

# The Capital Bee

*The Official Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers Association*

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Asters blanket the understory of the Autumn woods and are important sources of nectar as colonies prepare for the coming winter. Fortunate is the keeper that can catch this flow for surplus honey.

Picture submitted by  
Wes Henry

# September's Honey Booths



The third **Farmer's Market** Saturday of the month C C B A members were again on Wilkinson Blvd. in Frankfort at the Farmer's Market. It was a cloudy day but spirits were bright with opportunities to connect with folks and talk all things bees and honey. Six members had honey to sell.

Above, treasurer George Fowler, Dan Ramey, and President Wes Henry in the booth and ready for buyers and inquirers alike.



Left, Member Marsha Bezold offers a taste of her hive-harvest.

Right, What better “buyer’s opportunity” could there be next to beekeepers than flowers?



# September's Honey Booths



FB-worthy! I have to agree with Imants comment. With the light spring honey giving way to the darker summer, the contrast makes for a “great looking display”, not to mention Jack and George at the ready in a sheltered corner of the TSC parking lot.



## TSC Booth

Molly Rice with the Frankfort Tractor Supply, contacted the Association through our Facebook Page asking if we would be interested with setting up to sell honey at their “Local Farmers event on September 22nd”. Jack Kuhn, Wes Henry, and George Fowler attended on the rainy day and split the times— morning and afternoon— on the first day of Autumn. Thanks to Ken and Kay Daniels for their help setting up the booth and bringing the tables and tasting supplies. CCBA members were able to interact again with the public in a different venue and some possible new members and beekeepers were encouraged.

Below the scene from the business-end of the honey booth at Tractor Supply. The pumpkins lend to it being the first day of Autumn.



## Trees for Honey Bees

By CCBA member,  
Janet Osborn

With the fall season now upon us, the next few weeks might be a good time to plant new trees that can benefit honeybees. However, to give newly planted trees the best chance of surviving the winter months, there are some simple guidelines to follow. In general, deciduous trees planted by October 15 should be in good shape to survive the winter cold. That time frame can be stretched depending on the weather. Look around your area and if the established trees still have leaves, then you can plant new trees. (Evergreen trees will do much better planted in the spring.) After planting be sure

to water your trees weekly until the ground freezes, even after the leaves have fallen off. And, if you are not up for planting this fall, you can always wait and plant trees in early spring. In the meantime, here are 5 native trees that can provide a good source of pollen and/or nectar for honeybees.

### Pussy Willow (*Salix Discolor*) March-April,

*Native 15-25'*

Pussy willows are one of the first trees to bloom in early spring providing much needed nectar and pollen after the long winter. They are very easy to grow preferring moist soil and full to part sun. You might see this native growing along streambeds where their deep spreading roots help keep the soil on the bank and stop erosion. Keep in mind, because of those deep roots you won't want to plant this tree near water lines, sewer lines or septic tank fields. Pussy willows are dioecious, meaning there are male and female plants. The male plants have both pollen and nectar and larger showier blooms. This is typically what you find in nurseries. The female plants have nectar only and smaller blooms. They will grow up to 20' tall but some folks like to keep them pruned to a shrub size. They can even be grown in a mass as a hedge. Prune in late winter while the plant is still dormant. Pussy willows can be planted by



Pussy Willow

merely cutting a branch off an existing plant and planting it in the soil where you want your tree. (Be sure to cut a brown, actively growing branch, rather than a gray mature one).

### Serviceberry (*Amelanchier Arborea*) March-April *Native 10-25'*

Serviceberry is a small easily grown tree or shrub that provides year-round interest. It prefers medium well-drained soil and full sun to part shade. Showy, slightly fragrant white blossoms appear before it leafs out in April and are a good source of nectar. Later, the flowers give way to green berries, which mature to a dark



Serviceberry

purplish color during summer months providing a tasty snack for birds. Humans also enjoy eating the berries and using them in jams and pies! Come fall the leaves turn to a beautiful yellow/orange color. Finally, the showy gray mottled bark provides nice winter interest. Serviceberry produces root suckers, which need to be pruned if a tree shape is desired. Or, it may be left to grow as a multi-stemmed shrub. Serviceberry can be planted as an individual specimen in the garden or as part of a group of plantings. It looks especially nice planted against a backdrop of darker foliage (i.e. evergreens) that allow the flowers, colorful fall foliage, and gray bark to stand out.

