



CAPPINGS



The Official Newsletter of the
Kansas Honey Producers Association

www.KansasHoneyProducers.org

Promoting Mankind's Most Beneficial Insect – The Honey Bee

July 2010

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The Western View

From the President – Jim Kellie

So far it sounds like everyone is starting out with a good year.

We are hearing of good reports of honey in the northeast.

Some at this date has already started pulling honey. North

Central area is reporting honey still coming in at a steady

pace. Western Kansas had a very heavy flow early, filling up

the supers. July, however, has been very hot and the nectar

flow has slowed down as usual during this time. Farmers

markets back east are still reporting better sales each year.

Good ole Larned is trying a farmers market once again. They

The Western View continued on page 2

KHPA Fall Meeting

October 15th and 16th, 2010

McPherson, Kansas

See Joli's meeting update on page 6!

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will be doing it twice a month. I drove by this weekend and was shocked to see eight cars in front of the market place. Then I realized that five of the cars were there early that morning to work on the community garden behind the farmers market. That only left 3 cars checking out the 3 booths. For Larned, that is a “biiigggg” crowd.

I continue to get more and more phone calls from baby boomers looking to get back to nature. This is a great trend for hobby beekeeping. I have invited each and every one to our meetings where they will have opportunity to gather, learn from each other and our speakers. With so many baby boomers my only worry is seeing 15 booths all lined up at a farmers market. Competition could get a little stiff in these areas.

I continue to get more and more phone calls from baby boomers looking to get back to nature. This is a great trend for hobby beekeeping.

We also seem to have another group that has been in the sideline area and making phone calls wanting to launch higher in the sideline bracket of 4 to 500. We are in hopes that some of our future speakers can help them make that launch. We have also talked about bringing in some of the mega-business beekeepers if that is some of your desires.

Hopefully some of you have reservations already for Galveston where the American Honey Producers and National Beekeeping Federation will be hosting together. Mine is set and I am anxiously waiting. I have many relatives along with

old and new friends that I can't wait to see and talk about old memories, new ideas, and the future of our trade.

I am getting anxious to start pulling. I find myself heading to a close bee yard checking the moisture content about every three days. I already know about what it will be, but it is a good excuse to get out there and work the bees a little. We are close to starting on the first pull. I would like to get it done and get the supers back out for second pull.

We will be heading into fall and now is the time you should be preparing for next year's goals. Our plans here are to increase another 200. I have had several calls for pollination of watermelons, pumpkins and even alfalfa. Some farmers in this area are going for alfalfa seed again. Remember that to make honey in alfalfa it is one hive per four acres. To do a good job of pollination it is four hives per one acre. For example, a 200 acre patch would take 800 colonies to properly pollinate the field. Needless to say, I will have to increase to get to that position again. Just don't let my wife know. I am supposed to start taking life easy. Sure sounds like fun to me.

May your crops be large and your sales be good. Keep beekeeping fun and we will see you at the next meeting in McPherson. Jim ❖



HUTCHINSONSEPT10-19

www.KansasStateFair.com

Help us work the KHPA Booth at the
Kansas State Fair
Sign Up Today!

by Rocky Schmied

In September, the State Fair begins...what is going on? Those are the words my wife has been saying to me. As a newcomer to this, I am very dependent on your knowledge and your help. My wife Ruth said, "Grace and you are the ones that wanted to do this. This is your baby!" Yes dear.

Our family loves helping at the State Fair, seeing all the people wanting Kansas produced honey, listening to the kids' (and adults') amazement as they giggle and gasp watching the bees work away in the observation hive, their questions and curiosity about the honey bee, and how honey gets from the bee to the jar.

But we need your help from setup to tear down.

Setup begins on Thursday, September 9th. All are welcome and there is no cost to get in. We will tear down the booth on Sunday night the 19th.

Volunteering at the KHPA booth is one of the best ways to get information out to the public about Kansas produced honey and, more importantly, your honey as you sell it throughout the year. If you are interested in helping at the booth please contact me, Rocky Schmied, by email at KHPA@oakschmied.com or by phone 316-684-0990.

