

May 2018

The Capital Bee

The Official Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers Association



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CAEMG 2018 Plant Sale

The CCBA had the opportunity to setup at The Capital Area Extension Master Gardener's 2018 Annual Plant sale at Lakeview Park on the last Saturday in April. It was a cool, blustery spring morning but many were in attendance. Besides equipment and informational materials, we also had a beginner's Beekeeping "power point" scrolling for interested folks to watch. One could get not only, plants, but also tools, advice, crafts, soaps, and art works at the one day event. CCBA members Marsha Bezold, Jan Rafert, George Fowler and Wes Henry were also able to answer many questions and direct interested parties in Beekeeping, Some new members signed up, and some old 'keeps renewed their affiliation.



Marsh and Jan interact with interested folks.



Painted Birdhouse Gourds were some of the crafts offered



President Wes Henry and Marsha Bezold tending the CCBA information and educational booth.



Healthy and vibrant plants, such as these tomatoes, were offered.



Rachel and Craig Sales had Rachel's beautiful art for sale at the event.

Spreading the Word about Bees

CCBA goes to school

Submitted by CCBA Member, Alan James

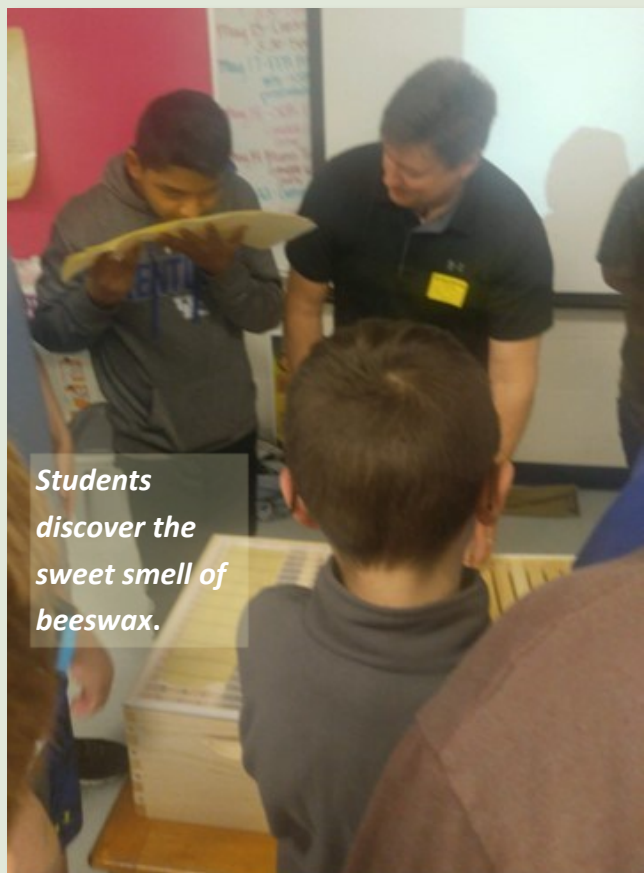


James and a group Scott County High School Students.

Capital City Beekeepers were contacted by the Scott County High School Agriculture Department to provide a presentation to their students. Allen James, a resident of Scott County, volunteered for job. Allen spoke to 4 classes of students ranging from 7th grade to high school seniors on Friday May 4. The kids were really engaged and asked a lot of great questions. Allen covered the basics of bee life



Students listen intently as Allen spoke on beekeeping.



Students discover the sweet smell of beeswax.

to include the job of the queen, workers and drones, he also had a hive to show the kids. The kids really liked how foundation wax smells. Allen also discussed challenges faced by beekeepers from varroa mites and how the kids to do their part to help save the bees and be, bee friendly.



CCBA GOES TO CAMP

Submitted by CCBA Members, Marsha Bezold and Jan Rafert

On Wednesday, 2 May, the 4th Grade Class of Bridgeport Elementary School in Frankfort attended an Environmental Camp at the Central Kentucky 4H Camp near Carlisle, KY. Representing the CCBA and leading two sessions were member Marsha Bezold and Secretary Jan Rafert. The focus of these two sessions were, the topics of bees, honey, pollination, and beekeeping. "The knowledge and experience of the students represented a broad spectrum", noted Marsha, "and their questions ranged from very basic to quite insightful, as were their comments".

