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*Exploring the wonderful world of beekeeping together***The Bee Buzzer***Monthly publication of the***Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association**

VOLUME 70, NUMBER 3

EDITOR: JOLI WINER

MARCH 2018

General Meeting
Monday March 19th, 2018
7:00 p.m.

First 15 minutes:

Youth Scholarship Presentation

KayLynn Hall presents

&

Installing a package of bees and treating them for varroa

Joli Winer & Cecil Sweeney Present

Main Program:

Starting Year 2-Inspecting your Hives and Making Decisions

Steve and Becky Tipton present

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

Chad has another incredible program planned- a triple header!

We have one more youth scholarship student that will present – KayLynn Hall from Topeka! I love hearing the kids tell their stories! This year I think almost all of the kids and their families are getting a second hive!

Joli and Cecil will give you a quick refresher on installing a package of bees and give you some tips on treating your package for varroa mites.

Steve and Becky Tipton will address starting year two – inspecting your hives and making decisions. Is your queen doing well, can you split your hive, should you treat for varroa, should you feed and so much more. New beekeepers will also get a lot out of this talk because much of what they talk about will help you make decisions about your package bee development or how your nuc develops.

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 you turn into the fairgrounds.

NEKBA Cookbook Fundraiser
Buzzing Around the Kitchen



Last Chance for YOUR Recipes!

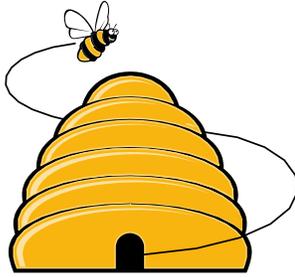
The cookbook committee has been hard at work on our cookbook. We are calling it *Buzzing Around the Kitchen*, Honey Cookbook, with Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association displayed on the cover. We have a wonderful cover design and have chosen some great dividing pages. All we need from you is MORE RECIPES! To help you submit your recipes, the committee will again have a station with laptops set up at the next NEKBA meeting, March 19. Look for Janet and Becky at the side table. We will be glad to help you navigate the web site or enter your recipe for you. You may also hand us a copy of your recipes and we will enter them for you.

Share and Tell at the
Monday March 19th Meeting

Bring your Oxalic Acid vaporizer to share what it looks like with others. On FaceBook some members were wanting to see what the vaporizers looked like so Dana will have a table set up in back so that folks can share either their purchased ones or homemade ones.

Beelines

By President Steve Messbarger



Just got through with a long but great weekend. For those who didn't go to the Kansas Honey Producers Association, (KHPA), meeting in McPherson, Ks., you really missed out! Dewey Caron and Randy Oliver were the guest speakers. They were absolutely phenomenal! Not only that, Dewey was our guest speaker at the second, Beginner Beekeeper's class. There was tons of great information. Randy Oliver is working on the correct formula for the oxalic acid pads. Too much information to cover in this newsletter- it was well worth it to make the trip to McPherson. If you're wanting to keep up with all the on-going changes with beekeeping, I would urge you to attend the NEBKA meetings as well as the KHPA meetings.

Everyone is starting to see pollen being brought in but remember they also need honey stores to get through, until there is a nectar flow. February and March are the most prevalent times of the year that our bees die. So, just check your bees and check to make sure that they have enough stores to get through to the first nectar flow.

Our Fun Day is going to be the best ever! Our guest speakers are some of the top in the nation. You definitely don't want to miss Fun Day this year!

I want to thank all of the presenters and volunteers that helped in the Beginner's Beekeeping class. It wouldn't have been successful without you! We also owe Dewey Caron special thanks for all four of his presentations. He was truly informative and entertaining at

the same time. We had a very enthusiastic group of new beekeepers and are looking forward to helping them have a successful year.

Our next meeting is coming up pretty quick so hope to see you there!

As always, Bees First!

International color code for marking queens-

Years ending:

1 or 6 - WHITE

2 or 7 - YELLOW

3 or 8 - RED

4 or 9 - GREEN

5 or 0 - BLUE

Door Prizes from the New Beekeeping Class & Winner of the Beehive and Package of Bees

The winner of the hive and package of bees was Tim Merklein! Tim and his neighbor were going to start one hive of bees together but now they get to start 2 hives! NEKBA bought the starter hive from Golden Prairie Beekeeping Supply in Manhattan. The package of bees was donated by Heartland Honey. Other door prizes were donated by Dadant and Sons, Cottin's Hardware and Rental in Lawrence, Jordy's Honey in Overland Park and Golden Prairie Beekeeping Supply in Manhattan. A big thank you to the businesses that donated prizes and a huge congratulation to Tim for winning the new hive and bees!

