

# *The Capital Bee*

*The Official Newsletter of The Capital City Beekeepers Association*

*January 2023*

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*The Wintered Wood*

*Soon the first pollen and nectar sources will arrive from the high places in the wintered wood-swollen and amber colored buds of the maple trees.*

# Beekeeper's Almanac

## WINTER-'KEEPS TO DO LIST

- ◆ Use OA to treat for a cleanup treatment on mites now that they're brood-less.
- ◆ Read a good "bee book"
- ◆ Use the "downtime" to clean wax, repair/ clean equipment and/or assemble new equipment
- ◆ Order packages, nucs, and queens for Spring.
- ◆ Renew CCBA and/or KSBA/CKHP Dues.

*"Assembling fragrant new beehive parts and working with delicately scented creamy white beeswax... is an altogether superior way to spend a cold snowy day"- Sue Hubbell*

### 2023 AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN AND PRINCESS



"Congratulations to our newly-crowned industry representatives! Your 2023 American Honey Queen is Selena Rampolla from Florida and the 2023 American Honey Princess is Allison Hager from Iowa!" - American Honey Queen Program FB page



Winter Market 2023

#### "Stump the Chump", Q and A On:

- Controlling Granulation in Honey
- New findings in Queen Rearing
- Urban Pollinator Landscaping

[Click Here](#)



The Winter Market is held bi-weekly Jan.-March. CCBA was represented by Treasurer George Fowler (pictured above). Any member can participate. Days in February are the 11th and 25th. Members Jack Kuhn and John Antenucci participate as regular vendors.

# A Janus Check O' Things

*By Wes Henry*

The January day was bright and warmer in the sunshine than in the shade. Warm this time of year is “fiftish-ish” in central Kentucky but today had been in the sixties as my work day progressed, but with only a couple hours of daylight remaining I quickly “headed out to the yards” afterwards. Such a day at this time of the year makes me think of the bees, and how a few months ago I anticipated how I would enjoy the “long rest” from the bee-work. Even so, I knew this day would come too, it’s happened for years now, a day of opposite anticipation, that like a boy who couldn’t wait to go fishing, of again, being able to lift the top cover to see how things fared below.

The truck bounced along the ruts to the ridge where the four hives were wintering and noticed immediately that the top cover was off one of last year’s honey-makers. Visions of a colony drenched and dead quickly flooded my thoughts as I set the brake and grabbed the box of patties and gear. I was glad that I had placed an inner cover under the telescoping cover for the hole in the center revealed a cluster below and active. The propolis, hard and slick as ceramic, cracked and popped sharply with the leverage of the hive tool and I was glad of that. The wind couldn’t move it. The “bee-glue” had done its job and kept it down

tight. In the past, propolis has been loathed insomuch as it has been tried to breed it out of them. In the summer it’s a sticky mess, but now, I’m again glad of it and the more we learn of its antibacterial qualities, it makes the bane more than an acceptable annoyance.

The brick was only a half of one, hardly enough weight, so I concluded with the 50 mph gusts of a few weeks ago that brought with it sub-zero temperatures, must have had hit it just right and flipped it off. We had had rain and snow since too and I shook my head in amazement at how they had endured. It is but another testimony to the fact that bees are tougher than we think, thankfully.

I added a patty to that survivor colony, one of two that produced well last spring and summer, and a couple rocks- Kentucky limestones- for added weight to the top. Getting out of the house and going to the yards is not only therapy for a wintered ‘keep, but also necessary, just for such a thing as this, to check on things is a great need for the keeping of bees in wintertime.

“...a colony drenched and dead quickly flooded my thoughts.”



The Wintered Bee-yard. The top cover on the third from left, blown off, now is secure with two stones.

The next concern here was a small single- a single deep size colony with only about three frames of bees and three or four frames of honey at best in November. I'd wanted to put them over a larger colony for the winter to help them through. Beekeepers sometimes will do that with the use of a double screen board also called a Snelgrove board- named for its inventor. Mr. Snelgrove had originally created for his method of swarm control, but as the queen excluder, it also has multiple uses in the apiary. Placed over a mature colony, the heat from that larger cluster of bees will rise through the screen and assist the smaller colony with its warmth.

