



CAPPINGS



The Official Newsletter of the
Kansas Honey Producers Association
www.KansasHoneyProducers.org

Promoting Mankind's Most Beneficial Insect – The Honey Bee January 2010

KHPA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Jim Kellie
304 W. 12th
Larned, Kansas 67355
(620) 285-6451

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Joli Winer
Heartland Honey & Beekeeping Supplies
19201 S. Clare Rd.
Spring Hill, Kansas 66083
(913) 856-8356

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Rocky Schmied
Info to follow

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

Connie Hopkins
710 Ora St.
Scott City, Kansas 67871

4th VICE PRESIDENT

Becky Tipton
9491 X Road
Meriden, Kansas 66512
(785) 484-3710

SECRETARY

Mary Coppinger
17472 192 Hwy
Winchester, Kansas 66097

TREASURER

Bob Burns
7601 W. 54th Terrace
Overland Park, Kansas 66202

EDITOR/WEBMASTER

Ron Ward
20100 Santa Fe Trail
Easton, Kansas 66020
(913) 680-1097
bee@hillsidehoney.com

The Western View

From the President – Jim Kellie

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone. I trust by now all your bees are either in the south, California, or snuggled in some warm wind protected place. Our bees looked very good this year when we arrived in Texas. I am in hopes they will continue to be strong for spring. Most of you are probably fixing things that broke during the year, putting together wooden ware, or preparing to head to one of our two national conventions. Both have excellent programs this year. Honey prices are holding very well at this time and seem to be sneaking up a little. The majority of my

The Western View continued on page 2

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honey has been spoken for and sold, but I have a little squirreled away for anyone who has emergencies. Hopefully your honey will get you to the next harvest. There still seems to be evidence of honey prices rising as it is a waiting game at this point for the large packers and producers. I have had producers tell me of Packers beginning to call around and starting to make offers. Kansas honey producers are still reporting to me that local honey is still selling very strong.

One of my favorite Christmas things to do is be Santa on the phone when the Grand-kids call the North Pole on Christmas Eve to tell Santa what they want. I go to great lengths to delight them. With the help of friends one can hear the

Kansas honey producers are still reporting to me that local honey is still selling very strong.

operator transfer them to the reindeer barn where in the background you can hear elves' tell each other how to load the sack, and reindeer being hooked up to the sleigh as Santa checks off his list and gets ready for take off. I have a few beekeeping items on my Santa list this year but I am not sure how Santa can get a new honey house, 60 frame extractors, swinger and me 30 years younger in his sack.

I hope you make some goals for your beekeeping this year and then go out to achieve them. This year has been great for me in the

KHPA Spring Meeting
March 5th and 6th, 2010
Ramada Inn Convention Center
Hays, Kansas
Meeting Information and Registration Form on pages 10 and 13.
See you there!

honey producing business, but on a personal level, was one of my tougher years. I am writing this on New Years day and my goal is to overcome those personal difficulties and keep my business producing like it did last year. My son was relating a story from his youngest daughter. She was having difficulty with one of her toys from Santa and asked Dad to fix it. He worked on it a while and commented that he wasn't sure he could. She looked at him and said. "Daddy people don't give up. They just keep trying until it is fixed." It gave me hope for the future and I hope it will for you. I think she will do just fine in life. Happy Holidays and see you all at Hays in March.

Jim ❖



KHPA Fall Meeting October 16 – 17, 2009 Emporia, Kansas

by Beth Ward



Jim Kellie, KHPA President,
addresses the membership

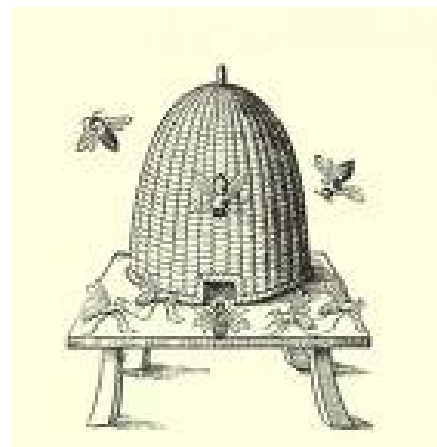
We had a great Fall meeting in Emporia. One of our guest speakers was Clint Walker, a third generation beekeeper and owner of Walker Apiaries in Rogers, Texas.



