

CAPPINGS

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



Promoting Mankind's Most Beneficial Insect – The Honey Bee! 2nd Quarter 2016

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2015 Membership Applications New or Renew on line!



Mowing: Best Practices for Monarchs” – New Handout from (Monarch Joint Venture)

When maintaining a native plant habitat for monarchs or other pollinators, proper management is a must. Mowing is one practice that can help control woody vegetation or weedy species and prevent undesirable species from setting seed if timed appropriately. It is important to apply pollinator-friendly best management practices when using any habitat management technique, such as mowing, grazing, prescribed fire, or pesticide application. MJV's new handout titled "Mowing: Best Practices for Monarchs", provides regional timeframes during which management activities may be less detrimental to local monarch populations. While the document is targeted for mowing best practices, the timing windows are applicable across different management techniques as well.

The recommended windows were created based on:

- Avoidance of peak monarch breeding activity in each region based on data from the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project
- Avoidance of peak fall migration events, consistent with Journey North data and Monarch Watch projections
- Adequate time allowance for milkweed regrowth
- Feedback and ground tested recommendations from MJV partners and regional experts

This informational handout is one of many that the MJV offers and they're great for sharing! Visit our down-loads page to view other handouts, and feel free to reach out to us if you have topics in mind for future

handouts that MJV and partners may develop. [monarchs@ monarchjointventure.org](mailto:monarchs@monarchjointventure.org)

<—Monarch larvae feeding on Milkweed

Proposal to Protect Bees from Acutely Toxic Pesticides

EPA is proposing to prohibit the applications of pesticides that are toxic to bees when crops are in bloom and bees are under contract for pollination services. These restrictions would prohibit application of most insecticides and some herbicides during bloom.

Growers routinely contract with honey bee keepers to bring in bees to pollinate their crops that require insect pollination. Bees are typically present during the period the crops are in bloom. Application of pesticides during this period can significantly affect the health of bees.

These restrictions are expected to reduce the likelihood of high levels of pesticide exposure and mortality for bees providing pollination services. Moreover, EPA believes these additional measures to protect bees providing pollination services will protect other pollinators as well. The proposed restrictions would apply to all products that have:

- Liquid or dust formulations as applied;
- Foliar use (applying pesticides directly to crop leaves) directions for use on crops; and
- Active ingredients that have been determined via testing to have high toxicity for bees (less than 11 micrograms per bee).

The proposed restrictions would not replace more restrictive, chemical-specific, bee-protective provisions that may already be on a product label. Additionally, the proposed label restrictions would not apply to applications made in support of a government-declared public health response, such as use for wide area mosquito control. There would be no other exceptions to these proposed restrictions.

The list of registered active ingredients that meet the acute toxicity criteria is included as Appendix A of EPA's proposal. At this time, EPA is not proposing changes to product labels for managed bees not being used for pollination services.



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FREE OFFER

The first message I want to share is an invitation from our own **Tim Tucker**, Past President of **A.B.F. The American Beekeeping Federation** is offering complimentary 2016 year memberships. Below is a short list of member benefits. Visit their website and sign up at your convenience.

The **ABF Board and Membership/Marketing Committee** would like for you to understand what all the buzz is about. All first time members in 2016 can receive a complimentary membership! We want you to see all the ABF has to offer you as a beekeeper! This is at no cost to you until December 31, 2016. [Click here to join today!](#)

ABF is here to serve you and your needs as a beekeeper through:

- Live and on-demand education webinars
- Online beginning beekeeping courses
- Nationwide conferences
- Legislative actions and beyond

Our 2016 Complimentary Membership is free to anyone who has never been a member of **ABF**. You will receive electronic access to our educational webinars, discounted conference pricing, the monthly ABF E-Buzz, and much more! All memberships will expire December 31, 2016. We are excited to have you join the largest national beekeeping organization in America! **ABF**

Let's talk some about Package Bees for a moment. Packages are how many start out, expand and/or replace some colonies lost over winter. Until recent years, package bees were relatively easy to find and with an occasional exception, they performed very well. In recent years however, package bees have become quite a gamble. They are still fairly easy to find, but only if you order early. They certainly aren't very affordable anymore. Package bee prices seem to outpace any inflationary rate. The most heartbreaking thing after paying too much and having to travel to get them... they may underperform or fail prematurely. Last year one bee club in Colorado threatened Class Action Lawsuits against several package breeder/suppliers because of low performing packages. That suit never came to be, but can you imagine the market repercussions if it had?

Package viability is a concern these days one hardly used to have to worry about. First consider where all those bulk package bees originate? Generally they are surplus survivors from the California almond pollination event. There they were exposed to a variety of pesticides, diseases, mite loads, stresses from

President's Corner

By: Greg Swob

trucking and weather, etc. After surviving all that, then they are shook into package cages, introduced to a new queen and trucked again. 40%+ winter losses in northern California this winter caused many smaller package dealers to limit or not shake at all due to their winter losses. Drought conditions in northern California the last few years have taken away from the normal quality environment those bees and queens are raised in on the west coast. It's almost a wonder one can get packages at all!

