

The Capital Bee

The Official Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers Association



In This Issue:

Capital Bee News

Extractor Purchased

Spellalooza

August's Farmer's Market

CCBA Helps Celebrate Honey Bee Day 2018

CCBA at The 2018 Kentucky State Fair

Feature Article

Flowering Shrubs for Honey Bees

By Janet Osborn

July Meeting Minutes

Purposed Extractor Guidelines

CCBA Opportunities

Capital Bee News

Club Extractor Purchased

During the June meeting, a motion was made near the end of “New Business” for the association to purchase an extractor for members to “check out” and use to harvest their honey. The June minutes reflected the motion, **“A 20-frame extractor may be a little too large, but the club received it through a grant. It was suggested that the club purchase a 6-frame extractor. A 6-frame, hand-crank is \$525 and one motorized is \$824 (not including the stand at \$65) at Dadant. The topic of purchasing another extractor was tabled...”** to get pricing and bring a report of that back to the members. Being “Old Business” for the July meeting, all the particulars obtained from Dadant were discussed (see July minutes in this newsletter) and a vote was taken to make the purchase. The extractor approved and purchased is a hand crank Dadant Ranger with a six frame radial basket and stand. Jack Kuhn has been commissioned with making a wooden base and drafting the rules of member check-out, use, and return which is [included on page thirteen for review](#). The extractor rules and regs will be discussed and voted on for approval at our August meeting.

CCBA's new extractor, available for member's use.



CCBA members in keeping with the “bee theme”, have had in past years the opportunity to sell honey at The Spellapalooza in Frankfort. Treasurer George Fowler was there with his on

was there. The event’s ninth year took place on the 10th of the month. If you don’t know, Spellapalooza is a spelling bee where teams from local businesses and organiza-

“The Return of the Bees!!”



tions creatively don costumes and compete for the coveted travelling trophy and bragging rights. It is conducted by The Thornhill Education Center and proceeds go to help fund the programs offered there which include GED, College prep, Career and Work Readiness, English as a second language, and more. 15% of the CCBA honey sales go to the Center as a donation.

Capital Bee News



CCBA Honey Booth- August's Farmer's Market



Five Member's sold honey this month. Members Marsha Bezold, George Fowler, Dan Ramey, Ken Daniels and Michael Wiley tend to the booth as market goers peruse the golden offerings.



As one member has said many times, "buying honey is a try before you buy proposition". Here prospective buyers can do just that and are always amazed that each has a unique flavor. The flavors differ as much as the taster's opinions and what they think is best to them. Here a taste test is offered.

Capital Bee News



CCBA Honey Booth
August's Farmer's Market



Michael Wiley's display offered folks the opportunity to experience the variety of colors honey can be found. Michael here interacts with an admirer of that attribute.



Capital Bee News



CCBA Honey Booth
August's Farmer's Market



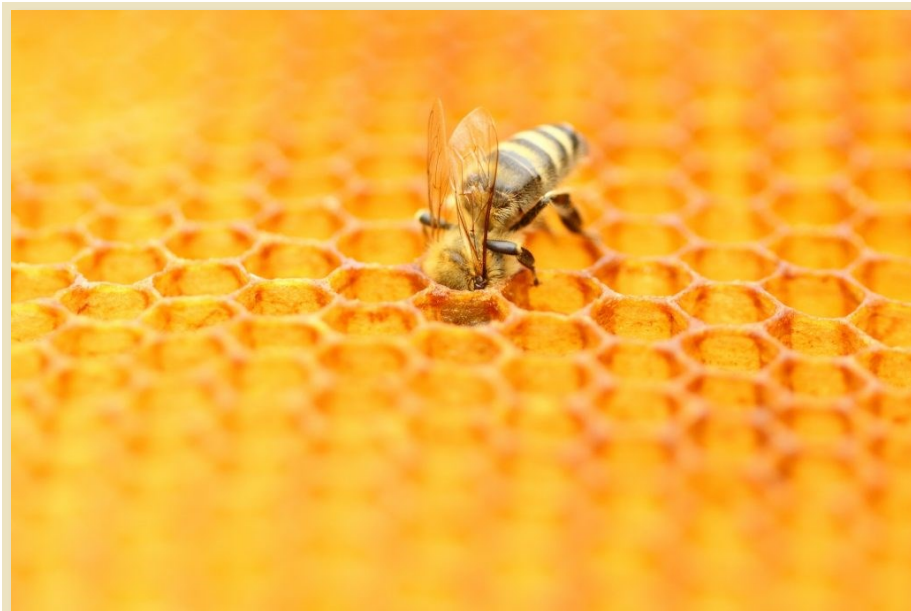
Members Ken Daniels and Dan Ramey prove out that the monthly CCBA Honey Booth is not “all work and no play” and take time just to enjoy a robust morning at the Franklin County Farmer's Market.



