

The Capital Bee

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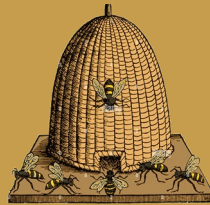
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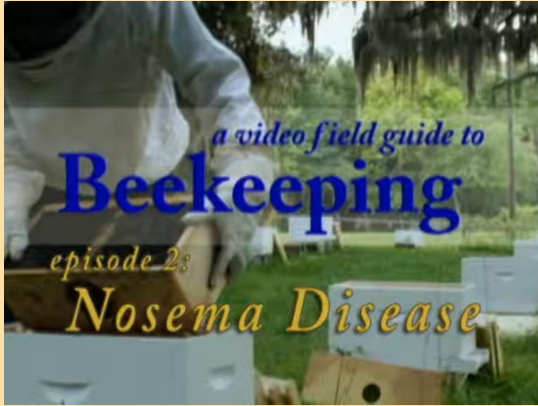
Emerging daffodils give us
a green and welcoming sign
that winter is not forever.

The Official Newsletter of The Capital City Beekeepers Association

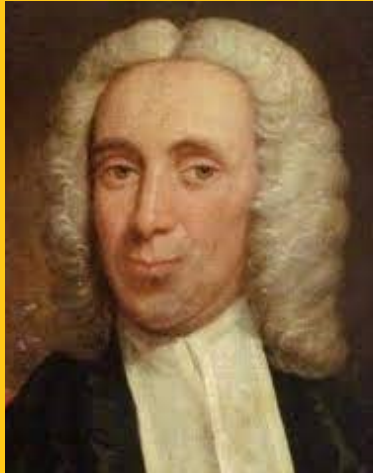


Nosema and Its Treatment

The brown streaks of honey bee “poo” on the outside of the hive body (right) is a classic sign of Nosema seen in late winter or early spring and is treatable (just click the You Tube episode, left). This helpful video by Jamie Ellis at University of Florida, will explain more.



How doth
the little
busy bee
Improve
each shin-
ing hour,



And gather honey all the
day

From every opening flower!

— Isaac Watts

When it Comes to Mead, Don't Rush It

Per many mead makers and many consumers of the oldest alcoholic beverage, mead is better aged a bit. According to gotmeade.com “Mead is basically a wine, and therefore does benefit from a certain amount of aging. This is not to say that no Meads can be enjoyed within a few weeks of fermentation ...but even these Meads will improve if given a little time to mature.” Then adds, “Some people enjoy drinking it young, while others prefer to let it sit for many years. A rule of thumb seems to be that at least 1 to 2 years is fine. Sample the Mead every few months or so until you feel that it is at its best, then bottle and drink away.”



What's to do?

Late February and March in the Apiary

By John Antenucci

Think multi-task!

This is a complicated time for the bees (and bee-keepers), struggling to adapt to wide swings in temperature and precipitation and, if present, weakened by viruses, nosema and, yes, maybe even mites, even though you have been diligent in treating.

The notes that follow are biased towards producing honey and ramping up bee populations as early in the spring as possible. Yes, there are risks, particularly when a very cold spell settles in quickly - and the queen has started to ramp up her egg laying and there are insufficient nursery bees to cover the young brood and eggs. They'll do their best but there can be significant losses due to chilled brood.

Feed

Check on consumption of patties and fondant; make sure they are present near the bees - which have most likely moved into the upper box(es) - but be sure they have moved. Sometime, particularly, in deep boxes they will remain below.

Supplement feed if needed with additional patties or fondant - or raw sugar if required. We are feeding with protein rich brood patties at this point and will continue until the night time low temperatures are routinely about 35 - 40 (in mid to late March). At that point we will feed with a light sugar syrup via front or top feeders - leaving patties and remnants.

We check every 10-14 days for bees having access to winter feed. We are now placing feed under lids and between the top 2 boxes of the configuration - unless we observe that the bees are still actively using one of the lower boxes.

We also check feed supplies regardless of temperature if it's not raining. Two people are involved; one lifts one side of a box about an inch high, the other observes the location of the bees (or ball) and whether the previous patties are consumed, supplementing as necessary. Yes, some of the bees are exposed to cold air for a couple of minutes but the colony is guaranteed to have food near where they are located.

Treating bees

In our first feedings of light syrup we will add a treatment for nosema mixed in light syrup. We also plan ahead to treat for mites as early as temperatures will permit while influencing the choice of treatment. Usually we are able to do so late March. Those of you prone to use Oxalic acid, the first several weeks of March might still work for you.