Another package factor: queen quality and health. A well-mated, healthy queen blended in with ill bulk bees is potentially a doomed package. Several years ago, rains during mating time in Northern California kept the queens from mating properly. More recently, years of drought have brought general colony health into decline. This can domino into poorly mated queens for different reasons. How does a backyard beekeeper know the health of a package? About all one can gauge is hopefully see a minimum of dead bees at the cage bottom and how full the syrup can still is. A new study may shed some light on the issue:

Colony Failure Linked to Low Sperm Viability in Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) Queens and an Exploration of Potential Causative Factors- <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0147220>

Look the article over from the link. It is possible for an otherwise well-mated queen to have received unviable or unhealthy sperm as a result of drone pesticide exposures. The bottom line is – most queen viability issues are not any fault of the breeders or suppliers. But, perhaps the entire queen breeding/transporting process needs to be reevaluated. The bottom line is that keeping bees healthy is risky at best today.

If you like to take fun risks, join my friends & I at the **KSU Parachute Club** some weekend and fall to earth at 120 mph! I decided to skydive many years ago, but didn't take my first plunge until recently. It's time to knock some more items off that bucket list! Having rafted level V white waters, hiked/camped in bear country, hunted rattlesnakes, and a few other fun adventures, this seemed to fit right in. Do I fear falling to the earth? Sure! But it involves intense instruction.

Instruction is where your KHPA meeting conferences come into play. The odds are stacked against our bees and they need all the help we can get. Lots of great information, advice and knowledge is here. We may never get beekeeping back to the 'good old days' but we do need to learn how to cope with today's issues. Please join us this fall at Hays, October 28 & 29, 2016. You will be glad you did!

Greg

Kansas State Fair—Honey Judging 2016

Division 205 - Kansas Honey

Open to all beekeepers, young and old. All jars must be plain and free of labels. No inner seals in lids.

Class		Premiums Awarded		
01	Art Design in Beeswax	15.00	10.00	5.00
02	Beeswax	15.00	10.00	5.00
03	Beeswax Candles	15.00	10.00	5.00
04	Chunk Honey	15.00	10.00	5.00
05	Comb Honey	15.00	10.00	5.00
06	Crystallized / Creamed Honey	15.00	10.00	5.00
07	Cut Comb	15.00	10.00	5.00
08	Extracted Honey; Dark	15.00	10.00	5.00
09	Extracted Honey; Light	15.00	10.00	5.00
10	Frame of Honey (shallow or medium depth)	15.00	10.00	5.00
11	Honey Gift Package	30.00	20.00	10.00
	Best of Show (**also receives a plaque & rosette)-above classes	15.00		
12	Youth, Under 19 years - Extracted Honey; Light	15.00	10.00	5.00
13	Youth, Under 19 years- Extracted Honey; Dark	15.00	10.00	5.00
14	Youth, Under 19 years- Honey Gift Package	15.00	10.00	5.00
15	Youth, Under 19 years- Frame of Honey (shallow or medium depth)	15.00	10.00	5.00
	Youth Best of Show (**also receives a plaque & rosette)	15.00		

Best of Show: **The Kansas Honey Producers Association** will present an engraved plaque to the beekeeper with the greatest total number of points as determined by the judges. In open class division you must enter three or more classes to be eligible for this award. You must enter at least (2) two classes in their division.

Entry rules and regulations, with tips and scoring for entries :

Only (1) one entry per exhibitor per class allowed.

Extracted Honey: also known as strained honey, is honey that has been separated from the comb by centrifugal force, gravity, straining, or other means. Shall consist of (3) three one-pound Queenline or Classic jars, no inner seals in lids. All jars must be plain and free of labels.

Chunk Honey: shall consist of (1) one strip of cut comb (full length of the jar) in three (1) one pound, round glass jars.

Comb Honey: (3) three "rounds" "cassettes" (clear lids both sides, no pressure sensitive label), or "basswood sections" (cardboard carton with window, no producer name or address).

Cut Comb Honey: (3) three comb honey cut and placed in commercial plastic comb honey boxes (4" x 4").

Crystallized/Cream Honey: Shall consist of three glass jars between (8) eight ounce and (16) sixteen ounce. All jars must be the same.

Gift Package: Items must be clearly labeled, as they would be offered for sale -except any marks identifying

the entrant must be obscured, removed or fictitious. Fictitious labels must meet legal label requirements. Gift package, if wrapped, must be able to be unwrapped for judging. Homemade food items must have recipes attached. Gift packages must contain at least 50% producer made items. A 3" x 5" note card must be included that states the intended use of package. Youth gift packages may not contain alcoholic beverages.

Beeswax: (3) three pound block, geometric shape, not decorative, smooth surface top and bottom.

Beeswax Candles: Four molded or dipped candles. No non-beeswax enhancement allowed, except wick.

Art Design in Beeswax: Entries must be (2) two pounds minimum weight, 100% beeswax: may be more than one piece but must be firmly joined together: may be cast in mold or carved. No non-beeswax enhancement allowed.

Frame of Honey: Shallow or medium depth. Frame must be in a display case, both sides visible. Display case available upon request.

Neither The Kansas State Fair nor The Kansas Honey Producers are responsible for items that are lost or stolen.

