

CAPPINGS

The Official Newsletter of the Kansas Honey Producers Association

www.KansasHoneyProducers.org

Bee Lives Matter

Begun in 2016, Bee Lives Matter has raised funds to help support several organizations involved in beekeeping and research. In the past, funds have been donated to SAVE Farm®, Bee Informed Partnership, Ryan Engle (graduate student researching pollen at Ft. Hays State University), Bee City USA,

Ft. Hays Beekeeping Club and other individuals and groups who work toward education and the good of the beekeeping industry in general.

This spring, BLM offered a raffle for a Dadant Bench extractor to raise funds for a deserving group who does beekeeping research. Cheryl Burkhead was the lucky winner of the extractor at the Spring 2020.

KHPA meeting held in Hays, Ks. A total of 16 tickets were sold at \$10 each during the raffle. Greg Swob who began Bee Lives Matter added to the funds and has sent Scientific Beekeeping a donation of \$250 to use in their research. The extractor was originally used as a ‘loaner’ along with a fairly complete honey extraction set-up for newer hobby beekeepers in Central & western Ks. This was loaned out with a request for a small donation to BLM, (now BHM) for its use and to help provide a balance of funds for repairs and replacement as this equipment wears out. The extraction kit has around \$500 or items for newer beekeepers to use for harvesting their honey. This hobby can be expensive for a beginner and the kit has almost everything needed but the honey and containers for extracting. New beekeepers can eventually save their money to purchase their own equipment. Included- a new four-frame extractor, bucket with bottling valve, Pierce hot knife, rolling punch un-capper, Comb Capper, bucket filter liner, double stainless steel screen colander, apron, tub to hold components and frames.

Due to some potential political correctness controversy, BLM will be renamed this year to Bee Hives

Matter. The name will be eventually become a registered trademark and work to continue raising funds

to help those who benefit beekeepers. “I want to sincerely thank everyone who bought a ticket and

help our (BHM) cause of supporting others in this industry.”

Greg Swob



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August 2020**

OUR PRESIDENT BECKY TIPTON



Cappings Spring 2020—distance beekeeping

To say that the times we are going through are “challenging” is like saying a marathon is strenuous. Pretty obvious. We are having to rethink so many aspects of our lives that we’ve just taken for granted. Go to the grocery store: where’s my mask, should I wear gloves, take my own bags? (the grocery store may forbid that), pay with cash? (I don’t want change back). UGH. How soon will this be over? The experts I listen to say, not soon. We may soon resume some more normal activities but not everything as it was. The nicest compliment I have received recently was, I like your mask.

The good news is that as beekeepers, we are probably pretty independent people. I like the Zen of going through a beehive while the sun shines down on me and the bees. But, learning beekeeping without the support of a mentor or a local club poses a real challenge for some of us. Thankfully, some of our universities have accepted the challenge and are offering a plethora of classes through on-line services.

Pollen Colors of Selected Plants	
Plant	Approximate Pollen Color
Apple	yellow white
Plum	light grey, grey
Pear	red yellow
Raspberry	white grey
Asparagus	bright orange
Siberian squill	steel blue
Dandelion	red-yellow, orange
Horse chestnut	anatolia
Blueberry	red-yellow, orange
Allium	light olive
Aster	reddish yellow
Borage	blueish grey
Marigold	orange
Joe Pye Weed	bistre green
White sweet clover	auburn
Poppy	blueish grey
Phacelia	navy blue
Goldenrod	golden

Dr. Juliana Rangel from Texas A & M sent us notice of a wonderful learning opportunity. They have prepared a series of 6 “remote meetings.” These are being presented by some of my favorite beekeeping speakers! They are FREE. You just have to register and they will send you a link to the meeting/talk. You can see a flyer with details here: www.aces.edu/go/1196 (Some of these events have passed but you can see/hear recordings by visiting the host site.)

The University of Nebraska, Dr. Judy Wu-Smart and her crew continue to support us all with terrific instructional materials. Check out what’s up at UNL: <https://entomology.unl.edu/bee-lab#tab7>

The University of Minnesota has always presented the best information for keeping our bees healthy. Gary Reuter has produced GREAT videos. <https://www.beelab.umn.edu>

MAAREC (Mid-Atlantic Agriculture Research & Extension Consortium) covers an amazing array of beekeeping information. <https://agdev.anr.udel.edu/maarec/>

I posted a notice of 7 free (or very low cost) on-line beekeeping classes anyone can access from their computers. Most importantly, these are UNIVERSITY BASED instruction—that means they have science behind them. If you’d like other opportunities, I have a document titled “Resources for Better Beekeeping” compiled by the NE KS Beekeepers group, listing favorite books, periodicals, videos, and more—free! If you’ll email me, I’ll gladly send it to you. Steve and I learned beekeeping over 30 years ago, no internet, and I didn’t know that beekeeping classes or clubs even existed. I read a book, actually, I read several books. And, then I got my bees and I kept reading. In this time of pandemic, we must be more self-sufficient. We must do for ourselves what we’ve expected other to do for us. We can produce beautiful, healthful honey for our families and our communities. But, for now, please be very careful. Beekeepers and farmers are so important; we don’t want to lose any of us to this horrid virus.

