



Good Beekeeping



Good Fellowship



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The Bee Buzzer

Monthly Publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

VOLUME 76, NUMBER 11

EDITOR: TIM MARSHALL

November 2024

General Meeting

Monday, November 18th, 2024 (7:00 p.m.)

Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg. 21N

2110 Harper St., Lawrence KS

Main Program: Preparing your Bees for Winter! Robert Burns will be presenting this month and is a local beekeeper with hives over a range of the KC area. This is a great opportunity based on his experience in beekeeping as well as his great local knowledge. If you keep bees in or around KC, he probably knows the trend of your specific area in the city.

Beelines

By President Cheryl Burkhead

It's always great to hear our scholarship recipients talk about their first year in beekeeping. We had several presenters at our October meeting, and they all did a great job. November's program will feature several more scholarship students and I look forward to hearing about their experiences. Thank you to all our mentors who give of their time and to our club members for their support in our education efforts.

November is election time. We have several officer positions up for election. We will also take nominations from the floor. Positions up for election and candidates

are:

- Secretary – Elaine Ellenz (incumbent)
- Military/Veteran Chair – Buck Bradley (incumbent)
- Youth Scholarship Chair – Jon Chitwood
- Special Events (Education Coordinator) – Kristi Sanderson (incumbent)

Please plan to attend our November 18 gathering and meet with your 2025 officers. I would like to thank Dale Spurlin for his time and energy these past two years with our youth scholars. He got them off on the right foot by pairing them with the best mentors and arranging group assembly of the necessary equipment and procurement of bees. I appreciate all of your hard work for the program.

Monday, November 11 is Veteran's Day. I would like to thank all of our veterans for their service and their sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy.

We've had a long and record-breaking warm spell this fall. There's no excuse for not attending to those hives and getting the bees up to weight for winter and mite counts under threshold. Temperatures look to return to a more seasonable pattern and I'm hopeful for some much-needed rain.



2024 Meeting Dates:

- Nov 18th, Monthly Meeting at Fairgrounds (Election of Officers)
- Dec 16th, Monthly Meeting at Fairgrounds

2025 Meeting Dates:

- Jan 11th, Year 2 & Beyond Class at Fairgrounds
- Jan 20th, Monthly Meeting via Zoom
- Feb 17th, Monthly Meeting at Fairgrounds
- March 17th, Monthly Meeting at Fairgrounds
- Feb 15th, March 1st, or March 15th - Beginning Beekeeping Classes –pencil in the dates



O! Bee Gal



It's clean up time. No matter what you have used for mite treatments throughout the year, you can significantly improve your hive's chances of surviving the winter. A single dose of Oxalic Acid (OA), applied as a vapor, dribble, or even a spray will have a tremendously high effect on eradicating your mites NOW. Why? You have very little brood in your hive. For all the power of OA killing the mites, it will not penetrate the capping of the brood cells. Less brood means more mites per bee in the cells. As we have little or no

brood, the mites are forced to remain on the bees. They will remain on the bees all winter and then begin to multiply again as our bee populations grow next spring. So, KILL THEM NOW!

Oxalic Acid is even considered an "organic" treatment. This naturally occurring acid is found in spinach, rhubarb, and kale. In the vegetables, the concentration is much, much less than the Oxalic Acid we use for mite treatment. You can find OA crystals in the paint department of the hardware store. It's sold as wood bleach. It is also sold by bee suppliers now and labeled for use in bee hives. (And, of course, on Amazon.)

Steve and I have used the OA dribble as a final treatment in November for many years. We prefer the dribble method because it is easy and cheap. The efficacy difference between the 3 methods is miniscule. Different studies have rated them with less than a 3% difference (that's the measure of something scientifically significant). So, you choose. (I have not had much experience with vaporization, so I'll let someone else talk about those specifications.) To do the dribble, you need a good scale that will measure grams (10ths of a gram is better). Sugar and soft water. If you have hard water, buy a jug of distilled water—you won't need much. The recipe we use:

500 grams of sugar, 500 grams of water = 1 liter of syrup, 35 grams of OA

Add HOT water to a non-reactive container (stainless steel or Pyrex). Add OA crystals and stir to dissolve. Make sure to completely dissolve the OA before adding the sugar. Add the sugar. This will give you 1 liter (a little more) of OA solution. This may be more solution than you need for just a couple hives, but it is such an inexpensive treatment, you aren't wasting much.

