

CAPPINGS

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



Promoting Mankind's Most Beneficial Insect – The Honey Bee!

Winter 2014

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Happy Valen-
tines Day!

Don't forget
your honey!

Feb. 14th

State Fair Booth Update by Kristi Sanderson

Mark your calendars -- the Kansas State Fair is September 5 -14! Plans are being made and some changes are in the works.

Many volunteers will be needed to man the sales booth. I would like a person to man the honey exhibit area so a beekeeper can be available to answer questions and direct people to the sales area.

This year we are going to start taking credit and debit cards. With fewer people carrying cash and wanting to use credit cards this will make our products more convenient for the public to purchase. We are looking for a couple of tablets and possibly a "burn" phone that will stay in the booth during open hours. If anyone has a tablet they are willing to donate or works for a company that would be willing to donate a new or used tablet we would be grateful.

This year we are going to sell only locally produced pollen. If you collect pollen and want to sell it to KHPA contact me and I will discuss packing and how we need it to be processed.

Every year we run out of comb honey, and would like to have more available to sell.

If you would like to sell your comb honey to KHPA we need it packaged

in the 4 x 4 clam shells and to have been frozen for a 24 hour period (to prevent wax moth damage). All squares must be clean and free from dirt and debris. More cells must be capped than uncapped and the cut should be well drained. We want to present a quality product.

See y'all at the March meeting on the 14-15th in Hays.

Kristi

Did you know?

KHPA memberships & meeting registrations can now be renewed on line!!!
Go to your association's website:

www.kansashoneyproducers.org

Looking for free video webinars on bee keeping? Visit our friends at Ohio State University bee research!

<https://u.osu.edu/beelab/courses/>



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Position available

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Southwest Director

Position available

President's Corner

By: Steve Tipton

Wintering bees is a part of our avocation that is not understood by many new beekeepers. I am often asked, when is the best time to start getting bees ready for winter? My answer usually contains several variables to consider—many judgment calls that involve the “art” part of beekeeping. As soon as honey supers are pulled, one must start the evaluation process for wintering. Some hives may have stored a lot of honey; others may have stored none. Weather patterns and the availability of fall floral sources is an important consideration in our area. Drought conditions for the last several years have reduced or eliminated later summer and fall floral sources making it hard for colonies to put on the 40-60 pounds of surplus honey needed to winter over a colony in Kansas.

When the weather conditions cooperate and we monitor and treat for mites in a timely manner, provide mouse guards, wind breaks, and supplemental feed if needed, most colonies will winter over in good shape. (But that's a lot of variables!) If colonies are weak and floral sources don't cooperate, we need to step up and provide early supplemental feed to help promote adequate stores and population of young bees capable of maintaining a strong winter cluster. Ivan Owen, a northeast KS beekeeper stated that if honey supers aren't on, he usually provides his bees with additional food sources. It's a practice I'm going to adopt as well.

Becky and I attended the North American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Congratulations to Tim Tucker, one of our past KHPA presidents, on being elected the new ABF President. Becky and I presented on value added products to a packed room on the last day of the conference. It was fun to reconnect with beekeepers we had met at previous ABF meetings. We also went on the tour of the USDA bee lab in Baton Rouge on Tuesday. The work they do is often tedious but the genetic information is invaluable to the continued improvement of our honey bees.

Hope to see everyone at our spring meeting in Hays. We are fortunate to have Dr. Dewey Caron as our guest speaker. As usual, a big part of this meeting will be geared toward new beekeepers. Dr. Caron literally wrote the book (we have the book—it's excellent!!) He'll be happy to autograph the latest edition for you. He is both an amazing researcher and outstanding teacher. So, for us old-timers, come ready to learn a little more about the basics and answer questions from the newbies.

Tuckerbees Nucs

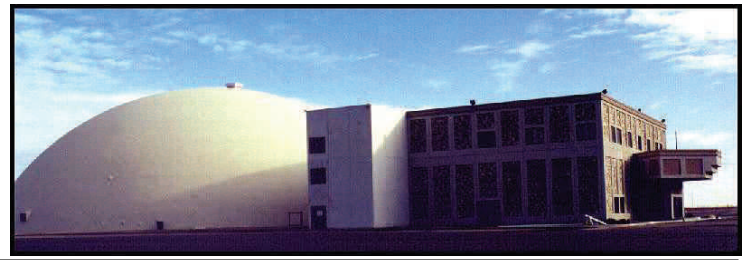
For \$120 you get a laying Queen with five frames of bees and brood. No frame exchange!

