



February 2020

The Official Newsletter of the Capital City Beekeepers

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Bob Binnie with one of his Snelgrove boards. Click to view full video.

For our January Program the CCBA gathered at the opposite side of the extension office we normally do, in the room we use for our annual Potluck, as it's better suited for the video presentation we watched concerning the use of a little utilized piece of equipment called a double-screen board. It was invented, and first described, by an English beekeeper named Leonard Snelgrove in 1934; therefore, it is also called a Snelgrove board. The presenter on the video was Bob Binnie, a commercial

beekeeper who owns and operates Blue Ridge Honey Company in Lakemont, Georgia. In the video recoded at the Coweta Beekeepers Association meeting (located in Coweta County Georgia, southeast of Atlanta), he presents a method that he uses to make splits/nucs in late March and describes the advantages of using the double-screen board, to do so. One advantage is keeping a nuc warm and increasing its vitality in the early spring by utilizing the heat from the parent hive. Though you can buy them, he also describes how he makes the board and led those interested in making them to another short Youtube video on how he does so. Both can be viewed in full by clicking on the pictures.



Bob shows how to make the Snelgrove board he uses. Click to see how.

The Capital Bee

Native Bees in Peril!? Submitted by Jack Kuhn

On January 29th several members of the CCBA and other local bee associations, and many interested folks attended the Native Bees of Kentucky program (see January 2020 newsletter). Shelby Fulton, Environmental Scientist, Office of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission was the presenter of the program hosted by the Franklin County Master Gardeners and the Franklin County Cooperative Extension Service.



Shelby Fulton making her native bee presentation.

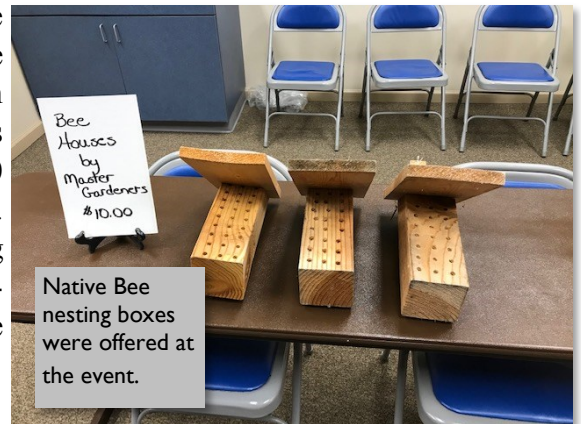
Shelby discussed the importance of native bees and their interaction between honeybees and including the fact that native bees and honeybees often visit and compete for the same floral sources for pollen and nectar supplies. Recently, it has been theorized that some honeybee parasites/viruses (varroa mites and the 8 known vectored viruses present in KY) may be affecting native bee health.



Members Jack Kuhn and Marsha Bezold at the Native Bee Exhibit.

Most native bees live in the ground, along or in woods or native grasslands/prairies of the Midwest. It is suspected that many native bee populations are rapidly declining with some already extinct. The main threats to the native bees seem to be habitat loss (consider 90% of the midwestern native prairies are now in agriculture production and 90% of eastern forests have been logged at least twice). Insecticides are also thought to be a major impact on native bee population declines, especially those that were established around agriculture fields.

There is so much we do not know about native bees since there is no inventory/list of native bees or population counts. While we don't know the exact number of native bee species, it is estimated there are about 4,000 species of native bees in North America. Of the few species that have been monitored, up to a 90 percent decline has been documented. Information was provided on building nests for native bees as well as establishing a pollinator garden around the home.



Native Bee nesting boxes were offered at the event.



Above, CCBA Member Janet Osborn and County Ext. Agent Adam Leonberger investigate the "Bee Houses" for native bees for sale at the Native Bee Presentation and Event in January.

CCBA member Cole Gilbert (background) also attended. Cole is also the president of the Franklin County Master Gardeners.

"...it is estimated there are about 4,000 species of native bees in North America."

The Capital Bee

Cover Picture



Witch Hazel (Hamamelis)

For many gardeners not much goes on in February. That's where this botanical outlier comes in. Blooming way before other plants in mid-late winter (or for some areas the last thing to bloom in fall) the curious yellow (copper or red) flowers are a welcome sight. Looking like twisty yellow ribbons or shoestring fries depending upon your perspective, the fragrant flowers will brighten your day when it's needed most. Better yet it's perused by **bees** seeking food in the earliest (or latest) days of the season.

-excerpt from [The Garden Buzz](#)

CCBA January 2020 Minutes

Capital City Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes of 28 January 2020

Meeting:

President Wes Henry called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. with a welcome to our members and guest, as well as an introduction of this year's officers.

