

# 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 **Spring 2012**

### April 2012

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Just a quick word from your president: I hope everyone's bees wintered as well as mine did. My losses were slight—about 10%. The extremely mild winter, the use of candy boards, and the availability of the bees to take supplemental feed early in the winter have my hives busting at the seams. I hope my new queens arrive on schedule, as even after equalizing, almost all hives will need to be split. Robert Burns raised queens early this spring and probably sees them laying by now. It's all about the weather.

The abnormally warm weather gave us a tremendously early fruit bloom in NE Kansas. (We anticipate fruit bloom around April 15th. Our trees have not only completed blooming but have set fruit and the date is April 8.) Everything, including Black Locust, is at least 30 days ahead of schedule. You cannot keep bees according to a strict calendar, like farming, you have to watch the weather and the seasons.

In my almost 25 years of keeping bees, I can't remember ever seeing as many people interested in getting started in apiculture. In talking with people involved with other beekeeping organizations from several states, there have been record turnouts at seminars and new beekeeping workshops. Hopefully, this trend is nationwide. The only downside I can see, from casual observation, is that most of the newbees are still 40+ years old. We need more, younger people to get involved—beekeeping is a lifetime endeavor. We treasure our scholarship families and hope you'll continue to support that program.

A few things club related for your consideration: If you didn't get your name on the volunteer list to work the State Fair, please contact Rocky Schmied (his contact info is in this newsletter). We need beekeepers in the booth to answer questions and sell honey. Now is also the time to think about what entries you may want to make for the fair program honey competition. If you've never entered before, be sure to read the guidelines posted on line at the State Fair website [www.kansasstatefair.com](http://www.kansasstatefair.com). Everyone should try to enter at least one item. Thousands of people walk through the Pride of Kansas building and admire the honey entries. They look beautiful and the more entries, the more impressive the display. It generates a lot of interest in honey, honey products and the honey industry in Kansas.

Don't forget our fall meeting in Emporia. It is going to have a value added products theme. If it can be made with honey or beeswax, you can probably learn how it's done at this meeting. If you make something using hive products, please contact Joli Winer, our program chairperson, and offer to share your knowledge. Beekeepers learn from other beekeepers!

SEPT  
2012  
7-16

100 YEARS  
OF  
THE  
KANSAS STATE FAIR

## From the ABJ Newsletter:

DAVIS - Despite a growing worldwide clamor to ban pesticides linked to honey bee deaths, multiple factors contribute to the declining honey bee population, not just one class of insecticides, says Extension Apiculturist and noted honey bee expert Eric Mussen of the UC Davis Department of Entomology.

Speaking on honey bee health at the 51st annual meeting of the international Society of Toxicology and ToxExpo, held recently in San Francisco, Mussen said “no specific culprit” causes colony collapse disorder (CCD), a mysterious malady characterized by adult bees abandoning the hive, leaving behind the queen, her brood, and honey and pollen stores.

Multiple factors affecting colony health include “pathogens, parasites, pesticides and malnutrition,” he told the society, which is comprised of 7,500 scientists from academia, government, and industry from various countries around the globe.

“Pesticide residues have been found in beeswax, stored pollens and adult bees,” Mussen said in his abstract. Bee scientists are “also looking at the synergistic interactions among pesticides, including adjuvants mixed into the pesticides and investigating everything from bacteria, fungi, viruses, malnutrition, transportation of migratory bees, impact of pollen from genetically modified plants, and effects of exposure to irradiation.”

“None of these factors explains why 25 percent of beekeepers continue to lose 40 to 100 percent of their colonies annually,” Mussen declared.

Banned in some European countries is the class of insecticides known as neonicotinoids, which act on the central nervous system of insects, Mussen said, but scientific studies show that despite the ban, the bee population continues to suffer significant annual losses.

Neonicotinoids, or systematic pesticides, are applied as seed or soil treatments, and also directly to the foliage of vegetable, orchard, field, turf and ornamental crops.

According to Mussen, colony losses are not new. Prior to the arrival of tracheal (*Acarapis woodi*) in 1984 and varroa (*Varroa destructor*) mites in 1987, annual colony losses averaged around 5 to 10 percent, he said. “To control mites, most beekeepers place acaricides in their hives. Since then, queen longevity, colony health and vigor have declined in many operations and colony losses increased to about 15 to 20 percent.”

