



# CAPPINGS

## The Official Newsletter of the Kansas Honey Producers Association

[www.kansashoneyproducers.org](http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org)

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

### Special points of interest:

- Legislative Update
- President's Corner
- Regional News
- State Fair
- Fall Conference

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### The Legislative Committee 2023 by Jim Kellie

We were able to have a Zoom meeting with Tessa Beeman who oversees the Specialty Livestock for Kansas in August. We were able to meet with her in person at the State Agricultural meeting in Manhattan. We had some very good conversations regarding education on the importance of our honey bees to the many crops and pastures of our Kansas agriculture.

Another topic was pesticides and the need for education with beekeepers, farmers, and applicators regarding the need for communication with each other. One topic of discussion would be a quick checklist guide of common pesticides used in the field. It would contain the effects to the bees and how long the half-life of the pesticide is, so the beekeeper would know if the hive can just be covered, or if they need

to be moved to another location for a few days.

Lastly, was the need for a University of Kansas State Extension Office honey bee/pollinator person. This person could coordinate education, beekeeping information, and assist in research. We hope to continue to work with the Kansas Agriculture Department, Secretary Mike Beam, and Livestock Specialist Tessa Beeman.

President Becky Tipton and Legislative committee member, Steve Tipton, along with myself were able to attend the Kansas Ag Summit meeting in August. We were able to share our views in committees on the importance of honey bees, pollination, and the many crops our bees pollinate. In addition, we had very important hallway and table conversations with

others in agriculture.

We did a lot of talking and answering questions about honey bees, bee pasture, and the pollination of certain crops which help the farmer and ranchers in their pasture. We were all a little hoarse by the end of the day but felt like a lot of the Ag community were made more aware of the honey bee and beekeepers which play a big role in the agriculture community which feeds America.

I hope to see you all at the fall meeting in November. Please feel free to find me or one of our legislative committee members if you have some ideas or have issues to discuss.



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Becky Tipton

Within a week's time, our thermometer recorded temperature highs near 90 degrees only to drop to 32 degrees a few days later! We have cracks in the ground so big, a person could break an ankle. Everything needs water yet we have no right to complain because so many have experienced weather-related crises much, much worse. I understand there is a group of ill-informed citizens who believe that we have passed the point of no return. That, in fact, we are already doomed. They use this as their excuse for doing nothing. That is absolute rubbish! We make decisions every day to support our planet, our environment, our wildlife, and each other. We can make a difference and affect meaningful change. Climate change is frequently listed as a pressing threat to bee survival (all bees). We know there are other threats to bees and take meaningful steps to provide a less toxic, more nutrient rich environment. What changes are you willing to make to support a healthier climate?

At this next month's meeting, we will have some significant business of the club to address. Because of changes to the way our webpage is being handled, we need to update our governing rules. But the biggest governing issues revolve around our representation and officers. These positions are not paid, nor do they receive remuneration beyond the satisfaction of knowing their work supports bees and pollinators. Not being paid in anything but gratitude gives us a workforce dedicated to our association because of the love of the bees. A heartfelt thank you to two area representatives who have asked to be replaced this session. Thank you to Tiny Jackson from the Southeastern area. Tiny brought some good ideas to his region and organized a few swap meets and other bee-keeping events. Southeast area members, look among yourselves and choose someone to represent you who wants to become more active in our organization. Thank you, also, to DeeDee Gebhart. DeeDee was our western area rep and brought great enthusiasm to our board. DeeDee met with new beekeepers and encouraged them to try new things. Our western area beekeepers will want to find someone to continue DeeDee's work.

Sadly, we are losing an icon within the Kansas Honey Producers. Robert Burns, Treasurer, has asked to step down after 21 years of serving in that capacity. Robert does so much more than just 'keep the books'! Robert organizes the registration for all our meetings. He has meticulous records from every event. Robert is also instrumental in working behind the scenes at the Kansas State Fair. He manages all our zoom invitations and hosts meetings. This will be a difficult role to fill. I have asked Kristi Sanderson, Julie Cahoj, and Stepheni Phillips to serve as a nominations committee and find candidates to fill this important office. If you have a heart for the beekeeping industry and a little time to donate, please consider this officer position; contact one of these gals. Most importantly, I hope everyone will thank Bob for all he has done and let him know how much we have appreciated him.

Steve and I are presenting at the Omaha Bee Club this weekend. It's a young club but has great energy. I hope you all will plan to attend our November KHPA meeting. Greg and team have organized a terrific event. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Kansas State Fair. It is through that work that our registration for this meeting is again, amazingly low. (A portion of State Fair proceeds

helps fund our KHPA meeting.) Hope you'll join us.

