

The Capital Bee

The Official Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers Association

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The yellow buttons of dandelions are now beginning to dot Kentucky's landscape. One of the first major pollen and nectar sources, they're another sign that the spring is progressing towards the great honey flow of the season.



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PPP Explained at February Meeting

An official presentation on the Kentucky Pollinator Protection Program was the program for the February meeting of The Capital City

Beekeepers. State Apiarist Tammy Horn Potter gave the presentation and fielded questions. An explanation of the program and how it works, along with instruction on how to utilize it were given. Several club members had already taken advantage of the program that alerts not only beekeepers, but also organic produce growers of spraying near their apiaries and plots. The program was

first presented to the association in the February 2018 issue of The Capital Bee. We are grateful for Tammy’s work and willingness to come and give a presentation on how we can use this new helpful tool to keep our colonies and pollinators a bit safer.

CCBA Members help with KFB Event

7th. This event is an opportunity for members to meet with their elected officials and advocate for agriculture. Baskets showcasing Kentucky Ag products were presented to legislators that attended and included one hundred and eighty-five honey filled 2 oz. iconic honey-bear bottles from KSBA members. All included a tag declaring the honey was “...harvested from Kentucky bees”.

The 2018 Annual Capital City Beekeepers including Vice-President Ken Farm Bureau Daniels, Michael Wiley, Cole Legislative Gilbert, John Antenucci, Janet Osbourne, and Ricky Evans also took part with equipment and know-how. CCBA recently held in Frankfort on March 7th. This event is an opportunity for members to meet with their elected officials and advocate for agriculture. Baskets showcasing Kentucky Ag products were presented to legislators that attended and included one hundred and eighty-five honey filled 2 oz. iconic honey-bear bottles from KSBA members. All included a tag declaring the honey was “...harvested from Kentucky bees”.

Besides contributing honey, many members of the KSBA Legislative Agent. “The purpose of this was not to persuade on any particular issue”, [writes George in an article on the KSBA website](#), “but [rather] to make members of the legislature aware that the KSBA exists and is ready and willing to speak for the bees and beekeepers.”



One of 185 honey filled bears for the baskets. *

* picture from KSBA website

The Capital Bee News

2018 School Hive Painting and Auction

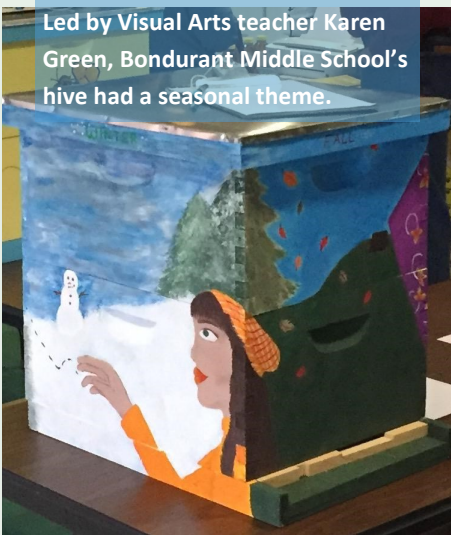
Five local schools participated in this year's hive painting and auction. The students creativity and themes were wonderful and the bids from the auction testified of it. The Schools received 118.00 each for their art departments.



"That's awesome!", wrote Peaks Mill Art Teacher, Brooke Jones.



"Thankful for this", wrote Collins Ln. Art teacher, Stacy Luddeke.



Led by Visual Arts teacher Karen Green, Bondurant Middle School's hive had a seasonal theme.



"What a nice bonus to our already enjoyable project." - Jennifer Parker, Art Teacher Good Shepherd



"So proud my students got to be a part of this!!!", Su Sheridan , Art Teacher Elkhorn Middle School.



Herbs for Honey Bees

Janet Osborn, Landscaper and Beekeeper

Spring is in the air and the bees are flying. They are on the search for good sources of pollen and nectar. If you want to add to your established garden or start an area for honeybees and other pollinators, consider planting some herbs. Honeybees are attracted to all kinds of herbs, but here are five herbs you might not have considered previously and can be great additions to your garden. Remember, in general, honeybees prefer white, yellow, blue, and purple flowers.

Borage (*Borago Officinalis*)

This is a powerhouse plant that reportedly refills with nectar every 2 minutes! No wonder the bees love it! With its beautiful blue star shaped flowers it is a colorful addition to the garden. Borage can be grown easily from seed. It prefers full sun, well-drained soil and is drought tolerant. Borage is considered an annual, but reseeds and spreads, so it will most likely return year after year. It grows 2-3 feet tall and will generally bloom in early-mid summer. If planted in the vegetable garden it can deter pests like hornworm and cabbage-worm. The leaves have a mild cucumber taste and can be lightly steamed or eaten raw. Some folks don't find the leaf habit very attractive, so you may want to consider putting in towards the back of the garden and intermingled with other plants that can hide the lower part of the plant. (If it self seeds more than you like, the extra seedlings can be easily



Borage

pulled up at the beginning of the season).



