

April 2018

The Capital Bee

The Official Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers Association

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CCBA Member Don Ashley enjoys the spring sunshine as he confirms names and number of packages going out the door.

2018 Packages Days



John Antenucci helps KSU's Dr. Tom Webster and his helper with their packages.



Dadant's Manager, Andrew Fogg and Morgan Henry "in the shadows".



April 17th was the day to pick up your packages from Dadant's Frankfort Branch. CCBA is thankful for the sponsorship from Dadant and annually work in cooperation to help during this busy day. Members, Don Ashley, John Antenucci, Marsha Bezold, Cole Gilbert, Morgan Henry, Jack Kuhn, Secretary, Jan Rafert, and President, Wes Henry were on hand through the day to distribute the 600 packages to folks who had ordered them in advance. We also marked queens and John Antenucci gave two demonstrations by installing them into hive bodys onsite. One installation was broadcasted live on the Capital City Beekeepers Facebook page and is there for anytime viewing. Many thanks to those who were able to help, especially with it taking place during the work week.



The packages were delivered in the wee hours of the morning strapped and on pallets from south Georgia. At this picture they hadn't been in "shaken" and in the cages for twenty-four hours yet. There was another pallet besides these- 600 packages in all.



Member Cole Gilbert (above) arrived early to help check queens and make ready the package pickups.

Secretary Jan Rafert (left) admires the Packages. "They look really good", many commented.

March Meeting Presentation

Submitted By, CCBA Member, Marsha Bezold

Janet Osborn presented an interesting and informative March program entitled Friendly Plants for Honey Bees in the Bluegrass region. Janet, who has been an avid gardener all of her adult life, is a landscaper and now beekeeper. Her program presented variety of plants, both native and non-native highlighting their bloom time throughout the year. It was fascinating to learn that bees prefer flowers of white, yellow, blue & purple. Also, a single bee will make 10 trips a day to forage and once they have found a nectar

source, will try and return to that same floral species on each trip. This highlights the importance of planting a greater quantity of each species, whether in one place or scattered throughout your yard. While we often think of flowers as nectar sources, Janet also spoke on the importance of nectar & pollen producing trees that should be considered by beekeepers. If you missed this terrific program and would like more information, you can catch Janet at the next beekeeping meeting or email her at: jgosborn@gmail.com.