Our product is ready sometime in May. Delivery to centralized points can be arranged.

Quantities are limited. Reserve yours now. Call Tim, 620-879-2926 or Norbert, 620-216-0202

2014 Spring KHPA meeting in Hays

By: Jolie Winer, 1st Vice-President



The world famous Sternberg Museum (on the right) is one of the attractions to see when visiting Hays “Discovery Under the Dome”

Kansas Honey Producers’ Spring Meeting Information

Friday & Saturday March 14th & 15th 2014

Meeting Room: Whiskey Creek Wood Fired Grill 3203 Vine St, Hays, KS 67601

Hotel-Days Inn, 3205 Vine St, Hays, KS 67601 (785) 628-8261

Our guest speaker will be **Dr. Dewey Caron**. He started with honey bees as teenager in Vermont. He later studied for a PhD with Dr Roger Morse of Cornell University. He is also interested in insect natural history and polination biology. He was a Professor of Entomology and Apiculture (honey bees) for 11 years at the University of Maryland and 29 years at University of Delaware. He conducted research and did extension and teaching with honey bees and insects and wildlife conservation. He retired in 2009 and is now living in Oregon to be close to grandchildren. He is still active with insects and honey bees. He is also an active participant of state, local and regional bee meetings (presenting over 100 talks each year). He is the author of the book, ***Honey Bee Biology and Bee-keeping***— you may have purchased this at our fall meeting—bring it back and have Dewey sign it!

The hotel and the meeting room are just across the parking lot from each other. To make your reservation call the **Days Inn at 785-628-8261**. A complimentary breakfast is offered. Reserve your rooms by **February 13th**.

The room rates are as follows:

	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people
Non Smoking 2 Full size beds 2nd floor	\$54.98	54.98	62.98	70.98
Non Smoking 1 king bed 1st floor	\$59.98	59.98	67.98	75.98
Non Smoking 2 queens 1st floor	\$59.98	59.98	67.98	75.98

This is more of a philosophical question...

Have you noticed how in learning about beekeeping (both for a novice or someone with a great deal of experience and trying to increase his or her knowledge) there is ALWAYS conflicting information given by knowledgeable beekeepers? I grew up in an active beekeeping family. I've been beekeeping on my own for almost 20 years. While the body of beekeeping knowledge has increased tremendously, the clarity Pick your topic: hives, hive locations, feeding, medications, equipment, best bee breed, re-queening, hive manipulations, pest prevention... There never seems to be a definitive answer for anything. I always tell a new bee keeper: There is one thing you can count on – no two bee keepers do anything the same way!

Reed Johnson, Ohio State University Bee Research. (formerly at Un. of Nebraska)

Spring Meeting agenda

Thursday Evening, March 13th Whiskey Creek Wood Fired Grill Meeting Room 3203 Vine St., Hays

8:00 pm **Board Meeting**

Friday, March 14th Whiskey Creek Wood Fired Grill Meeting Room 3203 Vine St., Hays

8:00am-8:45 **Registration & Silent Auction** Set up

8:45-9:00 **Welcome**, President Steve Tipton

9:00-9:45 **Bee Loss Epidemic-Crisis or Opportunity**, Dr. Dewey Caron

9:45-10:30 **Putting your Equipment Together Correctly**, Norbert Neal

10:30-10:45 **Break**

10:45-11:30 **Ways People get their Bees—Pros and Cons & Installing a Package of Bees**, Kristi Sanderson presents

11:30-12:00 **Location, Location, Location** Considerations on locations for your bees, Joli Winer presents

12:00-12:15 TBA

12:15-1:15 **Buffet Lunch** (Plainsman Burger (Burger with BBQ Brisket, French Fries, Baked Beans or Fish)

1:15-2:15 **Applying Bee Biology**, Dr. Dewey Caron will present. Why do we need to know biology to keep bees? This talk will include some anatomy and development and the basics of the bee nest.