FRESH. LOCAL. LIVELY.

The Capital City Beekeeper's are a part of a rotating booth at The Franklin County Farmer's Market. We setup every second Saturday and offer local honey and wax products 7:30-11:30 a.m.

Capital Bee News



Honey Bee Day 2018- CCBA In the Schools

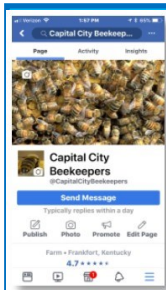
The ninth official National Honey Bee Day 2018 was celebrated on August 18th. Since its formal proclamation by the USDA in 2009 it has been held on the third Saturday of August annually. It is a day set aside to promote an awareness for bees and to educate the public about the importance of bees and the beekeeping industry.

A call went out to members of The Capital City Beekeepers to help and secretary Jan Rafert took advantage of the opportunity afforded to the association by Royal Spring Middle School in Georgetown, Kentucky. Six presentations on honeybees and bee-

keeping were given by Jan to Mrs. Shelby Roberts Agricultural classes that day. Attendance for each class ranged in size from twenty-five to forty-four students.

“The student’s interest ran the spectrum from little to a great deal, but overall it went very well,” reports Jan, “...and the students were exceptionally well behaved and asked some very good questions.”

Our Association not only appreciates all Jan does in his position as secretary, but also his willingness to help promote this and beekeeping in the surrounding communities. Thank you Jan.



Have you “Liked” the CCBA Facebook Page?

If you’re not “Faceless”, search and “like” it. 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 Jack Kuhn’s harvesting of honey frames in the beeyard!

Capital Bee News

The Kentucky State Fair 2018

CCBA Wins and Helps



CCBA Works KSBA Honey Booth

From Left to right Members Donald Gates, Jan Rafert, George Fowler, Dan and Betty Ramey, Jack Kuhn, Wes Henry, and Ken Daniels made the trip to Louisville to work the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association honey booth. The association receives a percentage of the total sales for that day.

Kuhn Awarded Multiple Ribbons

CCBA Program Director Jack Kuhn had multiple entries into the Kentucky State Fair this year. He took home the Blue Ribbon for his capped honey frame. And was also awarded Red Ribbons for his dark and light honey in the one pound jar class.



Capital Bee News

The Kentucky State Fair 2018

CCBA Wins and Helps



Daniels and Ramey Win Red

CCBA Vice-President and members Dan and Betty Ramey stand in front of the Fair's honey entries display with their four two-pound jars of light honey they entered. They were awarded the Red Ribbon. Only one point separated them from the Blue ribbon prize!

Show and Tell

Right, 2018 American honey Queen Kayla Fusselman interacts with fair-goers at the Honey and Bees display at the Fair.

Below, the honey entries for the fair are backlit and show a myriad of beautiful colors.





Flowering Shrubs for Honey Bees

By CCBA member, Janet Osborn

It's hard to believe summer is already on the way out and fall will soon be arriving. If you are thinking of adding shrubs to your landscape, fall can be the right time to plant. So now is a good time to start thinking about what shrubs you may want to plant during the upcoming fall months. Here are five shrubs that each bloom at various times throughout the season and are a good source of nectar for honeybees.

Oakleaf Hydrangea (*hydrangea quercifolia*) This hydrangea is native to the southeastern U.S. and is one of the few hydrangea varieties that have fertile flowers providing nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinators. The common mop-head hydrangeas seen in many home gardens have sterile flowers. Oakleaf hydrangea grows 6-8' and produces panicles (pyramid-shaped flower clusters) of fertile white flowers in late spring/early summer, which age to pink by late summer. It grows well in moist, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. A layer of mulch in the summer helps to retain soil moisture. Pruning is not necessary but if needed it should be done immediately after flowering, as blooms occur on old wood. Oakleaf hydrangea gets its name from its leaves, which resemble oak leaves and turn a beautiful deep red in the fall. It can be planted as a single specimen, in the back of a garden or in a mass as an informal hedge. Another hydrangea choice for pollinators is the "lacecap hydrangea" that produces flat heads of fertile flowers fringed with sterile ones. It grows 3-5' and is a beautiful elegant plant for a smaller garden. Soil pH affects the color of this hydrangea whereas it does not affect



