

The Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers March 2017

**Bee Friendly Frankfort,
Bee Jam, and Beehive Hairdo Contest Highlights**

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The week long Bee Friendly Frankfort activities usually culminates to a night of mead tastings, music, hairdos, pizzas, and fun along Broadway in downtown Frankfort, and 2017 was no different. Guitar licks and lyrics from the stage mingled with conversation and laughter over tables laden with signature twenty-two inch pies- "The Great Dane"- in the gathering room at Buddy's Pizza. Kentucky's agriculture commissioner Ryan Quarles was in attendance and American Honey Federation Honey Princess Hope Pettibon judged the hairdos as those before her have done. After the winners had been awarded, the party continued proving again it was the place to be before the Bluegrass bee school.



Casey Baumgardener of the Restless Leg String Band helped provide the music for the Bee Jam.



AHF Honey Princess Hope Pettibon with the Bee Hive Hairdo Winners.

Bee Friendly Frankfort, Bee Jam, and Beehive Hairdo Contest Highlights

Bee-Lines

2017 Hive Painting and Auction

Each Year a great and interactive part of the Bee Friendly Frankfort activities is the school's hive painting and auction. Capital City Beekeepers purchase, assemble, and prime the hives for the schools that then are at liberty to design and paint them for display and auction at the Bluegrass Bee School. The schools receive 60% of the proceeds for their art department after the club's cost of the hives. Five local schools participated this year, Bondurant and Elkhorn Middle, Good Shepherd, Collins Lane Elementary, & Capital Day. All creative and colorful hives but Elkhorn's was auctioned at the school for an average of \$190, "slightly higher than last year", writes Treasurer Jack Kuhn. The Elkhorn hive will be auctioned at the "Package pickup days" at Dandant's.



Master Beekeeper Kent Williams joins in the Jam the night before the Bee School where he taught on queen rearing.



Ky. Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles, Princess Hope, and Jack Kuhn enjoying the Bee Jam.

Bee Friendly Frankfort, School Hive Painting

Collins Lane Elementary- Stacey Luddeke, Art Teacher

Students judged designs for the hive and chose four panels for their hive.



Bee Friendly Frankfort
School Hive Painting

Collins Lane
Elementary-
Stacey Luddeke,
Art Teacher



After choosing their designs the students went to work and completed the hive.

Capital Day
School-
Alice Edwards,
Art Teacher K-8th
Grade



Capital Day School students working hard on the hive.

Bee Friendly Frankfort,
School Hive Painting

Bondurant Middle School-
Jennifer Sexton,
Visual Arts Teacher



"Love this idea!" - Jennifer Sexton.

Bondurant Middle School-
Jennifer Sexton,
Visual Arts Teacher

"The Bee Box turned out great again this year. Congratulations to all Bondurant students who helped design and paint the box."



Bee-Lines

Free Feeders

The club was able to give free plastic pails once containing icing for cakes, to attendees of the Blue-



grass Bee School. Made by the non-profit volunteer organization **Sweet Blessings** the cakes are made for children in poverty or with life threatening illnesses.

Jack Kuhn was able to secure many and more if we want them. These food grade containers can hold approximately 3 pints of syrup and with a few holes punched into the top can be inverted over the center hole of an inner cover or atop the top bars for a concealed top feeder.



Good Shepherd School- Chelsea Blevins Art Teacher



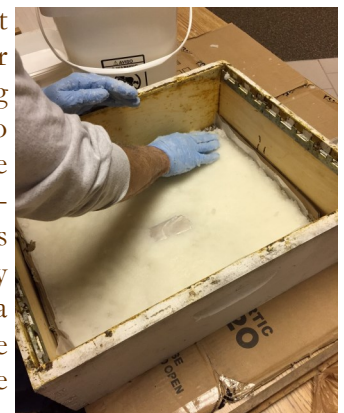
Cooking for Bees, Not! Jack Shows How.

Normally fondant is cooked and may be the proper term for the homemade candy-feed for bees, but for the February program the “non-cook fondant” was in order. Treasurer Jack Kuhn led out with recommendations just how to use it once it was made. One suggestion was to use a queen excluder. It’s just another use of many others listed in the June 2016 newsletter article, “Keeping the Queen Out”. Jack suggests to lay the completed candy atop the excluder with its many worker-sized slots, on the top bars. Those slots allow the bees to feed from under as well as allowing to pass through to the

top side as well. Beside other smaller moulds of shallow aluminum pans and oblong egg carton tops, a cardboard mould the size of the inside of an empty super was also demonstrated. Wax paper is placed on the cardboard and a center hole to correspond to that of the inner cover allowing the bees to pass from the brood chamber to feed is created by placing a block at the center of the mold and then removed after pressing in the mixture. The recipe was then given to be 12 pounds of sugar and 1-3 cups of water until the consistency resembles sand wet enough to make a sand castle on a sunny summer’s beach— firm but not mushy. Other added and helpful ingredients recommended included essential oils such as wintergreen or spearmint and lemongrass. The mixture was then pressed and lightly pounded into the molds and then would be allowed to set, dry and cure for 24-48 hours. Q and A followed from those in attendance, and appreciation was shown to Jack for his enthusiastic instruction.