Extracted Honey

- Density (water content above 18.6% and below 15.5% will be docked) (10 pts)
- Absence of Crystals (10 pts)
- Cleanliness -Without lint, dirt, wax or foam (40 pts)
- Flavor (points will be reduced for flavor affected by processing) (10 pts)
- Container appearance -travel stains (10 pts)
- Accuracy of filling (20 pts)
 - a. Headroom .112" maximum, .318" minimum with no visible gap between honey level and cap.
 - b. Uniformity of filling

Comb Honey

- Uniformity of appearance (20 pts)
- Absence of uncapped cells or perforated cappings (20 pts)
- Uniformity of color (10 pts)
- Absence of watery capping (15 pts)
- Cleanliness and absence of (15 pts)
- Freedom from granulation and pollen (10 pts)
- Uniformity of weight (10 pts)

Cut Comb

- Neatness & Uniformity of cut, absence of liquid honey (20 pts)
- Absence of watery or perforated cappings, uncapped cells & pollen (20 pts)
- Cleanliness of product absence of travel stains, crushed wax, & crystallization (20 pts)
- Uniformity of appearance (color of honey capping structure, thickness of comb) (20 pts)
- Uniformity of weight (20 pts)

Honey Gift Package

- Originality / Creativity (20 pts)
- Quality of products (20 pts)
- Variety, i.e. other products from the hive (20 pts)
- Commercial appeal (20 pts)
- Neatness of workmanship (20 pts)

continued on next page

Chunk Honey

- Uniformity of cut (20 pts)
- Absence of watery cappings, uncapped cells & pollen (20 pts)
- Cleanliness of product / container (downgrade for travel stains, foreign matter, wax flakes, foam and crystallization) (20 pts)
- Uniformity of appearance in capping structure, color, thickness of chunks and accuracy and uniformity of fill (20 pts)
- Density and flavor of liquid portion of pack (20 pts)
 - a. Density (water content above 18.6% will be marked down)
 - b. Flavor (points will be reduced for flavor affected by processing)

Crystallized / Creamed Honey

- Fineness of crystals (20 pts)
- Uniformity and firmness of product (25 pts)
- Cleanliness and freedom from foam (affected by processing) (20 pts)
- Flavor (points will be reduced for flavor affected by processing) (15 pts)
- Color (10 pts)
- Accuracy of filling and uniformity (10 pts)

Beeswax

- Cleanliness (35 pts)
- Uniformity of appearance (15 pts)
- Color (15 pts)
- Aroma (15 pts)
- Absence of cracks and shrinkage (15 pts)
- Appropriate weight (5 pts)

Beeswax Candles

- Cleanliness, color quality of wax (25 pts)
- Design and overall appearance (25 pts)
- Finishing details (Molded: wick trimmed to 1/2" flat finished bottom- Dipped: last drip left on) (25 pts)
- Uniformity of appearance and shape (25 pts)

Art Design in Beeswax

- Color (straw to canary yellow) (20 pts)
- Cleanliness (25 pts)
- Artistic Merit (25 pts)
- Originality (25 pts)
- Appropriate weight (5 pts)

Frame of Honey

- Uniformity of appearance (25 pts)
- Absence of uncapped cells (20 pts)
- Uniformity of color (15 pts)
- Absence of watery cappings / perforated (20 pts)
- Cleanliness and absence of travel stains (20 pts)

Continued on next page



Division 400 - Make It With Honey - Sponsored by The Kansas Honey Producers

Exhibits may contain some sugar, but this must be listed as a recipe ingredient. When ingredients are equal, preference will be given to exhibits containing the least amount of sugar. Whole loaves of bread and cake must be exhibited. To view hints and recipes, visit www.honey.com. *Class 01 may use any type 1/2 pint jar. Sauce may be picked up by 8:00 pm same day as judging or left for display.

Judging Criteria: Usage of Honey- 40%, Taste Appeal - 40%, Appearance - 20%

Class

Premiums Awarded

01	*BBQ Sauce made with Honey (refrigerated only)	15.00	10.00	5.00
02	Chocolate Honey Cake	15.00	10.00	5.00
03	Cookies made with Honey (6)	15.00	10.00	5.00
04	Honey Cake	15.00	10.00	5.00
05	Honey Quick Bread	15.00	10.00	5.00
06	Honey Whole Wheat Bread	15.00	10.00	5.00
07	Muffins made with Honey (6)	15.00	10.00	5.00

News from January 2016 American Honey Producers Assn. Mite Issues ***Jim Kellie***

I just wanted to inform you of what I learned at **AHPA 2016(American Honey Producers Assn.)** meeting. If you remember I have discussed the idea of "Varroa Bombs" being a concern. This was a topic for several of our scientists all coming up with the same answers. I indicated that when I tested a hive or two or three in the yard that when I did discover mites at too high a count, I treat the entire yard.

It turns out that what they have found is that the mite has adapted. Instead of dying with the hive as in the past, the mite now does a mass migration to other colonies. When mite levels get to high there is a threshold where the bees become indifferent and quit (in essence give up) on trying to continue being a productive hive. Most likely through change in Pheromone the mites sense this and thus begin to migrate out in masses. The colony will die anyway by this point. They then go to the nearest colonies (which in my case could be in the same yard) be it yours or the nearest neighbor and invade those colonies. They found that this becomes so overwhelming to those colonies that they in turn collapse as well. The migration continues as the mites spread out and eventually there is a few in each hive to get them through the winter. They are thinking this explains why even though we may treat a yard or treat some colonies. There still may be a huge loss of colonies and are from mites not other issues. So if you test some hives and you have a 5 count, the colony may have already tipped to the dark side and mites will or are doing a mass migration.

