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Exploring the wonderful world of beekeeping together

The Bee Buzzer

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Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

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EDITOR: JOLI WINER

MARCH 2015

Beginning Beekeeping Class

Sunday's March 15 & 22nd

Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg 21 N

Full details in this Buzzer!

We hope to see you at the new bee class—those of you who took the class last year will get so much more out of it this year! It will make what you learned last year sink in! Those of you who are new to beekeeping this year—you have hit the jack pot if you are attending the class! This year we will have two different books than we used last year that will be included in this the registration fee. They are *Honey Bees and Beekeeping, A Year in the Life of an Apiary*, 3rd Edition by Keith Delaplane and *Field Guide to Honey Bees and their Maladies* By Penn State University & MAAREC. If you already have these books we will have another one to offer you.

Dr. Clarence Collison is a fine teacher and we are so honored to have him on the first day of our beekeeping class. I hope that you will all take advantage of this. You are all so lucky that you have some really knowledgeable beekeepers in the club who readily share their expertise with you! However, when you have a chance to hear someone other than us—well you better jump at it! The club officers strongly believe that learning practical beekeeping skills will help you in your new endeavor and Clarence will certainly get you on the right path.

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.

Upcoming Events

Friday and Saturday March 13 & 14 2015 Kansas

Honey Producers Meeting, Manhattan KS

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Clarence Collison, Beekeeping Specialist, Emeritus Professor/Dept. Head, Dept. of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University. He also writes a monthly

column, *A Closer Look*, in the *Bee Culture Magazine*. Author of *What do you know?* Holiday Inn at the Campus, 1641 Anderson Avenue, Manhattan KS 66502 Registration forms at kansashoneyproducers.org.

Sunday, March 15th & Sunday March 22nd 2015

The New Beekeeper Class will be held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg 21. Guest speaker on the March 15th will be Dr. Clarence Collison. Price will include a textbook and presentation notes. Information at nekba.org.

Saturday June 6th 2015 Nekba Marlavelous

Funday, Dr. Marla Spivak, & Dr. Marion Ellis & hopefully Dr. Chip Taylor guest speakers. Douglas County Fairground Save this date—it'll be the meeting of the century Marla, Marion & Chip—Don't miss it. Details and registration form online at nekba.org.

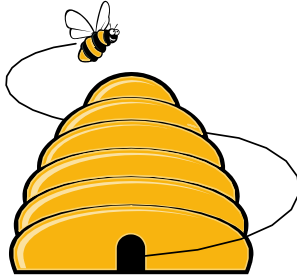
Mother Earth News Fair October 24th-25th, 2015
Topeka, Kan. | Kansas Expocentre | Oct. 24-25,
2015, Topeka, KS 66612

This is your last issue if you have not renewed your membership. For those getting the newsletter by mail you can check the mailing label for the membership expiration date.



Beelines

By President Andy Nowachek



As always, I would like to start with a thank you to Becky Tipton for putting these programs together each month. Pretty tricky putting us on the spot with a question quiz to start the program off, but it proves one thing, the more you read and study about bees the easier the answers are. I wonder who checked out that book that evening?

What a way to start out a program with some more astounding young 2014 scholarship students. It's pretty amazing listening to these youths present their programs step by step on what they did through the year. Both parents and mentors should be proud of the knowledge these new beekeepers have gained.

No matter how many talks I go to that have plants that produce nectar and pollen they all have something new to add to the arsenal and this program was excellent at that. As hard as it may seem it will not be long before we start to see pollen in large amounts being brought into the hive with the maple and willows starting out first. The bees were bringing in pollen from some source when we had our spell of warm weather around a week ago so this is a perfect time to start planning on planting some beneficial plants and trees for the bees.

Al Abts did another great job of demonstrating how he makes splits in the spring time. The way Al does it is a proven way of doing it with good results. What's the saying-the proof is in the pudding and Al has been doing this with success for years.

Last but not least thanks to Lou for his swarm box. I like the way he fastened the straps on. The only problem I heard from Lou is that he sets out a bunch of these not far from my land and beehives. I may just have to mosey over and see what brand is on those bees he trapped.

