

*Since 1948 Exploring the wonderful world of beekeeping together*

## The Bee Buzzer

*Monthly publication of the*

### Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

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EDITOR: CHERYL BURKHEAD

June 2021

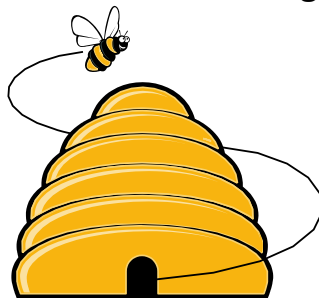
#### General Meeting Monday, June 21, 2021 (7 p.m.) Join Us in Person!



We are planning to meet outside at the Pollinator Prairie Garden in Olathe, which is located at 320 S Blake Street. This meeting will start at 6:30pm. We are asking that you bring your own sack supper, beverage, and favorite lawn chair. The club is providing honey ice cream that will be packaged in individual serving cups. We have Dr. Chip Taylor, Professor Emeritus Dept of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at KU as well as the founder of Monarch Watch, Sami Aaron an Extension Master Naturalist, and Jo Patrick, Master Beekeeper-in-training. Join us for this evening of fun together outside.

#### Beelines

By President Ed Darlington



This may be a little late, as most of us have gotten very busy with plans and equipment; trying

to stay ahead of our bees' needs.

That being said, it is still useful to go through the exercise I call "shuffling the deck". I think about every task, the timing of what I did in the past season, and try to put it in one of three categories; A] Absolutely do not repeat, B] not sure of the benefit, and may need to modify either timing or effort required, or C] Need to remember and do exactly like you did in the past.

I look forward to our June monthly meeting which is planned as an outdoor gathering. Kristi Sanderson has arranged our June 21 meeting to be at the Pollinator Prairie Garden in Olathe. Don't forget your lawn chair and bring a brown bag supper/drink, if you so desire. The club will provide some honey ice cream in individual serving cups.

Very shortly we will begin the process of reviewing the board positions of those who will be completing their term at the end of the year, or those, if any, who wish to end their term early. If you have any interest in serving on our board, please contact me so we can include you in our search.



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

- June 21, 2021- In person meeting at the Pollinator Project Garden in Olathe. This is an outdoor event with lots of space for everyone to social distance. \*\*\*
- July 5, 2021 (Let's Talk Bees Q & A)

- July 12, 2021
- August 2, 2021 (Let's Talk Bees Q & A)
- August 16, 2021

## Thank You to Funday 2021 Contributors

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Funday a success. This year all presentations were recorded, except for Dr. Tsuruda's. Registrants will receive a link so that they can watch all the recordings at their leisure. Although Funday 2021 is over, people can still register and have access to the recordings. Go to [www.nekba.org](http://www.nekba.org) for registration information.

I would like to thank all guest speakers. Many of them were local and deserve special recognition: Kristi Sanderson, Matthew Brandes, Nikki Bowman, Jeff Shouse, Joanna Will, Henry Long and Patty Ragsdale. Our national speakers were Elina Niño, from UC Davis, Jennifer Tsuruda, from the University of Tennessee, Judy Wu-Smart from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, well known author Jim Tew, Autumn Smart from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Colorado business woman Beth Conrey, and Virginia Allen our National Honey Princess.

Planning an event such as Funday takes a team. A big thank you to the committee that made this year's Funday a success. Those on the planning committee were Robert Burns, Kristi Sanderson, Joli Winer, Dixie Spurlin, Susan Lane, Becky Tipton, Cheryl Burkhead, and Matthew Brandes. Thank you, Dale Spurlin, for being a session monitor. Robert Burns certainly went above and beyond dealing with the technical side for us. We really appreciate his hard work and expertise. Thank you to Steve Harmon for making the recordings of the breakout sessions possible.

I would also like to thank those who donated and bid on items for the online auction. There were many unique one-of-a-kind offerings. Those hand embroidered tea towels are amazing!

We are always looking for fresh faces and ideas to plan future Fundays. If you would like to get involved, just let us know! Thanks again.