Shrubby Cinquefoil (*Potentilla Fruticosa*) Shrubby Cinquefoil is a long blooming native shrub growing 3' tall and wide. It is easily grown in average well-drained soils and flowers best in full sun, but a little shade in the afternoon may help to keep the plant blooming longer. Small five-petaled yellow blooms appear in June and can last until the first frost with occasional shearing of spent growth. The blue-green narrow leaf clusters offer a unique texture to the garden and turn a yellow brown color in the fall before falling off. Flowers appear on new growth so any pruning should be done early before new growth starts in the spring. This shrub can be pruned all the way back to keep a mounded shape if desired. Shrubby Cinquefoil can be used as a low hedge, in a mixed or shrub border or as a low foundation planting.



“If you are thinking of adding shrubs to your landscape, fall can be the right time to plant.”

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) Buttonbush is a native plant that grows anywhere from 5-12'. It produces showy white fragrant flowers that resemble pin-cushions in midsummer and are very attractive to bees and butterflies. The flower heads then mature into hard round red fruits in fall. Buttonbush is easily grown in full sun to part shade. It adapts well to a variety of soils except dry ones. It actually does well in very wet soil, including flood conditions and shallow standing water. Pruning is not really necessary, but may be done in early spring to shape and can be pruned to the ground to revitalize and keep at a smaller more manageable size. If you have an area in your yard or garden that tends to stay moist, this plant would do well there. Buttonbush grows naturally in wet open areas, along streambeds and pond margins.





Blue Mist (*Caryopteris x clandonensis*) Also commonly called “Bluebeard” and “Blue Spirea.” This is a small shrub that grows 2-3’ high and wide. In late summer the shrub becomes covered with fragrant blue flowers that resemble clouds of blue smoke or mist. It is also valued for its aromatic foliage. It is easy to grow, prefers full sun and is drought tolerant and deer resistant. Blue mist is hardy to zone 5, however, typically in this region the stems will die back in winter. Pruning all stems each year in early spring will promote vigorous new stem growth. Flowers form on the new stems so are not affected by hard pruning. Blue mist has a nice rounded habit and is good for smaller gardens. It is very effective in large masses.

American Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis Virginiana*) There are many varieties of witch hazel, but this is a native variety which blooms in late fall. It is a multi-stemmed shrub that can grow up to 15’. After the leaves turn gold and start to fall, the fragrant yellow flowers with crinkly ribbon shaped petals begin to bloom. Witch hazel is easy to grow in average, medium moisture, well-drained soil. Does well in full sun to part shade, but plant in full sun for the best flowering. Most witch hazels need a chilling period of 2 months with temperatures below 45 to ensure flowering. Another native variety is *Hamamelis vernalis*, (Ozark Witch Hazel) which grows to about 10’ and has smaller flowers. It blooms in late winter-early spring. Non-native varieties such as *Hamamelis japonica* and *Hamamelis mollis* also bloom in late winter. Any of these witch hazels would be excellent choice for providing honeybees and other pollinators a valuable source of nectar when nothing else is blooming. ~



July 2018 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Henry at 6:03 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve last month's minutes as found in the June newsletter. The motion was made by Rick Evans, seconded by Kay Daniels and approved by the members present.

Treasurer George Fowler gave the treasurer's report, which included a beginning balance of \$3,330.08, receipts of \$117.25 and expenditures of \$343.25, leaving a balance of \$3,104.37. A motion to approve the report was made by Don Ashley, seconded by Rick Evans and approved by those present.

Committee Reports:

Swarm Committee: Jan Rafert reported that Tammy Horn Potter, State Apiarist and club member, emailed that she had a swarm in July, so they can occur at about anytime.

Jan also reported on club members assisting others. One club member agreed to help another member assess the condition of his hives and offer advice. Another member closed up a Lexington beekeeper's hive after the beekeeper received a number of stings inside his veil and had to leave on business trip without returning to his hive. We greatly appreciate our club members helping other members and even non-members.

Farmers Market: Ken Daniels reported that three members sold about \$500 worth of honey at the last market. The next market will be August 11th. 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.