The evening's agenda began with a video of Bob Binnie on making splits. A great deal worthwhile information was included.

Following the video John Antenucci address three issues that beekeepers should now be addressing. They are starting to feed with brood patties, preparing and repairing equipment and getting prepared to make splits in early March.

After a short break, the business portion of the meeting began at 7:10 pm. Wes asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting minutes as they were published in the newsletter. There were no comments or corrections and the motion to accept was approved.

Treasurer George Fowler presented the financial report, stating that two items had needed attention. The first was that, after much unrewarded effort to justify our account records with that of the bank, he decided to increase our account by \$121.36, which the bank says we have. The second issue was that one of the schools from last year's hive paintings had lost their check, so he reissued a replacement. Finally, George made a motion that we spend \$200 plus tax for one hundred assembled frames for this year's hives. That amount includes a \$60 discount from Dadant. Michael Wiley Sr. seconded the motion and it was approved along with the financial report.

Activity Report:

On Saturday, January 11th, eight members and one volunteer, who then joined our association, gathered together and assembled ten hive boxes, bottom boards and top covers for the bee school auction. Michael Wiley then spray painted the boxes with primer. The boxes have been delivered to the schools and will be picked up on either the Tuesday or Wednesday before the school.

Wes reported that a meeting of the officers and the program chair was held on Thursday, January 23rd, to discuss ideas and to plan for this year's meetings and activities. Overall it was a very productive meeting.

Library Report:

George mentioned that he had the library here and that he is in need of contact information for Joe Horton, who has had some books checked out for a while. If anyone knows this information, please contact George or one of the other officers. George is also collecting dues for this year. Unlike past years KSBA membership dues must be sent or paid online and they will return \$3 to the association for every one of our members who joins KSBA

Bluegrass Beekeeping School:

Online registration is now available through March 5th at bluegrassbeekeepers.com. There will be another school planning meeting on Feb. 12th at 6:30 here at the Franklin Co. Extension Office. Anyone interested in attending are more than welcome. Also, our members are invited to volunteer for the school. Volunteer registration is only \$10, which covers the cost of lunch.

John Antenucci has made contact with the American Beekeeping Federation,

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Dates to Remember

CCBA February
Meeting
Feb. 25th, 6-8 p.m.
[Franklin County
Extension Office
101 Lakeview Ct.,
Frankfort, KY](#)

2020 Bluegrass Bee
School
March 7th, 2020
Ky State University
Frankfort, KY
[Preregister and
information, click
here.](#)

[KSBA Spring
Meeting and Bee
School](#)
March 28th, 2020
Elizabeth Town
Comm. And Tech.
College
600 College Street
Rd., Elizabethtown,
KY 42701

CCBA January 2020 Minutes

Inc. regarding having either their Honey Queen or Honey Princess here for the week of the school.

Shirts:

Ken Daniels mentioned that only three shirts are left at \$15 each.

New Business:

Farmers' Market:

Our annual fees for the Farmers' Market have been paid and our first booth will be on Sat., May 9th. We will check into whether we are eligible for the alternative days of Tues. and Thurs. as well.

Reinstating a \$10 seller's fee per market was discussed and decided upon at the officers' meeting. We brought it up for members' discussion, citing that without the fee, members who sell honey receive the benefits of the association's booth and the association receives nothing. Michael Wiley made a motion that the fees be reinstated, John Antenucci second the motion and the motion was passed.

It was suggested that the honey prices at the market remain as last year, i.e. \$7 for 8 oz., \$12 for 16 oz. and \$3 for the 2 oz. honey bear bottles. One member felt that \$3 for the latter may be too much and suggested lowering it to \$2.50, which may increase customer buying. It was mentioned that these bottles sold for \$4 at last year's state fair. By a vote of 4 to 2, it was decided to keep the price at \$3.

Volunteer Program:

Also discussed at the officers' meeting was how to increase the number of members who assist us by volunteering in our activities. A volunteer participation program was decided upon. This program would include two prize drawings per year, one in June and the other in October. How it will work is that whenever a member volunteers for an activity, excluding the Bluegrass Beekeeping School and the farmers markets, the member will receive one ticket with their name on it for each activity they volunteer. The tickets will be put into a box at each of the June and October meetings and one name will be drawn to win that month's prize. Those tickets not drawn in June will go into the October drawing. We now have the June prize, which is composed of 2 deep boxes, ten frames, a top cover, a screen bottom board and a base. Current officers are not allowed to participate in the drawings.

Upcoming Activities:

The Capital Area Extension Master Gardener will have their annual plant sale in the Lakeview Park Pavilion from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on April 25th. We will have a table there; honey and other bee products are welcome to be sold and this is a good volunteer opportunity.