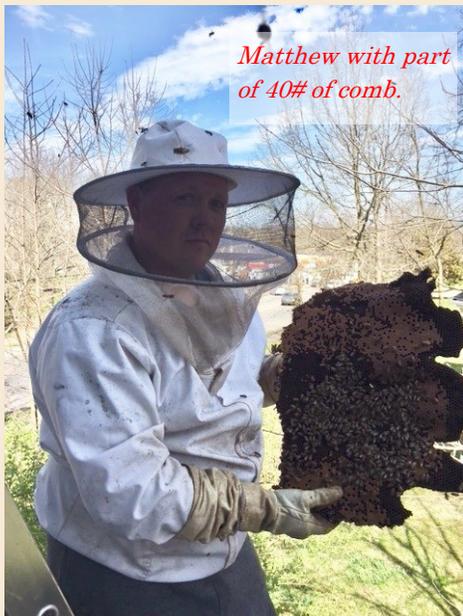


CCBA Member Extracts Colony

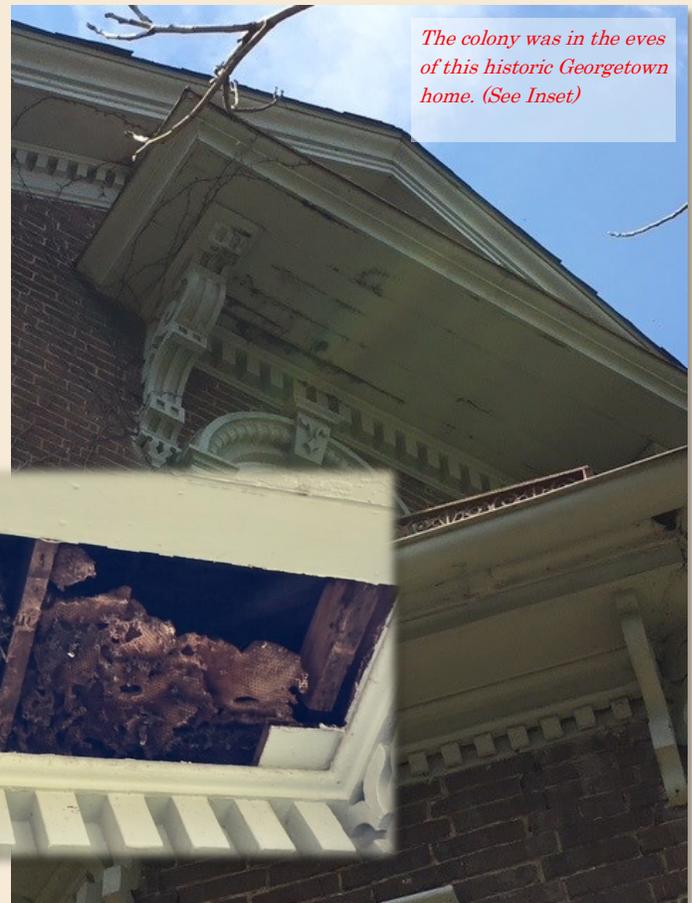
Submitted By CCBA Member, Matthew Greathouse

The weather finally cooperated and I was able to remove a "swarm" that was reported to me about two months ago in Georgetown. This was no swarm, but a full blown colony! With the help of my wife and daughter, I was able to get most of the bees out and hoped the queen came along for the ride. There was about 40# of comb that was removed from this house too. At the time of this writing I will check the box in a few days and see if I have any eggs or if I'm able to see the queen. If not, this colony will be good to re-queen. I think there will be a lot of swarms in the coming

weeks once this weather finally turns warm for a few days straight.



Matthew with part of 40# of comb.

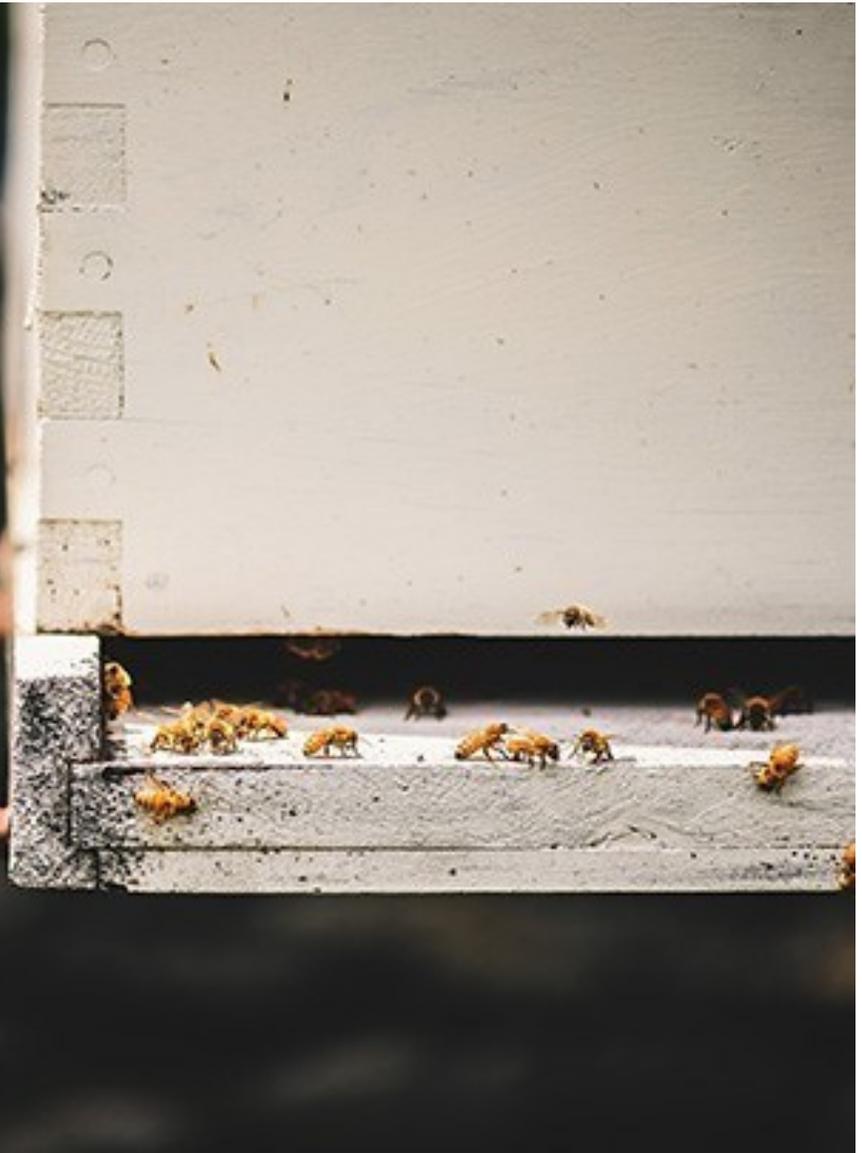


The colony was in the eaves of this historic Georgetown home. (See Inset)