We choose a day with a loose cluster but hopefully most of the bees inside the hive. Our preferred temp is between 45- and 50-degrees F. You're going to dribble 5 ml of solution between each frame with bees. A cattle syringe works well for this and is available from Tractor Supply or another farm store. You will apply no more than 50 ml of OA solution per hive—that's 10 frames of bees. If you have more than that number of bees in your colony, treat where most of the bees are clustered. The solution must get on the bees. Solution splashed on the woodenware will be ignored. Solution on the bees will be licked and groomed off with the mites.

Spray option: Get a new/clean spray bottle. Fill with OA solution above. Use your syringe and spray a stream from the spray bottle into the barrel of the syringe. How much did your spray distribute in one pump? Pump it 5 times. Most sprayers we've tested will spray about 5ml in about 5 pumps. You want your sprayer set to distribute a stream not a mist. It's easy to lift the top brood box and apply 5 squirts from the spray bottle to each seam of bees. I highly recommend a helper for this job...one person to wrangle the bee hive and another person to apply the OA syrup. Oxalic Acid is not without dangers—it is a strong natural acid. READ AND FOLLOW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE. If you splash it on your skin, wash promptly. Wear goggles. Wear protective gloves. DO NOT inhale the mist. Although precautions are needed, this is considered a safer method of treating than the sublimation/vaporization. For all things OA related, see: www.ScientificBeekeeping.com. Randy Oliver has made this his life's work and continues to bring us new and updated information.

Steve and I have used this method of final mite treatment for MANY years. Dr. Marion Ellis used it in his labs and passed it along to his students. When applied correctly, we do not see mites on drone brood in our colonies until late June or July. It is very effective.

Disclaimer: this is a repeat of an article I wrote in 2021. I wanted to write again about this topic because we have heard from many beekeepers that their usual mite treatments had poor efficacy. Whatever mite treatment you employ, I strongly recommend this year-end application. **Becky Tipton**

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[Bee Culture Magazine \(link\)](#) [American Bee Journal \(link\)](#)

Use the links to subscribe directly...annual subscription rates under \$6 per month for both! This is fantastic information right at your fingertips. As part of your beekeeping experience, it's important to be up to date with the trends in bee biology, honey processing, the industry, and much more!

ASK QUINBY & REMI



Dear Quinby and Remi: This warm weather seems to be a blessing and a curse- what should I be doing for my bees?

Quinby and Remi answer: The blessing part is that it has been warm enough to feed your bees sugar syrup. This is so much better than using those sugar cakes. Way better. To mix up your sugar syrup you want 2 parts sugar to 1 part water, by weight. This translates to a 4 lb. bag of sugar to a quart (2 lbs.) of hot water. Get that feed on now so that the bees can get it stored for later use. The curse is that with the warmer weather, the bees are not clustered and are therefore more active and eating more honey which should be their "winter stores".

Dear Quinby and Remi: What can I do over the winter to help my bees?

Quinby and Remi answer: Attend a beekeeping meeting! Attend a beekeeping class! The Kansas Honey Producers meeting was in Salina this past weekend. They'll be another next Spring! Go to www.kansashoneyproducers.org for more information. Go to a National meeting- the American Beekeeping Federation in Reno or the North American Honey Bee Expo in Louisville KY. Better yet sign up for our NEKBA beekeeping classes! Even if you have taken our beginning class before, take it again. It will make so much more sense this year- you'll have a better idea what we are talking about. Also, attend our Year Two beekeeping classes. Kristi has a great program in the works. We are offering our Year One class in several locations this year! - Lawrence at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, The Johnson County Extension office in Olathe, and the Wyandotte County Extension office in KCKS!

