# Northern Kentucky Beekeepers Association

**Monthly Meeting Notes**

## Tuesday July 10, 2018 – 6:30 pm

**School House Bees, Visalia, KY**

**63 people in attendance**

1. **President’s report (Tom Spille)**
   1. Opened with Pledge of Allegiance.
   2. Three new members joined at the meeting: Pam Truesdell, Meg Stephenson and Darleen Hensley
   3. Thanked Ron and Tom for hosting our meeting and for providing cookie/snack trays, beverages, and door prize of a Nuc Box which was won by Mike Groneck. Tom also offered a 10% discount for anything purchased from the Bee Store by meeting attendees the night of the meeting.
   4. Here is an example of how we are reaching out to the community. I received an email from Susan and her son Will wanting to reach out to let us know how helpful our page has been. She homeschools her children and runs a website where she puts together lesson plans and support for other homeschooling parents. Will, recently took an interest in the drastic reduction in the bee population. He found our page and learned so much about bees and beekeeping.Will really wanted to help the bees somehow and came up with the idea to plant a bee garden. He found this article about bee gardens and how to start one that they found very helpful: <https://www.avasflowers.net/how-to-create-the-ultimate-bee-garden.> She shared a lesson plan on bee conservation and the bee garden project with the other homeschooling parents on her website. She wanted to share that resource that Will found with us. The info was forwarded to Rhonda to incorporate into our web page.

There have been many times I’ve received contacts looking for information and assistance with school projects. Our website is a valuable tool for beekeepers and future beekeepers alike.

* 1. 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. Our next meeting is on September 4: Campbell County Extension Office: **Winterizing Your Hive and Varroa Mite treatment. Phil Craft** will be our guest speaker
  2. 2019 Beekeeping 101 is tentatively scheduled for 2/9/19 and Beekeeping 102 on 3/9/19
  3. Tonight's topic is Q&A on general beekeeping and tour of the facility.

1. **Vice President's Report (Rhonda Hampton)**
2. Anna’s gifts - scarf & bracelet -Anna was extremely appreciative of the gift, the card, and the recognition of her service to the club.
3. Earl Schultz, founding member of the NKY Beekeeper’s Association, attended the meeting. Attendees saluted his 91st birthday (7/15) with a rousing chorus of Happy Birthday.
4. Hive Count Survey - copies to send in to Dr Potter – surveys circulated to all meeting participants, completed, and collected at end of business meeting/given to Rhonda.
5. Basswood Tree saplings (or other good pollinator tree saplings) - can we get some to hand out to members this fall? Most meeting attendees expressed interest in getting basswood saplings. Rhonda will follow up. It is too late to arrange for Fall 2018 saplings so the next opportunity will be Spring 2019. Will be “reasonably priced” and no minimum order.
6. **Treasurer's Report (Tonia Spille)**
7. We have $4,774.50 in our Treasury.
8. We have 105 paid members/families as of the July meeting, including 3 new members.
9. **Secretary's Report (John Meier)**
10. John M. absent this meeting. John K. taking notes for him. Thanks again John!
11. **Committee reports** 
    1. **Club equipment (Carl Knochelmann)**: Reservations for extractors are picking up. Carl urged members to contact him via email ([carlk@fuse.net](mailto:carlk@fuse.net)) to reserve extractors/arrange pick-up and drop-off logistics. The majority of meeting attendees indicated they would be extracting honey within the next 4 weeks.

Oxalic Acid Vaporizer equipment - do we have a laminated sheet (instructions) to give members who check out this equipment? A sign-off sheet so they accept liability and that they are aware of required safety precautions, etc? Note: there was no mention of this point.

1. **Field Day committee:** The Field Event and Hive visit that took place on June 5 at the Boone County Extension Nature Center was a big success with nearly 70 attendees. Rhonda gave a big Thank You to everyone who helped out.
2. Community Outreach report: Looking for someone to be a task leader for speaking and presentation requests. We would forward all requests to this person and they can coordinate as needed with speakers and those requesting presentations.
   1. Joanna Zembrodt- Big Bone Lick June 23. Ron & Joanna Zembrodt doing a demo at Big Bone on Saturday, 7/28. They expect 800+ people and really need volunteers to help. Please coordinate through Rhonda.
   2. Rhonda Hampton - Park Hills Garden Tours June 23 & 24
   3. John Meier - will speak this on Nov. 1, a women’s Professional Education Organization in Cincinnati.
   4. Show bee movie at local library, invite members & public
3. **Old Business**
   1. Club T-Shirt Design - Katie Paytes provided a proof of the t-shirt design created by SRO Prints. Copies were circulated among attendees. Cost for the t-shirt is expected to be “about $10.” Any changes or enhancements will drive cost increase. SRO Prints may be willing to set up an on-line store page that would allow the NKY BeeKeepers logo to be applied to hats or other apparel. Details will follow when available.
   2. Club Website - The platform we are using is obsolete & GoDaddy will stop supporting it at some point. Mike Creamer reports good progress and anticipates an update towards the end of the month.
4. **New Business**

a. Order refractometer?

At this time the Club does not anticipate ordering a refractometer. Carl reported that to get an accurate/reliable reading the less expensive refractometers require a calibration process before each use. The more expensive digital refractometer (approximately $350) does not require calibration but is significantly more expensive. As there has never been a request for a refractometer, there is no present plan to include one in the Club’s equipment inventory.

b. Order another teaching hive? Order covers, bottom boards and straps for teaching hive(s)? (Not discussed)

c. Speaker (attorney?) to talk about insurance ... (not sure we can fit this in this year though) (Not discussed)

**History and Tour of Schoolhouse Bees by Tom & Ron**

* Ron and Tom started Schoolhouse Bees about 2 years ago.
* Purchased the schoolhouse through a bid process.
* 25,000 square feet in the school building. They use approximately half of it.
  + School cafeteria refurbished and turned into the bottling room.
  + Gymnasium became the Staging Area.
  + School administrative offices are used for the retail sales and office space.
  + Other first floor offices have been converted to a Wood Shop and a Warm Room where barrels of honey are placed for 24-48 hours to warm to 90-100 degrees before straining/bottling.
* Can bottle/label 15,000 bottles of honey a month.
* There is a possibility of a craft brewing operation and tasting room moving into the remaining space. Timing TBD.
* They have 600+ hives in a 5-county NKY area and approximately 400 hives in Mississippi.
* The nucs they sell in April are grown/prepared in their Mississippi operation.
* Schoolhouse Bees is a Mann-Lake dealer. Tom can order from Mann-Lake for you.

**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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