# Northern Kentucky Beekeepers Association

**Monthly Meeting Notes**

## Tuesday May 1, 2018 – 6:30 pm

**Campbell County Extension Office**

**70 people in attendance**

1. **President’s report (Tom Spille)**
   1. Opened with Pledge of Allegiance.
   2. Welcomed 5 new 1st time visitors,
   3. Carl Knockelmann and I have been fielding concerns about zoning issues with member Mike Creamer. Entertaining thoughts about creating an ordinance for beekeeping that can be used in our area, it could be useful if it could remove the threat of hives being declared a nuisance. Mike suggests that after review of so many comments, and complaints from both sides online it really is a topic that should be addressed at the State level. Topics for State regulation should include removal of control from local governments, definition of a nuisance beehive (i.e., abandoned, not maintained w/ best practices (where practical)...), and beekeeper exemption from liability. We can address this with a separate committee as we won't have time to discuss tonight.
   4. August meeting was scheduled for August 7 which is during the Boone County Fair, it was decided to cancel the August meeting and move the Crigger Honey Tasting to Oct 2 meeting.See the webpage/Facebook for more information/details.
   5. 2019 Beekeeping 101 is tentatively scheduled for 2/9/19 and Beekeeping 102 on 3/9.
   6. Swarm Season is starting: 11 members reported catching swarms since the April meeting. 8 members reported losing swarms.
   7. Tonight's speaker is Tammy Potter, Kentucky’s State Apiarist
2. **Vice President's Report (Rhonda Hampton)**
3. Beekeeping Topic for Bookfest 2018. The event was April 27 at NKU. Students were from grades 5 and 6, and had read “Hour of the Bees”. Rhonda and John Kerr presented 3 separate 45 min sessions, starting at 9:45 am. John Meier served as timer and photographer. Each student received a flyer inviting them to our Field Day event on June 5 at the Boone County Arboretum. Need youth size bee jackets/veils if we have kids show up. Used the teaching hive. Suggest getting a bottom board and outer cover for 8 frame box to really make it look like a bee hive.
4. We are looking for volunteers to help with stations at the upcoming Field Day/Hive visit on June 5; especially looking for someone to coordinate this event. There is a sign-up sheet at sign-in table (see Field Day Committee Report below).
5. **Treasurer's Report (Tonia Spille)**
6. 2018 dues are $10 per family/household and can be paid by cash or check (to NKYBA) at the break or by mail. Membership is Jan. to Dec. Membership in the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association (KSBA) is $15/year and can also be paid through our club.
7. We have $4891 in our Treasury.
8. We have 102 paid members/families as of the May meeting,
9. Two new members and 5 renewing members signed up at the May 1st meeting.
10. **Secretary's Report (John Meier)**
11. John M. absent this meeting. John K. taking notes for him.
12. **Committee reports** 
    1. **Club equipment (Carl Knochelmann)**:

We have 2 honey extractor sets, teaching hive, 2 Oxalic Acid vaporizer sets and AFB Detection Kits. Two stainless steel strainers have been purchased/added to the honey extraction equipment inventory. Tammy’s presentation included information on harvesting/packaging honey. She stressed that knowing moisture content was important and suggested that the Club might want to purchase a refractometer so members could test their honey’s moisture content before harvesting.

1. **Field Day committee:** The Field Event and Hive visit will take place on June 5 at the Boone County Extension Nature Center. NKYBA members to teach “Stations”. So far, here are the volunteers for stations:
   1. **Station 1 - Bees101: Mike Herschberger and Ron Zembrodt.**
   2. **Station 2 – Tools and Equipment: Tom Studer and John McMillen**
   3. **Station 3 – Bees: Tom McDonald**
   4. **Station 4 – Hive Demo: Dan Gottman, Paul Mueller, Pete Montoure.**
   5. **Station 5 – Pests and Diseases: Deborah Butler.**
   6. **Station 6 – Harvesting Honey: Carl Knockelmann**
   7. **Miscellaneous: John Kerr – registration and help where needed; Jason** **Weidig** **and Theresa Beckman also volunteered to help where needed.**
2. **New member Jason Weidig** used the teaching hive for a presentation on 4/26/18 about bees and beekeeping to all the elementary students at Our Lady of the Assumption Academy in Walton
3. **Old Business**
   1. Club Website - The platform we are using is obsolete & GoDaddy will stop supporting it at some point. Mike Creamer will work on this for us.
   2. Katie Payte is heading up the club t-shirt project. Several designs were submitted tonight.
   3. Duke Energy – *Status: No Change since April meeting*

**b.** B105 radio program morning show "Around The House". Tony Ruttencutter. 513-749-B105 Talk about how lawn treatments, etc. effect our bees. John Kerr is in contact with them*. Status: No Change since April meeting* Tony’s full-time job is running a nursery and he is swamped with that at this time. We will get back in contact with him later in the summer.

**Adjournment -**The next meeting will be **June 5th** at the Boone County Arboretum. This is our annual Field Day with hive inspections. Please bring your jacket/veil/gloves even if you don’t think you will be participating in the hive inspections. We typically have several visitors who would like to look inside a bee hive. Also we could need a few youth-size jacket/veil/glove sets.