Clint Walker

His business manages 2,000 honey bee colonies for honey production, pollination services, bee production, and queen bee breeding. Clint is a Past President of the American Beekeeping Federation and Chair of the Texas Beekeepers Association/Texas A&M Liaison Committee. Clint discussed his queen and package bee operation, pollination, some of their new soap products (learned from our own Becky Tipton), honey fudge, honey peanut butter, creamed honey, and more.

We also crowned our 2010 KHPA Honey Queen, Ms. Lydia Johnson, and received a presentation from Sam Reiss, our KHPA Youth Scholarship Winner for 2009. Here are several “action” photos of our Fall meeting:



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Lydia accepting the title of Kansas Honey Queen



Sam Reiss, KHPA Youth Scholarship Winner discusses his year as a new beekeeper.

Good job Sam!

In addition to Clint, we had a number of other presenters. Gary Ross discussed Honey Bee diseases and pests and my husband Ron and I talked about Kansas Food Processing Plant certification. Here are some other presenters in action:

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Del Sawyer of American National Insurance discusses Beekeeping Insurance



Cecil Sweeney talks candle making

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Steve Tipton, Clint Walker, Bob Harrison, and Cecil Sweeney prepare to answer questions



Sharon Rowan presents "Advanced Candle Making"

See you in Hays! Beth ❖

Ms. Lydia Johnson, the 2010 KHPA Honey Queen!

By Ron Ward, Editor

During our Fall Meeting in Emporia, Ms. Lydia Johnson was selected as the 2010 KHPA Honey Queen. Lydia lives in Abilene, Kansas, is a senior at Abilene Baptist Academy, and is the



daughter of Tom and Evelyn Johnson. At ABA, she participates in volleyball, basketball, and choir. She is employed as a veterinary assistant and a certified nurse's aide. Lydia is also a member of the Dickinson County Gardening Club and the Kansas Honey Producers Association. Before recently closing its doors, she volunteered at the "No Place Like Home Animal Shelter".

Lydia is a 3rd generation beekeeper.

In 2000, when she was eight years old, she got involved in beekeeping with her dad. Her

late grandfather, Harry Johnson of Solomon, Kansas was a beekeeper in the 60s and 70s. She works alongside her dad feeding bees, making splits, supering, and extracting

honey. She also makes beeswax candles and sells honey at the farmer's market and



craft shows. Since her father works out of town frequently, she gets the "swarm call" and responds. This past summer, she mentored a new beekeeper in her community by helping him put together his hives and check and feed his bees. Lydia is active in all areas of beekeeping and enjoys passing beekeeping skills to others.

3rd Vice President Connie Hopkins will assist the Queen in coordinating her activities throughout the coming year.

We'll keep you informed! Congratulations Lydia!

Kansas Profile - Now That's Rural

Steve and Becky Tipton - Country Creek Honey

By Ron Wilson, director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University.

Busy as a bee. If you have observed a hive of bees at work, you know that saying is accurate. It seems bees are always working, going after nectar for the hive. Today we'll meet a family in rural Kansas that started raising bees and found that the enterprise is keeping them quite busy as well.

Steve and Becky Tipton are the owners of Country Creek Honey near Meriden, Kansas.

Steve is from north Topeka originally. His parents bought a farm near Meriden in 1967. Steve went to Washburn, married Becky, went to work at Goodyear and moved back to the farm. Becky is a teacher at Seaman High School. She has always been interested in bees and had read lots of bee journals, but hadn't tried raising bees.



One day in late 1988, Steve went to a farm store in Emporia to pick up a part for a tractor. Steve said, "It was three days before Christmas, and the store had a sign that said, 'Beginning beekeeper kits - everything you need to get started.'" He said to himself, "Yes! My Christmas shopping is done."

Now isn't that a guy's dream - to Christmas shop for his wife at the farm store? Anyway, Steve bought that beekeeper kit and gave it to Becky. They soon bought two hives of bees and have raised bees ever since.

When Steve retired from Goodyear, he took over the beekeeping. Today, their business is known as Country Creek Honey.

Steve says with a smile, "This has grown into a hobby well out of control." The Tiptons own 100 hives. At 60,000 to 80,000 bees per hive, that means that the Tiptons could have some 8 million bees. As amazing as that sounds, Steve says it pales in comparison to some commercial operations in California.

"There are some California operators with a thousand hives, where they use the bees to pollinate fruit and almond orchards," he says.

