



The Capital Bee

The Official Newsletter of The Capital City Beekeepers Association

April/ May 2022

In this Issue:

Beekeeper's Almanac

Feature Article:

Pollinators: More
than Honey bees and
how you can help

Treasure's Report

January 2022 Minutes

CCBA Opportunities

Swarm season is one of, if not the best time of the year to rear queens. Whatever method you use, the emergence of a new queen from her waxen cell brings a hope for the future

Beekeeper's Almanac

This continuing excerpt from John Antenucci's "Central Kentucky Beekeeper's Calendar" gives us some direction with the use of popular days during the months of the year. Here's May.

Derby Day

Keep a check on swarming.

Continue feeding new colonies 1-1 syrup (on weak colonies w/o honey supers)

Black Locust blooming, have Supers on production colonies now!



Memorial Day-

Keep Swarming in check and make splits.

Check supers and add more if needed



Cut comb honey sold well last year at the CCBA

Farmer's Market oney Booth. Now is the time to get those supers dedi-

cated to this commodity on the hives. The link below can help you have success.

[Comb honey: how to make cut comb](#)

"THE EARTH LAUGHS IN FLOWERS."

- BY RALPH WALDO EMERSON



You Just Gotta Smile

Community and Home Gardens are Hotspots for Pollinators in Cities

Pollinators in a changing world

One third of all agricultural output in the United States depends on pollinator species for production, and this estimate does not even include pollinated crops that wild animals such as birds and bears depend on as part of their diets. Many of us think of honeybees when we hear the word “pollinator” but there are a wide variety of insects and other animals that pollinate plants. Did you know that [bats are important pollinators](#) in tropical and desert environments?

But pollinator populations are on the decline. As the human population grows, habitats rich in flowers and plant-life that support pollinators are transformed to urban landscapes. This habitat loss leads to a decrease in pollinator populations. Another additional stress on pollinators has been the widespread use of pesticides in agriculture. Bees exposed to pesticides display impaired foraging skills and a decline in their immune systems, sometimes leading to death.

Pollinators in urban environments

While it might seem counterintuitive, there are lots of pollinators present in urban environments. Pollinators such as bees and hoverflies find refuge in public parks, cemeteries, and gardens. Katherine Baldock from the University of Bristol (UK) and her colleagues [recently published a study](#) that examined how pollinator species used different urban spaces in four British cities (Bristol, Reading, Leeds, and Edinburgh). They wanted to understand where pollinator species were most abundant and how future urban planning could increase pollinator populations in urban spaces.

The abundance of bees and [hoverflies](#) was highest in community and home gardens and lowest on man-made surfaces. Average bee abundance was up to 52 times higher in these garden habitats!

Baldock and her colleagues examined pollinator species and their abundance in nine different urban spaces within each city: community gardens, cemeteries, home gardens, man-made surfaces (e.g. industrial estates, parking lots), other green spaces, city parks, sidewalks, nature preserves, and road verges (the space between the road and the sidewalk). The abundance of bees and hoverflies was highest in community and home gardens and lowest on man-made surfaces. Average bee abundance was up to 52 times higher in these garden habitats! Interestingly, they did not find a difference in the number of bee and hoverfly species between the nine examined habitats.

Not surprisingly, areas with higher flower abundance have more pollinators, and flower abundance was higher in community and home gardens. Home gardens in wealthier neighborhoods support more pollinators because there are a variety of different plant species present in these gardens. In total, the researchers estimate that home gardens contain 54-83% of the pollinators in the four cities. Even though community gardens contain a high amount of bees and hoverflies, they typically only occupy less than 1% of the land space in each city.

Suggestions to improve pollinators in urban cities

Based on their results, Baldock and her colleagues make several suggestions for how urban planners can support pollinator communities in their cities. The main suggestions are to increase the quantity of land favorable to pollinators and to improve the quality of existing land through better management. In particular, their results showed that increasing the amount of community gardens would have the greatest positive impact on pollinator populations in three of the cities. Additionally, an increase in the abundance of floral species in road verges and public parks would significantly increase pollinators. One easy method to increase the abundance of plants would be to reduce mowing of these spaces, since many common plants have been shown to increase in abundance when mowing is reduced. Lastly, in order to support pollinator populations in lower-income neighborhoods, cities could preferentially invest in community gardens and other initiatives in lower-income areas to help reduce the inequalities in the distribution of pollinators.

Lindsay Green-Gavrielidis

I'm an Assistant Professor at Salve Regina University, Newport R.I., where my research focuses on applied seaweed research. Have you ever gone to the beach for a day of rest and relaxation only to find the sand smothered by a thick mat of multi-colored seaweed? These floating mats of seaweed are referred to as seaweed blooms and they can have negative impacts on the ecology and economy of coastal communities. My research aims to determine how these blooms are changing over time in response to global climate change and coastal management efforts. I am also interested in promoting seaweed aquaculture in local waters. Not only are seaweeds delicious, but they can be used to clean up excess nutrients in our coastal waters (referred to as bioremediation). When I'm not in the lab, I love to garden



Capital City Beekeepers Association - Treasurer's Report

Prepared on April 21, 2022

for April 26, 2022 Meeting

General

Beginning Balance (March 16, 2022) **\$2502.94**

Receipts

Dues (1 Ind; 1 Fam)	\$25.00
Interest (3/31)	\$0.23
Misc. (see note 4 below)	<u>\$0.25</u>
Total Receipts	\$25.48

Expenditures

Purchase of hive materials for painting project	<u>\$41.23</u>
Total Expenditures	\$41.23

Currant Available Balance **\$2487.19**

Checking Account: **\$2437.19**

Cash change fund **\$50.00**

Notes:

Wilson check for March was 159.75 (4 participating members).