There were a number of questions that pertained to queens and if you should let them produce their own or buy. This to me goes back to

agriculture and Mother Nature. As a farmer you your crop in the spring and hope all goes well with the weather, plenty of rain, plenty of sunshine etc. If either one or more of these fail you are out for the year with nothing much to show for it. Maybe you can replant if early enough but at an added expense and time and still.

Beekeeping to me is the same as planting your garden, a onetime chance that year. Starting out with a GOOD QUEEN to me is very important. You want a lot of healthy bees to produce a LARGE crop of honey. This is also dependent on what you want out of your beehive. If you just want bees and want to take a chance and let them make their own queen, it could be risky. Another aspect to that is what quality of queen will the hive produce, poor at laying and not many bees, equals low or no honey production. Will she make it through the summer and fall or fail in laying? Another thing to think about is the time it takes a virgin queen to really produce a large amount of bees and then to produce a large quantity of honey. You can go 60 days before the hive starts to really perk. It takes 23 days for workers to develop. It could be you missed the honey flow we always hope for and it is a ONE TIME A YEAR EVENT, don't miss it by not having a good queen heading up your hive. Sometimes it seems like a lot of money to purchase a mated queen but if you plan on getting honey from the hive it has to be QUEEN RIGHT.

One other thing I heard was about letting the hive produce its own queen and here is my take on it. If you are new to beekeeping and can buy a marked queen it is best to do so. First even experienced beekeepers have trouble finding queens when the hive is at its max size and that dot makes a world of difference finding her. If you do not check your hive on a regular schedule your queen may have swarmed and you may not know it if your queen was not marked. As you become more acquainted with your hive you would realize that you have about half the quantity of bees you had before. This goes back to regular inspections of your hive to check on queen cells. If your hive produces a new queen what kind of layer will she be? If she makes it through the summer will she make it through the winter? Good stock is very important in keeping a hive healthy and productive. Like I said it is a one time a year we have a chance to get honey so a good queen is very important.

A lot of exciting things happening this coming

month with the Kansas Honey Producers meeting being held in Manhattan, Kansas on March 13th and 14th with Dr. Clarence Collison as guest speaker. Beginners Beekeeping Class will be on March 15th and the 22th with Dr. Clarence Collison as a guest speaker at the 15th date.

Hope to see you at one event if you can and if not good luck with your bees and see you at the next scheduled meeting.

Tips for March

- ◆ Check your bees to see if your queen is laying eggs. If your bees have plenty of food, the warm weather could really stimulate brood rearing.
- ◆ Prevent swarming by having plenty of room for the queen to lay, have plenty of space for the bees to store nectar; young queens should be the head of all of your colonies.
- ◆ Check mite levels in hives using methods we have told you about before, like the powdered sugar roll or ether roll method, to see if you need to treat for Varroa mites this spring.
- ◆ On warm days bees should be bringing pollen in on their legs.
- ◆ Start a little record book and keep track of when you see the plants blooming in your area.
- ◆ Start your record keeping for your beehives when you do your first inspection and stick with it throughout the year!
- ◆ March is unpredictable—keep windbreaks in place. March storms can be killers.
- ◆ Feed, feed, and feed if your bees don't have ample stores. Bad weather can limit foraging opportunities for your bees. Feed 1:1 sugar syrup to stimulate brood rearing.
- ◆ Repair and replace damaged equipment
- ◆ Check for mouse damage and replace any combs and frames that have been damaged.
- ◆ Check your hives on a warm, sunny day.
- ◆ Get any equipment repaired or replaced now.
- ◆ Check to see if your bees are hungry, only feed if they are. You may have to move frames around in your hives. If your bees are all on one side and you have honey on the other side, then you should move the honey around to center the bees up and get honey on both sides of them. Sometimes you have to take honey from another hive that has a lot of honey. Sort of stealing from the rich to give to the poor!
- ◆ I must caution you, do not feed your bees honey that you have purchased from the store. You can buy foulbrood spores in honey. It doesn't bother people but can give your bees the disease.

- ◆ Also do not feed your bee's corn syrup from the store. There are things added to that syrup that can kill your bees. When you hear beekeepers talking about corn syrup, they are referring to high fructose corn syrup.
- ◆ If you are marking your queen this is a blue year

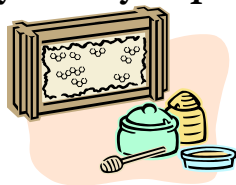
Meeting Dates for 2015

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.