Krista Perry, Franklin County Agent for 4H Youth and Development, reached out to the Capital City Beekeepers early in April concerning the opportunity. The call went out to the members of the organization and Jan graciously accepted and Marsha also enthusiastically offered her help.

Speaking for both herself and Jan, Marsha concluded, "it was a great and welcomed opportunity for our club to disseminate information regarding bees and beekeeping to an intelligent and up and coming generation. We greatly appreciate having had this opportunity and experience."

CCBA Farmer's Market Booth



The weather was very enjoyable as Vice-President Ken Daniels tended to the booth. We utilized one of the new tables the club approved to purchase in the last meeting.

The CCBA's booth was open on the second Saturday of the month at the Franklin County Farmer's Market in Frankfort. May 12th was our first for 2018. Michael Wiley was the only member with honey to sell. It's a member benefit to be able to take advantage of the booth and enjoy some great fellowship with other members and the public.

Business was good and these two happy honey buyers were able to get some great local honey for their table.



The Booth is great place for members to be even when not selling honey. Members Patrick and Anne Parker stop by and chat.



The Market's always a robust and happy place with a plethora of farm-offerings

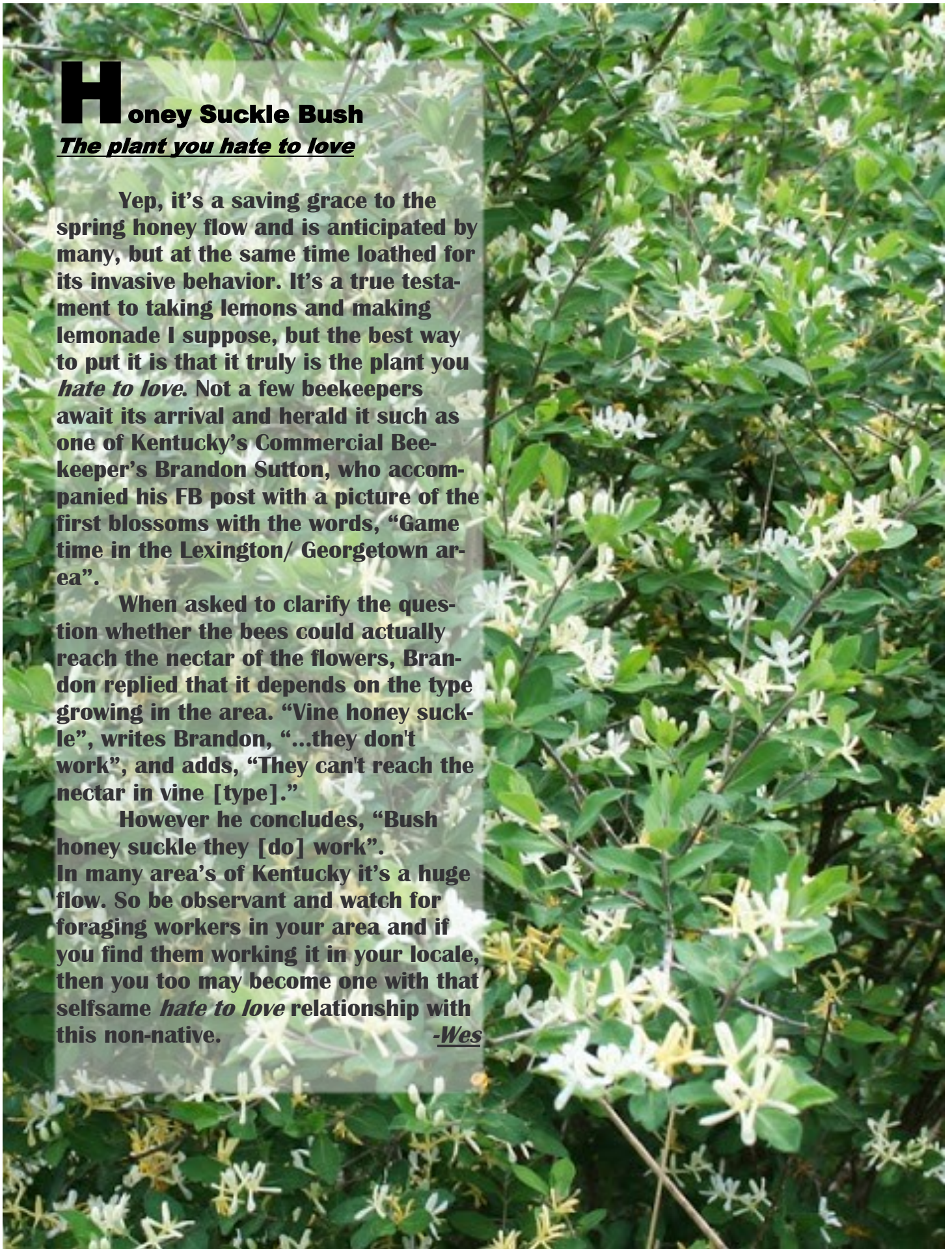
Honey Suckle Bush

The plant you hate to love

Yep, it's a saving grace to the spring honey flow and is anticipated by many, but at the same time loathed for its invasive behavior. It's a true testament to taking lemons and making lemonade I suppose, but the best way to put it is that it truly is the plant you *hate to love*. Not a few beekeepers await its arrival and herald it such as one of Kentucky's Commercial Beekeeper's Brandon Sutton, who accompanied his FB post with a picture of the first blossoms with the words, "Game time in the Lexington/ Georgetown area".

When asked to clarify the question whether the bees could actually reach the nectar of the flowers, Brandon replied that it depends on the type growing in the area. "Vine honey suckle", writes Brandon, "...they don't work", and adds, "They can't reach the nectar in vine [type]."

