

# The Capital Bee

*The Official Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers Association*



The flowering maple buds provide some of the earliest pollen and nectar sources for successfully wintered colonies. Yet, these foragers will never taste of the spring's black locust blossoms or early summer's clover. May we raise a glass of aged mead to the hardy workers that have kept our queens well through the bitter months.

## Capital Bee News

2018 Farmer's Market

New Sampling certification and Labeling

KDA Pollinator Protection Program

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& More

## Feature Article

**First Fruits** *A beekeeper's study of the American Hazelnut*

January Minutes

Dates to Remember

# Capital Bee News

## 2018 CCBA Farmers Market Booth and Regs

CCBA members again voted to secure and sell honey and other hive related products at the 2018 Franklin County Farmers Market. The association's costs for the booth is \$100.00 annually. The fee will again be recouped by the association in the way of a sellers fee from those members selling their goods on those Saturday mornings the booth is open. If members wish to sell on Tuesdays or Thursdays, no fee is charged. ([See more details in the February minutes on page 6 & 7](#))

### Sampling and Labeling Regs

New for this year concerning the sale of honey is training and certification concerning sampling and labeling. In an email from Franklin County Extension agent and CCBA Member, Adam Leonberger wrote, *"after consulting with Public Health, Food Safety Branch, and State Apiarist Tammy Potter Horn, KY Dept. of Ag [(KDA)] has revised and updated the guidelines for selling honey at Farmers Markets and Roadside Stands. The sampling of honey no longer requires Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) or Produce Pest Practices Training (PBPT) certificates. It only requires that the beekeeper complete and submit a "Cooked/Processed" Sampling Certificate."* Adam mentions in the email that CCBA program Coordinator, Jack Kuhn was instrumental in getting the clarification and guidelines specified for honey.

The link and information concerning the sampling and training certificate can be found on the CCBA website or by following the link [http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/documents/FM\\_SamplingPacket.pdf](http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/documents/FM_SamplingPacket.pdf).

Included in the email was information on labeling. Adam passed along that the *"...KDA is now strongly recommending beekeepers avoid the use of "raw," "natural," and "pure" on honey labels, as these terms can be misleading to consumer and this is what initially caused the issue with the sampling. They suggest that labels include more descriptive adjectives such as the harvest season or if lab-tested, the varietal. Honey needs to be sourced from 46% floral pollen to claim a [mono-floral] varietal and must be able to provide documentation. Otherwise it should be listed as wildflower honey."* Additionally, grading is required and a recommendation to include the dietary risk to infants under the age of one-year-old to be included on the label.

### More Detailed Information

For complete details see the [Kentucky Farmers' Market and Resource Guide](#) beginning on page 79. The guide can be found on the Education Page of the CCBA website or by clicking the guide to the right.



Get all the details here in the 2018-2019 guide.