Dear Quinby and Remi: The holidays are coming up and I'd love to make a few gifts with my honey—do you have any ideas?

Quinby and Remi answer: The following information is from the National Honey Board Website.

When substituting honey for granulated sugar in recipes, begin by substituting honey for up to half of the sugar called for in the recipe. For baked goods, make sure to reduce the oven temperature by 25°F to prevent overbrowning; reduce any liquid called for by 1/4 cup for each cup of honey used and add 1/2 teaspoon baking soda for each cup of honey used. Because of its high fructose content, honey has higher sweetening power than sugar. This means you can use less honey than sugar to achieve the desired sweetness.

These are a few extremely easy ideas.

Honey and Pecans: Take a jar and fill it at least half way full of local pecans, then fill the jar with honey. This easy gift is great on ice cream or pancakes.

Vanilla Honey: For this simple recipe you can make a large batch (like a gallon or half gallon) or by the jar. While vanilla beans are awfully expensive, vanilla and honey make a great combination.

Vanilla Infused

1 gallon honey, 12 vanilla beans (I liked the Mexican) cut the vanilla beans up in smaller pieces and add to honey. Put in hot box on about 115-120° or a warm sunny area for at least 48 hours - 1 week

Strain through a sieve to keep the vanilla pieces out of the jars—I used the vanilla beans over 3 times and the taste was still very good! If you only want to make a few jars you can cut a vanilla bean in thirds or fourth's and put a piece in a jar with honey and keep it in a warm place for several weeks.

Cinnamon Infused Honey: Kristi's dog, Roxie gave us this recipe. In a honey bear or a jar put 3 cinnamon sticks and add honey! Keep this in a warm place for several weeks.

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



The NEKBA Beeyard

The bee yard won't have any more open events this year, but next Spring events will start up again. Great opportunity to see how hives get first checks, package installation, nuc installation, as well as ask questions!

Tips for November

- Certain hive locations be careful how you get there, things can get slippery outside this time of year.
- Feed and treat for mites as needed, OA vapor or dribble will be popular choices this time of year.
- Double check your mouse guards, hives feeling stable and secure for winter winds.
- Check how gear is stored, mice and other creatures can get into storage areas as well.
- Besides your bees, be sure to get your winter gear ready!
- 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 need to use chemicals to protect the comb. Do not store supers in plastic bags as this can be an incubator for the wax moth.

- 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. so, if the bees need that honey they can move up, but the queen can't. They will leave her behind.



Honey Plants

In Northeast Kansas our nectar and pollen sources are done for the year. Next year's blooms will begin in late February or early March. During late summer, our bees collected pollen and stored it in cells and on brood frames in anticipation of the queen beginning to lay again in January. Honey bees prefer fresh pollen, if available, but need the stored pollen to feed the early larvae when the queen begins laying eggs again. After the first of the year, some beekeepers may observe bees at bird feeders collecting the cracked corn dust. Some may see honey bees packing sawdust in their pollen baskets. They will collect anything that resembles pollen. Honey bees are not as fussy about pollen as compared to nectar quality.

Have you heard the phrase "Keystone Species"? A Keystone Species can be anything that holds an ecosystem together. Recently, I have read this term used in reference to specific plants that provide critical food for pollinators in some stage of their lifecycle. Sunflowers are an example of a Keystone Species. Without Keystone Species, we would see a decline or elimination of certain insect species. Fortunately, honey bees are much more diverse in their food choices. I think it is only natural that people who become beekeepers also become aware of the larger insect world as well.

