



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: JOLI WINER

APRIL 2016

#### General Meeting

Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 2016

Pre-meeting 6:30 p.m.

Tables will be set up for you to  
learn-something!

7:00 p.m. Program

First 15 minutes

Cheryl Burkhead presents:

**"Sting Reactions"**

Program:

Christy and Cate Milroy present

**"First Inspections"**

Douglas County Fairgrounds, Building 21 North

Becky has another great program planned for this month-it is very timely.

**Pre-program**—beginning this month at 6:30 the guys will have some tables set up for you to learn some aspect of beekeeping—we'll get more organized as this goes on but right now no one has decided what—I'm going to say that smoker lighting will be one of the demos!

**First 15 minutes:** Cheryl Burkhead is a nurse who will share with us what a normal reaction is to a bee sting and what an allergic reaction is. She will also talk about the best way to deal with both reactions. This is an incredibly important talk for all of you newbees out there!

**Main Program:** Cate Milroy was one of our youth scholarship students 3 years ago. She and her mom, Christy, are going to present "*first inspections*"! They are fairly new beekeepers but they have had a lot of unusual experiences that they will share with you.

This should be both enjoyable and educational! They will share what you should be seeing in your hive and what to expect as it progresses!

**Directions:** The address is 2110 Harper St. It is easily accessible from K10, turn north on Harper Street and it is just a few blocks. We are in Building 21 North which will be on your left you turn into the fairgrounds.

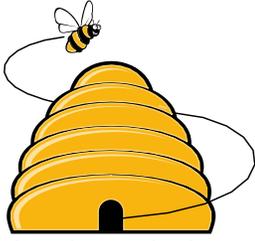
#### Funday Volunteers Needed

We are busy working with our guest speakers to make this the best Funday ever. We would love for some of you to volunteer to help us. Please note that all of the volunteers actually still pay full price fee for all of the events. So if you volunteer you still have to pay. We have made all of the tasks so that no one is tied up all day (except for some of us)!

Please start collecting items for the silent auction-the money goes to the youth scholarship program.

1. We need several to help set up the silent auction and collect money at the end
2. We need help Friday night (time to be announced) to set up chairs in all of the buildings.
3. We need someone to blow the horn between sessions
4. We need help Saturday morning to put out signs and sometimes direct traffic
5. We usually need help with the powerpoint projectors and loading in guest speaker programs-and making sure the microphone is working and has batteries.
6. We may need help setting up the vendor area-which may be tents this year-depends on the construction project
7. We need help with giving out name tags
8. Maybe selling some club books
9. And more

## Beelines By President Andy Nowachek



Well it's happened again, we had around 175 members at our last month's meeting and this is just **OUTSTANDING**, this is the most I have ever seen at a regular meeting in my time as a beekeeper. This goes to show that this is the place to be on a Monday evening if you want to learn or just meet with a group of great folks and talk bees. It's amazing to see groups outside talking bees after the meeting. Beekeeping is a great addiction to have!

I try and get my articles in by the end of each month and March has been **BUSY** to say the least. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> were the KHPA meeting in Pittsburg with a large group and great talks, great people and lots of information plus Diana Sammataro as a guest speaker, it just doesn't get much better than that. If you get a chance it's a nice way to meet other beekeepers from surrounding areas and see what their beekeeping practices are and to make a new beekeeper friends and trade information.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> it was the Beginners Beekeeping Class with around 240 present to grasp information about beekeeping. What a great group of people we had there - some first time and some second plus year beekeepers. This class is about basic beekeeping and is also a refresher class for those who have had bees for more than a year. We also had Diana Sammataro give talks at the first session of the class and did an outstanding job with other members completing the second half. This was also a requirement for our scholarship students as they must meet certain standards to be eligible for this program. After the last class we went out and reviewed the evaluation reports. We will try and do everything we can to present the best beekeeping classes around. This club is loaded with knowledge and all you have to do is ask. With the exception of a couple items such as chairs, I think it was rated really high. We realize we are trying to put a years Basic Beekeeping into two half day sessions and each year we try and tweak them a little more, but what we recommend is

that you attend as many meetings as possible and ask questions.

Thanks to Joli Winer for her excellent program on installing your package of bees. As a new beekeeper this will be an eye opening experience. It has always been neat to see the expressions on the face of those installing a package for the first time. Someone just has to take some pictures, it's pretty cool, maybe some time we could have a contest on the best facial expression when installing bees. This was a great presentation by an experienced beekeeper who demonstrated installation of a package of bees to a tee.

Thanks to Larry Coppinger who has perfected a style of making splits that a number of beekeepers have used with success. As a second year beekeeper you have some choices to make, whether to stay at one or make a split and expand your hives. Larry did an excellent demonstration on how he does it and it works great. All will have their own style but the one thing that was mentioned is **LOCATE YOUR QUEEN AND KEEP HER IN A SAFE PLACE WHILE MAKING SPLITS**. A good queen is essential to a healthy and productive hive. Poor queen equals poor hive, no queen equals **NO HIVE**

We would like to try something that we did this year at the beginner's beekeeping class and did a couple years ago and believe it went well. We will have one table set up around a half hour prior our regular meeting and after the program with one or maybe two experienced beekeepers, possibly how to use a smoker and different types of fuel, maybe different types hive tools but mainly for anyone to ask questions they may have. The only question that is silly is the one you did not ask. As you may have noticed beekeepers do like to explain the proper way to do a particular part of beekeeping, of course 12 beekeepers 12 answers? We'll give it a try and see how it goes.

