



Bee-Lines

The Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers

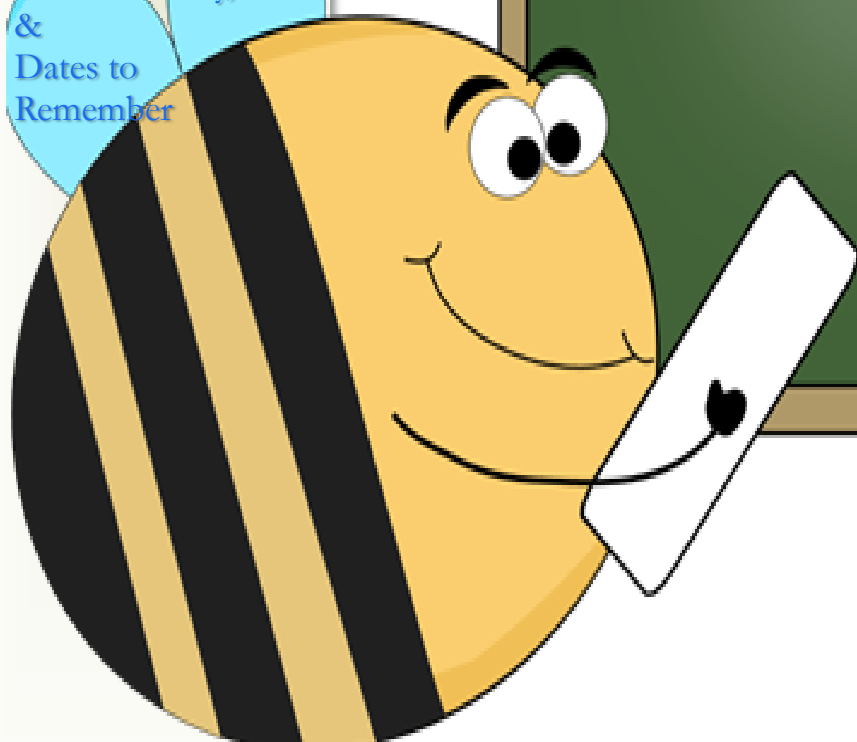
January 2017

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CCBK Takes Larger Roll in 2017 Bluegrass Bee School School Now to Be Held at KSU

The 2017 Bluegrass Bee School was reported last month to be changing location to the Fayette County Extension office. However, a series of productive meetings between the officers of the CCBK, Bluegrass Beekeepers, and KSU's Dr. Thomas Webster concerning the school have taken place in the past few weeks. A collaborative and excited effort has emerged to again conduct the school as in the past, on the campus of the Kentucky State University in Frankfort, March 11, 2017. Kent Williams, John Pace, Kevin Hale, Jennifer Wilson, Tammy Horn Potter, and Clay Guthrie have already committed to hold sessions and many others are "in the works", both local and from abroad. The schedule and content of the classes are being created and will be as informative, interesting, and useful, including a beginners track, queen rearing, packaging and marketing honey and hive products, preparing honey for judging, urban beekeeping, mead making, bee art, colony increases, removing swarms from structures, top bar hives, and much more. Too, Bee Friendly Frankfort activities during the week leading up to the school will still be enjoyed. Info how you can help is forthcoming at our January 24th meeting. [Click here to preregister.](#)

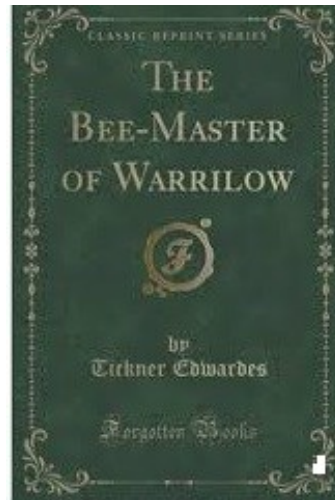
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“In good beemanship there is only one road to success: you must study to find out what the bees intend to do, and then help them do it. They call us bee-masters, but bee-servants would be much the better name.”

