

Since 1948 Exploring the Wonderful World of Beekeeping Together

The Bee Buzzer

Monthly Publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

VOLUME 74, NUMBER 9

EDITOR: CHERYL BURKHEAD

September 2022

General Meeting

Monday, September 19, 2022 (7:00 p.m.)

(IN PERSON ONLY-website for updates)

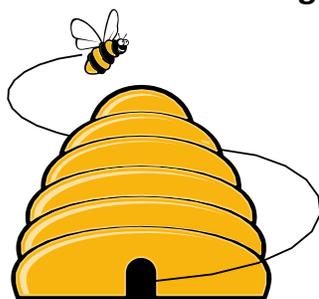
Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg. 21N
2110 Harper St., Lawrence KS

Directions: The address is 2110 Harper St. It is easily accessible from 23rd Street. Turn north on Harper Street and it is just a few blocks. We are in Building 21 North, which will be on your left after you turn into the fairgrounds.

Main Program: Winter Moisture Control and Insulation – Peter Somers. Peter is a long-time beekeeper & owner of BEEZ Hive and Honey. He serves as the Salt Lake County Utah Bee Inspector.

Beelines

By President Ed Darlington



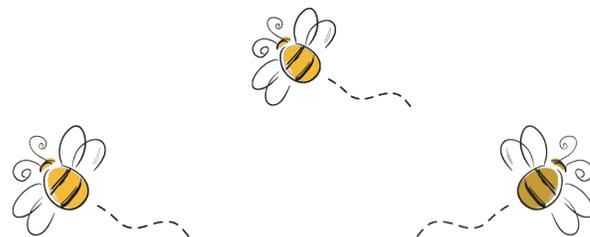
Hopefully you have started, and are close to finishing, your mite treatment(s). When we see data that says hobbyist beekeepers are now losing about 40% of their colonies each year, it is high time that we take a second look and make sure we're doing appropriate things to keep our colonies alive, healthy, and strong.

Interestingly, some good things came out of the COVID-19 restrictions: Our capabilities have increased! We now have the ability to conduct hybrid meetings: our speaker/presenter can be remote while we are able to meet in person.

My hope is that many of you will plan to attend our meeting at the fairgrounds. I have seen some emails in regards to the subject matter of this next meeting and it's a topic that will likely be of great interest to you. Please come and share your input.

We don't want to lose sight of what you, the membership, feel is valuable and helpful to increase your beekeeping skills.

We are grateful and value your feedback to our board members as to both the meeting style and content of our meetings. Please offer suggestions for any topics you feel would be valuable in your role as caretakers of bees.



2022 Meeting Dates: (Starting Time is 7pm. Q & A sessions are virtual via Zoom)

- September 19, 2022
- October 3, 2022 (Q & A)
- October 17, 2022
- November 7, 2022 (Q & A)
- November 21, 2022
- December 12, 2022 (Zoom meeting only)



WE NEED YOU AT THE KANSAS STATE FAIR

The Kansas Honey Producers need your help. Starting Tuesday, September 6th at 10:30, we will start setting up the sales area and clean up the display area for the honey show. The goal is to have all honey and honey-related products labeled and ready when the fair starts at noon on the 9th. Our state yard operators will have harvested and bottled the honey their hives have produced and will bring it to Hutchinson for labeling. This is a good time of socialization and catching up as we work together to get ready for the fair. Once the fair starts, we need beekeepers of any experience level to man the booth and answer questions about beekeeping as well as sell our products. This year we have 4-hour shifts and you will be provided with an entry ticket at guest services on the days when tickets are required to enter the fairgrounds. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C48ADA82BABF49-2022> is the link to the signup genius program to volunteer for the days and times that work for your schedule. You can also go to [signupgenius.com](https://www.signupgenius.com) and do a search using the creator's email which is sandersonk09@gmail.com. The title of the signup is 2022 Kansas State Fair. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Hutchinson!



