



Good Beekeeping



Good Fellowship



Exploring the wonderful world of beekeeping together

The Bee Buzzer

Monthly publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

VOLUME 71, NUMBER 9 EDITOR: MATTHEW MERZ - September 2019

Monday, September 16th (7 p.m.)

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

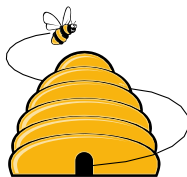
Directions:The address is 2110 Harper St. It is easily accessible from 23rd Street, turn north on Harper Street and it is just a few blocks. We are in Building 21 North which will be on your left after you turn into the fairgrounds.

Main program: Effect of Pesticides (Fungicides, Herbicides, and Insect Growth Regulators and Adjuvants) on Honey Bees.

Raymond Cloyd - Professor and Extension Specialist in Horticulture, Entomology, and Plant Protection with K-State University and K-State Research and Extension.

Beelines

By President Steve Messbarger



It seems to be the end of the honey season, yet there are some reports of a last season nectar flow coming in. I assume it's the frequent rains that come in and keep our plants blooming. When you plant for pollinators, there's always something blooming all year long. The last couple of years we have reworked our home with all new pollinator plants and it's amazing all the bees and butterflies that come visit our plants. At all the events we attend, we promote planting for pollinators. We feel it's the best way people can restore the health of our bees, by giving them quality nutrition. If you

get a chance to talk to people about bees, try telling them the benefits of quality plants and nutrition.

We finally finished up our extraction and was that a job! Wouldn't it be nice to go pull supers and have some 65-degree weather and 15 mile an hour winds to work in? Ha, Ha! Instead, dead calm, winds and 90 degree plus days and outrageous humidity. Nothing like getting done and drenched from head to toe with sweat, but I guess after this many years, we just have to put up with this Midwest weather.

I like to remind everyone that just because your honey is capped, it does not in way mean the moisture content is below 18.5. As I worked my supers, I was reading between 20.0 and 21.0 on capped frames of honey. We had to seal up a room, air tight, and run two dehumidifiers and a fan for several days to draw the moisture down, to where we could extract. With all the rain and high humidity this year, we need to be vigilant on checking the moisture content. You certainly don't want to have all your bees' hard work go down the drain by letting it ferment. If you need to have it checked, bring to the next meeting and we will check it for you.

Better safe than sorry. This is my first year with this large of a problem with my honey. I even checked with a couple of our bee experts, Andy Nowachek and Cecil Sweeney, to confirm the odd season. Remember, we all can reach out to the seasoned beekeepers when we need reassurance. These veteran beekeepers are always a great source of information when you run into those unusual circumstances. It's great to have that kind of resource at your finger tip. Thanks to all of you, veteran beekeepers, for all that you do.

I hope you all had a great honey crop. We had a

normal year, not great, but not bad. I guess we get what the season will bring us. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting and I know we will have a great time.

As always, bees first,
President

Steve Messbarger

Kansas State Fair Honey Show Results:

Many thanks to those that entered!
Congratulations to all the winners and special shout out to Maddox Shivley and Becky Tipton for their Best of Show.

Youth Results

Extracted Light:

- 1st Jonah Kim – Lawrence
- 2nd Maddox Shivley – Emporia
- 3rd Matt Malget – Wichita

Frame:

- 1st Maddox Shivley – Emporia

Best of Show:

Maddox Shivley

Adult Results

Extracted Light:

- 1st Cheryl Burkhead – Berryton
- 2nd Robin Trammell – Valley Center
- 3rd Becky Tipton – Meriden

Extracted Dark:

- 1st Becky Tipton – Meriden
- 2nd Brian Withrow – Medicine Lodge
- 3rd Cheryl Burkhead – Berryton

Frame:

- 1st Julie Cahoj – Atwood
- 2nd Steve Messbarger – DeSoto
- 3rd Richard Fanning – Atwood

Creamed:

- 1st Brian Withrow – Medicine Lodge
- 2nd Don Schmidt – Greensburg
- 3rd Alexis Brown – Hutchinson

Beeswax:

- 1st Becky Tipton – Meriden
- 2nd Stephanie Brown – Hutchinson
- 3rd Mark Mounce – Hutchinson

Art&Design:

- 1st Jane Kill – Sedgewick
- 2nd Becky Tipton – Meriden
- 3rd Bridget Lee – Topeka

Gift Pack:

- 1st Argonia Hilltoppers – Argonia
- 2nd Becky Tipton – Meriden
- 3rd Mark Mounce – Hutchinson

Chunk Honey:

- 1st Becky Tipton – Meriden
- 2nd Steve Messbarger – DeSoto

Cut Comb:

- 1st Cheryl Burkhead – Meriden
- 2nd Steve Messbarger – DeSoto

Black Jar Honey: Candy Vinduska

Best of Show: Becky Tipton

Cookbooks!

Need a gift? A jar of your honey and a NEKBA recipe book is a winning combination. We still have a few cookbooks left but, they will be all gone very soon.



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

- Monday, September 16th
- Monday, October 21st
- Monday, November 18th
- Monday, December 16th

Library News

I would like to thank those who made the extra effort to return books that have been late of forgotten. It is important that we get them back, so others have an opportunity to benefit from our resources. We have had some folk's mail books to me, and others have driven to my home to make sure they got returned.

If you are done with a book but will not be at the next meeting don't overlook another alternative which is to take it to a friend close by who will be attending the next meeting (this has worked for me in the past).

I am done buying books for this year as I have reached our budget limit. You can still send me suggestions for future purchases, and I will review them.

*Thanks,
Edward Darlington*

Show Some NEKBA Pride!

Looking good!!! Our new NEKBA logo on the colorful ball caps was a huge success at the June Funday! So, we ordered some more!!! Becky will have these for sale at this month's meeting for the great price of just \$15 each! You might want one in each of the four great colors: khaki, denim blue, pollen gold, or bright red (great to stand out in a crowd).

And, look at these shirts! Very nice long-sleeved denim shirts with our terrific new logo on the front. We will be taking orders for these shirts. They are a unisex style shirt (sized like men's shirts) small through 6X. We will take orders in August and September and deliver shirts in October. These would be a great gift for your favorite beekeeper and a chance to show you are a NE KS Beekeeper when you go to events and meetings. We will be selling these at just slightly more than our cost (this is not a \$\$ making event, this is just to show your beekeeper pride). Regular shirts S-XL = \$32 each, 2XL = \$34, 3XL = \$36, 4XL = \$38, 5XL = \$40, 6 XL = \$42. Tall shirts available, add \$7 to each size price.

Make sure to place your order. Payment required at the time of order. No extra shirts will be purchased, just those ordered by you.

Military/Veterans Apprenticeship Program

By: Andy Nowachek

We are going on our second year of this newly formed Program and I would like to Thank You All for the support and the members who have donated time and items to further this Program along. This is another way this club has stood up by giving back to our Military for their service to our country and knowing these Vets are a plus to this organization. We had two Vets' for 2018 and have one for 2019 and they have displayed to us that they have been more then deserving of receiving these programs furnished to them. For these recipients to accomplish what they did would not have been possible without good mentoring so a Big Thank You goes out to those who volunteered their time and knowledge with them.

This past month John Overend who was one of our 2018 Vet's gave his presentation as part of the Program requirements. It is always interesting and fulfilling seeing a person whether youth or adult

present what they have accomplished in a short period of time. There are always factors that play into this, one being the person learning and the other are the ones teaching and instructing. John has what I like to refer to as an ambassador for beekeeping along Justin Eller and Aaron Locke. I had the privilege of accompanying both John and Justin Eller to Fort Leavenworth promoting the Military/Veterans Apprenticeship Program and was as proud as could be watching and listening to these two gentlemen, quite an honor. Thanks to all three of our Military/Veterans for being a part of our beekeeping family.