CCD, so- named in 2006, first surfaced in 2004 when approximately 25 percent of the nation’s beekeepers noted that apparently healthy colonies very quickly lost all adult bees, except the queen and a few newly emerged workers that soon perished, Mussen said.

“All stages of brood were present, and stores of honey and pollens were abundant,” he said. “In the few remaining adult bee specimens, titers of the fungus (*Nosema ceranae*) and one or more RNA viruses were very high. While appearing similar to losses induced by extremely heavy varroa mite infestations, neither bees with shriveled wings nor copious varroa fecal spots were observed.”

The resulting media attention prompted governmental agencies to provide extra funding for honey bee research. “That research provided a greater insight into the parameters of honey bee health,” he said.

The honey bee’s immune system is “meager” compared to that of a fruit fly or mosquito, he said.

Mussen, in a recent talk at a UC Cooperative Extension seminar in Woodland, advocated that the bee toxicity tests conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) “be of a longer time frame.” Current regulations “specify that they be completed in 96 hours, which is too short of a time period to see what happens to the bees.”

“Sublethal effects are not required, chronic exposure to sublethal effects is not required and synergism is not studied,” he said.

“Synergies easily could be the biggest problem,” Mussen said. “Coumaphos (an acaricide used for mite control) knocks the daylight out of queens when it’s in the pollen. “Fluvalinate (synthetic pyrethroid commonly used to control varroa mites) synergizes Coumaphos, and vice versa.”

Mussen cautioned that adjuvants can be toxic. “Adjuvants seem to make non- toxic fungicides toxic to honey bee brood, especially the organosilicone ‘superspreaders,’” he said. “The superspreader can penetrate the waxy cuticle of leaves, such as Eucalyptus leaves. And the waxy cuticle is the No. 1 bee protection.”

Also at the Cooperative Extension seminar, Mussen called for greater genetic diversity in the honey bee and a loosening of the “genetic bottleneck” in the United States. “Unlike dogs and horses, there are no pedigree bees and no papers, he said. “There are few true breeding lines, but they include the New World Carniolans (developed by bee breeder- geneticist Susan Cobey of UC Davis), Russians, Minnesota Hygienic, and the Varroa Sensitive Hygiene.”

“Most breeders simply select from last season’s best performing stock,” he said. They breed for certain company traits,

Mussen pointed out that in 1922 the United States closed the door to live bees entering our country” due to fears of an incoming pest, the tracheal mite.

The tracheal mite eventually found its way to the United States in 1984, he said. “We couldn’t prevent it from coming in forever. It killed half of our nation’s bees in five years as it expanded across the country. Then the varroa mite arrived in 1987, and killed half of the remaining colonies in five years as it expanded across the country. This one practically killed all of our feral colonies in 1995- 1996. It made a really big dent in our gene pool.”

Mussen described the varroa mite as “Beekeeping Enemy No. 1.” Mite feeding lowers the pupal blood protein, resulting in underweight bees and a shortened life span, he said. It suppresses the honey bee immune system. And third, the mite is a vector for RNA virus diseases.

Of the viral diseases affecting the honey bee, RNA viruses are the most prevalent. “We have 20 known and named viruses, and more are coming,” Mussen said. Some of the viral diseases are shared with bumble bees, wasps, ants, other native bees and other unrelated species of insects.

Asked what the average person can do to help the bees, Mussen said that a wide mix of pollen is essential for honey bee nutrition, and “they’re not getting that any more. Plant bee attractive plants. Each colony needs the equivalent of one acre of bloom every day to survive.”

What about the role of genetically modified plants in bee health, he was asked. “They don’t appear to be a problem. One modified corn variety seemed to affect honey bees in lab studies, but it’s not being grown anymore. The honey bees don’t care if it’s genetically modified or not.”