Ol' Bee Gal

An aphorism is a witty or catchy statement that expresses a truth for a given situation. An aphorism often used in relation to beekeepers is, ask 10 beekeepers a question and you'll get 11 different answers.... or something similar. This aphorism points out there are so many ways to do things in beekeeping and two very different

approaches can lead to the same positive outcome. You must understand your bees, your environment, your weather, your nectar sources, and even the characteristics of your bees to be able to sort out the right or the wrong of another beekeeper's truth about beekeeping. How dry is dry, how wet is wet, and how hot is hot? Remember that as those around you express opinions and sift how to apply them to yourself.

Here's one I read this week that struck home. One hive's mite load is not equal to every hive in the apiary. But, if one hive needs treatment, every hive in the apiary should be treated. This is important to consider this time of year as we are contemplating our mite loads. PLEASE be sure to do post checks after your mite treatment. We did that on a few hives this week and could not find a mite. I am so pleased.

How about the aphorism used by the Kansas Honey Producers: Promoting mankind's most beneficial insect, the honey bee. Our Kansas bees (more than 9,000 colonies, depending upon who and how they count) provide \$91 million in pollination revenue for region 4 (that includes us), and over 750,000 pounds of honey produced in Kansas. I've heard biologists argue that the dermestid beetle that eats dead stuff is the most important insect. After all, if they didn't eat dead stuff, we would have a lot of yucky stuff laying around to step in all the time. I'll stick with bees as most important though.

The Kansas Honey Producers is our state association with the broad reaching goal of serving all beekeepers in Kansas. To do this, they/we are considering what will be good for the hive and the bee. We are not serving the commercial, the packer, or the shipper. We are serving the bees. Look at the speaker selection for the November program. It's really fantastic!

Sweet as honey! An aphorism used by folks who have never peaked into the hive. It represents the pure, natural, unadulterated, beauty of our honey. Hope your honey harvest was super sweet this year.

Steve and I are offering open apiary sessions this season. We will meet at our farm the 3rd Sunday of each month from 1-3 PM, weather permitting. We will be working bees and you are welcome to join us. Please call/email to reserve a spot—let us know you are coming. Everyone in the

bee yard must wear a veil.

bstbees@embarqmail.com 785-484-3710.

Becky Tipton, Special Events Coordinator

**SUBSCRIBE TO A MONTHLY BEE MAGAZINE.
STAY INFORMED.**

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

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

Use the links to subscribe directly...annual subscription rates under \$5 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: How should I prepare my bees for winter? I know it is only September, but I want to make sure that they make it through the winter. Do you have any tips?

Quinby and Remi answer: Judy Wu-Smart has stated that you should have your honey off your hives by Labor Day and begin your mite treatments by Labor Day. That is the best advice in the whole world. Be aware of temperature ranges of different varroa mite treatments. See <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/varroa-management/>. Honey Bee Health Coalition has recently published their 8th edition of the Guide to Varroa Management. So, get to it! As Joli and Cecil pull off their honey supers, they check each hive to see what the populations are and that they have a laying queen. Then we get our first varroa treatment on. They also check to see if the top hive body is full of honey, if not, then they mark it to

feed or check on later. Any hives that are light on bees are combined with stronger hives, using the newspaper method.

Dear Quinby and Remi: In the spring, we feed 1:1 and in the fall, we feed 2:1. What does that mean?

Quinby and Remi answer: The ratio means Water to Sugar by weight. For spring feeding you would feed 4 lbs. of sugar to 4 lbs. of water (1/2 gallon). For fall feeding you'll feed 2:1 or 8# of sugar to ½ gallon of water. Usually in the fall, the bees will fill the top hive body with honey and most of the bees and brood will be in the bottom hive body. As winter progresses the bees will move up to the honey.

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



Honey Pot

Marlene Pantos

Honey Sweet Potatoes

- 2 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- ½ cup honey
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 T cinnamon
- 2 T honey

Toss sweet potatoes and ½ c. honey until coated. Spread on baking sheet. Drizzle olive oil on top. Bake 25-30 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool 5-10 minutes. Dust with cinnamon. Drizzle with 2 T. honey.



