



# CAPPINGS

## The Official Newsletter of the Kansas Honey Producers Association

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

Promoting Mankind's Most Beneficial Insect - The Honey Bee!

### Special points of interest:

- Legislative Update
- President's Corner
- Regional News
- State Fair

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## The Legislative Committee 2023 by Jim Kellie

One of our goals this year was to work with the state to approve the use of Oxalic Acid and Glycerin extended-release. However, on March 23, the EPA ruled that this usage does not fall under the scope exemptions for the registered label and cannot be used. It was indeed disappointing and for now, our goal for its use in Kansas has stopped. We are looking to our national organizations to see what the next step will be and coordinate with them.

There is a new product for varroa treatment coming out this summer called Amiflex. It is a new application system for the product Amitraz. It is designed for sideline and Commercial beekeepers. It is a 7 day-flash treatment in a gel formulation. There is more information at <https://www.veto-pharma.com/products/>

[amiflex/](#). Also, on "Catch the Buzz" which is from Bee Culture on social media, and the American Honey Producers quarterly magazine.

The AG Summit for Kansas has begun to form. I have asked for a phone call, conference, or email contact so that we may be aware of what the Specialty Livestock program is doing. At this writing, I have not received any response from them. It appears we will have to go through different channels to communicate with the Ag Summit Committee.

We have new members on our KHPA committee and I am thankful it has grown larger. Keeping track of legislative and other issues happening that affect us is a constant vigilance. Our new members are Gerrett Morris and Mark Mounce. We

are happy to have them on board with our other members Brian Withrow and Steve Tipton. If you have questions, please contact any of us and we will try to get the information for you.



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Becky Tipton

What makes a great beekeeper? This past month has been crazy busy. Queens, customers, presentations, and family. We presented at the Mother Earth News Fair in Lawrence recently. The whole event is focusing on people who want to learn something new. Better health, better nutrition, better energy, better environment.... making your little corner of the world better for yourself and those you love. A few people promoted something related to technology, but the vast majority seemed to be focusing on paying attention, awareness, and the strong desire to be better.

I think those are the same qualities that distinguish a better beekeeper. Pay attention to your bees. I wish I could remember where I heard this, ten well cared for hives will out produce 20 hives carelessly managed. I have, at times, been guilty of being careless. Life gets in the way of our best intentions. But to be a great beekeeper, you must give your bees attention, time, and focus on their needs. If you cannot, this is not a hobby for you.

When you do a hive examination, what are you noticing? When you look at a frame, do you immediately scan for the queen? Do you quantify the amount of brood, nectar, honey, or pollen? Do you observe the interaction of the bees and their behavior on the frame? What are the bees doing? Do you understand what you see or just register it as bees? Answering these questions is the awareness. It is a quantum leap beyond merely keeping bees, it is understanding bees.

Additionally, a great beekeeper is continually evaluating the environment in which his/her bees will forage. Meteorologist, climatologist, botanist, chemist, and entomologist (because your bees will not be the only insect you need to understand) are all part of beekeeping. To maximize honey production, pollination potential, and colony growth, we manipulate the population to coincide with the major nectar flow of our area. The predominate nectar source here in northeastern Kansas is white and yellow sweet clover. If we were beekeeping in Louisiana, we would count on different crops or flowers to create surplus honey. It is a fine balance, a dance, at a frantic pace before winter arrives again. After all, for the bee there are really only two seasons, winter and getting ready for winter.

Through it all, a great beekeeper has a very strong desire to be better. Beekeeping is a moving target. Not only is every year a new challenge environmentally, but every year can also present new concerns for the lives of our bees. When we started keeping bees, no one talked about bee viruses. Now we discuss whether the viruses plaguing our bees can be transmitted by transferring frames from one colony to another. Great beekeepers recognize these challenges and pledge to educate themselves to better serve their bees. Constantly learning, constantly seeking answers, and looking for the best practices for our bees.

