

The Capital Bee

The Official Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers Association



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CCBA OCTOBER FARMER'S MARKET

After above normal Temperature for all of October, Late Fall temperature arrived a few days before and for the CCBA's Honey Booth. Below from left to right, Dan Ramey, Betty Ramey, Kay Daniels and George Fowler as well as Wes Henry attended with their honey. It was again Kids Day at the

Market and free honey sticks were distributed. George even had some of that elusive Fall honey to sell! We were assigned to the first position this month—at the entrance to the pavilion— and met some new folks, some that had never been to the Market before, and old friends as well.



DOWN FOR THE COUNT

MY FIRST BUT NOT THE LAST MITE COUNT

By, Wes Henry

Back in August I had two hives in a particular yard with honey supers still on. It was shaping up to be a great fall flow with the open yester-pastures awash with golden rod and the white of aster pervading the understory of the woods nearby. However, I had yet treated for mites but wanted to catch that elusive fall honey.

My thoughts were, Could I risk it? Would they be ok until I pulled the supers and treat later than normal with a product that wasn't temperature sensitive? I consoled myself with the facts that the yard was "out a ways" and there wasn't any hives I knew about for miles. So then one might concluded, there weren't any "mite bombs" for them to rob out and carry them back to these hives.

It was a dilemma but the best way to know whether I could or not, is to check the mite level. I must confess I had not ever conducted a mite count on any of my colonies. However, I knew the process, and had participated in mite counts before. Dr. Tom Webster had come to a meeting last year and we conducted one in the CCBA apiary in back of the Extension service.

I invested in a commercial mite count kit and

proceeded to the out-yard and was prepared to take the supers off if needs be. Remembering my Boys Scout motto I learned decades ago, I was prepared- having a plan and everything ready before even lit the smoker. Good advice for beginners and bee-vets alike.

I would do the alcohol wash method. It kills the bees but it's the most accurate and I must find the queen. It was hot, to say the least, and was thankful to have found the queen in fairly short time. I shook the bees from three random brood frames into a small tub, then scooped the 300 (½ cup) of bees, and dumped them into the wash as directed and proceeded to shake for one minute.

Wow! Twenty-four!?! The threshold chart on the honey bee health coalition's website for 300 bees is 6!

In the second hive I wasn't so fortunate to find the queen. I looked twice and decided to take my chances and shook the frames and looked

Interpreting Sample Findings

When using the recommended powdered sugar shake or alcohol or soap wash sampling methods we suggest **using the following guidelines (Table 1) to determine when a colony needs treatment and to evaluate treatment.**

Table 1: Treatment Thresholds by Phase;(%=Number of mites/100 adult bees)

Colony Phase	Acceptable Further control not needed	Danger Control promptly
Dormant with brood	<1%	>2%
Dormant without brood	<1%	>3%
Population Increase	<1%	>2-3%
Peak Population	<2%	>3%
Population Decrease	<2%	>2-3%

Acceptable: Current mite populations are not an immediate threat.

Caution: Mite population is reaching levels that may soon cause damage; non-chemical control might be employed while chemical control may be needed within a month; continue to sample and be prepared to intervene.

Danger: Colony loss is likely unless the beekeeper controls Varroa immediately.

This table found on the Honey Bee Health Coalition website is a good reference for mite thresholds during different phases of colony strength.

for her in the tub and did the count. There were more than 10! result was 4 mites on what had been 24! It had worked!

The decision was made for me. Off came the supers and on with the mite treatment. Using Apigard I closed off all ventilation and applied the first of two rounds of treatment. I was flabbergasted. Usually, I don't treat until mid-September either. That would have been critically late, maybe too late!

Two weeks passed and I added the second cassette as directed on the label, and waited. These were my most robust and productive hives. It was like Christmas I couldn't wait to do the follow-up count.

THE FOLLOW UP

At the end of the second round, now four weeks since the first mite count, I peeled the propolised empty cassette from the top bars. I was relieved to find the queen was alive and well in the one I didn't find her before the count, finding eggs and brood. I added top feeders and syrup and closed them down to resume normal activities and begin to make ready for the coming winter.

Ten days later I did the follow up count. To be honest I was afraid what I might find. What if I still were above the threshold? What was the plan then? I was nervous but I had to know.

The queen again was remarkably found on the first colony. I just happened to look under the empty top feeder and found her crawling on the bottom. Catching her I confined her with a push-in cage on a frame and went to work. The

The other I again went through 30 frames of the medium sized hive and never saw her. I again took my chances and found not one mite, zero! Whoo Hoo!