- Sunday, March 15--New Beekeeper Class 1
*Special Guest--Clarence Collison
- Sunday, March 22--New Beekeeper Class 2
- Monday, April 20 7:00 pm *How to inspect a Beehive*
- Monday, May 18 7:00 pm *Supering and Producing Comb Honey*
- June 6--FUNDAY!
Full day workshop
Keynote speakers--Dr. Marla Spivak & Dr. Marion Ellis
- July ? Bee-Bee Q Meeting held at alternate location, date to be determined-Bee Olympics
- Monday, August 17, 7:00 pm *Honey Judging, Integrated Pest Management*
- Monday, Sept 21 7:00 pm *Getting Bees Ready for Winter*
- Monday, October 19 7:00 pm *Evaluating Your Hives and Making Plans for 2016*
- Monday, November 16 7:00 pm TBA
- Monday, December 21 7:00 pm *Holiday Cookies and Youth Scholarship Auction*
- January 11, 2016 (2nd Monday) Youth Scholarship presentations



The Honey Pot By Becky Tipton



Winnie the Pooh: Now, the only reason for making a buzzing noise that I know of is because you are... a bee! And the only reason for being a bee is to make honey. And the only reason for making honey is so I can eat it.

Why be a beekeeper?

#1—the honey

#2—pollinate the fruit trees and delicious vegetables from my garden

#3—watch the bees.

Our new beekeeper classes start this month. It is always an exciting time, filled with promise and enthusiasm! Beekeeping can be frustrating and disappointing and the most rewarding hobby anyone can choose. Bees cannot be successful at providing us with the surplus honey we love without a little help from the beekeeper. (You would not put chickens in your yard, never feed them, never give them water or medication and expect them to provide you with baskets of eggs, even though chickens are very closely related to the wild jungle fowl that requires no assistance to survive.) We want our bees to do more than survive; we want our bees to prosper. Here's an alarming fact I read this week: From 2000 to 2011, total annual honey production by bees in the United States fell one-third, from 221 million to 148 million pounds. In the same period, use of the three most common neonicotinoid pesticides grew from about 280,000 to more than 4.5 million pounds domestically. (Reported by Sierra Club.) So, it appears that if you value honey for food or its tremendous medicinal value, you might NEED to be a beekeeper. The outcome of this reduction in US honey production isn't less "honey" on the store shelf; it is less good quality honey on the store shelf. It is estimated that as much as 80% of all "store" honey has been adulterated with some other (cheaper) sweetener. So, how do you know if your honey is pure—if you're the beekeeper, you know!

Every magazine I picked up this month had an article touting the benefits of natural skin care (LOVE IT!).

Another really popular item is coconut oil. Here is a very basic gardener's salve from the March issue of "Mother Earth Living" magazine.

Gardener's Hand Salve

4 TBSP grated beeswax

4 TBSP Coconut oil

8 TBSP Almond oil (or other good carrier oil—olive oil, sunflower, jojoba oil)

25 drops Lavender Essential Oil

10 drops Tea Tree Oil

6 drops spearmint oil

-In a double boiler, melt beeswax.

-Remove from heat. Stir in coconut and almond oils and then essential oils.

-Pour into a small jar and let cool before putting on the lid. Massage into hands as needed.

Give your salve an extra healing punch by infusing the carrier oil with plantain leaves or calendula blossoms. Did you know that Tea Tree oil comes from the same plant that gives us Manuka Honey, highly prized for its antimicrobial properties?

I know I just did a cornbread recipe last month but my mother's cousin just gave me a recipe for corn cakes that my Great Grandma Willhite cooked often. Texas born and bred, corn was a staple—cornbread, pudding, hominy...you get the idea. Cousin Helen said she made these often and served them with butter and honey or sorghum syrup. I tried them and they are faster than cornbread and very tasty!

Fried Cornbread

2/3 C. Cornmeal

1/3 C. self-rising flour (this is Cousin Helen's change—Gma used baking powder. Cousin Helen is 86 and I'm not arguing with her about the changes.)

