

The Capital Bee

The Official Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers December 2017



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CAPITAL BEE NEWS

Update on CCBA Member's 5% Dadant Discount

Being a member of CCBA has many advantages. A perk of association was realized last month with the collective effort to get supplies, especially winter patties and fructose on a combined order from Kelley's while the Dadant branch was in transition. Thankfully, Dadant's local branch here in Frankfort, is open again with Andrew Fogg as manager (see last month's Bee News). Officers and members alike have met and talked with him.

One underlying question of many for Andrew was if the 5% discount we enjoyed in the past as members of CCBA would continue. Thankfully, he confirmed that members of CCBA will still receive the traditional discount with our orders. We will submit to Andrew an updated list of current members monthly. Its another reason to be a aprt of CCBA and to be prompt on renewing your annual membership.

Officers and members of both CCBA and Bluegrass Beekeepers met before their regular club meeting for December in Lexington Monday, Decemeber 11th. Concerns from last year were discussed, including parking, lunch, speakers, etc., and the ground work for a key note speaker and speakers/teachers of the many sessions was set forth.

2018 Bluegrass
Bee School Planning
Begins

Both groups agreed to have 15 speakers/teachers each for consideration by the next meeting. It was determined also that The Bluegrass Bee School, touted as the largest and most attended in the state, will again be held on the campus of Kentucky State University, March 10th. CCBA will as in the past, host and

organize Bee Friendly Frankfort during the week leading up to the school on Saturday, and will be recruiting help from all our members. Be thinking of where you want to pitch in and help make it another great success.



George Fowler and Ken Daniels enjoy the potluck with Phil Craft after the planning meeting.

CAPITAL BEE NEWS

Hives Donated for 2018 Painted Hive Auction

As a part of the coming Bee Friendly Frankfort Activities the local schools are again participating in the annual Hive Painting and Auction. Andrew Fogg, manager of the Frankfort Dadant branch has agreed to donate all woodenware for the four deep body hives needed. The club is having to purchase only the frames and foundation and that at a discount including our 5% club discount. The total cost for the club is \$203.32. To date, we have three schools committed to participating, Elkhorn Middle , Bondurant Middle, and Collins Lane Elementary.



Completed painted hives by local schools are auctioned at the Bluegrass Bee school in March.

Winter Arrives

With moderate Fall temperatures keepers should have had ample opportunity to prepare their apiaries for the winter that would surely come. Come it did in the past weeks of this writing. The mercury dipped low into the teens at night and only in the twenties and thirties for the daily highs have occurred and are continuing. Winter patties/ candy boards placed above the cluster should be on to supplement feeding. Remember, patties can be slipped quickly in even in cold weather. Other preparations that should have already been made include mouse guards and entrance reducers. Clustered bees, a gaping unprotected entrance, and a warm, dry place with wax and honey for food, what more could a brown field-mouse want? Come spring the furry squatter's mess will be evident. So if you haven't done it, get those guards on and protect your equipment and the colony's stores. At the December Meeting of The Bluegrass Beekeepers, former State Apiarist Phil Craft warned of putting liquid feed (sugar syrup/ fructose) in the hive this time of year. "It puts moisture in the hive", he warned. And moisture is definitely one thing we do not need an excess of in winter. Remember to also ventilate the hive just slightly with something like popsicle sticks between the inner and outer telescoping cover.

CAPITAL BEE NEWS

CCBA 2018 Officers

President, Wes Henry



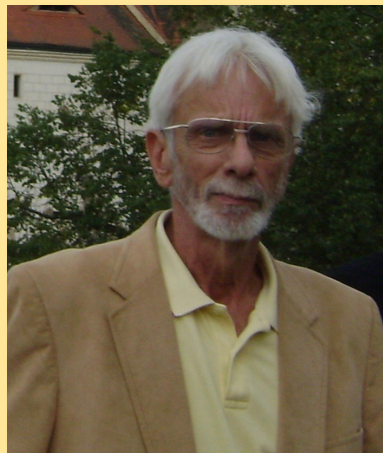
In the past, Wes has served as Vice-President before taking on the CCBA Secretary position for the past three years . Having started with one nuc in 2011, Wes often quips that “no one told me I should start with more than one hive! It lived, produced a lot of honey, and a split in 2012”. He manages three apiaries has had as many as thirteen colonies, yet is going now into winter with nine. Wes has led classes on beekeeping and gladly mentored others and believes, “...ambition, passion, and persistence are keys to success but the advantages of a good mentor...that’s priceless”. His other interests include gardening, fishing Elkhorn creek, hunting, and writing- having published newspaper articles and two books. He is married to “his Georgia gal”, Penny, and together have eight children, four grandchildren and has worked for Pitney Bowes for 30 years.

