are generally perfect - warm and dry. The nectar is generally fully ripened into honey, and capped. The lesson here is a simple. There is too much risk in leaving the spring honey on the colony for the entire summer. The hive population is at its peak in June/July. By September, the population can be as much as 25% lower. The beekeeper would be taking great risk and could lose it all - both honey & bees. There are just too many bad things that can happen to the colony in the age of mites and beetles. If the colony goes queen-less, or weakens, or even collapses, then YOU, the beekeeper, risk losing ALL the honey, and also comb and wax. So, if conditions are good, plan to take your spring honey in July as you should. Take pride, and enjoy. Next up, try to take advantage of letting your bees make a summer honey crop. Extracting is food processing and handling more than it is beekeeping, but that's another topic.

### **Harvest the Summer Honey in early September**

**Why?** Removing summer honey by early September (Labor Day), and removing supers, encourages the bees to use the remainder of the

season to place stores in the upper brood box (assumption is that you are over-wintering as a double-deep in a Langstroth hive. (If you have a populous colony, you could still leave an empty super on until later in the fall for space—at least harvest the honey!) The summer honey harvest will generally always be smaller than the spring. Summer honey will look and taste differently, too! Why? Summer honey is a different source of nectars. Indeed, it also may not be fully capped as you found with the spring honey. But that doesn't mean it may not be cured. So, if it's advantageous, let the bees make a summer honey crop for you. In addition, you could find that you most likely won't have to feed for winter. Each deep frame has the potential to hold 6 lbs. of honey & pollen. After frost, it's all over for any type of incoming natural food resources for the season until next year. Depending on your treatment for mites, this could be the best time to get the mites under control for your bee colony. Most miticide products are not to be used with honey supers on the hive. So, manage accordingly to keep your bees alive. Keeping bee's alive means that we must all be active in our management. If you don't look after your livestock, you are likely to lose them in short order. And that would be a terrible sting.

### **It's all about Agriculture**

Even though we are keeping our honey bees in areas like cities and suburbs, it's still basically a seasonal and agricultural activity. Are you leaving honey supers on for fall, winter or spring? --Why, that's just too much for the bees! You still have to extract at some point. Help the colony help itself. Leaving a (1) full honey super on is perhaps ok, if they need it, and peace-of-mind helps you sleep. Keep in mind, you'll be encouraging next year's swarms in April besides taking the risk of losing the honey under other circumstances. Just remember to remove the queen excluder for winter. (And yes, I hope you normally use a queen excluder.) Your colony produces, under the right conditions, way more honey than they can possibly consume. That's their nature. The population can decrease another 25% by January/February and >50% or greater from

their peak in June/July. Help your bees help themselves! Plan to have a strategy. Avoid the risk. Take your honey harvest when you should. Learn about food processing. Like farming, learn to follow the seasons. Otherwise, it could be a detriment to the bees and to you. Your bees are an investment. True, it's work but also enjoyment. Take those returns when you should. While there are no hard and fast rules about when to extract, this should give some enlightenment to some of our newer beekeepers.

But hey, who is calling me an old bee guy?

### November Tips

- If you used a mite treatment that needs to be removed be sure to do so.
- Check hives regularly—check to see if lids are in place, check for dead-outs.
- Make sure you have a brick or heavy rock on each hive
- Move dead-outs into a storage area, clean out any dead bees, and treat with paradichlorobenzene moth crystals. Left in the bee yard, bees will rob out any remaining honey and destroy the combs. Also, mice can destroy your comb. If storing in an area that freezes you will not to use chemicals to protect the comb.
- Check your hives for honey stores—if you do not have enough, now is the time to feed. Your top brood chamber should be full of honey. That is an adequate supply for your bees to make it through the winter. Bees can utilize feed you provide this month.
- Get your entrance reducers on so mice won't get in the hives. They can do a great deal of damage.
- Make sure your hives are tipped forward slightly so water will be able to run out.
- Make sure that if you have left your honey supers on that you took off your queen excluders. If the bees need that honey they can move up but the queen can't. They will leave her behind.
- After extracting your honey store your supers with paradichlorobenzene to keep the wax moth out. Do not store supers in plastic bags as this acts as an incubator for the wax moth.
- If you have pollen traps on make sure to

discontinue their use and to take them off

- Take the time to inventory your equipment so you can spend the winter putting new equipment together to replace worn out woodware.
- Make beeswax candles and ornaments for holiday gifts
  - On a personal note---If you are a woman and you haven't had your mammogram this year --call today to make an appointment-if you are a man make sure that your wife or girlfriend has had hers.
- Renew your membership asap

### Getting Your Bees Ready for Winter-- Feeding

For fall feeding use 8# of sugar to 4# of water.