If the cluster is still "below" patties may be placed between boxes to keep feed near the bees.

What's to do?- Cont.

Late February and March in the Apiary

By John Antenucci

Preparing for splits

While we are doing the feeding we are making initial assessments as to which hives appear strong enough to split early. "Early" is dictated by the availability of queens. This year it looks like the first week of April - though I was hoping for earlier. Seems like California has already contracted for a large portion of early queens.

We also begin planning for a second round of splits in late April - early May when we are less reliant on 3rd party sources for queens, letting 50-75% of these latter splits to make their own queens. It's always a bet for or against mother nature - and if she'll cooperate weatherwise to let the mating flights not be disrupted by a late cold spell or precipitation. Some of our strongest hives can be split a second time - and other hives that began their build up later are also candidates for the April/May splits.



Mated queens ensure a quick start to early nucs. This year's color is yellow.

Prepare/refurbish/purchase equipment

We all are running low on time for refurbishing equipment used for the production hives, package bees as well as the splits we are planning make.

Clean, repair, build and paint is the order of business (and has been for several months now). Frames have been examined, old wax removed, new foundation added. Propolis and burr comb has been removed from frames, boxes and queen excluders. Boxes, bottom boards and lids have been (are being) repaired and repainted. Some of these will be used to replace aging equipment that were in the field over the winter.

In depth inspection evaluations of the over-wintered colonies.

We look forward to the perfect day: sunny, - warm, 60+ and no cool breeze, 70ish and a little southern breeze comes to mind as perfect. We will strip a hive down, box by box, removing aging equipment and rebuilding the colony - which usually involves shuffling boxes so the empties are on top and the boxes) containing the queen and brood moved to the bottom. We may move some frames around to get the brood consolidated in the center of the bottom box(es). The strongest hives we'll get some of their drawn comb frames replaced with new foundation and the drawn frames will go onto splits and packages to give them a head start.

The investigation will also taking a close look (and a comparative evaluation) of the egg and brood pattern (do we need to replace the queen). Better to do soon rather than a week or two before the honey flow - think Derby Day and hope for April 21.

We would use this occasion to introduce our first mite treatment of the year.

Capital City Beekeepers Association - Treasurer's Report

Prepared on February 17, 2022 for February 2022 Meeting

Submitted by George Fowler, Tres.

General

Beginning Balance (January 21, 2022) \$2630.04

Receipts

Dues (3 individuals)	\$30.00
Interest (1/31)	\$0.22
Total Receipts	\$30.22

Expenditures

Farmers Market Application Fee	\$125.00
Speakers Stipend	\$30.00
2021 Potluck supplies (Late bill)	\$27.53
Total Expenditures	\$182.53

Currant Available Balance \$2477.73

Checking Account: \$2427.73

Cash change fund \$50.00

Notes:

1. Wilson check for February 2022 = \$277.50 for 4 member/participants.
2. The treasurer maintains a \$50.00 cash change fund for use at meetings and events.

Educational Funds (Saving)

Beginning Balance (January 21, 2022) \$727.77

Receipts

Interest (1/31)	\$0.09
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Total Receipts \$0.09

Total Expenditures NONE

Ending Balance \$727. 86

Capital City Beekeepers Association

Meeting minutes for Tuesday Jan 25, 2022

*Meeting was called to order at 6:03pm, held both in person and on Zoom.

12 members attended meeting via Zoom and 12 attended in person for total of 24 attendees.

*Meeting began with guest speaker, Neil Hunt's Zoom presentation on *Swarm Traps, Tips and Use*. He can be contacted at mossyoak3000@yahoo.com

*Business meeting began at 7:13pm by Wes Henry, President. November minutes were passed without discussion or correction.

***Treasurer's Report:** was given by George Fowler. As of 1/25/22 balances were: \$2630 checking and \$727 savings. Jack Kuhn motioned to accept treasurer's report, Curt Wallace 2nd. Motion passed.

***Library:** George Fowler reported that there were two new additions to library. Honey Bee Alchemy and one unnamed children's book.

***County Fair:** Reported by Lynne Morris, fair liaison. Dates for 2022 will be July 19-23. They are looking to add classes in the Honey Bee Division. Some classes under consideration are mead, creamed honey, youth division, painting with wax, educational display, cross-stitch, photography. Anything related to bees can be considered for a class. Artistic frames will be deleted as there have not ever been any entries. Deadline to make changes to the Honey Bee Division classes is in April. See Lynne for more information.

***Certified Kentucky Honey** (kybees.org): applications are now due, can apply on line. When you pay your Certified Kentucky Honey member fee, you are also then signed up as a member of Kentucky State Beekeepers Association.