Steve and Becky are self-taught beekeepers, and now they share their expertise with others. They teach in the master beekeeper program at the University of Nebraska (directed by Dr. Marion Ellis), do seminars for the Kansas Honey Producers, and teach beginning beekeeping classes locally. Becky has represented Kansas on committees of the National Honey Board.

Steve says, "One of the things we learned was to promote anything that comes out of the hive." In other words, the honey has value, but other related products such as beeswax can have value as well.

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The Tiptons took this advice to heart. They market an amazing variety of products and flavors. For example, they offer lip balm, soap leaves, beeswax lotion, liquid soap, natural insect repellent, and - oh yeah - honey.

All these products are made by the Tiptons themselves from honey or beeswax from their hives, with added flavors like raspberry cream, cinnamon, blackberry, wildflower, and jalapeno. The soaps come in flavors like honey lemon sunshine scrub, bee clean shampoo and body bar, drone scrub, bees in the garden, buzzy face, honey herb, cranberry bumble, pollen pleasure, honey rose, and many more. There is even a baby bee extremely mild soap.

In addition to the soap and lotion bars, there are soap leaves, flavored honey stix, and a natural insect repellent called Buzz Off. All these products are sold at farmers' markets, festivals, and craft fairs. One passerby at the Topeka farmers market described Steve as "the best bee person alive."



Becky teaches soapmaking and Steve gives talks to schools and garden clubs. They have gone to honey group meetings in locations from Texas to Delaware, but after those meetings, they return to their rural community of Meriden, Kansas, population 701 people. Now, that's rural. How exciting to find these entrepreneurs of bees in rural Kansas.

Busy as a bee. Just as bees stay busy in the field and in the hive, so Steve and Becky stay busy at promoting honey and related products. We commend the Tiptons for making a difference with their honey production and marketing. This type of agricultural entrepreneurship can help rural communities bee all that they can be.

The mission of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development is to enhance rural development by helping rural people help themselves. The Kansas Profile radio series and columns are produced with assistance from the K-State Research and Extension Department of Communications News Unit. Audio and text files of Kansas Profiles are available at <http://www.kansasprofile.com>. For more information about the Huck Boyd Institute, interested persons can visit <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/huckboyd> or call 785-532-7690.

K-State Research and Extension is a short name for the Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, a program designed to generate and distribute useful knowledge for the well-being of Kansans. Supported by county, state, federal and private funds, the program has county Extension offices, experiment fields, area Extension offices and regional research centers statewide. Its headquarters is on the K-State campus, Manhattan.

Story by: Ron Wilson
rwilson@oznet.ksu.edu
K-State Research & Extension News❖



Kansas Honey Producers' Association - Spring Meeting

Friday & Saturday, March 5th & 6th

Ramada Inn, Hays Convention Center, Hays Kansas

3603 Vine St. (exit 159 off of I-70)

785-625-7371

For more information call Joli @ 913-856-8356

The Kansas Honey Producers Association will hold their spring meeting in Hays, Kansas on Friday, March 5th and Saturday March 6th. Guest speakers will be Dr. Marion Ellis of Lincoln, Nebraska and John Talbert of Josephine, Texas. This meeting will include a great deal of beginning beekeeping concepts—just good old basic information and a concurrent program for more experienced beekeepers. Note from Joli: “As you can tell from the program, I’m still working on the concurrent program.”

The meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn, Hays Convention Center at 3603 Vine Street, Hays, Kansas (I-70 at Exit 159); phone: 785-625-7371. Room reservations must be made by February 18th - rates are \$65.00 per night. Mention the Kansas Honey Producers to get this rate.

Dr. Marion Ellis

Dr. Marion Ellis is a Professor and Extension Apiculturist at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Dr. Ellis is a leader in the research to find the cause and treatment for Colony Collapse Disorder. He initiated the Midwest Master Beekeeping Course and has promoted best practice beekeeping throughout the region. He is an incredible speaker with solid commonsense ways to keep bees.

John J. Talbert

John is the owner of Sabine Creek Honey Farm in Josephine, Texas. He grew up on a dairy farm in McLennan County near Waco. John attended UT Austin and graduated with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He’s been a beekeeper since 1985 and past President of the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association, past President of Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA), and current Chairman of the TBA State Fair Booth Committee. He is Blake Shook’s mentor.