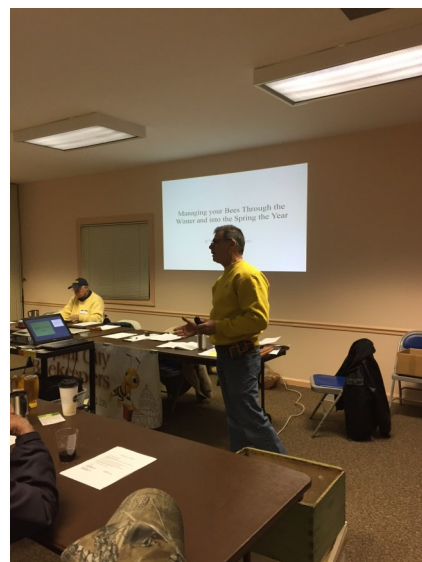
# Capital Bee News

## 2018 Bluegrass Bee School Planning Continues

Planning for the 2018 Bluegrass Bee School continued by members of both The Bluegrass Beekeepers and Capital City Beekeepers. The group met at the Fayette County Extension Office February 29th to continue planning and details. As before, the school will be conducted on the grounds of Kentucky State University. March 10th, is the set date with the doors opening to registration at 8:00 a.m. Those wanting to attend can save some money by preregistering by [clicking here and downloading the preregistration form](#) and sending it with your check to the mailing address on the form. All paid fees, whether prereg- at the clude lunch. o f w e r e oppor- volun- help in ways and one popular area is the “Coffee and donuts” booth. Member Michael Wiley has in years past and is again heading up this tasty area and spoke to the members in attendance at the January meeting. Those who volunteer pay only a 10.00 fee for their lunch and are able to take advantage of the sessions/ classes in their “off time”. The next planning session will be February 28th, 7:00 p.m. at The [Franklin County Extension office](#). The meeting is open to all members who would like to help.

**“I have the sweetest job at the Bee School”** - *Bluegrass Bee School Refreshment coordinator, Michael Wiley*

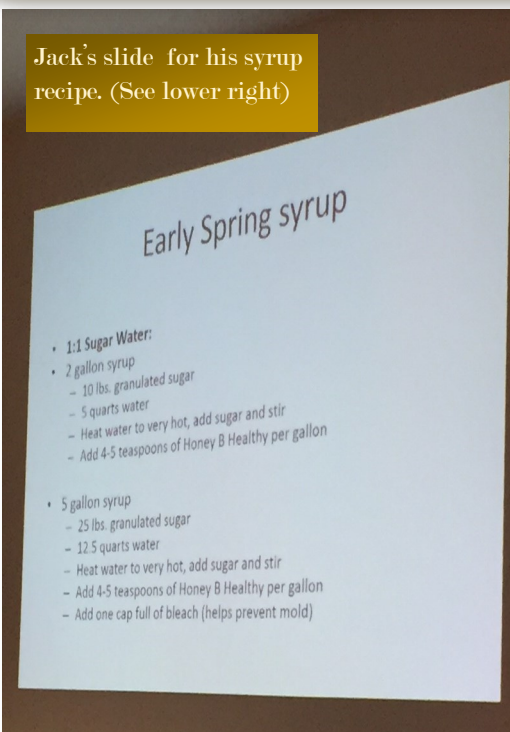
**2018 program coordinator, Jack Kuhn conducted the program** for the January meeting on managing hives now and into Spring. Nutrition including syrup for spring and a switch from carbohydrate rich winter patties to protein laden patties and pollen supplements were discussed. Jack also led the group to watch for the signs of disease, especially Nosema, (which arises more frequently in the spring) and if found, how to treat accordingly. The practice of rotating or “flipping” brood boxes when the bottom is empty was demonstrated and discussed. With the propensity of bees to “work/move



Jack presenting the program at the First Meeting for 2018

## 2018's Opening Program: Managing bees in winter and into Spring

Jack's slide for his syrup recipe. (See lower right)



up” This not only gives them room for the spring build-up but also discourages swarming. Q & A followed.

### Jack Early Spring Syrup

#### 1:1 Sugar (makes 2 gallons)

10 lbs. sugar  
5 qt. hot water  
Stir sugar into hot water  
Add 4-5 tsp. Honeybee healthy per gallon

#### 5 Gallon syrup

25 lbs. sugar  
12.5 qt. hot water  
Stir sugar into hot water  
Add 4-5 tsp. Honeybee healthy per gallon.  
Add a cap full of bleach (to prevent mold.)