The bees are going gang busters and that is good, but is there enough room in the hive for the queen to lay? How are your food supplies? This month trees and flowers going crazy and when that happens the brood starts building up at a pretty fast rate. Here is where you need to put your memory bank and knowledge to work, too many bees not enough room what do you do? They need room, maybe add another deep till you get a new queen. This being said there are always questions on how or when to do it. Bees do not mark a date on the calendar and do specific things, it comes with

experience and attending as many meetings as you can and asking questions, take advantage of the wealth of knowledge this club has to offer, we must be doing something right as this club is 68 years old and still a BUZZING.

Have a Fantastic Day and hope to see you all at the next meeting to ask and learn.

## Ask Quinby



I know that not all of you follow our club Face Book so below are some of the questions that were asked-

**Question:** If I have a package that didn't get installed tonight is there anything extra I need to do for the bees? I'm assuming it'll be best just to leave them outside on my patio this evening and tomorrow until I can get them in a hive or should I put them in the garage with the predicted low of 36°?

**Quinby Answers:** I know that a lot of you still will be receiving package bees throughout April and May so here are some of the best ways to take care of them

1. Always keep the package cool—but leaving them outside on such a cold night would have been too cold. It is best to put them in an unheated garage or barn, out of the wind.
2. If your feeder can is empty fill a spray bottle or take a new paint brush and a cup of sugar syrup to feed the bees. Use syrup made of 4# of sugar to ½ gallon of water referred to as 1:1 syrup.
3. As soon as you can get your bees in the hive—your bees are always better in the hive than in those packages.

**Question:** What is the best time of day to check the hives? Also how long will a gallon and a half feeder last?

**Quinby Answers:** The very best time to work your hive is the early afternoon when most of the field bees are out in the field! There are fewer bees in the hive at that time so it is easier to find the queen and check the frames for brood, eggs and larva.

When your hive is young it will take the syrup slower—maybe a ½ gallon in 1-3 days. As it grows and brood starts emerging it will take the syrup faster, maybe a gallon in a few days. Remember you want to quit feeding when you add your honey supers.

**Comment:** Joli loved this comment—it means we have a great group of new beekeepers this year who are eager to get to the joy of beekeeping!

*“The longest 72 hours in the world, the time between installation and queen release!”*

**Question:** I have received my queens but the weather is too bad to make my splits how do I take care of the queens until I can use them—do I feed them honey?

**Quinby Answers:** Keep your queens at room temperature out of direct sunlight and high enough that the dog can't get the cage to play with it (just saying). Each day take your finger and dip it under the water faucet and put a few drops of water on the queen cage screen – you don't want to drench them—just a few drops. No do not feed them honey or anything not even syrup! They have a supply of queen candy that the attendant bees will feed on and then they will take care of the queen.

Comments I heard this year:

*When I put my packages in my hives I dropped a queen cage. I hoped she was fine but when I went to release the queens today I saw that she is dead-(this person should have reached in to pick up the dropped cage and place it as expected).*

*My brood comb isn't yellow anymore it's gotten brown do I need to replace it-is it diseased? (Brood comb turning brown is a natural occurrence-as each bee emerges it leaves behind its cocoon behind in the way. By the end of the summer your brood frames should be brown in the brood areas—where there has been only honey it should be yellow still.)*

*I went to release my queens and they were already out-the bees had eaten through the corks!*

*Several people bought queens to make splits but had not looked in their hives yet to see if they were even alive let alone strong enough to split-GRRRR*

*Several asked if they **had** to find the old queen before they requeened the hive or made a split-**Quinby says:***

*Yes otherwise the bees will kill your new expensive queen.*

*Quinby (named after Moses Quinby who invented*

the bee smoker) would like to take this opportunity to invite you to send your stories or questions to him c/o Joli at the address on the back of *The Buzzer* or via email at [joli@heartlandhoney.com](mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com). She'll let him know of any stories or questions you pass on to her.

**Do you need help with your hives?** Have an experienced master beekeeper come out and help you with your honey bees. I will help with activities such as finding and marking your queens, evaluating your hives to make splits or any beekeeping tasks you need help with. Call or text Kristi Sanderson at 913-768-4961 for pricing and appointments.

### Your Package Bees—what to do?

Keep your bees fed; until your second hive body is drawn out (all of the foundation is made into cells). Add your second hive body when your bottom hive body is almost all drawn out when just the outside frames are not drawn out—you can move your outside frames in one spot and move the drawn out frames to the outside. After your top hive body is drawn out add you queen excluder on top, then one honey super and the second when the first is drawn out. Quit feeding your bees when you add your honey supers.

Check your bees as often as you want. Wear protective clothing and use your smoker. Your hive will be getting larger and more defensive as it grows. As it grows larger you should get more comfortable with it as a beekeeper!

Practice lighting your smoker and keeping it going.

Work your hives in the afternoon when most of the field force is out.

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### Beekeeping Class Thank You's

We want to send out a big thank you to Dadant and Sons & the A.I. Root Company for sending magazines (*American Bee Journals & Bee Culture*) and some great door prizes. Also big thanks to Heartland Honey for donating the hive and bees that was won by The Immer's and for the package of bees that was won by Andrew Ratzlaff. Congratulations to the winners!

Special thanks to all of the NEKBA volunteers—presenters, food and beverage preparers, registration helpers and Robert for all of his hard work preparing the registration, making nametags and

organizing everything. You all are the best. Our volunteer group gets larger every year so it gets easier—Thanks to all of you.



