

The Capital Bee

The Official Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers Association

February 2019

Pussy willow blooms in the late winter and early spring, long before the leaves appear. The flowers form in tight clusters called catkins. Since they are an early blooming shrub, they produce some of the earliest nectar and pollen for native bees, honey bees, and some species of butterflies. grassyroadsfarm.com



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The survey results are in...

Submitted by Jack Kuhn

And we now have a plan to help improve our apiaries. Congratulations to those of you that recently completed

the Capital City Beekeepers Association survey. The objective of the survey was to engage members into thinking about how well their hive management went in 2018 and to formulate 2019 goals for their apiaries. Awe, you didn't know this? Some of the questions provided insight into how your club and officers can better serve you.

A total of 33 members completed the survey, that's about a 41 percent completion rate. Not bad, considering about a 25 percent response is average. It shows our members are engaged.

A quick Summary of responses

For last year, 30% of members felt they could have done a better job if they had split hives/managed for swarm control. Twelve percent did not treat for Varroa, provide fall feed, or didn't have a clue what they did wrong or could have done better. Eighteen percent selected "other" and the highest written response was queen problems.

For 2019 goals, 55% selected increase hive numbers as their primary goal, 53% selected increase honey production, and 50 % selected "keep my bees alive"! Another 45% selected improve genetics/hygienic stock and 35% indicated a need to learn more about the basics of beekeeping. That helps your officers as we can focus on professional and layman training sessions on helping you achieve these goals.

The topics that members want to learn more about

51% selected "*how to split hives*" as the top pick; 45% selected "*produce more honey*"; and 40% selected "keep bees alive". Closing out the top responses was "getting the bees to draw that precious comb".

The average number of hives members maintained was between 6-8. There was a slight increase in the number of hives at the end of summer and a slight decrease for the beginning of this year. The highest hive single count for any member was 60 and the lowest 0 with most reporting 2-7. According to the responses, some members created and sold NUCS and some members lost hives.

"The objective of the survey was to engage members...to formulate 2019 goals for their apiaries" and "...insight into how your club and officers can better serve you."

Interestingly to me, only 12% of the respondents indicated a need to learn more about varroa control. Maybe it's a testament to all the critical Varroa training we have provided the last two years? And 12% indicated they did not treat for Varroa. I hope they will step forward and let us know if this worked for them.

I'm sorry I could not import graphs here from Survey Monkey, but I hope to conduct a visual recap at the February 26th meeting.

“...12% indicated they did not treat for Varroa.”

Overall, respondents gave the club and officers a score of 4.5 out of five. Pretty good but room for some improvement. One respondent indicated we seemed like a closed group. Thank you for that comment, we must all work harder to welcome new and old members at every meeting. Step up and get involved is a sure way to be included. And finally, some members indicated a desire for periodic hive inspections on their hives or other member hives. This is always a topic of discussion, having many pluses and risks. The officers will visit this again.

More On Varroa

By Jack Kuhn

While the recent CCBK survey did not attempt to capture how many hives were lost to varroa-related deaths, the comments about losing hives to wax moths indicate several hives were lost. The average hives lost nationwide and for KY is about 40-45 percent. Some losses in the U.S. have been reported at 80% and some of the lowest loss numbers is 10 percent. There are almost always losses in an apiary whether a beekeeper/manager admits or not. Sometimes it's late swarming or a failing queen, but most often it's a slow decline from the varroa mite and



“...wax moths are secondary predators...”

the viruses they transmit to the bee. ***Hive beetles and wax moths are secondary predators that take over once the bee health and hive declines and can no longer protect itself.*** While many hives are lost in January, the cold does not kill bees! It's the dismally small cluster of bees remaining- too few to keep themselves warm. Researchers have determined that the varroa mite and the viruses are evolving to repopulate and infect other hives and survive the managed and treatment methods of many apiarist. We must remain vigilant, re-examine our mite control program, and learn best management practices to reduce these parasites and the viruses they vector if we want to keep bee colonies in boxes.

Franklin County Fair – July 16 - 20, 2019 – Lakeview Park

Monday, July 15: Exhibit Hall honey entries accepted 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Tuesday, July 16: Exhibit Hall honey entries accepted 8-11 am. Judging 1 pm.

CCBA to provide judge. (Lunch provided for judge at noon.)

Farm Bureau Pavilion Exhibit Hall Viewing Hours:

Tuesday, July 17: 5-9 pm

Wednesday, July 18: 3-9 pm

Thursday, July 19: 3-9 pm **CCBA will set up a honey tasting and honey sale from 5-8:30 pm**

Friday, July 20: 3-9 pm

Saturday, July 21: 9-noon **Exhibitors: Pick-up Exhibit Hall entries 12:30 – 2 pm.**

Class 18 Honey Division *Sponsored by Capital City Beekeepers Association*

Rules:

Open to Franklin County Residents and to Members of the Capital City Beekeepers whose home counties do not have a Honey Division in their county fair.

