



CAPPINGS

The Official Newsletter of the Kansas Honey Producers Association

www.kansashoneyproducers.org

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

Special points of interest:

- Legislative Update
- President's Corner
- Regional News
- Beekeeper of the Year
- Value Added Program
- Spring Meeting

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The Legislative Committee 2023 by Jim Kellie

We have been on hold until after the election and now we know that our Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Beam, will remain at the helm. As far as I know, all department heads will remain the same.

I was invited to a Legislative committee meeting this week for our local area. The Legislature will go into session on Monday. (Jan.9th). Nothing, at this point, is on the horizon that will affect beekeeping. The only possibility might be a discussion on water issues for agriculture. That said, our committee will keep a watch on this session.

So, what are our goals in 2023 while looking through a very clouded and rainless crystal ball? First of all, we will continue to push awareness of honey bees, honey, pollination and the effects our industry has on agriculture in this

state. This includes going to this year's Agriculture Summit and to try, once again, to dance with the giants. We would like to work with the person in charge of the Specialty Livestock group, to see if there is a better subject for all groups involved at the meeting.

Secondly, we will continue to work with the ELAP program here in Kansas. President, Becky Tipton, and I spent a day with the USDA in Manhattan helping them to understand beekeeping and record keeping that we both could agree upon. As the drought continues to worsen, this program may become more important to our beekeepers.

And third, a small number of states have approved using Oxalic Acid as an extended-release application. At our board meeting, we

will discuss the possibility of getting approval in Kansas. This may be a big undertaking and will need some further exploration. This is certainly enough to keep us busy.

I hope to see you all at our meeting. On a crystal ball note, I did hear from a long-distance weather forecast that there is a possibility after March, the La Nina "MAY" switch to a neutral position, which could allow rain to pass through Kansas again. Beekeepers are always full of hope.



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Becky Tipton

Steve and I were fortunate to be able to attend the American Beekeeping Federation conference in Jacksonville, Florida. It was an amazing learning opportunity. It is one of the biggest, broad-spectrum events in beekeeping. We talked to a young beekeeper who had only kept hives for 2 years and to Dave Hackenberg, a commercial beekeeper for nearly 50 years! Beekeeping is that hobby for which you will never truly know everything; it is a continual quest for knowledge and the challenging changes that keeps it so fascinating.

Dr. Diana Cox-Foster, from the Logan, Utah, USDA Bee Lab, presented some of her research on a topic that seems to be gaining momentum in social conversations. Her topic: Understanding Stressors and Impacts on Bee Health—Synergies of Agrochemicals and Pathogens. In short, how do honey bees impact native bee populations? Dr. Cox-Foster's research is very complex. The overlapping areas affecting bee populations and bee health are hard to assess, hard to quantify, and hard to measure outcomes. Each layer of our environment impacts the others. We have over 4,000 bee species in North America with 80% of flowering plants requiring pollination to produce seeds. In this research design, Dr. Cox-Foster used bumblebee colonies with and without managed honey bee colonies. She assessed colony growth, pollen reserves, and viral loads.

Many of our native bees are very specialized—they visit only a single source plant. Honey bees and bumblebees are much more generalists. They visit and utilize a multitude of plants and pollen types. Not surprising, the stressors that are affecting our honey bees are the same stressors effecting our native bees. She saw increased presence of pesticide residues in pollen. Increased quantity of viruses was also detected. In her studies, she set up hives in areas of low pesticide use (high mountain pastures) and limited human impact. Dr. Cox-Foster's study showed very little difference in the success of the bumblebee colonies with or without honey bee colonies in the area. If the honey bees were thriving, so were the native bees. What did impact both? Grazing animals! In areas where there had been high bumblebee activity, the active foraging was reduced to almost nothing by the introduction of grazing sheep! Withing 24 hours, the sheep had grazed off the flowering forbs and left almost no blooming plants. Our honey bees might be considered the harbinger of our environment woes. We examine and study our honey bee because of their economic impact. If native bees are in peril, it is an environmental problem, not a honey bee problem. To attack honey bees is just killing the messenger. Their well-being (or lack thereof) is showing us needs and deficits in our native populations. To limit honey bees is akin to eliminating beef because of over grazing. The problem isn't with the beef, it is the result of the farmer practice.