1/3 cup buttermilk—batter should be thick

1 large egg

1 TBSP sugar

2-3 TBSP oil for frying—I used coconut oil but your choice will work

Combine ingredients except oil and stir to remove the lumps. Heat oil in a skillet and drop ¼ cup scoops onto the hot surface. Turn when small bubbles appear of the surface of the cake. (Like pancakes.) Makes 6-7 small-medium sized cakes. Serve hot with butter and honey. Cousin Helen said they would grab these cold for a snack throughout the day.



SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDES AND BEES: ARE WE RE-VISITING “SILENT SPRING?”

Recently, there have been concerns associated with the potential direct and indirect effects of neonicotinoid systemic insecticides on bees. The neonicotinoid systemic insecticides include imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, dinotefuran, clothianidin, and acetamiprid. These active ingredients are present in many products available to both professionals and homeowners. The concern is affiliated with exposure from foliar applications and exposure to pollen and nectar that may be contaminated via applications to the soil or growing medium. These insecticides have a higher selectivity for insects compared to mammals than other insecticides in the chemical classes, organophosphate and carbamate. The mode of action of the neonicotinoids is as agonists at the nicotinic acetylcholine receptors of insects. The specific proposed benefits of any systemic insecticide (not just the neonicotinoids) includes 1) plants are generally protected throughout most of the growing season without the need to make repeat applications, 2) minimal issues regarding drift (when applied as a drench or granule) compared to foliar applications of insecticides, and 3) less direct impact on natural enemies and bees.

Despite these benefits, there have been many sound scientific studies conducted, although primarily under laboratory conditions, that have demonstrated both lethal (direct mortality) and sublethal (affecting reproduction and/or survival) effects associated with neonicotinoid systemic insecticides on honey bees and bumble bees. However, this entire issue regarding the concern of how neonicotinoid systemic insecticides may directly and indirectly affect bees is related to two factors: one is the Oregon incident that occurred in June 2013 in which a landscaper sprayed 55 blooming European linden trees with dinotefuran (Safari) for control of aphids...so the use of the insecticide was mainly as a contact...and ended-up killing approximately 50,000 bumble bees in a Target parking lot in Wilsonville, OR. However, the label states specifically “This product is highly toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment or residues on blooming crops or weeds. Do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops or weeds if bees are visiting the treatment area.” What should have been a great extension/outreach

opportunity to educate people on the importance of reading the label was “twisted” into a means to promote the banning of neonicotinoid systemic insecticides. It is difficult to understand why the Oregon Department of Agriculture did not stress the point regarding the off-label use more. In fact, the landscaper was fined a modest \$555.00 for killing 55,000 bumble bees and not reading the insecticide label...what is wrong here?

The second instance was related to a 2013 publication [Gardeners Beware: Bee-Toxic Pesticides Found In “Bee-Friendly” Plants Sold At Garden Centers Nationwide] by the *Friends of the Earth* based on an extremely poorly constructed preliminary study regarding the sampling of nursery plants treated with neonicotinoid systemic insecticides from three locations (CA, Washington, D.C., and MN). Overall, this study demonstrated ‘nothing’ especially since the study failed to quantify the concentration of active ingredient in the pollen and nectar (they simply combined leaves, stems, and flowers). Furthermore, only seven out of thirteen (54 percent) of the plants sampled (tomato, squash, salvia, gaillardia, pumpkin, zinnia, and aster) tested positive for one or more neonicotinoid insecticide. Therefore, no general inferences can be justifiably made on the impact of neonicotinoid systemic insecticides on bees. However, this information was accepted as demonstrating that ornamental plants treated with neonicotinoid systemic insecticides are toxic to bees. So, this represents another instance of misinformation or lack of substantial reliable information.

It is important to remember that the impact of systemic insecticides (non-neonicotinoids) on bees and other pollinators is not new phenomenon. Below are three publications from studies that demonstrated the direct impact of certain systemic insecticides on bees.

- 1) Glynee-Jones, G. D., and W. D. E. Thomas. 1953. Experiments on the possible contamination of honey with schradan. *Ann. Appl. Biol.* 40: 546-555.
- 2) Jaycox, E. R. 1964. Effect on honey bees of nectar from systemic insecticide-treated plants. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 57: 31-35.
- 3) Lord, K. A., M. A. May, and J. H. Stevenson. 1968. The secretion of the systemic insecticide dimethoate and phorate into nectar. *Ann. Appl. Biol.* 61: 19-27.

