



Good Beekeeping



Good Fellowship



Exploring the wonderful world of beekeeping together

The Bee Buzzer

Monthly publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

VOLUME 71, NUMBER 7 EDITOR: MATTHEW MERZ - July 2019

Monday, July 15th (7 p.m.)

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.

"The Ins and Out of Honey Extraction."

Cheryl Burkhead, Bruce Lane, and Chad Gilliland offer a hands-on opportunity to learn all the specifics to harvesting and extracting your honey. We will detail how to pull your supers from the hive, extract, harvest, and bottle your honey. From start to finish the entire process you will see with your own hives over the next month or two.

*If you have frames you would like to have the moisture content tested, bring them to the meeting.



2019 Meeting Dates: (Starting Time is 7pm at Douglas County Fairgrounds unless stated otherwise.)

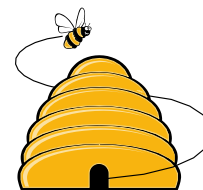
- Monday, July 15th
- Monday, August 19th
- Monday, September 16th
- Monday, October 21st
- Monday, November 18th
- Monday, December 16th

Enter your Honey in your County Fair and the State Fair!

This month I want to encourage all of you to go online and see what requirements your county has for honey fair submissions (such as what jar you need and how many jars and the date and time that they need to be entered). This is one of the best things you can do to improve your honey product(s). I do know that Johnson county needs to be entered by Tuesday morning, July 30th at 10:00am in the Open Class Building.

Beelines

By President Steve Messbarger



Seems summer is here, but still getting some rain every now and then. Maybe the clover will stay around a little longer this year. Reports of a lot of nectar are still coming in. That's good news compared to last year with the drought. Hopefully everyone's supers are filling up. It seems to be a good year for nectar, even with all the rain this spring. Good nectar comes with many hives swarming this year. There's nothing wrong with free bees, if you can catch them, unless they're your bees swarming. It's been a tough year to keep our bees from swarming. I guess it's just one of those years. Lots of extended rain, and bees cramped up in the hive that can't get out to forage, could be part of the issue. Every year is different. That's what makes beekeeping such a great challenge. No matter how long you've been a beekeeper, we all have challenges to face every year.

Speaking of problems, I hope everyone at the last meeting got some good answers to their questions at our round table meeting. We get a lot of good feedback after we have that meeting. Members seem to enjoy the one-on-one with the small groups.

It's been really hot and humid lately, so be careful out there. Keep lots of water on hand. Don't go out without your cell phone, in case you have an emergency. A good thing to know is the signs of heat stroke. There are times when I leave my truck running with the air on, so I can take a break and cool off. No reason to risk getting sick. Please play it safe and take lots of breaks. One more tip is to always let someone know where you will be working that day, just in case.

Looking forward to our next meeting. We are there early so come and visit with us. Always enjoy talking with our members, and learning what's going on, out in their areas. Hope to see you there!

As always, Bees First!

President
Steve Messbarger

Methods to Remove Honey *By: Joli Winer*

- Use a bee brush-brushing each frame individually and putting them back into an empty super-cover well as this takes a long time
- Bee Escape: the bee escape is placed in the oblong hole in the inner cover placed directly over the hive bodies & under the supers. With the hive lid placed back on. The bees can only pass through one way. It usually takes about 48 hours for all of the bees to get out. You must take great care to make sure that all of the openings are closed up as the bees will not be able to protect the honey in the supers and you must make sure that other bees cannot rob it out. There are also escape boards that are used the same way. FYI if you are using a way to prop up your lid to supposedly cool the hive make sure to discontinue this.
- Our favorite is to use a leaf blower. Set your super on its end on top of the hive and run the blower between the frames. The bees are blown out but go right back into

the hive. Be prepared to cover the bee free supers up so bees can't get back in. This really doesn't seem to upset the beeyard at all. They calm right down and go back into the hive.

- When you get back to the house keep the honey in a warm place. Like the garage rather than the basement. The warmer it is when you extract it the more honey you get out of the frames.
- Choose an extracting location that is bee tight—if there is a hole, the bees will find it, and get in and be a huge nuisance. Do not think that you can do this on your back porch or anywhere out in the open because it will be a disaster—robbing will get started and you'll have a very bad experience.
- Have your extracting area all cleaned up and ready to extract before you pull honey so your honey doesn't sit around for a long time.
- If extracting in your garage, unplug the garage door opener so you don't leave your garage door up and have the bees rob it all out. Been there, done that.
- In late summer and even now with the dry weather in our area and no honey flow your hives could be in danger of being robbed. If you see frantic activity at the entrance of your hives—bees fighting with each other—you are witnessing a robbing situation. Quickly reduce entrances, close off cracks or move hives if necessary. If you have your lids propped up to promote air flow you'll also need to stop that practice immediately.