Youth Scholarship Recipients & Mentors

1. Elisabeth Celeen, Tonganoxie
Chad Gilliland will be her mentor
2. Aidan Miller, Lawrence
Steve Messbarger will be her mentor
3. Alyssa Sherron, Spring Hill
Joli Winer and Cecil Sweeney will be her mentors

We want to congratulate the scholarship recipients and thank the mentors to giving of themselves!

2017-2018 Meeting Dates

Meetings are held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds at 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 you turn into the fairgrounds. Unless otherwise stated.

- Monday, April 16th, 2018, 7 pm
- Monday, May 21st, 2018, 7 pm
- Saturday, June 2nd, 2018 Funday Guests include: Dr. Marla Spivak, Mark Winston, Dr. Jose Vila, Dr. Gard Otis, Dr. David Roubik and of course Dr. Chip Taylor-whom we are honoring for his years of service to the beekeeping industry. These are all of his doctoral students. Also, Dr. Judy Wu-Smart and Dr. Marion Ellis will join us
- Monday, June 18, 2018 (Flory Meeting Hall) 7 pm
- Monday, July 16th, 2018, 7 pm
- Monday, August 20th, 2018, 7 pm
- Monday, September 17th, 2018, 7 pm
- Monday, October 15th, 2018, 7 pm
- Monday, November 19th, 2018, 7 pm
- Monday, December 17th, 2018 (Flory Meeting Hall) 7 pm

Tips for March

- ◆ Consider helping a neighbor get started in beekeeping by selling them a split from your hive. You can buy a queen from a queen breeder or local bee supply. This could keep your bees from swarming later in the year!
- ◆ Equalize hives to minimize swarming: brood from healthy hives may be transferred to a weaker colony. Food frames could also be shared. **WARNING: never move frames unless you know where your queen is. Find the queen first. Never make an exception to this rule.**
- ◆ You should have several frames of brood in your hives now. If you don't, then you have a problem. It may be your queen or there aren't enough nurse bees to take care of brood. The queen won't lay more eggs than the workers can care for or keep warm.
- ◆ Clean and scrape off your bottom board

- ◆ Keep up or start your recordkeeping.
- ◆ Check the level of your hives, they should tip slightly forward.
- ◆ Entrance reducers can be removed any time after the first of April.
- ◆ Check colonies for food-if they need food, feed. If they have food-don't feed unless you want to make some splits or increases—if you feed too much it encourages swarming. Know what your plan is for your hives before you take actions that have consequences. Bad weather can limit foraging opportunities for your bees. Feed 1:1 sugar syrup (by weight) to stimulate brood rearing—this translates to 1- 4 lb. bag of sugar to ½ gallon of hot water
- ◆ Check for pollen stores, usually pollen is on the 2nd frame in on both sides-the outside frame is usually honey and the next frame in is usually pollen.
- ◆ Put a swarm trap in your bee yard. Bees are valuable.
- ◆ Mark your calendar for the Funday which Saturday will be, June 2nd.
- ◆ Evaluate your brood patterns to decide if you need to requeen your hive
- ◆ Reverse your brood chambers if and only if your brood is all in the upper box—if it is in two hive bodies than leave it as it is.
- ◆ Replace any old or damaged comb-specifically any comb that has been damaged my mice.
- ◆ If you plan to treat for varroa mites it is best to treat early when you have lower bee populations.

Newbee Tips

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

- ❖ Remember that anytime the bees are flying is an indication that the weather is ok for you to work your bees
- ❖ Consider keeping your tools in a bucket or tool box.
- ❖ Make sure that have your smoker, fuel and matches or a lighter with you all the time. Also, keep a cork to put a cork in the hole the smoke comes out of to put out your smoker—many a beekeeper has burned up

his vehicle by not taking this small precaution.

- ❖ Always have your hive tool with you and some nails to make quick repairs.
- ❖ Joli likes to take an extra hive body to sit on so she doesn't have to kneel. But you could use a fishing stool or a bucket with a lid.
- ❖ Other items you might consider in your "bee kit" might be a permanent marker to mark on your hive such things as the year you put the queen in or what type she was—2018 Italian marked.
- ❖ Upon leaving the bee yard always glance back and make sure that the lid is completely down on your hive and that your rock or brick is placed on top.
- ❖ We also try to keep newspaper with us and a queen excluder and toilet tissue—you just never know when they will come in handy!