Dori Porter

Dori is a M.S. student working under the supervision of Dr. Marion Ellis and graduated from UNL in May 2008, majoring in Insect Science and minoring in Biological Sciences. Dori was a past president of the Insect Science Club.

We’ll have two SPECIAL activities:

1. Friday night for the buffet we’ll have ice cream for dessert. Members are asked to bring **homemade ice cream toppings** to add to the buffet to share with others—hopefully you’ll make them with honey. Please bring recipes to share.
2. Our contest for this meeting will be a gift package/basket contest. Friday afternoon they will be judged, using the same criteria as the state fair. **All baskets** will then be put on Saturday's silent auction to benefit the Honey Queen and Youth Scholarship programs.

Judging criteria - Gift Package: Items must be clearly labeled, as they would be offered for sale - except any marks identifying the entrant must be obscured or removed, or fictitious. Gift basket, if wrapped, must be able to be unwrapped for judging.

- Originality & creativity 30 points
- Quality of products 20 points
- Variety i.e. Other products from the hive 30 points
- Commercial appeal 20 points



March 4th, Thursday night: Board Meeting 8:30 p.m. Hickok meeting room

March 5th, Friday

- Cody: 7:30-8:00 **Registration, silent auction set up**
- Cody: 8:00-8:15 **Announcements, Introductions, President Jim Kellie**
- Cody: 8:15-9:00 **Keynote address:** Dr. Marion Ellis—Beekeeping Today— What is really going on with our bees and our beekeeping Industry.
- Cody: 9:05-9:45 **History of Beekeeping**, Ron Ward
- Custer: 9:05-9:45 **Promoting Your Honey Business**—Putting together a recipe or product brochure, introducing a recipe each week and more, Becky Tipton
- Cody: 9:50-10:05 **Break**, Bid on Silent auction items
- Cody: 10:05-10:45 **Basic Equipment**, the essentials of what you need and the choices you'll have to make and the proper name for the equipment, Larry Coppinger
- Custer: 10:05-10:45 TBA
- Cody: 10:50-11:25 **Starting a Beekeeping Club in your area or improving the one you already have**, John Talbert (The Northeast KS Beekeepers Assn. has made several changes to their club based on some things we learned from John)
- Cody: 11:30-12:00 **Bi-Annual Business Meeting**
- Atrium 12:00-1:00 **Lunch**, Prepared lunch at the hotel, see registration form for price and to place order.
- Cody: 1:00-1:45 **Putting beekeeping equipment together**, Cecil Sweeney
- Custer: 1:00-1:45 TBA
- Cody: 1:50-2:35 **Small Hive Beetle and African Bees**—how we deal with them in Texas, John Talbert
- Cody: 2:35-2:50 Break—end of silent auction at the end of the break
- Cody: 2:50-3:35 **Locating the Perfect Yard**, Ron Hopkins
- Custer: 2:50-3:35 **Making your hobby into a business**, John Talbert
- Cody: 3:40-4:25 **Honey Bee Biology**, Dr. Marion Ellis
- Cody 4:30-5:00 **Gift Basket Judging**—members are asked to bring gift baskets to be judged and then sold on Saturday's Silent auction with proceeds going the Honey Queen and the youth scholarship programs
- Atrium 6:00 p.m. Dinner Buffet & Program**— Bees in the mail, Marion Ellis

