



Since 1948 Exploring the Wonderful World of Beekeeping Together

The Bee Buzzer

Monthly Publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 9

EDITOR: CHERYL BURKHEAD

September 2023

General Meeting

**Monday, September 18, 2023 (7:00 p.m.)
(IN PERSON ONLY-website for updates)**

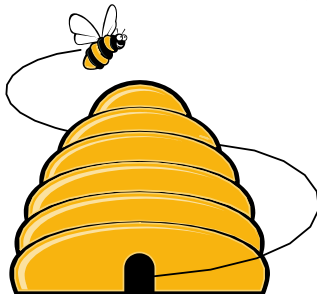
Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg. 21N
2110 Harper St., Lawrence KS

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

Main Program: Preparing Your Hives for Winter.

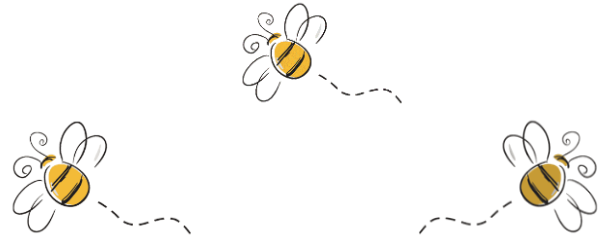
Beelines

By President Ed Darlington



What do you have yet to accomplish before letting your bees alone to over winter? Or you might prefer to just wait and ask in the spring; why did my bee's die? My experience tells me it is better to ask, deal with, and act on, the first question; you will be less likely to have to deal with the second question. The two questions may make it seem like beekeeping is simple and maybe easy, which is far from the truth. I would much prefer to

hear from many of you as to what you observed and learned about your bees this past season.



2023 Meeting Dates:

- *September 18, 2023, 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm – (prior to General Meeting) **Open Apiary @ Pendleton's Country Market, 1446 E 1850 Rd, Lawrence, KS.**
- October 16, 2023, General Meeting, Douglas County Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper St., Lawrence, KS.



NEKBA Bee Yard and Teaching Apiary

So sorry! Last month our open apiaries were cancelled either because of hot weather or rain! This month you will again have an open apiary/mentoring event at our club hives! Our hives were started with a grant from the Great Plains Master Beekeepers group. This year we have 4 hives that we started from packages. It's been fun to watch their progress. Please join us at the hives. The hives are located at Pendleton's Country Market, 1446 E 1850 Rd, Lawrence, KS 66046.

These events are free, but we do ask that you text or call us to let us know that you are coming. Please call or text the host for the Open Apiary that you wish to attend. Please wear long pants and bring your bee suit. We will have a few suits available. We will go through the hives looking for eggs, brood, drones, and queens. We will review lighting a smoker and testing for varroa and we'll answer your questions and talk about what you should be seeing in your hives.

- Monday, September 18th 5pm-6:30 before the NEKBA general meeting. We'll adjourn at 6:30 pm to attend our monthly NEKBA meeting. Not sure who will host. Check out the website for updated information at <http://www.nekba.org/>



The State Fair is fast approaching and we still need many volunteers from September 8-17. The fair takes place in Hutchinson, KS. Shifts are 4 hours long; 9am-1pm, 1pm-5pm and 5pm-9pm. You are provided with an entry ticket which is picked up at guest services across from Gate 9 on Plum St.

This is a great opportunity to talk bees, talk with other beekeepers, educate the public, and get in some people-watching time.

Please use the link provided to volunteer on the signup genius site.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C48ADA82BABF49-2023>

Feel free to call me at (913) 768-4961 if you have questions.

Kristi Sanderson, Special Events Coordinator



Ol' Bee Gal

We have had record-breaking heat this past month. The news is full of weather and related events: fires, hurricanes, drought, storms. Our friends traveled in the western U.S. this past month. The day they traveled through Death Valley, California; Kansas was hotter. Do they even try to keep bees in Death Valley? This is what we are up against. This is what our bees are up against. How can they survive? So many beekeepers practice and often post on-line, known beekeeping practices that the scientists have shown causes our bees stress or potential harm. These beekeepers often defend their practices as something that's been done for years, done by commercial beekeepers, recommended by their dubious mentor or 'doesn't hurt' based on the observation that the bees lived through it! BY WHAT STANDARD ARE THEY MAKING THOSE EVALUATIONS? Unless you ran a controlled study in your own yard (nearly impossible to do correctly) you have no idea whether your bees could have been healthier, stronger, or more productive than if you had really done best practice beekeeping.