Location, Location, Location

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

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

- Never put your bees where another beekeeper already has bees. Find your own place. Also, the other person may not be a very good beekeeper and you run the chance of getting diseases from them and vice versa. You may be a bad beekeeper and give diseases to them.
- Always negotiate a head of time what you will give the property owner in exchange for putting your bees on their property. For instance, we have yards of 10 or 12 hives and we give each land owner 1 gallon of honey in November. We tell them that up front. We have heard horror stories of land owners who expected ½ of the honey and more. So be up front, if you just have one

or two hives 2 or 3# would maybe be enough honey to share.

- Make sure that you have access to the bees; do you need a key to the gate? Do you need to call the landowner every time you go out there? Ideally you want year-round access.
- You also want to choose a place that has easy access all year round. You do not want to put your bees on the far edge of a pasture that will be mowed since the landowner isn't going to want you to drive through their hay field when you need to be putting on supers or feeding your bees.
- You also need to be sure when it is a wet season that you can drive in all year round. That the road is solid. There is nothing worse than having to carry in a 60-lb. bucket of syrup into your bees for a ½ of a mile or carry in empty supers or worse yet, carry out full supers.
- Try to find a location that isn't low and where fog doesn't hang there in the morning. It is also a good idea to not set your bees in an area that could flood, such as near a creek.
- While it is tempting to locate your bees under trees, your hive will continue to grow as you add supers to it, the bees just really need afternoon shade. But bees do best in full sun. Studies show that small hive beetle and varroa have **less** of a chance of survival in a sunny location
- If you live in the city or in a neighborhood with rules you need to get online and see what the regulations are. For instance, in Overland Park, you can have 3 hives in your yard but they must be a certain number of feet from your property line. In Shawnee, you need the signature of several of your neighbors.

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

You want to get your bees up off the ground, but not too high up. The hives are heavy and awkward

and they get heavier when you have full supers on them. If you get them up too high you can't reach to add supers or take them off. It only takes backing the truck up one time to add a super and hitting the hive and knocking to over to learn your lesson. We sometimes two hives on a pallet. We have put our hives on 2 cement blocks. We also have used railroad ties to put our hives up one. We have a few yards where we are on a cement pad and then you don't need to be up off the ground. I've seen some really nice beehive stands on our Facebook that members have made.

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

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



Finding Reliable Information about Bees



Newbees—and not so newbees—there is so much for you to learn about beekeeping. We only scratched the surface at the class. In the handout we included many beekeeping sites that have university-based research and practical information. We want to encourage you to visit those sites. As you visit the computer sites remember that anyone who can type can put information on the web. That doesn't mean that it pertains to the Midwest or that it is not just some knucklehead typing away. We want you to be

successful that is why we put so much time, energy and expense into the beekeeping class. The same with u-tube-anyone with a phone can make a video that doesn't mean that you should follow that advice. As Dr. Dewey Caron said—don't be distracted by fad beekeeping—read all that you can, the world of beekeeping is just opening up to you!

The presentations at our class and our meetings are given by beekeepers passionate about beekeeping—we aren't all expert speakers but what we have a wealth of knowledge that we are happy to share with you.

Mentoring—Join Joli and Cecil on the 2nd Monday of the month—except for April—which will be the 4th Monday, April-August. This year the dates are April 23rd (4th Monday), May 14th, June 11th, July 9th, and August 13th. The fee is \$10 per person (Veterans are exempt) with the money going to the NEKBA Youth Scholarship and Military/Veteran Apprenticeship programs. We'll work through hives each month and talk about what you should be doing and seeing in your hives. Meet at 6pm at 19201 S Clare Rd. Spring Hill KS 66083 913-593-3562 or joli@heartlandhoney.com. Please just email or call or text so we know how many to expect. If you have protective clothing bring it with you. Each month we'll make sure everyone can see eggs and the other stages of brood, light a smoker, use a hive tool and in April we'll make a nuc or look at nucs we have made.

Beehives Wanted

My family lives on 15 acres just west of Osage State Fishing Lake. I wanted to see if you had any members that are part of NEKBA that would want to put hives on our property.

I can be reached at this email address john.thompson007@gmail.com or on my cell phone [785.224.1613](tel:785.224.1613).