2:15-3:00 **Kansas Rural Center** (Topic to be announced) Since 1979, the Kansas Rural Center has worked to advance an ecologically sound, diversified food and farming system. KRC helps farmers and ranchers implement alternative practices, enhance their natural resources, improve their livelihoods and support their rural communities. We also help farmers and citizens join together in growing opportunities for local and regional food

3:00-3:15 Break **Silent Auction closes at end of break**

3:15-4:00 **Breakout sessions** for area directors to meet with people from their part of the state and possibly plan activities.

4:00 **Cooking Contest –Anything Cherries & Honey**, bring copies of your recipe & food to share

6:00 **Dinner & Entertainment (TBD)**

Dinner Buffet- Catfish, Cod, Chicken Fried Chicken, Chicken Fried Steak, Salad, Red Skin Potatoes, Broccoli

Saturday, March 15th

8:00-8:30 **Registration & Silent Auction** Set-up

8:30-8:40 **Announcements**—President Steve Tipton

8:40-9:25 **Basics of Hive Inspection and How to Read a Colony**, What to look for in the hive and how to interpret what is appropriate for the season. Dewey Caron presents.

9:25-10:10 **Pastured Poultry, the Other Obsession**, Steve and Becky Tipton present. Ummm, last fall Steve and Becky started a new adventure raising chickens. Oh my gosh—they were so good.

11:15-12:00 **Swarming 101 –Catchin’ ‘em &/or Preventin’ ‘em** Dewey Caron

12:00-1:00 **Buffet Lunch** (French Dip Sandwich, Cole Slaw & Potato Salad)

Silent Auction closes at end of lunch

1:00-1:45 **Herbs that Bees Like**, Annuals & Perennials, **Pam Herl**, Ellis, Ks. presents.

Pam Herl is a 3rd generation Herbalist and oversees the Herb Study Group at the Hays Public Library. She specializes in topical herbal remedies for specific indications including diabetes, chronic muscle pain, scar inflammation, arthritis, and fibromyalgia.

1:45-2:30 **Extracting on a Small Scale**-Marietta & William Graham

2:30-2:45 **Break**

2:45-3:45 **Diagnosing problems with Bee Diseases & Pests and What to do about them.** Recognition and control of diseases including integrated pest management. Dr. Dewey Caron Presents

3:45- **Business meeting**

Program and speakers subject to change

**The Kansas Honey Producers' Association Spring Meeting
Friday & Saturday, March 14th & 15th, 2014 Registration Form**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

COUNTY _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____ (please print email address clearly)

Check here if you would like to receive your Cappings newsletter by email

Registration & payment now accepted with PayPal at kansashoneyproducers.org

Pre-registration (must be received by March 3rd)

Friday & Saturday

Per person (includes 2 lunches & dinner) (\$65.00 x _____) = _____

Friday Only

Per person (includes lunch & dinner) (\$55.00 x _____) = _____

Saturday only

Per person (includes lunch) (\$40.00 x _____) = _____

Children-under 18

Both Friday & Saturday (\$20 x _____) = _____

Friday only (\$13.75 x _____) = _____

Saturday only (\$6.50 x _____) = _____

Non-Members Add \$15.00

\$15.00 x _____ = _____

Late Registration, after March 3rd & at the door \$10 per person: (\$10.00 x _____) = _____

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 or New \$15.00 _____

Youth Membership 2014 (18 years of age or under) Renewal or New - \$7.50 each _____

Membership 2014 Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Assn: Renewal/ New \$15.00 _____

Donation for Youth Scholarship Project \$ _____

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**

**Registration & payment now accepted with PayPal at
www.kansashoneyproducers.org**

Nucleus Hives or Packages?

By Norbert Neal

It is always good to know the biases of whomever you are working, no matter what the subject. That said, the first thing you need to know is that I have a dog in this fight. My partner and I sell Nuc's.

It all boils down to economics and time. Time is often equated with money; therefore, in the end it is economics, economics, economics.

When you buy a Package of bees you get either three or four pounds of bees and a caged Queen. A new beekeeper will normally not have any drawn comb. The Package will be installed onto ten frames of foundation. Before the Queen can start laying the comb has to be drawn. This takes time.