That plan had "gone awry" and I fully expected to find also lifeless combs after wresting the inner cover loose, however, happily I too found them active and in soon need of another patty as well. Afterwards, another single with a medium super of fall



An example of a Story-and-a-half. A medium atop a deep. The top feeder was left on above the inner cover but empty.

honey at their disposal needed none and was also doing fine. The cluster was small but these are darker bees and probably mostly Carniolian descent. A breed of bees known to cluster with fewer bees than the golden Italians in winter and then using less stores.

Many folks refer to this hive body configuration as a story-and-a-half having a medium atop a deep. This medium was a

honey-super that I extracted summer honey from and then had it on again to collect possibly, Fall honey. Yet, Fall honey is called "fools gold" for good reason. It's a toss up. A dry fall could mean no honey especially since they are trying to lay up for winter and then the keeper must pull them off and feed



A fresh patty added to a well wintering colony. Notice the white "Swiffer Sheet" for hive beetle control with two caught in left corner.

sugar syrup to help them store up for the desolate days ahead. It had been dry- hardly no rain in September and beyond. It was no more than twenty pounds. I could have gotten top dollar for it, but rather decided to give it to this colony started late in the season with a promising queen. I decided not to extract the six or so frames out of the ten with honey. I wouldn't eat my seed corn.

The last was the second of two honey producing hives in this yard this past season. They also were in good spirits and but soon also would need a patty. I had added two to each colony the day after Thanksgiving and some of one here was left. It was pleasing to see all had thus far have made it.

The second of my two out yards would be too far to get to before darkness would settle in. There is one colony there and it was strong at last-look and laden with stores. I comforted myself with that and took in the closing of the day, powdered in fading lavender, from the ridge above winter-browned fields and barren woods of happy roving's past... and I shivered.

# Capital City Beekeepers Association

## 2022 Annual Treasurer's Report, pg. 1 of 2

**General:**

Beginning Balance (January 1, 2022) \$2634.39

**Receipts**

Dues	\$360.00
Farmers Market Fees	\$210.00
State Fair Work Donation	\$180.35
Sales (Bumper stickers)	\$11.00
Sales (Honey Straws)	\$19.00
Donation	\$20.00
Interest on checking act (4 mos.)	\$0.88
Misc (See note 2)	<u>\$0.25</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$801.48</b>

**Expenditures**

<b>Admin</b>	<b>\$107.66</b>
Checks	\$19.35
Stamps	\$24.00
Purchase of Easel	\$37.09
Poster Material	\$27.22
<b>Farmers' Market Participation</b>	<b>\$142.34</b>
Application Fee	\$125.00
Donuts	\$17.34
<b>County Fair Participation</b>	<b>\$340.00</b>
Donation to Fair Bd	\$115.00
Stipend for judge	\$75.00
Prize Premiums	\$150.00
<b>October Pot Luck</b>	<b>\$355.84</b>
Meat & Cook Sup.	\$220.10
Door Prizes	\$83.62
Misc Party Sup.	\$52.12
Purchase of Honey Straws and Coloring Bks	<b>\$240.69</b>
Material for Painted hive project (Note 5)	<b>\$41.23</b>
Speaker Stipend – January Meeting	<b>\$30.00</b>
Memorial Flowers	<b>\$108.01</b>
Late Bill – pot luck 2021	<u><b>\$27.53</b></u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1393.30</b>

# Capital City Beekeepers Association

## 2022 Annual Treasurer's Report, Pg. 2 of 2

**Ending Balance (December 31, 2022)** **\$2042.57** (See Note 1)

### **Educational Funds (Savings)**

Beginning Balance (January 1, 2022) \$727.77

### **Receipts**

Donations (In memory of Ken Daniels) \$150.00

Interest on savings Account \$1.21

**Total Receipts** **\$151.21**

No Expenditures from this account

**Ending Balance (December 31, 2022)** **\$878.98**

**Note 1:** The Current General Balance is held:

Checking Account \$1992.57

Cash Change Fund \$50.00

**Note 2:** There was a 25 cent overage on one Wilson check which was too much trouble for them to recover.

**Note 3:** The sales checks from Wilson Nursery in 2022 totaled \$3142.00.

**Note 4:** Interest on the checking account ended in June 2022 when the credit union discovered that our checking account was a Community Business Account which was not entitled to interest.