**Jo Patrick, Funday Coordinator**

### **Additional Material from Funday**

Funday speakers, Jeff Shouse and the American

Honey Princess Virginia Allen have provided handouts that accompanied their presentations. Those recipes can be accessed by going to our club's home webpage, [www.nekba.org](http://www.nekba.org). Click on the links that are located near the Kansas Beekeeping Calendar. Jeff commented that the Hibiscus and Lime version of his easy mead recipe was exceptionally good! The recipe for Joanna Will's Frankincense Antiwrinkle Cream can be found at <https://www.motherearthliving.com/health-and-wellness/homemade-frankincense-cream-zm0z17ndz fis>



### **Ol' Bee Gal**

Today was the NEKBA Funday. Our speakers were EXCELLENT...some hi-lights and thoughtful considerations follow. First, congratulations to Jo Patrick, the chairperson for our Funday committee. You made Funday a success in less-than-optimal circumstances. There are more details to consider than nearly anyone can even guess and you handled everything so well. I know you have a committee to help you out but, as chair, it's always up to you to make sure it gets done. The club owes you a huge THANK YOU! Another huge thank you goes to Robert Burns, the Zoom wizard. This whole virtual meeting thing has had a steep learning curve and you and John Edmonds have helped us bring beekeeping info into our homes. We have not been without stumbles but every challenge has been met and we move on. Great job!

I have never been to a bee meeting that I didn't learn something (sometimes it's not about bees but that's another story). Jennifer Tsuruda talked about survive and thrive and taking responsibility for our bees. This was not a live-and-let-die approach to beekeeping. Jennifer's no-nonsense methodology just makes sense. Her photography is marvelous. She had a picture of some burr comb on the top bar of a frame. And nestled in the grooves of the burr comb were small hive beetle

eggs! Jennifer's point was, see this and take care of it. Get them out of your hive! I HAVE NEVER SEEN SMALL HIVE BEETLE EGGS BEFORE! We rarely see more than a couple beetles in any hive. The eggs were so small that I am sure I might have overlooked them...now I know!

Beth Conrey challenged us all to think of ways to expand our business. She was talking about retirement for herself and her husband and leaving the honey empire she has built in western Colorado. Some of us take up beekeeping as a "retirement job." Think about what you like best in beekeeping and make that your focus. If your favorite part is harvesting honey, get more hives. If your favorite part is selling the honey, team with other area beekeepers and sell their honey under your label. You offer them a premium wholesale price; they get to do what they love and you do what you love. If your favorite part is growing bees, there is a huge market for starter colonies. Do what you love because you will always do your best work.

Several of our speakers brought home the point that to be a good beekeeper, you have to understand the bees. One of my favorite aphorisms is, Bee-havers know how, beekeepers know why. Dr. Judy Wu and Dr. Autumn Smart both focused on why the bees do what they do. Are you unsure what you are looking for when you inspect a hive? Judy did a "thinking out loud" hive inspection. The bees will teach us if we watch and listen.

The Funday is over for the year. But because of the magic of Zoom, most of these sessions were recorded and will be available shortly for your viewing enjoyment. There were several presentations that I wanted to see and had to make a hard choice: Room A or Room B??? I'll be going back to catch these programs I missed because they make me think. Beekeeping sage, Jim Tew, talked about queens, queen rearing, queen replacement and a time of the \$.75 queen. He talked about "A Dark Period." Listen to Jim Tew and be enlightened.

**Becky Tipton, Special Events Coordinator**



## Mentoring

**Joli Winer and Cecil Sweeney** are mentoring at their home bee yard. The cost is \$10 per person with the money going to the youth scholarship and military apprenticeship programs. You must notify us either by email or text to let them know you are coming. ([joli@heartlandhoney.com](mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com) or call/text 913-593-3562). You must have your own protective clothing. Typically, we go through our hives with you and do a hive inspection-- looking for the queen, drones, workers, eggs, larva, sealed brood and honey and pollen. We'll share tips for using a smoker and a hive tool. We also talk about bee tasks for that month. Meetings are weather dependent. Our address is 19201 S Clare Rd, Spring Hill KS 66083. Remaining dates are; Monday, June 14 @ 0600pm; July 26 @ 0600pm; Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm



## Military/Veterans Apprentices Program

My name is Nancy Pilney and I am a military veteran. You wouldn't know it, but I am a retired Army Major. My husband and I are building our last house. It's a 20-year plan (not to build, but for living in). About a year ago, I met our soon-to-be new neighbors. We have so much in common. This is where the BEES come in. The neighbor's wife loves to garden and so do I. They wanted bees. I thought that might be fun. Bees are needed to pollinate plants and they benefit our environment. They planted a pollinator field. I said, "That's a great idea and you don't have to

mow!” It is also beneficial for tax purposes (I think).