John Thompson
290 E 165th St.
Scranton, KS 66537

Show me the Honey

Becky Tipton



If you “do” social media, I’d like to invite you to “like” our Facebook page. You have to be accepted into membership but it is not much more than asking and you’ll be part of the group. This past month we’ve had a couple of good discussions and one that I think might be of interest to other beekeepers. Here’s the story: Mr. Beek examined his hive, found it just bursting at the seams (this is the 1st week of March) and wondered if it is possible to make a split now. He was willing to buy a queen or willing to just do a walk-away and let the girls fend for themselves. What did everyone think? Mr. Beek just wanted to start a discussion string about this; is it good idea, or not? Well, the short answer is, it’s not, and here’s why.

Buying a queen now is tricky. If you find someone who is willing to sell a queen, she still has to be shipped to you. Although the temps this last week were milder, today’s chill index is 20 degrees, with 40 mph winds, and we enjoyed freezing sleet and snow (not enjoyed at all). Even if packed with attendants and hand warmers, the temperatures are likely to be too cold for optimal queen travel. If a queen gets too cold, she will develop something I’ve heard breeders refer to as “water belly.” The queen looks plump and perfect but she loses the ability to lay eggs.... she’s a dud that cost you good money, plus shipping.

A split without a queen is sometimes referred to as a “walk-away” split. The beekeeper divides the brood among 2 boxes. He may move one of the boxes to a new location to prevent all the bees from returning to their original home. But, he lets nature take its course. The queen pheromone is very volatile and a colony will recognize that it is queenless within 10-15 minutes. That is akin to panic time for them. They NEED a new queen and

will begin growing one immediately. They will choose the biggest larva from which they can successfully grow a queen—an older larva. The problem with this strategy is that the larva will have missed a couple of optimal feeding days and will therefore develop into an inferior queen with fewer ovules. But, they will likely grow a queen. If the weather cooperates, within a few days after she emerges, she will take a mating flight. But, we rarely have a good population of drones until late April. If a queen isn’t mated within about 3 weeks of her emerging, she is unlikely to mate at all. You’ve produced a drone layer. She will begin laying eggs—all drones and the colony is doomed. Even if she finds a few early drones, she will be poorly mated and the colony will supersede her shortly. This can start a cycle where a colony requeens itself over and over throughout the year and never gains the strength to produce honey.

Let’s move this scenario forward and suppose Mr. Beek is facing the same decision mid-April. Spend \$30+ on a mated queen or let the girls raise their own. If a purchased queen is installed in a split/division, she should remain caged 4-5 days. If she is accepted, she will generally begin laying eggs the day she is released. You’ve lost less than a week of production time. Because there was a queen present in the hive (caged), the functions of the colony continued as usual. The workers continued to draw wax, gather pollen and nectar, and feed and care for the young of the hive. In a walk-away split, the new queen will not emerge for about 10-11 days (remember, they chose an old larva), she will then hang around the hive for 3-4 days gaining strength. She will spend about 5 days taking mating flights (hope the wind isn’t blowing 40 mph those days). Two or three days after mating she will begin laying eggs and 21 days after that you will have her first offspring emerge. Whew, 21-24 days growing a new queen! During this time, your 5-frame split has dwindled. When queenless, colonies don’t forage and produce comb as well as queen-right colonies. The calendar is working against you, too. It’s now the middle of May. You have exactly 2 weeks to get this hive ready to produce honey. So, for \$30, you’ve

sacrificed this year's honey crop.

There is nothing wrong with wanting to produce queens from homegrown genetics. But, learning how to raise queens that are quality producers should be your goal, not just producing any old queen. Harry Laidlaw, queen researcher and pioneer in grafting says, a well reared queen of inferior stock will out produce a poorly reared queen of superior stock. So, even though you may be splitting your best hive, your new queen may be nothing like the hive you are taking her from.

Back to Mr. Beek, the advice given to him was to add a 3rd deep brood box to this booming colony. With any luck, the queen will take advantage of the space provided and lay up frames he can then use to make his split when he can get a good quality queen. Adding a 3rd story is most successful in preventing swarming and overcrowding when you have drawn foundation to offer the bees. They are less likely to respond positively to a box of undrawn foundation.

Thank you to all who contribute, comment, read, and react to our Facebook page. It is a pleasure to spend time with you all each day.

Making Nucs/Splits to Control Swarming and Increase Hive Numbers

By Joli Winer & Cecil Sweeney

Every year when I write about making nucs I think I say the same thing—this is my favorite part of beekeeping. I really think that it is the crux of beekeeping—that skill to know how to split your hives so that they don't swarm and that you can increase your numbers. It's an art. It's what Dewey Caron talked about, applying biology to managing your bees.