Candy boards do not take the place of liquid feed. They are only for emergency feeding. Joli found the following recipe in the Encyclopedia of Beekeeping. This is the recipe Cecil uses. It doesn't use corn syrup or cream of tartar. Homemade candy can be produced by boiling 20 lbs. of sugar in 5 pints of water until it reaches a temperature of 243° F after which it is allowed to cool for a while and then beaten until it candies (goes thick and white).

*(Please note that recipes with cream of tartar are not the best ones to use—the cream of tartar may be harmful to your bees)*

You pour this hard thick candy into a rim that is the same size as the top of your hive body and about 2" tall with a bottom. Pour the candy in, let it harden. And then put it on top of your hive, under the inner cover. John Speckman states that he cuts the bottom 2" off of a 5-gallon bucket and sets that inside of a 2" rim on the top of hive and then puts his lid on the hive—this round container fits over the top of the bees so that there isn't as much wasted candy board—the bees eat more of the candy. If you don't understand this rim part --call Cecil and or ask at the meeting.



FYI: Youth Scholarship students need to do to complete their requirements is to write something for the Buzzer-this is Cecilia Knight's contribution!

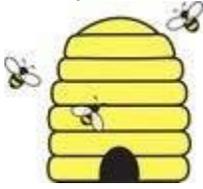
### Looking for new movies to watch during winter? Try these "bee" movies:

- *Bee People* (1994): Documentary with Gregg McMahan, Colorado's own 'Bee Guru' and Tony 'Bees' Planakis, NYPD's go to beekeeper, discussing the importance of hives every 2 miles, catching swarms, and sharing their enthusiasm for all things bee!
- *Bees: Tales from the Hive* (2007): Specially developed macro camera lenses are used to portray a year in the life of a working bee colony. Stunning images take viewers inside the innermost secrets of the hive. Sequences include the "wedding flight" of the colony's virgin queen as it mates in mid-air with a drone; the life-and-death battle between two rival queens for the colony's throne; and the defeat and death of a thieving wasp at the entrance to the hive. The film also explores such mysteries as the famous "waggle dance" with which scout bees signal the exact direction and distance of nectar sources to the rest of the hive. A vivid picture emerges of the bee's highly organized social life, revolving around the disciplined sharing of construction tasks, the collection of nectar, and warding off enemies.
- *Colony: The Endangered World of Bees* (2011): Few people realize that honey bees pollinate one-third of our fruits and vegetables. In fact, these incredible insects play a vital role in producing our food and ensuring our survival. Investigated are the circumstances and the impacts of 'colony collapse disorder' with focus on beekeepers dealing with the crisis. As these families and individuals struggle to understand this lethal problem, they illuminate the devastating effects of bee extinction not just on bees, but on people.

- *Queen of the Sun – What are the Bees Telling Us?* (2010): What Are the Bees Telling Us? is a profound, alternative look at the global bee crisis from Taggart Siegel. Taking us on a journey through the catastrophic disappearance of bees and the mysterious world of the beehive, this engaging and ultimately uplifting film weaves an unusual and dramatic story of the heartfelt struggles of beekeepers, scientists and philosophers from around the world including Michael Pollan, Gunther Hauk and Vandana Shiva. Together they reveal both the problems and the solutions in renewing a culture in balance with nature.)
- *Vanishing of the Bees* (2009): The film examines our current agricultural landscape and celebrates the ancient and sacred connection between man and the honeybee. The story highlights the positive changes that have resulted due to the tragic phenomenon known as "Colony Collapse Disorder." To empower the audience, the documentary provides viewers with tangible solutions they can apply to their everyday lives. Vanishing of the Bees unfolds as a dramatic tale of science and mystery, illuminating this extraordinary crisis and its greater meaning about the relationship between humankind and Mother Earth. The bees have a message - but will we listen?

