

The Capital Bee

The Official Newsletter of The Capital City Beekeepers Association

May 2023

In This Issue

Beekeeper's Almanac

Swarms 2023

May's Treasurer's
Report

April Meeting
Minutes

CCBA Opportunities

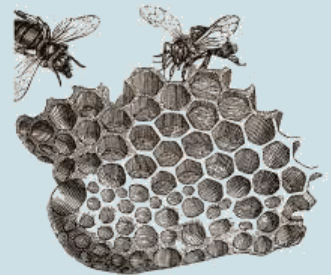
First Fruits

The first extraction of the year here in Central Ky is usually that clear-as-water spring honey, much of which is derived from the Black Locust trees. The satisfaction from this first harvest of honey is gratification beyond words.

Beekeeper's Almanac

THE 'KEEP'S TO DO LIST

- ◆ Honey supers should be on production colonies. Add supers as they are filled.
- ◆ Ensure extraction equipment is clean and in good working order.
- ◆ Continue to manage nucs/ splits- move to or add hive body or make room. Remember, nucs will swarm!
- ◆ Still have equipment ready to catch swarms when called.
- ◆ Watch for that cool time during June for a mid season “knock down” on var-roa with Formic Acid type miticides.



Calling All Bees!

Workers have a **scent (Nasonov) gland** at the tip of the abdomen. The gland emits a mixture of seven terpenoids which serve primarily in orientation. To release the chemical mixture the workers stand high on the hind legs with the abdomen elevated and tilt the last abdominal segment downward while fanning the wings. Bees use the scent to help sisters locate home, food, and water sources. It acts with queen substance in a pheromone concert to keep the bees of the swarm together.- <https://bee-health.extension.org/>



May's CCBA Honey Booth



The First regular Farmer's Market Honey Booth was on May 13th. Members Denise Boebinger, Marsha Bezold, and Wes Henry manned the booth.

Honey was in short supply as usual for most this time of year, but beeswax was also offered. The observation hive was put together by member Mackenzie Preece. [See "Honey Booth" on pg. 11...](#)