Mites—MUST control them. A newer beekeeper friend who runs a few hives reported a much-improved honey harvest this year. We did not have the most advantageous climate conditions, nor did he change the location of his hives to a more nectar-rich environment. By his own admission, he took mite treatment seriously. He treated, tested for efficacy, and followed with a final OA mite treatment in November. His mite numbers were extremely low (zero in a mite check) going into spring. He said he had never realized the difference between a "strong" hive and a healthy, mite free, **strong** hive! The increased population numbers translate into honey harvest pounds. Not only that, but he also came through winter with all his colonies. Larger populations are better and able to over winter successfully. The wild weather swings we experience occasionally are not as problematic for a strong healthy colony.

Quality feed—Science has shown us how important nutrition is for every living being. A hive that has good nutrition will better defend itself against the viruses carried by varroa. What does this mean for the beekeeper? Placing your hives in a diverse, pollen rich environment is critical. Although people like to post pics of their bees collecting corn pollen, it is known to be a poor nutrient source for bees and if they are collecting corn pollen, it is because they have few other options. Pollen supplements are available but are as likely to provide your bees with good nutrition as a Flintstone vitamin will overcome a fast-food diet. It is an emergency feed, a supplement, and has drawbacks. Sugar/sugar water is the carbohydrate most beekeepers choose to supplement their hives. It is our best choice for emergency situation but will not and should not replace honey; the bees own, natural, and best source of nutrition. Here in NE KS, it is recommended we leave each hive 50-60 pounds of surplus honey (this is generally one deep super nearly full of honey). If you cannot do that, be ready to supplement your hive going into winter. Do not wait until February and discover a starving hive and wonder how you can fix it. (For anyone considering an open feeding option, HORRID IDEA! I've previously written about the reasons to never practice this feeding method. If you have questions, message me.

Queens—Young healthy queens are more likely to make it through the winter and emerge in the spring with healthy brood. This is the trickiest of the big 3 wintering issues. A queen that runs out of sperm in January dooms your hive. If you can get into your hive in January and recognize the situation (unlikely because of weather conditions) you can combine a failing hive with a healthy colony and save the bees. But it will most often go unnoticed until your first inspection, usually in March. By then it can be too late to rescue the colony. The beekeeper's best option, evaluate your queen during the final inspection of the year. Is the brood pattern shrinking but solid (what you should see), or is the brood pattern splattered with many random drone brood cells amongst the worker brood? If you see signs that your queen may not be as robust as you'd like going into winter, now is not the time to requeen. A better option is combining this hive with a healthy colony.

You can winter the colony as a 3 high and plan to split it by buying a mated queen next spring.

Three elements to successful wintering: mite control, good nutrition, healthy queens. Everything else is debatable. Wrapping—good conversation starter, we don't wrap but it might be helpful in some situations. Venting—extra winter ventilation is not necessary but don't seal up the hive. Excess condensation inside a hive can kill bees. If you are worried about this, look up quilt boards. Upper entrances—situate your entrances so dead bees inside the hive can't block the entrance. Many beekeepers create an upper entrance by adjusting the inner cover vent hole and pushing the outer, telescoping cover back to allow bees to escape out the top. This is more important if you choose to wrap your hives, or you experience deep snow. Bees need to be able to take a cleansing flight occasionally on mild winter days.

PLEASE make plans now to attend the Kansas Honey Producers fall meeting/conference in November. Visit our remodeled web site for additional program information and to register. www.kansashoneyproducers.org. Believe me, if you become part of KHPA, you will become a better beekeeper. KHPA has something for everyone in beekeeping. Until next month, see you at the fair.