One question that needs to be addressed is—will the banning of neonicotinoid systemic insecticides in actuality preserve bees? In all likelihood producers and homeowners are going to use contact insecticides such as carbaryl (Sevin) and pyrethroid-based insecticides as sprays on a frequent basis, which in the long-term will be more detrimental to bees than systemic insecticides. In addition, there could be problems associated with pesticide drift, direct and indirect effects on natural enemies (e.g., parasitoids and predators), issues affiliated with residues on leaves and flowers, and the potential for insecticide

resistance due to the selection pressure placed on insect and mite pest populations.

Presently, the emphasis has been on the neonicotinoid systemic insecticides; however, what about other systemic insecticides such as acephate (Orthene), disulfoton (Di-Syton), and dimethoate (Cygon) that are still commercially available to homeowners although both disulfoton and dimethoate have or are being phased-out. Then what about chlorantraniliprole (Acelepyrn) and spirotetramat (Kontos)? Will these be the next targets?

What professionals and homeowners can do in regards to utilizing pesticides without harming bees is to use selective products (e.g., Dipel) with short residual activity, time applications accordingly when bees are less active such as the early morning or evening, and use plants in landscapes and gardens that are less susceptible to pests. Below are a number of general comments and questions regarding neonicotinoid systemic insecticides that need to be taken into consideration:

1. Can neonicotinoid systemic insecticides (NSI) be absorbed into plants, and become present in pollen and nectar thus making floral resources toxic to bees?
2. Are NSI present in pollen and nectar at concentrations that cause lethal or sublethal effects?
3. Will exposure via pollen and nectar result in lethal, sublethal effects, or no effects?
4. Can NSI contaminate or accumulate in weeds and/or wildflowers?
5. Exposure to contaminated pollen and nectar may increase honey bee susceptibility to parasites and pathogens by compromising the immune system.
6. What about interactions and multiple factors? For example, what about the effect of combination products and interactions with fungicides?
7. What about timing of application? In general, and based on scientific research, residues of the active ingredient may occur at higher levels in pollen and nectar when applications are made before or during bloom.
8. What about the effects of metabolites associated with the NSI that tend to be more toxic to insect pests than the parent compound or active ingredient?

Some of the points mentioned above have been demonstrated based on scientific research. Furthermore, there are numerous factors that may influence variation in residue levels in pollen and nectar including timing of application, application method, application rate, number of applications (carry-over effect), formulation, water solubility, plant type and flower morphology, plant age and size, soil type and organic matter content, environmental conditions (e.g, light intensity), and bee age and size. This clearly highlights the complexity of the issue.

Also, it should be noted that honey bees can travel four miles from a hive and they typically gather nectar and pollen from a wide-range of flowers (in fact, the primary food source of the European honey bee is clover and alfalfa) during the season thus possibly diluting

“contaminated” pollen and nectar by collecting from different flowers.

In conclusion, we need to be aware of the direct and indirect impact of all pesticides (e.g., insecticides, miticides, and fungicides) on bees. Furthermore, it is critical to read the label of any pesticide to determine if there are any effects on bees. We also have to understand that there is no clearly defined “smoking gun” because many factors may be contributing to bee decline globally including parasites such as the varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*), pathogens (e.g., *Nosema ceranae*), loss of habitat, nutritional deficiencies, habitat fragmentation, intense management strategies (“bee feedlots”), poor beekeeping, and pesticides.

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Marking Queens

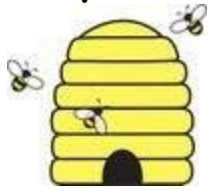
Each year the color for marking queens changes. This year the color is blue. FYI dark blue is very hard to find on a frame so if you are purchasing a marker get light blue. The best pens to get are quick drying enameled paint pens. You’ll want to shake them and make sure the ink is to the tip before attempting to mark your queen.

If you are hesitant about marking your queens than you should practice on drones first. There are also some commercial queen marking kits for sale that help you to hold the queen still while you mark her.

You should also attend our Marlavelous Funday on June 6th and plan to attend Kristi’s queen marking workshop.



