



The Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers

August 2017

Will Varroa Mites Kill My Bees? July's CCBK Program

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At this time of year in Kentucky, when most have taken the surplus honey supers from the hives, extracted the golden-good, and the heat of summer is upon us, the worst that 'keeps can do is rest from all their labor since early spring; For it is now that mite populations begin to peak in the hive. Combine that with the declining bee population with less nectar available going into fall and winter a comin', and you have a disaster in the making if you do not manage and treat for the varroa mite.

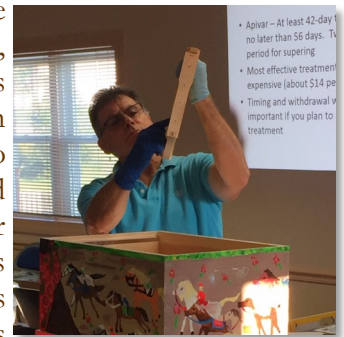


Jack leads out with a great rhetorical question.

In the words of Jack Kuhn, "Your hive's dead, you just don't know it yet". It is one if not THE MOST IMPORTANT, things you can do in your management plan for the precious colonies you support. Remember you don't just have bees you "keep" bees and you must have a plan in place and implement it.

Association has its privileges, especially with The Capital City Beekeepers. July's program was presented by Jack who has done tireless work on the subject and has a passion for passing along what he has found, researched, and implemented in his own hives not only for the eradication and prevention of Varroa mites, but also with the added benefit of maximizing honey production throughout the season including summer and fall.

The thorough and detailed presentation, included hive b o d y s , frames, tools of his own making, to monitor and administer applications as well as miticides themselves and more.



With many props, the presentation gets hands on

Information of treatment methods including limitations, advantages and disadvantages, with "organic helps" was all a part.

Some videos and information Jack used was from an outstanding resource found easily online- [The Honey Bee Health Coalition Varroa videos](#). There you can find information and practical application on much of the presentation that was given.

Bee-Lines

From the Inbox:

Bee Humor

This post from CCBK member Clay Guthrie brought a quick laugh and an immediate question to use it in the newsletter. “...Yes sir”, was Caly’s response and could be of great use at home.



And this submission from Vice-President John Antenucci... Out of the mouth of babes, for indeed bees are bugs.



Varroa Cont.

In summary:

- The varroa mite is a formidable foe.
- Virtually all colonies will have mites.
- A large percentage of colonies will not survive if the mite population exceeds 3%.
- High volume populations (mite Bombs) often result in virus epidemics that weaken or kill colonies.

- Some resistant stocks are helpful but temporary, fixes are still needed to keep mite populations lower.

Q and A followed and attendees were able to get their hands on and examine the props. It was a great time of learning and added to what a veteran keeper may have already known.

August’s Farmer’s Market

A bright Saturday morning greeted members of the Capital City Beekeepers who gathered early for the August Franklin County Farmer’s Market booth. Members Michael Wiley, Dan Ramey, and Ken Daniels were on hand to offer their harvests from the colonies they keep. As in times past, Ken accounted that sales were robust with the majority of the honey selling that was brought. Offering an irresistible taste before you buy is a great way for the public to become aware of the diverse attributes of honey from different apiaries— color, aroma, and taste.



Michael Wiley (left) and Dan Ramey speak with prospective buyers at the CCBK booth.

“I can say people preferred the light over the amber honey”, reported Michael Wiley. The second Saturday is always “Kid’s Day” at the market. CCBK also handed out over 200 honey sticks to kids.

August Program: A Beekeeper’s Calendar

At our July meeting, members voted to not have a business meeting since the State Fair work day coincided with the usual meeting night. However, the club will meet but have a program and fellowship only. Vice-President John Antenucci volunteered to present the program beginning at 6 p.m. at the Franklin County Extension office. John titles his presentation, “A Central Kentucky Beekeeper’s Calendar: What to do and when based on popular holidays.” It’s a proven way to remember and plan for the need of good hive management. This should be a very practical and informative time of “bee-learning”, so don’t miss out!



Performing hive management on or near holidays gives the beekeeper an edge. Attend August’s meeting/ program and learn how.

