

# The Capital Bee

If you still have surplus honey it has possibly or is in the process of crystalizing. January's program will help explain why and how to keep it liquid.

## The Official Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers Association

### Choosing Packages or Nucs?

Things to know and consider

By [Wes Henry](#)

Packages or nucs? That's a good question, and one that is and has been weighed time and again. It's the decision that folks need to make when wanting not only to get started in beekeeping, but may also need to replace winter losses, or expanding an apiary.

For some, the difference between the two may need to be first explained. A Package of bees is simply a few pounds of bees (workers and maybe a few drones) shipped with a mated caged queen and a can of syrup to get them through the ordeal. A nuc is an abbreviation of the word for a nucleus hive.

It contains normally 4-5 frames... [continued on page 2](#)



A Nuc (left) and a Package (right) of bees.

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Our next regular monthly meeting will be January 26th, 2021. Program and Business meeting will be via Zoom. The link will be sent to all members by Secretary Jan Rafert. Also, it was voted that **for paid members for 2020** there will be no collection for dues for 2021 as a curtesy to our members that we could not meet in person for the majority of 2020.

of with honey, pollen, and brood and the laying queen, workers, and drones. It simply is a complete working colony of bees needing more room to expand grow into a full production colony.

Packages are cheaper to purchase and can be shipped in the mails and may be more readily available. With packages you pay for them, have them delivered or arrive at an appointed time and place and take them home, and install them, which to be completely fair, is the subject for another article. Let it suffice however, that it can be simply no more than placing the caged queen between the center frames and dumping the bees in on top of her and feed, feed, feed. That doesn't do it justice and no doubt, leaves a lot of questions for new-bees which can be answered in that other article.

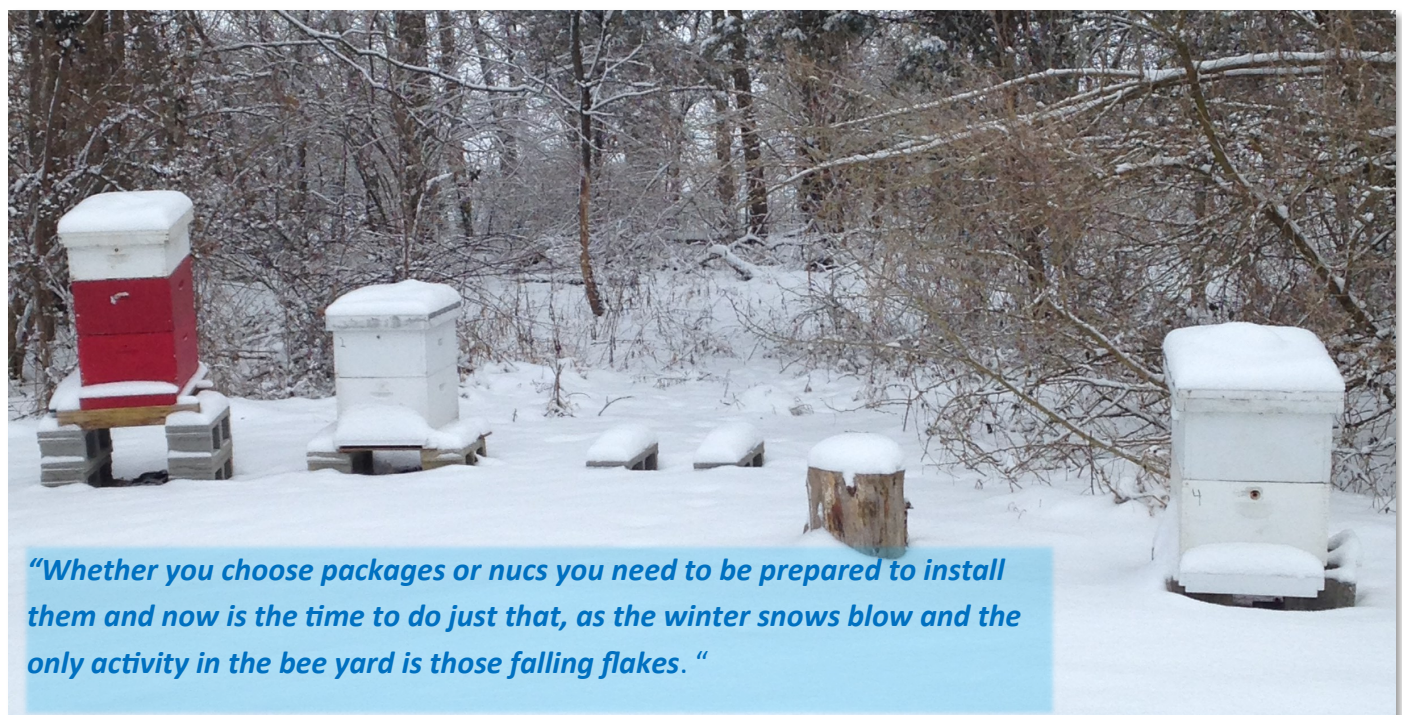
In purchasing nucs, sometimes there may be a frame-exchange involved including the price, i.e. five frames nucs would require the purchaser to give the seller five empty frames with foundation and the purchase price. Also, you should be within