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Youth Grants Julie Cahoj

The groups participating in this year's KHPA Youth Scholarship Grant have been faced with some unprecedented challenges. It's one thing to learn the art and science of beekeeping. Having to learn it with Kansas' current restrictions on travel and gatherings places new demands on the groups. Necessities being the mother of invention the Argonia Hilltoppers 4-H club, Prairie Hills Middle School, and Coffey County 4-H club have found innovative ways to stay connected yet remain apart.

According to Kathy Lamb, Harper County Extension, "With the Covid pandemic, our club is not able to meet face-to-face. However, the club leaders are able to check on the bees and give the Argonia Hilltoppers 4-H members an update and keep them informed via Face Book and video. We are trying to keep the learning process going. Hopefully soon this will be over and we can resume to gathering around the bees and make it a hands-on learning process again. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the grant. Our club has learned so much from this project. It is a lifetime lesson for us!"

From Victor Wilkinson, "The Prairie Hills Middle School (PHMS) Bee Club sold grilled hotdogs at a couple of basketball games to raise some cash so we could buy bee friendly ground cover including yellow clover, alfalfa, Dutch clover, crimson clover, and buckwheat. The Bee Club was going to plant those but since they closed the schools, I planted them. It hasn't rained since they were planted so I haven't seen any germination. Hopefully, the bees will find our bee yard delicious. One hive that didn't make it through the winter but the other hive is doing outstanding."

Finally from Lauren Hull, 4-H Program Assistant, Coffey County, "We got the hives put together the weekend before the K-State restrictions were enforced, so the kids got to meet and use power tools. YAY! It was pretty amazing to watch them work together, really." Lauren sent out videos of the two potential hive locations and club members were expected to weigh the pros and cons of each site to choose the best location. According to Lauren's last update the bees have been installed and are doing well.

Currently KHPA is NOT accepting application for the 2021 KHPA Youth Grant. Please go to <http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org> and click on the

Southwest Aimee Dikeman

Greetings from SW Kansas! The weather has been pretty fickle here from super warm 80+ days to frigid nights in the teens. We have planted our cold hardy garden gems and anticipate them to take off very soon! The honey bees have been busy as well. The hives came through winter strong and ready to go! I have been feeding them for several weeks now and they continue to build up and draw comb like good little workers do! Red bud trees and Bradford pear trees are in full bloom, my husband and I spotted a small patch of clover in a CRP field yesterday. It seems a little early for clover but so many things are off lately! We remain dry and pray for rain as the farmers crops and spring blooms need a good drink! Plenty of drones are emerging as well this last week. Today I found a couple swarm cells in a weaker hive. As always they keep me on my toes when I least expect them too! So back to work we go as time marches on and the bees don't wait!!

North Central Nikki Bowman

As April ends, it's once again been a busy bee month.

It's one of the most active times of the year with our bees as we check for queen quality, wonder how long we'll have to feed syrup, make splits, watch for queen cells, graft queens, check for mites, and replace lost colonies.

And then there's the extra things Mother Nature throws our way to make it more interesting. Last year it was flooding, this year a pandemic and late freezes. Thankfully, the "work" with bees is a great way to get outside and relax while maintaining a distance from others. The biggest challenge at times has been to find sugar on the shelves without wiping out the supply for others. Venues for selling honey have had to adjust, but many seem to be finding a way to get our sweet goods to the public safely.

While the weather has been much drier this Spring in North Central Kansas, a few hours after the wild plums bloomed in my area last week, usually my first big nectar flow and a great honey, it froze and killed the blooms. A second big freeze a few days later sealed the deal: no plum honey for me this year, keep feeding syrup. So it goes.

Queen cells are also making a later appearance in our area, with queen cups just starting to appear in mid-April, a great reminder that it's time to make splits and equalize resources between colonies if not already done. And get those swarm traps up in case the bees had ideas of their own. They usually do.