## Newbee Tips

### Do as we say—not as we do!

Here are a few of Joli's favorite tips for heading out to the beeyard and working through your hives.

- ❖ Remember that anytime the bees are flying is an indication that the weather is ok for you to work your bees
- ❖ Consider keeping your tools in a bucket or tool box.
- ❖ Make sure that have your smoker, fuel and matches or a lighter with you all the time. Also keep a cork to put a cork in the hole the smoke comes out of to put out your smoker—many a beekeeper has burned up his vehicle by not taking this small precaution.
- ❖ Always have your hive tool with you and some nails to make quick repairs.
- ❖ Joli likes to take an extra hive body to sit on so she doesn't have to kneel down. But you could use a fishing stool or a bucket with a lid.
- ❖ Other items you might consider in your “bee kit” might be a permanent marker to mark on your hive such things as the year you put the queen in or what type she was—2016 Italian marked.
- ❖ Upon leaving the bee yard always glance back and make sure that the lid is completely down on your hive and that your rock or brick is placed on top.
- ❖ We also try to keep newspaper with us and a queen excluder and toilet tissue—you just never know when they will come in handy!



## 2016 Meeting Dates

Meetings are held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds at 2110 Harper St. It is easily accessible from K10, turn north on Harper Street and it is just a few blocks. We are in Building 21 North which will be on your left you turn into the fairgrounds.

- Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 7 pm
- Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm
- Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>-FUNDAY! Jam Bee Ree Full day workshop  
Keynote speaker--Dr. Jamie Ellis, Dr. Judy Wu-Smart, Dr. Marion Ellis, Petra Anhert
- Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup> Zimmerman's Kill Creek Barn -- Bee-Bee Q Meeting held at alternate location,
- Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 pm
- Monday, Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm
- Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm
- Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> 7:00 pm
- Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm *Holiday Cookies and Youth Scholarship Auction*
- January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday)

## Tips for April

- ◆ Consider helping a neighbor get started in beekeeping by selling them a split from your hive. You can buy a queen from a queen breeder. This could keep your bees from swarming later in the year!
- ◆ Watch for swarms—there goes your honey crop!
- ◆ Equalize hives to minimize swarming: brood from healthy hives may be transferred to a weaker colony. Food frames could also be shared.  
**WARNING:** never move frames unless you know where your queen is. **Find the queen first. Never make an exception to this rule.**
- ◆ You should have several frames of brood in your hives now. If you don't, then you have a problem. It may be your queen or there aren't enough nurse bees to take care of brood. The queen won't lay more eggs than the workers can care for.
- ◆ Clean and scrape off your bottom board
- ◆ Using screened bottom boards will help with Varroa control a little and colony ventilation a whole lot. Good ventilation means less work cooling and reduce stress in the colony
- ◆ Keep up or start your recordkeeping.

- ◆ Check the level of your hives, they should tip slightly forward.
- ◆ Entrance reducers can be removed any time after the first of April.
- ◆ Check colonies for food—if they need food, feed. If they have food—don't feed unless you want to make some splits or increases—if you feed too much it encourages swarming
- ◆ Check for pollen stores, usually pollen is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> frame in on both sides—the outside frame is usually honey and the next frame in is usually pollen.
- ◆ Plant trees and shrubs for your bees. Plant a tree and feed bees for the next 100 years. Contact the Kansas Department of Parks and Wildlife for wild-life" bundles. However you have to remember in October to do this.
- ◆ Put a swarm trap in your bee yard. Bees are valuable.
- ◆ Send in your Funday Registration or go online to nekba.org to register and pay online—it's going to be a Jamie-Bee- Ree!

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## HONEY-ROASTED MIXED NUTS

These were the nuts that were brought to the second class.

### INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup honey
- 2 Tablespoons butter
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, divided
- 4 cups salted mixed nuts
- 2-3 Tablespoons fine sugar

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

1. Mix honey, butter and half of cinnamon in saucepan and heat to boiling. Cook for 2 minutes, stirring constantly.
2. In medium mixing bowl, pour honey mixture over nuts, stir well.
3. Pour mixture onto non-stick cookie sheet and spread evenly. [I lined a regular cookie sheet with parchment paper.]
4. Bake for 10-15 minutes until nuts are lightly browned. Allow to cool.
5. Mix sugar and remaining cinnamon and toss with nuts.

Janeen Hughes from Wichita KS

Thanks so much for sharing the recipe!

## Old Bee Gal By Becky Tipton



Sunday was national sibling day. I am blessed to have two delightful, talented, loving sisters. So, in honor of sibling day, let's talk about siblings in the hive.

All the bees within our healthy hives are siblings derived from the queen mother. Our amazing queen can choose the gender of her offspring. She approaches a cell and measures it with her forearms. If it's a large cell, she lowers her abdomen into the cell and lays an unfertilized egg that will develop into a drone bee (male). If the cell is smaller, she lays a fertilized egg that will develop into either a worker bee or another queen bee. Pretty amazing stuff in that it is a skill we humans have not mastered. Scientists know this system as haploid genetics—males are the exact DNA copy of the queen mother. They have no father but they have a grandfather. The drones in a given hive will not mate with the virgin queens from the same hive. When the virgin queen is ready to mate, she flies about 2 miles from the hive and mates with “other” drones. Queen breeders set up drone yards an appropriate distance from their breeder queen hives to flood the area with the drone genetics they wish to propagate within their queen stock.