Dr. Cox-Foster reminded us of the "4 P's" impacting pollinator health: Pesticides, Pathogens, Poor Nutrition, and Parasites. To this we might add, poor beekeeping practices as a threat to our honey bees as well as our native pollinators. In these environmental challenging conditions, planting drought tolerant plants is more important than ever! Drought tolerant plantings improved bee health and hold fallow ground during extreme drought conditions.

In related research by another scientist, the presence of viruses alone wasn't problematic for the bees. It was the presence of the virus in conjunction with pesticide stress and/or poor nutrition and poor forage. A monoculture diet is not healthy for the generalist bees (honey bees and bumblebees) and is a death sentence for our specialist bees. As we approach Spring, consider making your corner of the world a more welcoming and healthier zone for all our pollinators. Lists of drought-tolerant and pollinator-friendly plants for your area of Kansas, can be found through the Xerces society as well as other locations. Dr. Cox-Foster's personal recommendations: Phacelia, Rabbitbrush (a shrub), and Horsemint. All are excellent choices.

Becky Tipton, President



2022 Adult Sweepstakes Winner
Kristi Sanderson, Olathe



2022 Youth Sweepstakes Winner
Jazzie Brown, Hutchinson



The KHPA Booth received the Longevity Award and Reserve Grand Champion for Inside Exhibit at the 2022 Kansas State Fair. Awards were showcased at the Fall Meeting in Salina. Special thanks to those who donated their time and talents to make the booth so successful this past year.

News from Northeast Kansas

Kansas is no stranger to roller-coaster temperature fluctuations in winter. This winter has been no exception. Many, in NE Kansas, took advantage of the mild temperatures after Christmas to visit their colonies; checking food stores and applying supplemental food as necessary. A few beekeepers took the opportunity to treat their colonies with an oxalic acid dribble to knock down mite populations.

There have been mixed reports on the success of popular mite treatments that are commonly used in our area. Is it the queen's genetics? Is there overuse of particularly favored mite treatments? Did I wait too late to treat? These are some questions beekeepers probably need to ask themselves as they assess their colony's health. However, it is certain that high mite counts will be devastating to a honey bee colony.

Kristi Sanderson and her committee have been preparing for the Beginning Beekeeping Class and Beekeeping Year 2 and Beyond Class. All classes will be held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper St., Lawrence, KS, Building 21. The Beginning Beekeeping class will be spread out over two days. January 28th is scheduled to be a full day followed by a half day on the 29th. The Year 2 and Beyond class will be held February 25, 2023. For those who live out of the area; Country Inn and Suites, 2176 E. 23rd St., is nearby. Reservations can be made by calling (785) 727-1825. To find out more about the classes offered and to sign up, visit www.nekba.org.

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association is also planning their annual Fun Day on June 3, 2023. Dr. Jamie Ellis will be the keynote speaker. Watch for further details on the club's website, www.nekba.org.

Jo Patrick, Northeastern Region Representative

North Central Region News

Hello Bee Friends!

A growing group of North Central Kansas beekeepers met on January 8 at the Rolling Hills Zoo, in Salina. While it was too cold to open the hives, we had a good opportunity to discuss various beekeeping issues; winter feeding, making splits, and sourcing queens.

My goal for the group this year, is for everyone to have another local beekeeper they can go to for an extra set of eyes, a second opinion, or an extra pair of hands. Having another beekeeper close by that you can call upon, can be a colony-saver when you're in need of a frame of brood for a queenless hive or equipment to hive a swarm. Texting pictures and questions is so useful for beekeeping assistance. Sometimes just having someone nearby to help is invaluable. Find someone nearby, reach out to those with less experience to help guide them, or ask for help if you've been going it alone. Bee a friend. Beekeeping is easier, more successful, and much more fun, when shared.

Our next meeting at Rolling Hills Zoo will be Sunday, May 21, at 2 pm. The meeting is free and typically lasts two hours. All are welcome to join us. We will hope to have some excellent Spring weather to inspect the hives together.