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, my husband (Bret) and I went to the Beginning Beekeeper class. Boy, was I lost in a hurry! Why do they call the smaller box a super? The bigger box I get, “a deep”, because it is deep! Wait! There is more than one kind of bee? There is a queen, a drone, and worker bees!! Yup, I need help!

Just in time...Andy Nowachek is talking about a veteran’s program that does mentoring. That is just what I need. He is a hard-core Vietnam Vet. I can relate to that. We spoke for some time. I finally convinced him that I was willing to do the work and would buy my own hive materials. I just needed a mentor to look over my shoulder and keep me on the right path. I did not want to fail at this.

Andy guided me through what to purchase and where to get the things I needed. He advised me on how to paint the hives and what parts to not paint. I painted a desert camo pattern on my two hives (a recommendation from Andy to do 2 hives). We put a concrete pad out on the property and Andy and his wife, Wendy, helped us select the perfect location. I ordered my bees, set up the hives, and on March 28<sup>th</sup>, I picked up my first bees!

Then COVID-19 shut everything down. We spent a lot of time out at the property watching the house building progress and the bees multiplying. At one point, I was staying in Atlanta, Georgia and taking care of my son as he recuperated from surgery (about 3 months). My husband had bee duty.

Since then, Andy and Wendy have been frequent guests at our property, and we have gone to see their hives. (Too many for me!) I guess I was pretty good at keeping bees alive. We fed them sugar water when they needed it (according to my mentor). I tried and failed my first attempt at making sugar cakes for when it was too cold for sugar water. The second attempt was successful; it was all about the candy thermometer! Thanks Wendy! I have tried my hand at cutting comb off and spinning out the honey in the garage at the Nowachek house. I left with a fantastic bottle of honey. On a personal note, I did get COVID in November after my last return trip from Atlanta. I swear I survived on green tea and that honey for 10 days!

At one point it appeared that we were missing a queen, so we put a frame in with a queen cell and, what do you know, we got a laying queen!

My bees have done well. Andy really confused me when he said I needed to split my hives this year. I purchased 2 more hives, painted them and purchased 2 more queens. We added more concrete to the bee pad to make room for the new hives. Andy and Wendy showed us how to move frames of brood and honey around amongst the new hives. We put the new queens in the old hives and the old queens in the new hives, marked the old queens...what a process. I still am confused! It all seemed to work out.

Just lately I was very alarmed. We made a quick stop at the property to check on the progress of the house. On the way out I noticed the bird bath looked rather funny, almost like it was melting...hmmm it’s metal! We drove over and found a large swarm!



I took this picture, sent it to Andy and told him what I thought was going on. My bees were swarming. Now mind you, I am in capris and flip flops! Nothing like running to the shed and throwing on my beekeeper suit (I am not tall, and the legs of the suit are so long I could tie the bottoms closed with some strings). I raced over to the beehives and start investigating. All my hives seem to be teeming with bees. The bees had not moved up to the supers, so they had room. By the time I was done checking, Andy and Wendy had arrived. Andy proceeded to put out his swarm box and I got an education in how to collect a swarm. Andy rechecked my beehives and confirmed my hives did not swarm. This was a swarm that was apparently passing through. I told Andy I only want 4 hives and no more. As we stood around and talked bees, the swarm box filled with the remaining bees. Andy covered the opening with

mesh and strapped the lid down, then loaded his catch inside his truck!

Andy and Wendy have become more than just mentors, they have become good friends. I was surprised when Andy told me that swarm was worth over \$100. He needed bees for one of his hives, so I am happy he has them.