Wilson check for April was 454.50 (5 participating members).

The treasurer maintains a \$50.00 cash change fund for use at meetings and events.

The March Wilson check was 25 cents over due to an error on their part. Wilson decided that it would be difficult to return it through their accounting system. So the 25 cents went into the club treasury.

Educational Funds (Saving)

Beginning Balance (March 16, 2022) **\$727.94**

Receipts

Interest (3/31)	<u>\$0.09</u>
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Total Receipts **\$0.09**

Total Expenditures **NONE**

Ending Balance **\$728.03**

Submitted by:

George Fowler, Treasurer

Capital City Beekeepers Association

Meeting minutes for Tuesday February 22nd, 2022

Minutes- approved.

Treasures Report-approved. If paid dues in 2020 they are still good for this year. New members will pay dues.

Library- have lots of new things. Magazines at bottom of cart you don't have to return. To sign book out put name on card inside book, put in plastic box on cart. To return book get card out of plastic box and put back in the book.

County Fair- Submitted deletions, additions, and picture of medallion to Patti Cross. Lynn will check back to see if everything is accepted without any problems.

Old Business

Bluegrass Beekeeping School went great. Might think about giving John and Ruth something for doing such a great job. About 500 people were signed up. Bullitt County did a zoom with about 20 people present so probably more than 500 people attended. Next year for the school do online and in person. Guest speaker could be a live zoom presentation as well. Maybe charge people money to offset cost of school that are doing zoom to see presentation.

Dadant package day will still be in April and the club volunteered to help. An email will be sent out with the exact date and time when it is confirmed.

KSBA Spring Meeting is 4/23 at the KSU Farm. Our Association is getting vendors together. Dadant and Kelly (Mann Lake now I think) are confirmed. Looking into having food trucks because can't have food. If you so know someone that would like to participate with their food truck let Jessica Mays know. Sessions will be from 9a.m. to 3p.m. and the business meeting will start at 3p.m. There is free registration at the door.

Spring Fest Perryville is 5/7. There will be educational booths and honey selling. Wes, Marsha, and Mike will be going. KSBA may set up a booth and sell certified honey for people but this is not confirmed at this time. Questions arose regarding their pricing and the price of honey at other vendor booths. Jessica May said that the vendors honey would come first and that they were not trying to undercut any vendors. She repeated that this is not a confirmed decision to attend at this time.

New Business

Swarm List was made that included name of beekeeper, counties that you would go to, want to take it out of a structure or not, and beekeepers phone number. The secretary of the club takes care of this.

Bee Yard Opportunities-Several people want to have bees placed on their farm. If you have any interest contact Wes. He has contact information. One is Tara Watkins on Evergreen Road near Mills Lane. The other is Greg Moore in Franklin County on Mt. Zion Road.

Bee Hive Painting Request per Staci Lukee (not sure spelling is correct) local artist and teacher at Collins Lane retired after 23 years and had a grandfather that was a beekeeper. She was influential in helping get the hives painted for the auction at the Bluegrass Beekeeping School. She wants to paint a hive that we will donate to an art project or art students. The club would purchase the hive and auction the hive off. The club would be reimbursed for the price of the hive and donate the rest of the money. Staci could probably tell us who to donate the money too. Suggestions for the place of the auction are the Fall KSBA meeting and the State Fair. With the State Fair it was suggested to do a silent auction. It was

Capital City Beekeepers Association

Meeting minutes Continued

for Tuesday February 22nd, 2022

brought up that it was a concern of logistics of getting the hive to the winner at the State Fair. The club would purchase 2 deeps, 1 bottom board, 1 top cover, and 20 frames. A motion was made to purchase the hive now and to continue working on how to auction it off because the artist would need time to paint the hive. 1st motion to approve was by Armando Arrastia and 2nd motion was made by Alan Alsiv. Motion was approved.

Name tags-it was suggested to wear name tags so new members will get to know everyone. This is the secretary's job. Lynn has some that she will bring to the next meeting to get the club started.

Motion to adjourn – made by George. Moved to adjourn.

19 members signed in for the meeting.

Minutes Submitted by Lynn Morris- Acting Secretary for March 2022 meeting.

Capital City Beekeepers' Library

Available to all
Members

The CCBA library will now be available at the regular scheduled meetings at the Franklin County Extension office in Frankfort. The following procedure is now enforce.

1. Materials are available for active members to check out.
2. Material should be returned within one month of the date checked out so that material can be made available to other members.

3. Members will be able to check out no more than two books at a time

and must return books previously checked out before obtaining additional materials.

Review of the inventory will show that some of this material will be more popular than others. Please be aware of this fact in ensuring its prompt return.

CCBA Opportunities

CCBA Regular Meeting

April 26th, 2022

[Franklin County Extension Office](#)

101 Lakeview Ct., Frankfort, KY

6 p.m. Program, 7 p.m., Business Meeting



Springfest

May 7th, 9-5p.m.

Perryville Battlefield State Park



May CCBA Honey Booth

May 14th, 2022, 8:30-12 noon

[Franklin County Farmer's Market](#)



Heartland Apiculture Society

Conference 2022

June 28th-July 1, 2022

University of Southern Indiana,
Evansville, IN



Eastern Apiculture Society Conference 2022

August 1-5, 2022

Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY

