



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 6 EDITOR: MATTHEW MERZ - June 2019

Monday, June 17th (7 p.m.)

Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg Flory East
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 Flory East (this month) which will be on your right after you turn into the fairgrounds.

First 15: "Diagnose This" – Can you figure out what is going on inside the Hive?

Presented By Chad Gilliland

Program: *Round Table Discussion:* Covering questions on Varroa Mites, Treatment Options, Brood Patterns and what to look for, Supplemental Feeding, Honey Supers, Honey Harvest, and any other questions that can be discussed in a Group Setting.

Funday Wrap Up

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people that volunteered to make Funday successful. I give a heartfelt thank you to those who gave presentations, served on the Funday committee, made food arrangements, churned ice cream, moved hives to the fairgrounds, sold raffle tickets, provided your laptop, or donated a silent auction item or door prize. Thank you to those individuals that kept things moving smoothly during the day by moving tables, preparing beverages, blowing the air horn, posting pictures and video on the club's Facebook page, ensuring the projectors and microphones were working, helping with registration, and serving lunch and ice cream. Lastly, thank you to those who set up the

night before and stayed a few minutes afterwards to tear down. Our goal was to ensure that volunteers were able to hear all presentations that they wanted to attend. One of the vendors commented how nice it was to be greeted by volunteers to help him unload his truck.

The silent auction would be impossible without donated items. Thank you to those of you that generously brought and bought silent auction items. Dr. Chip Taylor donated t-shirts for the club to sell. Together \$1972.00 was raised and the proceeds will go towards the youth and military/veteran scholarship program.

In addition to providing a service to attendees, the vendors that were present deserve recognition for donating items to the silent auction and door prizes. Several presenters donated items too. Many other manufacturers, suppliers, and publishers, in the beekeeping industry, were contacted and asked to donate door prizes or reading material, which they generously did. I would encourage you to remember them when you need beekeeping supplies.

We are still in the process of going through the evaluations filled out by those in attendance. The information obtained from those evaluations will be used to plan and improve the program in future years. Robert Burns, NEKBA Treasurer, reported that we had 288 people in attendance, at Funday 2019.

We are much obliged to the Douglas County Fairgrounds grounds and maintenance team that worked hard to make sure that our event was not affected by the recent tornado recovery efforts. Many of you know that the Red Cross set up a shelter in Building 21 and that Westar Electric used the grounds for a staging area earlier that week. Fortunately, their recovery efforts were

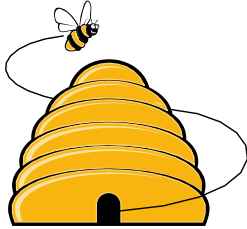
accomplished quickly and in time for the county to prepare for our event.

Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation to NEKBA members, past and present that organized and shaped Funday, from its infancy, into what it is today. It makes the job of organizing an event, like Funday, so much easier when you are building on a successful program.

Jo Patrick, Funday Coordinator

Beelines

By President Steve Messbarger



I hope everyone has their honey supers on and they're filling up. I think this year will be awesome compared to last year. It may be my imagination, but I think there's more yellow sweet clover now, than in the past. My Dutch clover seems to be a little slow around our area. I'm not for sure why. A couple of bee yards did well on black locust, that's a first in many years for us.

I would like to thank Jo Patrick for a great job heading up the Fun Day event. Jo and her committee pulled off one of the finest fun days ever. It also wouldn't have been possible without the help of all our volunteers and presenters. We can't thank you enough for all your help and support!! The presenters were awesome and full of excellent information, so we can't go without thanking them for a great program. Man, was that Ice Cream delicious or what?!! Thanks to Steve and Becky Tipton, Joli, Cecil and I, for a nice job on that special treat of homemade ice cream. The food was great and I don't think anyone went home hungry, at least I didn't anyway. Thanks to all of you that attended and gave your support for this great program. Again, without everyone it wouldn't have been a successful event, THANK YOU EVERYONE!!!

I've had some reports on a few beekeepers lately that their queens weren't keeping up with the production of bees. After talking with them, it seems the hives are honey bound. That's when the bees are storing the nectar where the queen

should be laying. If she doesn't have a place to lay, your hive may lose population and can cause swarming. You need to be aware of this when doing your inspections, especially with nucs or packages. If you're feeding bees now with a nectar flow on, you should be monitoring this very closely.

Well, there's still a lot of work to do with my bees, so I better get out there and get with it. I hope to see you all at the next meeting. After fun days, there are always a lot of questions, so come early and talk to the old beeks.

As always, Bees first

Steve Messbarger

I still have a few complete Painted Honey Supers W/frames and foundation. \$42 **913-226-2849**



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

- Monday, June 17th
 - Monday, July 15th
 - Monday, August 19th
 - Monday, September 16th
 - Monday, October 21st
 - Monday, November 18th
 - Monday, December 16th
-



Editor's Zone

Here comes summer! Constant warm weather is coming our way and day length is almost at its max for the year. The summer solstice is on June 21st and will give us 14 hours and 55 minutes of sunshine. This is also the time the bees population starts to plateau and you see some consistency in your hives. There are many plants in our future and plenty of opportunities to make a honey crop. Hopefully Stuart Dietz is right and we

get some Honey Dew Honey. I got one super a few years ago and the honey was almost as dark as molasses. I will be sure to bring a sample to the meeting for all to see.