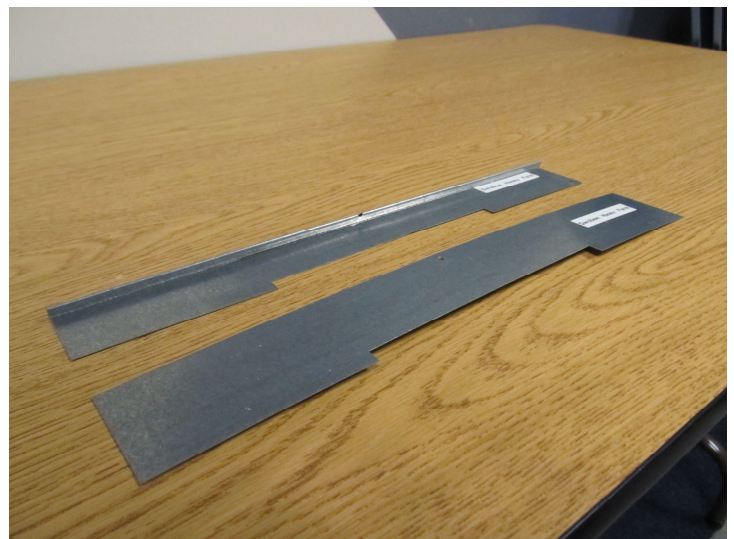
As for viruses, “The harder we look, the more we find,” Mussen said.



Photo of a Dadant metal mouse guard and a drone who was just escorted from the residence.

Photo of the Dadant metal mouse guards. The lower one is stock, right out of the package. Note there is a slight ‘bow’ to it. The upper guard is my modified version with a bend and rolled edge. The rolled edge and bend both add support, eliminating the bowing effect. Also, the rolled edge removes one very sharp edge for safer handling. I also suggest replacing the original slotted screws with either a Phillips or square drive head for easier installation with a cordless drill/driver.

From: Greg Swab



## **Recipes from the March meeting:**

**Strawberry Cheesecake Bars**

**Strawberry Honey Ice Cream**

**Honey Strawberry Pretzel Dessert**

**Pretzel Salad or Dessert**

**White Chocolate Mousse-Strawberry Pie**

For those who would like the recipes please contact the newsletter editor @[hairbender@wbsnet.org](mailto:hairbender@wbsnet.org)

# Want Ad

A parent looking for used beekeeping suits for kids-- he has 2 fairly small kids and was hoping to find something used and more economical. For more information Contact:

Becky Tipton

785-484-3710

### **Scholarship Winners** by Becky Tipton

Congratulations to Debbie McSweeney, Ruth Schmied and Bruce Swob for being awarded scholarships to the 2012 University of Nebraska, Midwest Master Beekeeper Program.

Debbie McSweeney lives in Peabody, Kansas where she and her husband have been keeping bees for about seven years. They utilize many organic farming practices and have become supporters of BFF (Bee Friendly Farming). Debbie has shared her knowledge of pollinator friendly plants at our recent meeting and is a wonderful bee enthusiast.

Ruth Schmied is mother of our past youth scholarship student, Isaac Schmied. The whole Schmied family has overseen the KHPA booth at the State Fair the last several years! Ruth says, "Now I need to find my own way down the beekeeping road which kind of feels like a high speed freeway." Ruth has eagerly shared her knowledge of beekeeping with other scholarship students and we applaud her continued effort to stay current on bee topics.

Bruce Swobe has been a member of KHPA for many years and has had an interest in beekeeping since his Kansas State days. Bruce is anxious to expand his knowledge of beekeeping and knows that the Master Beekeeping Class will be an asset to his beekeeping operation.

All three candidates qualify for the scholarship award as they are all members in good standing, have kept bees for more than one year and agree to support the organization with their gained knowledge. Thank you for your time and work toward the betterment of beekeeping in our area.

## Kansas Honey Producers' Association

For TWO months & 1 month ended 2012.

Treasurer's Report - Statement of Revenues and Expenses -Modified Cash Basis

Date 3/31/2012

M-T-D

Y-T-D

1/31/2012 Endg Check Book Bal  
CASH on-hand deposited  
Beginning Balance March 1, 2012 =

<b>\$12,691.72</b>	<b>\$9,910.37</b> 1/1/12
s	\$0.00 cash
<b>\$12,691.72</b>	<b>\$9,910.37</b> beg bal