So, the queen may mate with many drones (optimal) or she may mate with few drones, based on weather conditions or other mitigating factors. The sperm is all stored in an organ called the spermatheca. Once she is mated (for life) she begins laying eggs. The sperm is mixed together and produces an assortment of worker bees with differing drone daddies. Worker bees from the same drone daddy are called super-sisters. Workers from drones derived from the same queen (drone brothers) are full sisters. Workers from drones from different queens/hives are half-sisters. Scientists have discovered some amazing trends among these relationships. Super-sisters “listen” to each other better than other relationships. They will respond to dance language more quickly, foraging for

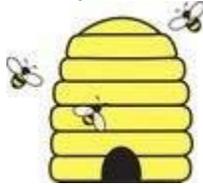
either nectar or pollen with their super-sisters. Super-sisters are more likely to share food with each other. Genetics determine many characteristics in the worker bee—comb building, nectar foraging, pollen collecting, tendencies to swarm, and defensiveness. All of these are present in all bees but each characteristic is more pronounced in some genetic configurations. Your super-sisters that all carry the pollen-collecting gene will plug out your colony with sheets of pollen. Defensiveness, they will help you remember to always wear your veil when checking hives.

This sounds like a good thing. It is. Super sisters, by responding to their own genetics, ensure that their genes will continue. But, without the diversity that mating with multiple drones from multiple colonies provides, the hive will not have the hybrid vigor needed to prosper in all conditions. As small time beekeepers, we occasionally do things for the sake of \$\$\$ that is penny wise but pound-foolish. Queen breeders flood mating areas with drones carrying good honey bee traits. When we raise our own queens or do the “walk-away” splits, we are rolling the genetic dice and assuming there are drones out there for our new queens. So, if you are considering either one of these beek activities, consider your drone “stud” population. Super-sisters are interesting and give strength to the colony but so does genetic diversity.

And a special thank you to my “super” sisters who have always supported me in my honey bee hobby, even if they didn't always understand my obsession.

Mentoring-Join Joli and Cecil on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday during the months of May 9<sup>th</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup> & August 8<sup>th</sup>. The fee is \$10 per person with the money going to the NEKBA Youth Scholarship program. We'll work through hives each month-Meet at 6pm. At 19201 S Clare Rd. Spring Hill KS 66083 913-856-8356 or [joli@heartlandhoney.com](mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com)

## Honey Plants



**Jo Patrick**

At the March NEKBA meeting a woman asked me for plant recommendations for her flower bed. That lucky lady's husband had dug a new flower bed for her. She was carefully considering what to plant. Along with the vegetable garden, we should be giving some consideration to creating buffer zones in fields; filling in the empty gaps in the yard, planting a new tree, or defining the property line with a row of bushes. As beekeepers, and hopefully good stewards of the land, we should plan so that our choices enhance the landscape and are pollinator friendly. At the Kansas Honey Producers spring meeting, Dr. Chip Taylor, University of Kansas Insect Ecologist, said that 150 plant species are required for good honey bee colony health. Knowing this, why would we ever plant anything that didn't offer pollinators something of value?

This past week I met a sales representative from Sharp Bros. Seed Co., [www.sharpseed.com](http://www.sharpseed.com). Sharp Bros. is headquartered in Healey, KS and has developed a Monarch Butterfly and Honey Bee mix. It is designed to provide pollen and nectar sources from May 1 through October 1. For those who have non-productive areas to fill in, this type of seed mix will ensure you have summer and fall coverage for pollinators. This mix includes stiff goldenrod, lemon mint, purple prairie clover, white prairie clover, lance-leaved coreopsis, black-eyed Susan, Maximilian Sunflower and prairie coneflower. Sharp Bros. can also be contacted by calling 800-462-8483.

When choosing seeds or plants, honey bees are attracted to the colors yellow, white, blue, and purple. Flowers that have a nice landing pad, like Maximilian Sunflower, are easier for honey bees to work. Deep throated flowers might be too deep for the honey bees' tongue to reach the nectar. This is why honey bees prefer White Dutch Clover over Red Clover.

I can personally recommend the upcoming Miami County Master Gardener Plant Sale in Paola, KS.

The plant suppliers are local and do not use neonicotinoids. The sale is Thursday, April 28, noon to 5 pm, Friday, April 29, 8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, April 30, 8 am to noon. The location is in Rockers' Pharmacy parking lot at 300 Baptiste Drive, just west of the Farmers Coop. Take the Baptiste Drive Exit from Hwy 169; turn right and go west 1.3 miles. The Plant Sale is on the north side of Baptiste. For more information, contact the Extension Office at (913)294-4306.

Leavenworth County Master Gardeners will also be hosting a plant sale on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 8am to 3pm, at the Haymarket Square Flea Market in Leavenworth. For more info call (913) 250-2300.

Worth the trip to Lawrence, the Monarch Watch Spring Open House & Plant Fundraiser will be Saturday, May 7, 8am to 2pm. For additional information, visit <http://monarchwatch.org/openhouse>.

Also in Lawrence, the Grassland Heritage Foundation is hosting their 4<sup>th</sup> annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 1:30pm. It will be held on the lawn of the Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St. All plants will be \$4.00 and are Kansas natives.

The Douglas County Master Gardeners will be holding their annual plant sale on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Douglas County Fair Grounds. This just happens to coincide with the NEKBA Funday date and location. A win-win for us!