Vice-President, Ken Daniels



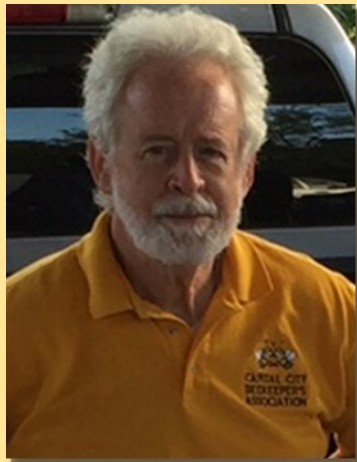
Having served as President for the CCBA the past two years, Ken Daniels will now take on the role of Vice-President for 2018 and is also a member of the KSBA. “George Fowler got me interested in beekeeping”, says Ken, and has been keeping bees now for seven years with fellow member and friend Dan Ramey. Together Ken and Dan manage 11-15 hives. Ken retired after 41 years with Rite Aid Pharmacy and is married to Kay, and enjoys time spent with their two sons and three grandchildren.

Secretary, Jan Rafert



"After a career as a zoologist, with special interest in non-human primates, I retired from the Milwaukee County Zoo after more than 25 years as curator of primates and small mammals in 2014. My desire was to relocate to some place with much less snow and much more sunshine than Wisconsin. I found that place on rural a hilltop in Mercer County, where I also found much friendlier people than in a large city. Being aware of the decline of pollinators and their value, I considered beekeeping as a hobby, not really caring if I got honey or not. To see if I might make a good beekeeper, I joined the Capital City Beekeepers in 2015 to learn more of what all is involved. After about a year in the club, I decided to give it a try. Planning on being in beekeeper for the long term, I decided to build two top-bar hives to avoid heavy lifting in the future. My first two packages of bees arrived in May 2016 and now I'm committed to beekeeping and to continuing learning how to better my skills. It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to serve as club secretary and promise to do my best. Hopefully I will be able to give back some of the good that the Capital City Bees has given to me." -Jan Rafert

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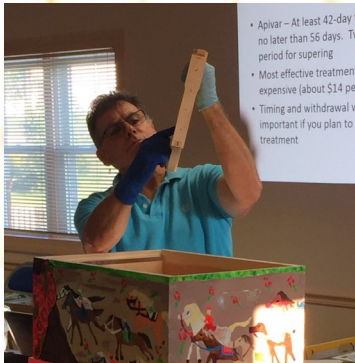


Treasurer, George Fowler

George as many know, has served in many positions and capacities with the CCBA and will now serve as treasurer for 2018. A veteran beekeeper and very active member of the association, George is also involved with the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association and will also be serving as the KSBA Legislative Agent this year.

Program Coordinator for 2018

Though it isn't an officers position according to the association's bylaws, Jack Kuhn has been



asked to be the Coordinator for the Programs delivered at the regular meetings

for the Capital City Bee Keepers for 2018. Jack has delivered many informative and helpful programs on such subjects as Varroa mites, honey bee health and feeding, and hive management, and as also been the lead with the hands on programs and interactions with members in the club's apiary and more. If you have an idea or area of interest that you think would be a good topic for future programs, let Jack know.

From the Inbox :

"This is a great article on varroa that might be worthy of sharing with the club. "

Jack

And Jack was right! I've found this to be a great article on the basics of varroa and its management. Even if you've read and know much of varroa this will be helpful and interesting. Always stay "teachable".



Varroa revealed in a powdered sugar shake.

Varroa Biology and Management: An Overview

Varroa destructor is the Number One pest of our Western Honey Bee, *Apis mellifera*. This pest (commonly called *Varroa* or *Varroa* mite) is a parasite that feeds on a bee's hemolymph, causing honey bee stress...[Read more](#)

CCBA Minutes
28 November 2017

President Ken Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

He asked for a motion to accept the October minutes. The motion to accept was made by Wayne Parrish, second by John Antenucci.