Mountain Mint

Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum incanum*)

Honeybees will forage on all mints, but this is a native mint plant, which differs from the typical peppermints/spearmints that many of us have in our gardens. It is loaded with small dense white flower clusters in June-August and the honeybees love it.

Mountain mint is a perennial that can grow over 3 feet tall and has a large mounding habit. It prefers full sun to part shade. When you brush up against it or rub the leaves between your fingers it emits a lovely mint fragrance. The leaves can be used as you would any mint. Divide every 3-5 years to keep under control.



Anise Hyssop

Anise Hyssop (*Agastache Foeniculum*) This native plant is in the mint family, but its leaves have a lovely anise scent, which can be used to make tea. With its lavender to purple spikes blooming throughout the summer, it is attractive to all kinds of pollinators. It can be grown easily from seed, prefers full sun and is drought tolerant. The most important environmental need is well-drained soil. Anise Hyssop is a perennial and will also reseed and grows 2'-4' tall, so probably best planted near the back of the garden. The plants resist pests and the scent of the leaves repels deer and rabbits.



American Germander

American Germander (*Teucrium Canadense*) Also known as Canadian

Germander, Wood Sage and Wild Basil. American Germander is a native woody, clump-forming perennial in the mint family. It grows 1 ½-3 feet high and prefers moist, fertile, well-drained soils.

Does best in full sun but it will tolerate part shade. The best part about this plant is that Germander sends up spikes with purplish-pink flowers in mid-summer-fall when nectar sources become sparse. Honeybees and other pollinators will appreciate it! Germander will spread readily in good conditions through its root system or seeds, so choose the location wisely. Not suitable for small or formal gardens, but perfect for a more natural area. Although it is in the mint family, the leaves do not taste like mint and are not recommended for human consumption.

English Lavender "Hidcote" (*Lavandula Angustifolia*) Who doesn't love the fragrance

of the beautiful flowers of lavender wafting through the summer air? Hidcote is a compact mounded form of English Lavender, growing 20" tall and blooming early-mid summer. Because it is native to the Mediterranean region, lavender requires dry to medium well-drained alkaline soil. While it generally survives as a perennial in this area,

lavender can get winter stress so may need a sheltered location and winter protection. It is susceptible to root rot if planted in poorly drained soil. High humidity is stressful for lavender. Mulching with rock instead of organic matter can help with this problem.



English Lavendar

2018 Bluegrass Bee School

The 2018 Bluegrass Bee School was again conducted on the campus of KSU in Frankfort and CCBA worked again with Bluegrass Beekeepers to make it not only a great learning experience but a good time to “rub elbows” with all sorts of “beeks” alike. The following is a quick look at the day.



The Capital City Beekeeper’s booth was frequented by many and offered information on a host of subjects– bees including life cycle information, cooking with honey, pollinators in general, how to join the club, and more. Members Jan Rafert, George Fowler (above) and Wayne Parrish (left) were on hand to answer questions and interact with those who stopped by. A smoker was also raffled off at the booth. The winner was announced at the closing session.



Members of the Capital City Beekeeper’s volunteered for many positions and jobs. Several led classes as well. Here one of the most important parts– “the sweetest”, per Michael Wiley, is attending to the refreshment table- coffee, donuts, juice, tea, milk and such. Thanks to all the volunteers that worked “behind the scenes” setting up, breaking down, cleaning up, putting up signage, directing, and more.





Dr. Jen O'Keefe delivered the opening session with an explanation of her work in Palynology to identify pollen sources in honey. She explained how her team at Morehead State University performs the work and reports their findings. Those wanting to sell their honey as a specific varietal must have such a report as proof.



Vendor Row! Several vendors attended the Bluegrass Bee School offering their wares. Beeks could find almost anything they needed to not only get started but also to keep their apiary humming along. Advice and recommendations from them was an added bonus as well. Vendors not only included those handling supplies and equipment but also beekeeping insurance, queen breeders, and associations.



Andrew Fogg, Manager of Dadant's Frankfort Branch, was in good spirits and took a quick break from the busy-ness of the booth to "strike pose" for the camera. A big thanks to Andrew and Dadant for their continued support of the Annual Capital City Beekeepers school hive painting and auction and for The Bluegrass Bee School.



The hives creatively painted by our local schools were setup at the entrance to the vendors section and drew many bids. Five fortunate folks won a fully functional centerpiece for their apiary or garden.

Both the opening and closing session of the 2018 Bluegrass Bee School was held in the Bradford Hall Theatre. Over 300 attended this year. Here attendees hear closing comments and await their chance at some great door prizes. Donations came from vendors such as Kelley Beekeeping, Dadant, The Honey and Bee connection and more. In all, the school was a great success.