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### Funday Update

We are diligently working to line up a fantastic program for you.

In this *Buzzer* there is a flyer and form to register for the day or you can go online and register and pay with your credit card—[nekba.org](http://nekba.org).

Be thinking of items that you can bring to the silent auction to benefit the youth scholarship program.

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### Do You Want Swarms?

If you would like to be notified of swarms in your area call Cecil at 913-856-8356. You could also call your local fire department, local Park and Rec. department, or any local pest control companies. Give them your name & phone number and they'll be happy to pass any swarm calls along to you!

## Spring Bee Work

I know every year I say that I love this time of year the best—but I mean it. It's all about the bees for me. I love selling honey and making soap but I really love working through hives in the spring, with Cecil. We are usually fortunate enough to get to work on Sundays to make some splits.

**First:** were they dead or alive?

**Second:** Was there brood in both hive bodies? If there was brood we either combined the brood all into the bottom hive body with the empty combs on top. Or if there was a lot of brood in both boxes, after we did the happy dance because we can split it later, we just left it. If we had a dead out in that yard we added a third hive body on top to give them room until we can get back.

**Third:** If all of the bees and brood were only in the top hive body then we put the top hive body with the brood down and put the empty box on top.

**Fourth:** If the bees had less than 5 or six frames of honey we feed them—we want to split our hives to make increases so we feed in the spring to encourage the queen to lay more eggs.

This is how we like to increase our hives and build up from our winter losses. We go through each hive and find our queen. Then we count the brood and leave 3 frames of brood and bees the first week of April, 4 frames the 2<sup>nd</sup> week. Leaving more than that it is too hard to get them to accept a new queen because the population is too high. Three-four frames are the most ideal. If you are not requeening at the same time you would put your old queen back in with the brood into the bottom hive body of your original hive. If you are requeening, then you would kill your old queen and install your new queen in the brood area of your bottom hive body. We like to leave her caged for 4 days and then come back to release her. If you just took out the cork in the candy end the bees could chew through that candy and release the queen before the bees had gotten used to her.

The extra brood & bees that you have taken away for your new splits you will put into a hive body in the center and install your new queen, leaving her caged for 4 days. Next to the brood add some open frames of foundation or drawn comb. Then in your outside frames, if you have honey and pollen put those in the 1 & 2 and 9 & 10 positions in the hive. Honey frames on the outside in 1 and 10 positions and pollen frames in the 2 and 9 positions. You

always want to put your brood down, in the bottom hive body because bees naturally will move up.

When making splits in the same yard as the parent hives the field bees will fly back to the parent hive. This leaves your young split/nuc with fewer bees to take care of the brood. This can cause the split to actually not make it! It is best to move the split away about 2 miles so that it has a better chance to survive. You can also switch places with the parent colony. Move your smaller new hive to the place that the parent hive was and your old hive to a new spot. The field bees will return to the young hive in the new spot.

If you cannot find the queen or anticipate that you will have trouble. You can go out 4 or 5 days before you plan to make your splits and go through the brood so that you have brood in both boxes. Then put your queen excluder between the bottom hive body and the top one. When you come back to make your nuc, divide the colony in half, and look for eggs—the queen will be in the half with eggs so you could take the brood from the other half. This method helps to narrow down how many frames you have to look on to find the queen!

The other way we make nucs when we absolutely cannot find the queen is quite tedious, but works. You need an empty hive body and a bee brush and a queen excluder. Go through and count your frames of brood, leave 4 below in the bottom hive body and make it up with your ten frames exactly how you want to leave it. With your maker put an X on the top of the brood frames that you want to take, these will go into the top box. Now brush off every single bee from every single frame over the bottom hive body that contains the brood that you are keeping with that hive. It will be quite full. Put the bee free frames into your empty hive body, making sure that there are no bees in there. Put your queen excluder on top of the bottom hive body (with all of the bees) and then put your hive body with the bee free frames on top. The bees will soon move up on the extra brood and cover those frames but your queen should be confined below. After 3 or 4 hours you can take out your marked brood frames and make your nucs, adding a queen to them. Be sure to replace the now empty spots in your original hive body with empty frames.

Another important factor is that the bees need to have food. Make sure that there is honey in the hives or feed them!

(Reprinted from April 2015)

## Requeening Tips & Queen Stuff

(Reprinted from 2007 Buzzer)

- Find the old queen and kill her; you absolutely cannot requeen a hive that already has a queen.
- Feed your hive while you are requeening and for a few days before—a simulated nectar flow will help with the acceptance of the new queen.
- Take the attendants out of the cage. You can best do this in your car or truck with the windows up, in your bathroom with the door shut or in veil (not while it is on your head) with just your hand in a small opening. Also use this method in a closed in area. Or get an empty queen cage from last year and take the cork out of one end of the empty cage and out of the end of the cage with the queen that does not have candy in it. Carefully butt the ends of the cages up together so the holes match and run the queen and attendants back and forth until you have released all of the attendants. Be careful not to let the queen go! As the attendants run back into the empty cage put your finger over the hole of the cage the queen is in and shake out the attendants. Find one or two frames of brood and remove some of the comb so the queen cage will fit in vertically to the top bar. Push in the cage and return the comb back to the hive. Place a frame next to this frame (on the queen cage side) that has emerging brood. Make sure the bees can get to the queen cage to feed the queen and get used to her scent.
- Leave the cork in the candy end of the cage for at least 3 or four days. Then in 3 or 4 days go back, take out the cage and look at the way the bees are treating the cage and queen. If they are trying to sting at it you have a big problem. Either you have a queen in the hive or a queen cell has developed or a virgin could be on the loose. The slower the bees release the queen the longer they have to accept her and her acceptance in greater. If the bees are trying to feed her and touch you can release her or remove the cork and let her walk out or remove the cork on the candy end and let them eat the candy and release her.
- Check the hive in about a week and look for eggs and larvae then you'll know your queen is alive and well.



