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Exploring the wonderful world of beekeeping together

The Bee Buzzer

Monthly publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

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EDITOR: JOLI WINER

FEBRUARY 2011

General Meeting

Monday, February 7th

7:00 p.m.

1st 15 Minutes:

Youth Scholarship Presentation by

Clark Cummings

Regular Program:

Walt Stephens

“Your Orchard Questions Answered”

Leavenworth Public Library

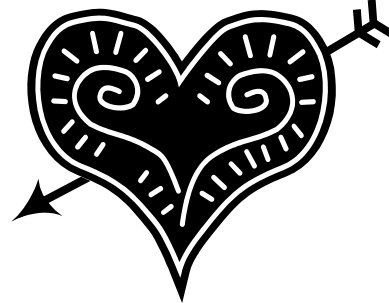
417 Spruce Street,

Leavenworth, KS 66048-2729

Our first fifteen minutes will be a presentation by one of our scholarship students, Clark Cummings. This presentation fulfills one of his requirements to completing his scholarship from the association.

This month our program will be presented by club member, Walt Stephens. Walt lives in Bonner Springs and has an orchard and raises fruit and berries. He will talk to us about growing fruits, taking care of the trees and he'll share with us a spray schedule. He'll have a Power Point presentation and a question and answer session.

Please note our new meeting location site. The Leavenworth Public Library is right off of Highway 7 Leavenworth.



Beekeeping Class to be held in March

New Beekeeping Class

Saturday,

March 19th, 2011

8:00-5:30

Matt Ross Community Center

8101 Marty

Overland Park KS 66204

Multi Purpose Room

The class is still in the planning stages but we have the date and place nailed down so mark your calendars so you don't miss this fantastic day of learning and fellowship.

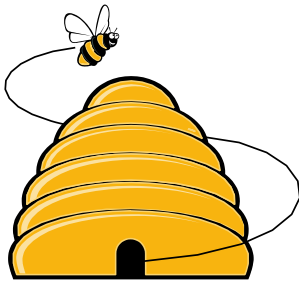
This class might be just the ticket for any co-workers or neighbors that might be interested in learning about beekeeping and possible getting started in a new hobby.

We have pretty much kept the price the same as last year.

Flyer and details in this newsletter. —please email Joli if you need an original of the flyer to hang up in your hardware store or co-op and she can email the info to you. joli@heartlandhoney.com or call at 913-856-8356



Beelines Michael Sinclair



We are getting some nice snow for ground moisture, which will hopefully help produce a nice honey flow. One big problem with the snow is that I do not track through it to check the hives, which I should. However while the snow is coming down I find it is a nice time to look through the seed catalogs to find plants to help feed the bees. If you don't have a lot of ground to sow, an acre or more then you may want to find some bee trees such as Basswood. If you do have room to plan an acre or more it will be best to plant a mixture of plants like some clovers, and then mix in a lot of forbs or native plants such as Black-eyed Susan, Purple Coneflower and Asters. If you use a lot of the forbs, they will handle the hot dry summers better than most of the non native plants. A big downfall to some of the native plants is the price, like New England Asters can be about \$300 a pound.

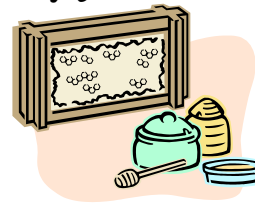
A New Year's Resolution that I have been working on is getting a batch of soap made every week until the Market starts in May. That will hopefully get us through the season without too much left over. As with all New Year's Resolutions this one has not been going the best. I have had two batches turn out to be flops; however after a call to the Grand Soap Master BEE things are looking better. She had me change a couple of things I was doing wrong. Now if I can keep on track, we will be in good shape at market time for soap sales. We might even try more than two varieties.

As mentioned at the January meeting this month we will meet at a new location in Leavenworth Kansas.

See you on the 7th.