Intermediate Beekeeping Class for Second Year Beekeepers at Shaker Village

An intermediate beekeeping class will be held at the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill apiary on May 19, 2018. The apiary is located at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, 3501 Lexington Rd, Harrodsburg, KY 40330.

This session is appropriate for participants who already have at least one beehive, including first year beekeepers. [Click here](#) For full details and to sign up.



Have you “Liked” the CCBA Facebook Page?

If you're not “Faceless” search and “like” it. There you can keep up with the association and other local beekeeping “stuff”. You can even find instant information and links to many things CCBA and useful tips and information. Live feeds also help the beekeeper, such as John Antenucci's recent how to on installation of a package!

Protecting Bees from Pesticides

Submitted by CCBA Member, Jack Kuhn



A honeybee forages on one of Jack's peach trees in bloom

There is a lot of information written on this subject, and it could take two-three days to cover it in detail. But as spring finally comes and folks go about planting vegetables, managing fruit trees, and controlling insects and diseases in the lawn, lets hit a couple of important considerations that are in your control for protecting bees from pesticide applications. Pesticides is a broad term that includes insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and many more pest-target categories. We are interested in insecticides and some fungicides.

Consider placement of your hive: Away from areas/plants you want to spray with pesticides.

Consider air flow in your area and prevailing wind direction during the pesticide application season. Place hives upwind of any pesticide application areas and in higher elevations from pray areas.

Only apply pesticides when there is no wind, usually early morning or early evening.

“Do not spray... until after bloom has fallen off.”

Do not spray fruit trees, vegetables, lawns, or ornamentals with fungicides or insecticides until after bloom has fallen off. When spraying fruit trees after bloom drop, mow underneath trees to ensure wild flowers are not present (think dandelion or white clover).

Consider applying pesticides in the evening, when the wind has laid down and the bees have gone back to the hive for the night.

Select and establish plant varieties that are disease resistant, or have low insect pressure.

Fruit trees are hard to grow in Kentucky due to our location in the Ohio Valley; inversions,

low wind flow, high humidity, stale air all contribute to high potential for fungus and insect pressure. Regular application of insecticides and/or fungicides are necessary to successfully produce fruit in Kentucky. Pears and sour cherries have the least maintenance.

Peaches (insects) and apples (disease) have the highest.

Common insecticides that are deemed “safe” for humans can be quite toxic to bees. If you are going to apply Thiocyanide or Seven Dust to tomatoes (there are better options- see below) or squash, do so before the plant starts to bloom and discontinue once blooms begin to form.

Malathion is a “kill all” very effective pesticide, applicable to a lot of target pest on many different crops, but it will kill bees too.

B.t. (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) is a naturally occurring bacterium that kills certain leaf-eating worms and caterpillars and is safe for bees (great for caterpillar control on tomatoes and other crops with caterpillar damage).

Look at Neem oil as a product to control chewing insects with minimal effect on bees. Neem oil is a naturally occurring [pesticide](#) found in seeds from the neem tree. It reduces insect feeding and acts as a [repellent](#). It also interferes with insect hormone systems, making it harder for insects to grow and lay eggs. It's safe for bees since the insect must eat the plant to be fatal.

Insecticidal soaps and insect oils can be effective for spider mites and other small sucking insects, and are safe for bees.

We hear a lot about Neonicotinoids; Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Imidacloprid, Thiamethoxam. Avoid these insecticides if possible. Avoid applying these neonicotinoids by soil drench or tree injection methods to plants that attract bees as these methods may contaminate nectar and pollen for up to several years after application.

