



The Capital Bee

The Official Newsletter of The Capital City Beekeepers Association

February 2023

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the beginning of the
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Spring Cleaning

As the weather warms and the buildup to the honey flow begins the beekeeper needs to do some "Spring cleaning". Scraping the winter hive debris from the bottom board and removing the entrance reducer are first things.

Beekeeper's Almanac

THE 'KEEP'S TO DO LIST

- ◆ With the recently length of warm weather, **colonies are building early**. Prevent swarming by “equalizing” brood from stronger to weaker colonies.
- ◆ Be prepared to make “splits” to prevent swarming- finding early queens are usually a problem.
- ◆ Rotating hive bodies (place empty frames atop bottom boxes), Concentrating brood and stores in bottom boxes– give them room until splits can be made.
- ◆ Order packages, nucs, and queens for Spring.
- ◆ Renew CCBA and/or KSBA/CKHP Dues.

The New KSBA website is live! If you received an email (see below) you need to reset your password and check and/or update your profile. Check it out.



Interesting excerpts from The British Bee Journal

August 1, 1883

British Beekeepers Assoc., General Meeting, July 6, 1883 took up the promotion of the sale of local honey and the fight against adulterated honey. “...all the honey from America bought at present in London is adulterated”. The association concluded to buy honey and have it analyzed if indeed found adulterated then should “...seek prosecution and advocated “...to put English honey forward”.

Swarms and afterswarms were given the names:

“Swarm, Cast, and Maiden swarms”

At the time the move was on to replace the common black bee to Italians and was termed “*Lingurianizing*”. Say that three times quick as ya can!



**Kentucky State Beekeepers Association
New Website Is Live!**

Welcome John Wesley!

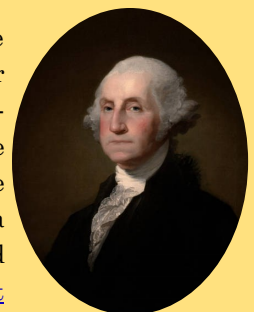
We're excited to announce that our new website is live! Here's what to do next.

Use your email address to log in. Your email address is wesny@yahoo.com Since this is your first time logging in to our new website, click on this link to reset your password:

[Reset Password](#)

Happy Birthday to George Washington

Not only was he revered as The Father of our Country but also as a bee advocate. In his papers there are two mentions of supplying the materials such as nails for a “bee house” to be constructed on Mt Vernon. [See the short video.](#)



THE FEB. WINTER MARKET

The winter market continues every other weekend and George Fowler has been the sole member to brave “the elements”. He has expressed that ninety minutes is enough but also that interaction with the public and the sale of honey have been good. The winter Market is not new but this is the first year that the CCBA has participated. Usually, most have no honey to sell or the winter days have been a bit too cold for those who might participate. It’s good to note that the Association collects no seller’s fee during this bi-monthly market as we do

during the regular Farmer’s Market during the year. The March Winter Markets are scheduled for March 4th and 18th, 10 a.m. to 11:30. Setup 9:30 a.m. Honey, candles, and other hive products are welcome to be sold.



George Fowler interacting with customers at February Winter Market Booth.

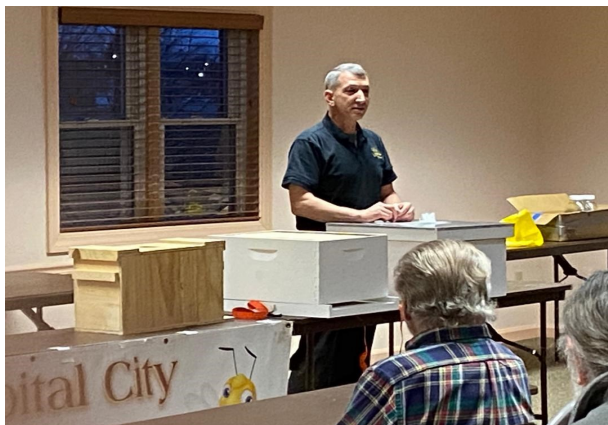
January’s Program:

Chris Palmer

CCBA has had now a long standing relationship with Dadant and Sons’ Frankfort Branch. The new manager, Chris Palmer took advantage of the invitation to come and introduce himself at the association's first meeting of 2023. He also was



Members listened as Chris gave his presentation



Chris gave an informative presentation based on years of experience and answered questions.

invited to give a presentation concerning Spring management including swarm prevention tactics in the apiary which he did, and was found to be very knowledgeable and helpful. There was good interaction from the floor and practical discussion with many new and veteran beekeepers alike.