Last of all remember this famous quote by me! When it has anything to do with extracting do not say or think "I'll be right back to do this".

Come Join Us at the Kansas State Fair:

The Kansas State Fair is in Hutchinson and is fast approaching. It runs September 6 to 15 and we start setting up on the 4th. This year the sales area will have a new look as we have been asked by the fair administration to adhere to some new guidelines. The times to volunteer have shifted a bit as well because the building is opening an hour earlier and closing an hour earlier. Signup genius will be up and live the first part of May. If you have used this app in the past to sign up to volunteer,

you will be sent an email when it goes live. If you are new go to signupgenius.com to create an account and look for the signup "2019 Kansas State Fair" or you can look for it by the creator's email which is sandersonk09@gmail.com. It's not password protected so don't pay attention if it asks for a password. If you would prefer you can always contact me at 913-768-4961 by phone or text and I will help you sign up for the date and time you wish to volunteer.

Thank you and see you in Hutchinson,
Kristi



Tips for July:

- Weed eat around the entrance to your hive
- Wear as much protective

clothing as you want,

make sure you feel comfortable when working your hives so that you won't be afraid to get into them

- Use your smoker each time you check your bees—we are hearing that many of you are using sugar syrup rather than smokers. A word to the wise as your hives get stronger, they aren't as nice. When the honey flow stops the sugar, syrup can cause robbing to start causing a huge disruption in your bee yard.

- Consider keeping your bee tools in a box so that you can always find them.

- The best time to work bees is during the middle of the day when the field bees are out

- Work from the side or the back of the hive out of the bee flight path.

- Water is essential. If your bees don't have a reliable water source provide water near the hive. A chicken or quail water bottle with gravel in the tray makes a good bee waterer.

- Harvest your earliest, lightest honey and keep it

separate from later darker harvests. The contrast will make both honeys more valuable.

- Prepare frames for replacement of broken or old frames in your hives. When you do hive inspections, you'll have frames ready.

- Prepare entries for county and State Fairs

HONEY PLANTS

By: Cheryl Burkhead

Our main nectar flow is coming to an end and most of us will be turning our attention to harvest. I will also be assessing my colonies for varroa and making plans for treatment and grafting queens for summer



increases in the coming weeks.

It was great seeing all the yellow and white sweet clover this year! All our wet weather may have helped after such a poor season last year. Yellow clover was everywhere, and my bees were sure enjoying it once the weather cooperated. Their foraging was slowed by a few rainy periods, but I think it prolonged the bloom and kept the road crews and farmers from destroying it.

The weather abruptly got warmer and drier during the arrival of white sweet clover which seemed to shut its nectar flow down rather quickly. I didn't see much Dutch clover where I live which was probably due to the heat. Fields and roadsides were packed with white sweet clover in spots. Watching social media posts, nectar flow has been spotty in some areas but most of us enjoyed several weeks of good nectar flow so hopefully you'll have some honey to harvest!

The bees still have a lot of flowers to forage on and will be focusing their attention on other summer flowers for nectar and pollen. I've noticed Chicory along the roadsides in the past week. Other native plants that are blooming now; milkweeds, echinacea, lead plant, Black-eyed Susan, gray coneflower, yarrow, slender mountain mint, bee balm, and sensitive brier. Rattlesnake-master and compass plant will soon be in bloom. I've been continuing to learn my prairie wildflowers as I go out to work bees.

In my yard, Russian Sage is getting lots of visits. It's one of my favorites and doesn't require much attention. It will bloom until frost and the bees love it! I have milkweed, hyssop, salvia, coneflower, mountain mint and catmint in bloom. I saw a Mimosa tree in bloom and Vitex and Caryopteris (blue beard) won't be far behind.

If you have time on your hands, now is a good time to visit K-State's Olathe Horticulture Center, in rural Johnson County, Kansas, 35230 West 135th, Olathe, KS. It is situated on the eastern side of land that

was once the Sunflower Ammunition Plant. The research center sits on 342 acres that includes 150 acres native woodland, 75 acres bottomland and 117 acres upland soil grassland. Open weekdays 8-4pm. Best viewing is June-August so take a stroll through the farm. The flower area is open to view, and all plants are labeled. Please check in with a staff member upon arrival. [The Backyard Garden](#) which is a research-based display garden is open to the public on Wednesdays this summer 9-11am (weather permitting). Find out what grows best in our Midwest climate.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Kansas County Fairs/Festivals: Starting 6/20 – 8/7, 2019 <https://www.kansasfairsassociation.com/>

Kansas State Fair: Sept 6th-15th, 2019 <https://www.kansasstatefair.com/> (Sign Up to Volunteer!)