When we are teaching our new-bee's and smaller beekeepers about mites, Instead of just treating that one hive, treat every hive that is within distance. Unfortunately this may include the neighbor's colonies as well, if they are across the street or road. (which we can't do)

Here lies the issue as we have so many that are in the 'no treatment' category and they may become walking time bombs. Scientists were telling us that the no treatment hive will generally go 18 or more months before collapsing. This is why it is confusing for the no treatment group. They are under the assumption that if the hive survived the winter it is doing great. Right up until late summer or next winter. This one we cannot fix but using education during classes may help.

I thought I would let you know so you can be informed if you want to teach this in your classes or while mentoring. Also, we are hearing of a lot of colonies dying in the northern part of Kansas. Sounds like it could be both mite or Neonicotinoids. I heard from my beekeeping Neighbor to the north of me yesterday. He had 300 and now has 22 colonies. OUCH!

Jim

Joint meeting this next January 2017 of the American Honey Producers Assn. & American Bee Federation in Galveston, Texas. Jim Kellie & Tim Tucker invite us to form a large Kansas contingent for this conference.

Youth Grant Successes

Becky Tipton

The KHPA Youth Grant Program is now in year two and some pretty terrific things are underway.

The Abilene 4-H group known as the Brown's Busy Bees, are going strong and had a great representation at the NE KS Funday. The membership is partly continuing beekeepers from last year's original group and some new kids who joined in this year. Rogan Tokash, the grant leader, graduated from Abilene High School in May. Rogan has been accepted at Kansas State University and will be studying entomology along with Animal Science in Industry. At least he won't be too far from home when Brown's need an extra hand. But several of the group's members have purchased hives of their own this year and are excited about the prospects of a honey harvest. But, all is not clover and sunshine in Abilene. Brown's member, Chase Swanson had his hive destroyed by a recent tornado. Chase was really disheartened by this loss (Chase's family lost their entire home, farm buildings, and equipment too!) KHPA members Joli Winer, Cecil Sweeney, and Steve and Becky Tipton stepped up to replace Chase's lost hive. That's beekeeping with a heart.

The Olathe Boy Scout Troop also was well represented at the Funday. Both their hives wintered well. The Boys Scouts were able to split each hive and now have 4 hives! (The additional woodenware and queen bees were paid for by the Boy Scouts.) Three of the five original scout/beekeepers returned for year 2 and 5 new scouts have joined the apiarists. One of their split hives swarmed (we've sure had a lot of that in our part of the state). But, they also have one full super of honey on another hive. Good job Scouts!!

Our 2016 Youth Grant recipients, Stringtown 4-H in Burlington are doing great! Their mentor, Danny Decker, reports good colony growth. The 4-Her's are meeting regularly and learning how the bees do what they do. Keep it up Stringtown!

Just a reminder to all Grant Groups—Sign up for State Fair is ready on line. If you have questions about your group's work schedule, you can visit with Kristi Sanderson, State Fair Coordinator. Each Grant Group must plan to work at least one complete 4 hour shift at the State Fair (Adults and Kids). Each Grant Group must have entries in the youth categories for the honey show as well. It is not too early to start planning your gift basket, bee photography, or looking for that perfect frame of honey comb. If you need a display box for your frame of honey, you should contact Kristi Sanderson and reserve one for your entry. If you have questions about any of these areas, please contact your mentor, or Becky Tipton for further information.

Becky

Grant applications for next year are available on KHPA website. Please share information with groups in your area who may benefit from a KHPA grant!

Western Ks Region News

Combining the Northwest and Southwest regions into one larger group has proven successful. Attendance is good and we've outgrown a couple of former meeting locations. May blessed much of the area with what farmers call 'million dollar rains'. Very gentle and deep-soaking rains fell over much of western Ks. The wheat crop in a large portion of Kansas was in deep peril prior to those rains, hence the million dollar expression.

Other results have been an abundance of sweet yellow clover, vetch, Echinacea and many other wildflowers blooming. The Western Ks. groups will meet June 26 at 2:00 PM for beginners and 3:00 PM for the remainder of the group. Jim Kellie is the guest speaker with a presentation on queen rearing fundamentals. The gathering is at 1401 S. Main St., Scott City at the local Midwest Energy Inc. office. As always, the gathering is open to the general public.

Most report that bees are doing much better than this same time last year. Rains in May and milder temperatures this spring deserve much of the credit.

Many of us share concerns over Neonicotinoid insecticides even if they are being used to treat crop seeds not normally visited by bees. Colony losses have been reported in apiaries near those fields right after planting. Some beekeepers experienced colony losses right after wheat was planted last fall. While no direct scientific evidence is available to put the two coincidences together (seed wheat treated with neonics and hive losses), it may be another potential bullet in the smoking gun that should be studied.



Rogan Tokash and the KHPA grant group 'Brown's Busy Bees' inspecting colonies located at Browns Retirement Home south of Abilene—May 14, 2016.

Activist groups claims scientists are being silenced and harassed; new petition calls for resignations

Bob Berwyn

Editor's note— Bob Berwyn is an environmentally active author from Colorado. This story is a true eye opener! **Dr. Lundgren** was one of my favorite presenters at the **Western Apicultural Society Conference** in Boulder last October 1-3, 2015. For more **Bob Berwyn** -

<http://summitcountyvoice.com/author/bobberwyn/>

A broad coalition of food safety, consumer, and environmental groups is pressing the U.S. Department of Agriculture to come clean on its research into the environmental impacts of **bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides**.