Becky Tipton, President



The 2023 Kansas State Fair was once again a success for the Kansas Honey Producers. We sold more honey than we did last year and ran out of 6 flavors of creamed honey by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. As usual, comb honey was a big hit and we sold out by the end of the day on Thursday during the first week of the fair. We were able to contact prospective beekeepers by having someone down in the honey show area handing out flyers and answering questions. A demonstration was held every morning at 10 in the corner opposite the honey show in the back of the building. There was an educational space in the commercial area with the observation hive and lots and lots of fair attendees looked and asked questions. We had a child mannequin with a QR code to promote the youth grant program. I saw people scanning this with their phones, so hopefully we receive some great youth applicants from this. Many areas engaged fair attendees and provided places to carry on conversations about beekeeping and honey. As a group, we had several volunteers who bottled honey, transported items, cleaned shelves and counters, assembled counters and other fixtures, laid flooring, labeled products, organized shelves, sold products, handed out honey samples, sold honey straws (Oh, my goodness! - the people who buy honey straws), gave demonstrations, took inventory, disassembled counters, stored equipment, and on and on. The honey straw sales are always amazing. This year Steve Tipton made and donated 3000 and Cheryl Burkhead made and donated 1000 Kansas honey straws. Jane Kill used KHPA honey and made some straws as well. With all of these homemade Kansas honey straws, we didn't sell out until Friday. This is the longest time we have had honey straws available to the customer. At times, there were long lines of customers waiting to buy honey straws at both stands. This event couldn't happen without you. Thank you for giving your time and talent to make this a success and promote the Kansas Honey Producers.

## Honey Show

Thank you to all who submitted entries in the honey show. We had some very nice entries submitted. This year, Gary and Ginger Reuter, from Wisconsin, came to judge. Gary judged the honey and Ginger judged the bee's wax. Jim Kellie also helped out with handing entries over to the table to be judged and then putting them back on the shelves after being judged. Mark Mounce took the sweepstakes award and Benjamin Jeffrey took youth sweepstakes award. Congratulations to all who placed as we had some 1<sup>st</sup> time participants who won ribbons. Dave Korver from southeast Kansas won the coveted black label honey (best tasting). Don't be discouraged if you didn't place. Look at the judge's sheet that came back with your entry and make improvements based on comments and the score given in a particular area. If you have questions, don't hesitate to get with someone who is familiar with how honey is judged and get some guidance. Come back next year and strive to have an improved score.

Kristi Sanderson, 2nd Vice President

## News from Northeast Kansas

Beekeepers and honey bees are always at the mercy of Mother Nature. This is obvious to all of us. If you had not been concerned before about the weather forecast, once you become a beekeeper that will change. Soon you will find yourself tracking rainfall, checking what's blooming, or even noting the daily temperatures. We, in Northeast Kansas, are fortunate enough to have many nectar and pollen sources for a large portion of the calendar year. Without adequate and timely rainfall, it's not beneficial to our honey bees.

August and September have been great examples of why it's said, "Beekeeping is local." At the September Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association meeting, I overheard several folks mingling and comparing honey harvest results. Comments ranged from "worst year ever" to "my best year". There were several occasions this spring and summer where I, in Olathe, received rainfall and the other side of town remained dry. Beekeeping is local.

Like farmers, beekeepers pay close attention to the long-term weather forecasts. It is predicted that south of the Kansas City metro area is facing extreme drought conditions and above average temperatures over the next few weeks. Overall, it appears that we are in for a dry fall season. Sounds like the weatherman is just repeating the same forecast that we heard in July, August, and September. Adequate moisture in fall and winter will ensure plenty of spring blooms. Late summer trees were showing stress by displaying fall colors and leaf drop early. Stressed trees and shrubs may even produce a few blooms in the fall. Provide water, if possible, especially if planted in the last year. The effect of stress on trees can continue to show through next spring and summer.

There have been numerous community fall festivals, farmers markets, and events for beekeepers to market their products. More and more smaller communities seem to be planning fall events. In Northeast Kansas, we have a higher concentration of beekeepers than in other parts of the state. Some beekeepers may need to create opportunities to sell honey, soaps, and lotion products by approaching music festival organizers, sunflower field operators, or pumpkin patch owners. Volunteering at local events that promote similar interests to beekeeping is a way to let people know that you are there and have excess honey to sell. A few in northeast Kansas have worked hard to create their own agro-tourism business. One beekeeper who has done so is Chad Gilliland, who operates Next to Nature Farm, near Tonganoxie. Chad has worked hard to create events that would entice the public to visit during different seasons of the year. He also has a commercial kitchen available to others to extract their honey so that it can be commercially sold in stores. Sometimes you must create your own opportunities.

Becky and Steve Tipton have just wrapped up another year of beekeeping classes at the Shawnee North Community Center in Topeka. Classes are free but registration is required through the Shawnee County Parks and Recreation Department. Monthly classes will begin again in February and run through October.