# Capital Bee News

KENTUCKY DEPT  
OF AGRICULTURE



A tremendous help in protecting bee colonies and pollinators in general has been put in effect thanks to the efforts of State Apiarist Tammy Horn Potter. In a recent news release from Kentucky State Beekeepers Association (KSBA), *"The Pollinator Protection program is designed to be a voluntary tool between chemical applicators and beekeepers in an effort to reduce hive mortality. If a chemical product label specifies that the applicator must communicate with area beekeepers prior to spraying, this program allows for beekeepers and others who are voluntarily registered to receive an email."* This program can also be utilized by organic farmer and those managing [Monarch waystations](#). However they need to register as "beekeepers". Those wanting to participate need to do so on the website and designate on a map the location of your colonies. This may raise some apprehensions to privacy, however, beekeepers are assured that the program is not only free but also *"voluntary, and anonymous; all your beekeeping information is private to you."*

I took the time to try it myself. After receiving my email confirmation, I was able to register my apiaries on the map and

found it very simple and easy. Anyone can take advantage of the program at any time, however, it is recommended that those interested to do so before the pesticide application trainings begin in March.

To assist folks in doing so, the following are online helps. First, there's the Pollinator Protection Program website: <http://www.kyagr-apps.com/Pollinator/>

A video on the home page takes you through the registration steps, showing you how to mark your hive area on the computer map.

A PDF is also available that walks you through the

process of signing up for the Pollinator Protection Program: [http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/documents/OSV\\_Bee\\_Pollinator-Handout.pdf](http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/documents/OSV_Bee_Pollinator-Handout.pdf).

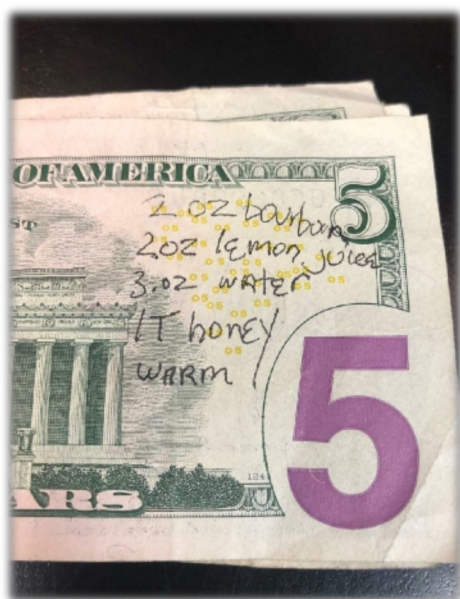
Tammy will be attending our regularly planned meeting February 27th. She will be discussing the program and be available for any questions or concerns.



State Apiarist Tammy Horn Potter will discuss the PPP at The CCBA February Meeting.

# Capital Bee News

## From the Inbox



### A discovery of healing proportions

was found in a peculiar place. Shelby Henry (daughter to Wes Henry) found this “Hot Toddy” recipe that’s worth the money and good both for what ails the body or the wintered spirit of the beekeeper and others. Good Kentucky bourbon and local Kentucky honey makes for the best. This writer’s a bit bias and ain’t afraid to admit it.

### Planting Bee Trees and More

The second part of an club email communication from CCBA Secretary Jan Rafert... “...if you are thinking of planting any pollinator friendly trees, you may find the following link of interest: <https://www.attainable-sustainable.net/crabapple/> . The article is showcases the reasons why one ought plant crabapples and #2 is so relevant to us beekeepers this time of year– when the first pollen and nectar sources become available. I have had “flowering crabs” in the past and still do, and the bees love them as much as I do the early spring show. The reader will also find a link to ten other top flower plants for bees and pollinators.



Feature Article

## FIRST FRUITS

A beekeeper's study of the American Hazelnut



As one becomes a beekeeper it doesn't take long to swerve enthusiastically into other areas of study. The beekeeper is at least an entomologist

whether he knows it or not, or will become so if he would have any success in proper and successful care of bees and the harvesting of surplus honey. Besides carpentry, meteorology, chemistry, anatomy, biology, and such there is botany, especially botany. For it is from the study of plant life that yields knowledge of the what, where, when, and how of the essentials for bee survival and the gatherings of precious pollen, tacky propolis, and the sweet nectar for honey production.