Andy says I have seen about everything now. I'm not so sure. What I do know is I am successful due to finding NEKBA, the Veteran's Program, and great mentors in Andy and Wendy Nowack.

**Nancy Pilney**



## Online Auction for Funday 2021

Many heartfelt thanks to those that donated to the auction and those that purchased items during the auction. Because of your generosity, we raised \$960. This money will go into our general fund and be used for our educational programs! This could be our military mentorship, youth scholarship, program speakers for our meetings, Funday, or classes. Again, thank you so much! Hopefully all other auctions will be in person. The logistics of getting items to people is quite awkward. \$960 is a great amount!

**Joli Winer, Scholarship Chairperson**



## Tips for June

- Keep an eye on your honey supers if using foundation. If they are working on at least 6 frames, move the unworked or undrawn out frames with foundation to the center, making sure that your frames are pushed tightly together and add the next super. You do not want to miss a drop of honey that the bees are bringing in.

- If you are lucky enough to have foundation that is drawn out you can put on more than one at a time. Studies have shown that the more room you add for the bees to bring in honey-the more they will bring in.
- Provide clean water for your bees.
- Keep the grass mowed in front of your hives-it makes it easier for the bees to land and helps with ventilation. Old carpet scraps, roof shingles, or weed barriers can be used to keep the grass under control.
- Keep supers on until the honey is capped, unripe honey will ferment.
- Do not feed sugar syrup during a honey flow as the bees will store the syrup in your supers rather than honey.
- Don't get excited on hot humid days, if the bees are hanging outside the hive. This is called "bearding". They are trying to relieve the congestion in the hive to cool it off inside. Earlier in the year, this is an indication of swarming but this time of year, it is natural, so don't worry.
- Keep up with your record-keeping, so next year you'll know which hives produced the best for you.



## The Honey Pot

by **Marlene Pantos**

### Pineapple Orange Honey Smoothie

- 1 c. milk
- 1 ½ c. pineapple, diced
- 1 c. plain yogurt
- ½ c. honey
- 2 T. orange juice
- 1 tsp. orange zest
- 5-10 ice cubes

Combine all ingredients except ice cubes in a blender. Blend and add ice cubes one at a time and blend until smooth. Cool treat!

## Meet the Beek Stuart Dietz



I first became interested in beekeeping when I bought a BSA Beekeeping merit badge pamphlet at Sears, in 1970. I found it very interesting that bees were kept in man-made hives and that honey was produced and packaged, just like other agricultural products. I had never even thought about how honey was produced and sold! I knew no beekeepers, so I did my best to try to understand the basics by reading the pamphlet and checking out what books were available from the Topeka Library. I found two that were particularly valuable: *The Complete Guide to Beekeeping* by Dr. Roger Morse, and *Bees Are My Business* by Harry Whitcombe. With reference to the latter, I was amazed that some people actually made a living from beekeeping. I sought to earn the Beekeeping merit badge in Scouts, but as mentioned earlier, I had no connection with any beekeepers to help me complete the requirements. The county agent was the merit badge counselor, but he didn't keep bees, and he knew of no beekeepers either. My dad started asking people in Rossville, KS if anyone knew of any area beekeepers. Finally, someone mentioned Carl Hultgren, who lived north of town. We went to visit him, and he agreed to help me with the merit badge. He also introduced me to

NEKBA, which opened up a whole new world of beekeeping resources to me that I had had no idea existed. I started attending monthly meetings, which, in those days, were usually held in the basement of the R.L.D.S. Church in Bonner Springs.