Nikki Bowman, North Central Region Representative

News from Western Kansas

This time last year it was only a dream, an idea, and a hope. I had fantasized for years about being a beekeeper. It's crazy. Why do we take so long to follow a dream?

Admittedly, life itself gets in the way, and then one day you just say, "Ok, no more procrastinating, you can do this, pass or fail, you will chase this dream, learn this stuff, and step on to this new trail."

In November of 2021, I gave myself the first gift; knowledge. I joined the bee club while attending the KPHA fall meeting. In December, I had a plan for where my bees would call their home. Due to the lack of a tree line on my place, I hired my neighbor to help me build a yard fence around an old cinder block shed so they would have some protection from the elements and a place to put my gear.

By February, the yard was complete and I'd ordered the first packages. I was making up my mind about how to acquire the hives. It was a matter of whether I had time and supplies to make them or order them the first time. I decided that my time was valuable because it was not as if I had any to spare.

I purchased 4 cedar wax-coated hive bodies and 2 supers as kits with foundation that needed to be assembled. This helped with time and education of the parts and new terms that comprise the hive basics. By the spring KPHA meeting, I was beginning to decipher the language of beekeeping and felt more confident in a conversation.

In search of a mentor, I had to step out of my comfort zone and ask a local beekeeper for help. In doing so, I gained a friend and an encyclopedia of new and necessary information. He helped me install my colonies into their new homes on the 3rd of April 2022. Spring passed quickly while watching the bee's do the work of building everything needed to maintain this living organism that is the hive. Funny how you can never know how much you will love something until you know.

Midsummer was so dry you had to water weeds to get a bloom and yet the bee's found a way to make honey. There was a necessity to build feeders for supplemental feeding. I burned up a good pot on the first batch of syrup. Sugar makes charcoal if you walk away long enough! I watched how easily and quickly food reserves could be used up.

There are many times you push past your fears and anxiety when learning to be a beekeeper. One of these is putting a miticide in your hive to prevent mites from destroying your bee populations. It is daunting even if it's necessary the first time you do this. I will never forget trapping bees under my pant legs, stung and trying to roll them up, to let them out, and calmly reassemble the hives and walk away. There was such a big difference in the behavior of the hives as the old bee's died and the winter bees took over the operation. Where I had learned to be unabashed at handling frames full of honey and bees, the winter bees were the first to buzz my face in a rather aggressive threat. As the weather returned to overnight lows below freezing, there were sugar cakes to make to feed the cluster of bees in the center of the hives.

A full year has passed since my first step toward this adventure and I've attended my 3rd KPHA meeting. Christmas approaches and I begin looking forward to some time to study and build, plant, and plan as my focus is redirected toward Spring.

There is a beginner beekeeping class in the works at the Hays library in late Jan. or early Feb. according to Greg Swob. The bees have made it to the first of the year in Hays and WaKeeney deep freeze of 2022. Keeping an eye on the next couple of deep winter months.

DeeDee Gebhart, West Region Representative

South Central Region News

Although there are no events to report, clubs have been discussing tasks such as hive checks, winter feeding, and preparing for new hives in the spring. Mite testing and treatment options continue to be at the forefront of talks. Information is shared about making products with wax, propolis, and honey. The Kansas Forest Service has a program where you can purchase shrubs and trees that our bees can utilize. Time to start ordering packages, nucs, and queens for Spring. Happy beekeeping!

Stepheni Phillips, South Central Region Representative

News from Southeast Kansas

A beekeeper in Burlington, KS has opened a coffee shop along Highway 75 and sells his honey in the shop. We are working with 2 individuals in Allen County, 2 in Coffey County, and 1 in south-central Texas. 2 additional individuals have expressed the desire to learn about beekeeping; 1 in Coffey and another in Osage. I will be working with beekeepers on a one-on-one basis once the weather warms. We are going to investigate a bee yard with 5 hives in Coffey County that has not been inspected in 3 years. There have not been any meetings in the northern part of our region but the Pittsburg, KS group has been gathering.