**Note 5:** In April 2022, the club purchased woodware for a hive to be painted by a retired art teacher. Most of the woodware was donated by Dadant. The completed hive was sold for \$250.00, and the money donated to Collins Lane Elementary School Art Department in memory of Ken Daniels.

Submitted by:

George Fowler, Treasurer



# Capital City Beekeepers Association

## November 15, 2022

Business meeting was called to order at 7:13pm by Wes Henry.

There were 14 members and 3 guests in attendance.

Prior to the business meeting: Dr. Thomas Webster gave a presentation on Bees and Flowers, their interaction and how flowers actually attract bees.

Jimmy Chambers with the USDA in Versailles spoke on the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP). This program compensates beekeepers for weather related losses. For more information contact Jimmy at (859) 873-3411 jimmy.chambers@usda.gov

**October minutes** were posted in the newsletter, minutes were accepted with no changes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dues for 2023 are now coming in. 2022 fees collected for Frankfort Farmer's Market was \$210 which covered our cost to set up a booth. For educational funds, \$250 donation has been made to the Collin's Lane art program from sale of painted hive. There is still \$878 in savings reserved for educational funds. Checking account has total \$1910.00. Alan Alsip moved to accept treasurer's report, McKenzie Preece 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion Passed.

**Library:** Book donations are always accepted. Magazines that are checked out do NOT need to be returned. Magazines may be kept.

**Farmer's Market:** Club had 5 members at the November market. December 10 will be Holiday Market from 10am-1pm. From January to April is the Farmer's Market winter schedule. The seller's fee is waived for winter market. The schedule is every other Saturday. If you are interested in selling, see Wes.

**Old Business:** \*\* October potluck was a success, we had close to 60 attendees. Thanks to everyone who set up, donated door prizes, and to John Antenucci who cooked the meat. \*\*Candlelight Tradition had good traffic/sales. Thanks to Gibby's for letting us use their space.

**2023 Board of Officers:** 2023 slate of officers was voted in. There were no nominations and the board remained the same. McKenzie Preece moved to accept slate, Eddie McNutt 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Wes Henry-President, Michael Wiley-Vice President, George Fowler-Treasurer, Marsha Bezold-Secretary.

### **New Business:**

\* Lynne Morris has agreed to be our fair liaison for 2023.

\* There is a need for experienced beekeepers to be mentors for new beekeepers to install nucs and packages

\*A beekeeping class for brand new beekeepers has been proposed for [Saturday January 7<sup>th</sup>]. Topics to be covered- equipment, packages, nucs, terminology, all basics. This would be free to members and \$10 for nonmembers.

\*Wes would like to have classes for advanced beekeepers later in the year.

\*McKenzie Preece runs a kid's bee club which meets right before our bee club meetings from 5-6pm. There are currently two to five attendees and any beekeeper help would be appreciated.

George Fowler moved to adjourn, Alan Alsip 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There will be no meeting in December. Next bee club meeting is January 24, 2023

Minutes submitted by Marsha Bezold



# CCBA Opportunities

## Regular January CCBA Meeting

January 24th, 2022

### Franklin County Extension Office

101 Lakeview Ct., Frankfort, KY

Program 6 p.m., Business meeting 7 p.m.

(No Meeting in December)

**Remember to Renew your 2023 CCBA Membership.**

## Franklin County Farmer's Winter Market

February 4th and 18th, 10am-11:30am

404 Wilkinson Blvd., Frankfort, KY

If interested contact Wes Henry [wesnky@yahoo.com](mailto:wesnky@yahoo.com)

## Bluegrass Beekeepers School

March 11th, 2023

Kentucky State University

Look for information forthcoming.