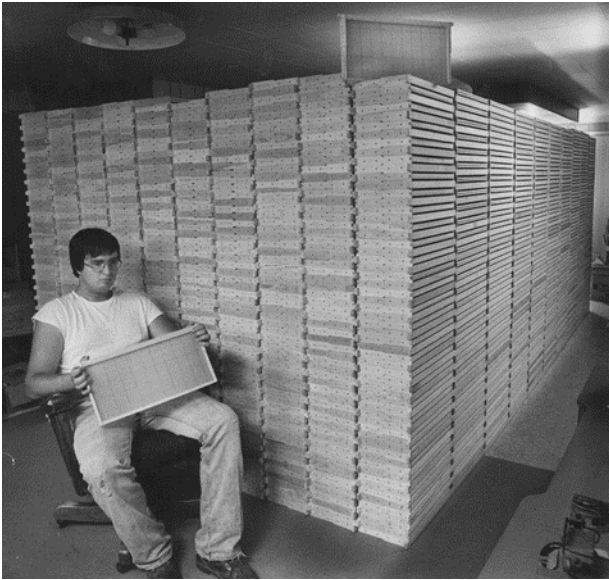
My first colony was a trap out from an old house on some friends' property. I had also become acquainted with John Deems, "The Beeman", who had bought out a beekeeper the year before. His goal was to have 100 colonies within 3 years. He gave me a queen for the trap out colony. I also got my first package of bees from M.C. Berry & Sons in Alabama that spring of 1973. On June 1, I caught a one-lb. swarm and placed it in an observation hive I had built. I had installed it in my bedroom with an entry tube through a hole I drilled in the window frame. Needless to say, my parents were less than happy about that! The Beeman was an invaluable source of information, even though it was only his second year of beekeeping. He was a prodigious reader of many books, including *ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture*. The old timers at the NEKBA meetings also taught me a great deal. They were very tolerant and patient with my never-ending questions.

In January 1974, my dad took me to the ABF conference in Hot Springs, AR. While there, I met many beekeepers whose photos I had seen in the *ABJ* and in *Gleanings in Bee Culture*. I was awestruck because, to me, they seemed as famous as Hollywood celebrities.

My mom and dad's help and patience with me during those years cannot be overstated. They drove me all over to pick up swarms and bought me the equipment to start more colonies along with 14 five-lb. packages of bees in the spring of 1974. Along with captured swarms, I ended up with 21 colonies my second year. I also extracted around 1000 lbs. of honey, even though the colonies had been started on new foundation throughout.

The following winter I wrote to Howard Weaver & Sons in Navasota, TX, asking for a spring job, because I wanted to learn more about package bee and queen production. I made sure I had enough credits to be graduated from high school a semester early, to have the spring free to work. Morris Weaver agreed to let me work for them, but emphasized that the hours were long and the work was very hard. Employees were expected to work

very quickly. I had bought out another beekeeper the summer before. He had enough never-assembled Root equipment for about 50 more 2-story colonies. Additionally, he had 15 established colonies, two honey extractors, an uncapper, and all kinds of other equipment, that I purchased for \$1000. I assembled and took enough of that equipment to Weavers to start 20 more colonies while I was in Texas. We brought those home in May, so by the spring of 1975 I had over 50 colonies.



By 1976, I was up to 100 colonies, and by 1982, I peaked out at 350 by dividing colonies by making, buying, and assembling more equipment. I had saved enough money from working in construction in the fall of 1977, to build a 24' x 50' honey house. I bought a line of new extracting equipment, including a 33-frame extractor, which we drove to the Walter T. Kelley Co. to pick up. In the next few years, I was bottling and selling around 30,000 lbs. of honey annually, mostly to Topeka-area stores.

In 1990, Gary Ross, the Kansas State Apiary Inspector, recruited me to assist him in his work with the state, so I had the opportunity to inspect hobbyist and commercial operations statewide. We first discovered varroa in Kansas in 1992. Much of the work also consisted of sampling and laboratory diagnostics of bees for tracheal mites. Losses attributed to tracheal mites were significant back then. Within several years, however, the bees developed a resistance to them to a level that the mite has no longer been regarded as a serious threat. Probably what contributed to the bees' quick adaptation to tracheal mites, was that

menthol was initially the only approved treatment. The menthol was much less than ideal for many reasons, so many beekeepers quit treating out of frustration. This led to the bees' physical adaptation to resist the mites.