Having been an outdoorsman and student of all things nature in Kentucky, all my life, I admit it wasn't until I began beekeeping that I discovered that maples are used to not only make syrup, but also bloom presenting one of spring's first pollen/nectar sources (see this month's cover). However, a Facebook post dated February 14th, by fellow beekeeper and friend Jerome Blankenship, reminded me to always remain teachable. Included with the post was a picture of the pendulous catkins of the American Hazelnut and forgers collecting pollen. It not only excited me that these catkins were in bloom, but that I could possibly collect these nuts that I favor from the woods around me. I never knew! It prompted me to research and discovery and found that the bluegrass state is front-and-center of the area of the North America where these wider than long, acorn-shaped nuts grow.

One of the reasons to keep bees that I purpose in a Power Point presentation prepared for a beginning beekeeping class I led (see the education page on the CCBA website) is to get outdoors; And here's another chance-

chance to get this wintered and lately too idle body-out into the woods. To my thinking, with the woods stripped, for now, to its bear bones I'd be able to hopefully find a thicket of these filberts.

"First pollen of the year 2018", posted Jerome Blankenship, "...native hazelnut... saw a lot of it going into the hives today."

Not one to engage often in logomachy, I do now know that the Old English word for tree or bush is "hazel", and nut is "filbert", and stands to reason they were called such by the colonials. So I swerve into another area of study, etymology, the study of words.

To my thinkin', with clusters of catkins hanging they'd be easy to find and hopefully near my apiaries, especially the one "at the end of the road". I'll certainly mark them and no doubt will have to beat the squirrels and deer to them if there's a chance of collecting any when the goldenrods bloom.

Having enjoyed them most times during the holidays. Not only are they pleasant to the palate but are easy to crack and literally fall from the hull. I read in my probe that that easy to get at meat can be dried and pounded into a flour for gluten free baking.

Beekeeping, I'm amazed were it leads again. "It's more than just honey". -Wes

Additional information can easily be found on the internet. [One helpful source is the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Guide.](#)

## **CCBA – MEETING MINUTES**

**23 January 2018**

The first CCBA meeting was called to order by President Wes Henry at 6 p.m. The first item on Wes' agenda was the introduction of our new officers. They are: Wes as president, Ken Daniels as vice president, George Fowler as treasurer, Jan Rafert as secretary and, in a new position, Jack Kuhn as program coordinator. Jack will be setting up a schedule of topics and speakers for the program section of our meetings, which follow the business meeting. Anyone with thoughts and suggestions for topics and/or speakers should contact Jack or any of the other officers.

President Henry then expressed his aim of utilizing more committees in the future to facilitate progress in various areas. The first committee that he mentioned is a committee to organize the club's swarm catchers. Secretary Jan Rafert will head this committee, keep a list of members willing to catch swarms and disseminate this information to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, local fire and police departments, and the Franklin County Extension office. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to sign and Jan will be working with Franklin county extension agent Adam Leonberger to maintain, update and disseminate this list to the appropriate agencies.

The second committee that Wes mentioned and which is badly needed is that of a Web Page committee. Wes established and has been managing our web page but, with his additional responsibilities as president, is looking for a volunteer or volunteers to take on the responsibility of proceeding with this important task.

The third of the four committees recommended is that of a Fair Committee. This committee is to increase the club's presence at the Franklin County and Kentucky State Fairs and to coordinate our efforts with the respective fair officials.

The fourth committee will be working closely with the Fair Committee, but will also be responsible additional activities. This committee will be the Education/Observation Hive committee and will be vital in our efforts to educate and increase awareness with our local public. The volunteering of any member with a penchant for working with any of these committees will be greatly appreciated.

Treasurer George Fowler provided a treasurer's report from former treasurer, Jack Kuhn, which included a starting balance of \$2,185.88, total receipts of \$386.51, and expenditures totaling \$347.34. This left a balance of \$2,225.05. President Henry called for a motion to approve the report. Mike Wiley made the motion, Roger McDowell seconded, and the motion was approved and carried.

