

Swarm Traps Presentation — Library Checkout Policy — January Minutes — A Snow Day in the Apiary — Treasurer's Report — CCBA Opportunities

There's nothing like free bees, and there's deep satisfaction in acquiring them from the use of a swarm trap. Get them ready, swarm season is coming.

The Capital Bee

February 2021

The Official Newsletter of The Capital City Beekeepers Association

Swarm Traps- A Ky Queen Bee Breeder's Presentation

CCBA Members Attend in February

Several members of the Capital City Beekeepers took the opportunity to attend via ZOOM, one of the two presentations offered each month by The Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association on the evening of February 17th. Swarm Trapping was the focus of the presentation given by Neil Hunt, President of the Pike County Beekeepers Association and 2020 KSBA Beekeeper of the year. When asked, Neil estimated he had a bout thirty Traps out last season and plans to increase his chances to 50 this year.

He spoke about the construction of the trap a design that has served him well, which is basically a modified hive body, and that catching feral swarms was not just something for the countryside but also displayed pictures of traps in the city of Pikeville where he has successfully caught multiple swarms. Interestingly, he told one swarm he hived last year without a trap from the shoe of the statue of former Kentucky Governor Paul Patton.

He suggested always to be scouting for bees. This entails finding places where bees are seen getting water and foraging, as good places to hang a trap.

Participants were warned not to disturb a trap until you're confident they have made it their home. One over arching sign that a swarm has indeed taken up residence in the trap is to watch for "The Pollen Stream", as Neil called it- the returning of foragers with their legs of many colors.

Another experienced tip he also stressed was when going afield to take everything with you

as it concerns equipment, "All your just in case items", he said. One item of interest that is included in Neil's essentials is a stethoscope which he can use to also detect by sound if a colony is resident in the box.

When asked how high to hang a trap he suggested six to eight feet with the bottom on a supporting branch ([see cover](#)) and with a clear path to the entrance. Inside should also include only one frame of pulled comb in the center of "empty" frames. This will "buy you time" if you don't get back to inspect the trap in a timely fashion. Besides "swarm bait" found at any bee suppliers webpage, he too dresses or applies to the inside walls and frames, wax he has melted from his own hives but doesn't clean- that is propolis and all. The fragrant scent of wax and propolis is a great help he has found.

He took time also to elaborate on the shape and size of the entrance. That which he has found to work best is a slot 4 x 3/8 inches with a screened one inch hole in the back for ventilation. He also made a point to make sure attendees knew that a space of 4-5 inches between the floor of the trap and the bottom of the frames was very helpful.

"...catching feral swarms...not just something for the countryside..."

As to how often a trap should be checked Neil suggested once a week to ten days. If then found to have a swarm resident, then to move early morning or in the evening after the foragers have returned. By this you are ensured to have most if not all the work force including the nurse bees. After they are at their permanent location he suggested to immediately open the entrance and allow a day or two for them to settle before moving the frames into the hive body.

At the conclusion Neil made a plea that as

we catch these feral colonies to not only do so for the sake of increasing your holdings but also to check for evidence of “chewing behavior”. This is



A microscopic view of a mite that has fallen victim to “chewing behavior”. (KQBBA FB page)

genetic behavior where the bees actually chew the legs off of mites in defense of the colony which goes a long way to the sustainability traits that “The Queen Breeders” work diligently to cultivate.

There was obviously more details that Neil had to offer and it was suggested that the presentation be recorded and was. In a FB message from KQBBA there was confirmation so and that it would be posted on [their FB page](#) for a few days.

Suggested reading was “Swarm Essentials” by Stephen J. Rapasky and “Honeybee Democracy” by Thomas D. Seeley. One can also download a free copy on the subject, [“Bait Hives for Honeybees” by Thomas Seeley](#), which is a Cornell Cooperative Extension publication.

Other Presentations are being offered twice a month from the Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association. Neil’s and two more are free to non-members in February and March. February 24th will feature Early Spring feeding by Larry Young and Dorothy Morgan’s on Queen and Hive Management on March 10th. Both begin at 8 p.m. The Facebook page for KQBBA suggests to email Dorothy Morgan at Lavenderlanefarms@gmail.com to receive an invitation to join the ZOOM meeting.