Bee-Lines

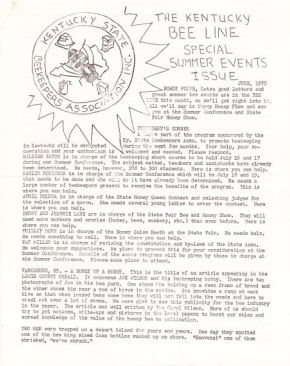
"September— This is often a very busy month with bees. The Fall flowers come into blossom and in some seasons... yield a surplus to their owner" —

L.L. Langstroth, The Beekeeper's calendar, Hive and the Honey-bee



Ironweed and thistle herald the coming Fall flow. After finishing the work in the Owen county out- yard, I had the opportunity to explore the summer hillside covered with purple both faint and bold. The bees joined a myriad of pollinators— butterflies and bumble- bees. There was no rush to leave...
-Wes

Frankfort's Bee History: First Honey Show at 1975 County Fair



From the "worn brown folder" given to the club earlier this year, is another discovery of history and influence of the first known organized beekeeper's association in the Capital City. On page 2 of the June 1975 issue of the "The Kentucky Bee Line", the newsletter for the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association, we find that The Frankfort Area Beekeepers were responsible for the creation of the honey division (Honey Show) at the Franklin County

Fair. Also, then as now, local club participation in the Kentucky State Fair Honey Show was also needed and solicited, even if you didn't have a local club in your area. Individuals working at least two hours could get a free pass to the fair for their service as now. An interesting bit of trivia, what we now seem to take for granted, is that the writer reminds the reader, "THE EXHIBITION WING WILL BE AIR CONDITIONED this year".

FRANKFORT, KY. The Frankfort Area Beekeepers would like to invite all Kentucky beekeepers to participate in the first ever Honey Show at the Franklin County Fair, July 21-26, writes APRIL DELUCA, Secretary of the Frankfort Area Beekeepers. We are sponsoring the Honey Show and a Honey Cookery Show. Both exhibits have categories that correspond generally to the State Fair Classifications and premiums of \$3, \$2, and \$1 are offered in each category. Anyone may participate in our show and we feel like it's good practice for the State Fair! For a catalog write: Paul Gray, Franklin County Extension Agent, Winn Dixie Shopping Center, Frankfort, Ky. 40601, or April Deluca, Route 4, Lawrenceburg, Ky. 40342.

SOMERSET, KY. Mr. GARDNER HIERONYMUS writes: "I have taken off a good crop of Poplar honey. My scale hive gained 17 pounds a day for two days in the height of the Poplar flow. Clover is now coming in and the scale hive is gaining 5 to 6 pounds per day." "A good way to get bees from a tree is to use a screen wire funnel, have 9 frames of foundation and 1 frame of bees, queen and brood. In 2 weeks bees need a super. Trap them out again in a few weeks. Bees should be trapped for one week and left to build up for a few weeks before you trap them again."

NEXT MONTH the BEE LINE will publish the schedule for Local Association participation in the State Fair Honey Show. Most locals will be responsible for only one day, while a few of the larger ones will get two days. The State Fair is August 12-23, and if you or your group have a preference as to date, it will be honored. When the schedule is set we will mail out a FREE PASS for each volunteer planning to spend at least 2 hours at the Honey Show.. What if you are in an area where there is no local? If you will spend at least 2 hours at the Honey Show, you'll get a FREE PASS. REMEMBER, THE EXHIBITION WING WILL BE AIR CONDITIONED this year. Two hours is very little time, and once you're there you'll probably want to stay longer.

WANTED: HONEY EXTRACTOR. If you have an extra contact Leland King, Rt 5, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. He's looking to buy one.

THE CRYSTAL-gazer had just collected five dollars and informed his anxious client: "That entitles you to ask me two questions." "Isn't that a lot of money for just two questions?" "Yes it is," replied the fortune teller gravely. "And now- what is your second question?"