When you buy a Nuc you get four or five pounds of bees, a laying Queen, 3 ½ to four frames of eggs and brood on five frames. At least four frames will be drawn. The Queen will already be in the process of laying 1,000 to 1,500 eggs per day. I wouldn't know how to put a value on it but you are considerably ahead, time wise, when you buy a Nuc.

Downsides when starting with a package are usually centered around the Queen – getting her introduced and started laying. Early packages usually come out of California and can be stressed by the 1,200 mile trip. The Queen can be injured or lost during introduction. Hundreds of thousands of Packages have been successful; therefore, I wouldn't call that a really big issue. It will take you a month to determine if your new Queen is acceptable with a good laying pattern. Once she begins to lay it still takes about 21 days before new adult forager bees are ready which might result in missing an early honey flow. During that 21 days your new colony will actually be steadily going down in numbers as the older bees are lost due to one reason or another.

Downsides when starting with a Nuc – 1. You can expect to get at least two frames with old comb; after all, that nuc had to start somewhere! If the comb is old and black you need to consider working them out. My suggestion is to wait until the hive is ready for a queen excluder. Move the old comb above the queen excluder into the middle of the super. Nurse bees will follow to attend the larvae. Once they hatch the queen will not be able to repopulate and the frame will be filled with honey. After honey extraction boil the frame to remove old comb, re-stretch the wires and install new foundation. Remember to date the frame because it will get old again. Some people are recommending that we replace all brood comb every year. Probably a good idea in this age of pesticide use. 2. Disease is sometimes claimed to be a problem with Nuc's. You may have noticed Mann Lake's recent advertisements for Packages. \$125 and you pick-up in Hackensack, Minnesota.



I mention them because they are claiming to be small hive beetle free as they come out of California. To that point I would ask someone to tell me what disease, parasite or virus that can't be transmitted with a Package? If you can get small hive beetles in a package, my guess is you can get just about anything else. 3. Swarming can be an issue with a really hot Nuc, especially if you don't have any drawn comb for the Queen to move to lay. In that case be certain to tell your supplier that you don't want a Nuc that is busting at the seams. They should be able to accommodate you.

Another big advantage of a Nuc is that installation is pretty simple. Many Nuc providers will install them in your equipment for you. All that has to be done is to move the frames from the Nuc box into your equipment. During that process your supplier should show you the Queen and you can readily see her laying pattern.

It is always a good idea to get references from people with experience with the supplier you choose. Make sure your supplier has been in the business for some time and has a proven track record.

Either way you go, Good Luck, and may your honey flows be long and massive!



Duck, Duck, Bees! Above photo is from a call to remove a colony of bees from a wood duck nest last fall. Ft. Hays State University is home to an active environmental group who help the local wood duck population with their many artificial nests. These nest boxes sit atop poles about ten feet above the ground. A swarm of bees made a home in this nest sometime after the little ducks outgrew it last spring. The bees went unnoticed for a long time. Completely full of comb, the bees were relocated into a hive body.

TED talk

By Becky Tipton

I am a bee advocate. I champion the bees whenever the opportunity presents itself. Facebook has become a recent forum for a lot of good information about our bees and the flowers they need. It's easy to share ideas and suggestions. I talk to civic groups about pollinator friendly plants, avoiding pesticides and reducing mowing to provide forage for the bees. I mentor new beekeepers. Steve and I mentor adult beekeepers as well as youth. Why? Mostly because it's important for our food chain and we love delicious things to eat. But, also because it's fun. Sharing our love of honey bees provides us with amusement, joy, and knowledge. You never know something as well as when you teach it. There are a lot of adults wanting a mentor—put your hand in the air and volunteer. Bet you'll be glad that you did.



Dr. Marla Spivak—Un. Of Minnesota entomologist

Thank you to Marietta and William Graham. They have graciously volunteered to take on 2 different youth students (not from the same family) so all our scholarship kids have mentors. Congratulations to Josiah Beal of El Dorado, our seventh scholarship student of 2014!

With seven scholarships we will need extra support from our membership. You have always shown extreme generosity when it comes to our scholarship program. I hope you'll continue that spirit for our March meeting by finding items to add to our silent auction and by lively bidding during the auction.