However he concludes, "Bush honey suckle they [do] work". In many area's of Kentucky it's a huge flow. So be observant and watch for foraging workers in your area and if you find them working it in your locale, then you too may become one with that selfsame *hate to love* relationship with this non-native. -Wes



CCBA – 24 April Meeting Minutes

Immediately preceding the meeting, Ms. Sarah Peaslee Preston gave a very interesting and informative presentation on Varroa mite management. She also briefly described her ongoing research on the effects of cold on queen viability and productivity. She will finishing her research in August and we look forward to hearing her results.

President Wes Henry called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The first order of business was for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting as they appeared in the newsletter. Allan Alsip made the motion, Michael Wiley seconded the motion and it was approved by the membership.

Treasurer George Fowler gave the treasurer's report, which included a starting balance of \$3,020.12, receipts of \$229.78 and expenditures of \$167.85. This left us a current balance of \$3,082.05. A motion to approve this report was made by Roger McDowell, seconded by Allan Alsip and approved by the members in attendance.

Old Business:

The secretary reported on the recent activity with the Swarm Catcher Committee. Although no swarms were reported, we did have a call for someone to remove a colony of bees in a dead tree in Saddieville. The owner of the tree wishes to cut down the tree but to also save the bees. The secretary then made calls to the individuals on the Swarm Catchers List and reached Matthew Greathouse, who agreed to contact the owner. Matthew had difficulty last month removing a colony from within a house, as was seen in the latest newsletter. The secretary then requested advice from the members regarding how he should contact the swarm catchers. Since many people, including himself, screen their phone calls, he wondered if he should leave a message before moving on to the next name, if he should wait for a return call to his message and, if so, how long should he wait. The consensus of opinion was that he should start with the first name on the list after the last person that he had called, leave a message, and then continue with calling. He will also provide the individual swarm catchers with his home and cell phone numbers so that they will be able to recognize them when he calls.