The Kansas City area is in two different ecoregions, the Great Plains and Eastern Temperate Forests. There are several Keystone Species we can add to our landscape that will feed both honey bees and the caterpillars of various other pollinators. Those caterpillars may be food for newly hatched birds or become butterflies and moths. According to a local group, Deep Roots KC, a few trees that flourish in our area and are Keystone Species are: the American Plum and the Chokecherry. These two trees happen to be minor nectar sources for honey bees. The American Plum blooms in March-April, grows to a height of 15-25 ft and 15-25 ft wide. The Chokecherry typically blooms about mid-May, reaches heights of up to 30 ft and can spread to 20 ft. Both trees are native, tolerate average to dry soil, and like full sun. They support hundreds of caterpillar species. Birds will eat the fruit of the Chokecherry. Both Chokecherry and American Plum fruit are used in making jams and jellies.

There are many fruit trees that also provide food for honey bees, other pollinators, and humans. Members of the Prunus family offer a lot of the wildlife support in our area. Honey bees eagerly collect nectar and pollen from sweet cherries, black cherries, plum, apricot, and peach trees. These trees are great food sources that bloom before the main nectar flow when colony numbers need to build up.

Many years ago, I had a horticultural instructor that repeatedly said you can plant a tree or shrub anytime you can get a shovel in the ground. Since that time, I have learned that fall is the optimal season for planting. Over the winter months, roots from fall plantings grow so that they are ready to support the tree's top growth in the spring. If you want to add floral sources for your honey bees, it is not too late in the year. I have had great success with black locust trees planted the day before Thanksgiving. **Jo Patrick, Honey Plants Chairman**



BEGINNING BEEKEEPING CLASS DATES for 2025

Dates are set for beginning beekeeping classes so mark your calendar and invite prospective beekeepers. This year we are mixing things up and trying new ideas. To reach different areas of Northeastern Kansas, one of the new ideas is to have the beginning course one day in 3 different locations on 3 different dates. Beginning class dates are February 15 in Lawrence on the Douglas County fairgrounds in the Flory building, March 1 in Kansas City, Kansas near the Legends at the Wyandotte County Extension Office, and March 15 at the Johnson County extension office in Olathe. The Year 2 and Beyond class will be held January 11 in Lawrence at the Douglas County fairground in the Flory building. The committee is working on schedules so watch the newsletter and website for more details.

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers 2025 Beekeeping Classes

Advanced Beekeeping Year 2 & Beyond-January 11 Douglas County Fairgrounds, Flory Bldg., Lawrence KS

One of three options for a beginning bee class:

Beginning Beekeeping Year 1 Douglas County Fairgrounds, Flory Bldg., February 15, Lawrence

Beginning Beekeeping Year 1 Wyandotte County Extension Office, March 1, 1216 N 79th, KCKS

Beginning Beekeeping Year 1 Johnson County Extension Office, March 15, 11811 S Sunset, Olathe

These in person beekeeping classes will soon be on our website so you can register. www.nekba.org. Find a class near you. They are all 1-day classes.



Soap Making Classes – Make and Take.

Learn how to make Cold Process Soap with Joli Winer from Heartland Honey. Joli has been making soaps for more than 15 years. She will demonstrate how to safely make soap, plus talk about ingredients and where to get them. She will also demonstrate how to make lotion bars and lip balms.

Each participant will make a 2 lb. batch of soap to take with them, plus receive a lotion bar and a lip balm. They will also get a copy of the recipes. The cost is \$50 per person. There will be 3 sessions to choose from. Classes are offered on Sunday, November 17th from 10-12 (**Sold Out**) or December 15th from 9:00-11:00 or 12:30-2:30. Light refreshments will be provided during class. The class will be held at the Gieringer Family Orchard and Berry Farm in the Blue Barn at 39345 W 183rd St., Edgerton, KS 66021. Questions? You can call Joli at +1(913) 593-3562. Register for the class: <https://goberryfarm.square.site/s/shop>

Membership Renewal. It's that time again. Please consider renewing your membership today at <http://www.nekba.org> via PayPal or by mail or at the meeting. Your membership includes the monthly electronic subscription to the Buzzer newsletter. Many thanks for your support. We are at 530 members for 2024. *"If you care about us, as we care about you, you'll make no delay and send in your dues- We try awful hard; we work without pay- To help you keep bees, in a practical way. Your continued support, will help us grow. The Editor and staff- thought you'd like to know."*



Have you heard about the Hap-bee Hour ?

Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program is excited to host our Monthly Hap-Bee Hour Online Discussion Forum and Gathering. We have a variety of speakers that discuss topics related to seasonal beekeeping concerns.

Register in advance for this meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Last Date of 2024 will be December 13. 5:30 – 7:00pm CST via Zoom.

Bring questions that you would like answered. There will also be time for open floor discussion. As always, bring yourselves, your friends, and your beverages! We will *bee* seeing you all soon! Register [here!](#)



The Honey Pot

Easiest Ever Honey Chocolate Cake

- 1/2 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup butter & 1 TBSP butter
- 4 eggs
- 1/3 cup honey
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup cocoa powder
- 1 1/2 cup flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-inch spring form pan and line the bottom with parchment paper. In a larger microwave safe bowl combine the chocolate and butter and microwave in 30 second bursts (stirring in between) until melted. This should take 90-120 seconds. Whisk in the eggs, one at a time, until fully combined. Add the honey, milk, sugar and whisk well. Sift in the cocoa powder, flour, baking powder, and baking soda and stir until just combined.

Pour into the prepared baking pan and bake for 45-50 minutes. Let it cool in the pan for 15 minutes before removing the sides and allowing the cake to cool completely on wire rack. **Emma Ingram Recipes (a recipe from the Iowa Honey Producers Assoc, Nov2022)**

Emma's Notes: Although the flavor was lovely, I have one major drawback to note for this recipe, the primary sweetener was NOT honey! I really enjoyed getting to use the spring form pan as it made it easy serve and gave the cake a nice presentation. The cake took longer to bake than expected and I had a hard time getting the center done without over baking the edges. Part of the cake ended up being very dry while other parts were still a little under baked. If I make it again, I will probably reduce the oven temperature to 325 and increase the baking time to one hour - hopefully that will encourage the cake to dry out less and the center to get done.

NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2024 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
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I would like to receive the newsletter, *The Buzzer*, by email Yes _____ No _____

Membership Northeastern KS Beekeepers per year (July-Dec. \$12.50)	\$25.00	_____
Additional family members wanting voting rights \$1.00 per person	\$1.00	_____
Additional family member's name _____ (Youth Membership (18 years of age or under)	\$12.50	_____
Membership for Kansas Honey Producers Association	\$25.00	_____
American Bee Journal (discounted rate through association)	1 year \$29.75	_____
Bee Culture Magazine (or subscribe online at www.BeeCulture.com)	1 year \$34.00	_____
Scholarship / Military/Veteran's Appr. Donation		_____
	Total	_____

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

Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission, KS 66202 ph. 913-481-3504, rburnshoney@gmail.com

You may join, re-new, register, donate and pay online at www.nekba.org

MENTORING-SWEET PRAIRIE HONEY

Need help with your hives? -Spring inspections, installing packages, making splits, queen evaluation, diagnosis of pests and diseases, mite monitoring and treatment, etc. I can help you with your beekeeping needs! I am a certified master beekeeper with 30+ years of beekeeping experience. I will leave you with a written course of action after our session at your hives. Call or text 913-768-4961 or email Kristi Sanderson at sandersonk09@gmail.com for pricing and appointment times.

