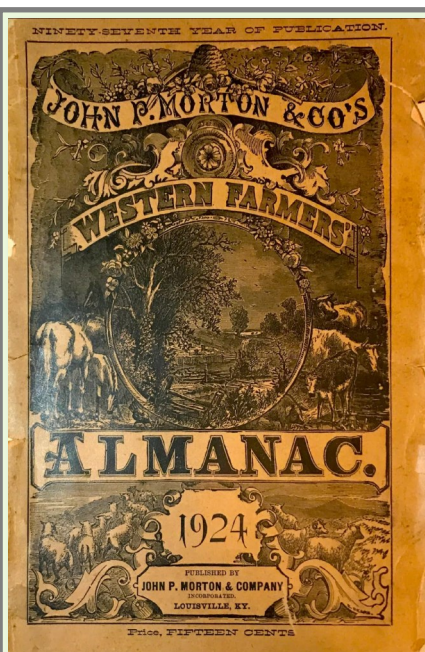




Asters- "Summer's Last Rose"

The Official Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers Association



## A 1924 Bee Hunt

The rare find of a 1924 Almanac reveals to us a bee hunt almost a century ago. Scanned from the original is the account, and much

of the detail can be seen today of the comb and behavior of bees. Now called *bee-lining*, bee-hunting provided in this narrative not only sport, but a sweet treat to the encampment. [...read the original](#)

## September's Honey Booth Full of Offerings

The morning of September 12th was foggy with the scent of a change of season in the air. Members Tom Wade, Ken Daniels and Wes Henry (pictured)...[Read more](#)



## Capital City Beekeepers



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*In cooperation with the precautions set forth, CCBA has again cancelled our regularly meeting at the extension office. However, we will be conducting a FB live program at 6 p.m. and afterwards our business meeting August 25th, via online conference call. Members were sent the sign-on information credentials. If you are a member and did not receive the email please contact Jan Rafert at [jwrafert@gmail.com](mailto:jwrafert@gmail.com). - Wes Henry, CCBA President*



## A BEE HUNT

The beautiful forest in which we were encamped abounded in bee trees; that is to say, trees in the decayed trunks of which wild bees had established their hives.

It is surprising in what countless swarms the bees have overspread the Far West, within but a moderate number of years. The Indians consider them the harbinger of the white man, as the buffalo is of the red man; and say that in proportion as the bee advances the Indian and the buffalo retire.

The bee has been the herald of civilization, steadfastly preceding it as it advanced from the Atlantic borders; and some of the ancient settlers of the West pretend to give the very year when the honey bee first crossed the Mississippi. The Indians with surprise found the mouldering trees of their forest suddenly teeming with ambrosial sweetness; and nothing, I am told, can exceed the great relish with which they banquet for the first time upon this unbought luxury of the wilderness.

At present the honey bees swarm in myriads in the noble groves and forests which skirt and intersect the prairies and extend along the alluvial bottoms of rivers.

We had not been long in the camp, when a party set out in quest of a bee tree. The party was headed by a veteran bee hunter, a tall, lank fellow in home-spun garb that hung closely about his limbs and a straw hat shaped not unlike a beehive; a comrade, equally uncouth in garb, and without a hat, straddled along at his heels, with a long rifle on his shoulder. To these succeeded half a dozen others, some with axes, and some with rifles, for no one stirs far from the camp without his firearms, so as to be ready either for wild deer or wild Indian.

After proceeding some distance, we came to an open glade on the skirts of the forest. Here our leader halted, and then advanced quietly to a low bush, on the top of which I perceived a piece of honeycomb. This, I found, was the bait or lure for the wild bees.

Several were humming about it, and diving into its cells. When they had laden themselves with honey, they would rise into the air, and dart off in a straight line almost with the velocity of a bullet.

The hunters watched attentively the course they took, and then set off in the same direction, stumbling along over twisted roots and fallen trees, with their eyes turned up to the sky. In this way they traced the honey-laden bees to their hive in the hollow trunk of a blasted oak, where, after buzzing around for a moment, they entered a hole about sixty feet from the ground.

Two of the bee-hunters now plied their axes vigorously at the foot of the tree to level it with the ground. The mere spectators in the meantime drew off to a cautious distance, to be out of the way of the falling of the tree and the vengeance of its inmates.

The jarring blows of the ax seemed to have no effect in alarming or disturbing this most industrious community. They continued to ply at their usual occupations, some arriving full freighted into port, others sallying forth on new expeditions, like so many merchantmen in a money-making metropolis, little suspicious of impending bankruptcy and downfall.

Even a loud crack which announced the disrapture of the trunk, failed to divert their attention from the intense pursuit of gain. At length down came the tree with a tremendous crash, bursting open from end to end, and displaying all the hoarded treasures of the commonwealth.

One of the hunters immediately ran up with a wisp of lighted hay as a defense against the bees. The latter, however, made no attack and sought no revenge; they seemed stupefied by the catastrophe and unsuspecting of the cause, and remained crawling and buzzing about the ruins without offering us any molestation.

Every one of the party now fell to, with spoon and hunting knife, to scoop

A barking dog is more useful than a sleeping lion.