I wanted to send out a big thanks to all that helped and participated with Funday. Without attendees we would not have such a great event. And without volunteers and speakers the show would not 'go on'. I watched many of the presentations and picked up on some new information. Probably the best piece of advice that I learned was from Randy Oliver. He stated if you are going to make a change and expect a specific result, you will need a control. So keep that in mind when making any kind of changes. Change something small and keep something the same until you have verifiable results.

Cheers,
Matthew Merz

Swarm Demo and Giveaway Results

The swarm from the swarm demonstration was won by Tom Britz. Cecil Sweeney from Heartland Honey prepares the swarm for the swarm demo and he donates the swarm to be given away. NEKBA purchased the wooden bee hive that was given away and Robert Burns put the hive together.

Ice Cream!

What are your favorite summer memories? Chasing lightening bugs? Running barefoot? Riding bicycles for hours? Watermelon, corn on the cob, and ICE CREAM? One of my favorite summertime memories is making homemade ice cream. Our ice cream at the Funday seems to set the stage for all the good things of summer. Adding honey to homemade ice cream makes it extra creamy and allows it to keep a wonderful creamy texture even in your refrigerator freezer. The recipes for our own NEKBA ice cream are below. The recipes have been tweaked throughout the years to make a summer treat that is truly something special and sweetened only with your own delicious honey. All of these recipes are in the NEKBA cookbook. If you haven't purchased a copy, ask and we'll bring you one to the next meeting.

If you came to the Funday this year, you

undoubtedly enjoyed the work of the Spurlin's. Dixie and Dale manned the kitchen throughout the day. They had a lot of good help, Terre Messbarger was on deck most of the day, too. But we got fresh brewed tea, buckets of lemonade, and a smiling friendly face throughout the whole day. Next time you see Dale and Dixie, thank them again for all they've done!

Robin Kolterman's Chocolate Ice Cream Chocolate Honey Ice Cream for 6-quart freezer

4c. milk
1 tsp. salt
½ cup cocoa powder
2 1/2 c. liquid honey
12 egg yolks—slightly beaten
8 oz. semisweet chocolate pieces (I used chocolate chips)
8 cups heavy cream
1 tsp. vanilla

In a small saucepan, combine the milk, salt and cocoa powder. Bring to a simmer. Remove from heat and stir in the honey. Pour a small amount of the honey/milk mixture into the egg yolks; stir well. Pour the yolks into the milk/ honey. Cook and stir over low heat until slightly thickened or temp reaches 165 degrees. Do NOT boil. Remove from heat and stir in the chocolate pieces until chocolate is melted. (It's easier if you soften the chocolate chips in the microwave before adding to the ice cream.) Refrigerate until chilled—stir occasionally. Stir in cream and vanilla and freeze according to your ice cream maker's directions. Makes about 6 quarts.

Vanilla Honey Ice Cream

6 cups milk
2 ½ to 3 cups honey—light
8 eggs
¼ tsp. salt
6-8 cups cream
4 TBSP real vanilla
Heat milk in a saucepan over medium heat to approximately 150 degrees. (Do not boil.) Stir in the honey and salt. Beat the eggs. Stir a small amount of the milk and honey into the beaten eggs. Add all the egg mixture to the remaining milk and honey mixture, stirring well. Cook and stir over medium heat about 10 minutes or until the

temperature reaches 165 degrees. Cool thoroughly. (Overnight) Stir in cream and vanilla filling the freezer can to the appropriate line. Freeze according to your ice cream maker's directions. Makes about 6 quarts.

Funday Fruit Ice Cream - *Joli Winer*

6 Cups Whole Milk
6 Cups Heavy Cream
2 ¼ Cups Warm Honey
¼ tsp. Salt
3 Tablespoons Real Vanilla
1 Quart (4-5 Cups) Crushed Fruit-either frozen or fresh
2 extra tablespoons of either Sugar or Honey

If using frozen fruit, let thaw. Macerate the fruit with a food processor and mix with either 2 T. of either sugar or Honey, set aside. The extra sugar or honey will bring out the juice in the fruit and enhance the fruit flavor. Warm the 6 Cups of milk slightly and add the warmed honey stirring until combined. Pour into a container and let cool in the refrigerator. Pour into your freezer container and add salt and vanilla and heavy cream and your crushed fruit mixture. Fill the freezer can to the appropriate line adding more milk if needed. Freeze according the manufacturer's instructions. Honey increases the freezing time plus extra ice and salt is needed. Makes 6 quarts.

Note: If using peach as your fruit then substitute the Vanilla for Almond Extract.