By 1993 and 1994, varroa had spread statewide. In those days, varroa killed the colonies much differently than the way the bees succumb to it these days. Yards full of hives would look excellent in June, and by July, the bees in an entire yard would "disappear", leaving solid frames of healthy-looking brood, and supers full of capped honey. Knowing the many downsides of Fluvalinate (Apistan), which was the only approved treatment for varroa at that time, I decided I was not going to treat any of my colonies with it, knowing I would lose them in short order. By the summer of 1994, only five of my colonies survived and continued to thrive. After varroa destroyed most of the colonies, I simply stored the majority of my equipment until around 2003, when I parted with most of it. I kept some and the five surviving colonies. Several years later, I picked up some swarms to add to the apiary of the five surviving colonies. Once again, I started devoting more time to beekeeping, but on a much smaller scale.

Despite her busy schedule with endeavors that are actually profitable, my wife Nita has also been of tremendous help with my latest beekeeping stint. She has captured many swarms, worked hard to promote and sell honey, and served for three years as the Midwestern Beekeepers' Association Youth Scholarship Chair.



There are many giants of beekeeping I have met or come to know over the years. Most of those from my early beekeeping years are no longer with us. It has always been my desire to achieve their level of success, although that is an extremely high goal. A few of these late beekeeping giants from

Kansas and Missouri were Harvie Mohler, Clifford Overbaugh, George VanArsdall, and Carl Kalthoff. Some of my best beekeeping memories were also with brothers Phil and Dave Montgomery, who owned the famous Vermillion Valley Apiaries, which at one time was a 2500-colony operation.

There is so much more I could share about my experiences in beekeeping. I have many interesting stories over the years. Perhaps I can write about them at another time in the near future.

**Stuart Dietz**

## ASK QUINBY & REMI



**Dear Quinby and Remi:** I'm adding a super with new foundation on my hive. I should feed sugar syrup, right?

**Quinby and Remi Answer:** No, you should not feed sugar syrup to your hive when you have a super on. Think about it, what will they be storing in your super? They'll be storing sugar syrup, not the delicious nectar that the bees bring in from the flowers.

**Dear Quinby and Remi:** My hive swarmed about a month ago. I can't find the queen and there is no brood. What should I do?

**Quinby and Remi answer:** You'll need to evaluate your hive for a few things- population, do you have a big population still? Do you have laying workers (multiple eggs in cells)? Hopefully, you did not tear out your queen swarm cells, a common issue with beekeepers, and expect them to requeen themselves. Thirty days is plenty of time to have a laying queen back in your hive. If you have a lot of bees, we suggest that you purchase a mated queen immediately and get her in the hive. If you have another hive that you can take a frame of brood from to add to this hive, that would be a big help

too. The longer you wait, the faster your hive will dwindle, plus you run the risk of having laying workers. If you tried to add a frame of young eggs and larva, your hive would still dwindle to nothing before you got a laying queen back in there. Worker bees only live 5-6 weeks, and you are already 4 weeks out. If at this point you tried to get them to raise a queen, it would be about 12 days before the queen emerged from her cell, 5-10 days before she mated, 5 or so days before she lays her first egg, 21 days before the first worker bee emerges. Not much left to your hive after this. Your other option would be to combine it with another hive. To do that you would use the newspaper method putting the weaker hive on the top with newspaper between it and the stronger hive.

**Dear Quinby and Remi:** My hive has swarmed several times and there's not very many bees now. What should I do?

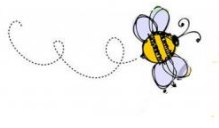
**Quinby and Remi answer:** If you have a laying queen back in there you might add another frame of brood from another hive to boost it up. Otherwise, we would combine it with another hive. Next year control your swarming early, in April, by splitting your hive into nucs. The first two weeks of April leave 3 frames of brood and bees and the queen in your original hive. All other brood and bees should be removed. Put each 3 frames of brood and bees into a single hive body with a mated queen. This will help keep this from happening next year. If you don't physically split your hives, they will split themselves by swarming. As you can see, now you have nothing but if you had split your hives early you would have something to bring in some honey for you!

**Dear Quinby and Remi:** I got a package of bees this spring. Can I put a honey super on them?

**Quinby and Remi answer:** Hopefully, you can. If you have been feeding your hive and you have two hive bodies with drawn-out frames, then you may. If in the top hive body, you have 8 drawn-out frames, you can move those drawn frames to the outside and move the undrawn frames in a frame or two and add your queen excluder and your first super.

**Quinby and Remi** are happy to answer your questions. You may contact them through **Joli** at [joli@heartlandhoney.com](mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com).





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

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

[www.kansashoneyproducers.org](http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org)

It's only \$15 per year. You will receive an email before the programs with the link to register. If you registered for a previous program, you will automatically receive the link to view this month via email. To register for the meetings, click on the link below or copy it in your browser

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdOiqgTwvHNxk7aeR5Hrw7LoC6boCY4dh>

then Zoom will send you the link. Following are the next 3 programs:

Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> **Pollen and Propolis- Collecting, Processing and Selling**, Petra Ahnert, Author of **Beeswax Alchemy** and **Beehive Alchemy**

Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup> **Making Creamed Honey**, Brian Withrow presents and **Making Infused Honey**, Chad Gilliland presents.

Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup> **Apitherapy, The Medicine Chest Known as the Bee Hive**, Reyah Carlson presents

**These programs will be recorded and will be available on the <http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org/archives.html> website.**

## Are All Plants Created Equal?



In the eye of the honey bee not all blooming plants are created equal. So many factors come into play when we discuss this topic. For example, the nectar resource in a given area depends on the kinds of flowering plants present and their blooming periods. As we dig deeper into this topic so many conditions begin to factor in. Focus starts with things such as soil texture, soil Ph, annual precipitation amounts, extreme minimum winter temperature, and growing degree days.

In the northeast corner of our great state, Yellow Sweet Clover and Dutch White Clover are considered to be major nectar flow plants in late May and extending thru the month of June and beyond. As rainfall occurrences diminish and daytime temps average 90 plus degrees, Dutch White Clover will begin to fade. If we can see some intermittent rainfall events, Dutch Clover will continue to flourish. Increasing your mower height will help to prolong clover in the lawn as the grass will help shade the soil to improve cooler soil temperatures and help retain some soil moisture.

It seems like every month I talk at some point about plant diversity and planting in groups to improve pollinator habitat. I continue to see tremendous results with these two concepts. The extensive pollinator gardens here at the farm are designed with groupings of like plants and diversity. I'm getting a good nectar flow in our pollinator gardens right now from mass plantings of comfrey and catmint. Honey bees and bumblebees by the thousands cover an area of about 600 square feet. This occurs from sunrise to sunset for the last 2 weeks plus and will continue for at least another 3-4 weeks. At a separate apiary, I have partnered with a local produce grower to plant 5 acres of buckwheat as a cover crop. He receives the benefit of adding organic matter and high nitrogen load back into the soil and I have 5 hives that are collecting nectar that will allow us to have a wonderful varietal honey to harvest. Adding herbs to your pollinator gardens will offer diversity. Mass plantings of lavender,

chamomile, rosemary, thyme, and mints have a long blooming period and offer a multitude of blooms on a single plant. Yes, mints are invasive but can be utilized by simply setting aside an area that you don't care if they spread. I guarantee the growth and density of the planting area will choke out all weeds and be low maintenance for the gardener.

As I wrap up here, continue to think how can I extend my bloom cycle in my own space. Within the next couple of weeks think about planting a

good-sized area to sunflowers. Planted in mid-June to early July, you will have a late summer nectar and pollen source that will be a wonderful resource for your bees when many other floral sources have expired with the heat and reduced rainfall.

Get out and plant, enjoy your bees, and think diversity and mass plantings. Be great stewards of God's resources and promote pollinators as much as possible.