The conclusion was first, it doesn't matter if I think I'm secluded, mites most likely are present. The only way to really know is to do a count. Second, September would have been too late most likely, and third the treatment worked! That was money and time well spent. I don't know about you, but I'm down for the count!

MITE COUNT HOW TO

A great resource that I refer to often is the Honey Bee Health Coalition. The site includes a video on doing a mite count using both the sugar roll and alcohol wash methods. Click the bee and see.



**HONEY BEE
HEALTH
COALITION**

The Keeper's Almanak

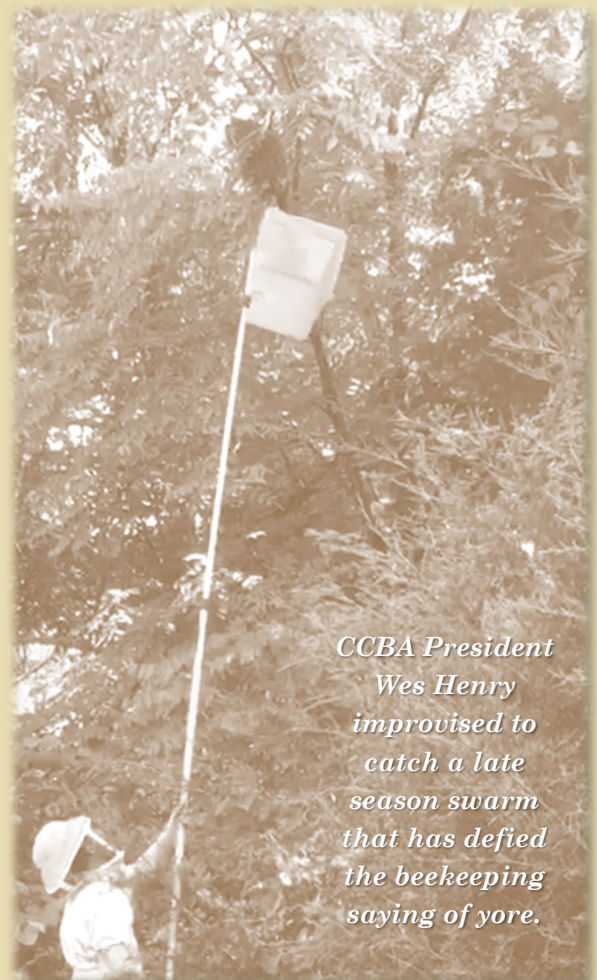
According to John Antenucci's beekeeping by the Holiday's calendar ([see October 2017 newsletter](#)) "Halloween is the beekeeper's New Year".

- ◆ Check and balance stores and brood
- ◆ Last time to merge weak hives (prep to overwinter or merge leftover nucs)
- ◆ Ventilate top covers (use popsicle sticks for spacers)
- ◆ Continue to feed 2-1 sugar syrup if needed
- ◆ Remove beetle traps (oil/ vinegar traps)
- ◆ Reduce entrance/ install mouse guards.



*"A swarm in July isn't
worth a fly. . ."*

But what about August? By mid-October the swarm has built comb on fifteen deep frames and reared three generations of brood since hived on the 26th of the Emperor's month. Jerome Blakenship suggests that late swarms, being possible casts or after-swarms, are likely young queens and more vibrant than typical early season swarms with older queens.

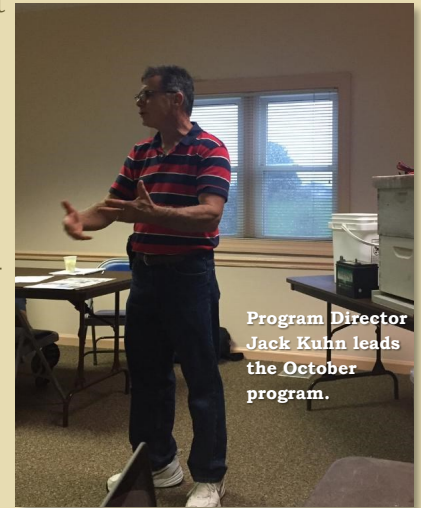


*CCBA President
Wes Henry
improvised to
catch a late
season swarm
that has defied
the beekeeping
saying of yore.*

CCBA - 25 September Meeting Minutes

Following an interesting and informative presentation by Jack Kuhn regarding Oxalic Acid, its use and applications, the meeting was called to order by President Henry at 7:08 p.m. A motion to approve last month's minutes as found in the Sept. newsletter was requested and made by Rick Evans. Dan Ramey seconded the motion, which was approved by the member.