***Bluegrass Beekeepers School:** will be virtual and free this year. There will be three tracks to choose from. It will be held March 12 from 9am to 4pm. <https://beeschool.eventsmart.com/events/bluegrass-beekeeping-school-2022/>

***Farmer's Market:** Participation in this year's market was discussed. A motion was made by Michael Wiley that we did want to participate. George Fowler 2nd. Motion passed. Clubs' participation in Farmer's Market will be the 2nd Saturday of the month beginning in April. Pricing of honey was discussed. John Antenucci suggested raising the price of lb. honey from \$12 to \$13. Pricing will be revisited closer to start of farmer's market. The annual seller's fee charged to the club for participation this year is \$125. Last year the club took in \$200 in member's shared cost for selling at farmer's market.

Other Business: Perryville's May Spring Fest will be held Saturday May 7th. There will be an opportunity to sell honey for those interested. Wes Henry will find out if there is a cost to sell.

Updated membership pamphlet is now available.

Wes reminds everyone that this is their club so please let any officers know what you would like to have in the monthly programs. If anyone has any ideas, please reach out.

Package Days at Dadant – Wes will talk with Tasha about our club helping out and what dates package day will be on this year.

Sarah suggested that a list of any members selling nucs would be helpful.

John Antenucci suggested that it may be time for club to look into having its own Zoom account.

YOUR BEES: John Antenucci said you should feed, feed, feed right now. Soon you will begin switching over to brood patties and continue to keep a close eye on consumption.

George Fowler motioned to adjourn meeting, John Antenucci 2nd. Meeting adjourned 8:00pm

The next meeting will be held Tuesday February 26, 2022

Submitted by Marsha Bezold, Secretary

2022 BLUEGRASS BEEKEEPER'S SCHOOL



WHEN
March 12th, 2022
9 a.m.- 4 p.m. EST

Beginners Track Includes:
Basic Bee Biology, Basic
Beekeeping, Equipment
and Getting Started, First
Year Hive Management &
Q and A session

WHERE
Virtual/ Online Via ZOOM

Link and Schedule sent upon [Registration](#)

SPEAKERS/INSTRUCTORS • Randy Oliver– Scientific Beekeeper, Tammy Horn Potter, Ky. State Apiarist, Dr. Thomas Webster, KSU Assoc. Prof. College of Ag., Michael Palmer, French Hill Apiaries, Kent Williams, EAS Master Beekeeper, and many other experienced beekeepers

[BEESCHOOL.EVENTSMART.COM](https://beeschool.eventsmart.com)



**BEGINNER &
EXPERIENCED
BEEKEEPER
TRACKS**

**ADMISSION IS
FREE WITH
[ONLINE
REGISTRATION](#)**

Sessions Include:
Reading the Combs, Mak-
ing Nucs, Using and Man-
aging a Brood Factory,
Pest Management,
Plants for Pollinators,
Honey Labeling and more



COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION PROGRAM



CCBA Opportunities

CCBA Regular Meeting

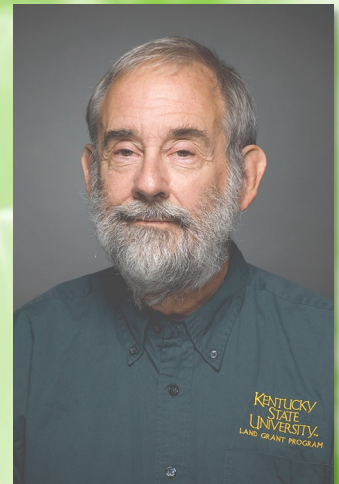
February 22nd, 2022

Franklin County Extension Office

101 Lakeview Ct., Frankfort, KY

6 p.m. Program,

7 p.m., Business Meeting



This Month we welcome Dr. Thomas Webster with Ky State University, who will give a presentation in person on Nosema.

Annual Bluegrass Beekeeper's School

(Free Admission)

Virtual Via ZOOM

March 12th, 2022

Register online

The CCBA library will now be available at the regular scheduled meetings at the Franklin County Extension office in Frankfort.

Capital City Beekeepers' Library

The Library is now
"Onsite"

The following procedure is now enforce.

1. Materials are available for active members to check out.
2. Material should be returned within one month of the date checked out so that material can be made available to other members.
3. Members will be able to check out no more than two books at a time and must return books previously checked out before obtaining additional materi-

als.

Review of the inventory will show that some of this material will be more popular than others. Please be aware of this fact in ensuring its prompt return.