The Honey Pot By Joli Winer



This month I have something sweet to talk about but it has nothing to do with food! In January (and in February, too) my picture was in the American Bee Journal. Interestingly, I had an email last week from a voice from my past. Many times over the years people have asked me how I got started in beekeeping. I always give the same answer. In 1973 I was a junior at the University of Montana but I wanted to quit school. I knew that before I told my parents of my plan I better have another plan to present to them. I had a friend who worked for a beekeeper in Montana during the summers. He was going to work for this beekeeper's father in Colusa Ca. who was a queen breeder and also produced package bees. It was my friend from the University of Montana who contacted me last week. It brought up a lot of memories. It also gave me an opportunity to thank the person who had such an incredible influence over my life. This one small act of introducing me to beekeeping had a profound effect on me. I met my husband at a beekeeping meeting. I have had the opportunity to travel to many places in the United States and in the world to further my beekeeping education. I have had an opportunity to meet researchers and educators in the beekeeping field who have not only taught me but who have become lifelong friends. Through my beekeeping volunteer activities I have had the opportunity to make the best friends I have ever had in my 60 years of life.

And all of this has happened because of the bees. I love beekeeping, I love selling honey at the market. I love the fact that the soaps have opened up a creativity that I didn't know I had. I truly never would have been exposed to any of this had my friend from Montana introduced me to beekeeping.

Rarely do we have an opportunity to say thank you to someone who has influenced our lives—do you have someone that you need to thank?

Honey Plants By Becky Tipton



Q: Why don't bees work honeysuckle? A: the nectaries are too deep for the honeybees to access. But, many of the varieties of honeysuckle are very attractive to other native pollinators including hummingbirds and bumble- bees. But, beware. We have several species, including tartarian honeysuckle and Japanese honeysuckle, invading the under-story of a forest area and smothering native plants, and other valuable shrubs. Although some of our pollinators will work these species, the damage they do outweighs the potential benefits.

Our primary floral source, the flower our bees work most efficiently, is clover. NOW is the time to plant clover. Adding clover, a legume, to an existing pasture or hay field can actually improve the quality of the pasture by helping fix the nitrogen in the nitrogen poor soil. One of the best (easiest) ways to add clover to sod is to broadcast the clover seed over the grass in late winter.

For best results with broadcast seeding, preparation should begin in the fall with soil testing and appropriate fertilizer/lime. Applying a weed killer is also recommended. Mow the area very short. In early spring (when you are still likely to experience several freeze/thaw cycles, apply the clover seed. This is called "frost seeding" because the overnight frosts followed by daily thaw will pull the tiny seeds to the appropriate depth (shallow) for sprouting. During the spring, it's suggested that the seeded area be kept closely mowed to inhibit overcrowding by competing grasses.

The website below has a great variety of clovers to choose from and good pictures to help you identify what clovers you have in your area.

<http://www.outsidepride.com/seed/clover-seed/?gclid=CLTLxee406YCFYXu7QodkW1gIA>

Tips for February

- ◆ A good winter project is to melt down your wax cappings -the smell of beeswax will warm your soul.
- ◆ Find a friend or relative to take the new beekeeper class with you. Saturday, March 19th
- ◆ Learn something new—it will chase away the winter blahs.
- ◆ Make sure your lids are still on your hives.
- ◆ On a warm day check your bees and see if you have to move some frames of honey around to get it closer to the cluster of bees.
- ◆ Clean those recycled frames—foundation over 5 years old is too old, replace it.
- ◆ Brood rearing begins this month, food consumption increases quickly—double and triple check food.
- ◆ Do your bees need pollen? Feed pollen substitute (protein).