While some of these movies are not completely accurate on colony losses etc., they offer a good insight into the various struggles of beekeeping and what a lot of beekeepers thought was happening to the bees around 10 years ago. The reason why these movies are so important to be familiar with, though, is the fact that if someone is interested in bees and/or beekeeping, these would be the movies that they would find at the library. As beekeepers, we should always try to be aware of what people's misconceptions are or what "rumors" of beekeeping and bees they may have heard so we can help inform them better.

## Honey Plants



**Jo Patrick**

As we begin the holiday season, now is a good time to think about the beekeeper on your holiday shopping list. If you are the beekeeper in your household, I give you permission to drop hints, buy your own gift, or just come right out and ask for items on your honey bee wish list.

Sometimes you have to be proactive. The NEKBA auction, at the club's November meeting, is a good opportunity to pick up some great gifts for you or a loved one. There is always a large variety of items to bid on; honey bee related books, wooden ware, tools, homemade soaps and lotions, and hand sewn honey bee themed items. Some rare one-of-a-kind finds are usually available and will be auctioned off, too. It's also a good opportunity to donate items you no longer need to benefit the club's scholarship program.

If you, or a beekeeper, are interested in learning more about which plants your honey bees forage on, I have a few book recommendations that would make excellent gifts. Top of the list is *Garden Plants for Honey Bees* by Peter Lindtner. Lindtner is a horticulturist and beekeeper. *Garden Plants* is written in calendar form starting in February and ending in November. The plant material he focuses on is on a national level, so not all plants can be grown here. There are color pictures of each plant with information on nectar and pollen quality, plant characteristics and habitat, origins, and when warranted, a personal comment from Lindtner about the exceptional qualities of the plant. Lindtner also describes the color of the pollen produced so the beekeeper can determine pollen sources being gathered by their colonies. *Garden Plants for Honey Bees*, ISBN 978-1-878075-37-6, is available from Wicwas Press, [www.wicwas.com](http://www.wicwas.com), and from Bee Culture magazine, <http://store.beeculture.com/garden-plants-for-honey-bees>. NEKBA library has a copy of this book,

but it is an excellent reference book that you might want to have on your shelf.

Another easy-to-use reference book is *100 Plants to Feed the Bees, Provide a Healthy Habitat to Help Pollinators Thrive*, ISBN 978-1-61212-701-9. It is written by the Xerces Society. You probably know that the Xerces Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of invertebrates, which includes the honey bee. This wonderful paperback reference book lists nectar and pollen sources in alphabetical order by common name. Included on each plant page is a map of where you will find the plant's distribution, color pictures, information regarding which pollinators utilize that species, recommended varieties, and growing habitat. Plant materials covered in *100 Plants* are native wildflowers, native trees and shrubs, herbs and ornamentals, and bee pasture plants. This inexpensive book can be purchased online from the Xerces Society, <https://xerces.org/100-plants-to-feed-the-bees/>, Barnes and Noble, <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/100-plants-to-feed-the-bees-the-xerces-society>, or Amazon, <http://www.amazon.com/books/100-plants-to-feed-the-bees/>. Amazon is the least expensive source.

An in depth source for information on field and garden crops is *Insect Pollination of Cultivated Crop Plants* by S.E. McGregor, ISBN 978-0-9846915-0-0. This is a 1976 publication by the USDA. The best source for this paperback is <http://store.beeculture.com/insect-pollination-of-cultivated-crop-plants/>. McGregor has painstakingly researched agricultural crops and the pollination results of native and honey bees. The result is a large volume of timeless information on specific cultivated crop plants that encompasses alfalfa to zigzag clover. Each crop is described in great detail. Information includes the financial impact of honey bee pollination, the effectiveness of honey bees on each specific species, pollination agreements and services, wild bees, and wildflowers and ornamentals that are dependent on insect pollination. This is a must-have for those who move colonies for pollination services or want to take advantage of a nearby field crop.

For those who were present at the 2017 NEKBA Beginning Beekeeping class where Keith Delaplane was the key note speaker, you might want to get his book. Delaplane has co-authored a book named *Crop Pollination by Bees*. At the class I took the opportunity to ask him about his book. His recommendation was to stick with McGregor's work because his own book is out of print and if you can find *Crop Pollination by Bees*, you couldn't afford it. Delaplane expressed his admiration for McGregor and said that no one has equaled his work on agricultural crops.

I hope you find these suggestions useful. Whether you like a few nectar producing flowers in your yard or manage acres of crops, there is something to choose from. One thing I know, beekeepers love to watch honey bees working blooms on something that they have planted. It gives a great sense of satisfaction to the beekeeper.

I will close with a quote from Keith Delaplane. "The more you know, the more there is to know." Never stop learning. It will make you a better beekeeper.

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## All those beautiful beeswax cappings- now what do I do with them?

These are the steps we use to clean our wax. While it may seem primitive it does work. Beekeepers with one or two hives will unfortunately be disappointed at how little wax you'll get after you clean it. But your house will smell so wonderful. The aroma of beeswax is such a delight that it makes this chore an absolute joy to perform.

### Setting up your work area

The first step is to remember to protect the area you are working in from spills. Trust me, no matter how careful you intend to be you will spill wax. It is not easy to get out of your carpet. I suggest that you work in a warm garage or basement and that you purchase a hot plate rather than using your stove. Also, you'll need a large double boiler (one pan or large kettle that fits inside of another large kettle) these can be purchased at garage sales—don't even think of using your good soup or canning kettles because they will never be the same.

Never, ever do wax in your oven. Always

remember that the reason beeswax makes such good candles are because it is so flammable!

### Equipment

- Fire Extinguisher
- Double boiler or concealed element heater
  - Beeswax discolors from containers made of iron, brass, zinc, aluminum and copper
  - Beeswax should be processed in stainless steel, enamel pots or glass or tin.
  - Container with a pouring spout and a good handle

### ***Rinsing your cappings***

The first step in cleaning your cappings is to rinse them to get as much honey off as possible. Rinse your cappings in warm, not hot, water. This gets a lot of the honey out.

### ***Removing honey & large dirt***

Next add your cappings to a large pan, with water. Your first step is to bring your wax to a low boil in this water bath. Remember that beeswax is flammable, keep a fire extinguisher nearby and do not leave your wax unattended even for a minute—go to the bathroom before starting this section!

After your cappings have come to a low boil you can do one of two things.

1. You can pour the wax and water through a screen to catch any large pieces of gunk. Or you can:
2. Let the whole pan of water and wax cool in the pan. When the wax has solidified you can take it out of the pan and with your hive tool you can scrape off all of the debris that was in your wax. The wax will have risen to the top and the gunk will all be on the bottom of your wax cake.

### ***Final wax filtering***

After completing the above steps, you are ready for your final straining. We like to use sweatshirt material with the fuzzy side up. Remelt your wax using a double boiler like the one described above. This can be as simple as one pan setting inside of another pan (the bottom pan will have water in it). Wax should absolutely never be directly on the burner and should always be in a double boiler. This helps to keep it from burning down your home.

After your wax is remelted you are ready for the final straining. In another pan, (preferable one with a handle and spout) put your piece of sweatshirt material over the top of the pan. The

fuzzy side should be up on the sweatshirt material. The fuzzy part catches the small impurities that are in your wax. Hold it in place with a big heavy rubber band. Then pour your wax into this contraption. Your wax is now clean enough to make into candles, ornaments or beeswax blocks.

\*Alternately we have a new method for this step—I purchased 160 mesh silk screen material—that we have used over and over.

An alternate method of straining the wax for the final time is to take a strainer that fits over your pouring pot and line it with a good piece of paper towel, like bounty—do not use a cheap brand

#### **Scents and dyes**

If you are planning on coloring your wax it is best to use actual candle dyes. Crayon leaves a residue and your candle won't burn as well. Remember that you are starting with yellow wax so you have to think carefully about what colors you need. We have had a hard time getting a pretty blue because it always comes out greenish looking.

It is not a sin to scent your beeswax candles—though some beekeepers may frown on it—your customers may love it. Don't be afraid to experiment. Some scents blend beautifully with the beeswax aroma.