According to a petition delivered to the USDA on March 10, high-level officials in the USDA have been censoring their agency's own scientific reports when the findings don't align with the interests of the pesticide industry. The groups also say the USDA is silencing and harassing scientists who are warning of the dangers of neonicotinoids. The petition drive started after a senior USDA scientist filed a whistleblower complaint. Research by **Dr. Jonathan Lundgren**, a USDA entomologist, suggests that neonicotinoid insecticides adversely affect pollinators, and that industrialized agriculture practices, such as the use of genetically modified crops, harm soils and beneficial insects.

In Aug. 2015, **Lundgren** was suspended by the agency after submitting a paper showing how a widely used pesticide affects **monarch butterflies**. In a timeline on the whistleblower complaint, the watchdog group [Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility](#) explains how the actions against Lundgren appear to follow a pattern of harassment.

Even worse, **Lundgren's** whistleblower complaint was rejected by a USDA review panel that claimed the agency has a right to prevent scientists from speaking with the media and the public. "This review confirms that what occurs inside USDA does not resemble what anyone else would consider 'scientific integrity,'" said PEER director **Jeff Ruch**. "Inside USDA, politics determines what scientific work will see the light of day."

In their petition, the coalition of citizen groups characterized the issue like this: *"In particular, scientists whose work has touched on issues related to neonicotinoid insecticides and glyphosate are reporting a pattern and practice of harassment, censorship, and suppression. Just last month, we were pleased to see that USDA Inspector General Phyllis Fong said the USDA will open a broad investigation into this issue², but we were surprised to also see that your agency rejected a complaint by one of its top entomologists regarding scientific suppression."*

Fong said the investigation was launched based on a "significant volume" of complaints by agency scientists about censorship and interference with research on subjects that USDA upper management deemed sensitive.

"How will public confidence in the integrity of USDA science be enhanced when all of the reviews are kept secret?" said **Ruch**, explaining that a stated objective of the policy is to "ensure public confidence."

Lundgren has authored several papers discussing the risks of emerging genetic modification techniques to non-target organisms and subsequently did a series of interviews on his research. In March 2014, Lundgren reviewed a report that was critical of the overuse of certain insecticides and cited scientific literature and expert commentary to support claims that neonicotinoids had

questionable economic value for farmers.

In his complaint, Lundgren says that, within a week of the interviews, "improper reprisal, interference and hindrance of my research and career began in earnest."

Among the reprisals were restraints on media contacts, a misconduct investigation that interfered with his research. **Lundgren** described the process as one that "coerced and intimidated his research group, disrupted research plans and derailed my career trajectory."

More from **Lundgren's** original whistleblower complaint: *"Five of my eight term employees have had their employment threatened, hampered, or were dismissed unexpectedly since March 2014. I have never had problems of this nature or to this extent as I have since talking with the press in late March."* **Dr. Johnathon Lundgren**

The USDA also interfered with **Lundgren's** ability to travel to speak at international conferences on pesticides.

In advance of a trip to a European conference on food safety, senior USDA officials told Lundgren that he couldn't speak freely about his research and that the slides for his presentation would have to be approved by numerous agency officials — none of whom had any expertise on the topic.

Lundgren summarized:

"Since late March, I have been subjected to a sudden but escalating pattern of impediments and disruption of my scientific work, restraints on my ability to communicate with scientific colleagues, as well as the media and a growing professional toll that is making further scientific work in ARS untenable." **Bob**

Northeast Region News

The time leading up to, and the month of June, have been very busy for many members of our Northeast Chapter. On June 4, the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Lawrence was host to the NEKBA Bee Fun Day 2016.

With 298 officially registered, walk-ups got total attendance close to 400. With a backdrop of excellent weather, everyone was treated to great informational presentations, a swarm demonstration, vendors offering quality products, a good lunch with excellent homemade honey ice cream, and a silent auction with close to 100 items donated by local members and vendors with all proceeds going to our Youth Scholarship Program.

Our great line-up of presenters included the likes of Dr. Marion Ellis, Dr. Jamie Ellis, Dr. Chip Taylor, Judy Wu-Smart, Petra Ahnert, Natalia Bjorklund, and several of our local members. All of the speakers offered a tremendous amount of information pertaining to the honey bee.

Special thanks to the members of the NEKBA board who organized the day including Joli Winer, Cecil Sweeney, Steve and Becky Tip-ton, Robert Burns, Andy Nowchek, Kristi Sanderson, Christy Milroy, Jo Patrick, Alex Pantos, and Dana Ronmelfanger. In addition, thanks to many of our faithful members for their hard work and efforts in set-up, offering help throughout the day's activities, and cleaning up at day's end. Without the tireless efforts of our board members and volunteers from our chapter members, we could not have put on such a first class, first-rate program. I know personally that I am already looking forward to what the 2017 program will look like.

Chad Gilliland, NE Regional Director

Backyard Beekeeping Question-

Why does honey crystallize?