Our rule of thumb for making splits we learned from an old beekeeper that we respected a lot, Wendell Ohmes. Wendell was the best beekeeper that we have ever known—only he got this trick from Glenn Stanley who was a beekeeper and inspector from Iowa. They always said that if you have more than 3 full frames of brood in a hive on April 1st you should leave 3 and take away the

rest. The reason was that more than 3 frames of brood during the first week of April means your hive will most likely swarm. On the 2nd week of April leave 4 frames and on the 3rd week leave 5 frames and the 4th week leave 6 frames. We try really hard to do that. A hive that swarms will not produce honey for you.

The first thing you absolutely must do before taking away any brood is to find the queen and set her and the frame she is on aside. We like to have a nuc box with us to put the frame in while we mess around in the hive. The way we operate is that we split the hive bodies apart and I take the bottom hive body to search and Cecil takes the top box. I go through, search for the queen and count frames of brood. If I have 3 full frames of brood plus the queen I put them in the center of the bottom box after I clean and scrape off the bottom board and if Cecil finds the queen in the top box we add her to my already set up bottom box. We then add a few empty frames next to the 3 frames of brood, then honey in the 1 and 10 spaces, pollen in the 2 and 9 spaces. Sometimes you'll have some partial frames of brood that will go in the bottom box next to the other brood or put in some more empty frames or some with a little honey and pollen in them. The top hive body would then have empty comb in the center with honey and pollen in the outer spots.

Alternatively, if we are requeening the original hive, when we find the queen we kill her and add a new queen in a cage to this hive. The cage is placed between the brood. A small hive or nuc will readily accept a new queen when the hive number of bees and brood is low.



We put the queen cage in, as above, push the frames together, leave the corks in for 3-4 days and then go back to release the queen. Even though the cage may have food in it, if you take out that cork and let the bees release the queen themselves, they may release her before the bees are used to her and then kill her. It is best to wait 3-4 days. If you feel uncomfortable direct releasing her then you can take out the cork and let them finish eating out the candy if there is enough in there.

Now what do we do with the extra frames of brood? Cecil has several boxes that he made that are made from a hive body. On the bottom of the hive body he adds 2-3 inches of wood all the way around to make the hive deeper and then across the entire bottom nails or staples a piece of 8 mesh hardware cloth-screen would work but the hardware cloth lasts longer. This plus a good tight lid makes our brood box. We put frames of brood and bees in here until we get to the next yard to make up our nucs. You can add brood and bees from other hives together in this box. The extra few inches on the bottom of the box keep the brood and bees from overheating.

If at all possible your nucs will be more successful if you can move them for a few weeks to another place a few miles away. The reason for this is that if you make them up in the same yard most of the bees will abandon the brood and new queen and return to their original colony. This leaves your new hive in a weakened state, sometimes without enough bees to cover the brood and keep it warm.

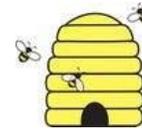
We take our brood and bees to the next yard and in either a 5 frame nuc box or a prepared hive with one hive body with 7 frames of a combination of honey (if we have it) and pollen and empty comb. We add 3 frames of brood and bees and a new queen in a cage. We follow the directions in the paragraph above for installing the queen and releasing her.

We really like to feed our nucs and hives that we are requeening. It seems that the bees will more readily accept a new queen if they are being fed sugar syrup-this has not been proven by research—it's just our thing!

After 6 or 7 days we go back and make sure our queen is laying. When the queen is out laying we then treat for varroa mites. In the spring we like to use Apiguard. We have too many hives to use Oxalic – it takes longer to treat but it is a really good method too. Then in another week or two we'll add the second hive body on top and feed if needed.

As you can guess we do not recommend doing walk away splits. This is where you let your hive make their own queen. This process takes so long that your brood will have already emerged and it is so long before your new queen has brood that you have wasted your new hive.

Honey Plants



Jo Patrick

March and April are an exciting time for beekeepers and honey bees. The honey bee queen and her offspring begin gearing up for the nectar flow. The colony needs a large population to take full advantage of the main nectar flow that is soon to come. That main nectar flow for us usually begins in April. Lengthening daylight hours begin in late winter. This signals the queen to start laying eggs in anticipation of spring. The eggs give off a pheromone that signals the foragers there is going to be a need for food to feed the young larvae that will be developing. Food comes in the form of pollen. Some pollen was stored, in cells, last fall. Honey bees have a preference for fresh pollen and the foragers will begin searching for those early blooms. Those blooms have begun to pop. It started with the early Silver Maple blooms opening in February. In my neighborhood it was February 15th, but I understand some members of NEKBA still have not had Silver Maples bloom yet. The Silver Maple provides much needed fresh, early, greenish colored pollen. This was followed by Witch Hazel a few days later. Witch Hazel pollen is yellow. On March 7th, my Pussy Willow began opening. In a few weeks it will be followed by Weeping Willows. Both provide yellow pollen. Before Weeping Willows, the Red Maples, also with

yellow pollen and Elms with yellowish green pollen will begin to open. Apricots and peaches, the early bloomers of the fruit trees, will be producing blooms very soon, if temperatures remain above freezing.