The CCBA Library is a resource that is evolving and growing. It also unfortunately is a resource that its access has been limited and restricted by the Covid-19 pandemic However, our Librarian George Fowler is to be lauded for his efforts. George not only has worked at acquiring and maintaining the books and materials, but also their storage and safe keeping.

He has now presented not only a way to access the media but also the rules that will govern its use.

Capital City Beekeepers’ Library

Library Access During the Pandemic

The Beekeepers’ Library now contains 53 volumes. When we begin to have regular in person club meetings, the library will be available at the meetings. Members will be able to check out no more than two books at a time and must return books previously checked out before obtaining additional materials.

Until we begin to have our regular monthly meeting, the following procedures will be used to allow members to access the library materials.

- The library inventory list will be distributed to the membership.
- Members requesting material should text or email George Fowler geofowler@gmail.com stating what they wish to check out.
- George will verify the material is available and a time can be arranged for the member to pick up the material from George’s front porch.
- Material should be returned within one month of the date checked out so that material can be made available to other members.
- Review of the inventory will show that some of this material will be more popular than others. Please be aware of this fact in requesting material and ensuring its prompt return.

Capital City Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes of 26 January 2021

NOTE: Our first program and meeting of 2021 were conducted via Zoom.

Program:

CCBA program director, Jack Kuhn, gave a very informative and interesting presentation on the hows and whys of honey crystallization. In summary, it all has to do with the two sugars, fructose and glucose, temperature, moisture content and a few other factors. The entire presentation can be viewed via our CCBA webpage.

Meeting:

President Wes Henry called this month's meeting to order following the presentation and thanked Jack for his program

The first items on the agenda were the motions to approve the minutes of our November meeting and the approvals of the annual and monthly financial reports, as found in the most recent issue of the newsletter. There were no objections or comments, and the minutes and reports were approved.

Activity Reports:

Library Report:

Librarian George Fowler reported that he keeps trying to track down some books that have been out for a while and is working on developing procedures for members to arrange with him for checking out books ([see Pg. 3](#)).

Beekeeper Scholarship Committee:

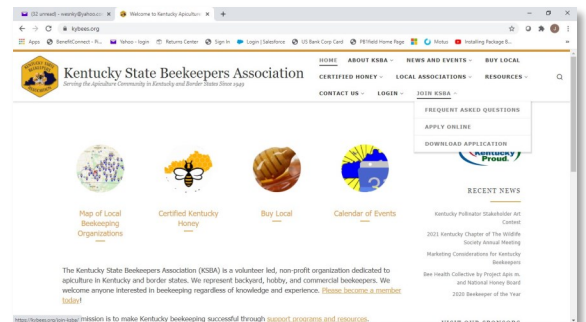
Nothing yet. Present circumstances and resulting commitments limit our opportunities to meet.

Old Business:

Memberships:

Just a reminder that all paid memberships for 2020 have been carried over for 2021.

Wes requested that the secretary provide information regarding membership in the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association (KSBA). KSBA provides its members with much valuable information, including a listing of bee organizations by county, where to buy local honey and most importantly a listing of Certified Kentucky Honey Program (CKHP) throughout the state. The CKHP registers producers of honey that is produced entirely in Kentucky and, therefore, is truly 'local'. KSBA memberships are \$15 per individual and CKHP membership is based on the amount of honey a producer provides and dues are based on those amounts and includes KSBA membership. For more information visit the KSBA website at kybees.org.



Bluegrass Beekeeping School – 2021:

This year's bee school will in all likelihood be scrapped due to the technicalities of holding it virtually and the lack of time to try and coordinate it. However, we are looking forward to 2022, when the possibilities will be far greater.

New Business:

2021 Farmers Market:

We attended the Farmers Market Annual meeting last week and the market will continue through 2021. If we decide to attend as we have in the past, i.e. the second Saturday of each month, the cost is a vendor's fee of \$125 for the year. The first market will be on May 8th. Jan Rafert made a motion that we approve the fee and submit our application to participate. Ralph Davison seconded this motion and it carried.