That is a great question and one we are all asked regularly. Honey is a highly concentrated sugar (or carbohydrate) solution. Typically, it contains more than 70% carbohydrates and less than 20% water. It is obvious that in percentage terms, sugars are predominant. This means water in honey contains much greater amounts of sugars than it can naturally dissolve. This overabundance of sugars makes the solution unstable. Since everything in nature including honey seeks balance, crystallization is a natural phenomenon. It occurs when glucose separates from water, after which glucose remains in the form of crystals and the initial concentrated solution gets into a more balanced state. Different nectars will dictate how long honey lasts on the shelf before crystallizing. Cotton & Canola go fast, Tupelo and Fireweed (neither found in Ks.) take a very long time to crystalize.

Do you have a **BBQ**? Send it in to the editor who will pass it on to the backyard beekeeper for an answer!

News from North Central Kansas Region

We have had a significant amount of rain in May, which is enhanced the amount of pollen and nectar which has been available to our bees. Early in May we experienced a cold spell that stressed out some hives which didn't have enough stores to meet their growing hive. Now, with Clover and other plants blooming, the bees are very active, growing in numbers, and unfortunately, also swarming.

We continue to work on increasing the number of contacts of beekeepers in North Central Kansas, so that we can grow our fellowship and bring in more and more beekeepers to share their stories, encouragement, and knowledge by experience.

Jim Morford, KHPA North Central Regional Director



“Twins” in Ellis Co. a few miles from the Editor’s home. Fortunately, no hives were lost in this storm. Other disasters have struck Ks. beekeepers this year however. A young beekeeper in South Central Ks. lost all of his colonies during one of the prairie fires Kansas experienced this spring.

MANHATTAN — **Kansas State University** recently awarded three high school seniors the K-State Civic Leadership Scholarship from a group of 10 finalists. The scholarship rewards students who are making a difference and demonstrating creativity by developing projects and programs with a lasting impact on those they serve.

Each year a committee of campus and community representatives works to evaluate applications to find outstanding examples of civic leadership by high school seniors. Following is a list of our recipients.

2016 winners

First place recipient: Gracen Jarrett - Washington, IN

Second place recipient: Rogan Tokach - Abilene, KS

After receiving a youth scholarship from the Kansas Honey Producers Association, Rogan was able to pursue his passion of beekeeping. Rogan thought about selling honey and putting it towards saving for college, but instead decided to start Honey for Heifer to assist Heifer International. People would donate \$10 per pound of honey and all of the money would be donated to Heifer International. The money donated to Heifer International has been used to purchase hives in Honduras and Guatemala. Each hive costs \$30. The recipients of the hives are able to use the bees to increase yields on their coffee crops in addition to having honey and wax to sell. To date, Rogan has purchased 165 hives. He has also given numerous presentations about his project and the many benefits of bees and honey.

Third place recipient: Katie Buhler - Pratt, KS

Winners of the Kansas State University Civic Leadership Scholarship



Dr. Chip Taylor of K.U. speaks at the KHPA conference in Pittsburg—'Is there a Smoking Gun causing our bee health woes?' 3-5-2016

KHPA conference update

Kansas Honey Producers 2016 Fall Meeting Friday and Saturday October 28 & 29, 2016

Hays, Kansas

Meeting: Whiskey Creek Wood Fired Grill

Meeting Room 3203 Vine St, Hays KS

Sleeping Rooms: Days Inn 3205 Vine St, Hays KS

Now that our NEKBA Funday is over I can turn my attention to the KHPA meeting. I just retired in the last month and my time management skills that were never very good are now even worse!

The fall meeting for the Kansas Producers will be held in Hays Kansas. We got a great sleeping room rate at the Days Inn for \$65 plus tax per night. The hotel is adjacent to the Whiskey Creek Wood fired grill meeting room. The hotel rate includes a mini refrigerator and free Wi-Fi. It also includes a deluxe continental breakfast. It is a pet friendly hotel and charges \$10 per night for pets. Call the motel at 785-628-8261 to reserve your room.

I'm still in the process of getting some guest speakers but so far have engaged one of my favorite people as our primary guest speaker. Those of you who subscribe to *Bee Culture* may read the column *The Bottom Board*. The author of that column is Ed Colby. Ed is a beekeeper from Aspen Colorado. He will be here with his gal, Marilyn. (That's what he calls his girlfriend). He promises to be an educated and entertaining guest speaker-what more could we want? He actually keeps his bees at 9000 feet and has been a beekeeper since 1995. He has about 60 hives and just retired from his job on the ski patrol. He sells honey and pollen and rents his bees for orchard pollination. I can't wait to meet him!

Full details and the program will be available in the next *Cappings*. As I add guest speakers I will have them added to our website at kansashoneyproducers.org.

Future meetings: KHPA Spring Meeting, Thursday and Friday March 10th and 11th 2017 Topeka KS Our guest speaker will be Dr. Keith Delaplane, Director of the Honey Bee Program at the University of Georgia.



Jump on over to Hays, Ks. Oct. 28-29 for the best bee conference in the Midwest!

Whisky Creek Wood Fired Grill meeting room—3203 Vine St.

Days Inn motel rooms—785-628-8261—3205 Vine St.

Details to be announced as they deploy at our website

www.kansashoneyproducers.org and in Sept. Cappings

A book of bee poems

If Bees Are Few

Virgil wrote of bees, as did Shakespeare, Burns, Coleridge, Emerson, and Whitman, among many others. Amid the crisis befalling bees—hives collapsing, wild species disappearing—the poems collected in *If Bees Are Few* speak with a quiet urgency of a world lost if bees were to fall silent.