And finally, Researchers from the USDA Agriculture Research Service and Mississippi State University tested 42 commonly used pesticides and found 26 pesticides including many (but not all neonicotinoids, organophosphates (Seven Dust), and pyrethroids killed nearly all the bees that came in contact with the test pesticides. However, seven pesticides, including glyphosate (active ingredient in Roundup) and Acetamiprid (a neonicotinoid), killed practically no bees in the tests.

Generally, herbicides do not kill bees (they kill weeds), but direct spray drift can stress them.

Remember, always follow the label on the pesticide – IT'S THE LAW!

Happy Spring!

Late Blooming Flowers for Honey Bees

Submitted By CCBA Member,
Janet Osborn



Nectar and pollen will soon be very abundant once the weather consistently warms and a variety of flowers come into peak bloom. However, after the prolific blooming period of May-June, mid summer arrives and nectar sources begin to decline.

By late summer we usually enter a dry period and nectar sources actually become very scarce. You can do your part to help provide important food sources for honeybees during the late summer-fall season when they need to make vital stores for winter. Here are five native perennials you can plant which will provide nectar late in the season.

Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium Purpureum*) Blooms July-Sept

Joe Pye Weed typically grows 5-7' and has dark pink/mauve colored blooms. It's easy to grow, but keep in mind that it needs moist fertile soil that doesn't dry out. It prefers full sun to part shade and can typically be seen in wet meadows and along streambeds. Joe Pye Weed is a substantial plant and may spread through reseeding so it requires adequate space. Once the center dies out of the plant it's



time to dig up the entire clump, discard the center and divide the remaining clumps, which can be replanted. Plants will die back in late fall so it's a good idea to cut them back to the ground

*Plant now to provide late season
nectar for honeybees.*

by early spring. Back garden borders, rain gardens, meadows, and naturalized areas would be perfect for this plant. Joe Pye weed can be grown from seed, but it is best to start with plants. Or you can find someone who is dividing some Joe Pye Weed and get a clump! There is a compact form called 'Little Joe' which grows

3-4' tall and may be more appropriate for smaller gardens.

Common Sneezeweed

(Helenium Autumnale) Blooms August-October

Common Sneezeweed is another native plant that prefers moist areas. It is in the sunflower family and intolerant of dry soils. Typically growing 3-5' tall, abundant yellow daisy like flowers appear in late summer. Sneezeweed usually requires staking, however, if the plant is cut back in early June it will



encourage more branching, and less need for support. This is another good plant for an informal garden, wildflower areas, or along the side of a water source. It's name does not come from a reaction to pollen, but rather the flowers and leaves were once used to make snuff. Sow seeds in late fall or early spring or start with plantings. Many varieties of Helenium have been developed from this native plant and offer a wide range of hot colors from light yellow to dark red.



Aromatic Aster

(Symphyotrichum Oblongifolium) Blooms Sept-frost

This is one of the latest blooming asters. Growing 1-3' it produces abundant flowers made up of lavender petals with yellow centers. It has denser foliage and a bushier habit than other asters, so may be easier to incorporate into a smaller garden. Although the flowers do not have an aroma, the leaves do when brushed against or crushed. Prune it back by more than 1/2 in mid-June to keep it from getting leggy and splitting in the middle. Aromatic Aster prefers full sun to partial shade and drier soil. It will tolerate average moisture if the soil is well drained. This is a very adaptable

plant and actually does well in poor rocky or sandy soil so it would be best planted in any dry sunny area such as a rock garden, wildflower area, or meadow landscape.



Blazing Star (*Liatris Spicata*)

Blooms July-August

Blazing Star grows 2-4' from corms and sends up long grass like shoots topped with bright magenta-purple spikes that bloom from the top down. They love full sun, do best in well-drained soil and can tolerate dry spells. This plant is susceptible to root rot so be sure they don't sit in water especially in cold weather. Blazing Star can be planted in masses along a border or mixed in a garden bed. It

looks beautiful in combination with the orange color of butterfly weed, which blooms around the same time. For larger areas Blazing Star can be grown from seed, but take a month or so to germinate. It is best grown from the corms.

Bugbane (*Actaea Racemosa*) *Blooms July-September*

Bugbane or Black Cohosh prefers to grow in partial shade to shady areas with organically rich soils. It can tolerate morning sun as long as afternoon shade is provided. Bugbane grows 4-6' and produces tall wands of tiny white flowers that bloom over an extended period in mid-late summer. The plant provides nice height in the back of the garden or against a dark background and would do well in a naturalized shady area. It's slow to establish from seed, so best to start from established plants. The name, Bugbane comes from the odor of the flowers, which is said to repel bugs. If you are concerned about this aspect, many newer cultivars are available that have much more pleasant smelling flowers.