Treasurer George Fowler gave the financial report, which included a beginning balance of \$2,640.32, receipts of \$236.50 and expenditures of \$658.60, leaving a balance of \$2,595.40. The expenditures were for the purchase of flowers for Randy Rosbrook and a stand for our new extractor. A motion to approve the report was made by Rick Evans, seconded by Eddie McNutt and approved.



COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Swarm Committee: Jan Rafert reported that there had no swarm reports since our last meeting.

Farmers Market: Ken Daniels reported that three members sold honey at the last market for a total of about \$600. Our next farmers' market will be on October 13th from 7:30 until noon. If you have honey to sell, this is a good opportunity. Each member wishing to sell honey pays a \$10 fee and sells their honey for \$12 a pound and \$7 for an 8 oz. jar. Ken, Wes, George and John Antenucci are planning on manning our booth.

Wes Henry reported that he, George and Jack were at Tractor Supply last weekend and enjoyed talk to and informing the public about honey, bees and beekeeping. The event was similar to a small farmers' market that Tractor Supply used to hold on a more regular bases but will be hosting only a few weekends each year for now.

Wes also thanked Janet Osborn for her feature articles in our newsletters regarding plants for honey bees, including planting herbs in March, late blooming flowers in April, flowering shrubs in August and trees in September. All of the articles make good reading, re-reading and future reference.

OLD BUSINESS

KY Certified Honey: Regarding the Kentucky State Beekeepers Assoc.'s Certified Honey Program, Wes reported that it is now up and running. He so far has approved three of our members, apiaries who can now use the Kentucky Certified Honey labels.

The question was raised as to what size filter screens are recommended by the KSBA for the certified program. The secretary was given the task of finding out the answer and will report it when received.

Pot-Luck Dinner: Our annual pot-luck dinner will be held at our October meeting on the 23rd. Our guest speaker will be Jennifer Wilson on honey marketing. The club will furnish the beef brisket and is asking for the members to bring a side dish, a dessert or both. An email will be sent to the membership asking that they RSVP the secretary by the 20th as to how many will be attending and what item(s) they will be bringing.

Also for the dinner we are in need of door prizes and volunteers to help set up before and clean up after. Set-up will begin between 4 and 4:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m.

Queen Bee and Drone Management Seminar: The Kentucky Queen Breeders Association will be holding a seminar on September 29 regarding queen and drone management. The seminar will be at the Kentucky State Univ. research farm near Frankfort.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bluegrass Beekeeping School: There will definitely be a beekeeping school next year on March 9th. Preliminary meetings are in the planning. Any member who has ideas or suggestions for the school are urged to attend one or more of the meets, which will be announced later. Besides donating some door prizes for the pot-luck, Andrew Fogg at Dadant has agreed to donate the hive bodies again next year to be painted by area school children to sold at the annual Bluegrass Beekeeping School

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

KSBA's Fall Meeting: The Kentucky State Beekeepers Assoc. will be holding their Fall Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 3rd, in Shepherdsville. Our honored speaker will be Dr. Jim Tew (Ohio State, ret.), who will be discussing strategies for overwintering bees. The business meeting will be the evening of the 2nd with sessions on the 3rd. The possibility of car-pooling was mentioned and details will be discussed later.

Package Bees: Dadant is taking package bee orders for next spring. They are ordering around 1,100 packages, nearly double that of this year. The price per package has not be stated thus far

With no more topics or items, Wes requested a motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. Jack Kuhn made the motion, George Fowler seconded and the motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan W. Rafert
CCBA Secretary

The Capital Bee

Opportunities

CCBA Annual Potluck/ Monthly Meeting-
October 23, 6 p.m.

[Franklin County Extension Office](#)

[101 Lakeview Court,](#)

[Frankfort, KY](#)

Farmer's Market- November 10th, 7-12

[Franklin County Farmer's Market](#)

[Frankfort, KY](#)

Beginner's Bee Class- November 8th, 6-8
p.m., John Antenucci

[Woodford County Extension Office](#)

[184 Beasley Drive](#)

[Versailles, KY](#)

Candlelight Tradition- November 15-18

[Downtown Frankfort](#)

[Frankfort, KY](#)

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[Explore The KSBA website](#)