**Tulip poplar** (*Liriodendron Tulipifera*) May-June Native 70-100'

The tulip poplar is a fast growing stately tree with a beautiful pyramidal shape that is seen throughout Kentucky. It prefers moist, well-drained soils, but will grow in clay soils. Although full sun is best for this tree, it will tolerate part shade. Tulip poplar gets its name from the yellow and orange cup-shaped tulip-like flowers that bloom in late spring. The flowers can go unnoticed on large trees because they bloom after the large leaves have fully developed. However, if you stand below a tulip tree while in bloom you will hear the glorious buzzing sound of honeybees and other pollinators reaping the benefits. Tulip poplars can grow up to 24" per year, which makes it an attractive choice for those wanting a very large tree in a short amount of time. However, this also means they are somewhat weak wooded, and susceptible to limb breakage in high winds or snow/ice. Because of its stately size, this is a good tree for a large yard/landscape and not so well suited as a street tree or in smaller yards.



**Smooth Sumac** (*Rhus glabra*) May- June Native 10-20' Smooth sumac is one of many species in the sumac family. It is a familiar site in Kentucky especially in early fall when the brilliant red foliage and conical fruit are present. But sumac also provides a wonderful source of nectar and pollen on the flowers that bloom in late spring. Similar to the pussy willow, smooth sumac is dioecious. The male flowers produce both nectar and pollen in the morning. Female flowers produce only nectar and in the afternoon. If you plant both male and female



plants you can see honeybees and other pollinators on the male plants in the morning and watch as they move to the female plants in the afternoon. Keep in mind it is the female plants that produce the beautiful red-berried cone shaped fruits in the fall. Additionally, those berries can be used to make a delicious tea that is known as sumac lemonade. Smooth sumac is fairly easily transplanted and it would be easy to find a small root sucker to dig up from a nearby larger plant. They prefer full sun but can do fine with partial shade. Smooth sumac is probably best suited to open, more naturalized areas, rather than a formal border or smaller landscape area as it can be invasive and displace desirable plantings. It will spread through the roots and can take over an area. Mowing around a stand of sumac can keep it in check. Can be planted in a mass for stabilizing embankments or for hard to cover areas.

## **American Basswood** (*Tilia americana*) *May-June Native 60- 80'*

Also known as American Linden, this medium to large fast growing tree makes a handsome ornamental shade tree. It is easily grown in medium moisture and well drained soils in full sun to part shade. American Basswood will also tolerate some drought and adverse conditions. The unique heart shaped leaves provide a fairly dense canopy. In June the fragrant pale yellow flowers bloom providing both nectar and pollen when most other trees have already bloomed make this tree a good choice. The flowers can be used to make tea and syrup can be made from the sweet tree sap. Because of it's size, this tree is better suited to large yards and more spacious landscapes.



*Basswood  
Blossoms*



*A mature  
Basswood  
(American Linden)  
Tree*

This is the last of a four part project of articles on planting for honey bees by Janet Osborn. Originally, as we began this project, it was a three part series but became four. In March, Janet introduced us to planting herbs for honey bees, in April, flowers. She then suggested shrubs and trees be split into two separate articles the first of which, shrubs, was published in the August newsletter. Again, her fine and concise work on trees this month is the finale. The previous articles can be found in the appropriate newsletters on the [CCBA Website's newsletters page](#). We are fortunate to have the many faceted talents of all those in our membership like Janet's, from which to draw and learn. She has my deepest appreciation for her willingness to share with us.

- Wes Henry

CCBA President



## CCBA August Meeting Minute

### August 28th, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Henry at 7:15 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve last month's minutes as found in the June newsletter. The motion was made by Michael Wiley, seconded by Roger McDowell and approved by the members present.

Treasurer George Fowler gave the financial report, which included a beginning balance of \$3,104.37, receipts of \$194.55 and expenditures of \$658.60, leaving a balance of \$2,640.60. The larger than normal expenditure was for the purchase of our new, 6-frame extractor. A motion to approve the report was made by Wayne Parrish, seconded by Eddie McNutt and approved.