Program subject to change—guest speakers, topics or times may change

March 6th, Saturday
Beginning Beekeeping Class will be held in

- Cody: 8:15-8:30 Introductions, silent auction set up
- Cody: 8:30-9:15 **Ways to acquire bees & installing a package of bees**, Becky Tipton
- Custer: 8:30-9:15 **Queen rearing for the Commercial Beekeeper**, Jim Kellie
- Cody: 9:20-10:05 **Spring Management**—requeening and making nucs to control swarming and increase your hives, John Talbert
- Custer: 9:20-10:05 **Making Natural & Flavored Creamed Honey and Infused Honey**, Cecil Sweeney
- Cody 10:05-10:25 Break, Bid on Silent auction items
- Cody 10:25-11:10 **Honey Bee Diseases and Pests**, Dr. Marion Ellis
- Cody 11:15-11:25 Presentation by one of our 2009 Youth Scholarship winners, Lacie Falk
- Cody 11:25-11:40 **Bee Prepared**—bee stings and first aid, Ron Ward
- Cody 11:40-12:00 **Beekeeping Etiquette**, Becky Tipton
- Custer 11:15-12:00 **HIDI: Raising a few queens for the hobby beekeeper**, Robert Burns
- Atrium 12:00-1:00 **Lunch**, Prepared lunch at the hotel, see registration form for price and to order. At the end of lunch the silent auction will end.
- Cody 1:00-1:45 **Fall & Winter Management**, getting your bees through the winter, Dr. Marion Ellis
- Custer 1:00-1:45 **Labeling and Packaging your products**, Beth Ward
- Cody 1:50-2:35 **Integrated Pest Management**, Marion Ellis
- Custer 1:50-2:35 TBA
- Cody 2:35-2:50 Break
- Cody 2:50-3:35 **Native Bees and their Conservation**, Dori Porter
- Custer 2:50-3:35 **Giving a Presentation to the Public**, Greg Swob
- Cody 3:40-4:25 **Extracting 101**—just the basics for beginners— Removing Honey from the hives, how to uncap your honey, extract it and strain it, Ron Ward
- Custer 3:40-4:25 **Making Mead**, Steve Tipton

Program subject to change—guest speakers, topics or times may change



Kansas Honey Producers' Association, Spring 2010 Registration Form Friday & Saturday, March 5th & 6th in Hays, Kansas

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

COUNTY _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

-I wish to be contacted for swarm removal. -I wish to be contacted for bee removal.

Pre-registration (must send in by February 26th):

Per person (\$30.00 x _____) = _____
 Per couple (husband, wife) \$50.00 _____

Children under 18 free

Late Registration at the door:

Per person (\$40.00 x _____) = _____
 Per couple \$60.00 _____

Children under 18 free

Our wish is that all attendees who are non-members will join, however we welcome everyone to the meeting!

Membership for Kansas Honey Producers' Association: Renewal New \$15.00 _____

Youth Membership 2010 KHPA (18 years of age or under) Renewal New \$7.50 _____

Membership 2010 Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Assn: Renewal New \$15.00 _____

Friday Night Western Style Buffet: Baked Fish, Sliced Brisket, Ribs, Petite Corn, Scalloped Potatoes, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Potato Salad, and tossed green salad, dinner rolls with honey and ice cream. Bring your own ice cream toppings to share!

Adult - \$20.00/person (\$20.00 x _____) = _____
 Child - \$11.00/child (\$ 11.00 x _____) = _____

Friday Luncheon: Soup, Salad & Potato Bar –Includes rolls, dessert & beverage

Adult - \$12.50/person (\$12.50 x _____) = _____
 Child - \$6.50/child (\$6.50 x _____) = _____

Saturday Luncheon: French Dip & Swiss Sandwich, includes French fries, dessert & beverage

Adult - \$11.50/person (\$11.50 x _____) = _____
 Child - \$6.00/child (\$6.00 x _____) = _____

Donation for Youth Scholarship Project \$ _____

Donation for the Queen Program \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Kansas Honey Producers Assn or KHPA and mail to Robert Burns, 7601 W. 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission, KS 66202

Total \$ _____

KHPA Jackets Available!



Colors:

- **Burgundy with Black Bottom**
- **Blue with Black Bottom**
- **Gold with Navy Blue Bottom**

Depending on the quantity ordered, the price per jacket should be around \$45.00. Youth sizes are available at same cost. Add 2.00 for 2XL, 5.00 for 3XL, and 6.50 for 4XL.

Please e-mail questions and/or orders to Connie Hopkins at cmhopkins@wbsnet.org.



KANSAS HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____

EMAIL: _____

Dues are \$15.00 per year. Included with your membership is the quarterly “Cappings” newsletter for your education, information, and enjoyment.

Please make checks payable to the Kansas Honey Producers Association.

**Mail to:
Robert Burns
7601 W. 54th Terrace
Overland Park, Kansas 66202-1129
His phone is (913) 831-6096...**

The Kansas Honey Producers Association is a not-for-profit IRC 501(c)5 agricultural-educational organization, run by dedicated volunteers, and supported primarily by membership dues (subscriptions). The IRC status means that the association is a tax-exempt organization. While donations are always welcome, they are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution. However, membership dues and subscriptions may be deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.

Thanks for your interest in the Kansas Honey Producers Association!

**Kansas Honey Producers Newsletter
“Cappings”
Ron Ward
KHPA Editor
20100 Santa Fe Trail
Easton, Kansas 66020**

Address Correction Requested