Becky Tipton



MENTORING/OPENING APIARIES

Mentoring at our hives on the 4th Thursday of the month! Meet at the home of Joli and Cecil at 6 pm at 19201 S. Clare Rd., Spring Hill KS. We appreciate a phone call or text to know that people are coming, 913-593-3562. Each time we identify queens, eggs, larvae, light and use a smoker, do a powdered sugar mite check, and talk about what you should be doing with your bees that month. Scheduled date is September 28. If you have beekeeping clothing, please bring it- but we do have extra suits. Wear long pants and closed-toed shoes please.

ASK QUINBY & REMI



Quinby and Remi are so busy! They have been supervising getting creamed honey made, getting comb honey cut up into chunk honey and squares of cut comb! Cecil and Joli have been pulling honey supers off hives and getting the honey extracted ASAP! Joli has been making lotion bars for the state fair. Our owners will be out treating for mites before Labor Day! All this so that we can have fat baby bees going into winter! They are so important to winter survival. Treating mites early and doing a post test is critical. One of their friends treated with Apiguard and had 13 mites on a post count. Luckily at the July Zoom meeting we learned that we could do a 3rd or 4th treatment if needed- it's in the product directions now.

Remi and Quinby had a new (2-year-old) Brittany brother for a month but Quinby and he did not get along so Chip is no longer with us- he has a new home! Chip was named after our favorite person, Dr. Chip Taylor. Chip was flattered when I asked if it was okay to name our dog after him! He said he was honored! We were all crazy about Chip- but not Quinby! Chips new family has had Brittany's before, and the lady's dad was a beekeeper! They went to Oman over Christmas and met a local beekeeper and had Frankincense honey!

Quinby and Remi would love to answer your questions. Contact them by emailing their owner at heartlandhoneyks@gmail.com.



Tips for September

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

- Also make sure that all hives have a brick on top to keep the lids from blowing off.



HONEY PLANTS

Annually, some two million acres in the United States are devoted to growing sunflowers. This makes sunflower pollen a ready and relevant bee food. Recent studies at North Carolina State University have proven that sunflower pollen has medicinal, protective effects on bees.

With bee populations in decline, a new study offers hope for a relatively simple mechanism to promote bee health and well-being. Providing bees access to a diet of sunflower pollen shows dramatically lower rates of infection by two separate pathogens, suggesting medicinal and protective effects for pollinators in peril.

Research was completed on two separate species of bees. In European honeybees, sunflower pollen was proven to protect against (*Nosema ceranae*). Bumblebees on a sunflower diet had generally better colony health than bees fed on a diet of other flower pollens. Studies showed a reduced infection by the pathogen (*Crithidia bombi*) in bumblebees. Both these pathogens have shown to slow bee colony growth rates and increase bee death.

Mono-floral pollen is recognized as having limited nutritional value to bees. However, research has proven that sunflower pollen as a stand-alone food source is low in protein and some amino acids. In the NC State research trials, no other single stand-alone pollen source had similar effects. However sunflower pollen showed a consistent positive effect on bumblebee and honey

bee health.

Studies have left several questions to be answered. Is sunflower pollen helping the host bees fight off pathogens or does sunflower pollen do something to the pathogens?

Further research is aimed at figuring out these questions. At this point as beekeepers, we ponder how we can positively affect our local bee populations' health. We understand that a single nectar or pollen source alone cannot sustain life. However, research has proven that single flowers have beneficial medicinal activity. These individual floral sources combined have synergistic activity. We know that a diverse food network is critical to continued long term bee health. Continued university-based lab studies offer interesting insight into bee nutrition and how we can impact it thru quality management practices.

Chad Gilliland, Honey Plants Chairman



Third Thursdays- Extracting More Money from your Hives- Value-Added program

The Kansas Honey Producers Association- 3rd Thursday, **Extracting More Money from your Hives** is at 7pm CST on Thursday, September 21, 2023. Tentatively, this month our program will be about Making Good Videos to Promote your Business and Using Facebook to Promote Your Business. Watch your email or the NEKBA Facebook site for details later this month. You can get 1-hour educational credit for attending these presentations from GPMB.