## Sure Fire Ways to Find the Queen!

Requeening is one of those beekeeping things where 20 beekeepers have 30 different ideas of how it should be done. Following are just some pointers to help you along.

There are two really important aspects of requeening.

1. Finding the old queen.
2. Getting the new queen accepted.

If these two things don't happen you'll have big time trouble!

### *Finding the old queen:*

Plan to requeen early in the year when there are fewer bees in the hive.

Plan to look for the queen during the warmest part of the day. During this time most of the field bees are out of the hive, this makes looking for the queen easier.

The first place to look for the queen is in the brood nest on frames with hatching brood that has some eggs in it.

Carefully scan each frame as you pull it out, looking carefully for her; glance at the frame next to the one you pull out. Sometimes you can see her on the face of the frame still in the hive.

*If this doesn't work you can:*

- Slip a queen excluder between your two hive bodies and in 3-4 days you'll know which half she's in because you'll only have eggs in one half of the hive which narrows the search area down.

The next method requires more equipment but is also pretty drastic. Move the hive aside. In its place, put a single story hive containing empty combs. Above this add a queen excluder and an empty deep super or hive body. When everything is ready, smoke the colony well and shake off the bees from each comb onto the queen excluder. Then while holding the frame inside the empty hive body, shake the bees off of the frame, into the empty box. After shaking each frame check the sides of the hive body and the queen looking excluder, looking for the queen. Place the bee-free combs in an empty hive body. As with the previous method you will eventually find the old queen if you do everything right. The next step after you find the queen is to put the hive back to its original form.

- Now check your stomach and see if she isn't crawling around on you
- If you still haven't found her and there are sealed queen cells then they've swarmed! Close it up and see what happens.

## Location, Location, Location



There are so many aspects to consider when finding a location for your bees. We'll take them one by one. Ideally, the closer you can have them to where you live the more successful you will be and the more you will enjoy it. That being said it isn't always possible.

If you have your bees on someone else's property there are a few rules to follow.

- Never put your bees where another beekeeper already has bees. Find your own place. Also the other person may not be a very good beekeeper and you run the chance of getting diseases from them and vice versa. You may be a bad beekeeper and give diseases to them.
- Always negotiate a head of time what you will give the property owner in exchange for putting your bees on their property. For instance we have yards of 10 or 12 hives and we give each land owner 1 gallon of honey in November. We tell them that up front. We have heard horror stories of land owners who expected ½ of the honey and more. So be up front, if you just have one or two hives 2 or 3# would maybe be enough honey to share.
- Make sure that you have access to the bees; do you need a key to the gate? Do you need to call the landowner every time you go out there? Ideally you want year round access.
- You also want to choose a place that has easy access all year round. You do not want to put your bees on the far edge of a pasture that will be mowed since the landowner isn't going to want you to drive through their hay field when you need to be putting on supers or feeding your bees.
- You also need to be sure when it is a wet season that you can drive in all year round. That the road is solid. There is nothing worse than having to carry in a 60 lb. bucket of syrup into your bees for a ½ of a mile or carry in empty supers or worse yet, carry out full supers.
- Try to find a location that isn't low and where

fog doesn't hang there in the morning. It is also a good idea to not set your bees in an area that could flood, such as near a creek.

- While it is tempting to locate your bees under trees, your hive will continue to grow as you add supers to it, the bees just really need afternoon shade
- If you live in the city or in a neighborhood with rules you need to get online and see what the regulations are. For instance, in Overland Park, you can have 3 hives in your yard but they have to be a certain number of feet from your property line. In Shawnee you need the signature of several of your neighbors.

**Ideally**, you want a location with a windbreak on the north. Face the entrance to east or south. If possible you want shade from the late afternoon sun. Rarely is a location "ideal".

You want to get your bees up off the ground, but not too high up. The hives are heavy and awkward and they get heavier when you have full supers on them. If you get them up too high you can't reach to add supers or take them off. It only takes backing the truck up one time to add a super and hitting the hive and knocking to over to learn your lesson. We like to put two hives on a pallet. We use to put our hives on 2 cement blocks. We also have used railroad ties to put our hives up one. We have a few yards where we are on a cement pad and then you don't need to be up off of the ground.

If you are putting your bees in your backyard know in your heart that your dogs and your children will learn quickly to stay out of the way. Try to place the bees out of the main walk way.

The bees are quite resilient and will survive in spite of our actions sometimes—these are just some hints to help you be more successful.



# The Honey Pot

## By Robin Kolterman

Every day is Tea Time at my house. I love all sorts of teas and, of course, sweetened with honey. For a special Tea Time treat, a batch of Honey & Cinnamon Scones goes perfectly!

# April



Honeybees have 170 odorant receptors located in their antennae, which is a very high number for an insect. Bees use their sense of "smell" for communication, finding floral sources and for identifying bees of their own colony.

## Honey Ice Cubes



After wax cappings have drained, you will want to wash them before processing the wax. For the first "washing", use a small amount of clean drinking water to swish cappings. You will be surprised how sweet this water will be. Use it to make ice cubes to cool and sweeten iced or hot tea.

