



The Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers July 2017

2017 Franklin County Fair

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This year's Franklin County Fair had several entries in the honey division from members of The Capital City Beekeepers – possibly the largest number and diversity of entries to date of the four year running venue. There were entries for light honey, capped frame, beeswax, and for the second year, the Black Jar class which is judged solely on taste. Judging started promptly at 11 am. The slight breeze was a welcome relief to the July morning's warm and humid temperatures. Welsh Honey judge Tana Peers, unpacked her honey judging wares such as glass spoons and beakers, honey refractometer (used to measure the moisture content of the honey), and flashlight. From her expressions and mannerisms, it was obvious she thoroughly enjoyed her job today.



Welsh honey Judge Tana Peers check for clarity in this light honey entry.

Judging Rules applied to the two extracted honey categories for light and amber. A summary of the rules are to first Place Entries Into Color Categories then Inspect the Surface of the Jar for Cleanliness, Inspect the Honey for Overall Clari-

ty and Cleanliness, Check the Honey for Aroma, Inspect the Jar Lid for Cleanliness, Inspect the Surface Cleanliness of the Honey, Check Honey Viscosity, Check Honey for Moisture Using a Refractometer, Check Honey for Overall Taste, Determine Final Class Placement and Leave a Written Comment for Each Entry . Items that helped to remove honey jars from the top spot included improper filling, foam on top of honey, honey inside lid, and air bubbles in the honey. President Ken Daniels and treasurer Jack Kuhn assisted in recording the results. Donna Brown assisted Ms. Peers with the judging by removing white silk gloves, collecting used tasting equipment, and removing judged honey entries. The most interesting part of the judging was the Black Jar competition. While the actual judging decision was officially rendered by judge Peers, all in attendance was invited to taste the black jar honey and render their opinion once the judging was finalized. It was a fun time for all and several lessons learned in showing and winning honey entries.

Bee-Lines

From the Inbox Pass it On...



From member and treasure Jack Kuhn: "Here is a pic of my 5 year old grandson Grayson, who visited from California last month. Although scared of spiders and most bugs in general, he was pretty awed helping me inspect two bee hives up close and personal, treating one with Apiguard for Varroa mites.



Well prepared, Grayson is ready for a day in the apiary.

"Swift" and Easy Hive Beetle Control

In the CCBK apiary at the June meeting, members and attendees had the opportunity to observe during hive inspection, a demonstration of a couple of hive beetle control measures. We discussed proper placement and bating using "beetle blasters". The large Beetle Blaster baited with 1:1 vegetable oil and apple cider vinegar is a favorite of many. We learned that from a report on the traps that researchers found that the beetles lay their eggs in the same cells as the larvae therefore, placing the traps towards the center appears to be more effective than at the edges of the frames. Also, at least one trap is advisable per brood box. Jack Kuhn, who led the inspection, explained, "I usually place them between the second and third or third and fourth frame in from the edge." He continued to instruct that he slightly spreads the frames to ensure the trap sits flat on the top bars; and just prior to filling the trap with the oil/cider mixture, to vigorously

his honey supers. A great alternative that has met with much success by Jack and other members is to use unscented "Swifter" pads. The bees fray the cloth trying to remove it and as the bees diligently chase and corral the beetles in the hive to the edges or top of the hive they also run across the surface of the "Swifter" pads and catch the beetles because the tiny hooks that on their legs. "They are just as effective and in some cases, more effective." adds Jack. The Swifter pads are also placed on the 2nd or 3rd frame in from the edge and are folded in half over the top bar of the frame. "This seems to work much better", Jack has discovered, "than hung between the frames

or



Proof that Swifter sheets work in hive beetle control.



