



The Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers

April 2019

CCBA Member Sarah Preston Named KSBA Certified Honey Manager

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We learned at the March meeting that "one of our own" Sarah Preston, was chosen from many to head the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association Certified Honey Producer's Program. According to [the official announcement from the KSBA website](#), "...the KSBA Executive Board...made a selection of Mrs. Sarah Preston for the Project Management position..." Sarah was formally introduced into the new position at the KSBA's spring meeting March 30th, at the Hardin County Beekeeper's Beekeeping School. Besides a member



of The Capital City Beekeepers Association, "Sarah is a recent graduate of the University of Kentucky with a Master of Science in Entomology and a graduate certificate in Applied Statistics. She has been keeping honey bees on her farm in Anderson County for five years and has been researching insects for over ten years. Sarah is highly interested in queen bee production and bee health. Her initial goal for the Certified Kentucky Honey program is to help educate beekeepers and the general public on the benefits to be had from selling and purchasing of local honey. By joining the KSBA and becoming a Certified Honey Producer, we can help to increase consumer trust in the honey industry throughout the state."

The Capital Bee

Dadant Package Day Participants

CCBA members were called on to help with the distribution and all that involves, of the hundreds of packages of bees they sell each year. CCBA has had and continues to have a long standing relationship with Dadant Frankfort Branch, and each year help in this busy day of the business here in the Capital City. Many thanks to this year's members who helped, below:

Ralph Davidson, David Miller, Ken Daniels, Cole Gilbert, Jan Rafert, Bill Dickerson, Kathy Stephanski, James Psiones, Mike Swatzyna, Marsha Bezold, Michael Wiley, Jack Kuhn, Jerry and Patty Slucher, and Brad Poll

2019 Dadant Package Day



From left to right, Dadant Manager Andrew Fogg, Vice-President Kent Daniels, and member Cole Gilbert are “up and at ‘em” early on Package Day 2019. This was about half of the packages pictured here behind them.



At left are packages of bees. With the queen suspended in a cage alongside the can of sugar syrup to feed them while contained, they cluster in the usual “V” shape around her. Soon the support braces will be cut from between the individual packages and distributed to eager keeps to install into new “homes”.

Many customers want their queens “marked”. This requires removing the queen and doing so then reinstalling her into the package. Here Manager Andrew Fogg is assisted by member Marsha Bezold in doing so.



CCBA Grafting Day

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Member Brad Poll taking a turn at grafting.



Above, Anthony "dips a day-old-larva from the bottom of a cell". Jack reports that 3 out of 10 of the students grafts "took"

Earlier in the month an email was sent out to the association concerning CCBA member Jack Kuhn providing a grafting demo and class at his nursery apiary in Peaks Mill, Kentucky. Members Henry Phillips, Brad Poll, and Anthony Adams were able to attend. To prepare, Jack had previously built a cell-starter, which is a queenless nuc from one of his nearby colonies. The group successfully grafted 40 cell cups attached to a frame made just for this purpose, to place in the cell-starter. After 24 hours, Jack removed the grafts to check the final success—whether the bees began to rear queens or not—then to place them into a cell-finisher to complete the rearing of the larva and “cap” the cells. Unfortunately, a few days later as Spring is want to do here in Kentucky, “we had a low temperature of 35 degrees and the bees clustered leaving many of the grafts uncovered,” writes Jack. The tally is however, at this writing, is that eight queens cells were successfully capped and were moved to mating nucs Easter Sunday.



Henry and Brad watch Jack as he culls a larva to graft.



Anthony, Brad and Henry prepare to place the cells into cell builder.

Jack comments, “We had a 50 percent take. This (picture right) is twenty-four hours after the graft bars were put in the cell starter nuc.”



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Dates To Remember:

Next CCBK
Meeting-
April 23rd, 2019
6 p.m., 103 Lake-
view Dr., Frank-
fort, KY

Plant Sale, April
27th, Farm Bu-
reau Pavilion,
Franklin County
Fair Grounds



If you haven't remitted your 2019 dues, you may do so at the next meeting, March 26th, or mail with your information to:

Jan Rafert
1662 Talmage Mayo Rd.
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

Capital City Beekeepers Association Meeting Minutes March, 2019

The evening began with Jack Kuhn performing hive inspections (right) and informing the members on what to look for including the amount of honey stores and the possibility of needing to supplement feed with light syrup (1:1 sugar & water). He also demonstrated how to and how not to mark queens.



At 7 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Wes Henry.