## Brewing the perfect Cup of Tea

Different types of teas have different brewing temperatures and lengths

<b>White</b>	Short of boiling (>212°)	30-60 seconds
<b>Green</b>	Short of boiling (>212°)	1-3 minutes
<b>Black</b>	Boiling (212°)	3-5 Minutes
<b>Oolong</b>	Boiling (212°)	3-5 Minutes
<b>Red/Herb</b>	Boiling (212°)	5-7 minutes



## Propolis Tea



Servings: 1 person

8 drops liquid propolis  
2 leaves of sage  
2 sprigs of thyme  
1-2 tsp honey  
1 slice lemon  
4 whole cloves

Add all ingredients in a mug, top up with boiling water. Steep for 5-7 minutes. Strain Tea through fine sieve.

### Notes:

Propolis is gathered by honey bees from tree barks and the sap of leaf buds. It is used to coat the inside of the hive thus disinfecting it and making it stronger by closing gaps. Propolis has been used for human medicinal purposes for centuries. Some of the benefits it is said to have are antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. As with all bee products, some people are sensitive and may have reactions. Use in small doses at first.

## Honey & Cinnamon Scones



1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour  
3 T. honey  
1 T. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. salt  
8 T. unsalted butter, cold, cut into 1/2-inch cubes  
1/4 cup half-and-half, cold  
1 large egg  
**Filling**  
2 T. honey  
2 tsp. cinnamon  
1 T. granulated sugar to sprinkle on top

1. Preheat oven 375°F. Line sheet pan with parchment paper.
2. In large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt.
3. Cut butter into dry mixture until crumbly. Stir in half-and-half and egg until combined.
4. **Filling:** Roll out dough on lightly floured surface to 10 x 6-inch rectangle. Drizzle 1 T. honey and 1 tsp. cinnamon over half of rectangle; fold in half. Roll dough out again into an 8 x 6-inch rectangle. Sprinkle on remaining honey and cinnamon, then fold in half.
5. Pat the dough into a 6-inch circle and cut into 6 wedges.
6. Evenly space wedges on pan, sprinkle with sugar, bake until golden and just firm, 15 to 17 minutes.
7. Let scones cool on the pan for 5 minutes, transfer to a wire rack to cool. Serve warm or at room temperature.

# Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Jamie-Bee-Ree Funday

Saturday, June 4th, 2016 Registration: 7:45-8:45, Program 8:45-5:00

Douglas County Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper, Lawrence KS

Fee includes lunch, beverages, snacks & homemade ice cream and a full day of fun!

Bring your hat & veil—we'll be working through some hives

Cost: \$40.00 per person for those pre-registered, \$50.00 at the door,

Children under 5 free, ages 6-18, \$17.50 for those pre-registered, \$20.00 at the door.

For those pre-registered, by May 21st, there will be a drawing at the end of the Funday to reimburse 1 (one) pre-registered person for their registration!

For information contact Please contact Steve or Becky Tipton at 785-484-3710 [bstbees@embarqmail.com](mailto:bstbees@embarqmail.com)

Register online at [WWW.NEKBA.org](http://WWW.NEKBA.org)

Visit our website at [WWW.NEKBA.ORG](http://WWW.NEKBA.ORG) for updated information



## Our special guests will include:

**Dr. Jamie Ellis**, Associate Professor of Entomology, University of FL Extension Dr. Ellis joined the Entomology and Nematology department at the University of Florida in August, 2006. His interests include pollination ecology of honey bees and native bees, varroa mite control, honey bee pathology/parasitology, honey bee nutrition, honey bee chemical ecology, sublethal effects of chemicals on bees, and general honey bee behavior/ecology.

**Dr. Judy Wu-Smart**, Entomology Extension Specialist University of Nebraska, Lincoln whose area of interest was sublethal effects of neonicotinyl insecticides on honey bee and bumble bee queens and colony development. She rocks!

**Dr. Marion Ellis**, a retired professor of entomology and researcher from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will be a feature speaker. We love him!

**Petra Ahnert** author of *Beeswax Alchemy*-presenting on soapmaking, lotions & salves & beeswax!

**Natalia Bjorklund**, doctoral student University of Nebraska Lincoln

**Dr. Chip Taylor**, Founder and Director of Monarch Watch; Professor Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.

Trained as an insect ecologist, Chip Taylor has published papers on species assemblages, hybridization, reproductive biology, population dynamics and plant demographics and pollination.

We'll have incredible Hands On Workshops & Presentations at the Bee Hives—watch for updates at [nekba.org](http://nekba.org)

## Swarm Demonstration with Dr. Chip Taylor



There are presentations for *EVERY* level of beekeeper!

## Vendors

Beekeeping Supplies will be available- Watch our NEKBA website for a current list

**Door Prizes:** The swarm from the swarm demonstration will be given away in a single hive. There will be door prizes from supply dealers. You must be present to win and you must fill out an evaluation form to win any door prizes.

## Motels that are in Lawrence:

**Best Western**, 2309 Iowa, 785-843-9100

**Hampton Inn**, 2300 W. 6<sup>th</sup>, 785-841-4994

**A Silent Auction will be held to benefit the NEKBA Youth Scholarship Program**  
Donations of auction items are appreciated!