The effectiveness of a properly installed Swifter sheet for hive beetle trapping.

shake the bottle to mix the two together and then to carefully pour the mixture into the trap as any spillage into the hive will kill the bees it gets on and renders "dead spots" in the frames. Jack explained that he personally doesn't like to put the traps over

laid flat on the top bars." After the "Swifters" have been installed and left to do their work for a week or two, be ready with your hive tool to crush any beetles under or next to the Swifter that try to scurry away when lifting the inner cover, or top box to do your inspection. Then remove the Swifter and crush any beetles that are trapped but not dead. Jack concludes, "You might lose 2-5 bees trapped in the cloth, but their sacrifice is more than acceptable when you can catch 25-100 beetles!"

2017 Franklin County Fair Pics

Bee-Lines



Folks young and old enjoyed the Friday night honey tasting.

The Friday night of the Franklin County Fair was the famed Horse Show but also the night CCBK hosted a honey tasting and sale. These three guys (above) enjoyed the stiff breeze through the exhibit hall and discovered the differing colors and tastes that local honey can deliver. CCBK members were able to interact and answers question with fair goers and sell some of the harvest.



In the amber category, Jack Kuhn won blue, George Fowler, the red.



In the Light Honey, Jack Kuhn blue, Ken Daniels and Dan Ramey red, Wes Henry white.



In the Chunk Comb Honey category Jack Kuhn won the blue ribbon.



In the Black Jar Wes Henry won blue, Jack Kuhn red, and George Fowler white.



2017 Grand Apiarist

This Year's Grand Apiarist Award was won by Jack Kuhn. Jack entered the blue ribbon capped frame (left) and also won the blue for the chunk comb, amber and light honey division.

Bee-Lines

Dates To Remember:

Next CCBK Meeting-
July 25, 2017,
6 p.m., [Franklin County Extension](#), 101 Lakeview Dr., Frankfort, KY

[CCBK Saturday Farmer's Market Booth](#)

August 12, 7:30-12

[Kentucky State Fair](#),

August 17-22nd, Members wanting to participate in working the booth need to meet in Frankfort's Walmart parking lot at 7:00 a.m. Workers get free admission.

CCBK Minutes June 27, 2017

Program

A brief hive inspection by Jack Kuhn was conducted in the cub apiary and focused on the use of beetle traps.

Q & A followed.

Mary Shelton spoke and gave update on EKV project- a program to investigate contaminants, especially chemicals contained in spraying for mosquitos, in urban/ suburban honey for Franklin, Madison, and Fayette Counties.

She said honey for testing can be brought next meeting. Name and contact information is only needed.

Birch Bragg of 6th West Brewing spoke to the club about the farm purchased by the brewery in Franklin County by the brewery, and their intentions and ideas of collaboration with the bee club on beekeeping workshops and honey events as well as other concerning Kentucky's agricultural history.

Business Meeting

Ken called business meeting to order at 6:40 and called for attendees to sign in.

Newsletter presented with the minutes from May. Minutes approved with Alan Alsip's motion and George Fowler's second to accept.

Treasures report was presented by treasurer Jack Kuhn No receipts and no disbursements.

Roger McDowell made motion to accept, Alan Alsip made second, motion carried.

Wilson's checks not received for the month. There was an error made.

Ken distributed KSBA Membership cards and gave brief report of the meeting at Kelly's.

He also discussed the State Fair

CCBK work day is 8/22 in the morning. We will split w/ Kentuckianna club who will work in the afternoon.

Workers and times will be confirmed at July, reminded club that to sell honey at State Fair you must be member of KSBA.

Fair entry deadline is July 1st.

2017 KY Dept. of Ag. Hive count forms were distributed and collected for Tammy Horn.

FSA- A farm program for beekeepers with hive losses was explained and folks were directed to the KY Dept. of Ag website for information.

George Fowler spoke on the Franklin County Fair (7/18-22)

Honey tasting ads sales to be held on Friday evening 7/21

Tana Peers will judge all entries for Bees and Honey division.

Fair books were distributed.

Next Farmer's Market was announced by Ken to be 7/8.

Next meeting announced to be 7/25/2017- Jack Kuhn to conduct program on Varroa mite control in the apiary, weather permitting.

Kay Daniels made a motion to adjourn.