CCBA

March 2018 Meeting Minutes

Immediately preceding the meeting, landscape architect and club member Janet Osborn gave a very informative and interesting presentation titled "Friendly Plants for Honey Bees in the Bluegrass Region" highlighting important pollen and nectar plants and the months in which they bloom.

At 7:20 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Vice President Ken Daniels in the absence of President Wes Henry, who had another commitment. As the first order of business, Ken provided the club with the results of our March Survey regarding attendance at beekeeping schools and the purchase of nucs, packages and queens.

V.P. Daniels then requested a motion to approve our last meeting's minutes as posted in our newsletter. The motion was made, seconded and approved. This was followed by the treasurer's report provided by Treasurer George Fowler. Starting with a beginning balance of \$2,281.77, adding a total of \$1,632.69 in revenue and subtracting expenditures of \$894.34, the club's treasury has a current balance of \$3,020.12. The majority of our revenue is attributed to our participation in the Bluegrass Beekeeping School, where we auctioned off five hives painted by local school students, and to our drawing for a smoker.

Old Business:

Ken Daniels extended a warmhearted "Thank you" to all of our members who volunteered at the bee school and thereby contributed to its success.

John Antenucci reported that he has some used equipment for sale at discount prices and that fliers are available with a description of the items and their prices.

The reports of our various committees were the next issues on the agenda. The County Fair committee is in need of volunteers to help raise public awareness of our club and the importance of bees and honey. Also people are needed to contact local area clubs in counties that do not have honey competition at their local county fairs. Honey producers living in counties without honey competition are welcome and encouraged to enter their honey at the Franklin County Fair. George Fowler, committee chair, said that currently the first place winner receives \$3, the second place winner receives \$2 and the third place winner receives \$1. To encourage more participation and enthusiasm, better prizes, including possible gift certificates, are under consideration.

Swarm Catcher Committee chair Jan Rafert reported that not much has happened as far as his committee is concerned, since it's still a little early for swarms, although one or two has been reported. He asked that anyone who is interested in being added to the swarm catchers' list contact him.

New Business:

Club member Lani Basberger addressed the need for and availability of beekeeper liability insurance. She offered the club \$1 million of liability coverage for an annual premium of \$271.75. This coverage would include the hives here at the county extension office along with liability coverage when the club has an observation hive at different events. Jack Kuhn said that he owns the hives here and that they are covered by his liability insurance. But the use of an observation hive by the club is not covered. The club's purchase of insurance is something to be considered.

Our club has been invited to participate the Energy & Environment Cabinet's Earth Day celebration on Friday, April 27. To participate we need volunteers to man a table from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. providing information about bees and our club, as well as distribute pamphlets. This is a good opportunity for our club, if we can get the volunteers needed.

Club member Cole Gilbert invited the club to also participate in the Capital Area Master Gardeners Club plant sale on Saturday, April 28th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Farm Bureau Barn. This too is a great opportunity for us to get out and make our presence and interests known to the local population.

On behalf of President Wes Henry, Vice President Ken Daniels provided information regarding our club's potential representation at upcoming Kentucky State Beekeepers Assoc. meetings. For official representation and participation, our club needs to send two members, who are also members of the KSBA. Our club will provide \$25 per representative to offset the required travel expenses. The KSBA holds three meetings annually, one in spring, one in summer and one in the fall. We encourage our members, who are also members of the KSBA, to seriously consider officially representing our club at the next KSBA meeting.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Jack Kuhn expressed his sincere appreciation to the club for the sympathy card he and his family received on the passing of his father.

The meeting then adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jan W. Rafert

CCBA Secretary

The Capital Bee

Opportunities

April 24th CCBA Monthly Meeting

6 P.M.

Franklin County Extension Office

101 Lakeview Court,

Frankfort, KY

April 28th, Frankfort Master Gardeners Presentation Booth

9-12 noon

Farm Bureau Pavilion, Lakeview Park

Frankfort, KY

May 12th, CCBA Farmer's Market Booth

7-12 Noon

Franklin County Farmer's Market

Frankfort, KY