In some parts of the United States, beekeepers plant willow thickets around apiaries to provide a windbreak and an early season source of nutrition. Willows can be easily multiplied by taking cuttings, planting in the ground and kept watered. Native willows, *Salix caprea* and *Salix cinerea*, are the better choices for nutrition. Hybrid Pussy Willows and some Weeping Willows have nothing to offer pollinators, which is true with a lot of hybrid plants.

When the soil warms enough in March, we will begin to see some of those wonderful weeds, Henbit and Dandelions. Dandelions provide a near perfect pollen source. Not all pollen sources are equal in nutrition. Dr. Dewey Caron wrote in *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping*, pg. 143, "There is no evidence to suggest that bees are able to determine the nutritional value of different pollens. They collect pollen due to its attractive chemicals and the stimulus of brood in their hive." A diverse selection of pollen sources is better for honey bee nutrition because pollen is the protein that is fed to larvae. Diversity will increase the odds of getting better overall nutrition. Just like feeding your own children, better nutrition means healthier offspring. Those in attendance at the Kansas Honey Producers spring meeting, in McPherson, had the opportunity to hear Randy Oliver speak about honey bee nutrition. He refers to healthy bees as "fat bees". Randy states on his website, www.scientificbeekeeping.com, "every beekeeper needs to understand is that the real nutrition for the colony comes from pollen." Knowing this, we can understand the importance of choosing an apiary site that provides diverse and plentiful pollen sources.

Some NEKBA members may grow their own timber for cutting and heating. Those that burn wood for heat know, the greater the dry weight, the better. There are some species that will provide good quality heat as well as forage for your honey bees. Two of these are Black Locust and Mulberry.

The Black Locust, some years, provides a wonderful nectar and pollen source in May. Other years, foul weather can destroy the beautiful blooms. Black Locust provides around 4,200 pounds of wood per cord. It is a fast grower and has excellent burning qualities. There are some drawbacks to Black Locust to consider prior to planting, such as suckering, it's hard to split, and the presence of thorns particularly on young trees.

Mulberry is also a fast grower that produces some nectar and pollen for our honey bees in May but without some of the drawbacks that Black Locust has. Mulberry is not as desirable a nectar source to honey bees, like Black Locust, but is consistently more dependable than Black Locust. Birds and wildlife will feast on the fruit. Mulberry produces 3,500 pounds per cord.

The late Dr. Wayne Geyer, forestry professor, at K-State, did many woody biomass studies over a period of 35 years. Out of his work came the following recommendations:

- Plant locust a few rows in from a field edge to reduce suckering in the field.
- Plant on a close spacing, 4 to 6 feet apart. This maximizes yield and reduces side branching.
- Control weeds the first two years.
- Harvest every 5 years, most trees will resprout and can be reharvested.
- Plant about 1 acre per year for 5 years if you wish to supply the majority of the firewood needed to heat your home.

For those new members who will receive their first packages, nucs, or colonies of bees this is an exciting time. Begin beekeeping with good habits. One good habit to develop is learning what is blooming in the vicinity of your bees. Your bees will fly an average of 2 miles to forage for food. Note what is blooming, when, if you saw bees working the blooms, and when did the bloom period in. Watch your bees to see if they are bringing in pollen. You can do this by watching the foragers land before entering the hive. You can also look in the hive at the stored pollen, but honey bees will pack cells with pollen from different sources so this is not as reliable. Make note of the color of the pollen. This will give you a clue to what your bees are working.