Kristi Sanderson is the coordinator for the NEKBA beginning beekeeping classes. Class dates have yet to be determined. Watch the club's website, [nekba.org](http://nekba.org), for updates.

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association will be holding an election of officers this fall. There are numerous positions that will need to be filled. An election committee has been formed to scout potential candidates and encourage individuals to throw their hat into the ring. The election will be held at the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. All in-person meetings are held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, Lawrence, KS.

The NEKBA bee yard and teaching apiary at Pendleton's Country Market held its last open apiary of the year on October 8, 2023. Preparing the colonies for winter with mite checks, mite treatments,

applying entrance reducers, and assessing food stores were demonstrated.

Jo Patrick, Northeastern Region Representative

## North Central Region News

Hello Bee Friends,

With the record heat and drought in our area this year, these last two months have had a huge beekeeping theme: robbing.

I've had multiple weekly reports from alarmed beekeepers who have never experienced robbing before. Even for us with experience, it's been a remarkable challenge this year. It has affected not only hives out in the rural areas but also those in residential areas that tend to have more forage variety and availability in late summer. Even doing our best by reducing the entrances- a challenge with hot bearding bees, and providing water and syrup to hives of equal strength and food stores; once bees decide to rob another colony it can give you such a helpless feeling to watch. What may look like an orientation flights or swarm is soon ruled out when you see assertive bees trying to get up under the telescoping cover, into every seam, and fighting at the entrance. It happens fast, and sometimes you don't know about it until you find an empty hive with rough empty comb and wax crumbs on the bottom board.

There are preventative measures we can try; such as, turning a sprinkler on the attacked hive, keeping an open hive covered with a sheet while quickly working in it, and working in the evening as colonies end their foraging for the day. But sometimes it's a lost cause and we just have to take the loss, clean it up, and preserve the empty comb by storing it or giving it to other hives in need.

If you look at beekeeping as a continuous learning opportunity, it's definitely been a year of lessons. As we always say, hopefully next year will be better, and we'll apply our latest experience and knowledge.

Nikki Bowman, North Central Region Representative

## News from Western Kansas

We are in need of a Western region representative. If you are interested, reside in this area, and are a beekeeper, let us know by contacting one of our officers.



## South Central Region News

This year's State Fair is over with a great turnout for the Honey Show! Fall is here? Summer seems to not want to leave as temperatures have been in the 90's and very dry. It's a great time to pull those last honey supers and treat for mites. Some clubs in our area have had honey tastings at their meetings; sampling the many different flavors. Bee classes are also underway, so hopefully there will be more beekeepers starting this spring! Happy beekeeping!

Stepheni Phillips, South Central Region Representative

## News from Southeast Kansas

We are still in need of a Southeast area Representative. If you are interested, reside in this region, and are a beekeeper, let us know by contacting one of our officers.

## Scholarship News



Eight excited Chetopa FFA Members left for Hutchinson bright and early at 4AM on Monday, September 11th to work at the Kansas Honey Producers Association Booth (KHPA) at this year's Kansas State Fair.



Students were able to help with the sale of honey products and visit with interested fair patrons while promoting beekeeping. The big hit of the booth was the observation hive. Students enjoyed helping visitors find the queen and drones while explaining the job of each bee in the hive. Chetopa FFA Advisor, Jim Nave said, "This was a great opportunity for our young people to practice workplace skills such as salesmanship, public relations, and counting change back to customers." Students heard many stories from visitors about how they look forward to coming to the KHPA booth each year to buy



products and talk about honey bees with volunteers in the booth.

While the hives that were provided to Chetopa FFA by the Kansas Honey Producers Association are looking strong and healthy, they didn't produce enough honey to warrant any entries in the fair this year. The students are hopeful that they will be able to enter their own honey in the fair competition next year.

Members that worked the booth were: Mary Johnson, David Price, Izabella Nash, Gabe Robison, and Harrison Carter

Julie Cahoj, 3rd Vice President

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I was invited to speak at a regional beekeeper meeting in NW Oklahoma last weekend. Around 45 attendees were there, some were even from SW and Southcentral KS. That helps show a need for local groups which makes me realize that we have been a bit delinquent in Western KS on holding regular meetings since COVID. We will strive to remedy that for what is left of 2023 and going forward.

Jimmy Shobert, who spoke at the KHPA Fall 2021 conference on Probiotics for Bees, is one of the main fibers holding that Oklahoma group together. Jimmy is also dealing with cancer which was likely caused from his chemical exposures while serving in Vietnam. Please keep him in mind. He welcomes all prayers and said, 'I will beat this thing'.