Also, on April 25th, Dadant and Sons will have their package bee distribution. They would like to have our volunteers assist in the distribution and in manning a booth to provide information and to answer questions. An exact starting time has not yet been received nor an estimated ending time.

From the Floor:

George Fowler mentioned that we have \$490 in our education fund. Ideas for

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KY 42701

CCBA November 2019 Minutes

how to spend such funds are welcome. One idea would be to hold classes for our members, especially our less experienced beekeepers. It was suggested that if we do this, we should do it in late summer or early fall so that the members can begin preparing for the upcoming spring.

There will be a program tomorrow evening from 6 to 7 p.m. on Native Pollinators here at the Franklin County Extension Office.

Finally, George mentioned that Eddie McNutt has donated a box of back-issue bee magazines for anyone interested. The issues may be kept by the members or read and then returned.

Adjournment:

Following a motion by George, which was seconded by Marsha Bezold and approved by the members, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Our next meeting will be on February 25th.

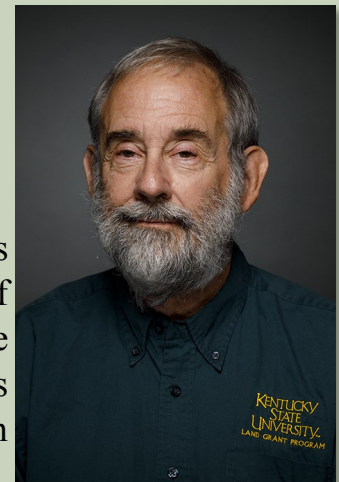
Respectfully submitted,

Jan W. Rafert
CCBA Secretary

Guest speaker featured During February meeting

We are gladly welcoming Dr. Thomas Webster, Associate Professor; College of Agriculture, Communities, and the Environment, Cooperative Extension as our guest speaker for our February 25th Program.

Dr. Webster will be talking about the diagnostic service the KSU bee lab provides for Nosema, the Bee Equipment Autoclave, and an update on bee science and KSU activities. Come prepared with any bee-related questions you may have for Dr. Webster.



2020 Bluegrass Beekeepers School

March 7, 2020

Kentucky State University, Frankfort, Ky

Keynote Speaker: Clarence Collison, Colony Management for Maximum Honey Production

Clarence H. Collison is an Emeritus Professor of Entomology and Emeritus Head of the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at Mississippi State University. Throughout his career he has taught beekeeping, trained graduate students, written numerous beekeeping publications and participated in many educational programs for the beekeeping community. He writes the monthly column "A Closer Look" and prior to that "Do You Know?" for Bee Culture Magazine and has published two books.



First Year and Second Year Beekeeper Track of classes offered such as Bee Biology, First Year Management, Problems Inside the Hive, Harvesting Honey and more!

Other topics include:

- Making Nucs
- Labeling Your Honey
- Varroa Mite Management
- Sub-Lethal Effects of Pesticides
- Certified Kentucky Honey Program
- Mead and Wine Making
- Pollinator Plants
- Queen Rearing
- And much more!

Hosted by:
Bluegrass Beekeepers
Association
and
Capital City Beekeepers

Registration starts at 8:00 am (Coffee and donuts available, vendor booths open)

Opening Session at 9:00 am – Classes conclude at 3:30 pm

Lunch Included

Door Prizes! Silent Auction! Discounted rate when pre-registered!

For more information and to Pre-Register go to www.bluegrassbeekeepers.com

The Capital Bee

Treasurer Notes:

1. Wilson check for January = \$112.00 for 4 member/participants.

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

Special Note!
We are now collecting 2020 CCBA, KSBA and/or Cert. KY Honey Producers Annual Dues.

Treasure's Report Submitted by George Fowler, Treasurer

Capital City Beekeepers Association Treasurer's Report January 28 to February 25, 2020

General

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$2697.39 |
| Receipts | |
| Dues – CCBA (2 Family) | \$ 30.00 |
| Dues – CCBA (10 Individual) | \$100.00 |
| Interest on Checking Acct.(1/31) | \$ 0.25 |
| Total Receipts | \$130.25 |
| Expenditures | |
| Snacks for hive assembly | \$14.97 |
| Dinner for officers' meeting | \$85.57 |
| Purchase of excess shirts for resale | \$127.00 |
| Purchase of frames for painted hive auction | \$212.00 |
| Total Expenditures | \$439.54 |
| Currant Available Balance | \$2388.10 |
| Checking Account: | \$2338.10 |
| Cash change fund | \$50.00 |

Educational Funds (Saving)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$478.69 |
| Receipts | |
| Interest on savings account (1/31) | \$0.06 |
| Total Receipts | \$.06 |
| Total Expenditures | NONE |
| Ending Balance | \$478.75 |