driving distance to get them when ready. Nucs are a bit more fragile with combs already pulled and all and not shipped via the mails. As for installing a nuc, it can be a bit more civil as you simply take up the frames and place them likewise in the center of the permanent hive body of the proper size (nucs are sold in deep and medium sizes).

I've purchased and used both packages and nucs and availability and price have been deciding factors at the time. I've been successful with both and suffered loss too. Yet, between the two, a nuc is less risk in the fact you already have an accepted and working queen/ colony. You also can inspect the nuc before leaving with it- laying pattern of the queen, vitality and health of the bees, and a good nuc has a little weight to it.

Whether you choose packages or nucs you need to be prepared to install them and now is the time to do just that, as the winter snows blow and the only activity in the bee yard is those falling flakes. For new-bees especially, you need to read/

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study up, build or purchase hive equipment and personal equipment that you possibly didn't get for Christmas. The main thing is to be ready to install and feed your bees when you do get them. A special note here, again, is that your equipment is the same size, deeps or mediums for nucs.

Joining a local bee association like the CCBA and taking part in "bee schools" will also be a tremendous help whether you're just beginning or not. Being a part of an association, you have the opportunity to interact with other beekeepers and have access to resources and programs that give hands on activities to help you learn and you no doubt have things that will help others too. Don't join just to take away something but to give to others too. We can all learn from one another.

Mentors are priceless and these organizations have folks that are willing to help onsite or available for a phone call or text to answer our questions. I remember two that specifically helped me along, Jim Coss (from whom I bought my first nuc) and Fritz Vorisek (who I met at the Bluegrass Bee School). Jim never seemed burdened

to answer my questions and Fritz kept his hands in his pockets when he needed too. Those two things are what I believe catapulted me into the art and helped me and helps me help others today. We all, in my opinion, should aspire to help others as our experience and confidence builds.

Even though Covid has brought much of this one-on-one associational activity to a screeching halt we have fortunately, the technology that helped the CCBA continue programs and meetings last year and will for the foreseeable future.

Last on the subject of getting started with either packages or nucs, you need to have correct expectations. Do not expect to get honey the first season. I didn't say it hasn't happened, but just expect not too. Also, remember this is agriculture mingled with husbandry. You have good years and bad years, you could lose everything and it could be a bountiful harvest. However, your attention to details and choices go a long way to success. So weigh the options, the pros and cons, and decide what's best for you and get going now. Next month We'll take a look at installations of packages and nucs.

## 2021 Farmer's Market

The annual meeting for the Franklin county Farmer's Market was via Zoom on January 19th. Along with the election of the Board of Directors, Kelli Sebastian is now taking the place of Michelle Bragg as Market

Manager. As a Rotating Vendor, CCBA was not able to vote. The virtual meeting included two CCBA members present, President Wes Henry and Program Director Jack Kuhn who is also an independent member of The Franklin Farmer's Market. At present The Market is operating every other Saturday from 10-11:30- The Winter Market. CCBA has the opportunity to participate in the Winter Market if folks wish too. Please contact Wes Henry at 502-320-9253 or [wesnky@yahoo.com](mailto:wesnky@yahoo.com). CCBA will be voting in the regular January meeting to participate in the 2021 market. The application has been submitted due to the deadline of January 19th, however, a check will need to be approved by the association to be sent by the end of the month, if the Association wishes to again be a rotating vendor.