~ The Bee-Master,
“A Twentieth-Century Bee-Farmer”,
“The Bee-Master of Warrilow”

Book Review: The Bee-master of Warrilow

Winter is a time we need not nor can not spend much time with the bees. It's a well deserved break but nonetheless, come January I begin to miss them most. It is a time however, when we do not have to be idle with our craft. Oh, there's equipment repair and planning for the coming season with the faint smell of kerosene. It is welcomed as the heater is first lit where I do the off season work. The ring of fire quickly grows bright and steady, and warms a body as much as the wax and wood in hand does the wintered heart. Of course we have the “bee schools” to participate in, whether we are the teacher or pupil, but in the lull moments, during those long solstice nights, there is time for reading. Thankfully, we have a great many books to choose from about beekeeping and the various other activities that easily interest a keeper old and new. As a reminder, the club has a library with donated books for any member's use. Books are always on my Christmas list- a true gift that keeps on giving.- and this past holiday was no exception with Penny's gift of four. Not being a “fast reader”, have completed only one thus far, and one I would suggest, *“The Bee-Master of Warrilow”* by Tickner Edwardes. In doing the newsletter I often look for quotes or poems to fill the voids and give a interesting quip for thought. In doing so I stumbled onto Edwardes. Of Dutch descent, Edwardes lived from 1865 until 1944 residing for many years in the “Red Cottage” in Burpham, England. He was a Reverend and also wrote novels having one titled “Tansey” that became the basis for a movie filmed in 1921. He carried the title “bee-man” there in Burpham, and his books on the subject have become clas-



sics. “The Bee-Master of Warrilow” is a short read (64 pages) published in 1907 at time when the modernization of beekeeping with the advent of the movable comb (Langstorth hive), was supplanting the old skep keepers of yesterday. Edwardes tackles the challenge of his era, those who were the “old-time skeppists...the man who obstinately shuts his eyes to all that is good and true in modern bee-science...” and those “newbees” of the day that had taken to beekeeping as “one would any other lucrative business. Further describing this “new class of beekeeper” having nothing but a “good humored contempt alike for the old-fashioned beekeeper and the ancient traditions and superstitions of his craft.” He settles on the third class he calls it, of which the Bee-Master of Warrilow is; one in which “the hopes of all who love the ancient ways and days, and yet recognize the absorbing interest and value of modern research in apiarian science, may legitimately

rely.” Edwardes pens for the reader in poetic fashion at times, eleven short chapters of his time with this wise apiarian, his teachings and acceptance and use of the new discoveries of the time while holding onto many of the old that have proven themselves. There is teaching even for the twenty-first century reader/ keeper such as the advice to keep a nuc handy for even the Warrilow master found himself in need of a queen “In Bee Camp”. All traditions are not abandoned with the exciting account of harvesting feral honey with “the Bee-Hunters”, the apitherapy of “The Physician In The Hive”, and with the brewing of metheglin- fine mead liquor. Id raise a glass with the Master and declare, “To the bees [and the Master] of Warrilow!”

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“The purpose of the group is to promote beekeeping in the Frankfort area through whatever activities the members deem appropriate.”

- The First of Six bylaws approved by the Frankfort Area Beekeepers, June 3, 1974

Before There Was Capital City Beekeepers: The Frankfort Area Beekeepers

“Did you know before there was a Capital City Beekeepers there was a “Capital City Beekeepers”, asked John Antenucci and gifting me with a brown and dated file folder titled in pencil simply, “Beekeeping” given to him by Don Stosberg. It was a special called meeting of CCBK officers but I opened it instantly and perused it briefly before the start. With that, I’d seen enough to immediately conclude what a treasure trove I had been handed and an opportunity to look into the past of our local beekeeping forefathers.

A typed letter on delicate onion-skin paper, dated May 21st, 1974, is the earliest document in the stack- a letter from Don Stosberg of Frankfort- to Dr. Wesley P. Gregory, Extension Specialist in Entomology, University of Kentucky.

It is the first record of the intent of area beekeepers to officially organize. Dr. Gregory will become the first to lead a program and speak to The Frankfort Area Beekeepers “...7:30 p.m. on June 3rd, in the Farmers bank...to build enthusiasm and mutual cooperation”

Suggested topics were “Identifying and Preventing American Foulbrood”, “Methods of Expanding Colonies”, and “Requeening Tips”. This was before Varroa!

“Following your talk”, wrote Don, “we will take up some organizational matters in an attempt to build some continuity in our group.” So it was June 3rd, 1974, with eighteen in attendance that The Frankfort Area Beekeepers officially organized and “adopted some simple temporary by-laws”. Don Stosberg was elected President, April Deluca Secretary-Treasurer, and Barry Lane was appointed to the executive committee which consisted of the two officers and one appointed member that would be given the charge of planning the agenda of meeting and future

activities.