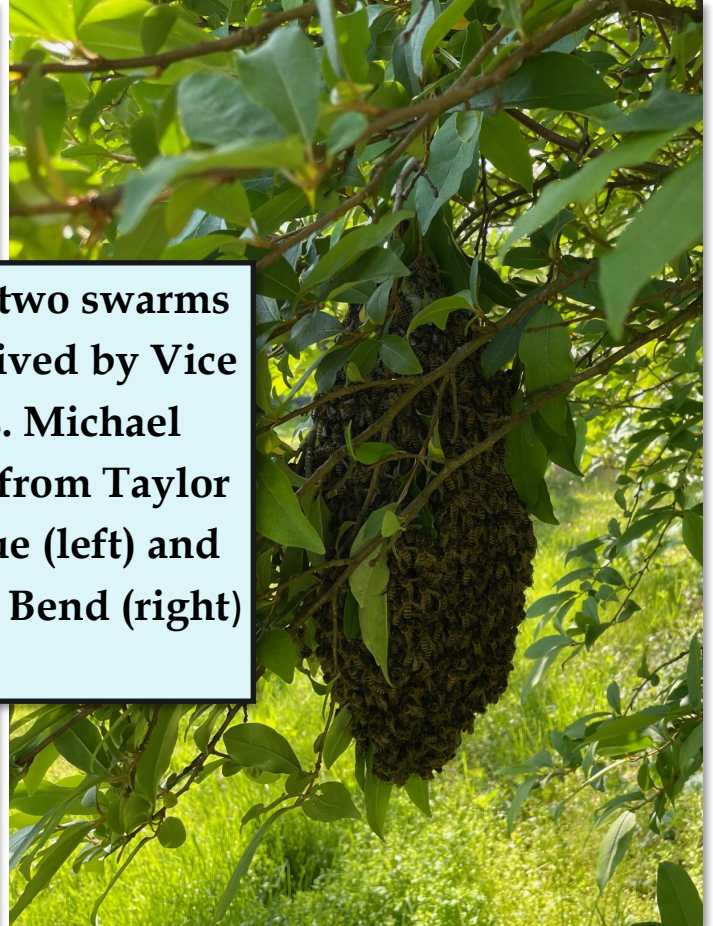
2023 Swarms

With the coming of the honey flow comes swarm season. It is a time when the colonies can become congested and the primal instinct for the old queen to leave with two-thirds or so of the population and make a new home. The remaining are left to make a new queen and continue. This evacuation will gather on limbs, bushes, fence posts, houses, almost anything to rest a moment and let scouts find that perfect place. At this point it is the opportunity for those who keep bees to reap the bounty of those “free bees” and increase their holdings. In doing so ‘keeps also render a service to those who are less enthusiastic about seeing such a thing, and on their property for a host of reasons. Those members on the CCBA Swarm List receive a group text message from CCBA Secretary, Marsha Bezold who manages the list. The first to respond get the swarm. Thus far more than thirty swarms are known to have been caught- from calls or in swarm traps. One can be seen from our last meeting as the opportunity afforded itself in the Association’s apiary [Watch here](#). Some on hand accounts, some easily caught others with a bit more work are on the following pages.



A swarm in the CCBA Apiary during April's Program . Click to watch.

2023 Swarms



These two swarms were hived by Vice Pres. Michael Wiley from Taylor Avenue (left) and Onan's Bend (right)



The CCBA Facebook page has been a great resource for the public to contact us concerning swarms. One such private message to the CCBA netted this swarm seen left. Member Ted O'Canna hived this one from the side of house in Versailles in Woodford county.

2023 Swarms



The colony (seen left) took up residence in a tree on the owner's property on St. John's Road in Bald Knob before a CCBA member could get onsite and catch them. The owner agreed to let the colony have the tree until if by chance a storm exposed them instead of cutting the tree to get at them .

Some swarms are found on the ground (inset). Member Bill Furlong put CCBA Pres. Wes Henry on this one.

With the scent of an opened frame of honey and a *well used* nuc box, the swarm was coerced inside. After watching the cellphone-video, the queen was caught walking in. She is circled.



2023 Swarms



“Nice and Easy”, said member Phillip Patterson when asked how things went in catching this swarm on the west side of Frankfort on a beautiful Friday morning. He backed underneath with his truck and cut the limb (with permission) and set the swarm inside the box. This was especially helpful to the owner as she explained that her child is “highly allergic” to bee stings.



Member Armando Arrastia holds the ladder (left) for Wes as he shakes one from a branch (inset) in the Inverness Subdivision.

The nuc box (right) was fastened to a ladder and the bee were seen “fanning” at the entrance “calling” the others in ([See “Calling All Bees” explanation in Almanac](#)). The bees were collected and moved to a permanent location at dark.



2023 Swarms



One of the great parts of being a part of a beekeeping Association is the help and mentoring from the members. We learn together and lend a hand when needed. This swarm (left) was one of two caught on Jones Lane in Franklin county and no exception to this fact.

Member Annette Riddle helped mentored new member Henry Morton who has kept bees in the past and has recently gotten back into beekeeping. Annette said she "Enjoyed it".

"At times swarms get into places that are hard to get to and structures are the worst. The swarm pictured right, was sent to us by Deb in Owen county. Member Jack Khun followed up with her and the swarm had definitely moved into the crevice seen at the corner of the wall. The rock structure is a chimney that would make as Jack said, "a tough extraction".

Some "beeks" perform what is called a "trap out". However, that requires time and some special equipment. At the time of this writing, no one has volunteered to try for this one.



Capital City Beekeepers Association - Treasurer's Report

Prepared on May 19, 2023 for the May 23 meeting.

General

Beginning Balance (April 21, 2023) **\$2250.57**

Receipts

Dues \$50.00

Total Receipts \$50.00

Expenditures

No Expenditures this period

Total Expenditures \$0.00

Currant Available Balance \$2300.57

Checking Account: \$2250.57

Cash change fund \$50.00

Notes:

Wilson check for April totaled 358.00 for six participating members.

Wilson check for May totaled 198.00 for five participating members.

The treasurer maintains a \$50.00 cash change fund for use at meetings and events.

Educational Funds (Saving)

Beginning Balance (April 21, 2023) **\$908.31**

Receipts

Interest (4/30) \$0.11

Total Receipts \$0.11

Expenditures

No expenditures this period

Total Expenditures \$0.00

Ending Balance \$908.42

**Submitted by George
Fowler,
CCBA Treasurer**

CCBA Minutes

April 25, 2023

Wes Henry called meeting to order at 7:06pm with 29 in attendance.