This past monthly meeting, Danny Decker, who had volunteered as a mentor came up to me and said his father Elliott had passed away. Being in the Air Force his father wanted to donate \$500.00 to the help with the Military/Veterans Program and presented me with a check for that amount. His father along with Danny have been long time members and successful with keeping large amount of hives. This speaks of the passion Elliott Decker and his family has for Veterans and Beekeeping and for this we Thank Danny and the entire Decker family. Our condolences to the Decker family and Thank You for your donation and it will be put to good use.

Thanks again to all who helped with Program and Have a Fantastic Day!

Letter from John Overend

Greetings fellow NEKBA members,

As an alumnus of the NEKBA Military & Veterans Beekeeping Apprenticeship Program, let me first say thank you to NEKBA in general, and to the officers and board members in particular, for your support and sponsorship of this worthy program. I especially want to thank Andy Nowachek and all of the mentors...Pat Wakeman, (Al Abts), Cecil Sweeney, and Joli Winer, for generously giving of their time and beekeeping knowledge. It's fitting that these individual's dedication to the Military & Veterans Beekeeping Apprenticeship Program is in keeping with the military hallmarks of selfless service, duty, and commitment. Before getting my bees and becoming an apprentice in the program, I had read nearly a dozen books about beekeeping, but no amount of book knowledge can replace the mentorship from experienced beekeepers when it

comes to real-life situations out at the bee hive. In my opinion, all other benefits of the program pale in comparison to having dedicated mentors who either help celebrate your sweet success or take an opportunity to educate in the wake of mishaps or failure. As for me, I've learned much about bees and beekeeping throughout the program, and I look forward to not only continuing to learn, but also sharing what I've learned with others. As for my bees, they are thriving and continue to be patient with me as I grow in bee knowledge. I enjoyed a modest honey harvest this year and, while I can't retire on the profits from my new hobby, the taste of my own honey always makes me forget about the sweat, backaches, and stings endured during the procurement thereof. In summary, let me just say that bees are awesome, and it's been a pleasure and a privilege to work with both my bees and my mentors. *Semper Bees!*

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.
- Update your record book—you won't remember in the spring!
- 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 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.

- Complete a fall inspection for 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.
 - 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 go get your through. Plug any holes.
 - Make sure that your hives are tipped forward slightly so that moisture doesn't pool in there
 - Also make sure that all hives have a brick on top to keep the lids from blowing off.
-

HONEY PLANTS

By: Cheryl Burkhead



If it seemed like August was the wettest in recent memory your mind isn't failing. For many of us in northeast Kansas it was. Topeka had the 2nd rainiest August since 1903. I hope the added moisture translates into a nice fall floral banquet for our pollinators as they

stock up for winter. My harvest is complete, and my mite treatments are on. I will soon do final manipulations of my colonies, making sure that all are queen-right and that they have adequate food stores and feed a 2:1 syrup as needed. Traveling to Hutchinson this past week, I saw lots of native sunflowers, Tall Gayfeather (*Liatris aspera*), Blue Pitcher Sage (*Salvia azurea*), and goldenrod. I've not seen our bees work much on our variety of Goldenrod but if you plant the Stiff Goldenrod (*Solidagorrigida*) variety, they seem to like it. I did encounter some fields of either oil or confectionary type sunflowers east of Hutchinson on Highway 50 which the farmer had sown and are quite a beautiful spectacle. Perhaps you made it out to one of the sunflower events I recommended

in the last newsletter. I had the wonderful opportunity to write about one such trip to a local sunflower field in August-more on that later. My bees have been enjoying the floral sources in my own backyard this fall but soon will likely be feasting on a sunflower patch to the west as it begins to bloom.