Honey Plants



Rose Lee

Saint Patrick chose the three-leaf shamrock as a symbol of the Trinity and he probably also knew that the three-leaf clover is an important honey plant.

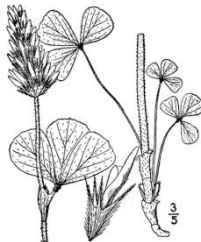
There are lots of clovers but the earliest blooming is White Dutch clover *Trifolium repens*. Soon our yard will be a field of white, not snow, and these creeping plants will re-bloom even after cutting. Clover has deeper roots than grass so it stays greener longer because of nitrogen fixation. Its florets are shorter than other species and easily reached by bees for nectar. Even when slightly stressed, it seems to offer greater nectar rewards in terms of sugar concentration. Lindtner (*Garden Plants for HoneyBees*, p 215) rates its pollen source at three-stars and nectar at 4 stars.



White clover *Trifolium repens* is called many things in many areas including white Dutch clover, white clover and Latino clover and less often, shamrock or Irish clover. It is basically one species that has been developed into strains for different application. Latino and Alsike generally grow taller and are better suited for slopes or pastures than for lawns.

Alsike is intermediate in size between white and red clover. The blossom looks like that of white Dutch clover, except it has a pinkish tinge. The stem is upright and branched and may reach a height of two feet or more. The honey is light in color, mild in flavor and is regarded as one of the best for table use.

Crimson clover *Trifolium incarnatum* is also an early bloomer but it is an annual, and must be resown to perpetuate a field. Its blossoms are crimson and showier than either alsike or red clover. Honey is very light yellow and of good quality. Yield is about par with buckwheat and the quality similar to that of the other clovers.



Yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*) starts blooming about the middle of May and continues until about the middle of June. After the yellow has been in bloom for about two weeks, white sweet clover *Melilotus alba* starts to bloom. Where both are present, a long honey flow may be expected. An average of 200 pounds of surplus honey per colony is not uncommon.



The honey is light in color and mild in flavor, although slightly peppery to the taste. It granulates more readily than white clover, but is regarded as of number one quality.

Sweet clovers grow best in full sun at a soil pH of 6.5 or higher. Wood ashes can raise the soil pH if it is too acidic. Seeds can be broadcast in late winter before the spring freezing and thawing at a rate of 10 to 15 pounds per acre. It can also be drilled into the soil about half inch deep during late summer but this usually yields less than spring planting. Seed must be scarified since new seed is 50 to 80 percent hard seed.

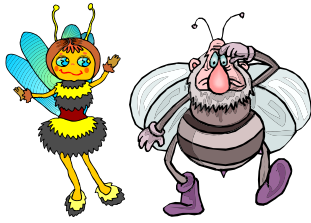
Red clover *Trifolium pratense* is commonly called a bumblebee flower because it has a deeper corolla tube believed to be beyond the reach of honeybees, but red clover is nevertheless pollinated by bees regardless of whether the bee gets nectar. However, if the season is dry enough to stunt the growth of the corolla tubes, then honey bees can reach the nectar and gather honey as well as pollen from Red clover not only from the second crop but from the first crop as well, probably more from the second crop because of less competition from other nectar sources (See *ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture* pages 144, 148).



University of Missouri Agronomist, Howell N. Wheaton, recommends providing at least one hive of honey bees per two acres of red clover. "Place colonies in or near the field as soon as 5 to 10 percent of the second crop is in bloom... usually sometime in July." If placed too early, the bees will tend to orient to other clovers.

Illustrations courtesy of USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. 3 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Vol. 2: 355, 358

Old Bee Guy & Gal By Joli and Cecil



We've had a few trips this month. One trip today was to Iowa. March 7, 2015 was a nice warm day. It made it easy to imagine that in perhaps less than 3 weeks we could be seeing signs of henbit, a favorite of the bees. Purple deadnettle and henbit are members of the Lamiaceae – also Labiatae – (mint) family. These two species resemble each other from a distance and many folks often call both species henbit. Purple deadnettle is an erect or decumbent winter annual commonly found throughout Tennessee and the U.S. It is native to Eurasia. (University of TN Extension) They are important plants for spring build up as they produce both nectar and pollen.