William 'Tiny' Jackson, Jr., Southeast Region Representative



2021 KHPA Beekeepers of the Year: Mark Mounce & Stephanie Brown

2022 KHPA Beekeeper of the Year: Cecil Sweeney



Western Kansas Hive Dive

This photo was taken by Emily at Shiloh Vineyard near Voda, KS, this past summer. Several years ago, while in high school, Emily and her sister, Abigail, received a scholarship from KHPA. Their dad, Tracy Buchholtz, enjoyed working with the girls and the bees during this time. After they completed the scholarship, he continued with beekeeping. Tracy and his wife Jessica now have seven or eight hives.



The fourth-grade class of Rolling Hills Christian School, Lakin, KS painted the hives of this Slovenian bee house as part of an art class. A local woodworker/beekeeper built the bee house and a retired friend built the hives. During this time, the students learned about bees. With very few bee hives in Kearny County, this was a real novelty.

Cold, snowy days give people time to scroll through their pictures with longing for those summer days spent outside with the bees.



Left: Mel Augustine's 1978 attempt to trap a swarm while serving in the military. Not, really.

Below: A more recent photo of Mel trapping a late day swarm in Ellis, KS. Yes, really. With age comes wisdom.



Julie Cahoj, 3rd Vice President



The following Chetopa FFA Members are excited to learn about beekeeping: Izabella Nash, Gracie Schertz, Marayah Dollison, David Price, Kolton Kloer, Isabel Lawson, Jackson Lawellin, Tyler Beck, Logan Holsinger, Corven Walker, Mary Johnson, John Barlett, Chandler Mcgowan, Nichole Adams, Linkon Harvill, Grace Lance, Mia Mcgowan, and Advisor Jim Nave.

Last year, Chetopa FFA Advisor, Mr. Jim Nave, was working with member, Grace Lance, in starting her Beekeeping SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) when Lance came up with the idea to incorporate other students into the learning process. Nave and Lance learned about the KHPA (Kansas Honey Producers Association) scholarship at a beginning beekeepers' class which was held last winter in Columbus, Kansas. Lance felt that this scholarship was just the right opportunity to get other chapter members involved in beekeeping. Interests vary among the members; some want to learn how to raise honey bees, while others are interested in the honey extraction process. All are enthusiastic to learn about the marketing of honey products. Chetopa FFA currently owns a four-frame honey extractor and all the necessary equipment needed to process and market honey. With the help and generosity of the KHPA scholarship, students will now be able to raise honey bees on their school farm. Chetopa FFA is excited to work with mentors, Dave Korver and Rhonda Heston from Altamont, Ks, in learning about the basics of beekeeping. Dave and Rhonda are current KHPA members.

Chetopa, Kansas is located in Labette, County in the S.E. corner of the state. It has a population 921.



The Kansas Honey Producers Association- 3rd Thursday, ***Extracting More \$\$\$ from Your Hives***, is at 7pm CST on Thursday, January 19th by Zoom. The January program will be **“Beeswax Cleaning, Beeswax Dipped Candles, and Fire Starters”** - Cecil Sweeney, Joli Winer, and Jo Patrick present.

If you have never registered for the Zoom presentations, go to www.kansashoneyproducers.org to register. Please do not re-register if you have already registered- you will be sent the link. Membership is \$15 per year. You will receive an email before the program with a link to register. If you registered before, or a NEKBA member or a KHPA member, you will receive the link each month but it may be asked to register again.

These programs are being recorded and will be available on our website, under 'Archives' <http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org/archives.html>

Upcoming Programs:



Thursday, February 16th to be determined



Thursday, March 16th **Bees and Agritourism**

Need Bees? Honeybee Packages available late March/early April 2023. We can help with healthy and competitively priced packaged bees. Early bees get a quick start on spring flowers.

Reserve yours now - they sell out fast!

Package consists of – 3 Lbs. Bees + Mated Queen + can of syrup feed + transport cage. Bees to be placed in your prepared Hive. Hive is not included with package – BEES only.

Convenient pick up at: Hays – Salina – Newton

Choose Your Mated Queen at time of order: Italian * Carniolan * Buckfast

\$152.50/package - Cash- check- money order (Sorry, no card sales)

Discounts for returning 2022 customers. Taxes included.