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Funday-Chips off the Old Bloke

A Day to Honor Dr. Chip Taylor-All of his Doctoral Students will be attending Saturday June 2nd, 2018 Registration 7:30-8:30 -- Program 8:30-5:00

Fee includes snacks, lunch, homemade honey ice cream and a full day of fun

Bring your veil and protective clothing if you would like to work through hives

Cost \$55 per person for those pre-registered, \$65 at the door

Children under 5 free, ages 6-18 \$7.50 and \$15 at the door

A dinner will be offered for an additional fee--Pre-register by May 22nd, 2018

Douglas County Fairgrounds 2110 Harper Street, Lawrence KS

For updated information and to register and pay online at www.NEKBA.org

For more information contact Joli Winer at 913-856-8356 joli@heartlandhoney.com

Dr. Orley “Chip” Taylor is the founder and Director of Monarch Watch an outreach program focused on education, research and conservation relative to monarch butterflies. He is a retired Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Kansas. He trained as an insect ecologist. Starting in 1974, Chip has studied Neotropical African honey bees (killer bees) in French Guiana, Venezuela, and Mexico. Chip has been an incredible support to the beekeepers in Kansas. His swarm demo is always a highlight of the Funday. We love and respect him.

Dr. Marla Spivak has been affiliated with the University of Minnesota since 1993, where she is currently Distinguished McKnight Professor in the Department of Entomology. She is the author and creator of numerous beekeeping manuals and videos, and scientific articles. She is developing practical applications to protect honey bee populations from decimation by disease while making fundamental contributions to our understanding of bee biology. Her TED talk “*Why Bees are Disappearing*” is the buzz!

Dr. Mark Winston is the recipient of the 2015 Governor General’s Literary Award for Nonfiction for his book *Bee Time: Lessons From the Hive*. One of the world’s leading experts on bees and pollination, Dr. Winston is also an internationally recognized researcher, teacher and writer. He currently is a professor at Simon Fraser University and has directed Simon Fraser University’s Centre for Dialogue for 12 years. His other books include *The Biology of the Honey Bee* and the soon to be released *Listening to the Bees*.

Dr. Jose Villa is now retired from being research

entomologist with the United States Department of Agriculture’s Honey Bee Breeding and Physiology Research Station in Baton Rouge. His work included the Russian Bee Project and Nosema.

Dr. Gard Otis retired from the School of Environmental Sciences, University of Guelph. He studies the ecology, behavior, and evolution of insects, with an emphasis on honey bees, their pests, and butterflies. He is most proud of his study of the swarming behavior of honeybees; the breeding project that greatly reduced the impact of the honeybee tracheal mite on bees in Ontario; and the rediscovery of the honey bee species, *Apis nigrocincta*, in Indonesia. He has improved the lives of rural Vietnamese farmers through beekeeping.

Dr. David Roubik, is an entomologist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. For most of his career he has studied tropical insects, especially bees. He has studied African bees, Vulture bees, pollen of native bees and the pollination of Central American Coffee plants by African bees—making for better tasting coffee! He has written *Ecology & Natural History of Tropical Bees*, *Pollination Ecology and the Rain Forest* and *Pot-Honey A Legacy of Stingless Bees*.

Dr. Judy Wu-Smart is the Extension & Research Entomologist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Department of Entomology. The UNL Bee Lab pursues research questions and extension programs focused on stressors impacting pollinator health in both managed and wild bee communities.

Dr. Marion Ellis is a retired professor of entomology at the University of Nebraska. Dr. Ellis is a world-class researcher on several topics relating to honeybee health. He retired in 2014 and continues to be one of our favorites.

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Funday Registration Form

2018 Beekeeping Fun Day, Saturday June 2nd 2018

Need More Info? Please contact Joli Winer at joli@heartlandhoney.com or 913-593-3562

You can register and pay online at WWW.NEKBA.ORG. Your contact information will be provided to the club through PayPal—please list all participants in the PayPal notes section

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip+4 _____

Phone # _____

Email address _____

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

I would like to be a member--Club Membership ½ year \$7.50 (membership not required) _____

I would like to receive my *Buzzer* Newsletter by email

I would like to receive my *Buzzer* by mail

Registration for Funday:

Adults \$55 per person (\$65.00 if paid after May 22nd) _____

Registration includes admission to the Funday, Morning snack of Wheatfield's breads, honey butter and a selection of creamed honey, lunch, drinks and homemade honey ice cream.