The internet is filled with people who post misfit ideas. They are often lazy, poorly thought-out ideas. African Proverb: He who looks for honey, must have the courage to face the bees. Those of us who look for honey must have the strength to care for our bees, the knowledge to understand what our bees need, and the commitment to make them a priority. There are many, many educational opportunities throughout the summer. NE KS Funday, UNL / GPMB activities, Eastern Apiculture Society, Heartland Apiculture Society, all have

programs to hone our beekeeping skills. I wish everyone reading this a bountiful harvest of honey this year. But I hope you will do your bees proud and become a better beekeeper.

Becky Tipton, President

## News from Northeast Kansas

Spring blooms, in Northeast Kansas, are slightly ahead of last year by about 5 days. Temperatures fluctuated between 80 F. one week and freezing temperatures at night, the next week. Peach tree blooms were the most likely to be nipped by the nighttime freeze. Reports on social media indicate that the Black Locust started to bloom around May 3<sup>rd</sup> in southern Johnson County; it is also about 5 days ahead of past years' blooms. Beekeepers are putting supers on stronger colonies but as of this writing they have not seen much nectar being stored. Colonies south of Topeka are reported to be building up quickly. Those will likely be swarms in May if splits are not done soon.

Some packages of bees arrived during moderate weather while later deliveries arrived during chilly weather conditions making installation of packages more interesting and challenging for new beekeepers. Established local beekeepers are focusing on filling orders for nucs now.

Northeast Kansas Beekeepers Association has just completed their second offering of the Beginning Beekeeping Class. The class was held 3 consecutive Monday evenings and was intended to coincide with the arrival of packaged bees or a free refresher for those who took the class this past January. There were approximately 30 in attendance for the evening classes. Students were treated to a unique experience by Kristi Sanderson, the event coordinator. Kristi demonstrated 4 different methods of installing packaged bees. Those colonies were provided by the Great Plains Master Beekeepers grant program. After being installed, they were delivered and set up at Pendleton's Country Market and family farm. Pendleton's is located about two miles from the Douglas County Fairgrounds where NEKBA monthly meetings are held.

Joli Winer has been coordinating the effort to establish working educational hives for Northeast Kansas Beekeepers Association using a grant from the Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program. As stated earlier, the four colonies are now located at Pendleton's Country Market and family farm. Joli reported that one colony left their queen while she was still caged and moved in with another colony placed next to it. Even though nighttime temperatures were cold and she did not have any food, she was found alive.

Krispn Given, from Purdue University, traveled to the NE KS area to conduct the 'Art and Science of Queen & Drone Rearing Workshop' April 21-23. Twenty beekeepers attended the 2 1/2 day program that was a mix of presentations and hands-on activities. The class created a swarm box starter as well as a queen-less starter on Friday. Saturday morning was grafting practice. Saturday afternoon the serious grafts were done with 9 bars (3 frames) placed in the cell builders. Sunday morning inspection showed about a 40% take. Not bad considering the weather on Saturday was 50 degrees and was cloudy and windy! As part of the class, each



student was provided with all the tools needed to continue queen rearing at home. The class was held at Matthew Brandes' New Hope Farm & Apiary in Wellsville, KS.

You will not want to miss the annual NEKBA FunDay, June 3, 2023, at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, Lawrence, KS. The Keynote speaker will be Jamie Ellis from the University of Florida. He will be speaking on "A Year in the Life of a Honey Bee Colony and Recognizing and Addressing Queen Events". Perennial favorites Dr. Judy Wu-Smart and Dr. Autumn Smart from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will be discussing a variety of topics from Queen mating to swarming and comb replacement. There will be a swarm demonstration, lunch, honey ice cream, vendors, and a silent auction. Further information and registration can be found at [www.nekba.org/bee-funday.html](http://www.nekba.org/bee-funday.html). For those attending from out of the area, hotel reservations can be made at the Country Inn & Suites, 2176 E 23rd St, Lawrence, KS 66046, (785) 727-1825 or at the Holiday Inn Express, 3411 S Iowa St, Lawrence, KS 66046, (785) 749-7555. Be sure to ask for the Beekeeping FunDay rate!

Jo Patrick, Northeastern Region Representative

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## North Central Region News

Happy Spring, Bee Friends!