Following his report, George provided us with information concerning the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association and the benefits of membership within that organization. The KSBA is very active in many aspects of beekeeping within the state, including legislative. The KSBA has a very good website containing valuable and interesting information and also sends out numerous emails of interest to its members. Annual membership in this organization is \$15. If purchased through a local beekeeping club, the club is allowed to retain \$2 of that membership fee. So if you are interested in joining the KSBA, please do so through our club.

Wes Henry then provided an update on the school hive painting in preparation for the silent auction at the upcoming Bluegrass Beekeeping School. He thanked Andrew Fogg, the manager of Dadant in Frankfort, for donating the four hive bodies, with the club's only expenses being the frames and foundations. Wes also thanked Alan Alsip, Ken Daniels, George Fowler, Jan Rafert, Dan Ramey and Walter Simpson for assembling and priming the hives. The hives have been distributed to the schools and will be picked up on Friday, 9 March, the day before the beekeeping school.

Regarding the beekeeping school, Wes announced that the next planning meeting with our partners from the Bluegrass Beekeepers Assoc. would be on Monday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of January, at the Fayette County Extension Office in Lexington at 7 p.m. Ken Daniels then made a call for volunteers for the school and passed around a sign-up sheet. Volunteers will be need at Kentucky State University at 2 p.m. on Friday, 9 March, to help set up tables. On Saturday, the day of the school, we need volunteers for various assignments. The first call is for volunteers to provide direction to the participants regarding where to register and where the classes will be held. The next set of volunteers is need for the coffee and donut table. Michael Wiley once again is coordinating that aspect and passed a sign-up sheet as well. Lunch volunteers are the next needed and will be responsible for moving tables, distributing meals and the cleanup after lunch. One or two people are needed for the hive silent auction to monitor the auction, collect the sheets and turn in the results at the final session. Finally a few volunteers will be need at the end of the school to assist the KSU custodial staff in getting the area ready for Monday's classes. The more volunteers that we have, the less time will be required by each volunteer. If you are willing and able to help with any of these tasks, please contact one of the club officers.

In conjunction with the beekeeping school, our club in past years has hosted Bee Friendly Frankfort (BFF) activities during the week prior to the school. John Antenucci provided a brief history and addressed our needs to once again host this event. In previous years, Bee Friendly Frankfort, in an effort to gain public awareness of school and promote our clubs' activities, has hosted several events, including plant sales, a Beekeepers' Jam of music at a local establishment, and a beehive hair-do competition. John needs three people for us to again go ahead with Bee Friendly Frankfort activities this year. The three people are to oversee the organization of the Beekeepers' Jam, to drive the beehive hair-do competition and to be an outreach person responsible to getting the word out about BFF to local merchants and media, various websites, schools and clubs. BFF is very effective in letting the local populace know about our club, its activities, and especially about bees. Volunteers for these three activities are a very high priority. Without them, BFF will not happen this year. If you can help, please contact one of the club officers.

For the past two years, our club has helped sponsor the visits of the past two Honey Princesses of the American Beekeeping Federations Honey Queen Program. Marsha Bezold, who coordinated these past two visits, reported that this year's Honey Queen would officially be joining us for the BFF activities and the beekeeping school. The past Honey Princesses have given a number of presentations at local schools, clubs, church groups and libraries. Last years princess, Hope Pettibon, also met with the honorable Ryan Quarles, Kentucky's agricultural commissioner. After their meeting, Mr. Quarles attended last year's Beekeepers' Jam, demonstrating that the efforts of the princess and our club did have an important effect. Marsha stated that this year the Honey Queen would be staying at Marsha's home, thereby not costing the club anything for her housing. What Marsha would like is for people to host the queen during her visit for dinners and to assist her in getting to her speaking commitments.