We’ll take a 10 min break before we start tonight's presentation with **Tammy Potter.**

**2018 Calendar:**

**\*Meetings held on 1st Tuesday of the month unless noted and schedule/topics subject to change**

* Jan 2: Campbell County: Board nominations & Bee School planning session, KSBA, bee order information, mentor program, web site info, Facebook, Schedule for 2018
* Feb 6: Boone County: Elections & Bees- Elections. Installing a Package of Bees, and Speaker on Nuc Management, construction and using nucs as an emergency hive. Speaker is Dan Gottmann of Danny G’s Honey Bees.
* Feb 17 Saturday: Boone County Enrichment Center: Lower Level, Annual Free Bee School “**Introduction to Beekeeping 101”**,9 to 2
* March 6: Campbell County - catching swarms; capture boxes; swarm baits. Members **Ron and Joanna Zembrodt** will be presenting.
* March 10: **Intermediate Beekeeping 201**, Boone County Enrichment Center, lower level. Phil Craft is presenter.
* April 3: **Boone County Enrichment Center-Project Room upstairs**: Different types of pollinating plants/trees **Gina Ligon** from **Boone County Extension Office**
* May 1: Campbell County: **Dr. Tammy Potter, KY State Apiarist** will speak on bee issues in KY.
* June 5: Boone County: **Field Event and Hive visit**- Boone Extension Nature Center NKYBA members to teach “Stations”
* July 10: meeting at “School House Bees” - **Ron Spille**, topic Q&A on general beekeeping and tour
* August 7: CANCELED/conflict with Boone County Fair:
* September 4: Campbell County: **Winterizing Your Hive and Varroa Mite treatment Phil Craft** is the speaker
* October 2: Boone County Extension Center: Harvest Social and speaker **Keith Crigger of Crigger Honey** - Harvest Social and discussion. Club furnishing simple meal (chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, drinks, plates, etc). Members can bring something to share, side or dessert, but not req’d.

Please support our association, NKYBA dues $10/family/year; KSBA membership is $15 per year per family. Please support our association and the state association by joining both when you re-new your membership with NKY beekeepers assoc. We will send down your state membership information as a group. All memberships in the KSBA run from January 1 to December 31 each year.

useful web site link:

<http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/honeybees.html#!prettyPhoto/1/>

For current and past newsletters, click on “Kentucky Beekeepers Newsletter”, a pop up box lists current and past issues, just click which one you want.

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**Dr. Tammy Potter, KY State Apiarist**

Tammy delivered a wide-ranging, 90-minute presentation.

Her PowerPoint presentation is attached.

* KY Dept Agriculture has launched an electronic communications tool to connect Farm Sprayers and Beekeepers. It takes about 5 minutes to list your apiary. With the late arrival of spring, farmers are behind in their spraying and planning. Listing your apiary now could reduce the risk of spray contamination.
* Nosema: Fumigilan-B has been the treatment of choice for many years. The manufacturer of Fumigilan-B recently announced they would no longer make it. Dadant, Mann-Lake and most other bee equipment suppliers have sold all their existing supply. Research is underway (*Project Apis m*.) to find a replacement treatment.
* Reminder: check the expiration dates on your AFB/EFB test kits. Also check expiration dates on kits before you purchase them.
* AFB: Tammy sees this “moving up both coasts” but not presently a major outbreak in our area. She does see it multiple times a year in KY. Each time required burning the entire hive/or hives in the bee yard. She reports she usually runs across it in late summer when (coincidentally?) the Varroa mites are at their peak.
* Tammy hauls a Jester box (5-frame, plastic coated nuc box) around in her vehicle. Inside the box she keeps a spray bottle of 1:1 sugar water and an arborist’s throw line so she always has the basic swarm capture tools.
* KSB is working towards a Honey Certification program. This will be the focus of the June 2018 meeting. The program may/may not be ready in time for the KY State Fair.
* Different plants release nectar at different times of the day. Thus, a diverse assortment of flowing plants will provide nectar throughout the day.
* Tammy noted more spring die-offs from starvation than usual this year. Mostly in late February or early March. Also noted “generation gaps” due to the intermittent pollen supply as a result of the warm/cold/snow/rain/warm/snow/cold February/March/April weather.
* Tammy characterizes a hive as “a collection of chemicals (pheromoneses) responding to external chemicals.”
* Nectar is 50-80% water. Honey needs to have a moisture content of 16-18% to prevent fermentation.
* All honey will crystallize: some types more quickly than others. Canola honey may crystallize in 2 weeks while Tupelo honey may not crystallize for several years.
* Be cautious if you label your honey as a monofloral or unifloral (all from one kind of flower). The most common labeling we would see of this type is “Clover Honey”. If you are labeling your honey as a “single source” honey, you need to have it analyzed and have this documentation to back up your claim.
* EPA says you should only use oxalic acid treatment one time per year in late November/early December.
* Mite Away Quick Strips can be used during nectar flow.
* Heating honey: Tammy’s preference is to never heat above 110 degrees F. Most commercial honey is heated to 140 degrees F which destroys most of the benefits people seek from honey.
* Creamed Honey is not “just crystallized honey that has been run through a blender or mixer.” True creamed honey starts with ultra-fine “starter” crystals that are mixed with honey for several hours to give the end product a silky, smooth, butter-like texture.
* Morehead State University lab can analyze honey. Texas A&M may be able to deliver results more quickly.
* Major sources of imported honey are China, Vietnam, and Argentina. Caveat Emptor with respect to additives (rice syrup, sugar syrup, sorghum, etc.) and processing techniques used to produce this honey.
* Tammy suggests checking with your insurance agent if you are selling honey. A typical home owner’s policy would not likely provide any liability coverage for you.
* **20 Minutes**: Tammy strongly encourages to “lightly smoke the hive 20 minutes before doing an inspection. “Use your smoker as a tool, not as a weapon.” She likes pine needles or untreated burlap as smoker fuel… but in a pinch will resort to twigs, leaves, etc.
* Culling frames/foundation: 5 years should be the maximum usage time for a frame/foundation.

End.