As in the past, there will be a \$10 fee per market for members wishing to sell honey. The prices will remain the same, i.e. 2 oz. bottles for \$3 or \$5 for two; 8 oz. for \$7; 1 lb. for \$12; 1½ for \$18 and quarts for \$35. The cost for any other siz-

es may be set by the seller.

The question was raised as to whether or not we will continue to charge a seller's fee if those fees exceed our \$125 participation fee. Last year we did not meet our participation fees. A brief discussion followed and was concluded by Sarah Conn recommending that we table this for now and re-address it if we do exceed the fees.

Annual Officers Meeting:

Wes reported that the officers met last Sunday for their annual meeting per the bylaws. The first order of business was the need to update our membership form including Michael Wiley, Jr. as vice-president and updating our meeting dates, i.e. the addition that we meet on the third Tuesday in November.

With regards to our activities, it is paramount that we meet live as much as possible. With spring arriving it may be possible to have our programs in the bee yard with members present and continue with a hybrid meeting of virtual and in person participation.

Other activities discussed were the Farmers Market, Dadant Package Day on April 9th, an extractor party, having a special workshop, which would be free for members and non-members paying a fee and our annual pot-luck dinner with a speaker and honey tasting.

Activities that require additional information are participation in the annual Capital Area Extension Master Gardeners plant sale, the feasibilities and possibilities of doing virtual school presentations and both the Franklin County and the Kentucky State Fairs. These opportunities will be explored.

Other topics discussed were the availability of the library and upcoming monthly programs. Jack will be developing a survey for the members regarding which topics they would like to have addressed. Brian Simmons suggested the topic of "How Swarms Work".

Ending the report on the officers meeting, Wes added that we all agree to remain as active as possible.

From the Floor:

Marsha Bezold asked if there were any guidelines from the Extension Office regarding in person meetings. Jack responded that the office is still closed and is re-evaluating when to reopen and the number of people permitted to meet at any given time.

Adjournment:

With nothing more from the floor, Wes graciously extended the offer for a motion to adjournment to George Fowler. George quite readily accepted, Marsha seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.!

The next meeting of the Capital City Bees will be on February 23rd.

Your most humble servant,

Jan W. Rafert



Snows came this month with frigid temps to the CCBA apiary. This picture was taken February 16th and more snow came a day or so later. Though it seems no life is present, within, the hum of the cluster can be heard - a song of persistence and endurance in the hopes for a coming spring.

Capital City Beekeepers Association - Treasurer's Report

Prepared on January 21, 2021 for January 2021 Meeting

General

Beginning Balance (January 1, 2021) \$2949.81

Receipts

Dues (2 Individual) \$20.00

Total Receipts \$20.00

Expenditures

Total Expenditures None

Currant Available Balance \$2969.81

Checking Account: \$2919.81

Cash change fund \$50.00

Notes:

1. Wilson check for January 2021 - 123.75 for 4 member/participants.
2. The treasurer maintains a \$50.00 cash change fund for use at meetings and events.

Educational Funds (Saving)

Beginning Balance \$479.41

Total Receipts NONE

Total Expenditures NONE

Ending Balance \$479.41

CCBA Opportunities

CCBA Monthly Meeting

February 23rd

Program @ 6p.m.: Assembling woodenware and Frames
by Michael Wiley on [FB Live](#)

Business meeting, 7 p.m.

Members sent link to ZOOM

KQBBA Bi monthly Presentation

Early Spring feeding by Larry Young

February 24th , 8 p.m.

email Dorothey Morgan at

Lavenderlanefarms@gmail.com

to receive an invitation to join the ZOOM meeting.

KQBBA Bi monthly Presentation

March 10th, 8 p.m.

Queen and Hive Management by Dorothey Morgan

email Dorothey Morgan at

Lavenderlanefarms@gmail.com

to receive an invitation to join the ZOOM meeting.