#### **Types of candles**

**Pour your candles in a warm room so they cool slowly and don't crack**

**Container:** this candle is actually burned in the container that it is poured into, i.e. a jar

**Molded:** plastic, metal molds, polyurethane, glass, plaster of Paris, silicone

**Dipped:** it is a process of building up layers of wax on a wick

#### **Wick**

**Wick is determined by the diameter of the candle**

- **For container candles**—you'll need to experiment but for a 190-ml hex jar at #3 or #4 wick works well
- **For molded candles** the wick is determined by the diameter of the candle
- For dipped or taper beeswax candles 2/0 or 1/0 wick works best, square braid
- For fatter candles like the beehive skip a wick or a candle of 2 or more inches use 60 ply works best

#### **Pouring Candles**

After you have the wick in your molds you'll want to pour your beeswax. It is generally the right temperature if it has been in a double boiler so about 165°F. After you pour your candle the wax will settle around the wick and cause a void. You'll want to refill when this happens while the wax in the mold is still molten so that it will adhere. When the wax had completely cooled you can remove it from the mold.

#### **Dipping Candles**

When dipping candles, you need a lot of wax! As you continue to dip, your wax level will go down so you need to have enough wax so that your wax level can stay the same so that you 'll have a great looking candle.

#### **Finishing your candles**

Trim the wick to about ½-¾ of an inch

Trim the bottom with a knife and then heat a pie pan and hold your candle on the hot pie pan to level it out—if doing a lot of candles, you'll have to keep wiping the wax out of the bottom of the pan Alternately you could use a knife that has been heated to smooth out the bottom of the candle

#### **Bloom**

Beeswax which has been stored in a cool place can develop a dusty appearance called bloom. Bloom does not ruin the wax and is a natural phenomenon. To remove the bloom, you can take a soft cloth, like a nylon stocking, and rub the candle until the bloom disappears or you can use a hair dryer. The heat from the hair dryer also removes the bloom.

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**Renew Your membership as soon as possible!**



Available at our November Auction-will make either a great freezer, hot box or creamed honey refrigerator-**bring a truck to take one home!**



## **Mentoring Program for Future Mentors Soon**

This wonderful association has so many volunteer opportunities that we think that we need to have a mentoring class for, well, new mentors! With our youth scholarship program and now our new Military/Veteran Apprenticeship program we are in need of a great deal more mentors. This won't be a beekeeping class but will be a presentation to search out new mentors. We are looking for people who are "classic beekeepers" or those that use Langstroth hives. They also must have been keeping bees for at least 3 years. We would like to talk to you and let you know what your responsibilities would be as a mentor. The workshop will be sometime in January so please

think about if this is something that you think you would like to do.

Watch next month's Buzzer for further details.

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### **Election either November 20 or December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Our November meeting is usually our annual meeting. But because we have moved the auction to November we may hold the election at the December meeting –the auction offers a pretty full evening! President Steve Messbarger will decide before the meeting-but I had to print this to comply with the Bylaws. This year beside having our election we also would like to add another officer to the board. Over the past several years the board has discussed adding another element to our association. While we are still working out the final details we would like to add the office of "Military Apprenticeship Liaison". Before we can do this, we must add the new officer to our constitution-Article 7. The wording is below-all we are adding are the words "Military Apprenticeship Liaison" (highlighted and underlined below).

#### **ARTICLE 7**

(a) The officers of this organization shall consist of: President; 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Vice-Presidents; Secretary; Treasurer; Editor and Program Chairman, **Military Apprenticeship Liaison** and shall hold regular semi-annual meeting, held during the months of January and October, or as often as called. Either the President or Secretary of the organization may call executive meetings.

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### **Officers for 2018**

President: Steve Messbarger

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Scholarship Chair): Terry Collins

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Librarian): Gayan Stanley

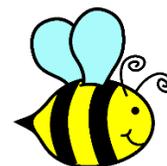
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President (Honey Plants): Jo Patrick

Secretary: Marlene Pantos

Treasurer: Robert Burns

Program Chairperson: Chad Gilliland

Military Apprenticeship Liaison: Andy Nowachek



# NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the newsletter, *The Buzzer*, by email Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Northeastern KS Beekeepers per year \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
\$15.00 (Jan-Dec)

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Membership for Kansas Honey Producers Assn. \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

American Bee Journal 1 year \$24.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Youth Scholarship & Military Apprenticeship Donation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: NEKBA or Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Assn.**

Mail To: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54<sup>th</sup> Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 913-481-3504 email [rburnshoney@gmail.com](mailto:rburnshoney@gmail.com)