I have a google calendar set up with the schedule of those who have already said they would help. We would like to have four people in the booth

from 2:00 pm to closing...10:00 on weekends and 9:00 week days. When you contact me, we can decide on your times and I can enter them on the calendar. If you have an email address and internet access, I will give you information to view the calendar online so you can decide when you want to help. Once you give me the times you want to work, I will add it to the calendar.

By August 25th, I need the times you want to work, a mailing address, and how many will be helping in your family. We will then send gate tickets to you. To get tickets, one must work a minimum of four hours or more per day at the booth. Six hour commitments would be great. You can do two three-hour shifts if you like and still enjoy the fair activities. We're quite willing to work with you for your assistance at the KHPA Kansas State Fair 2010 Honey Booth! Please help us be good managers of the association's funds and keep your commitment.

Ms. Lydia Johnson, the 2010 KHPA Honey Queen will be helping on the weekends, also we have Amy Roden, the 2010 American Honey Princess, helping on September 12-15.

Rocky ❖



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By Tara Zeravsky, American Beekeeping Federation

The 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow will be held January 4-8, 2011 at the San Luis Resort in Galveston, Texas. The theme of this conference is **“Together for a Sweet Future”** representing the collaboration between the American Beekeeping Federation, The American Honey Producers Association, and the Canadian Honey Council to produce this joint conference.

Additional features of the conference include:

- The American Bee Research Conference
- The Serious Sideliner Symposium
- The largest beekeeping tradeshow, full of the latest in beekeeping innovations
- Anticipated attendance of more than 1200 beekeepers
- Optional activities perfect for networking and socializing with fellow beekeepers and industry experts
- Beautiful Galveston location, right on the Gulf of Mexico
- Something for everyone, from the newest hobbyist to the seasoned professional

The 2011 North American Beekeeping

Conference & Tradeshow promises to be one you won't want to miss. Please plan to join your fellow beekeepers to hear the latest beekeeping updates, discover new products and services, and have some fun with 1200 of your closest friends. Additional information will be posted to the conference web-site as it becomes available, so be sure to visit often –

www.nabeekeepingconference.com.



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Election Time - KHPA President!

by Ron Ward, Editor

As Jim Kellie mentioned in a previous “Cappings”, this is his last year as KHPA President. During our Fall meeting in McPherson, we will farewell Jim and elect a new President. There are two KHPA members interested in serving as President, Greg Swob and Steve Tipton. Both of these gentlemen are solid citizens and good beekeepers. Below are short biographies on each candidate:



When Steve Tipton began beekeeping over 20 years ago, it was not long before he was totally hooked and knew it was something he wanted to do long term. He now keeps around 100 hives in Northeast Kansas and has a unique sideline business along with his wife, Becky. He likes to say, it's a hobby out of control. Steve enjoys

every aspect of beekeeping, but he truly loves sharing his pastime with others. He earned the distinction of Master Beekeeper in 1998 and now helps Dr. Marion Ellis with presentations at the University of Nebraska. He has lost count of the number of classes (kindergarten to college), special events, and garden groups he has spoken to. The overall message is always the same: the honey bee is our most valuable insect and one without which we cannot live. Steve is past president of the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association and has participated in many conferences and the EAS short course. He considers the support of new beekeepers across the state the most important purpose of the Kansas Honey Producers.



Steve and Becky Tipton own Country Creek Honey in Meriden



Greg Swob, a Kansas native and K-State graduate, lives in Hays, Kansas working for a regional cooperative utility as a professional energy auditor, consulting customers on energy conservation options. He

regards the honey bee as one of the greatest gifts from God to mankind, but not just because they give us honey, but for all the other things they do for mankind. Greg says we can learn a lot from them and through them as they are born into a world of work with no boss, yet they all know what, how, and when to do what is necessary. “With a little guidance from us, we can hopefully make their efforts more efficient and effective, benefiting us and the colony even more.”

Greg and his brother Bruce manage around 80 hives in Barton, Rush, and Ellis Counties. Greg likes to experiment with their bees, trying various approaches, equipment & techniques and has introduced a number of new beekeepers to the world of the honeybee.

Greg is president of the Hays Optimist Club and sits on advisory boards dealing with local building codes and other issues. In the past, Greg was a co-coordinator for the Kansas Disaster Rapid Assessment Team, volunteer firefighter, certified building official, Jaycees member and officer, and involved in various community activities.