# Capital City Beekeepers Association

## Meeting Minutes of 17 November, 2020

NOTE: As with the last eight months, the program was viewed on the association's Facebook page and the meeting was conducted via Zoom.

### Program:

Beekeeper and CCBA member Michael Wiley presented the program for the evening from the Franklin County Cooperative Extension Office via Facebook. He demonstrated the making of sugar blocks and provided his own recipes, which will be distributed to the membership at a later date.

### Meeting:

President Wes Henry called this month's meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. at which time he thanked Michael Wiley for his informative and interesting program at 6 p.m.

Next Wes requested a motion of approval for the October meeting minutes, as they appeared in the recent newsletter. With no objections, the minutes were approved. The treasurer's report was then provided by George Fowler, who just happens to be the association's treasurer. The report included the receiving of the sellers' fees from the October Farmers Market, the expenditure of \$62.43 for a cover for the library cart, and yet another six cents (\$0.06) in interest for our Education Fund. George also promised an annual report for 2020 at our next meeting in January 2021. The treasurer's report was approved as there were no objections.

### Activity Reports:

#### Swarm Report:

To no one's surprise, the secretary reported that there had not been even one swarm reported in the last month. Imagine that.

#### Farmers Market:

Last weekend's farmers market was the last for the 2020, according to Wes. they were able to sell enough honey to meet their seller fees. A Holiday Market is scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup>, depending on restrictions. Once again members were reminded of the opportunity to sell their honey through Wilson Nurseries. Each seller must have a number; if a member doesn't have a number, Wilsons will assign one. Each seller is advised to keep his or her own inventory list. When honey is sold, Wilsons sends the proceeds to the association and then the treasurer sends a reimbursement check to the appropriate seller.

#### Kentucky State Beekeepers Assoc. (KSBA):

Wes reported that former state apiarist, Phil Craft, gave a presentation regarding the uses of oxalic acid in treating hives against Varroa mites, at KSBA's fall meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The presentation was recorded and can be viewed by KSBA members on the association's website. KSBA has also announce the Beekeeper of the Year and the results of the officers' election for 2021. KSBA is also looking for volunteers to serve on their board of directors. If you are a KSBA member and interested in serving on the board, please contact the KSBA.

#### KSBA's Certified Kentucky Honey Program:

# Capital City Beekeepers Association

## Meeting Minutes of 17 November 2020

### Cont.

Sarah Preston, CKHP manager, announced that the program is now using K-card for accepting CKHP membership fees. She also reminded program members to her information for their honey, if they have not yet done so.

#### Library Report:

Librarian George Fowler showed our new, sturdy book cart and its impressive, monogrammed cover with CCBA logo. The cart will be available to members when we return to live meetings. In the meantime, members should contact George if there is a book that they wish to check out.

#### Beekeeper Scholarship Committee:

Wes requested news regarding the committee's progress, but so far there is none. This situation will indeed be remedied.

#### **Old Business:**

##### CCBA Election of Officers

As there was only a single nomination for each position, the "election" results are as follows:

President – Wes Henry

Vice-President – Michael Wiley, Jr.

Program Chair – Jack Kuhn

Treasurer – George Fowler

Secretary – Jan Rafert

##### Bluegrass Beekeeping School – 2021:

Representatives of the Bluegrass Beekeeping Association and the CCBA were able to meet virtually and discuss next year's school. All agreed that the school would be held virtually, include classes for both first- and second-year beekeepers, that presentations would be either live or recorded and that a live, virtual question and answer period would be held for each class segment. John Jeffers of BBA has some suggestions regarding the virtual logistics. Ruth Jeffers will be getting back to the CCBA with those suggestions. Anyone interested in assisting with the bee school is encouraged to do so and will be greatly appreciated. Please contact our secretary of your interest.

##### Frankfort's Candlelight Tour:

Due to the ongoing Covid pandemic, the candlelight tour was cancelled at the eleventh hour. Wes expressed the association's gratitude to Michael at Gibby's restaurant for the approval of our use of their facilities as in previous years and for their long time and ongoing support to the CCBA.