Henbit Deadnettle

(*Lamium amplexicaule*) in Nashville, Tennessee-
Kaldari photo



Dead nettle-photo University of Kentucky

While it is very hard to believe that it will

warm up enough to actually inspect our hives. It will warm up, it does every year, and this is what you should look for and do.

First we divide the hive –taking off the top hive body Determine if all of the brood is in one hive body. If there is some brood in each hive body we move all of the brood into one and have a frame of honey in the outside positions (1&10) and a frame of pollen in the 2&8 positions.

We inspect to see if the queen has a nice brood pattern and if not we mark the hive to replace her.

If it is warm enough and the bees are flying we like to go clear to the bottom of the hive and scrape the debris off of the bottom board.

We then put all of the brood in the bottom hive body with the other hive body on the top with any honey and the empty frames. This gives the queen room to expand and lay eggs.

If there is plenty of honey we may share some of it with other hives. If the colonies are without food or have very little we will feed them. As they begin to raise more brood they will use more food. In the spring feed 1:1 by weight so 4# of sugar to 4# to 1/2 gallon of water. This thin syrup stimulates the queen to lay. If there is plenty of honey and you do not want to split your hive than don't feed as this may cause the hive to build up too fast and swarm.

If hives are really strong you may need to split the hive or share brood from a strong hive with a weaker one. We have a rule of thumb that if we have more than 3 really full frames of brood on April 1 we take the rest away for splits; 4 frames on April 7th, 5 on April 15th –of course this depends on the weather and the conditions.

Our colony management is directed toward swarm management and increasing our colonies to make up for any winter losses.

Spring management is one of the many joys of beekeeping. It's all about the bees and understanding them so that you can manage them. It is what makes them so fascinating.

Newbees don't be afraid to look into your hive to see what is going on. It's how you'll learn.

Remember—don't feed unless they need it if you have no plans to split your hive.

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

Beginning Beekeeping Class 2015

Sundays, March 15th & 22nd Registration 12-1, program 1-5:30 p.m.,

Dr. Clarence Collison, Beekeeping Specialist, Emeritus Professor/Dept. Head, Dept. of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University.

Douglas Co. Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper St., Bldg. 21, Lawrence KS K-10 to Harper Street, go north 2 blocks
New members will be eligible to win a starter single story hive and a 3-pound package of bees with a queen.

All other registrants will be eligible to win door prizes. You must be present to win.

Each family will also receive 1 set of the text books, *Honey Bees and Beekeeping, A Year in the Life of an Apiary*, 3rd Edition by Keith Delaplane and *Field Guide to Honey Bees and their Maladies* By Penn State University & MAAREC. If you already have these books there will be an alternate choice available.

Sunday, March 15th

12:00-1:00 **Registration**

1:00 **Introductions of club officers**, President Andy Nowachek

1:05-1:45(40) **Basic Equipment**, tools to use, clothing, woodware. Learn the proper names for beekeeping equipment. This presentation will give you a good idea of the equipment you have to have to keep bees. Steve Tipton presents.

1:45-2:45(60) **Honey Bee Biology 101** Dr. Clarence Collison will present. Why do we need to know biology to keep bees? This talk will include some anatomy and development and the basics of the bee nest.

2:45-3:15(30) **Break**

3:15-4:00(45) **The Art of Colony Examination**. Dr. Clarence Collison presents

4:00-4:30(30) **Ways to Acquire Bees & Installing a package of bees**

Our speaker Kristi Sanderson will talk about the various ways you can get bees and will demonstrate how to install a package of bees.

4:30-5:30(60) **Diagnosing problems with Bee Diseases & Pests and What to do about Them**. Recognition and control of diseases including integrated pest management. Dr. Clarence Collison presents

Sunday, March 22nd

1:00-1:45(45) **Management of Package Bees & Nucs** how to take care of your new hive of bees from how long you need to feed them, when to put on the next hive body and when to add your honey supers. Steve & Becky Tipton present this.

1:45-2:30(45) **Seasonal Management-Late Summer and Fall** Removing your honey from the hives, fall management, includes checking your hives to make sure they have enough bees and food and getting your bees ready for winter. Cecil Sweeney presents this.