Treasure Jack Kuhn presented the treasurer's report. [Beginning balance- 2554.01, total receipts- 199.00, total expenditures- 567.13, ending balance- 2185.88.]

President Daniels reported on the potluck dinner at our October meeting. It was attended by 43 people who enjoyed good food and an informative presentation by Kevin Hale. Unfortunately everyone was so involved with the night's activities that no one remembered to take pictures.

Next President Daniels introduced Andrew Fogg, the new manager of Dadant's Frankfort branch. Andrew said that Dadant is a little behind the curve but is gearing up and working to make up for lost time. Dadant will be taking orders around 15 December for about 500 packages of bees. Nucs will also be available, but at this time he is not sure of how many. They are also looking for a queen supplier, so if any one knows of a supplier, they should contact Andrew. The cost for packages will be about \$125 and Nucs will be about \$185. Packages should be available for pick-up on or about 16 April. More information will be forthcoming. Dadant does have syrup in stock, but their supply of winter patties is low. However, they will be receiving a large shipment of patties this coming Monday (4 Dec.) Currently our club members are the only people who will continue to receive a 5% on purchases.

This year's Holiday Farmers' Market will be Saturday, 9 December from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. It will also be Kids Day and should be well attended unless it's extremely cold. Honey is very popular at the Market and any members who have honey for sale are encouraged to attend. If you would like to sell honey there, please contact President Daniels.

President Daniels said that at the Candlelight Tour on 10 and 11 November went well. Two club members sold product along with a honey tasting. There was a lot of interest and questions from the public and honey recipes were distributed.

The annual Bluegrass Beekeeping School will be held on 10 March at Kentucky State Univ. The school is presented as a joint effort of the Bluegrass Beekeepers Association and our club. Each club supplies about half of the speakers and are hoping to expand on the number of topics and speakers. A planning meeting will be held at 6p.m. on 11 December at the Fayette County Extension Office in Lexington. Interested club members are encouraged to attend. We will meet in Frankfort around 5p.m. that afternoon. Our participating members are invit-

ed to stay for the Bluegrass Beekeepers monthly meeting and potluck dinner. Anyone interested in attending should contact Ken Daniels for more details.

In conjunction with the Beekeeping School, our club will conduct its most important event, Bee Friendly Frankfort. At a yet to be determined date, there will be planning meeting at the Franklin County Extension Office. John Antenucci provided a brief history of this event and explained its importance in disseminating information about bees, local beekeeping and beekeepers, local honey and the plight of pollinators to our community. Activities involved with this event are hive paintings by local schools for auction at the bee school, participation by local businesses in advertising, and participation by local restaurants featuring dishes made with honey. The highlight of Bee Friendly Frankfort is the attendance of the annual American Honey Queen or Princess. This representative of the American Beekeeping Federation has in the past spoken to schools, local organizations, Kentucky legislators and participated in the Beekeeping School.

President Daniels made a call for volunteers to oversee or assist in various activities for Bee Friendly Frankfort and said that we are always open for ideas for new activities.

Starting with this meeting, club dues for 2018 is being accepted. Club dues is \$10 per member. Each member is also eligible for membership in the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association for an additional \$15. For every member that joins the KSBA through the club, our club receives \$2. The KSBA has three meetings per year, publishes a newsletter along with their website, puts on the Honey Booth each year at the State Fair and provides useful information to its members.

President Daniels announced the proposed officers for 2018. In the past the club has called for nominations and volunteers with limited success. So this year individuals were approached for their willingness to serve. The proposed officers are Wes Henry as President, Ken Daniels as Vice President, George Fowler as Treasurer and Jan Rafert as Secretary. President Daniels also announced the new position of Program Chairperson. This position will be filled by Jack Kuhn. These potential nominations were then opened for discussion and approval. No discussion ensued and a motion to approve was made by John Antenucci and seconded by Eddie McNutt.

Following the business portion of the meeting, Jack Kuhn provided a most informative presentation on the use of Oxalic Acid using the dribble method, winter hive management and feeding and the Federal Conservation Reserve Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Rafert

Dates to Remember

No December Meeting— Merry Christmas!

Kelley's Beekeeping 101

January 6, 2018

Signup online.

Eastern Kentucky Winter Bee School,

Janiuary 20th, Hazard, KY

Next CCBK Meeting—

January 23rd, 2018

6 p.m., Franklin County Extension

101 Lakeview Dr., Frankfort, KY