I've become a fan of nectar and pollen sources that push the envelope of the season, whether it be early spring or late into the fall. I'm especially affectionate of those flowers that provide needed food late into the fall to help the bees fill up their box for winter. Many of these plants will continue to bloom until a hard frost. Most are trees, shrubs, or perennials but consider a row of annual zinnias in the garden and don't forget the fall vegetable garden which can provide for the bees going into winter as well. I like to plant fall broccoli and let some of it bloom. The bees visit the yellow blossoms into December provided we don't get a severe frost. Let the basil and chives bloom too. Consider planting perennials that will rebloom in the fall, like salvia. Cut their spent blossoms after they bloom in early summer and they will bloom again once the weather cools in the fall and provided you give them ample moisture. Russian Sage requires minimal attention and will bloom until frost. Buddleia (Butterfly bush) is in bloom and great for butterflies and bees alike. Great nectar sources for your landscape for August-September are shrubs like vitex, caryopteris (Blue beard), and sedum. Plant several in groups to help the bees efficiently collect the nectar. I added a Seven Sons tree to the landscape last year and it has not disappointed me. The white flowers have had lots of activity and it has been a great addition to the landscape. Everyone needs to have several sedum or stonecrop in their yards. They are a forgiving succulent that anyone can grow. Ask a friend, neighbor, or beekeeper for a start. They are best transplanted in spring when they first peek through the soil. Autumn Joy sedum is one of the highest nectar varieties of the sedums. Plant several varieties of asters this fall in colors of purple, pink, and white. Asters, also native varieties, are one of the very last nectar sources before winter.

Some natives currently blooming in the prairie are several varieties of sunflower, gayfeather, blue sage, goldenrod, thistle, ironweed, boneset,

euphorbia, snakeroot, snow on the mountain, ragweed, wingstem, autumn clematis, Bluevine (Honey Vine), snow on the mountain (native bees). Native asters will be blooming soon.

Mumbles from the Editor

Hello Fellow Beekeepers,

I hope all have had a great year so far and are continuing to progress in your beekeeping journey. This time of the year is my favorite time (Pumpkin Spice EVERYTHING...haha). No seriously, cool temperatures, fall festivals, checking bees and brood nests again. Many of you will have honey available for gifts this coming holiday season. I would encourage you all to learn from my mistakes and think ahead. I feel like I am always scrambling to find that item or complement to my honey. Fall festivals will give you an opportunity to by other local vendor's items to go with your honey. Who knows you may strike up conversation and create a partnership?

Please, please, ensure you are checking your hives for queens and that they have good laying patterns (all stages of growth). If you need help or still unsure what you are looking at, reach out to someone who would be available to help with this. There are many club members that would be happy to help. I believe this is most important behind treating for mites. This is the time that your bees are raising the winter cluster. They need good nutrition and plenty of food to do so. Your intensity now needs to be on par with Spring Beekeeping with inspections and feeding. Many of the ramblings on Facebook I am reading, have beekeepers that are shocked by the little amount of food that is in their hives. If the food (honey or pollen) is not there, this is the time to supplement while you have a field force to take down and dry out syrup that is fed to them. Most of the hives I have inspected recently are storing bright yellow pollen that is easy to see and identify by a quick glance.

Thanks for reading and happy beekeeping!
Matthew Merz

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Kansas Honey Producers Association (KHPA) Fall Meeting – October 18th-19th

Best Western Wichita North 915 E 53rd ST. N., Wichita KS www.kansashoneyproducers.org

The fall meeting of the Kansas Honey Producers Association will be held in Wichita this year. Please mark your calendars now for this event. We have confirmed several guest speakers for this meeting. We will have Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda from the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology Extension at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville will attend. Also, one of our favorite people will be at this meeting too, Dr. Judy Wu-Smart. Judy is an Extension and Research Entomologist at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, Department of Entomology. Judy received her doctorate in Entomology from the University of MN under the direction of Dr. Marla Spivak. Another guest speaker will be Louann Hauser from Lenexa. Louann is a past American Honey Queen who will give us a presentation on Media Training-Beekeeper Tips and Tricks about how to talk to the Media. The program will be available on the KHPA website at www.kansashoneyproducers.org and registration form is available now. You may make your room reservations by calling the Best Western Wichita North by calling 316-832-9387.