Wes Henry then asked if anyone knew of any musical groups that may be interested in participating in the Beekeepers Jam or hairdressers interested in being represented in the Beehive Hairdo competition. Any suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

Wes then introduced our treasurer, George Fowler as the new Legislative Agent of the Kentucky State Beekeepers Assoc. and asked that George speak briefly regarding his role and activities in this capacity. George said that he is learning much about Kentucky's legislative process. He stated that there is a bill under consideration that would exempt beekeepers and honey producers from paying state sales tax on equipment and honeybee queens. George is actively searching for honey to be put into 2 oz. bottles that will be distributed to 185 Kentucky legislatures through the KY Farm Bureau Federation's baskets. In past years, honey sticks



were included, but there was no way of verifying that the honey was from Kentucky. So George is looking for donations of local honey for the 2 oz. bottles.

The next topic addressed by our president was the Franklin County Farmers' Market, where club members have sold honey and beeswax products. Our club mans the honey booth on the second Saturday of every month from May to December. Our Saturdays are also Kids' Day, where the kids receive tickets for free honey sticks. This tends to bring the parents along with the kids and may well be beneficial in our sales. Past experience shows that most, if not all, of the honey provided is sold. The cost to the club to participate at the market is \$100 annually. This fee is recuperated by the club charging a \$10 fee to each member selling honey for each Saturday. A motion was made by Michael Wiley that the club once again participates in the farmers' market. This motion was seconded by Eddie McNutt, and approved and carried.

Discussion then followed regarding the prices for which the honey would be sold. Our past prices of \$12 per pound and \$7 for half a pound were suggested. It was suggested that a motion for these prices be tabled until we see how well this years' harvest proves to be. Others felt that \$12/lb. was about as high as it has ever been and should be good. A motion was made by George Fowler that we accept the \$12 and \$7 prices for now and that they could be adjusted as necessary. Mike Wiley seconded the motion and it was approved and carried.

Selling of honey opened a discussion regarding Kentucky's Good Agricultural Practices Program, how it affects our club and the training required. Franklin County Extension Agent, Adam Leonberger, said that the past training program has been replaced with a new program and that only one member of the club may be required to take the training. That person for our club is Jack Kuhn. About the only impact for our club would be how we provide samples for tasting. Instead of allowing people to dip spoons into the honey, it would be better that the honey be squeezed onto the spoon from plastic jars. The new regulations may apply only to meat and vegetables however and not to honey.

President Henry then opened the floor for any other business. Lani Basberg said that she will have four frame Nucs with homebred queens and in hive feeders available about May 1<sup>st</sup> for about \$140 each.

Roger McDowell provided some information on Varroa mite treatments, including the MAQS (Mite Away Quick Strips) from Natures Own Design at <http://nodglobal.com/faq-maqs>, Varroa Gate by Bayer at <http://beecare.bayer.com/media-center/news/detail/a-new-way-of-protecting-bees-against-varroa-mites> and, for small hive beetles, Clark's Beetle Blocker at [www.blockthebeetle.com](http://www.blockthebeetle.com). Roger inquired if any members were familiar with any of these products and, if so, their thoughts regarding them.

At 7 p.m. requested a motion to adjourn, which was given, seconded and carried. This concluded the January business meeting of the Capital City Beekeepers Association. Following the meeting, Jack Kuhn gave an exceptional presentation regarding Honey Production Management.

Respectfully Submitted by

Jan W. Rafert

Club Secretary.

# *Dates to Remember*

Jim and Kim Show

Free Webinar with New Zealand Beekeepers [register here](#)

February 24th, @ noon EST

CCBA February Meeting

February 27th, 6:00 pm

[Franklin County Extension office](#)

[101 Lakeview Ct., Frankfort, KY](#)

[Bluegrass Bee School](#)

March 10th, 2018

Kentucky State University

Frankfort, KY

[KSBA Spring Business Meeting](#)

March 16th, London, KY

Comfort Suites hotel

1918 West Hwy. 192, London, KY

[KSBA Spring Meeting](#)

March 17th, London, KY

Laurel County Extension Office

200 County Ext Rd, London, KY