October 19th - Making Mead with Jay Francis
November 16th - Participants will share what they have learned from these meetings. James Carpenter, Carps Bees, will be one person to

present. If you have added any of the things you have learned to your business and would like to share, please let us know. Our contact information is below!

If you have something that you would like to share with the group, please call or text Joli at 913-593-3562 or email heartlandhoneyks@gmail.com

Many of us had lots of issues logging in last month. So, if you have registered before you will get the link by email. If you have not registered go to the www.kansashoneyproducers.org website to

get the link. You will no longer have to register to sign-up. We'll have a dedicated meeting link. This is sponsored by the Kansas Honey Producers Association. You do not have to be a member. If you would like to join, memberships are \$15 per year.

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

NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2023 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. \$12.50)	\$25.00	_____
Additional family members wanting voting rights \$1.00 per person	\$1.00	_____
Additional family member's name _____		
(Youth Membership (18 years of age or under)	\$12.50	_____
Membership for Kansas Honey Producers Association	\$15.00	_____
American Bee Journal (<u>discounted rate through association</u>)	1 year \$27.65	_____
Bee Culture Magazine (or subscribe online at www.BeeCulture.com)	1 year \$32.00	_____
Scholarship / Military/Veteran's Appr. Donation		_____
	Total	_____

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

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

You may join, re-new, register, donate and pay online at www.nekba.org

MENTORING-SWEET PRAIRIE HONEY

Need help with your hives? -Spring inspections, installing packages, making splits, queen evaluation, diagnosis of pests and diseases, mite monitoring and treatment, etc. I can help you with your beekeeping needs! I am a certified master beekeeper with 30 + years of beekeeping experience. I will leave you with a written course of action after our session at your hives. Call or text at 913-768-4961 or email Kristi Sanderson at sandersonk09@gmail.com for pricing and appointment times.

BEEKEEPERS.COM

Beekeepers.com (Jordy's Honey Company) in **Lenexa, KS**. Beekeepers.com is your only local full-service beekeeping store. We carry a full line of Beekeeping Supplies, Protective Clothing, Bottles, Bee Packages, Nucs and Queens. Visit our web site Beekeepers.com to view our entire line of beekeeping supplies. You can also shop in-person at our store in Lenexa. We ship queens directly to YOU! Order at QueenBees.com. Queens available March - October. Our hours are Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00, Saturday 9:00-12:00. You can find our honey at The Overland Park Farmers Market. **Robert Hughes**, 14054 W 107th St, Lenexa, KS 66215, 913-681-5777 or email Info@Beekeepers.com

COTTIN'S HARDWARE & RENTAL

Cottin's stocks a full line of beekeeping equipment year-round including items manufactured by Harvest Lane Honey, Little Giant, and Bug Baffler. Products include hives, supers, frames, foundations, extractors, tools, and protective apparel. We also stock a full line of Home Brewing Mead Making supplies. Located in Lawrence, KS at 1832 Massachusetts Street (South of Dillon's). We are open Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 6:00 pm, Saturday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Sunday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. You can follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Call us at 785-843-2981 or email us at hardware@sunflower.com

CB'S HONEY

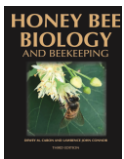
CB's Honey offers pure raw Kansas honey available in 5 gal buckets. Grafted queens and queen cells, and a limited number of nucs/packages each Spring. [CB's Honey | Facebook](#). Located just SE of Topeka. 4521 SE 61st Street, Berryton, KS 66409. Call or text Cheryl Burkhead at 785-224-9077 or email @ cherylbhoney@gmail.com

CEDAR RIDGE BEES

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

T CREEK BEES AND HONEY – Tecumseh/Berryton, KS

Tecumseh Creek winds its way through the home yard lending its name to the brand. Located between Lawrence and Topeka, T Creek offers 5-frame nucs, online honey sales, custom honey packing, wholesale delivery to the Topeka / Lawrence area, 5-gallon buckets of honey, and drop-shipping wholesale service to rural grocery stores and agritourism destinations. Visit www.tcreekbees.com Email: tcreekbees@gmail.com or find the bees on Facebook. Order 2023 5-frame nucs by visiting the website and completing the nuc order form. Owner: Tim Urich. LLC in the State of Kansas and licensed by Kansas Dept of Ag.