**Now you can pay online at [nekba.org](http://nekba.org)**

## HEARTLAND HONEY & BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies including woodenware, smokers, extractors, books, queens, package bees and containers. For your convenience please call in advance to schedule an appt. Joli Winer/Cecil Sweeney, Heartland Honey and Beekeeping Supplies, 19201 S Clare Rd. Spring Hill KS 66083. (913) 856-8356. [joli@heartlandhoney.com](mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com)

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### FISHER'S BEE SUPPLIES

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies. See us for your 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: 9:00am - 5:00pm Monday - Friday and Saturday after 8:30am. You should call before you come to make sure we are here. ED FISHER 4005 N.E. 132nd Street, Smithville MO 64089 816-532-4698

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### DRAPER'S SUPER BEE

We offer fast and courteous service to all beekeepers. We only sell containers, pollen and honey for those who run short. Order is shipped the same day as received in most cases. Free catalog available on request. Pick up orders at our warehouse must be pre-ordered and picked up by appt only. Business Hours: Mon.-Thur. 8-5; closed from 12-1. Brenda and Larry Draper, DRAPER'S SUPER BEE; 914 S St. Auburn NE 68305 PHONE: (402) 274-3725.

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### 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, lola KS 66749. Call: 620-365-5956 after 8:00 p.m.

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### JORDY'S HONEY

We carry a full line of beekeeping supplies. Bee Hives, Supers, Frames, Foundation, Honey Containers, Smokers, Beekeeping Books, Queens, Packaged Bees and much more. Our hours are 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday-Friday and weekends by appointment. Please call in advance so we can have your supplies ready when you arrive. Robert Hughes, 12333 Wedd Street, Overland Park, KS 66213 PHONE: 913-681-5777

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### NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the newsletter, *The Buzzer*, by email Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Northeastern KS Beekeepers per year (July.-Dec. \$7.50) \$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 \_\_\_\_\_

Membership for Kansas Honey Producers Assn. \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

American Bee Journal 1 year \$24.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Bee Culture Magazine 1 year \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarship Donation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: NEKBA or Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Assn.**

Mail To: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54<sup>th</sup> Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 913-481-3504 email

[rburnshoney@gmail.com](mailto:rburnshoney@gmail.com)

**Now you can pay online at [nekba.org](http://nekba.org)**

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association  
Robert Burns, Treasurer  
7601 W 54<sup>th</sup> Terr  
Shawnee Mission KS 66202

## Address Service Requested

**Meeting & Auction**  
**Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> 2017**

### ***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 months of January and July. 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 to find out if the meeting will be held.

#### **2017 Officers**

President: Steve Messbarger, 9802 S Burr Oak Circle, De Soto KS 66018 [Smessbarger55@gmail.com](mailto:Smessbarger55@gmail.com) 913-226-2849  
1st VP: (youth scholarship) Christy Milroy, 23840 W 207, Spring Hill KS 66083 [Christy.D.Milroy@sprint.com](mailto:Christy.D.Milroy@sprint.com) 913-707-2003  
2nd VP (Librarian): Gayan Stanley, 1988 E 1st Rd., Lecompton, KS 66050 [gayanski@aol.com](mailto:gayanski@aol.com) 785-865-7315  
3rd VP (Honey Plants): Jo Patrick, 611 E Sheridan, Olathe KS 66061 [brian-patrick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brian-patrick@sbcglobal.net) 913-645-8947  
Secretary: Marlene Pantos, 2920 Stubbs Rd., Tecumseh KS 66542 [MarlenePantos@yahoo.com](mailto:MarlenePantos@yahoo.com) 785-633-6283  
Treasurer: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54<sup>th</sup> Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 [rburnshoney@gmail.com](mailto:rburnshoney@gmail.com) 913-481-3504  
Program Chair: Chad Gilliland, 23338 Kissinger Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66028 [nexttonaturefarm@gmail.com](mailto:nexttonaturefarm@gmail.com) 785 491-1978  
Editor: Joli Winer, 19201 S. Clare Rd. Spring Hill KS 66083 [joli@heartlandhoney.com](mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com) 913-856-8356  
Webmaster: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54<sup>th</sup> Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 [rburnshoney@gmail.com](mailto:rburnshoney@gmail.com) 913-481-3504

**Visit our Website at NEKBA.org**