**Chad Gilliland- Honey Plants Chairman**

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**NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2021 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 name \_\_\_\_\_

(Youth Membership (18 years of age or under) \$7.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Membership for Kansas Honey Producers Association \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

American Bee Journal 1 year \$24.65 \_\_\_\_\_

Bee Culture Magazine (or subscribe online at [www.BeeCulture.com](http://www.BeeCulture.com)) 1 year \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

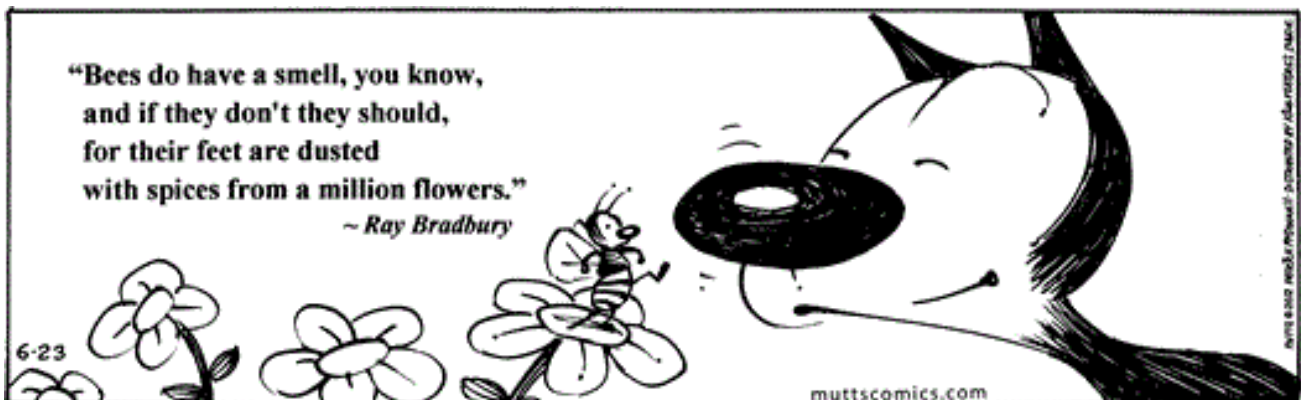
Scholarship / Military/Veteran's Appr. Donation \_\_\_\_\_

**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 ph. 913-481-3504, [rburnshoney@gmail.com](mailto:rburnshoney@gmail.com)

**You may join, re-new, register, donate and pay online at [www.nekba.org](http://www.nekba.org)**



## MENTORING-SWEET PRAIRIE HONEY

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

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## FISHER'S BEE SUPPLIES

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

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## 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.* Nucs for sale. New stainless-steel extractors from 4-frame, 12-frame & up. Raymond Cooper, 220 N Elm, Iola KS 66749. Call: 620-365-5956 after 8:00 p.m.

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## JORDY'S HONEY

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

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## 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](mailto:hardware@sunflower.com)

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## Next to Nature Farm

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

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The Association does not endorse nor evaluate the advertisements, products or services offered in the Buzzer.

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

## Address Service Requested

**Meeting in Person & Zoom  
Monday, June 21, 2021**

### ***The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association***

Membership is open to anyone interested in bees or bee culture. Dues are \$15.00 per calendar year (December 31-December 31) for the first in the family joining. Those joining in July or later in the year may pay \$7.50 for ½ year. Additional members of that family wanting voting privileges shall be assessed dues at \$1.00 per year. Youth memberships (18 years of age and younger) are \$7.50 per year. Please submit new memberships and renewals to the treasurer or on-line at [www.nekba.org](http://www.nekba.org).

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

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

The Association meets each month, generally on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. except during the months of January and July. Beekeeping classes will tentatively be held in January and March for 2021. This is a non-profit organization; elected officers serve without pay. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings. Check *The Bee Buzzer* or website at [www.nekba.org](http://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.

#### **2021 Officers**

President: <b>Ed Darlington</b> , 2804 E 174th St., Belton, MO 64012	<a href="mailto:edarlington49@gmail.com">edarlington49@gmail.com</a>	816-331-4934
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2nd VP (Librarian): <b>Cecil Sweeney</b> , 19201 S Clare Rd, Spring Hill, KS 66083	<a href="mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com">joli@heartlandhoney.com</a>	913-593-3851
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Secretary: <b>Janet Campbell</b> , 2880 SW Plass Ave., Topeka, KS 66611	<a href="mailto:jensnana@rocketmail.com">jensnana@rocketmail.com</a>	785-266-2763
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**Visit us on-line at [www.nekba.org](http://www.nekba.org). Save time. Join, re-new, or register.**