Raffle Results

Many thanks to all of you that bought tickets for the raffle of the wall hanging/throw, table runner and 4 placemats. They were donated by Jenny Latendresse at the Li'l Red Hen Quilt Shop in Paola. We raised \$516 and split it with Randy Oliver's Scientific Beekeeping research and with the NEKBA general fund to use as the board sees fit. Again, thank you all for your help in selling tickets and for supporting your club.

The quilted items were won by Dusty Hunt from Topeka. Congratulations!



Tips for June:

- Keep an eye on your honey supers if using foundation if they are working on at least 6 frames move the unworked or undrawn out frames with foundation to the center, making sure that your frames are pushed close together and add the next super. You do not want to miss a drop of honey that the bees are bringing in.
- If you are lucky enough to have foundation that is drawn out you can put on more than one at a time. Studies have shown that the more room you add for the bees to bring in honey-the more they will bring in. This is especially important during a year like this that is so flipping humid! The bees spread the honey around the supers so that they can dehumidify it.
- Provide clean water for your bees
- Keep the grass mowed in front of your hives –it makes it easier for the bees to land. Old carpet scraps, roof shingles or weed barriers can be used to keep grass under control.
- Keep supers on until the honey is capped, unripe honey will ferment.
- Do not feed sugar syrup during a honey flow the bees will store the syrup in your supers rather than your honey.
- Don't get excited on hot humid days if the bees are hanging outside the hive. They are trying to relieve the congestion in the hive to cool it off inside. Earlier in the year this is an indication of swarming but this time of year it is natural, so don't worry.
- Keep up with your record-keeping so next year you'll know which hives produced the best for you.
- When choosing someone to mentor you make sure that they know something about beekeeping so that they will actually help you to learn. If you can't find someone please come to our monthly meetings. Our meetings impart timely information about what you should be doing in your hives. You can also see Power Points with pictures of brood, eggs, honey and pollen. We also have members who mentor you for a fee.



HONEY PLANTS

By: Cheryl Burkhead

I'm hoping that we'll finally have some moderation of our weather and some nice sunny and warmer days that the bees can get out and forage. This is the wettest year on record for Kansas City. I was reading last year's newsletter

and my, what a difference! Last year Jo mentioned our Black Locust flow was cut short by extreme heat. This year it was cold and rainy, and the bees couldn't get out and forage. Even if they could fly, I'm not sure there would be much to forage on! Weather conditions will affect nectar concentrations. The big white blooms in my area had no aroma whatsoever. Rains can wash nectar right out of the flowers. Too much moisture as well as not enough moisture, humidity, heat and cold all affect the amount of nectar that a flower produces. Time of day, age of the flower, soil quality, plant vigor, atmospheric pressure and sunlight all impact nectar secretion.

Observing what's currently in bloom, I still think we are a little behind from previous years. As of June 4, my Little-leafed Lindens had yet to bloom. The Linden trees in Lawrence were beginning to bloom on June 1 at the Fairgrounds during our Fun Day. I'm sure Joli and Cecil may have lost a few bee stragglers when they loaded up their hives that evening. Butterflies, native bees, bumbles, and honey bees could be seen busily gathering its nectar and the smell was wonderful! Not able to

contain my excitement, I dragged Jo, Becky, Kristi, Rose, and Susan outside to see the activity. I'm sure by the time you read this; I will have posted some video on our Facebook page.

The wonderful yellow sweet clover is blooming still, and I think it's quite abundant this year probably due to all the rains, as well as, the mowing crews not being able to get to it. In my yard, the Dutch clover is blooming, and I had a reappearance of some dandelions. The Catalpa has had a great blooming year and Roughleafed/Kansas dogwoods are beginning to bloom. The wild white sweet clover and various varieties of milkweed will be blooming soon. The Salvia, Catmint, and phlox continue to bloom. According to the Kaw Valley Almanac for June 3-9- "newly opening wildflowers include echinacea, cinquefoil and delphinium, joining penstemons, spiderworts, oxeye daisy, daisy fleabane, evening primrose, prairie rose and prairie phlox, white and blue wild indigo, deptford pink, antelopehorn milkweed and many others." Jo had posted on our NEKBA Facebook page that "The K-State Master Naturalists are hosting Wonders of Discovery at the Pollinator Prairie, Friday, June 21, 2019, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. The location of the Pollinator Prairie is 320 S. Blake St., Olathe, KS. This is a great opportunity to bring your children and learn more about the various pollinators, in our area, with hands on activities. Beekeepers would benefit from visiting the bee garden to see what the honey bees are working that day." To learn more visit:

<https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-prairie>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

HAS 2019 (Heartland Apicultural Society): Bowling Green, KY July 8th-10th, 2019

<http://www.heartlandbees.org/>

Kansas County Fairs/Festivals: Starting 6/20 – 8/7, 2019 <https://www.kansasfairsassociation.com/>

Kansas State Fair: Sept 6th-15th, 2019 <https://www.kansasstatefair.com/>

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

<http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org/home.html>

Apimondia 2019: The 46th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress - Montréal, 8-12 September 2019

<https://www.apimondia2019.com/>

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

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

Address Service Requested

Meeting

Monday, June 17th, 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

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