Exhibitors may only submit honey they have produced and extracted in 2018.

Exhibitors may enter some or all classes, but are permitted only one entry per class.

Exhibitors will determine the class for each of their entries.

Classes will be as follows:

18001 – Bottled Honey – Light

18002 – Bottled Honey – Amber

18003 – Bottled Honey – Dark

18004 – Chunk Comb Honey

18005 – Cut Comb Honey

18006 – Painted Black Honey Jar

18007 – Honey Frame

18008 – Artistic Frame

18009 – Wax Block (1-5 pound block)

18010 – Molded Wax item

18011 – Wax Candles (single or pair may be submitted)

18012 – Grand Champion Apiarist – Awarded to beekeeper with the most points scored from the above classes.

NO LABELS are permitted on containers or frames or wax submissions. An identifying tag will be assigned and attached upon entry .

Bottled Honey will be divided into three categories: Light, Amber, and Dark.

Bottled Honey shall only be submitted in standard 1 lb. glass queenline jars. Plastic or metal lids are acceptable, but safety seals are not permitted.

Chunk Comb Honey shall be submitted in clear glass wide-mouth jars

Cut Comb Honey shall only be submitted in square, clear plastic containers.

Honey with a moisture content in excess of 18.7% will be disqualified.

In classes 18001, 18002, 18003, and 18004, honey with a moisture content of 18.1% to 18.69% shall have points deducted.

Honey Frames shall not be wired. Deep frames, medium, or shallow frames may be submitted.

All frames shall be submitted in a bee-proof, drip-proof container that will permit the frame's removal for judging and display.

Prizes: First - \$2.00; Second – \$1.50; Third - \$1.00

Additionally, the Capital City Beekeepers Association may approve additional prizes at its June meeting.

The honey judge may award more than one first place ribbon in any category when the judge finds that such award is called for under the standards used by the judge.

Purposed 2019 County Fair Rules

George Fowler is the CCBA Rep to the Franklin County Fair Board and has submitted (left) the purposed rules for this year's fair. Last year there were more entries than ever ([See July 2018 newsletter](#)). We continue to encourage participation of non-members and members alike, inasmuch that CCBA was instrumental in getting approved that "...members of Capital City Beekeepers in whose county do not offer a honey division in their county fair" are allowed to enter. Last year, CCBA enhanced the prizes and winnings and The association will consider additional prizes at the June 2019 meeting.

CCBA

Meeting Minutes of 22 January, 2019

The evening began with a very interesting and informative presentation by Ms. Dorothey Morgan, President of the KY Queen Breeders Association and one of two people named Beekeeper of the Year by the KY State Beekeepers Association (KSBA).

At 7:47 p.m. President Wes Henry called the meeting to order and requested a motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting as they appeared in the January newsletter. Michael Wiley made the motion, Rick Evans seconded the motion and it was carried by the members

Treasurer George Fowler gave the financial report, which included a beginning balance of \$2,630.05, receipts of \$315.47 and expenditures of \$496.76, leaving a balance of \$2,448.76. Wes Henry amended the report, saying that two members should be reimbursed by \$25 each due to their attendance at the KSBA meeting in March. Wayne Parrish made a motion to approve the treasurer's report with a second by Ken Daniels. The membership approved the motion.

Activity Report: KSBA held a meeting in mid-December to announce proposed amendments to their bylaws in regards to the KY Certified Honey Program, including the hiring of two staff members to support the program. New stickers are in the works and should be available shortly.

Old Business:

President Henry reminded everyone that the club now has a family membership available for a couple and their children under 18 years of age for \$15. Individual memberships remain at \$10. KSBA dues are \$15 per individual and, if purchased through the club, the club retains \$2 of this.

We have had a request by a person with 50 acres of land who would like to have someone place hives on his property. One member at the meeting was interested and anyone else interested should contact Wes.

Status of school hive painting: The hives are at the schools for painting. Wes asked for a second to a committee motion that the club purchase 100 frames with plastic foundations for \$243, which is our cost after a \$40 discount by Dadant & Sons. Ed McNutt seconded the motion and it was approved. Forty percent of the money raised at the hive auction returns to the club and the remaining 60% goes to the participating schools. The painted hives need to be collected from the schools the week before the Bluegrass Beekeeping School.

There will be a planning session for the Bluegrass Beekeeping School here at the Franklin Co. Extension Office on March 9th at 6 p.m. Dr. Larry Connor will not only be the keynote speaker but will also hold a breakout session. Many of the breakout sessions have already been planned.



Dorothey Morgan made a great presentation at the January meeting on queen management and genetics for mite control and much more.

TIME TO RENEW **ANNUAL DUES**

Note Changes:

Members of CCBA voted in November (See Minutes, New Business) to keep Annual individual dues at \$10.00.