In typical North Central Kansas fashion, we have had freezing temperatures at the end of April after 90 degrees a month earlier. It has been dry.

The ground is dusty in places where it is usually lush with clover. Bees are spotted crowding water sources and there have been reports of robbing and grumpier bees when they should be happy with abundant blooms. It will just be a honey season of patience for many in our area.

Our next meeting of the North Central Kansas Area beekeepers will be Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 2 pm at the Rolling Hills Zoo. It is free to join us and everyone is welcome and bring your bee veil if you would like to get into the hives. We will talk about all things queens and answer questions about making splits.

As part of the Great Plains Master Beekeeper Program, [gpmb.unl.edu](http://gpmb.unl.edu), and KHPA, we will also be hosting an Open Apiary on Sunday, June 11th near Manhattan and Riley, Kansas at 10 am. All are welcome to come inspect the hives with us, but RSVP is required in case there is a change of plans due to weather.

Hoping your Spring is full of blooms and happy bees.

Nikki Bowman, North Central Region Representative

## News from Western Kansas

Will it ever warm up? Will the wind ever quit blowing? Oh no! 90 degrees in early April! What will the summer be like? Rain? Snow? Rocks (flying sideways)? The wind blew the top box of a hive 1 inch to the south and it had 2 bricks on top.

I checked my hives every couple of weeks throughout the winter, and when the freezing temps hit hard, I duct taped an inch of insulation board around them. I learned how to make sugar cakes to keep them from going hungry in the oscillating weather of T-shirts to arctic blast. It is so good to hear a pleasant buzzing and sweet aroma lofting up when I open the lids.

Sometime during the up and down temperatures, one cluster separated and I lost a frame of bees. The sad sight of bee butts sticking out of the comb like mini coffins, greeted me. The hive still hangs in there waiting for a new queen, or this beekeeper's learning skills to combine the 2 hives.

April 2<sup>nd</sup> was my one-year anniversary as a new beekeeper. We made it through winter mostly intact. There have been some hard learned lessons, but I still love my bees.

Spring is finally springing. I know a little more than I did this time last year. Chokecherry is blooming, we have lilacs this year, and dandelions have made their first big appearance. Spring always brings hope for a bountiful harvest.

DeeDee Gebhart, West Region Representative

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## South Central Region News

Spring is in the air! A few drops of much needed rain and things have sure greened up. I am hopeful for more rain to come. Time for splits, package installations, and planting bee/pollinator friendly plants.

At the Spring KHPA meeting, we learned more about the Shop Kansas Farms website and Facebook page. They also mentioned the Market of Farms event that took place April 29th. South Central was represented by G G's Honey Beez and Queenz Hive. The Hutchinson Zoo is working on planting a pollinator garden with the possibility of keeping bees there in the future. Stay tuned!

Stepheni Phillips, South Central Region Representative



## News from Southeast Kansas

William 'Tiny' Jackson, Jr. has stepped down and the Southeast is needing a new representative. If you are in the SE Region and are interested, please contact Becky Tipton. Coffey County Beekeepers will have their meeting on May 13 at the Waverly Library at 5 PM.



The Kansas State Fair will be September 5-18, 2023. Plan to attend and help at the honey booth or assist with the honey show. Sign-Up Genius will go 'Live' in July. Plan to enter in this year's honey show. Entry deadlines and additional information have been posted on the fair's website. See [https://cdn.saffire.com/files.ashx?t=fg&rid=KansasStateFair&f=2023\\_AG\\_Handbook.pdf](https://cdn.saffire.com/files.ashx?t=fg&rid=KansasStateFair&f=2023_AG_Handbook.pdf) for information. Let's make this year another great success!

Kristi Sanderson, 2nd Vice President

## Scholarship update—From Initiation to Installation



Chetopa FFA Members started their beekeeping year off with a bang. The bang of hammers that is. This past January FFA members attended a beginning beekeeping workshop sponsored by the Montgomery Beekeepers Association. There they assembled woodenware while learning from experts in the field.