Kansas Honey Producers Association (KHPA) Fall Meeting – October 18th-19th - Best Western Wichita North 915 E 53rd ST. N., Wichita KS <http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org/home.html>

The Kansas Honey Producers meetings are for anyone who is interested in beekeeping. It is for folks without hives or who have 1 or more hives. We are a small group who get together twice a year to share information about beekeeping. We typically have two national guest speakers. The Fall meeting of the Kansas Honey Producers Association will be held in Wichita this year. Please mark your calendars now for this event. We have confirmed several guest speakers for this meeting. We will have Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda from the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology Extension at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville will attend. Also, one of our favorite people will be at this meeting too, Dr. Judy Wu-Smart. Judy is an Extension and Research Entomologist at the University of NebraskaLincoln, Department of Entomology. Judy received her doctorate in Entomology from the University of MN under the direction of Dr. Marla Spivak. Another guest speaker will be Louann Hauser from Lenexa. Louann is a past American Honey Queen who will give us a presentation on Media Training-Beekeeper Tips and Tricks about how to talk to the Media. You may make your room reservations by calling the Best Western Wichita North by calling 316-832-9387 and mentioning the Kansas Honey Producers Association to get our discounted rate of \$89.99 per night. To get this rate reservations must be made by September 26th. Please mark your calendars for upcoming KHPA meetings: March 6 & 7, 2020 possibly Hays KS October 16 & 17, 2020 Guest: Tammy Horn Potter, Kentucky State Apiarist

Apimondia 2019: The 46th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress - Montréal, 8-12 September 2019 <https://www.apimondia2019.com/>

NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

PHONE _____ Email address _____

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

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

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

Additional Family member's names _____

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

Membership for Kansas Honey Producers Association \$15.00 _____

American Bee Journal 1 year \$24.00 _____

Bee Culture Magazine 1 year \$25.00 _____

Scholarship Donation _____

Total _____

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

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

Now you can pay online at WWW.NEKBA.ORG

MENTORING-SWEET PRAIRIE HONEY

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

HEARTLAND HONEY & BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

We no longer sell bee supplies but will still have package bees and queens. Joli Winer/Cecil Sweeney, Heartland Honey, 19201 S Clare Rd. Spring Hill KS 66083 (913) 856-8356. joli@heartlandhoney.com

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. 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 only sell bee pollen, honey and labels. Business Hours: Monday-Wednesday 9am-3pm; Closed from 12-1. Please call ahead if you want to pick up an order. 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. Bees: frames of brood. Corn syrup or sugar by the 5 gallon bucket or barrel. *If you need it, we probably have what you want.* 3-frame nucs of solid brood comb of foundation (frames of even exchange) with MN Hygienic queens for \$119.00 each Raymond Cooper, 220 N Elm, Iola KS 66749. Call: 620-365-5956 after 8:00 p.m.

JORDY'S HONEY

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 for your all your beekeeping supplies. Go to our Web Site BeePackages.com to order your Bee Packages and QueenBees.com to order your Queens. We are available by appointment Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00 and weekends. Robert Hughes, 12333 Wedd Street, Overland Park, KS 66213, 913-681-5777 or email RobertLHughes2000@yahoo.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. 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

GOLDEN PRAIRIE HONEY FARMS & SAVE FARM AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Our active duty & veteran students learn skills in woodworking & metal work by building beekeeping equipment, while learning beekeeping & honey production in our apiaries and extracting kitchen. We sell beekeeping supplies, containers, bottled & bulk honey, Packaged Bees, and Nucleus Bees. A Charitable, Educational Non-Profit, 501(c)(3), Proceeds go back into the training program. Hours Mon - Fri, 9-4. Golden Prairie Honey Farms, 8859 Green Valley Dr., Ste 4, Manhattan, KS 66502 Phone: (785) 370-3642 - Email gphfarms@gmail.com or order online at goldenprairiehoney.com

This 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

Address Service Requested

Meeting

Monday, July 15th, 2019

The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

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

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

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

The Association meets each month on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. except during the month of January. 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 or check the www.NEKBA.org website to find out if the meeting will be held.

2019 Officers

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Visit our Website at NEKBA.org