Being a regional meeting, things were very informal. I appreciate that there was no timeline to be concerned with so if a talk took 45 minutes, 37 minutes, or an hour... no worries. A great assortment of buffet options from a potluck was our lunch. I do not see KHPA conferences going to potluck or such a loose timeline for speakers, but we do need to be flexible. Last Spring at KHPA, a couple of speakers could not attend at the last moment and one had to change days – flexibility is good. It's like going to an out-yard; planning a simple inspection but only to find a much bigger problem that needs one's attention. Plans do change sometimes, no matter how much preparation has gone into them. As the Wilbanks family of Georgia says, "Hey, this is beekeeping! There ain't nothing easy about it!"

I do not see any changes happening in the KHPA lineup, but we will be prepared in the event a late moment change happens. I also asked for some suggestions for speakers and topics and you delivered some great ones. We have had some great ideas that I hope we can cover to meet your needs. Feel free to send me any suggestions for speakers and/or topics you would like to see at the upcoming KHPA conferences. We also welcome any constructive criticism to help make them as suited as possible for our members' needs. We also welcome volunteers to join the Program Committee! Lastly, be sure to contact the hotel soon to reserve your rooms! Closing date is Oc. 20 on the discounted rate or as supplies last, whichever comes first. Courtyard by Marriott, 3020 Riffle Dr., Salina, KS. Nov. 10-11, 2023. 785-309-1300. Thank you!

Greg Swob, 1st Vice President

## Fall 2023 Kansas Honey Producers Association Conference

**November 10 – 11, 2023 at Courtyard by Marriott – 3020 Riffle Dr.  
Salina, Kansas.**

Block of Rooms at \$119 have been set aside until Oct. 20th. Call to make your reservations – mention Kansas Honey Producers to get discounted room rates. 785-309-1300.

### Thursday, November 9

8:00 PM– Executive Committee meets – general meeting room - open to all KHPA Members

### Friday November 10

8:00 – 8:45 AM Registration and Silent Auction Set Up

8:45 – 9:00 AM Becky Tipton, President KHPA – Welcome & Announcements

9:00 – 9:45 Dr. Frank Rinkevich – USDA Bee Lab Baton Rouge, LA: Amitraz Resistance  
Break – Bid on Silent Auction Items – Visit the Vendors

10:00 – 10:45 Julie Claspill, Ks. Dept. of Ag. – Licensed Food Processing Facility –  
requirements, tips...

Break

11:00 – 11:45 Dr. Judy Wu Smart – Topics on Varroa

11:45 – 1:00 PM Lunch – Bid on Silent Auction Items - Visit the Vendors

1:00 – 1 :45 Dr. Frank Rinkevich – Varroa-resistant Bee Stock: Pol-line and others  
Break

2:00 – 2:45 - Debbie Feyh – Feyh Seed Co., Alma, KS Pollinator Plantings for Kansas  
Break – Silent Auction Ends at 3:00

3:00 – 3:45 Dr. Judy Wu Smart – Pesticides and Bees

Break

4:00 Area Regions Meet – Nominations for Area Directors, Networking...

6:00 Dinner – Banquet – Special Guest Presentation – Awards – Fun

**Note: Timeline and Topics subject to change**



## Saturday November 11

8:00 – 8:45 Registration and Silent Auction Set Up

8:45 – 9:00 Becky Tipton, Pres. KHPA – Welcome & Announcements

9:00 – 9:45 – Dr. Judy Wu Smart – Topic to be announced.

Break

10:00 – 10:45 – Business Meeting – legislative Update

Break

11:00 – 11:45 – Topic/Speaker be announced.

11:45 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 1:45 – Dr. Frank Rinkevich – Benefits of Propolis to Bees

Break

2:00 – 2:45 – Winter Colony Preparation and Care

Break – Silent Auction ends at 3:00

3:00 – 3:45 – Open Panel Discussion

Adjournment. See you in 2024!

Registration form will be on the KHPA Website: [www.kansashoneyproducers.org](http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org)

Register and pay online: [www.kansashoneyproducers.org](http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org) or mail this lower portion with payment:

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$72.00 - Both days =\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch Friday & Saturday & Banquet

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$42.00 - Friday only \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch & Dinner included

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 – Saturday = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch

Ks Honey Producers Association annual dues (\$15) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ =====

Names attending - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Students under age 18 no charge- names: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Submit to: KHPA – Robert Burns – 7601 W. 54<sup>th</sup> Terr. – Shawnee Mission, KS 66202

Robert: 913-481-3504 , email: [rburnshoney@gmail.com](mailto:rburnshoney@gmail.com)

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

**Address Service Requested**

**2023 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 \$27.65 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bee Culture Magazine 1 year subscription \$32.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: KHPA or Kansas Honey Producer's Association or pay on line at [www.kansashoneyproducers.org](http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org)**

**Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66202 Phone# 913-481-3504 or email-  
 rburnshoney@gmail.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.