Greg uncapping a frame of honey

KHPA Fall Meeting Update
October 15 & 16, 2010
McPherson, Kansas
by Joli Winer



The next meeting of the Kansas Honey Producers will be held in McPherson at the Best Western Holiday Manor. Our room rates will be \$62.99; to make a reservation call 620-241-5343 and mention the Kansas Honey Producers to get this rate. Reservations must be made by September 23rd; the registration form is on page 12. Our guest speaker will be with us on Friday morning only—he is on his way to a meeting in Colorado and will be stopping off to give us three talks so do your best to come on Friday! Our special guest will be Dr. Larry Connor from Kalamazoo, Michigan. He is an author and owner of Wicwas Press and writes an article each month for Bee Culture Magazine with emphasis on queen and drone biology and colony management. He recently began a series of articles on the biological basis of beekeeping practices. He is also the author of several new books— *Increase Essentials*, *Bee Sex Essentials*, and *Queen Rearing Essentials*.



I'm putting together what I hope is something different for this program. I'm in the process of lining up some workshops that will be long enough that the presenters can actually make something rather than show us a PowerPoint presentation on how to do it! I'm trying to balance that with some workshops on beekeeping for those of you who are not into value added products—we'll see what I come up with. Watch our website at www.KansasHoneyProducers.org for updates.

If you have a topic that you would like to see presented, or if you know of a member that might be doing something we might be interested in, please contact me at 913-856-8356 or joli@heartlandhoney.com.

Mark your calendar for the spring 2011 meeting; the dates are March 4th and 5th. I do have a guest speaker lined up for that meeting yet. However, we'll have James Ellis who is Assistant Professor of Entomology at the Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory, Department of Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida. I'm working with the hotels in Topeka as the location for the Spring meeting.

Joli❖

Lydia Johnson, The Kansas Honey Queen in Action

by Beth Ward

Ms. Lydia Johnson is active in her role as Kansas Honey Queen. Since her crowning in October 2009, she has participated in numerous events throughout the Sunflower State. Events include the Kansas Sampler Festival in Leavenworth, the Solomon Festival in Solomon, the Amelia Earhart Festival in Atchison, and numerous Farmers Markets. Her next big event is representing KHPA at our Kansas State Fair honey booth. Lydia continues to represent KHPA with distinction! Thanks Lydia!



Lydia and Beth Ward at the Amelia Earhart Festival in Atchison on July 17th.



Working the crowd and answering questions

Honey Raspberry Citrus Slush



Makes Six 6 oz. servings

- 1-1/2 cups fresh orange juice
- 1/2 cup Orange Blossom honey
- 2 Tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 Tablespoons lime juice
- 1-1/2 cups frozen raspberries
- 1 cup crushed ice

In a blender, combine orange juice, honey, lemon and lime juices until honey is dissolved. Add raspberries and ice. Puree. Serve in beverage glasses garnished with a lemon or lime wheel.

Refreshing!



**American Beekeeping
Federation**

American Beekeeping Federation

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Building Five, Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30305-1509
404.760.2875
abfnet.org

-----Press Release-----

TO: MEDIA OUTLETS

RELEASE DATE: IMMEDIATELY

SUBJECT: 2010 AMERICAN HONEY PRINCESS TO VISIT KANSAS

**FROM: AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN PROGRAM
ANNA L. KETTLEWELL, CHAIRPERSON
10432 W. NORWICH AVENUE
GREENFIELD, WI 53228
414.545.5514**



Amy Roden, the 2010 American Honey Princess, will visit Hutchinson, Kansas September 12-15. She will make appearances at the Kansas State Fair with the Kansas Honey Producers Association during her stay, speaking to attendees about honeybees' importance in optimizing food stock and livestock. She will also share information about the many uses for honey, including its use as a home remedy. Amy will make appearances throughout the fair and will be present at the Kansas Honey Producers Association's educational booth at the fair.

Amy is the 21-year-old daughter of Bob and Cindy Roden of West Bend, WI. She is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Organizational Communication. In her spare time, Amy enjoys beekeeping, singing, serving as a County 4-H leader, and helping out on her family's dairy farm.