2011 Northeastern Beekeeper's Meeting Dates

March 19th Beginning Beekeeper Class
Monday, April 4th place to be determined
Monday, May 2nd place to be determined
Saturday, June 4th Funday, Douglas Co Fairgrounds
Monday, July 11th (2nd Monday) Johnson Co Extension Office
Sunday, August place to be determined
Monday, October 3rd Johnson Co Extension Office
Monday, November 7th Johnson Co Extension Office
Monday, December 5th Johnson Co Extension Office

In the case of an ice storm or a snow storm it is your responsibility to call Cecil Sweeney at 913-856-8356 or Steve Tipton at 785-484-3710 to find out if the meeting is cancelled—

Midwestern Beekeepers Meeting Dates for 2011

Meetings are held at the Bass Pro in Independence M

- Sunday, Feb. 13th 2:30 p.m. Bass Pro Inde.
- March Beekeeping Class-19th
- Thursday, April 14th 7:00 p.m. Bass Pro Inde.
- Thursday, May 12 7:00 p.m. Bass Pro Inde.
- Thursday, June 9, 7:00 p.m. Bass Pro Inde.
- Thursday, July 14 7:00 p.m. Bass Pro Inde.
- Sunday, August 7th North KC Community Center
- Thursday, Sept. 8th 7:00 p.m. Bass Pro Inde.
- Thursday, Oct. 13 7:00 p.m. Bass Pro Inde.
- Sunday, Nov. 13th 7:00 p.m. Bass Pro Inde.
- Sunday, Dec. 11th,

Renew your membership today!

Buzz's Column



Buzz thinks that she has heard a few new stories this month but she can only remember one of them. Her friend, Steve Tipton, went to a school last week for Kansas Days and spent the day talking to the different age groups about honey bees. He was telling about how great the younger kids were but the middle school kids were another story! He also was telling Buzz about the little girl who asked him about where beeswax came from. Steve told her about how the bees make the beeswax and then as it comes out of their abdomens they form it with their mandibles and their feet to make the cells that hold the honey, pollen and brood, etc. The little girl said “NO it comes out of my ears when my mom holds me down and digs it out with a Bobbie pin!

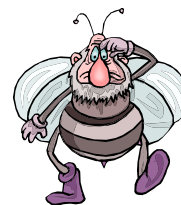
Dear Buzz, I found in storage in a barn (10-plus years) nearly 3 five-gallon buckets of honey. I am very interested in having it tested to see if any pesticides exist and if it is safe to eat, I figure that would likely be an expensive endeavor. What would you do with it? Throw it out? What about using it in spa products...soap, lotion, etc.?

Buzz Answers: Without knowing any history of this honey I would not know how to answer. Honey doesn't go bad unless it has high moisture and it ferments. It may crystallize but you just have to heat it to return it to a liquid state. But you are right about wondering about the chemicals, getting it tested would be expensive. Any legal chemicals that have been on the market in last 10 or more years, if used correctly and according to package directions will not leave residues in honey and would be ok to eat or use in soaps or lotions. Definitely don't feed it to your bees—if the bees that produced this honey had fowlbrood it will get passed on to your bees through the honey. I'm not sure this helps you much

Buzz would like to take this opportunity to invite you to send your stories to her c/o Joli at the address on

the back of *The Buzzer* or via email at joli@heartlandhoney.com. She'll let me know of any stories you pass on to her.

Old Bee Guy By Cecil Sweeney



Taking Care of your Bee Hive if your Bees Die

I've had a few calls and emails about how to take care of your beekeeping equipment if your bees. Here are some suggestions.

Take your equipment in and check it first to make sure you did not have American foulbrood. If you do not than you can get it ready to reuse and recycle it is perfectly fine to put new bees in—but first there are some things you should do first.

Repair and repaint any equipment that needs it—this is a great time to perform those tasks.

Take out each frame and brush off the bees, the more bees that you can get out the better it is for your new bees later on. Sometimes the bees left on the comb will mold so the more you get off the better.

Close your equipment up and store it a cold, unheated area. Any honey can be reused for your new bees. Your already drawn out comb can also be used for your new bees.

Someone emailed to ask:

How would you clean/sanitize hives that have been in storage? There were frames but no foundation in them, but the bottom box housed a family of mice and it stinks.

You can scrape the frames with your hive tool and get a gadget called a frame cleaner to clean the grooves in the frames.

Bleach water will not kill the bacteria of American foulbrood so don't try that.