There will be an alternative meal available at lunch for vegetarians. How many? _____

Youth (6-18) \$7.50 (\$15.00 if paid after May 22nd) _____

Youth 5 and under free

Farm to Table Celebration Dinner Saturday Night \$65.00 _____

Youth Scholarship and Military/Veterans Apprenticeship Program Donation _____

Total \$ _____

Please make your check out to "Northeast KS Beekeepers or NEKBA" or register and pay online at WWW.NEKBA.ORG

Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 [913-481-3504](tel:913-481-3504)

Email: rburnshoney@gmail.com

Names of those attending so name tags can be made:

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

No Receipts will be sent

NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2018 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 Assn. \$15.00 _____
 American Bee Journal 1 year \$24.00 _____
 Bee Culture Magazine 1 year \$25.00 _____
Military /Veteran Apprenticeship or 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 913-481-3504 email
rburnshoney@gmail.com

Now you can pay online at WWW.NEKBA.ORG

More Funday Happenings!
Chips off the Old Bloke

- Swarm Demo with Dr. Chip Taylor
- Douglas County Master Gardeners Flower and Plant Sale Dreher Bldg. Patio
- Vendors: To be Announced - so far, we have Golden Prairie, Mann Lake, Two Charming Chix Jewelry and more!!
- Silent Auctions to support the Youth Scholarship and Military/ Veteran Programs and the Educational Efforts of NEKBA.
- There will be beehives there for you to go through with some "seasoned" beekeepers
- There will be some value-added talks
- So much will be going on you'll have a great time so Save the date!

This year because it is a special occasion and we are honoring Chip Taylor we are adding a Farm to Table Dinner at an additional fee. It will be Saturday night after the Funday at the Fairgrounds-here is the tentative menu. It will be catered by Chef Ken Baker from Lawrence Beer

Co. They will also make us a Honey Beer and we will serve that and mead. There will be an additional charge for those beverages.

Reception
Grilled Artichoke Hearts
 Green Chile Hollandaise
Prosciutto Wrapped Spring Greens
 Sesame-Balsamic Honey

Dinner
Rice Fried Chick-arrones
 Two Sisters Mizuna, Fermented Honey-Chili Sauce, Buttermilk Blue Cheese
English Pea Soup
 Honey-Bee Pollen Candied Bacon, Fresh Ricotta, Mint
Open-Face Pulled Smoked Pork Sandwich
 Herbed Honey Mustard Vinegar Mop, New Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Pickled Berry Slaw
Lemon-Poppy Seed Pound Cake
 Fried Honey Comb, Crème Fraiche, Blueberries, Pecan Praline

Coffee, Tea and water of course!

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 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 appt 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.* 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

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. Robert Hughes, 12333 Wedd Street, Overland Park, KS 66213 PHONE: 913-681-5777

COTTIN'S HARDWARE & RENTAL

We stock a full line of beekeeping equipment manufactured by Harvest Lane Honey, Little Giant, and Bug Baffler. Products include hives, supers, frames, foundation, extractors, tools, and protective apparel. We carry beekeeping supplies year-round! Our hours are Monday-Friday 7:30-6:00, Saturday 8:00-5:00, and Sunday 10:00-5:00. 1832 Massachusetts St., Lawrence, KS 66044. PHONE: 785-843-2981.

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. A Charitable, Educational Non-Profit, 501C3, Proceeds go back into the training program. Hours Mon - Fri, 9-4, closed Fridays in Winter. Please call ahead. 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

THE BEE STORE

We carry a complete line of bee supplies, along with honey and honey related products that we produce here in the store. We also offer beginning beekeeping classes, queens, bees, and feed. Located in Lawrence at 23rd and Louisiana in The Malls shopping center (a few doors west of Westlake Ace Hardware). We are open Tuesday to Saturday, 1pm to 6 pm. Phone 762-BEE-HIVE. website: www.AnthonysBeehive.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, March 19th, 2018
7 pm

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.

2018 Officers

President: Steve Messbarger, 9802 S Burr Oak Circle, De Soto KS 66018	Smessbarger55@gmail.com	913-226-2849
1st VP: (youth scholarship) Terry Collins, 35295 W 311 th , Paola KS 66071	dcomputerman@yahoo.com	913-937-7980
2nd VP (Librarian): Gayan Stanley, 1988 E 1st Rd., Lecompton, KS 66050	gayanski@aol.com	785-865-7315
3rd VP (Honey Plants): Jo Patrick, 611 E Sheridan, Olathe KS 66061	brian-patrick@sbcglobal.net	913-645-8947
Secretary: Marlene Pantos, 2920 Stubbs Rd., Tecumseh KS 66542	MarlenePantos@yahoo.com	785-633-6283
Treasurer: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54 th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202	rburnshoney@gmail.com	913-481-3504
Program Chair: Chad Gilliland, 23338 Kissinger Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66028	nexttonaturefarm@gmail.com	785 491-1978
Military/Veteran Chair: Andy Nowachek, 10921 W 91 st Terr, Shawnee Mission KS	awn@everestkc.net	913-438-5397
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	rburnshoney@gmail.com	913-481-3504

Visit our Website at NEKBA.org