Mentoring

Our final mentoring or open apiary will be held on Monday, September 12th at 6 pm at 19201 S. Clare Rd., between Gardner and Spring Hill, at the home of Joli and Cecil. They ask for a \$10 donation with the money going to the youth scholarship and military mentorship programs. Please call, text, or

email that you plan to come - 913-593-3562 or email joli@heartlandhoney.com. Please bring your bee suit. We will look through our hives for eggs, larva brood, honey etc. You'll also have a chance to ask us questions about your hives.

Joli Winer, Youth Scholarship Chair



Tips for September

- Store any frames with drawn comb in paradichlorobenzene (moth crystals). Wax moth damage can be devastating to your combs. Store them in a cool ventilated area. Do not store your supers in plastic garbage bags, as this acts as an incubator for the wax moth.
- Check your hives for stored honey. Most colonies will need 60-80 pounds of honey to winter successfully. The top deep super/hive body should be packed full of honey. If it isn't you should feed the bees some syrup. If mixing your own syrup in the fall, the mixture should be a 2:1 sugar to water by weight. That would be 4 lbs. of sugar to 2 lbs. of boiling water. However, you may not use corn syrup or any type of syrup that you purchase at the grocery store. It has things in it that can cause problems with your bees. NEVER feed honey purchased from the grocery store—it can spread diseases to your bees.
- Update your record book—you won't remember in the spring!
- Complete a fall inspection of each hive—this means check your hive to make sure that you have a laying queen bee, several frames of brood in all stages, and plenty of honey for them to have in the winter. If you have large numbers of small hive beetles, you might want to invest in traps or other methods of control.
- Combine a weak colony with a stronger colony. Colonies may be split again in the spring.
- Take an inventory at your bee yards to see what equipment you need to repair or replace over the winter.
- Get your entrance reducers on towards the end of September to keep mice out of your hives. Check for mice before installing mouse guards.

Check your bottom boards for holes big enough for a mouse to go get your through. Plug any holes.

- Make sure that all hives have a brick on top to keep the lids from blowing off.
- Make sure your hives are tipped slightly forward so water doesn't pool on the bottom board and cause moisture problems.

Meet the Beeks



We are Steve and Marsha Harmon from Leawood, KS. Our journey into beekeeping sparked while on vacation in California ten years ago. We happened upon a hands-on beekeeping experience the hotel where we were staying was offering. They kept a few beehives on the hotel property. We signed up, donned full bee suits and spent an hour watching the beekeeper work their 5 hives. That was our first experience learning about the fascinating lives of the honeybee. We were entertained and certainly intrigued and thought, hmmm, is this a new hobby for us?

Seven years ago, at a wedding reception, a casual conversation with a guest turned to hobby beekeeping. The guest was describing his experiences with honey harvesting and selling honey to friends and family. He mentioned a new invention he'd heard of from Australia that he had ordered and was hopeful that it would be easier to harvest honey from than the extracting equipment he was using.

Our research online led us to order one of these inventions, too. Yep, we bought a Flow Hive from the inventors in Australia.

Anxious to get started beekeeping so we could harvest our own honey, we sited our first hive in a friend's backyard because we didn't have a place in our own yard at that point for a beehive. That was our first mistake. Out of sight, out of mind. In addition, we started in June with a nuc and we sited that hive in the shade. Needless to say, with our hands off approach, our first hive absconded by the end of the summer. For a moment we were finished with beekeeping. And then we discovered beekeeping classes offered at our local community college – Johnson County Community College.

We enrolled at JCCC in the beginner and 2nd year beekeeping classes taught by fellow NEKBA member Robert Hughes. Thankfully, these classes provided us a foundation of knowledge for beekeeping basics. The more we learned, the more we realized that this “hobby” wasn't going to be easy. It takes real dedication to be rewarding. We subscribed to beekeeping magazines, bought and borrowed books on beekeeping and joined NEKBA. We've met very helpful experienced beekeepers that have been generous with their time and knowledge, and occasionally equipment! We liked going to Cecil and Joli's monthly mentoring program. We've really enjoyed the monthly NEKBA and Kansas Honey Producer meetings. The Zoom meeting format has allowed us to participate more often in the meetings than driving to a meeting does. I would especially like to thank our mentor who wishes to remain anonymous for their help.