Ample drone cells are a good reminder to scratch a few open and check for visible varroa, then do a mite test before the nectar starts flowing and things really get busy. We may often think of varroa treatment as being a late-summer task, but late April and early May are excellent times to take action before populations are large, temperatures rise and honey supers are on.

Having spent the last couple of years delightfully hosted at Jim and Wanda Morford's lavender farm, the North Central group has found a new meeting space at the Salina Library's McKenzie Center classrooms, 308 W. Elm St. Our April meeting was cancelled this month as we try to keep everyone safe, but we have a special hands-on meeting tentatively planned for June 14th at 2 p.m. at Rolling Hills Zoo. Just in case that doesn't work out, we'll make Plan Bee. Such is beekeeping.

To be added to our email list about upcoming meetings, contact me at nikkibfarm@gmail.com.

Beekeeper of the year Julie Cahoj

It's an understatement that Covid-19 has permeated every aspect of our daily lives. It has changed how we work, socialize and dress. Honestly, who would have thought surgical facemasks would rise to the level of haute couture? No doubt it has impacted our lives. But let's take a moment to take a breath and remind ourselves of some of the constants in our lives. It's spring, the bees are being bees and there are some outstanding individuals who deserve recognition for all they have done for the art and science of beekeeping. KHPA is now accepting applications for Beekeeper of the Year. Go to <http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org> for all the details and to download the application.

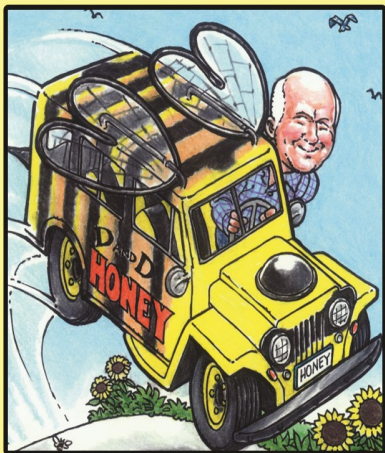
Northeast Region Chad Gilliland

The last 30-45 days have been a challenge for each and everyone. In the Northeast Region, our board of directors felt it imperative that we keep our members engaged in the organization. To do so, we have worked diligently to increase communicate with everyone. Besides our monthly newsletter and NEKBA Facebook page, board members spent hours putting together some great hands on videos shot in advance and then put everything together into a Zoom online club meeting. Timely information such as “Installing Package Bees”, “Making Splits”, and “Proper Methods for Releasing Queens” was covered . Throughout the hour and a half presentations, we averaged around 55-60 members who were able to interact and ask questions remotely. Although not the most personal means for club members to meet, we were able to come together and share our love and passion for honeybees and continue to expand our learning curve. No matter how many times you listen to the basics, I still learn and take away several nuggets of great tips and pointers for continuing my successful beekeeping adventure. A big thank you to Becky Tipton, Cheryl Burkhead, Steve Messbarger, Robert Burns, and Jolie Winer for presenting and everyone else behind the scenes that helped to bring our virtual online meeting to reality.

Northwest Region Brenda Seader

The northwest region continues to be dry. Redbud, currant, henbit, and dandelion are finally blooming. In the town of Sharon Springs, fruit trees are blooming, as well as early spring flowers, but cold snaps have shortened the bloom period. Many beekeepers in the northwest area are installing packages and nucs into their apiaries.

I invite you all to check out our new Facebook page, Western Ks Beekeepers. Scott Davis built the page, and does the maintenance; thank you, Scott!



BEEK KEEPING HAS BEEN MY LIFE FOR 50 YEARS. I USE MY BEE CAR TO DELIVER HONEY. I AM NOW 85 AND IT'S NECESSARY TO DOWNSIZE MY LIBRARY AND IT IS NOW ALL ON ONE COMPUTER PROGRAM WHICH I CAN E-MAIL TO YOU TO SELECT BOOKS THAT YOU WANT TO PURCHASE - PLEASE CALL ME AT 620-665-5615 AND PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. THE SELECTION GOES BACK TO 1623.

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2nd Vice President Kristi Sanderson

At the writing of this article the plan is for the Kansas State Fair to take place September 11-20. As you all know things change a lot anymore and sometimes they change rapidly. If the state fair does take place I'm sure there will be many changes made for the health and safety for all involved. I'm holding off on setting up Signup Genius at this point. If the fair is still a go in June then I will get it up and running. Who knows what this year will bring. Crowds could be small and sales slow or everyone may be ready to get out and crowds could be large. We will just have to be flexible and do our best.

Every year we run out of bee pollen to sell so if anyone wants to sell pollen to KHPA contact me and we will work out the details.