Advocate—(ad-vuh-kit) verb

1. recommend or support something: to support or speak in favor of something
2. somebody giving support: somebody who supports or speaks in favor of something

At our fall meeting we showed a brief video—a **TED talk** done by Dr. Marla Spivak, University of Minnesota. She provides a clear explanation of the problems faced by our bees and offers some solutions.

The link to that presentation appears below. If you didn't see it, take 10 minutes—it will be time well spent. Several folks have asked for the link for use in other venues. Spread the word—be a bee advocate.



We need You!

Openings on KHPA board for the following:

3rd Vice President— Public Relations and Promotions

Southwest Ks. Director

The mysterious deaths have struck between 50 percent and 90 percent of commercial honeybee hives in the United States, sowing fears about the effects on the more than 90 crops that rely on bees to pollinate them.

Scientists previously have found blasting emptied hives with radiation apparently kills whatever infectious agent that causes the disorder. That has focused their attention on viruses, bacteria and the like, to the exclusion of other noninfectious phenomena, like cell phone interference, also proposed as culprits.

The earliest reports of colony collapse disorder date to 2004, the same year the virus was first described by Israeli virologist Ilan Sela. That also was the year U.S. beekeepers began importing bees from Australia - a practice that had been banned by the Honeybee Act of 1922.

http://www.ted.com/talks/marla_spivak_why_bees_are_disappearing.html

The Western View

By Jim Kellie

Author's note: Every now and then I have to do a little satire for fun at ourselves and to bring us beekeepers back down to earth. So for some time I have been listening and talking with many beekeepers, reading articles and I see it is once again time to get me grounded. With this in mind I created an old Beekeeper character to help us laugh at ourselves.

J T THE OLE' BEEKEEPER

"What are you doing up there?" asked the manager of the Grain elevator. I told him I had read several magazines and it seems beekeepers were putting hives on tall buildings thinking it was "Green" and progressive. Since the elevator was the tallest building in our little town, I thought I would go "Green" and be progressive as well. We "beeks", (that is what we're called if you are with the "in crowd" of Face book, chat rooms and threads on the internet) being the progressive new ones, they evidently think our honey is more organic if we put it in a large city on a building where it sits in the brown cloud of pollution all year. (I can only imagine what is in that "organic, natural" honey???)

Still I sure wanted to keep up with the latest progressive "beeks". The manager of the elevator agreed to let me keep a hive up there. Now in western Kansas a still day is 20 mph winds. Up on top that elevator it is blowing 30 to 40 on a calm day. So the manager and I had to devise a steel bar and bolts to keep the hive from blowing off. Take off for the bees was pretty easy. All they had to do was lift their feet and whoosh they were gone. Old man Zurich's alfalfa field was about 4 miles out of town and I figured that's about where they landed once they gained flight control.

Well now it was time for some publicity so I called the local paper. I couldn't wait to stand way up there holding my frame of bees saying lookie here, I'm officially an 'in crowd beek'. Except you couldn't really see me very well. Turns out ole Skinny Johnson that owns and writes for the newspaper was a feared a heights. So he used his cheap phone camera, and it looks like some stick way up on the elevator. The Headline read something about "foolish and dangerous people". I didn't read the story, I was just happy to get my picture.

We had another big state meeting back east again. It was pretty good. Especially that lady that told us we need to change containers. She thought the upscale people really wouldn't buy honey in those ugly plastic jugs. She suggested we use wine bottles and showed us a picture of some. Right then and there I decided that here was another project for



me to keep on the "green-and-in-the-know beek world".

I went right home and found Lefty Stewart. He makes a lot of Moonshine; uhh I mean home-made wine. Lefty had a couple of cases left that he hadn't put any Corn liq— umm wine in yet. So

I did a little trade of honey for the wine bottles. I filled up a half dozen and put my best hand written label on to keep that folksy look. I left them on my back porch that day and I couldn't wait to get back home in the evening to see how well they sold. I started to drive up my block and there were cars everywhere. There was a crowd of ladies standing on the sidewalk marching around with big signs. I was really excited thinking this must have been the greatest idea yet! Pretty soon I got close enough and the ladies saw me about the same time I could make out those signs. I recognized old Buhla Gearing. She was the head of the Temperance club. While I couldn't make out what those ladies were sayin' because old Red's muffler was a might loud, I could see the angry look on their faces. Those signs read "wine bottles will not touch my lips". Wouldn't you know, Buhla was the first one there this morning. She had rang the party line on the phones and all those Temperance women had a meeting to decide what to do. This was the most exciting thing these ladies had in many years. I don't think that lady speaker at the honey meeting had been around high society women much because these ladies didn't take to those wine bottles at all. After some time of groveling and promising to never use wine bottles again I got them all to go home. Lucky for me they had seen the picture in the paper on top of the elevator. Buhla said she figured that had to be me up there. Not sure why she knew that, but she said she felt sorry for my wife and she was proud that they had won a victory over the evil poison. I managed to get all the bottles emptied out and returned to Lefty.