A portion of the proceeds will go to support research on bee and ecosystem health at the Bee Lab at the University of Minnesota. If the Kansas Honey Producers Association would like to purchase a quantity of books, please be in touch with our sales manager Matt Smiley mwsmiley@umn.edu.

For more information on this title please visit <http://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/if-bees-are-few>

If Bees Are Few

A HIVE OF BEE POEMS



JAMES P. LENFESTEY, EDITOR

Foreword by Bill McKibben

Afterword by Marla Spivak

Kansas Pollinator Protection Plan Committee

This is not a KHPA committee but is very important to help protect our bees. It is a newly formed committee represented by a variety of members and organizations represented designed to help establish guidelines for the **Kansas MP-3 or Managed Pollinator Protection Plan**. At present, our state's **MP-3** consists only of 'voluntary registration of bee colonies with Drift Watch®'.

On April 25, 2016, 28 members met at the USDA office in Manhattan, Ks., each representing a variety of associations. **Greg Swob** represented KHPA; KHPA member, **Debbie McSweeney** represented Bee Friendly Farming Certificate Program®. Other attendees represented organizations including- Audubon of Kansas, EPA, KSU Extension, Organic Growers Assn., Xerces, NRCS, Department of Army, US Fish & Wildlife, Ks. Dept. of Transportation, Monarch Watch and many others. Both Native and Managed Pollinators should benefit from this committee's efforts.

One news item to report is Kansas Dept. of Transportation has joined five states in planting pollinator habitat along I-35 to help support the Monarch Butterfly. Since 2008, K-DOT has been planting milkweed along roadways. Several milkweed varieties are vital to Monarch larvae as their primary food source. This planting will no doubt be similar to the pollinator-native wildflower planting along western Ks. highway 283. It is great to see K-DOT embracing pollinator friendly plantings and mowing routines.

Committee News

As committee work progresses, we will keep KHPA members informed. Meanwhile, if you have any specific concerns, suggestions or recommendations about this group, please feel free to contact Debbie McSweeney or Greg Swob to make sure our messages are heard.

KHPA By-Laws Committee

Members: **Randall Braden, Chad Gilliland, Carolyn Simpson, Greg Swob & Becky Tipton**. The committee's purpose is to study the KHPA Constitution and recommend amendments or revisions subject to member approval at general conference business meetings. The committee's work is in early stages and has no results to report at this time. If you have suggestions, please contact any committee member.

Pollinator License Tag Committee

The Pollinator License Tag Committee is not a KHPA committee, but will be working with KHPA and other groups interested in protecting pollinators in Kansas. Members are: **Connie Hopkins, Ks. Representative Sue Boldra, Greg Swob and Will Osborn**. This group is in the progress of reviewing Kansas statutes to determine the proper channels in order to hopefully get this specialty license tag into reality. The tag has been promoted at various regional beekeeper club and group meetings, Ks. Pollinator Protection Plan Committee, etc. A majority of people seem favorable, but much more promotion is needed. We are looking for partner organizations to join in to help promote the tag to meet state issue number requirements. The partner groups will share in royalty fees generated by the tag sales. Any & all royalty funds generated shall be applied toward pollinator education. Protecting and promoting our pollinators, both native species and managed bee colonies is the goal. Again, if you have any suggestions for this committee, please feel free to contact any committee member.

KHPA Best Practices Committee

We are looking for more volunteers for this committee. One of the interesting tasks this committee will do is assist beekeepers wanting to place hives in their hometowns. We have had a number of conversations with leaders of several communities and beekeepers who were trying to obtain permission to keep bees within city limits. We are planning to work on a couple model ordinances for communities to use as a base. We have sample ordinances from various progressive communities to share with council/commissions. Some are short and simple and some that are rather detailed to use as base ordinance guidelines.

After a few conversations with the City Clerk and Attorney, we are pleased to report that Andale, Ks. is now allowing a beekeeper to place hives in town. We must have been able to convince the city clerk and persuade the council to act in favor. We are surprised to see that a progressive community such as Lawrence does NOT permit beekeeping! Hutchinson and Newton embrace the hobby, while both communities have specific restrictions and requirements on hive management.

*Thank you to all who are volunteering on these committees. If you have an interest in helping with any of them, please contact me. **Greg***

Of Interest!

Colorado Master Beekeeper Program

The purpose of the **CSBA** (Colorado State Beekeepers Assn) **Master Beekeeper** program is to provide an infrastructure whereby beekeepers of all levels can increase their beekeeping skills and knowledge on a continuous basis. This will be accomplished within a system that objectively and formally acknowledges those accomplishments at each level. Furthermore, the master beekeeper program seeks individuals to share knowledge and support best management practices through active mandatory outreach programs within the state and local beekeeping organizations. As such, the program structure and content will be modified to keep up with current scientific information that support best management practices and the outreach needs of Local and the State beekeeping organizations.

This program seeks individuals who have a commitment to follow a rigorous training program and maintain a dedication to volunteer in community outreach programs.

The program will be divided into three levels: Apprentice, Journey person, and Master Beekeeper.

Apprentice Level

- *Before applying, you must have kept bees for at least 1 year.
- *Submit the application form with the required documentation and non refundable fee.
- *Be a good standing member in The **Colorado State Beekeeping organization**.
- *Be a good standing member in a Regional Beekeeping organization (if available).
- *Must score 80% or higher on a practical Field Test.
- *Must score 80% or higher on a written examination.