Everybody must wear out one pair of fool's shoes, if wear no more.

You must learn to deal with the odd and even in life, as well as in figures.



Disimulation in youth is the forerunner of perfidy in old age.

1924

## WESTERN FARMERS' ALMANAC.

59

out the flakes of honeycomb with which the hollow trunk was stored. Some of them were of old date and deep brown color; others were beautifully white. Such of the combs as were entire were placed in camp kettles to be conveyed to the encampment; those which had been shivered in the fall were devoured on the spot. Every stark bee hunter was to be seen with a morsel in his hand, dripping about his fingers, and disappearing as rapidly as a creamtart before the holiday appetite of a schoolboy.

Nor was it the bee-hunters alone that profited by the downfall of this industrious community. I beheld numbers of bees from rival hives arriving on eager wing, to enrich themselves with the ruin of their neighbors. These busied themselves as eagerly and cheerfully as so many wreckers on an Indiaman that has been driven on shore; plunging into the cells of the broken combs, banqueting greedily on the spoil, and then winging their way full-freighted to their homes.

As to the poor proprietors of the ruins, they seemed to have no heart to do anything, not even to taste the nectar that flowed around them; but crawled backward and forward in vacant desolation, as I have seen a poor fellow with his hands in his pockets whistling vacantly and despondingly about the ruins of his house that had been burnt.

It is difficult to describe the bewilderment and confusion of the bees of the bankrupt hive, who had been absent at the time of the catastrophe, and who arrived from time to time with full cargoes from abroad. At first they wheeled about in the air, in the place where the fallen tree had once reared its head, astonished at finding it all a vacancy.

At length, as if comprehending their disaster, they settled down in clusters on a dry branch of a neighboring tree, whence they seemed to contemplate the prostrate ruin, and to buzz forth doleful lamentations over the downfall of their republic.

We now abandoned the place, leaving much honey in the hollow of the tree. "It will be cleared off by vermin," said one of the rangers. "What vermin?" asked I. "Oh, bears and skunks and raccoons and opossums. The bears are the most knowing fellows in the world for finding out a bee tree. They will gnaw for days together at the trunk till they make a hole big enough to get in their paws, and then will haul out honey, bees, and all."

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## CITRUS FRUITS

According to the crop reports from the Department of Agriculture, the production of oranges and grape fruit in the United States has increased thirty per cent in the past three years. If the food value of these two citrus fruits were generally appreciated, this increase would be insufficient to keep pace with the increase in demand. For babies and for many invalids oranges are a most valuable food. As only a small part of citrus fruits has to be eliminated through the lungs and mucous membranes, while the reverse is true of fats, sugar and starch, they are almost a perfect food in the case of severe colds, etc., where the lungs are already overtaxed. Cases are on record where persons have thrived for weeks and months on oranges almost alone and many physicians now prescribe oranges and grape fruit for the chief article of food for those suffering with bronchitis, colds, and other like ailments.

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The sky is not the less blue because the blind man does not see it.

**September's Honey Booth cont.**

range the honey in many different ways to shoppers. There was cut comb and chunk comb honey in different size jars, besides the usual extracted

honey in two-ounce bears, 8 ounce, one and two pound jars, as well as individually packaged honey sticks. We also were

arrived early to set up and ar-

able to distribute to children and to teachers for their classes coloring and activity books on beekeeping as well a recipe brochures left to us by the ABF Honey Princess last month. The market

“There was cut comb and chunk comb honey in different size jars...”

opened at 8:30 and was a steady flow of folks. One couple left their information to relay to the association

about placing colonies on their farm to any who might be interested. Next Month's Booth is October 10th.



FRESH. LOCAL. LIVELY.

**Last CCBA Farmer's Market Honey Booth Dates are as follows:**

**October 10th  
November 14th  
December 12th- (Holiday Booth)**

The last dates for the Franklin County Farmer's Market have been set. It has been a much out of the ordinary for the market this year due to Covid-19, any participation has been lim-

**September 29th- LAST Tuesday market  
November 19th- LAST Thursday market  
November 21st- LAST Saturday market  
December 12th- Holiday Market 10-1pm**

ited and understandably so but the folks organizing and conducting the Market have done a tremendous job. Unfortunately it has been the sole activity for the year as well and member participation has also been

very limited. However, any member that has honey or other "hive products" and wanting

to sell can participate. At the last month's market there were individuals looking for

beeswax candles. We do set up at about 7:30 and the Market is open until 12:30 pm and those doing so, again as a reminder, must adhere to The Market's Covid guidelines.



# Capital City Beekeepers Association

## Meeting Minutes of 25 August 2020

NOTE: This meeting, as those of the past five months, was conducted via Zoom.

### **Program:**

The evening's program was given by Ms. Sydnie Paulsrud, who is the American Federation of Beekeepers' Honey Princess for 2020. Sydnie provided several honey recipes live from the Franklin County Extension Office. The recipes that she used, and others, are available in pdf format at AFB's website: [www.afbnet.org](http://www.afbnet.org).