Chris resides in Cynthiana, Kentucky and has kept bees for over twenty years. He co-operates his Palmer Brothers Bee Farm with his brother Jason.

The End Is Here

By WES HENRY

There is a popular number to this conundrum— that is, if a group of beekeepers were asked the same question the result is said to be more answers than the number of keepers asked. As to when the beekeeper's calendar ends and begins is such a question that might be asked. It is a fiscal year, and one school of thought is that it begins in August. Everything done then, it is argued, prepares the colonies in the Fall to survive the winter and be productive in the Spring-to-come. Some have even said October under the same reasoning which both are correct I suppose to making sure your mite treatments are done, that any requeening is completed in time for the colony to more than accept a new young and more vibrant mother-of-all, and the all-important laying by of stores to last the cold and snowy dearth to come.

Yet, I must confess, however, that my 2022 season has just now come to a conclusion. Oh, I have done my best to slaughter the mites months ago. The larders in the top boxes and/or the frames on the outside of the singles and lower boxes are heavy with "honey" and the patties have been laid atop as needed. Truly though there was still a list of "to-dos" for '22 that remained. Take for instance all those wax cappings still in the freezer in the garage. They are there, in plastic bags, protected and away from the moths. They've been stashed for such a time as this- the rendering of the year's beeswax.

I had bought the dated crock pot from a yard sale a few summers back. Yellow and enameled a dark orange on the inside, its

control is simple- no push buttons or touch screen, but rather a dial and with only three settings- Low, High, and Off. Too, the plug has only two leads of the same size. I can't go wrong either way it put

into the receptacle. I do love simple things in a world of more choices than I could ever think of.

It is now but a week from Valentine's Day as I start the process. First, a paint filter is stretched across the mouth of the pot and inserted to the bottom with a half inch of water. They're readily available wherever paint is sold. The cappings themselves are then added to its brim- collected from summer's extracting, from the time when the winds blew warm and a box fan, instead of the heater to make things a bit comfy.

If I had a cappings spinner to extract the honey from them, perhaps it would be a less sticky job. I did, however, allow them to drip into the bottom of the capping tub for a few weeks. We don't use the dining room table during that time or we'll move it for those special occasions we must. I paid a little more for it, a tub designed for the purpose of allowing it to slowly drip and collect below them, and then strain and bottle the honey once I determine the operation or myself is "done".

"It's the best honey", said Tana dur-



The wax will be rendered and filtered again, each time purer.

ing the Franklin County Fair. We're fortunate to have a good Honey and Bees Division and an official Welsh Honey Judge like her available- to do the work of judging all things Beekeeping.

"It's the last in the cell before the bees seal it with the precious wax" she explains, and is therefore, "the freshest."

"She should know", I think to myself.

The garage isn't bad at all for this kind of work, kind of cozy, as winter still stirs just mere inches from me. The orange glow of the propane heater and the smell of melting beeswax is a satisfying way to spend the time away from the fieldwork. Waiting for the opportunity to add more of the wax cappings to the pot, I put my feet up towards the heat and enjoy a cup of hot coffee and a most recent issue or listen in a bit to the weather channel as I wait. The recliner replaced a couple years back, is repurposed here and adds to the comfort. I would suggest putting one in your work area.

There comes a point when no more of cappings can be added and the pot is then filled with hot and molten wax. It is then that I carefully pull the paint filter up and out from the bottom. Much of the propolis-Langstroth's "*yield of resinous buds and limbs of trees*"- comes away with any other debris that doesn't pass through. A finer filter of hosiery or cheese cloth folded many times over is a second filtration before the first molding.