As the 2010 American Honey Princess, Amy serves as a national spokesperson on behalf of the American Beekeeping Federation, a trade organization representing beekeepers and honey producers throughout the United States. The Honey Queen and Princess speak and promote in venues nationwide, and, as such Princess Amy will travel throughout the United States during her year-long reign. Prior to being selected as the American Honey Princess, Amy served as the 2009 Wisconsin Honey Queen. In this role, she promoted the honey industry at fairs, festivals, and farmers' markets, via television and radio interviews, and in schools.

The beekeeping industry touches the lives of every individual in our country. In fact, honeybees are responsible for nearly one-third of our entire diet, due to the pollination services that they provide for a large majority of fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes. This amounts to nearly \$15 billion per year of direct value from honeybee pollination to United States agriculture.

For more information on Princess Amy's Kansas visit and to schedule an interview, contact Ruth Schmeid at 316.684.0990.

American Honey Queen Program ■ Anna Kettlewell, Chairperson
10432 W. Norwich Avenue, Greenfield, WI 53228
414.545.5514 ■ honeyqueen99@hotmail.com

Backyard beekeeping: Find out what all the buzz's about

by Jill Reitz

Special to the Kansas City Star

There is nothing quite like the taste of honey straight from the hive. Imagine the taste if it were from your own backyard. Sound enticing but worried about the stings or calling an insect your pet? What you don't know about bees might surprise you.

"Once you get into it, you find there is a lot more about this world that you don't know," says Robert Hughes, an Overland Park master apiarist and beekeeping course instructor at Johnson Country Community College. "You don't own them — you just keep them. To this day they can make me scratch my head with the things I learn all the time."

Hughes has been keeping bees since 1967 and sells his family's harvest, Jordy's Honey, at the downtown Overland Park Farmers Market. An advocate of backyard beekeeping, he thinks it is a perfect, convenient way to connect to the natural world.

They do sting

It is true, but honeybees in general are fairly docile and only sting when a threat is perceived. Most beekeepers will admit their own fault when a sting has occurred. Hughes claims to have built up a tolerance over the years and argues that chigger bites are much worse.

"If they didn't sting, it wouldn't be any fun," he says. "Who would want to take care of a bunch of flies? It gives it an edge."

The adrenaline rush one gets when opening the top of a box containing 60,000 honeybees is an unforgettable experience — one that gets you hooked, Hughes says.

Cleanliness

Believe it or not, bees are cleaner than your cat. If they weren't we wouldn't eat their honey, Hughes says. They're housebroken. Bees leave their hive to relieve themselves, sometimes holding it for weeks in the winter before leaving together for a "cleansing flight." If a bee dies in the hive, other bees will carry the corpse away.

Neighborhood buzz

Follow your city and neighborhood regulations, though most of your neighbors will never even know you have a hive, Hughes says. Bees keep to themselves. You rarely ever see them, he says.

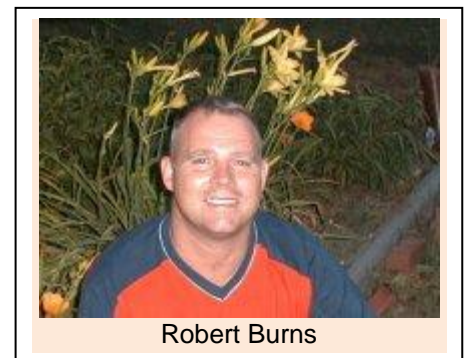
"Come harvest time when the word gets out that you are spinning your honey, you will have a garage full of people," Hughes laughs. "I rarely ever get the chance to taste my own honey."

Robert Burns, treasurer of Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association and the Kansas Honey Producers Association of Overland Park, has 50 colonies, and he houses a few of his "city bees" in his yard and various friends' and neighbors' yards.

Many municipalities have changed their codes to be more "bee friendly" over the years, according to Burns. Overland Park residents can house up to three hives provided they meet the spacing requirements.

Cost considerations

An initial starter kit can average around \$400, Hughes says. The bonus is that once you get the main equipment, it lasts years. A starter kit consists of a beehive, a package of bees, a bee uniform, a pry bar to



Backyard Beekeeping continued on page 10

open the hives and, most important, a smoker. Smokers calm the bees, allowing the beekeeper to check the hives.