Beginning 2019 is a new Family Rate of 15.00 annually. Families are defined as couples and/or their minor (under 18 yrs. of age) children.

Remit to Jan Rafert, Secretary at the meeting or by mail:

1662 Talmage Mayo Rd.

Registration fees for this year's bee school have increased slightly. Pre-registration is \$35 and at the door registration is \$40. The cost of volunteer registration was raised to \$20. Michael Wiley, Sr. asked for volunteers for the coffee table and, if enough people sign up, they should only have to work an hour or so and have the remainder of the day to attend sessions. Ken Daniels also mentioned that we need two people to help with lunch distribution and two people to help with clean up after lunch. We already have two people for the Friday night's set-up. Separate from the school volunteers, we also need people to help man our club's table at the school.

New Business:

Registration fees for the Farmers Market have also risen a little. The cost to have a table once per week throughout the season will now be \$125, up from \$100 last year. The club made \$210 last year from members paying \$10 to sell their honey. We asked for a motion that the club pays the new fee. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

[George Fowler updated the club on this year's upcoming county fair regarding honey classes and such.](#) If our honey entry trend from last year continues, we will need to purchase a larger display case.

Dorothey Morgan said that she will be a presenter at the Bluegrass Bee School, speaking on 48 hour queen cells and selecting for mite biting behavior.

Our next meeting will be February 25th with Chris Renfrow, President of KSBA, as our guest speaker.

At 8:12 p.m. George Fowler made a motion to adjourn, Wes Henry seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan W. Rafert
CCBA Secretary

2019 Bluegrass Bee School

March 9th, 2019

On the campus of Ky. State University,
Frankfort, Kentucky

Beginner and Second Year Beekeeper
Tracks and Many Genral breakout Ses-
sions.

Dr. Lawrence (Larry) Conner will speak
and teach a session on queen manage-
ment.

[Go to website to preregister and details of
classes.](#)

Capital City Beekeepers Association
Treasurer's Report
January 23, 2019 to February 26, 2019

Beginning Balance	\$2448.76
 <u>Receipts</u>	
Dues:	
CCBA – Individual (12 members)	\$120.00
CCBA – Family (4 families)	\$60.00
KSBA (4 members)	\$60.00
Interest on Checking Acct.(11/30 & 12/31)	<u>\$0.23</u>
Total Receipts	\$240.23
 <u>Expenditures</u>	
January Speaker Mileage reimbursement	\$50.00
Franklin County Farmers Market application	\$125.00
Dues forwarded to KSBA (4 members)	<u>\$52.00</u>
Total Expenditures	\$227.00
 Current Available Balance	 \$2461.99

Financial Notes:
The December/January Check from Wilson Nurseries totaled \$270.25. This was redistributed to four participating members.

At the January meeting, we obligated \$243.80 for the purchase of frames with plastic foundation for the hives to be auctioned at the bee school. That purchase has not yet been completed.

2019 Bluegrass Beekeepers School

March 9th, 2019

Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY

[Click for more details and to Preregister](#)



Beginner's Track & Second Year Beekeeper's Track

General Classes on:

Making nucs, requeening, urban beekeeping, using wax, using nucs, planting for bees, research on behavior, two queen system, diseases, varroa treatment, nutrition, and much, much, more.

Vendors, Door Prizes, Silent Auction

Speakers include:

EAS Certified Master Beekeeper, Kent Williams, Ky. State Apiarist, Dr. Tammy Horn Potter, KSBA President, Chris Renfrow, Commercial Beekeeper, Rick Sutton, 2019 ABF Honey Princess, Nicole Medina, KSU Assoc. Professor, Dr. Tom Webster, Kevin Hale and many other veteran beekeepers.



2019 Honey Princess
Nicole Medina

Keynote Speaker and conducting a class on Queen Management:

Dr. Lawrence (Larry) Conner

Larry earned a masters and doctorate degrees in honey-bee pollination of crops at Michigan State University, was previously the Extension Bee Specialist at The Ohio State University, President of Genetic Systems, Inc. (which produced tens of thousands of instrumentally inseminated queens as

well as the Starline and Midnite breeding stock). He is presently the founder and operator of Wicwas Press LLC,



specializing in publication of quality bee books, author of more than two dozen books including i.e. *Increase Essentials*, *Bee Sex Essentials*, *Queen Rearing Essentials*, and contributed monthly to *The American Bee Journal* and *Bee Culture Magazines*. He travels extensively and lectures on a wide range of subjects concerning honey bees, bee breeding, pollination and colony management.

***Larry will be selling and signing books as well**

The Capital Bee Opportunities

CCBA February Meeting

February 26th, 6-8 p.m.

Franklin County Extension Of-
fice

101 Lakeview Court,
Frankfort, KY

Bluegrass Bee School

March 9th, 2019

KY State University

Frankfort, KY

Preregister or register at the
door.