I came home and told my wife the story. She said she was glad I changed my mind and returned all the bottles. She looked at my hand and said, "all but that one, what is in there anyway"? With a slight smile I said. Ummm, uhh, Water. Yeah that's what it is! See ya' at the next meetin'.

American Bee Federation Meeting Highlights

Jan. 2014, Baton Rouge, La.



A.B.F. President Tim Tucker & past Honey Princess Emily Campbell

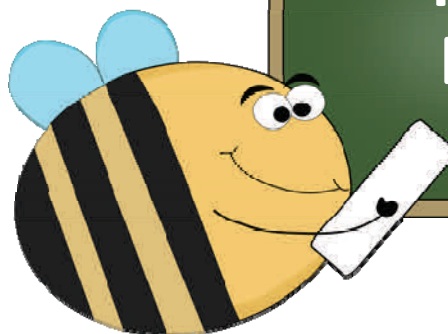


Becky Tipton speaking on value added products



A 'sweet ride' owned by David Sundberg

Upcoming Events



Beginning Beekeeping Class- Sundays March 16 and March 23— Northeast KS Beekeepers Assn., Douglas Co Fairgrounds, North end of Building 21, noon until 5:30 PM. Dr. Dewey Caron author of the text book we will be using ***Honey Bee Biology & Beekeeping*** will present & sign books on the first day, March 16th. Registration & information at nekba.org or Becky Tipton 785-484-3710 Register and pay at nekba.org

Northeast KS Beekeepers Funday- Saturday June 7th 2014 Guest speaker, Tom Seeley author of **Honeybee Democracy** Douglas Co Fairgrounds, Douglas Co. Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper St., Bldg. 21, Lawrence KS, Registration, nekba.org or Becky Tipton 785-484-3710 Register and pay at nekba.org

KHPA Fall 2014 Meeting- Date to be announced, -- Wichita KS—Best Western Wichita North. Guest speakers, Ginger & Gary Reuter. A long time hobby beekeeper and trained in technology education, Gary began working with Dr. Marla Spivak when she moved to Minnesota in 1993. Without his hard work, the program would not be what it is today. He maintains the research colonies, helps train and work with students in the field, designs and builds specialty equipment and speaks to beekeeping, student and civic groups. He plans the Extension short courses and together with Marla teaches beginning as well as experienced beekeepers. His humorous style of teaching helps the classes stay interested and enthusiastic about a sometimes challenging subject. He is a past president of both Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association and Wisconsin Honey Producers Association and director of the American Beekeeping Federation, and remains active in these groups. He still finds time to manage his own colonies, while learning to blacksmith, maintain an orchard, and help his wife raise sheep.

Send stories, photos, ads for Cappings to editor:

Greg Swob — 1569 Toulon Ave. — Hays, Ks. 67601

gswob@mwenergy.com

785-623-3533

2014 Kansas Honey Producer's Association Membership Application



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone# _____ *E-mail Address* _____

Membership Kansas Honey Producer's Association per year (Jan.-Dec.) \$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 _____

American Bee Journal 1 year subscription \$21.00 _____

Bee Culture Magazine (formerly "Gleanings") 1 year subscription \$20.00 _____

Donation Amount _____

Total Due _____



Make checks payable to: KHPA or Kansas Honey Producer's Association or pay on line at www.kansashoneyproducers.org

Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66202 Phone# 913-831-6096 or email- rburns@kc.rr.com

The Kansas Honey Producer's Association is a non-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.

Kansas Honey Producer's Association—Cappings

Robert Burns

7601 W. 54th Terrace

Shawnee Mission, KS 66202

Address Service Requested