As for bee varieties, Hughes recommends the Italian or Carniolan for beginners. They are common and easy to rear. Wait until the second or third year to try something more exotic.

“Beekeepers are kind of like cattlemen,” he says. “Some ranchers like Hereford, some like Black Angus, which is fine. We all swear our own kind is the best.”

There are many ways to do beekeeping — people like to develop their style. “The first year is the toughest,” he says. “Don’t get discouraged.” The honey will be worth the wait.

Jill Reitz is a freelance writer in Overland Park.



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- Gold with Navy Blue Bottom



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Burgundy: 1 – Extra large

2 – Medium

Blue: 2 – Extra Large

Gold: 2 – Extra Large

2 – Medium

1 – Small



**Please email orders to Connie Hopkins at
cmhopkins@wbsnet.org.**

KHPA Photo Page!



Beth Ward assisting with Queen Rearing at Dr. Marion Ellis' Master Beekeeping Workshop in Nebraska in June.



Beth grafting eggs!



Ron Hopkins displaying a sweet frame of honey



One of Ron's hives supered up...look at the Yellow Sweet Clover! Acres of it!



Joli discusses Comb Honey at the Master Beekeeping Workshop at the University of Nebraska in June.



Dr. Ellis' Beekeeper's Bench

A couple of nice photos by Robert Burns of blooming...



Black Locust
and



Buckwheat

Kansas Honey Producers Association Fall 2010 Registration Form Friday & Saturday, October 15th & 16th

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 be sent in by October 8th):

Per person _____ (\$30.00 x _____) = _____
 Per couple (husband, wife) _____ \$50.00 _____
 Children under 18 _____

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 Backyard BBQ Buffet: BBQ Smoked Sliced Brisket, BBQ Chicken, Petite Corn, Molasses Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Potato Salad, Corn Bread with Honey Butter & Cookies and Brownies.

Adult - \$19.00/person _____ (\$19.00 x _____) = _____
 Child - \$10.00/child _____ (\$ 10.00 x _____) = _____

Donation for Youth Scholarship Project \$ _____

Donation for the Queen Program \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Kansas Honey Producers Assn or KHPA and mail to Robert Burns, 7601 W. 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202
 913-831-6096 or email rburns@kc.rr.com (registrations not accepted by email)

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!

Editor's notes...

- This newsletter is published quarterly – in January, April, July, and October; it is printed in black and white and sent via snail-mail. We also offer an email version, which is in color and includes hyperlinks. If you are interested in receiving the email version, email or call me and I'll put you on the email version distribution list. Additionally, if you are interested in receiving the email version instead of the snail-mail version, I'll put you on the "Send Me the Email Version Only" list. You can also view Cappings in our newsletter archive at www.KansasHoneyProducers.org.
- Are you interested in writing an article for the Cappings? If so, Sweet! We are always looking for article submissions, especially from our members. If you don't have a word processor or computer, no worries! Just type or write it then hand/mail it to me. If you have questions, please call. Please remember that submissions are due by the first of the month prior to publication.
- Do you have any photos of yourself or others working bees, the Farmer's Market, teaching beekeeping classes, flowering plants, or anything of beekeeping interest? If so, send them to me and I'll try to get them in the "KHPA Photo Page" section of the Cappings.
- **Advertise!** Are you a commercial beekeeping supplier and would like to advertise in the KHPA Cappings Newsletter? If so, our advertising rates are as follows:

Business card size \$15.00

Quarter page \$35.00

Half page \$50.00

Full page \$100.00

Ad space is available for the upcoming editions. We look forward to hearing from you!

- **Classified Ad Service for non-commercial KHPA members.** Advertise one to three beekeeping-related items in a one-line ad at no charge. This service is limited to one ad, per item, per calendar year.
- **Honey Trading Post:** This is a free service to members wishing to buy or sell honey on a wholesale basis. Just email or call me with contact information and whether you are buying or selling. Pricing is between the buyer and seller.

Thanks,

Ron Ward
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editor@KansasHoneyProducers.org
913.680.1097