On another note don't forget to prepare honey entries for the state fair honey show. I'm already hearing some county fairs in Kansas are canceled so this will cut back on entries in other areas of the state fair if it still happens. Let's be prepared to fill up the open class honey show area again this year. Details to enter will be printed in the next newsletter on the ins and outs of how and when to register to submit entries.

Thank you for your patience as we are in this wait and see mode.

With the help of the board it has been established Cappings will go out on the following specific dates:

1st Issue Jan 20th, in time for Spring Meeting

2nd Issue May 1st, in time for Funday information

3rd Issue Aug. 1st, in time for Fair information

Special edition Sept. 1st for the fall meeting, sent out by Jolie.

4th Issue Nov. 10th, Fair results and Fall meeting announcements.

ALL articles need to be submitted 10 days prior to publication.

If you have an article you would like to submit, please send it to Stephanie at GGshoneybeea@gmail.com

The Kansas Honey Producers Fall Meeting
Friday and Saturday, October 23 & 24 2020
Best Western Wichita North, 915 E 53 rd St N, Wichita KS

For information, questions or suggestions please call or text Joli 913-593-3562

Or email joli@heartlandhoney.com

The Kansas Honey Producers may hold their fall meeting at the Best Western Wichita North Hotel, 915 E 53 rd St N, Wichita KS. Call to make 316-832-9387 Hotel reservations by October 1 st our room rate is \$89.99 mention the Kansas Honey Producers to get this rate.

The KHPA Board will decide later this summer if we will hold an “in Person” meeting, a Zoom meeting or cancel the meeting. It is too early to know what will be going on at that time.

Please note that there will be a separate mailing/email about the meeting that will be sent in September.

At this time please set aside the dates of October 23 and 24 2020, note that his is the 4th weekend in October.

If you have a topic that you would like to hear please contact Joli at 913-593-3562 or joli@heartlandhoney.com. I do have a breakout room set aside so that we could have some small group topics/workshops. If you have a suggestion, I beg you to let me know.

Cont. on pg. 9.

NEKBA Funday 2020 Update

Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association is cancelling it's annual Funday event for June 6, 2020.

It is uncertain if the progression of the virus would allow for large groups to gather and that venues would be available. Refunds will be given to those that have pre-registered.

The decision was made to look ahead to June 5, 2021.

Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Walsh – Graduated Fall 2019 with her doctorate from Texas A &M where she worked with Dr. Juliana Rangel. Her undergraduate career was at Ripon College where she majored in biology and English, with a minor in secondary education. Liz has been a beekeeper since she was a young high school student, when she started her own beekeeping operation, Queen B Honey. Liz’s dissertation research primarily focused on in-hive pesticides, such as active ingredients in miticides, and how they impact queen health, physiology, and behavior. Liz is currently a postdoctoral researcher at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, where she is working with Dr. Steve Pernal on diagnosing honey bee stressors.

Dr. Tammy Horn Potter: In 2014, Potter became the KY State Apiarist. Her primary goals as apiarist are to document hive health, promote economic development, and provide education and outreach. To date, she has partnered on a USDA grant to promote pollinator and cerulean habitat in Eastern KY, a USDA-APHIS Honey Bee Health Survey grant director on Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, and been awarded the 2010 North American Pollinator Protection Advocate Award.

Tammy is quite the author she has blazed a trail across literary and beekeeping circles in 2005 with the publication of “Bees in America: How the Honeybee Shaped a Nation”, a masterful compilation and study of fact, folklore and history of the honey bee. She hasn’t stopped since. She followed with *Beeconomy : What Women and Bees Can Teach Us about Local Trade and the Global Market* (University Press of Kentucky, 2011) exploring the relationship between women and bees around the world along with the impact and potential of the female aspect intrinsic to beekeeping. Last year she *Flower Power: Establishing Pollinator Habitat*.

The next three meetings will be held in Wichita (unless we can’t hold meetings) at the Best Western North in Wichita. Mark your calendars for the future meetings:

Spring 2021 Friday and Saturday, March 5 and 6 2021

Fall 2021 Friday and Saturday, October 22 and 23 2021

Kansas Honey Producer's Association
Robert Burns
7601 W. 54th Terrace Shawnee Mission, KS 66202
Address Service Requested



Kansas Honey Producer's Association Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone# _____ Email 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 names: _____

Youth Membership (18 years of age or under) \$7.50 _____ American Bee Journal 1 year subscription \$24.00 _____

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. Email: rburnshoney@gmail.com

Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66202 Phone# 913-831-6096

The Kansas Honey Producer's Association is a nonprofit 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.

Renew On Line
www.kansashoneyproducers.org