EDMONTON, KY: Our friend WILLIS PEDIGO writes: "My corn field looks fine now. I have 2½ acres. It will make all the corn I need." Willis also has about 2½ acres of sweet clover just now coming on; crookneck squash planted in some corn rows; and, plans to sow both buckwheat and millet. "I set 500 Ozark Beauty strawberry plants last March, and my freezer's crowded with them this spring." (Sorry to hear that Willis, maybe Jeannie and I can come down and help you make room in your freezer-- Hope the sun shines on your hay making and we'll see you at the Summer Conference.)

THE KENTUCKY STATE FAIR is August 12-23. Now is the time to send away for your catalog and entry forms. Send a postcard with your name and address, requesting them from the ENTRY DEPARTMENT, Ky. State Fair, P.O. Box 21179, Louisville, Ky. 40221.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. The North Carolina Beekeepers Association has a new set of officers for the coming year. They are: A. M. Buchanan - Pres.; Jerry Wood - V. P.; Jim Houser - Sec.; Mrs. Irene McIver - Recording Sec.; and Billy Sheppard - Program Chairman. The N.C. Assn. will hold the Summer Conference on July 10, 11 and 12 at Brevard College, at Brevard, N.C. Any Kentucky beekeeper who can arrange to be at their meeting, is very welcome to attend. This word from Jim Houser, the Sec/Treas. Thanks Jim.

MAGISTRATE to witness: "Why didn't you go to the aid of the defendant during the fight?" Witness: "I didn't know which one was going to be the defendant."

Bee-Lines

Dates To Remember:

**Next CCBK Meeting-
August 22, 2017,
6 p.m., [Franklin County Extension](#),
101 Lakeview Dr.,
Frankfort, KY**

**[CCBK Saturday Farmer's Market Booth](#)
Septemeber 9, 2017
7:30 a.m.-12 noon**

**[Kentucky State Fair](#),
Club Work Day August 22nd,
Members wanting to participate in working the booth need to meet in Frankfort's Walmart parking lot at 7:00 a.m. Workers get free admission.**

CCBK Minutes July 24th, 2017

Ken Daniels gaveled the July meeting to order at 6 p.m. for business before the program

Mary Shelton with ECU project to investigate contaminants, especially chemicals contained in spraying for mosquitos, in urban/ suburban honey, gave her thanks for being able to address the association and blessed us with a "beehive cake".

The deadline for sample submission for honey testing is now September
She informed us that comb will also be accepted for testing.

Minutes for June's meeting were approved, motion made by Mike Swatzyna, second by Alan Alsip.

Treasure's Report was given by Treasurer Jack Kuhn:

Beginning Balance of 2338.29
Total receipts- 384.25
Total Expenditures- 273.25
Ending balance- 2449.29

Ken gave a Franklin Fair Recap:

Encouraged more to participate and the point was made that it is open to all CCBK member's after the question from Michael Wiley on the subject.

Recap of tasting on Friday night of Fair

Results of honey classes was given.

Light Extracted Honey- blue-Jack Kuhn, Red-Ken Daniels and Dan Ramey,

White-Wes Henry

Amber Extracted Honey- Blue- Jack Kuhn, Red- George Fowler

Black Jar- blue- Wes Henry, Red- Jack Kuhn, White- George Fowler

Chunk Comb Honey- Blue- Jack Kuhn

Frame- Jack Kuhn, blue

*Wax- Blue- Wes Henry

Framer's Market was discussed and next date set at 8/12/17, 7:30-12 noon.

The State Fair was next discussed

Needing 8 oz. jars of honey donated for the Ham breakfast. Deadline for members to drop off at Dadant for collection, 8/11.

Ken discussed the need for at least 12 workers at the State Fair honey booth 8/22.

Also a vote was taken to have meeting 8/22 since same day as State Fair. The club voted to have meeting, John Antenucci volunteered to conduct program only.

No business meeting that evening.

Potluck was voted to be 10/24/2017 at the Franklin County Extension Office.

The candlelight Tour in November was discussed.

More information is to come once date is established.

There was discussion that the club needs a location for honey tasting and sales.

Next meeting 8/22 was announced and business meeting was adjourned for Program portion of meeting.

Jack Kuhn gave an informative and thorough presentation on Varroa mites- methods of conducting a mite count and the various products and methods of treatment.