Three years after that initial Flow hive invention purchase, we've grown and maxed out our little apiary to three hives in our suburban backyard. We harvest honey from the Flow hive super in addition to regular Langstroth supers. The Flow hive super has been great for our little apiary. It allows us to harvest honey easily, without any additional extraction equipment.

What started as 'let's keep bees to harvest honey', has led to other products from the hive. Rendering wax has got us thinking about making soaps, lotions, lip balms etc.

We recently visited Vancouver, Canada and again, found beehives on the hotel property. We spent some time talking to the beekeeper about how he manages 3000 hives! That's another whole story! Who knows where the beekeeping journey takes us next!

Honey Plants



September is National Honey Month. To celebrate our busiest month as beekeepers, make sure to add a few more bee-friendly perennials to your flowering gardens. Here are just a few recommendations that are sure-fire options that will have your honeybees and native pollinators visiting your gardens when many other plants have spent their flowers for the season.



Gaura is a full sun perennial with long flower spikes of pink and white flower sets. A great late season pollen and nectar source for our bees. With a common name like “bee blossom”, how can one go wrong with adding multiple clusters along the backside of our gardens? Tall arching spikes of flower clusters will draw a multitude of pollinators.



Another wonderful addition to your pollinator garden is Sneezeweed. Also known as Helenium autumnale, it is a member of the Aster family that attracts both

bees and butterflies. Bright yellow flower sets in the late Summer and Fall. This great late season perennial prefers moist, well-drained soil conditions but can handle drought conditions once well established.

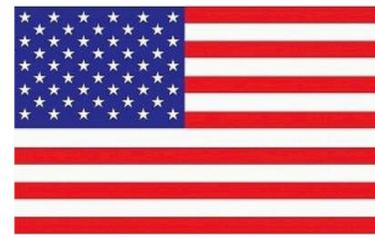
Russian Sage is a no fuss, low maintenance, drought tolerant woody perennial. A wide growth habit fills in large areas towards the backside of many pollinator gardens.



Fragrant tall spikes of purple flower sets are a buzz with tons of activity. It will have tons of flower spikes even in the driest of soil conditions. Honeybees, bumblebees, native bees, and butterflies of all types readily visit sage for copious amounts of nectar and pollen.

Remember when adding new plants to your pollinator gardens this Fall, to plant in groupings. Single plants won't draw in and hold pollinators. Plant clumps and clusters of multiple plants of the same variety to attract and keep pollinators visiting.

Chad Gilliland, Honey Plants Chairman



Military/Veterans Apprenticeship Program

It seems hard to believe that just 6 months ago our two 2022 Veterans received their hive and packages of bees and now one has extracted and the other will be doing his soon. This would have not been possible without the help from several knowledgeable beekeepers, who know the importance of stepping up and giving them a helping hand; for this we thank those who helped in numerous ways.

Every now and then, I believe someone we know has encountered a speed bump (as I refer to them as) either health, needing help catching up on something and the list goes on. There have been articles in the two major bee magazines that I have read; the importance of staying tuned in to what is happening to the bees, where to meet, who to lead and the list goes on. But I truly believe one thing that makes meetings work, are the people themselves, making new friends and helping out where they can and HOW they can. I have seen this with our past veterans who are starting out with their bees and the help that they receive by mentoring. There are open discussions on how they tend to their own bees and ideas of how to do a certain task; feeding, checking for varroa, etc. The one main factor is that they are there to help how they can.

This year while doing the farmers market at a VA Hospital, I have had beekeepers I have met 20 years ago stop by and ask, "Do you remember me?" and the answer is yes. It is always a pleasure to get re-acquainted with people you have met in past years and still have that connection with bees.

To all of those who stepped up in the past and in the future, I'm quite sure it is appreciated more than you know; that's what true friends do.