Beginning Beekeepers Class – Saturday, January 18th, 2020: This will be a single full day event. The Beginning Beekeeping Class committee decided to try to jump on this a little earlier in the year. This will give people plenty of time to make equipment decisions, order bees, and plan where they want to place their hives. It should also give folks a couple of months to read and prepare for their new adventure. As always, this class is recommended for anyone in their first 1-3 years of beekeeping. There is always something new to learn and we'll try to present best practice beekeeping for our area. *More information will be available soon* (www.NEKBA.org)

YEAR TWO AND BEYOND - Saturday, February 15th, 2020: This class will focus on topics including, requeening hives, making splits, products of the hive, and integrated pest management. *More information will be available soon* (www.NEKBA.org)

NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

PHONE _____ Email address _____

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

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

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

Additional Family member's names _____

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

Membership for Kansas Honey Producers Association \$15.00 _____

American Bee Journal 1 year \$24.00 _____

Bee Culture Magazine 1 year \$25.00 _____

Scholarship Donation _____

Total _____

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

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

Now you can pay online at WWW.NEKBA.ORG

MENTORING-SWEET PRAIRIE HONEY

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

HEARTLAND HONEY & BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

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

FISHER'S BEE SUPPLIES

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies. We have woodenware, smokers, containers, foundation, beekeeping books, extractors, queens and package bees. We also have extractors for rent. We will trade wax for supplies. Our hours are: 1:00 - 5:00pm Monday - Friday and Saturday after 8:30am. Please call before coming to make sure we are here. ED FISHER 4005 N.E. 132nd Street, Smithville MO 64089 816-532-4698

DRAPER'S SUPER BEE

We offer fast and courteous service to all beekeepers. We only sell bee pollen, honey and labels. Business Hours: Monday-Wednesday 9am-3pm; Closed from 12-1. Please call ahead if you want to pick up an order. Brenda and Larry Draper, DRAPER'S SUPER BEE; 914 S St., Auburn, NE 68305 PHONE: (402) 274-3725

THE HAWLEY HONEY COMPANY

For Sale: White Clover honey strained in 5-gallon buckets. We will pack it in your jars for an extra fee. Bee equipment (new and used), Jars, foundation, bears, comb honey, used extractors. Bees: frames of brood. Corn syrup or sugar by the 5 gallon bucket or barrel. *If you need it, we probably have what you want.* 3-frame nucs of solid brood comb of foundation (frames of even exchange) with MN Hygienic queens for \$119.00 each Raymond Cooper, 220 N Elm, Iola KS 66749. Call: 620-365-5956 after 8:00 p.m.

JORDY'S HONEY

Beekeepers.com is your local Kansas City Bee Company. We carry a full line of Beekeeping Supplies, Bees and Queens. Visit our web site Beekeepers.com for your all your beekeeping supplies. Go to our Web Site BeePackages.com to order your Bee Packages and QueenBees.com to order your Queens. We are available by appointment Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00 and weekends. Robert Hughes, 12333 Wedd Street, Overland Park, KS 66213, 913-681-5777 or email RobertLHughes2000@yahoo.com

COTTIN'S HARDWARE & RENTAL

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

GOLDEN PRAIRIE HONEY FARMS & SAVE FARM AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROGRAM

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

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

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

Address Service Requested

Meeting

Monday, September 16th, 2019

The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

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

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

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

The Association meets each month on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. except during the month of January. A beekeeping class is held in March. This is a nonprofit organization; elected officers serve without pay. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting. Check *The Buzzer* or our website at NEKBA.ORG each month for the actual date, time and location. If the weather is bad call an officer or check the www.NEKBA.org website to find out if the meeting will be held.

2019 Officers

President: Steve Messbarger , 9802 S Burr Oak Circle, De Soto KS 66018	Smessbarger55@gmail.com	913-226-2849
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Visit our Website at NEKBA.org