Directions to the Douglas County Fairgrounds: Take K-10 to Harper Street, go north 2 blocks the Fairgrounds. Harper Rd. is on the east edge town and there is a directional sign to the Douglas County Fairground

Program and Speakers Subject to change

**Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers**  
**Funday Registration Form**  
**2016 Beekeeping Fun Day, Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Need More Info? Please contact Steve or Becky Tipton at 785-484-3710 or [bstbees@embarqmail.com](mailto:bstbees@embarqmail.com)

You can register and pay online at [WWW.NEKBA.ORG](http://WWW.NEKBA.ORG). Your contact information will be provided to the club through PayPal—please list all participants in the Paypal notes section

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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

I am a member of the Northeast KS Beekeepers

I am **not** a member of the Northeast KS Beekeepers

I would like to be a member--Club Membership 1/2 year \$7.50 (membership not required) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive my *Buzz*er Newsletter by email

**Registration for Funday:**

Adults \$40 per person (\$50.00 if paid after May 21<sup>st</sup>) \_\_\_\_\_

*Registration includes admission to the Funday, lunch, drinks, handouts, and an afternoon snack of homemade honey ice cream*

*There will be an alternative meal available at lunch for vegetarians.*

Youth (6-18) \$17.50 (\$20.00 if paid after May 21<sup>st</sup> ) \_\_\_\_\_

Youth 5 and under free

Youth Scholarship Donation \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please make your check out to “Northeast KS Beekeepers or NEKBA” or register and pay online at [WWW.NEKBA.ORG](http://WWW.NEKBA.ORG)

No Receipts will be sent

Mail to: Robert Burns  
7601 W 54<sup>th</sup> Terr  
Shawnee Mission KS 66202  
Email: [rburns@kc.rr.com](mailto:rburns@kc.rr.com)

Names of those attending so name tags can be made:

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**We appreciate early pre-registrations so much that at the end of the Funday we will hold a drawing of all preregistered people and one person gets his registration fee back!**

Need More Info? Please contact Steve or Becky Tipton at 785-484-3710 or [bstbees@embarqmail.com](mailto:bstbees@embarqmail.com)

## HEARTLAND HONEY & BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies including woodenware, smokers, extractors, books, queens, package bees and containers. We will trade wax for supplies. For your convenience please call in advance –Hours Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Friday 10:30-5:30, closed Wednesday. Joli Winer/Cecil Sweeney, Heartland Honey and Beekeeping Supplies, 19201 S Clare Rd. Spring Hill KS 66083. (913) 856-8356. [joli@heartlandhoney.com](mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com)

### FISHER'S BEE SUPPLIES

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies. See us for your woodenware, smokers, containers, foundation, beekeeping books, extractors, queens and package bees. We also have extractors for rent. We will trade wax for supplies. Our hours are: 9:00am - 5:00pm Monday - Friday and Saturday after 8:30am. You should call before you come to make sure we are here. ED FISHER 4005 N.E. 132nd Street, Smithville MO 64089 816-532-4698

### DRAPER'S SUPER BEE

We offer fast and courteous service to all beekeepers. We sell all the supplies for beekeeping, containers, pollen and honey for those who run short. Order is shipped the same day as received in most cases. Free catalog available on request. Pick up orders at our warehouse must be pre-ordered and picked up by appointment only. Business Hours: Mon.-Thur. 8-5; closed from 12-1.

Brenda and Larry Draper, DRAPER'S SUPER BEE; 914 S St. Auburn NE 68305 PHONE: (402) 274-3725.

### 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. 3-frame nucs of solid brood comb of foundation (frames of even exchange) with MN Hygienic queens for \$119.00 each. Corn syrup or sugar by the 5 gallon bucket or barrel. *If you need it, we probably have what you want.* Raymond Cooper, 220 N Elm, Iola KS 66749. Call: 620-365-5956 after 8:00 p.m.

### JORDY'S HONEY

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

### NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Membership Northeastern KS Beekeepers per year (July.-Dec. \$7.50) \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 (Jan-Dec)

Additional family members wanting voting rights \$1.00 per person \$1.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Family member's names \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

American Bee Journal 1 year \$21.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Youth Scholarship Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail To: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54<sup>th</sup> Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 913-831-6096 email [rburns@kc.rr.com](mailto:rburns@kc.rr.com)

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

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

## Address Service Requested

**Meeting**  
**Monday, April 18th**

### *The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association*

Membership is open to anyone who is interested in bees or bee culture. Dues are \$15.00 per calendar year (December 31-December 31) for the first in the family joining. Those joining in July or later in the year may pay \$7.50 for ½ year. Additional members of that family wanting voting privileges shall be assessed dues at \$1.00 per year. Youth memberships (18 years of age and younger) are \$7.50 per year. New memberships and renewals should be submitted to the treasurer.

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

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

The Association meets each month on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. except during the months of January, March, June and July. A beekeeping class is held in March. This is a nonprofit organization; elected officers serve without pay. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting. Check *The Buzzer* or our website at nekba.org each month for the actual date, time and location. If the weather is bad call an officer to find out if the meeting will be held.

### **2016 Officers**

President: Andy Nowachek, 10921 W 91 <sup>st</sup> Terr, Shawnee Mission KS <a href="mailto:awn@everestkc.net">awn@everestkc.net</a>	913-438-5397
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Editor: Joli Winer, 19201 S. Clare Rd. Spring Hill KS 66083 <a href="mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com">joli@heartlandhoney.com</a>	913-856-8356
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**Visit our Website at [NEKBA.org](http://NEKBA.org)**