County Fair: George Fowler stated that we had more entries and more people involved than ever before. Congratulations to Jack Kuhn, Marsha Bezold and Penny Henry for their Blue Ribbon entries. Honey judge, Tana Peers, has judged internationally using the Welsh method. The rules will change for next year, namely that multiple blue ribbons may be awarded per category. He also mentioned that attendance has been dropping all around the state.

Website: Wes Henry said that, since we ran out of all the free space available, we have purchased unlimited space for an annual fee of \$96.

Old Business:

Extraction Party: Allen James reported that since only a couple of people interested in attending the party, the party location was moved to Jack Kuhn's house. Allen said that extracting was more than he had read about or expected. Jack has a very nice setup and they extracted eighty-one pounds from two hives.

State Fair: The club's date for working the honey booth is August 21st. Those who willing to volunteer should meet in the Frankfort Wal-Mart's parking lot at 7 a.m. Ken Daniels said that anyone interested in donating 8 oz. jars of honey for the Farm Bureau Breakfast should have them to him by August 10th, if they aren't taking them to the fair them-

selves. Also the KSBA will be there for the Kentucky Certified Honey program, currently in the draft stages. Club presidents may be their agents for inspecting and verifying that the honey was produced and bottled in Kentucky.

Spellapalooza: George Fowler reported that Thorn Hill Learning Center's fund-raiser, "Spellapalooza, will be on Friday, August 10th, beginning at 5 p.m. Our club has participated in past years, but not in the recent past. He said that this is a good opportunity to provide information and to sell honey. Ending time depends on the number of teams and the level of difficulty of the words.

Six Frame Extractor: The subject of the club purchasing a six frame extractor was addressed after being tabled during our June meeting. Wes Henry said that the Ranger 6-Frame, stainless steel extractor is coming out in a new design and that Dadant has some of the older design at a \$100 reduced price of \$425. The stand will be an additional \$65. Wes will speak with Andrew Fogg at Dadant to see if we can get an even better price. John Antennuci made a motion that the club purchase this extractor and stand, if the total price is less than \$600. Bill Wilson seconded the motion. Wes will keep it at his house for now and until we have a protocol established for its use, which will include returning it in clean, working order. A deposit may be required in case any damage is done to it.

New Business:

Ken Daniels suggested that the club could purchase Apiguard and Apivar in bulk and sell it at cost to members who don't have need of ten items of each. It was decided that an email will be sent to the members to determine the amount of interest. (Note: Club officers later decided not to purchase the Apivar strips because they aren't individually packaged and therefore don't have instructions and warnings of use.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan W. Rafert

CCBA Secretary

Purposed Guidelines and Agreement for CCBA Extractor Checkout by Members. The following will be discussed and voted on at the August meeting.

Date Checked out _____ Signature of Equipment Coordinator _____ Date Checked In _____
Signature of User Member _____

Capital City Bee Keepers – Frankfort, Kentucky Guidelines and Agreement for using the 6-Frame Extractor

The Capital City Bee Keepers (CCBK) owns a six frame, manual crank, radial extractor. The extractor will extract 6 shallow or medium frames radially. The extractor is mounted on a stand and stability base. The extractor itself weighs 78 lbs. and is 24 inches tall. The base is a wooden platform, 27 inches by 42 inches.

The extractor is for the exclusive use of its members and is available for checkout on a short-term basis. The President of the CCBK will designate an officer of the club to oversee the equipment use program. The President may designate a club member (equipment chair) in good standing, to manage the checkout and return of the equipment.

Basic guidelines for checkout and use.

The person requesting use of the extractor (herein referred to as “Handler”) must be a member in good standing of the CCBK as of May 31, of the current year.

The equipment will be available on a first-request, first use basis and coordinated through the designated officer or equipment chair only.

The Handler is responsible for the pick-up, transportation and return of the equipment to and from the Franklin County Cooperative Extension Service, or other secure location as determined by the club officers. An SUV or truck is advantageous.

The Handler will sign this use agreement and provide a \$50 check made out to the Capital City Bee Keepers as a security/damage/cleaning deposit prior to pick-up or use of the equipment. Upon return of the equipment and inspected by the equipment chair, the \$50 deposit check will be returned if there is no damage to the equipment, no parts are missing, and the equipment is clean. Typical damage includes, but is not limited to:

- Dropping the unit,
- Breaking the plastic honey gate,
- Bending the crank handle or basket
- Denting the side of the extracting drum.
- Parts that are frequently lost or misplaced include tie down chains and bolts, honey gate, ball bearing.