They are addictive in a good way. We have been fortunate to have had good mentors who have guided them along and taught them the proper

Andy Nowachek, Military/Veteran Appr. Liaison

Kansas Honey Producers Association **Fall 2022 conference - Nov. 4 & 5, 2022**

Courtyard by Marriott – 3020 Riffle Dr. – Salina, KS
Great Speakers * Education * Camaraderie * Vendors

Katie Lee, PHD University of Minnesota

- *Do Healthy Queens Lead to Healthy Colonies?
- *University of Minnesota Bee Lab Updates.
- *Varroa Biology & Management



Randy Oliver, Scientific Beekeeping

- The Latest in Varroa Mite Management



www.kansashoneyproducers.org

Additional Topics: Trees as Pollen/Nectar Sources * Insurance for Your Hobby/Business * Feeders-types & pros/cons * Pollinator Sources for Continuous Food Sources * Building Woodenware session * Ks Inspected Food Processing Kitchen * KS Legislative Update * KS Region Gatherings * Bee Quicks- 'short & sweet' mini-sessions of importance * Other sessions to be announced * KHPA Business Meeting with Officer Elections * Silent Auctions for Grant Program fundraising * Banquet- Live Auction & Cowboy Poetry with Ron Wilson – “The KS Lariat”

Reserve your seat: www.kansashoneyproducers.org

Call hotel to reserve your discounted rooms by Oct. 14 or until they last: 785-309-1300

Extracting More \$\$\$\$ from your Hives

These new, free, virtual, Value-Added programs will be presented on the 3rd 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 <http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org/> . If you have never registered for the Zoom presentations, go to <http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org/> to register. Please do not re-register if you have already registered! Membership is \$15 per year. You will receive an email before the programs with the link to register. If you registered before, or are a NEKBA member, or a KHPA member, you will receive the link each month, but it may ask you to register again.

These programs are being recorded and will be available on our <http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org/archives.html> website, or the 'Archives' page.

Please note topics are subject to change.

Thursday September 15th- Rich Wieske presents Pollen and Propolis—the other gold from your hive

Thursday, October 20th- Healthier with Honey- Making Kombucha, Elderberry with honey Syrup and Jelly's and Jams with Honey

Thursday, November 17th -Holiday gifts from the Hive- Making Beeswax Wraps, Hot Honey, Honey Butter, Honey Caramels and more!

Thursday, December 15th- Developing a Food Product and Taking it to Market- K State Food Science Institute and Louann Hausner- Cooking with Honey

Thursday, January 19, 2023- Cleaning Beeswax, Making Dipped Candles and Beeswax Starters

Thursday, February 16th 2023-Queen Rearing and Making and Selling Nucs, Jim Kellie Presents

Thursday, March 16th 2023- Agritourism and Bees-

NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2022 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 (discounted rate through association) 1 year \$24.65 _____

Bee Culture Magazine (or subscribe online at www.BeeCulture.com) 1 year \$30.00 _____

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 at 913-768-4961 or email Kristi Sanderson at sandersonk09@gmail.com for pricing and appointment times.

BEEKEEPERS.COM

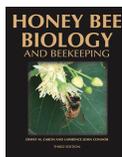
Beekeepers.com (Jordy's Honey Company) in Lenexa, KS. Beekeepers.com is your only local full-service beekeeping store. We carry a full line of Beekeeping Supplies, Protective Equipment, Bee Packages, Nucs and Queens. Visit our web site Beekeepers.com to view our entire line of beekeeping supplies. You 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 9:00-4:30, 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

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5 Frame Nucs for Sale. We are your local Premier Bee Products Dealer specializing in plastic foundation made entirely in the U.S.A. We sell bucket feeders and other bee equipment. Call or text Philip Knaus at 785-581-4216 or contact us at cedarridgebeehives@gmail.com - Check out our bees and products at www.cedarridgebees.com Cedar Ridge Bees 585 N 500 Rd, Overbrook, KS 66524



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 back-ground in biology. Yet it is not oversimplified, 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**

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 54th Terr
Shawnee Mission KS 66202-1129

Address Service Requested

Meeting

Monday, September 19, 2022

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.

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 February for 2022. 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.

2022 Officers

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3rd VP (Honey Plants): Chad Gilliland , 23338 Kissinger Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66028	nexttonaturefarm@gmail.com	785-491-1978
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