### **Meeting:**

President Wes Henry called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and turned the floor over to Jack Kuhn, who spoke on what beekeepers should be doing at this time of year. By now Varroa mite treatment should be done or at least in progress, hives should be closely monitored for queen failure and wax moths, and finally now is a good time to start feeding your bees.

Following Jack's presentation, Wes called for approval of the minutes of the July meeting and the Treasurer's report as they appeared in the recent newsletter. There were no objections to either, and thus the reports were approved. Treasurer George Fowler reported that there were no expenses in July and that all of the school checks have finally been cashed.

### **Activity Reports:**

#### **Swarm Report:**

As reported in our August newsletter, Bill Dickerson, filled a ten-frame hive box with combs, mostly honey, and bees from a hollow tree that was cut down at the Two Creeks golf club. Matthew Greathouse is working on removing a colony of bees from a Frankfort laundromat. If anyone has swarm or problem bee situations, please inform the secretary at [jwrafert@gmail.com](mailto:jwrafert@gmail.com).

#### **Farmers Market:**

Wes was the only CCBA member to sell honey at the Frankfort Farmers Market on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Selling is more difficult, since there is no tasting. The question was asked as if we were limited to two people at the booth at one time or not. Wes said that there is plenty of room, since the patrons are on the outside, and that it should be possible to have more than two and stay within current restrictions. The next market will be Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:30 a.m. for anyone interested in selling honey or volunteering to man the booth.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Library Report:**

Librarian George Fowler reported that he has ordered a new cart for a library at a cost of \$199, including tax. He said that, before he submits the cost for approval, he wants to wait until the cart arrives and he has an opportunity to ensure that it meets our needs.

### **New Business:**

#### **KSBA / 4-H Mentoring Program:**

The Kentucky State Beekeepers Assoc. is investigating the possibility of working with the Kentucky 4-H Federation on developing a program for mentoring 4-H members on beekeeping. At this point the KSBA is trying to determine the amount of interest of its members to participate. We greatly appreciate Jason Pieratt for volunteering to take a leading role in this grassroots effort, if our association is interested in participating.

# Capital City Beekeepers Association

## Meeting Minutes of 25 August 2020

### Cont.

#### Bluegrass Beekeeping School – 2021:

Now is the time of year for us to start planning for the annual Bluegrass Beekeeping School. The first step this year is to decide if it will be possible to have one in 2021. We will get in touch with Ruth Jeffers of our partners at the Bluegrass Beekeeping Association to discuss the feasibility holding the school and our possible options.

#### Officer Elections:

It is also the season to start preparing for this year's election of officers. Nominations will be accepted at our October meeting and voting at our November meeting. We, the current officers, strongly encourage those members who may be interested in serving to come forward and submit their names. The work involved isn't all that difficult, it doesn't require an inordinate amount of time and it can be very rewarding. So please give some thought to serving **your** association.

#### Annual Pot-Luck Dinner:

Also, at our September meeting we will discuss whether we will have our annual dinner in October and what options are available to us to have one. Therefore, we would like to have as many members as possible to attend the meeting. The more input we have, the better we can decide.

#### From the Floor:

Sarah Preston, manager for KSBA's Certified KY Honey Program, is putting together a marketing campaign for Certified Kentucky Honey Producers. She would like certified producers to submit an image to be used as a marketing ad or a video discussing their product and/or why they are a part of the CKHP program. "If they need help" commented Sarah, "I am willing to create an ad from pictures that are submitted to her. They need to tell me how they would like to be contacted by the customer (phone, email, etc.)".

For more information, Sarah can be reached me at [manager@kycertifiedhoney.com](mailto:manager@kycertifiedhoney.com) or by phone 859-613-1932.

#### Adjournment:

At 7:32 George Fowler made a motion to adjourn and Lynn Morris seconded the motion, at which point the meeting was terminated.

#### September Meeting:

Our next meeting will be on September 22, 2020. Our program will begin at 6 p.m. and can be viewed on our Facebook page and at 7 p.m. our meeting will begin via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

**Jan W. Rafert**  
**CCBA Secretary**

**Capital City Beekeepers Association - Treasurer's Report**  
**Prepared on September 17 for September 2020 Meeting**

**General**

Beginning Balance (August 18, 2020) \$3255.23

Receipts

Dues (1 Family)	\$15.00
Interest on Checking Acct. (8/31)	\$0.28
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$15.28</b>

Expenditures

None

<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
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**Currant Available Balance \$3270.51**

**Checking Account: \$3220.51**

**Cash change fund \$50.00**

**Notes:**

1. Wilson check for August = \$197.00 for 3 member/participants.
2. The treasurer maintains a \$50.00 cash change fund for use at meetings and events.

**Educational Funds (Saving)**

Beginning Balance \$479.11

Receipts

Interest on savings account (8/31)	\$0.06
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<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$.06</b>
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<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>NONE</b>
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<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$479.17</b>
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# The Capital Bee

## Opportunities



CCBA Regular Scheduled Meeting-  
September 22nd,

Facebook Live Program on CCBA FB page, 6 p.m.

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

CCBA Honey Booth

October 10th, 7:30 a.m.-12 Noon

Franklin County Farmers Market, Frankfort, KY