2:30-3:00 **Break Participants are asked to bring refreshments made with honey for this break, you may bring your recipes, beverages will be provided.**

3:00-3:45(45) **Extracting Honey** Club members will demonstrate how to remove honey from your hives and uncap your honey, extract it and bottle it for sale and gifts. Andy Nowachek presents

3:45-4:15(30) **Tips for the Beekeeper** Robert Burns will demonstrate how to light your smoker, approach a hive, open it up and get started on your beekeeping adventure and safety. Robert Burns presents.

4:15-4:30(15) **Opportunities for members of the bee clubs**. Books, DVD's and magazines, our library & other beekeeping clubs in the area. She'll also let you know about our Funday on June 6th. Joli Winer presents

4:30- close **Question and Answer Session & Drawing for door prizes**-you must be present to win, one door prize ticket per paid registration. All presenters will answer questions.

Northeastern Kansas Beekeeper's Association
Beginning Beekeeping Class *2015 Registration Form*

Sundays, March 15th & 22nd 1-5:30 p.m.,

Dr. Clarence Collison Beekeeping Specialist, Emeritus Professor/Dept. Head, Dept. of Entomology and
Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University, Author of *What do you Know?*

He will present on the first day, March 15th.

Douglas Co. Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper St., Bldg. 21, Lawrence KS

K-10 to Harper Street, go north 2 blocks to the Fairgrounds.

New: Pay online at NEKBA.org

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

PHONE _____

Email address _____

Yes I would like to receive my newsletter by email *I would like to receive it by mail*

**The registration fee is per person; however, additional people in the family may attend for only an additional \$25.00. Each family will receive 1 text book and 1 ticket to be eligible for door prizes. Only new members will be eligible to win the hive and package of bees.*

Workshop Registration Fees:

For non-members of The Northeastern KS Beekeepers Assn: \$60.00 _____
(Fee includes a one-year membership & a text book)

For current members of The Northeastern KS Beekeepers Assn: \$45.00 _____
(Fee includes text book) You must have paid your \$15.00 2015 dues for this rate

Additional Family members who will be attending @\$25.00 each (includes presentation notes)
\$25.00 ea _____

List names: _____

American Bee Journal	1 year	\$21.00 _____
() Renewal () New	2 years	\$39.75 _____

Bee Culture Magazine	1 year	\$25.00 _____
() Renewal () New	2 year	\$48.00 _____

Youth Scholarship Fund Donation _____

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to: The Northeastern KS Beekeepers Assn. or NEKBA or go to nekba.org and pay and register online

Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W. 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202

email rburns@kc.rr.com

For Further Information go to NEKBA.org or call Becky at 785-484-3710 or email 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

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. 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.*

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. 2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

PHONE _____ Email address _____

I would like to receive the newsletter, *The Buzz*, 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 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 913-831-6096 email rburns@kc.rr.com

Now you can pay online at nekba.org

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

Address Service Requested

Beekeeping Classes
Sundays
March 15 & 22

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.

2015 Officers

President: Andy Nowachek, 10921 W 91 st Terr, Shawnee Mission KS awn@everestkc.net	913-438-5397
1st VP: (youth scholarship) Christy Milroy, 23840 W 207, Spring Hill KS 66083 Christy.D.Milroy@sprint.com	913-707-2003
2nd VP (Librarian): Alex Pantos, 2920 Stubbs Rd., Tecumseh KS 66542 MarlenePantos@yahoo.com	785-633-6283
3rd VP (Honey Plants): Rose Lee, 1126 S 4 th St, Atchison, KS 66002 rlee5407@sbcglobal.net	913-367-6264
Secretary: Jo Patrick, 611 E Sheridan, Olathe KS 66061 brian-patrick@sbcglobal.net	913-829-2682
Treasurer: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54 th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 rburns@kc.rr.com	913-831-6096
Program Chairperson: Becky Tipton, 9491 X Rd., Meriden, KS 66512 bstbees@embarqmail.com	785-484-3710
Editor: Joli Winer, 19201 S. Clare Rd. Spring Hill KS 66083 joli@heartlandhoney.com	913-856-8356
Webmaster: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54 th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 rburns@kc.rr.com	913-831-6096

Visit our Website at NEKBA.org