The first item of business was a call for a motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting as found in newsletter. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

Treasurer George Fowler presented the club's financial report. The current balance is \$3,118. The hive auction at the Bluegrass Bee School accounted for \$800 of that balance. George also mentioned that if a beekeeper joins the KY Certified Honey Program through the club, \$3 of the membership fees stays with our club.

Committee Reports:

Swarm Committee – the secretary reported that it's still a little early for swarms, but that he learned more about preparing for swarms from Chris Renfrow. Chris was asked at the bee school when should a beekeeper prepare for swarms. His answer was that technically swarm season starts around the middle of April until early May. But a more precise prediction can be made by following the hummingbird migration on the internet because hummingbirds are nectar feeders.

Shirt Committee – Ken Daniels stated that the committee is looking at three sources and will be comparing prices. Caps may also be available. Confirmation of prices and the taking of orders will begin at our April meeting.

Library Committee – George Fowler reported that not much new and exciting with the library. He mentioned that our library is relatively small and donations are always welcome. The question was raised as to whether the library will accept magazines or not. The answer is No, but members are welcome to offer their unwanted magazines to other members at our meetings.

Old Business:

For those who haven't yet paid, dues are now due. Beginning the 1st of May, only paid members will be receiving our newsletter.

Wes reported that this year's Bluegrass Bee School went well and the keynote speaker, Larry Conner, was well received. There will be a follow-up meeting with the Bluegrass Beekeepers Assoc. on this coming Thursday to discuss and wrap-up this year's school.

Marsha Bezold updated us on the American Bee Federation's 2019 Princess', Ni-

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cole Medina, activities beyond the bee school. Nicole visited six schools in Frankfort and in Anderson County for a total about 580 students. She also visited with our State Agriculture Commissioner, Ryan Quarles, on Friday.

Ken Daniels extended his and the club's appreciation to Marsha for hosting Nicole at her home and for chauffeuring her to her appointments. Marsha responded that it was a win/win situation rather than having the princess stay in a hotel, especially at her age. A motion was made that the club should reimburse Marsha for gas, but she declined the offer.

Ken also reported on the organization of the school's volunteers. There were some problems, but fortunately other members stepped-up and everything was covered. Ken expressed his gratitude for those who did. Wes commented that there were some hiccups, as there always are, but all went well thanks to all of the volunteers.

As previously stated, the hive painting auction netted \$800. George suggested that, rather than our past practice of giving the schools 60% and we retaining 40%, we provide each of the five schools \$80. Curt Wallace made a motion to that effect, Wayne Parrish seconded it, and the motion carried.

New Business:

Wes announced that the KY State Beekeepers Assoc. will be having their spring meeting in Hardin County on March 30th. Meeting details are in our March newsletter. Sarah Preston will be our official representative to the KSBA. Sarah also mentioned that she is now the new chairperson for KSBA's KY Certified Honey Program. We extend our congratulations to Sarah. She also mentioned that she will be working on the issue of KCHP participants who had already paid their KSBA dues, which is included in their KCHP membership.

The 2019 Franklin County Master Gardener's plant sale will be on April 27th from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Anyone wishing to sell honey, candles or other products will have to pay \$10 to be a vender. Marsha made a motion that the club have two tables, instead of one, to accommodate both our education and selling needs. Roger McDowell seconded the motion and it was approved.

George said that there are new County Fair rules, but there hasn't been any feedback as of now.

Jack Kuhn then provided a re-cap of the hive inspections including, reversing hive boxes in September and the end of February, swarm management, making splits in late April and early May, putting on honey supers, the different types of frames, and the removal of old, black combs.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan W. Rafert
CCBA Secretary

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Treasure's Report **Submitted by George Fowler, Treasurer**

Capital City Beekeepers Association - Treasurer's Report **March 26, 2019 to April 23, 2019**

Beginning Balance \$3118.41

Receipts

Dues –	
CCBA – Individual (7 members)	\$70.00
CCBA – Family (2 families)	\$30.00
KSBA - (1 member)	\$15.00
Interest on Checking Acct.(3/27)	\$0.26
Total Receipts	\$115.26

Expenditures

Distribution of hive auction proceeds	
To five schools	\$400.00
Dues forwarded to KSBA (4 members)	\$13.00
Total Expenditures	\$413.00

Currant Available Balance \$2820.67

Checking Account:	\$2770.65
Cash change fund:	\$50.00

Notes:

The February Check from Wilson Nurseries totaled \$92.25. This was redistributed to three participating members.

The treasurer has decided to maintain a \$50.00 cash change fund for use at meetings and events.