Honey Bee Biology AND BEEKEEPING, Third Edition, Dewey M. Caron and Lawrence John Connor, \$90 postage included. *This book should stay on the dashboard of every beekeeper's truck. It's that good, and that necessary. Kim Flottum, Bee Culture.* This comprehensive textbook easily replaces many beginner books while adding comprehensive details of bee biology essential to becoming a successful beekeeper and student of the honey bee. First released in 1999, *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping* is widely accepted as a major textbook of Apiculture (beekeeping). Beekeepers and bee clubs use it to teach other beekeepers. Universities use it to teach college students bee biology and beekeeping. It concentrates on the 'why', 'how' and 'when' of beekeeping. It explains bee and beekeeping basics in a manner meaningful to people who lack an extensive back-ground in biology. Yet it is not over-simplified, and provides a meaningful source of beekeeping information for the informed beekeeper. The Third Edition has been carefully edited, updated and expanded to 480 pages. New chapters have been added, as have colorful new graphics and photographs. The Glossary has also been expanded. **Wicwas Press LLC Kalamazoo, MI 49001 - www.wicwas.com**

The Association does not endorse nor evaluate the advertisements, products or services offered in the Buzzer.

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association
Robert Burns, Treasurer
7601 W 54th Terr
Shawnee Mission, KS 66202-1129

Address Service Requested

General Meeting

Monday, September 18, 2023 (in person)

The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

Membership is open to anyone interested in bees or bee culture. Dues are \$25.00 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 \$12.50 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 \$12.50 per year. Please submit new memberships and renewals to the treasurer or on-line at www.nekba.org.

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

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

The Association meets each month, generally on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. except during the months of January and July. Beekeeping classes will tentatively be held in January and February for 2023. This is a non-profit organization; elected officers serve without pay. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings. Check *The Bee Buzzer* or website at www.nekba.org each month for the actual date, time and location. If the weather is bad, call an officer or check the website to find out if the meeting will be held or cancelled.

2023 Officers

President: Ed Darlington , 2804 E 174th St., Belton, MO 64012 edarlington49@gmail.com	816-331-4934
1st VP (Program Chair): Matt Brandes , 4741 Highway K 68, Wellsville, KS 66092 matthew@n523rv.com	913-706-3087
2nd VP (Librarian): Cecil Sweeney , 19201 S Clare Rd, Spring Hill, KS 66083 heartlandhoneyks@gmail.com	913-593-3851
3rd VP (Honey Plants): Chad Gilliland , 23338 Kissinger Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66028 nexttonaturefarm@gmail.com	785-491-1978
Secretary: Elaine Ellenz , 17650 W 113 th St., Olathe, KS 66061 elaineellenz@gmail.com	913-515-1607
Treasurer: Robert Burns , 7601 W 54 th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 rburnshoney@gmail.com	913-481-3504
Youth Scholarship Chair: Dale Spurlin , 24964 160 th Ct., Leavenworth, KS 66048 LightedPathHoney@outlook.com	913-775-0997
Military/Veteran Appr. Liaison: Buck Bradley , 11 E 900 Rd., Baldwin City, KS buckusmc00@hotmail.com	785-248-1005
Editor: Cheryl Burkhead , 4521 SE 61st St., Berryton, KS 66409 cbfritz@aol.com	785-224-9077
Special Events Coordinator (Class): Kristi Sanderson , 1252 E Frontier Ln., Olathe, KS 66062 sandersonk09@gmail.com	913-768-4961
Special Events Coordinator (Funday): Jay Francis , 6040 NW 52 nd St., Topeka, KS 66618 jay.m.francis@gmail.com	785-608-0726
Webmaster: Robert Burns , 7601 W 54 th Terr., Shawnee Mission, KS 66202 rburnshoney@gmail.com	913-481-3504

Visit on-line at www.nekba.org. Save time. Join, re-new, or register.