You can use anything almost for a mold. This time is a plastic one-gallon ice cream pail. The grandkids and I make these readily available. It is clear on the sides and I can see the honey/ water and wax separate as it settles and is left to cool on the

work bench overnight.

As this first batch begins to cool I quickly use a paper towel to wipe out the still warm pot. The ceramic innards are easy to clean slick before it cools and hardens. And the process is begun again.

Come morning the sides of the pail will give easily and helps to remove the wax block without much of a fuss at all. This one, from experience, will be about a pound and a half. It amazes me how much of the cappings render a smaller amount of wax than you may think; but more so to imagine the innumerable wax flakes and bees from which they came that make up that block. It is truly a wonder of creation.

There then comes the time when all the cappings are now in the pot and the freezer has been freed once more of storage bags of beeswax. The rendered blocks will then be melted, combined, and filtered at least twice more. There will still be honey and "grit" in the wax for the next go 'round



Three pounds of rendered wax ends this 'keeps Year.

but less each time and purer than the time before.

Alas, with the last of the wax rendered and all the honey now bottled with some in reserve for the 'keepers use, *his* calendar is about to begin. It is a time when maple buds begin to swell and blossom- the first-foragings for the hardy winter bees whose end soon too will come. ~Wes

Capital City Beekeepers Association - Treasurer's Report

Prepared on February 24, 2023 for the February 28 meeting.

General

Beginning Balance (January 19, 2023) \$2082.57

Receipts

Dues \$160.00

Total Receipts \$160.00

Expenditures

Farmers Market Fee for 2023 \$175.00

Duplicate Dues Refund \$10.00

New Checks Order \$22.00

Total Expenditures **\$207.00**

Current Available Balance **\$2035.57**

Checking Account: **\$1985.57**

Cash change fund **\$50.00**

Notes:

Wilson check for January totaled \$342.00 for 6 members.

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

Educational Funds (Saving)

Beginning Balance (January 19, 2023) \$917.50

Receipts

Interest (3/31) \$0.11

Total Receipts **\$0.11**

Expenditures

Beginner's Bee School Name Tags \$9.53

Total Expenditures **\$9.53**

Ending Balance **\$908.80**

Ending Balance (December 31, 2022) **\$2042.57** (See Note 1)

Educational Funds (Savings)

Beginning Balance (January 1, 2022) \$727.77

Receipts

Donations (In memory of Ken Daniels) \$150.00

Interest on savings Account \$1.21

Total Receipts **\$151.21**

No Expenditures from this account

Ending Balance (December 31, 2022) **\$878.98**

Note 1: The Current General Balance is held:

Checking Account \$1992.57

Cash Change Fund \$50.00

Submitted by George Fowler,

Treasurer

Note 2: There was a 25 cent overage on one Wilson check which was too much trouble for them to recover.

Note 3: The sales checks from Wilson Nursery in 2022 totaled \$3142.00.

Note 4: Interest on the checking account ended in June 2022 when the credit union discovered that our checking account was a Community Business Account which was not entitled to interest.

Note 5: In April 2022, the club purchased woodware for a hive to be painted by a retired art teacher. Most of the woodware was donated by Dadant. The completed hive was sold for \$250.00, and the money donated to Collins Lane Elementary School Art Department in memory of Ken Daniels.

Business Capital City Beekeeper's Association Minutes

January 24, 2023

--There were 29 attendees at the January Meeting

Program

Chris Palmer, Manager of Dadant Introduced himself and gave brief bio, Had demonstration and explanation of Spring inspection and swarm control.

Committee Reports

Treasurer:

-Motion to approve November 2022 minutes as presented in the newsletter was made by Allan Alsip, MacKenzie Preece 2nd. Minutes approved (there were none for December, no meeting).

-George Fowler presented the 2022 Annual Treasurer's Report. Allan Alsip motion to accept, MacKenzie Preece 2nd. Treasurer report was approved.

-The January 2023 Treasurer's report was also given. Eddie McNutt motioned to approve, Kay Daniels 2nd. Motion approved.

Farmer's Market:

-Winter markets are twice a month until the regular season begins. There is no seller's fee for the winter markets. Please see Wes if you are interested. The club has tables and banner.

Old Business

-The **January Beginner's Class** went very well. There were 44 attendees. KSBA received positive feedback from the class.

-Discussion ensued as to which fund, the educational or general, should be used for expenses & deposits from the beginner's class

A motion was made by MacKenzie Preece to charge all of the expenditures from the class to the education fund and any membership dues brought in to be put into the general fund. Allan Alsip 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

-**Mentors** are needed to help any new beekeepers. Wes Henry, Marsha Bezold, Mackenzie Preece, Michael Wiley all volunteered to mentor. Anyone else who is willing be a mentor please let us know! We always need more. If you NEED a mentor let Wes or Marsha know.

-**2023 Bluegrass Bee School** will be Saturday March 11 at KSU from 9am-4pm.

-Michael Wiley needs volunteers to man the donut/coffee table during the Bluegrass Bee School. Volunteers are needed for a 1 hour shift and you can pick the hour you want to work so that you can still attend the

Capital City Beekeepers Association

November 15, 2022

school. Volunteers only have to pay for their lunch that day.

New Business

-**Farmer's Market**-time for our club to renew their application to participate as a rotating vendor in the 2023/24 Franklin Co. Farmer's Market. The fee for the club is \$175. You don't need to sell to help out, this is a community education opportunity as well as selling. George Fowler motioned that the club renew their application to the Franklin Co. Farmer's Market and pay fee. Dan Ramey 2nd. Motion passed.

-**Franklin Co. Fair:** July 18-22nd 2023. Lynne Morris, fair liaison would like to make a change to the youth division to clarify that items in youth division be a handmade item of their own making. Lynne Morris motioned, George Fowler 2nd. Motion carried.

-Mackenzie requested that 4-H honey be displayed and judged by same judge that does the club entries. Discussion ensued.

-The fair board will no longer provide medallions or best of show rosette ribbons. If we want a Grand Apiarist medallion or best of show ribbon, we need to provide that. Lynne will look into cost of a medallion. Club will do a Grand Apiarist medallion and decision for best of show was tabled.

-Discussion ensued to whether we should rent a separate booth at county fair near midway to sell honey. Consensus was that it was not feasible.

-**4H Bee Club** – MacKenzie stated that 4H was starting between 5-8 new beehives to be placed either on the 4Her's property or extension property. She asked if CCBA would make a financial donation to cover the cost of exterior latex paint for the hives which are already primed. George Fowler motioned that the club make a donation of \$50 toward the cost of paint. Eddie McNutt 2nd. Michael Wiley requested that the discount paint be checked for better price. Motion passed.

KSBA –Wes gave a tutorial on how to sign up on-line to join KSBA. If you would like to join and are having trouble let Wes know and he will walk you thru it. Join at kybees.org Paper forms for signing up via "snail mail" is also available.

If you sign up for Certified Kentucky Honey then membership to KSBA is automatically included.

Wes announced that Eddie McNutt will be KSBA representative for our club.

George Fowler motioned to adjourn meeting, Eddie McNutt 2nd.

The next bee club meeting will be Tuesday February 28, 2023

Minutes submitted by Marsha Bezold, Secretary

CCBA Opportunities

Regular January CCBA Meeting

February 24th, 2022

Franklin County Extension Office

101 Lakeview Ct., Frankfort, KY

Program 6 p.m., Business meeting 7 p.m.

Franklin County Farmer's Winter Market

Remember to Renew your 2023 CCBA Membership.

March 4th and 18th, 10am-11:30am

404 Wilkinson Blvd., Frankfort, KY

If interested contact Wes Henry

wesnky@yahoo.com

Bluegrass Beekeepers School

March 11th, 2023

Kentucky State University

Click the link for info and to sign up!