### INCOME

Auction (Silent)		\$643.50		\$643.50		\$643.50
Interest (Chkg)		\$0.78		\$0.78		\$2.46
KHPA Meals	Grnd Ttl			\$217.00	58	\$1,080.00
Dinner - Adult	11	56	\$209.00			
Dinner - Child	1	2	\$8.00			
KHPA Meeting Reg				\$1,220.00	87	\$3,090.00
2-day current member fee	28	56	\$840.00			
2-day Member Family	8	26	\$380.00			
KHPA Membership	New: 16			Total: \$407.50	53	\$952.00
Renewal	15		\$400.00			
Youth	1		\$7.50			
Miscellaneous				Total: \$430.00		\$990.00
Other	0		\$430.00			
NEKBA Dues	5		\$75.00		10	\$150.00
Queen Fund (donations)			\$0.00			\$10.00
KS Scholarship Program (donations)			\$207.75			\$287.75
Subscriptions				Total: \$116.75	4	\$116.75
ABJ	3		\$78.75			
Bee Culture	1		\$38.00			
<b>Total REVENUES =</b>				<b>\$3,318.28</b>		<b>\$7,322.46</b>

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Awards		\$55.00		\$55.00		\$55.00
1st, 2nd, & 3rd place entries		\$55.00				
Bank Charges		\$0.00	Check Image Fee	\$0.00		\$6.00
The Cappings (Editor)			(YTD)	Total: \$0.00		\$291.70
Paper & Postage		\$0.00	\$77.00			
Printing & Editor		\$0.00	\$214.70			
Hotel Charges/Conference/Meals/Rm				Total: \$1,850.42		\$1,850.42
Conference Room(s)		\$645.36				
Meals/Tea/Coffee & Service		\$1,082.05				
Hotel Tx's		\$123.01				
NEKBA Dues	5	\$75.00		\$75.00	10	\$150.00
Miscellaneous				Total: \$102.07		\$849.95
Supplies		\$82.07	Name Tages			
Other		\$20.00				
Printing & Editor(other)		\$90.72	Postage	\$90.72		\$90.72
Scholarships/Expenses		\$365.67		\$365.67		\$365.67
Speaker/Travel/Stipends		\$1,077.78		\$1,077.78		\$1,077.78
Subscriptions Paid				Total: \$116.75	7	\$179.00
ABJ	3	\$78.75				
Bee Culture	1	\$38.00				
KS NPTax / Privilege Fee		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$40.00
<b>Total EXPENSES =</b>				<b>(\$3,733.41)</b>		<b>(\$4,956.24)</b>

Ending Balance =

<b>\$12,276.59</b>	<b>\$12,276.59</b>
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Current Month/Year Excess of Revenues/(Expenses) =

<b>(\$415.13)</b>	<b>\$2,366.22</b> 2012
	(\$540.74) 2011
	\$1,936.29 2010
	\$1,546.23 2009
	\$1,520.85 2008
	(\$348.85) 2007
	\$1,445.32 2006
	\$1,546.62 2005
	\$209.65 2004

EOM Memb Stats  
37 PY Membs 2009  
22 PY Membs 2010  
2012  
12 Schlrshp Membs  
13 Comp Membs  
34 Life Membs  
53 2011 Membs  
90 2012 Membs  
202 CY Total Membs

### MAR 2012 Scholarship Funding

2012 Beg. Acct Bal.	\$576.94
YTD Net Credits	\$1,196.25
YTD Net Debits	(\$544.67)
2012 YTD Endg Bal.	\$1,228.52

Net Excess of Rev/Exp '04,'05,'06,'07,'08,'09,'10 '11

\$2,741.74	2003 beg.
\$9,681.59	

# 2012 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 \$19.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Bee Culture Magazine (formerly "Gleanings") 1 year subscription \$21.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Total Due Total \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: KHPA or Kansas Honey Producer's Association.

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

E-mail address: [rburns@kc.rr.com](mailto:rburns@kc.rr.com)

The Kansas Honey Producer's Association is a non-profit IRC 501(c)5 agricultural-educational organization, run by dedicated volunteers, and supported primarily by membership dues (subscriptions). The IRC status means that the association is a tax-exempt organization. While donations are always welcome, they are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution. However, membership dues and subscriptions may be deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.

## Kansas Honey Producer's Association — *Cappings*

Hester Geurin

160 S Lovers Lane

Scott City, KS 67871

hairbender@wbsnet.org

## Address Service Requested