Some people will use a lye & water solution to clean their old frames and Woodware. This is obviously very dangerous. Something you would want to do outside in a barrel with water that has been heated over a fire out of doors. The lye is added to the heated water and can be very dangerous. Also you could scorch the inside of the hive bodies to kill any foulbrood spores. And repaint the outside of the equipment. Perhaps saving this equipment is really cost effective as American foulbrood can kill your bees. Any bee equipment that has had beeswax in it makes great kindling as the beeswax burns beautifully.

Queen Rearing Workshop Scholarships

Each year the NE KS Beekeeper's Assn. gives several scholarships to whatever program Marion Ellis is offering in Nebraska. This year he is offering a Queen rearing workshop for three days, June 23-25 in Mead NE, which is near Lincoln. The association will pay your registration fee of \$125.00 Transportation and lodging will be your responsibility.

How can you win?

1. You must be a current member of the Northeast Kansas Beekeepers Association.
2. You must have been a beekeeper for at least one full year
3. You must
 - a. Submit a letter explaining why you think you should receive the scholarship. Couples applying should each write their own letter and will be considered separately.
 - b. List at least one volunteer activity you will perform for the club.

The letter should be sent to:

Michael Sinclair
916 S 4th, Atchison KS 66002
913-367-1257

Or emailed to: sinclairhoney@hotmail.com

The letter should be postmarked no later than May 1st.

Kansas Honey Producers Meeting Friday & Saturday, March 4 & 5 2011 Holiday Inn Holidome, Topeka KS

This year the spring meeting will be held in Topeka at the Holiday Inn Holidome located at 605 SW Fairlawn. The sleeping room rates are \$75.00. To make a reservation call 785-272-8040 and mention the Kansas Honey Producers to get this rate. Room reservations must be made by February 2nd to get this rate.

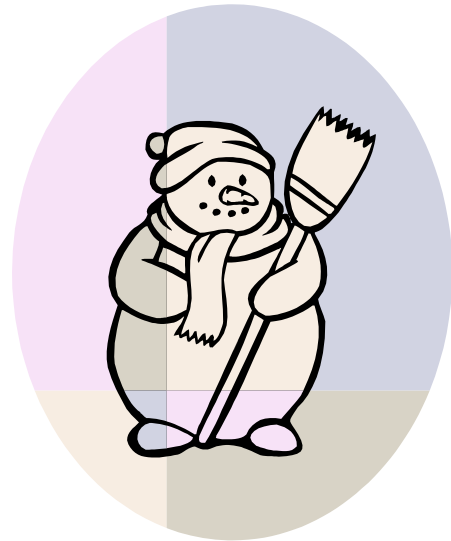
Since we are meeting in Topeka several state employees have been lined up to be on the program.

Maureen Henzler, Dept of Weights and Measures
Becky Rhoades: KS Dept of Commerce, *The Simply Kansas Trademark Program & How to Set up a Successful Farmers Market Booth*

Adam Inman: Facility Licensing and Food Safety

Our Special Guest Speaker will be Jamie Ellis, PhD who is an Assistant Professor of Entomology at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He is a part of the Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory and the Department of Entomology and Nematology. He will be presenting the following topics and perhaps one more

- 1) The Plight of the Honey Bee
- 2) Research Efforts at the UF Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory
- 3) Honey Bees as Superorganisms



The University of Nebraska will offer a Queen Rearing Workshop on June 23-25, 2011.

The workshop will be limited to 20 participants, and will include both classroom and in-the-apiary instruction. Lizette Dahlgren, Reed Johnson and Marion Ellis will be the trainers. The workshop will be hands-on with lots of repetition. After completing the training participants should expect to have the knowledge and practical skills needed to rear queens for their own use or to sell to other beekeepers. We will have Russian, New World Carnolian and Cordavon Italian breeder queens available, and participants can come back 10 days after the workshop to retrieve the queen cells they start. Registration is \$125 and includes meals, a workbook and the supplies needed for queen rearing.

To register contact:

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