#### Committee Reports:

Swarm Committee: Jan Rafert reported that Wes Henry, Michael Wiley and Mike Swatzyna all since our last meeting. George Fowler mentioned going out on a swarm call that turned out to be yellow-jackets. George's son, Ed also caught two of his own swarms.

Farmers Market: Ken Daniels reported that there were good sales at the August 11<sup>th</sup> market. Our next farmers' market will be on September 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 until noon. If you have honey to sell, this is a good opportunity. Each member wishing to sell honey pays a \$10 fee and sells their honey for \$12 a pound and \$7 for an 8 oz. jar.

Outreach: The secretary reported that he gave six presentations at the Royal Spring Middle School in Georgetown on August 20<sup>th</sup>. As was mentioned in our August Newsletter.

Spellalooza: George Fowler said that he attended the Spellalooza at the Thorn Hill Education Center, where he sold honey. Spellalooza is a fund raiser for Thorn Hill made of teams of three members each. George said that the spelling bee ended in controversy, which isn't easy in most cases.

State Fair: Wes Henry gave an update on the State Fair where eight members manned the honey booth from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Overall sales at the booth were down from past years, especially in candle sales. However our honey sales were better than last year. The booth was in a new location, at the foyer of the West Wing, so we had more foot traffic. The candle sales were less well advertised than in past years and had room for only one member rather than two in the past. Jack Kuhn won Blue Ribbons for his frame display and his honey entry.

Extractor Procedures: Jack Kuhn composed a two-page Extractor Guidelines and Agreement for members to use our new extractor, including a \$50 refundable deposit. He also included a third page of tips for using the extractor. Wes Henry made a motion that we adopt these procedures, Marsha Bezold seconded the motion and it was carried.

New Business:

Wes Henry mentioned the passing of Randy Rosbrook, Past President of the Madison County Bee Club, an excellent beekeeper and a good friend to those who knew him. Wes made a suggestion that the club send flowers. George Fowler made a motion that the club spend \$50 for flowers, or if the option to give in lieu of flowers, we do that. John Antennuci seconded the motion and it was approved by the members present.



Above is the arrangement sent in memory of Randy Rosbrook by CCBA members... "Tell the bees"

Potluck Dinner: The next topic for discussion was the planning of our annual potluck dinner in October. It was agreed that it be held here and on our regular meeting date, which will be the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The club buys the meat, drinks and plastic ware. John Antennuci will take care of procuring the meat. Members are asked to bring sides and desserts.

Concerning a speaker, Wes asked for suggestions. Shannon Trimboli, author of Plants Honey Bees Use in the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, was mentioned and Wes said that he would contact her and see what happens. If anyone has suggestions for other speakers, they are asked to email them to the secretary.

For the dinner we are also in need of volunteers to help set up before and clean up after. We are also asking for donations for door prizes. If you can assist us with either or both, let the secretary know.

Seminars: The Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Assoc. Will be holding a queen and drone symposium at the KSU farm on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. The club has been asked to provide two volunteers. If you have an interest or questions, contact Wes Henry.

The day before, Friday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Tom Webster will conduct another seminar on Varroa mites under the microscope.

Officer Nominations: Nomination for our officer positions will be held at our October meeting, followed the election at our November meeting. If you would like to run or to nominate another member for a position, please let the secretary know. Here's a good opportunity for you to give back a little to the club.

Floor Discussion: The question was asked if we will once again be hosting the American Beekeeping Federation's Honey Queen or Honey Princess in next March's bee school. Marsh Bezold said that she would contact the federation and try to schedule one or the other to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan W. Rafert

CCBA Secretary



# The Capital Bee

## Opportunities

**September 25th, CCBA Monthly Meeting**

**6 P.M.**

**Franklin County Extension Office**

**101 Lakeview Court,**

**Frankfort, KY**

**September 29th, Ky Queen and Drone Management Certification, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.,**

**KSU Research Farm,**

**1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort, KY**

**October 13th, CCBA Farmer's Market Booth**

**7-12 Noon**

**Franklin County Farmer's Market**

**Frankfort, KY**

**October 23rd, CCBA Annual Potluck**

**Franklin County Extension Office**

**101 Lakeview Court,**

**Frankfort, KY**