President Henry then reported on the club's participation in the bee package distribution at Dadant last week. A total of eight members helped distribute approximately 550 of the 600 packages between 8 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. Our participation was greatly appreciated and contributed to our good relationship with Dadant & Sons, Frankfort.

Wes then said that our club is receiving an increased number of requests for educational and outreach programs. Jan Rafert will be giving three presentations at the 4H Conservation Camp in Carlisle next Wednesday to 4th Graders. Allen James will make presentations all day on Friday the 4th to 7th through 12th graders at the Scott County Middle and High Schools. We also have a request for a volunteer for the Creative Arts Camp at St. Andrews Church in Versailles on June 6th from noon until 3 p.m. If anyone is interested, please contact Jan Rafert.

This raised comments from several members that they would be happy to give presentations if they had a curriculum or syllabus to follow. Jan mentioned that he will be meeting with club member Deborah DeLong before his presentations in Carlisle and will help develop a program. Ms. DeLong is a certified K-12 science teacher and environmental educator for the state and also provides programs to various organizations including 4H camps. She said that she uses



a game called "The Story of Bees" which is exceptionally good. Unfortunately no one on the Internet has any copies of this game available at the present time. Jan said that he thinks that the purchase of the game when available is something that the club might consider doing.

Wes mentioned that he is in preliminary talks with the Franklin County FFA regarding the possibility of our club sponsoring a scholarship program for future beekeepers. He said that the 2017 American Bee Federation's Honey Princess Hope Pettibon mentioned during her visit that her club in Texas sponsors a scholarship that provides an upcoming beekeeper with a mentor, a year's training and then finally a complete hive set-up with a package of bees. Ms. Pettibon said that the scholarship has increased the interest of beekeeping with the younger generation. Wes said that he will keep the club informed of his discussions with the FFA. It was also mentioned that the Franklin County High School may also be interested in having a beekeeping program.

New Business:

President Henry mentioned that the club will have a booth at the Franklin County Farmers Market on Saturday, May 12th. He asked if anyone would have any honey, candles or other bee products for sale. Jack Kuhn said that he may have some; Michael Wiley said that he has honey for someone to sell for him because won't be able to attend the market on that day; and Ken Daniels said that he will have honey for sale. Ken also asked about whether or not we wish to distribute coupons for free honey sticks for the kids at the market. It was agreed that we should and Ken will work with Andrew Fogg at Dadant regarding acquiring the sticks. Jack Kuhn mentioned that, if anyone selling honey wishes to give out samples, they must have a Kentucky Department of Agriculture's certificate to do so. He said that the rules were changed, that honey is no longer classified as a "Raw" product and therefore one does not need to take a class but must apply through the Dept. of Ag's website. Once approved it takes about three weeks to receive the certificate.

Wes then proposed that the club purchase two plastic folding tables from Lowes for use at our booths. The cost per table is about \$40. The question arose as at that price should we get three tables or two. It was decided to get two and then see if we have room and a need for a third. A motion was made, seconded and approved for the purchase of two.

The Franklin County Master Gardeners will have their annual plant sale this coming Saturday, April 28th, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Wes said that we will have a booth at the sale and that we are in need of volunteers to help set-up at 8 a.m. in addition to volunteers to man the booth, distributing information and membership forms. The booth will also have beekeeping equipment on display as well as an introductory beekeeping video playing. Anyone able to help please come to that plant sale which will be held in the pavilion at Lakeview Park, Frankfort.

George Fowler mentioned that a lady in Bellepoint has room for hives on her property. In fact she may have the hives but is in need of bees and is willing to divide the honey between the beekeeper and herself. If anyone is interested, please contact George.

The meeting concluded at 8:05 p.m. following a motion to adjourn, which was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jan W. Rafert

May 2018

The Capital Bee

Opportunities

May 22nd CCBA Monthly Meeting

6 P.M.

Franklin County Extension Office

101 Lakeview Court,

Frankfort, KY

June 9th, CCBA Farmer's Market Booth

7-12 Noon

Franklin County Farmer's Market

Frankfort, KY