I want take a moment and thank each of you for your hard work and dedication to the planning for the past few months, and the day of the Bluegrass Bee School this past Saturday. You helped make it a great success for all, and it speaks well of our association and The Bluegrass Beekeepers as well. The statistics are all being finalized but I do know that there were over 300 in attendance, speakers and vendors were all well received, we added some new members, the hive painting and auction went very well, and we as an association were able to raffle a smoker too. Greater still was the learning and helping, and the networking and fellowship of beekeepers new and old. It was a wonderful way to spend a cloudy and cold spring day. As President, I want to again to personally thank you for all you did and continue do. -Wes Henry

CCBA - 27 February Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. It started with a very interesting and informative presentation by State Apiarist Tammy Horn-Potter regarding the status of the Pollinator Protection Plan and the USDA's Honey Bee Health Survey. She encouraged members who have not yet signed up for the PPP to go to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's website at

<https://www.kyagr-apps.com/Pollinator/>

to register their hive locations and then receive email notification of harmful chemical applications that may affect their hives 48 hours in advance. Tammy also showed a very interesting chart of chemical levels found in hive pollen samples through the Honey Bee Health Survey.

Following Ms. Potter's presentation, President Wes Henry provided the results of the recent survey that he sent to the club's members.

The minutes of our January meeting, as posted in the newsletter, were approved following a motion made by Wayne Parrish and seconded by Marsha Bezold.

George Fowler provided the treasurer's report including a beginning balance of \$2,225.05, receipts of \$616.72, expenditures of \$560.00 and a current balance of \$2,281.77. Roger McDowell made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Mike Wiley seconded the motion and it was approved and carried by the membership present.

The next item on the agenda was Committee Reports. Vice President Ken Daniels reported on the status of the upcoming Bluegrass Beekeeping School to be held on Saturday, 10 March, at Kentucky State University. (Speakers and topics can now be viewed at the BBA's website.) Ken said that a meeting tomorrow night would be held by members of the CCBA and the Bluegrass Beekeepers Assoc. to finalize the school's agenda. He reported that tables would be set up on Friday evening at 7 p.m. and said that volunteers to help would be welcome. Marsha Bezold will be responsible for parking and directional signs, which can be placed either Friday evening or Saturday morning. Dr. Tom Webster told Ken that KSU students would be available to guide school attendees to the registration area and assist them with room locations. Ken reported that Mike Wiley again will be in charge of the coffee and donut table. Mike said that he has a list of volunteers and is just awaiting the final agenda for their scheduling. Volunteers will be needed to man our club's table for applications, coloring books, recipes and information. Classroom monitoring will be handled by several of our members and KSU students. Ken concluded with a call for volunteers to assist him and Marsha Bezold with lunch table set-up and lunch distribution. Volunteers are also needed for lunch clean up.

Wes Henry reported that five schools are working on the hive painting for the silent auction. Marsha has the auction sheets and Ken has the needed supplies. People to monitor the auction and to take the results to the stage at the end of the school are needed.

John Antenucci reported that there will not be a Bee Friendly Frankfort program this year unfortunately due to the lack of volunteers.

Marsha then reported on the status of the American Beekeeping Federation's Honey Queen representation. Although the Honey Queen was scheduled for the school, she will not be able to attend due to a death in her family. Marsha will send a sympathy card to the queen on behalf of the club. She said that she also requested the Honey Princess as a substitute, but unfortunately the princess has school mid-term exams and won't be able to attend either.

Sadly, Wes reported that the reason why Program Chair Jack Kuhn wasn't here was due to the death of his father. A sympathy card was passed around for signatures and will be mailed to Jack and his family.

Wes said that, getting back to the Honey Queen situation, that going through club archives, he found out that in 1973 or 1974 a member of our club was crowned the then Kentucky Honey Queen. He said that he has the lady's name and that he will try to contact her and see if she would be willing to attend the school.

The secretary, Jan Rafert, then reported on the status of our club's efforts to catch bee swarms. He said that a list of swarm catching members had been compiled and provided to the Franklin County Extension Office, who call the list's members whenever they receive a call regard problem bees. For calls made when the Extension Office is closed, the local county and municipal emergency response agencies were provided with a shorter list of individuals to call. The members on this list will then call those on our swarm catchers' list until they find someone who can deal with the problem bees. He also reported that a problem bee situation had already been received and Matthew Greathouse was able to assist the lady, who had bees in her eaves.

President Henry then informed the membership that someone is still needed for maintaining the club website. Is there anyone knowledgeable and willing to step forward?

Wes' final announcements concerned the local farmers' market. The club's dues for this year has been paid and once again our members will have the opportunity to sell honey and products at the market. He reported that new sampling regulations have been implemented and that each person selling honey must be certified under these regulations. However, the certification process is relatively short and easy.

A brief informal discussion followed concerning appropriate mite treatments for this time of year and their proper applications. Roger McDowell asked if anyone was familiar with the Apimaye 10 frame Langstroth insulated hives being sold on Amazon.com. No one was, but may be worthy of investigation.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jan W. Rafert

CCBA Secretary