A members list of names and contact information dated February 1975 contains fifty-eight names. It was not limited to Frankfort but also included those of Monterey, Pleasureville, Lawrenceburg, Owenton, Versailles, Lexington, Bagdad, Shelbyville, Florence and Waddy.

Paul Gray, the Franklin County Extension Agent, helped to secure Dr. Gregory as a speaker and is noted in the minutes from that first meeting to have “offered to assist in mailing out notices” for the next meeting which was “gratefully accepted”. In turn, the club agreed to have a beekeeping exhibit at the Franklin County Fair.

The next meeting was slated for July 13th. It would be a field visit to member Frank Rohrer’s Farm and apiary in Shelby County. Paul Gray’s notice was that the club would meet at Franklin Square Shopping Center in West Frankfort, for this “Beekeepers Tour”, and it was expected “that this will be a very enjoyable and educational experience”.

According to a Courier-Journal article dated Septemeber 30, 1974, Rohrer served as Kentucky State Beekeepers Association vice-president, was a retired soil conservationist, and a commercial beekeeper that would produce five-thousand pounds of honey that year and according to Gray, managed three hundred colonies.

Also in that first year Lisa Rooks of Frankfort was elected Kentucky Honey Queen. She competed at the Blue Grass Fair before the Kentucky State fair.

As I continue to go through the clippings, notes, and assorted documents contained in the “brown dated file folder” I no doubt will have more fascinating information to pass along. Anyone interested in “a look” I will have the folder with me at the monthly meetings to come. It is truly a gift.

The Frankfort Area Beekeepers First meeting minutes

Report on Frankfort Beekeepers Meeting -- June 3, 1974

Eighteen people attended the meeting including Paul Gray, county agent, and Dr. Wes Gregory, Extension specialist in Entomology.

Dr. Gregory gave an introductory talk touching on various aspects of beekeeping. There was much interest shown and questions raised based on the problems the persons present had encountered in their beekeeping. Mr. Frank Rohrer offered a few helpful comments based on his experience with 300 colonies.

The group decided to organize and adopted some simple, temporary by-laws. Don Stosberg was elected President and April Deluca Secretary-Treasurer. Barry Lane was appointed to the executive committee. The executive committee, consisting of the two officers and one appointed member, will plan the agenda of the meetings and future activities.

Paul Gray, the county agent offered to assist in mailing out notices since we are an agricultural related organization. This offer was gratefully accepted. The group also agreed to help Paul Gray by having a beekeeping exhibit at the Franklin County Fair.

The next meeting was planned for a field visit to Frank Rohrer's farm in Shelby County on July 13.

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Dates To Remember:

[Bluegrass Bee School, March 11th at KSU Frankfort, KY \(Click to Register\)](#)

[Guthries Natural Beekeeping Classes March 18th \(Click to register\)](#)

[Next CCBK Meeting- January 24th, 6 p.m., Franklin County Extension Bldg., 103 Lakeview Dr., Frankfort, KY](#)

2017 dues are now being collected, you may do so at the next meeting, or by mail with your information to:

Wes Henry
404 Goebel Drive
Frankfort, KY 40601

2017 American Beekeeping Federation Honey Queen and Princess Crowned



Hope Pettibon crowned 2017 ABF Honey Princess.

The reign of Kim Kester came to an end as the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Honey Queen earlier this month when she crowned Maia Jaycox of Iowa as the 2017 ABF Honey Queen. Hope Pettibon also was crowned the 2017 ABF Honey Princess by 2016 Princess Tabitha Mansker who attended the Bee Friendly Frankfort activities and the Bluegrass Bee School this past March. The new queen or princess are planned to attend again.



Maia Jaycox is crowned 2017 ABF Honey Queen

A Cure For Winter Ill's

Whether you have that "crud" that's goin' 'round or you just wanna knock off that winter chill in tames the tart of the citrus and using the sum- adult fashion by a split log fire, an old-fashion mer-slung harvest from your own hive will give "Hot Toddy" is the simple trick for what ails ya. an added satisfaction to this yester-fav.

Ingredients

- 1 oz (2 tablespoons) Straight Kentucky Bourbon
- 1 tablespoon Kentucky local honey
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/3 cup boiling-hot water

Simply combine all ingredients and stir until the honey is dissolved. Sip immediately.