Swobee Honey Farm

Greg Swob

1569 Toulon Ave. - Hays, Ks. 67601

For more details and pre-order, call, text or email: 785-639-7766

gswob@mwenergy.com

Spring 2023 Kansas Honey Producers Assn. Program – March 10 & 11, 2023
Courtyard by Marriott – 3020 Riffle Dr. – Salina, KS
Room Block reserved – call the hotel 785-309-1300 to make reservations
Program for the KHPA Spring 2023 Meeting

KHPA Spring 2023 Friday, March 10, 2023

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 8:00-8:45 | Registration. Set up - Silent Auction Items |
| 8:45-9:00 | Welcome & Announcements: Becky Tipton, President |
| 9:00-9:45 | Allen Amor – Insurance for your Bee Hobby/Business - American National Property & Casualty Insurance Co |
| 9:45-10:00 | Speaker TBA - Package Bees & Nucs |
| 10:10-10:30 | 20- minute break. *Break* Visit the vendors * Silent Auction Bids |
| 10:30-12:00 | Meagan Cramer - Shop Kansas Farms - KS Farm Bureau - Marketing |
| 12:00 | Julie Cahoj - New Grant Group - Meeting with Julie for program details** |
| 12:00-1:15 | LUNCH |
| 1:15-2:00 | Ryan Engle - KSU Extension - topic TBA (Ryan's Master's research was on pollen). |
| 2:00-2:20 | 20- minute break. Close out Silent Auction |
| 2:20-3:05 | Speaker TBA - Making Splits |
| 3:05-4:15 | Kate Schmidt - Dyck Arboretum (Grounds Mgr./Horticulturist) Planting for Pollinators Hesston, KS |
| 04:15 | KHPA Region Meetings – South Regions select Director Nominations – Groups Meet to Discuss Regional Issues and Concerns |
| 06:00 | Banquet – |

KHPA Spring 2023 Saturday, March 11, 2023

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 8:00-8:45 | Registration. Set up - Silent Auction Items |
| 8:45-9:00 | Welcome and announcements: Becky Tipton, President |
| 9:00-9:45 | Kristi Sanders - State & Local Fair Entries - Tips & Hints for Competition |
| 9:45-10:00 | Julie Cahoj - Exploring the Flow Hive |
| 10:00 -10:25 | 20- minute break |
| 10:25-11:00 | Kansas Legislative Update - Jim Kellie |
| 11:00-11:50 | KHPA Business Meeting |
| 11:50-1:05 | LUNCH |
| 1:05-1:55 | Mark Wood - Income Tax Reporting for the Hobby Beekeeper - Farm Mgmt. Serv Accountant |
| 1:55-2:20 | 25- minute break. Silent Auction closes at end of break |
| 2:20-2:40 | TBA |
| 02:40 | Open Panel Discussion – A group of experienced KHPA Beekeepers will answer your questions ... and adjournment. |

Spring 2023 KHPA conference closes - See You Next Fall! November 10 & 11, 2023

Program, Topics and Speakers and Times Subject to change.

<http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org>

Register and pay online: 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: _____

Mail to: KHPA – Robert Burns – 7601 W. 54th Terr. – Shawnee Mission, KS 66202

Robert: 913-481-3504, email: rburnshoney@gmail.com



Apple-Cinnamon Granola



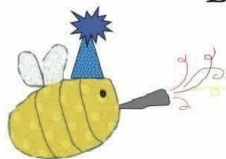
4 C quick cooking oats
1 1/4 C shredded coconut
1 C finely chopped pecans
1/2 C sesame seeds

3/4 t salt
1 t cinnamon
1/2 C honey
1/3 C vegetable oil

1/2 t vanilla
8 oz chopped dried apples

Combine dry ingredients. Mix in honey, oil and vanilla. Bake in two pans at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes, stirring occasionally. Mix in dry apples. Cool. Store in a tightly covered container. Makes 10 cups. (From Roberts Cookbook)

Bee Happy...
Bee Healthy...
Bee Fabulous!



Happy New Year!

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

**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.