BEEKEEPERS.COM

Beekeepers.com (Jordy's Honey Company) in Lenexa, KS. Beekeepers.com is your only local full-service beekeeping store. We carry a full line of Beekeeping Supplies, Protective Clothing, Bottles, Bee Packages, Nucs and Queens. Visit our website Beekeepers.com, to view our entire line of beekeeping supplies. You can also shop in-person at our store in Lenexa. We ship queens directly to YOU! Order at QueenBees.com. Queens available March - October. Our hours are Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00, Saturday 9:00-12:00. You can find our honey at The Overland Park Farmers Market. **Robert Hughes**, 14054 W 107th St, Lenexa, KS 66215, 913-681-5777 or email Info@Beekeepers.com

COTTIN'S HARDWARE & RENTAL

Cottin's stocks a full line of beekeeping equipment year-round including items manufactured by Harvest Lane Honey, Little Giant, and Bug Baffler. Products include hives, supers, frames, foundations, extractors, tools, and protective apparel. We also stock a full line of Home Brewing Mead Making supplies. Located in Lawrence, KS at 1832 Massachusetts Street (South of Dillon's). We are open Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 6:00 pm, Saturday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Sunday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. You can follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Call us at 785-843-2981 or email us at hardware@sunflower.com.

CB'S HONEY

CB's Honey offers pure raw Kansas honey available in 5 gal buckets. Grafted queens and queen cells, and a limited number of packages. [CB's Honey | Facebook](#). Located just SE of Topeka. 4521 SE 61st Street, Berryton, KS 66409. Call or text Cheryl Burkhead at 785-224-9077 or cherylbhoney@gmail.com

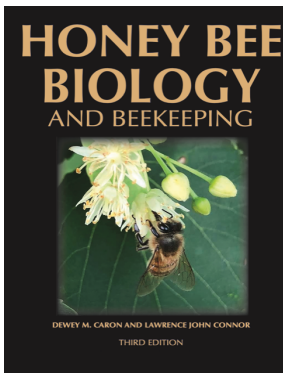
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Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping, Third Edition, Dewey M. Caron and Lawrence John Connor,



\$90 postage included. *This book should stay on the dashboard of every beekeeper's truck. It's that good, and that necessary.* Kim Flottum, *Bee Culture*. This comprehensive textbook easily replaces many beginner books while adding comprehensive details of bee biology essential to becoming a successful beekeeper and student of the honey bee. First released in 1999, *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping* is widely accepted as a major textbook of Apiculture (beekeeping). Beekeepers and bee clubs use it to teach other beekeepers. Universities use it to teach college students bee biology and beekeeping. It concentrates on the 'why', 'how' and 'when' of beekeeping. It explains bee and beekeeping basics in a manner meaningful to people who lack an extensive

background in biology. Yet it is not over-simplified and provides a meaningful source of beekeeping information for the informed beekeeper. The Third Edition has been carefully edited, updated and expanded to 480 pages. New chapters have been added, as have colorful new graphics and photographs. The Glossary has also been expanded. **Wicwas Press LLC Kalamazoo, MI 49001 -** www.wicwas.com

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Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association
Robert Burns, Treasurer
7601 W 54th Terr
Shawnee Mission, KS 66202-1129

Address Service Requested

Meeting

Monday, Nov 18th, 2024 - Fairgrounds

The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

Membership is open to anyone interested in bees or bee culture. Dues are \$25.00 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 \$12.50 for ½ year. Additional members of a family wanting voting privileges shall be assessed dues at \$1.00 per year. Youth memberships (18 years of age and younger) are \$12.50 per year. Please submit new memberships and renewals to the treasurer or on-line at www.nekba.org.

The Bee Buzzer is the official publication of the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association, Inc. and is published monthly. Commercial ads are accepted in the newsletter for a fee; non-commercial ads by paid members are accepted & are free.

The library of the association is free to all members. Books may be checked out at the meetings and kept for a period of 30 days. The bee publications, *The American Bee Journal* and *Bee Culture* can be subscribed to through the treasurer or on-line. The *American Bee Journal* is offered at a discount through the Association only.

The Association meets each month, generally on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. except during the months of January and July. This is a non-profit organization; elected officers serve without pay. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings. Check *The Bee Buzzer* or website at www.nekba.org each month for the actual date, time, and location. If the weather is bad, call an officer or check the website to find out if the meeting will be held or cancelled.

2024 Officers

President: Cheryl Burkhead , 4521 SE 61st St., Berryton, KS 66409 cbfritz@aol.com	785-224-9077
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