#### **New Business:**

##### Beekeeper Library Opportunity:

Former member and dear friend, Joel Schrader has decided to sell his personal beekeeping library. He has forty-two books with thirty-eight titles that he wishes to sell for \$5 to \$20 per volume, or the entire collection for \$150. George made a motion that we purchase this collection. Lynn Morris seconded the motion and the motion was carried. Fortunately, we now have a new cart on which to store them. A brief discussion followed about what we should do with the duplicate volumes and a plan for checking out the books. These items will be addressed at a later time. Meanwhile, George will log in the new books and develop an inventory list that will be disseminated to the members.

**Capital City Beekeepers Association**  
**Meeting Minutes of 17 November 2020**  
**Cont.**

2021 Membership:

In light of the fact that over two-thirds of our meetings this year had to be held virtually, Wes suggested that we roll the dues paid for 2020 be applied to 2021. The motion to do so was made by Mary Charlton, seconded by Marsha Be-zold and approved by the members present. The secretary was directed to send an email to the membership informing them of this decision.

From the Floor:

George mentioned that Sarah Preston should receive all KSBA dues. KSBA member organizations will no longer collect the dues for KSBA.

Jim and Mary Charlton wanted to thank Wes for his valued assistance in revitalizing their hive, bringing it back from the brink. Wes acknowledged their gratitude and replied that is one of the great reasons why we are here.

Adjournment:

With all being said that needed to be said and knowing that George would make a motion and someone else would second it, Wes unilaterally decided to exercise his executive powers and adjourn this, the last CCBA meeting of 2020.\*

With the meeting adjourned, all attending wished all the others happy holidays and a better new year, before going on with their lives.

As usual submitted by,

Jan W. Rafert  
CCBA Secretary

\* Once again, our inept secretary failed to note the exact time of adjournment. Those who truly want to know this information, please review the entire meeting on the CCBA webpage at [capitalbees.weebly.com](http://capitalbees.weebly.com),

**Capital City Beekeepers Association - Treasurer's Report**  
**Prepared on January 21, 2021**

**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**

## Capital City Beekeepers Association Annual Treasurer's Report, 2020

**General:**

Beginning Balance (January 1, 2020)	<b>\$2822.39</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	
Dues	\$610.00
Sales (Bumper stickers)	\$2.00
Donation	\$40.00
Farmers Market Fees	\$90.00
Club Share of Hive Auction	
Proceeds	\$253.00 (See Note 1 below)
Interest on checking account	\$3.17
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$998.17</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Farmers' Market Participations	
Fees	\$125.00
Snack for Hive Assembly Crew	\$14.97
Dinner for Officers Meeting	\$85.57
Purchase of Excess Club Shirts	
For Resale	\$127.00
New Club Banner	\$54.11
Postage Stamps	\$33.00
Bank Checks	\$19.35
Library	
Cart	\$199.26
Cover for Cart	\$62.49
Books	\$150.00
Total Library	\$411.75
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$870.75</b>
<b>Ending Balance (December 31, 2020)</b>	<b>\$2949.81</b> (See Note 2 below)

**Educational Funds (Savings)**

Beginning Balance (January 1, 2020)	\$478.69
<b>Receipts</b>	
Interest on savings Account	\$0.72
No Expenditures from this account	
<b>Ending Balance (December 31, 2020)</b>	<b>\$479.41</b>

**Note 1:** The Bee School hive auction:

Auction Receipts:	\$915.00
Purchase of frames	\$212.00
Distribution to schools	\$450.00
<b>Club Share of proceeds</b>	<b>\$253.00</b>

**Note 2:** The Current General Balance is held:

Checking Account	\$2899.81
Cash Change Fund	\$50.00

**Note 3:** The sales checks from Wilson Nursery in 2020

Totaled	\$1949.00
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# The Capital Bee

## Opportunities

**CCBA Regular Scheduled Meeting- January 26th, 2021**

**Program 6 p.m. via ZOOM: Why Does Honey Crystalize and How to Manage it for Bottling-  
By, Jack Kuhn**

**Business Meeting 7 p.m. via ZOOM, Members sent sign-on information.**

**\*Tentative, CCBA Winter Honey Booth**

**February 13th , 10 a.m.-11:30  
a.m.**

**Franklin County Farmers  
Market, Frankfort, KY**