[Download the CSBA Apprentice Application](#)

[PDF]

Journey person Course Registration: \$125.00

Apprentice Level Field Test: \$40.00

www.coloradobeekeepers.org

Do you have- Stories? Advertisements? Questions? News? Backyard Beekeeping Question?... Send them to: Cappings Editor Greg Swob—1569 Toulon Ave. Hays, Ks. 67601 785-639-7766 gswob@mwenergy.com

OXALIC ACID



Oxalic Acid is a recently approved Varroa Mite treatment on the US market that has many beekeepers interested. Despite its recent approval in the US for managing varroa mites in honey bee colonies, it has been widely used in Canada and Europe for several years as an effective treatment. *Many beekeepers are turning toward Oxalic Acid because of its low price and an efficacy of 95%+.*

The most effective time to treat a hive with Oxalic Acid is when a hive has little to no sealed brood. Oxalic acid will only affect mites that are phoretic (exposed or on bee's bodies) and not those in the reproductive phase within capped brood. Therefore, Oxalic treatments will have no effect on the next generation of mites emerging with young bees within capped brood. Treatments in the spring or summer can be accomplished by generating brood breaks or on packages and swarms when no brood is present. **A Fall/Winter treatment is ideal as this is a natural brood break for the colony There are three approved methods to treat with Oxalic Acid:**

Solution Method: Dissolve 35 grams of Oxalic Acid in 1 liter of a 1:1 sugar to water mixture (weight: volume). It is easier to dissolve oxalic before adding the sugar. Smoke bees down from the top bars and use a syringe or applicator to trickle 5 ml of solution onto bees in each occupied bee space within each brood chamber. Use no more than 50 ml per colony whether the bees are in a NUC, single or multi-story brood chamber. Under certain unfavorable conditions (e.g. weak colonies, unfavorable overwintering conditions), this application method may cause some bee mortality or overwintering bee loss.

Vaporizer Method: Apply only to outdoor colonies with a restricted lower hive entrance. Seal all upper hive entrances and cracks with tape to avoid escape of Oxalic Acid vapor. Smoke bees up from the bottom board to help prevent bee mortality. For each brood chamber, place 1g Oxalic Acid into vaporizer. Follow the vaporizer manufacturer's directions for use. Insert the vaporizer apparatus through the bottom entrance and ensure entrance is sealed. Apply heat until all Oxalic Acid has sublimated. Best practice is to leave vaporizer in hive a few minutes after disconnecting from power source.

Spraying Package: Spray brood-less package with 1:1 sugar water solution (without Oxalic Acid mixed) at least 2 hours before spraying with Oxalic. This fills their stomachs to reduce ingestion of Oxalic Solution. Mix 1:1 ratio sugar water with 35 grams of Oxalic Acid (same ratio as Solution Method). Use 3 ml of solution per 1,000 bees. For a 2 lb. package, use 21mL of solution. For a 3 lb. package use 31mL of solution. Apply solution evenly on both sides of the package. Store the bee packages in a cool darkened room for 72 hours before hiving.

Tidbits



Not just 'any' Waggle Dance at KHPA spring conference in Pittsburg.

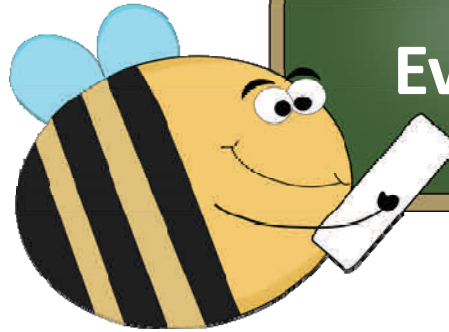


Heartland Beekeepers Assn. of Southeast Ks. raffled off hives decorated by local school art class students at Spring 2016 KHPA conference. www.hbasek.org



A Pheasants Forever Youth Pollinator Planting project at Cedar Bluff Reservoir, March 12, 2016.

Upcoming Events



Kansas State Fair—KHPA booth

www.kansashoneyproducers.org

Sign up for your volunteer time slots on line— located in the Pride of Kansas Building for over 30 years!

Western Apicultural Society

Annual meeting and honey conference

Oct. 13—15, 2016— Honolulu, Hawaii

www.westernapiculturalsociety.org

2016 Fall KHPA Meeting

October 28 & 29, 2016 at Hays, Ks.

Whisky Creek Wood Fired Grill—3203 Vine St.

www.kansashoneyproducers.org

Reservations at Days Inn 785-628-8261

American Honey Producers & American Beekeeping Federation 2017 meeting

Jan. 10-14, 2017 Galveston, Tex. Galveston Island Convention Center—for information: www.abfnet.org

www.ahpanet.org



Ft. Hays State University is home to one of the few college beekeeping clubs in the U.S. FHSU installs their first hive package near the campus community gardens. Bee package was donated by Swobee Honey Farm. **Mike & Amy Jensen** are club advisors.

Kansas Honey Producer's Association
Cappings
R Burns
7601 W. 54th Terrace
Shawnee Mission KS 66202

Address Service Requested

2015 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 \$21.50 _____

Bee Culture Magazine (formerly "Gleanings") 1 year subscription \$25.00 _____

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.