Hive inspection prior to meeting involved capturing an emerging queen from a queen cell and catching a swarm.

The club welcomed 5 new members.

March minutes were approved (thanks to Ellen Melcher for taking minutes for Marsha)

George Fowler gave the financial report (all treasurer's reports and minutes are in newsletter), financial report was approved.

ACTIVITY/COMMITTEE REPORT:

-Library: Books available to check out, you may keep any magazines

-Winter Farmer's Market: is now over, the regular market days for the CCBA Honey Booth begins May 13th. We will be there the 2nd Saturday of each month. Set up is 7:30am, Market is from 8:30-12 noon. Thank you, Mackenzie Preece, for putting together an observation hive for April farmer's market.

-County Fair: Lynn Morris gave update on Grand Apiarist Medal for the fair. Broadway Clay will be doing a home made looking, hand stamped medallion with the words Grand Apiarist and a bee image on an octagonal shape with yellow background and black lettering. Franklin County Fair is July 18-22nd

-Swarms: Club has had 4 swarm calls as of April 25 and several calls with bees taking up residence in buildings. Michael Wiley reminds everyone that if they remove bees from a structure to make sure and get permission from the owner first, not just the occupant.

OLD BUSINESS:

-State Fair is Aug 17-27. Our club will be running the honey booth on Tuesday 22nd. The State Fair is at fairgrounds in Louisville.

-Bulk Jar purchases: John Antenucci discussed that he had spoken with Manager, Chris Palmer over at Dadant about the rising cost of glass/plasticware and if we could secure a bulk discount if our club members were committed to buying containers from Dadant. This would be a discount of 7-10% over the 5% that club members get. Discussion ensued. Please see John for more information and if you have questions. This is only for club members.

CCBA Meeting Minutes

March 28th, 2023

NEW BUSINESS:

-Woodford Co. Master Gardeners: We will be having an observation hive at their educational booth at the Woodford County Farmer's Market on Saturday May 20th.

4-H Bee Club: Mackenzie Phillips gave an update on the 4-Her's progress. There are 10 4-Her's that are part of the club. They received a grant from Kentucky 4-H Foundation of \$1,000 and that was matched by Franklin Co. 4-H Council to pay for each child to have their own beehive and protective equipment. This grant does not cover the cost of bees. So far 2 swarms have been caught & installed. Our club donated money to cover the paint for the hives.

-Painted Hive: Stacey Luddke wants to paint another hive for auction. Our club would purchase hive, Stacey would paint, and we would auction with the proceeds going to a local school's art program. This topic is tabled until the next meeting.

-Kid's coloring books & honey straws- George Fowler made a motion to allocate \$300 from the general fund for the purchase of coloring books and honey straws for Kid's Day at the Franklin Co. Farmer's Market and any other club selling/educational events where children are present. John Antenucci 2nd. Motioned passed.

-George Fowler motioned to adjourn. Next Bee Club Meeting: Tuesday May 23rd, 6pm,

Minutes submitted by Marsha Bezold, Secretary

Honey Booth



The observation hive is always a big draw to the booth. It affords a rare look for most into the working of a colony without the fear of stings and phobias that come with free-flying bees. It is a great opener to educating folks. Seen left, Marsha and Denise interacted with the public, both youngsters and adults. Denise also works with the 4H Bee Club.

CCBA Opportunities

Regular May CCBA Meeting

May 23rd, 2023

Franklin County Extension Office

101 Lakeview Ct., Frankfort, KY

Split program 6-6:30 in the hives, 6:35-7 Business meeting, and 7:10-8:00 2nd part of program-Extracting Honey

CCBA Honey Booth

Franklin County Farmer's Market

June 10th, 2023, 8:30-12

404 Wilkinson Blvd., Frankfort, KY

Setup @ 7:45



FRESH. LOCAL. LIVELY.

Franklin County Fair

July 18th-22nd

Farm Bureau Pavilion

Franklin County Fairgrounds,

Frankfort, KY

Be thinking of your Honey and Bees Entries



Heartland Apiculture Society

Online registration is coming soon! [Sign up for email updates!](#)