In May the Animal Science class introduced the first Nuc of Bees to the hive at the school farm.

Applications for the 2023 grant will be accepted between May 20, 2023 to October 1, 2023. Grant information and the application can be found at <https://forms.gle/86BpQ6jC2KMAMFcp9> or by emailing [KHPAScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:KHPAScholarship@gmail.com)



## OMG! Does the Constitution Actually Say That?

Late at night when you should be fast asleep your mind just will not shut off. You just keeping tossing and turning in bed thinking about the Kansas Honey Producer's Association. You wonder what allows KHPA to meet the needs of beekeepers? And what can I do to keep things running smoothly?

Finally, we, the Constitution Committee, have the answers.

First, KHPA functions efficiently because of our up-to-date constitution and by-laws. Yup, it is those rather lackluster documents that serve us year after year without much fanfare. Second, to keep things running smoothly contribute your suggestions or changes to the constitution and by-laws to keep them relevant.

It is not hard or time consuming. Step 1 Find it: The constitution and by-laws are found on the KHPA website under the about tab. Step 2 Review it: Do you see things you would like changed? If not done! If so proceed to step three.

Step 3 Submit it: Send your suggestions to the constitution committee.

The committee will then make those suggestions available to the general membership 30 days prior to our November 2023 meeting. It is at that meeting the membership will vote upon the proposed changes.

There you have it. Three simple steps to keep this organization running smoothly and efficiently. Sleep restfully knowing that all is good in KHPA.

Constitution Committee:

- David Bose Member at Large
- Greg Swob KHPA 1<sup>st</sup> VP
- Julie Cahoj KHPA 3<sup>rd</sup> VP

Julie Cahoj, 3rd Vice President

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I want to thank everyone who attended the spring KHPA meeting at Salina. Especially, I want to thank those who helped - the committee: Nikki Bowman, Jim Kellie, and Brian Withrow. A huge Thank You to all who participated as speakers to bring the meeting together. With a technical issue putting us off schedule a little, things did roll on, but we did have to move a couple topics around to fit a couple speaker schedule issues. A few lessons learned will bring you all a smoother meeting this fall.

I also want to thank everyone for completing the meeting surveys. We gleaned several topics for future meetings from that simple survey. Although a couple of the items mentioned by attendees in the survey did confuse me a little. One person asked us to offer a presentation on preparing entries for the State and local fairs. Kristi gave a great presentation on that very topic Saturday afternoon, just not at the originally intended time slot. Another person suggested we have the 'best speaker' on the second day. I have to say that I cannot rank who was the "best", as we had so many discussions of great interest with wonderful speakers in March. That one will be tough to determine.

This fall, we have Judy Wu-Smart, University of Nebraska -Lincoln, as our main speaker. Other presentations and presenters are still being aligned. The meeting will be November 10 – 11, 2023 at Courtyard by Marriott, 3020 Riffle Dr. As always, if you have suggestions for future topics or speakers, please let me know. Please tune into the KHPA website for updates, schedules, room information, etc.

I hope you all have a great summer – unfortunately, the serious Midwest drought continues on for most of Kansas. As some old time farmers would say, "Rain... we will need it when we get it."

Greg Swob, 1st Vice President

**Kansas Honey Producer's Association**  
**The Cappings**  
**R Burns**  
**7601 W. 54th Terrace**  
**Shawnee Mission KS 66202**

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**2023 Kansas Honey Producer's Association Membership Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_



Membership Kansas Honey Producer's Association per year (Jan.-Dec.) \$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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 American Bee Journal 1 year subscription \$27.65 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bee Culture Magazine 1 year subscription \$32.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: KHPA or Kansas Honey Producer's Association or pay on line at [www.kansashoneyproducers.org](http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org)**

**Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66202 Phone# 913-481-3504 or email-  
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The Kansas Honey Producer's Association is a non-profit IRC 501(c)5 agricultural-educational organization, run by dedicated volunteers, and supported primarily by membership dues (subscriptions). The IRC status means that the association is a tax-exempt organization. While donations are always welcome, they are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution. However, membership dues and subscriptions may be deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.