The equipment must be returned clean, inside and out.

The equipment must be washed inside with hot, soapy water only, and thoroughly rinsed clean.

✓ The basket shall be scrubbed with a wire, brass brush (provided) to remove wax particles.

The outside of the stainless-steel drum and stand, shall be wiped clean as well as the gear housing and crank handle (The gear housing shall never be disassembled for any reason.).

Check-out period will not exceed a 4-day period. This includes the day of pick-up and return. Please be courteous of the use needs of other members.

The Handler should contact the equipment chair upon return of the equipment. Upon inspection of the equipment, the deposit check will be returned if the above guidelines are met.

Violation of, or failure to adhere to the above guidelines, including late returns, (unless other prior arrangements are made with the equipment coordinator) will result in forfeiture of the deposit. Billing will occur for actual damages more than the \$50 deposit if the damage is other than normal wear and tear. The Handler will be responsible for the full replacement cost of any lost or stolen equipment. New equipment value is approximately \$650.

I have read the above guidelines, and I have inspected the equipment. I am providing a deposit check in the amount of \$50 to cover initial damage to the unit. I will be responsible to reimburse the club for any damage more than \$50. I also understand I will forfeit the deposit if I return the unit not cleaned or late (beyond the initial 4-day period).

Name of Handler Date signed

Signature of handler Contact phone number

Name of Equipment Coordinator Date signed

Signature of Equipment Coordinator Contact phone number

Dates requested for use: _____

Check Number: _____

Date Deposit Check Received: _____

Date Deposit Check Returned: _____

Tips for use of the equipment

Ideally, if you have never extracted before, you should consider doing so with someone who has extracted. Volunteer to help someone else ahead of time so you know how to extract and use the equipment, learning the tricks of the trade. It's not hard, but there are many little steps and tricks that are invaluable to learn before attempting a first extraction yourself. One person can extract by themselves, but it's more interesting and a little more efficient if there are two people. Three is a crowd so don't bother.

Since the equipment is returned clean, and stored with a plastic cover, it is generally ready for use without further preparation. However, if you wish to clean the unit prior to use, only use soap and water and rinse with hot water. It may be desirable to spray the inside with "One-Step, no rinse cleaner". This product is a food-grade oxygen bleach used for wine and home brewing and requires no rinsing, just wipe off dry. You may also use Potassium Metabisulphite as a sanitizer. Both can be purchased at Liquor Barn in Lexington. In any case, towel dry the inside of the drum and basket and use a hair dryer, or air dry (3-4 hours under a ceiling fan) to ensure all moisture is removed from the inside of the drum before extracting.

Extracting honey can be messy and result in serious arguments with a spouse if done in the kitchen. Honey is a food product and as such, extraction should occur in a clean room, sealed from the outside. Never extract in a building that cannot be closed as you will shortly be swarmed with hundreds if not thousands of honey bees. A **clean** basement or garage is ideal. It should be free of bugs, trash, cars, pesticide containers, etc. It should be well swept out the day before (to let the dust settle) and preferably mopped to remove dust. The best tip we can provide is to collect clean cardboard such as an appliance box or two and lay in down on the floor in front of the uncapping table and between the table and extractor, and table and honey frame storage containers.

The Cooperate Extension Service downstairs kitchen is often available for free. It must be signed out by a club officer in advance and generally the time slot should be made available to all members.

You will need a table to uncap your frames, a knife to cut off the capping's, a capping scrapper, a plastic spatula, and a large plastic tray to uncap the honey and collect the cappings. You will also need at least two buckets and filter set to screen your honey before bottling. You will want to screen the honey at least to 400 microns to remove small wax particles that stick you your teeth. A bucket with a honey gate is highly desirable if you want to bottle honey. A spatula, plenty of paper towels, rubber gloves, and small bucket with water to periodically rinse hands are a big help.

And remember, thoroughly wash hands when you begin, anytime you leave the extraction room, go to the bathroom, ingest or inhale something, etc. We are preparing food. If it's solely for yourself, who cares. But if you are gifting, sharing, selling, then personal; hygiene is imperative, even clothing.

The Capital Bee

Opportunities

CCBA September Farmers Market

September 8th, 7:30-12 noon

Regular Monthly Meeting

September 25th, 2018

6p.m. Franklin County Extension Office,

Frankfort, Ky

Annual Potluck,

October 23rd, 2018, further details TBD