Jack demonstrates how to make a cardboard mould for the fondant.



The fondant is pressed into the mold and allowed to cure.



Wayne adds water as Jack mixes the fondant to the right consistency.

Bee-Lines



"The Warré (pronounced war-ray) beehive was developed by a French pastor named Emile Warré in the early part of the 20th century. He had spent most of his life using and studying various types of hives before settling on what he called the "People's hive". His hive is simplistic and bee-friendly. It was designed most specifically for overwintering bee colonies in the cold French climate and works very well in the central and northern U.S.. Although they are particularly well suited for colder climates, Warré hives can be used anywhere that bees are kept." -[The Warre Store](#)

The Warre' Hive- A Donation, Lesson, and a Raffle

A couple of years ago a donation was made to the club in two large cardboard boxes. Many of us questioned what the two box gift of wood and copper was exactly. After some time in storage the decision was made to bring it out and discover what we had and what the club might do with it. In mere moments a call came from the floor of the meeting, "It's a Warre' hive", said Tony Chaples. He was then quickly given an invitation to come forward and give an explanation of its use, by George Fowler, to which Tony graciously did. He explained that he indeed had been using two for a number of years. His impromptu assistance on setting it up and delivery was met with much interest and enthusiasm from those attending this second meeting of the new year. While folks stood and gathered to watch and learn, Tony explained, "It's a vertical top-bar hive." He said he rarely goes into the hive and catches swarms that issue from it. Since it is a topbar style hive the bees build their own comb, that is they are not given wax founda-



Tony, George, and Wayne Setup the Warre' hive at the meeting.



Tony Chaples giving the club an explanation of the use and management of a Warre' hive.

tion from which to pull comb, and that he harvests honey from the top hive body by cutting away the comb and all. When asked how the honey is extracted from the comb he answered, "I just squeeze it out". He added that he returns the emptied body to the bottom – as the Warre' is known for – instead of the top as we are accustomed to doing with the "Langstroth hive". Tony went on to explain other feature of managing such a hive and then it was voted in the meeting to raffle the hive at our booth at the then upcoming Bluegrass Beeschool.

Made of Cyprus, with a bright copper covered roof, it was also of octagonal shape making it truly unique and beautiful. Displayed at the booth it drew the interests of many and gave those at the booth the chance to interact with them. Tickets were bought at \$2.00 a chance or \$5.00 for three. Marsha and Richard Green of Richmond, Kentucky won the drawing. The club received 160.00 from the proceeds.



The Warre' Hive on display with Kay Daniels behind the booth at the Bee School.



Richard and Marsha Green won the Warre' Hive raffle.

Marsha and Richard Green of Richmond, Kentucky won the drawing. The club received 160.00 from the proceeds.

Bee-Lines

Dates To Remember:

Next CCBK Meeting-
March 28th,
2017, 6 p.m.,
Franklin County
Extension, 101
Lakeview Dr.,
Frankfort, KY

Guthrie Naturals
Package Bee
Pickup 4/28 and
4/29 at Dadant's.

HAS Evansville,
IN July 13-15
[Click for
registration.](#)

CCBK Minutes February 28th, 2017

President Ken Daniels gaveled meeting to order 6:00 p.m.

Ken called for a motion to approve minutes for January meeting. Jan Rafert made the motion, Second- Michael Wiley. The minutes were approved

Treasurer Jack Kuhn gave the treasurers report. Beginning balance-1509.74, Receipts-1056.60, Expenditures-754.05, Ending balance- 1812.29. Report was approved by the club.

George Fowler reminded the club about the Club's Library. He is working on an accounting system and spoke on what titles we have available for check by members.

George also asked if anyone had books to donate the club would appreciate it.

Ken presented the club with a refractometer donated by James Hale. It is available to members to test the moisture content of their honey.
Marsha spoke on Bee Friendly Frankfort.

Honey Princess Hope Pettibon to be in Frankfort 3/6-3/12 and discussed her schedule.

The Bee Hive Hair Do contest and the Bee Jam were also discussed as well as other activities.

Ken presented and spoke on the availability of preregistration forms and volunteer's forms for The Bluegrass Bee School

Michael Wiley spoke on volunteers for the coffee and Donut table.

Ken presented the club with the email about Earth Day 2017 (4/17/2017) to be held at New State Building on Sower Blvd.

To participate or not was table for more information to be presented at the March meeting.

Ken discussed excerpt of Tammy Horns newsletter about switching top and bottom hive bodys.

Vice President John Antenucci expounded on the process with both deep and medium hive bodys and fielded Q and A.

KSBA membership cards were handed out by President Ken Daniels.

The club's booth at the bee school was discussed and the decision was made to raffle the donated Warre' Hive at the booth.

Tony Chaples explained the use of a Warre' hive to the club.

Next Meeting was announced to be March 28th, 2017.

Jack Kuhn then lead a program demonstrating the making and use of no-cook fondant.