



The Capital Bee

The Official Newsletter of The Capital City Beekeepers Association

March 2023

In This Issue:

Beekeeper's Almanac

2023 Bluegrass Bee
School

March Treasurer's
Report

February Meeting
Minutes

CCBA Opportunities

First Fruits

Purple Dead Nettle and its look alike Henbit are some of the first nectar sources in abundance. Often fields stretch out broad and deep in the royal color as well in the unkempt places all where winter was.

Beekeeper's Almanac

THE 'KEEP'S TO DO LIST

- ◆ Colonies are building towards the coming honey flow. (here in Central KY, end of April –first of May– Derby Day- first major nectar producer Black Locusts). Prep honey supers.
- ◆ Be prepared to make “splits” to prevent swarming.
- ◆ If you find “swarm cells” make splits. Swarm cells make best queens.
- ◆ Prepare to install packages, nucs, and queens.
- ◆ Feed 1:1 sugar water if light.

Want to make a split without finding the queen?

Use a queen excluder.

Shake bees from frames of brood and food frames while looking for the queen and place



above an excluder above the donor colony (replace removed frames with foundation or drawn comb).

Result:

Nurse bees will come through excluder to cover and care for brood. In a few hours or next day return and harvest queen free frames to make your split.

[See it done here:](#)

*'Round the fine twig, like cluster'd grapes, they close
In thickening wreaths, and court a short repose.
While the keen scouts with curious eye explore
The rifted roof, or widely gaping floor
Of some time-shatter'd pile or hollow'd oak,
Proud in decay, or cavern of the rock.'*

-Evans, circa. 1806



Honey Bee Venom Kills Aggressive Breast Cancer Cells

In an article written by James Kingsland for Medical News Today, melittin– “the active component of honeybee venom rapidly killed two types of breast cancer cells that are particularly difficult to treat. Crucially, the toxin left healthy cells unharmed.” [For complete report click here](#)

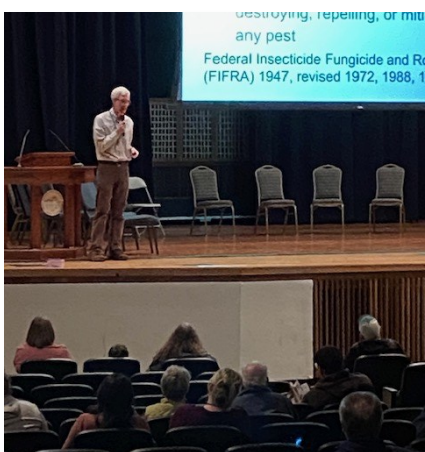
2023 Bluegrass Bee School

Not since March of 2020, has there been an in-person Bluegrass Bee School. 2022 was virtual with online classes and talks, but this year (March 11) was the refreshing of our beekeeping souls. As in times past vendors, classes, The Honey Queen, Keynote Speakers, lunch, and hundreds converged in attendance, and all happened again on the campus of Kentucky State University in Frankfort, Kentucky. Volunteers from both Bluegrass Beekeepers and Capital City Beekeepers Associations, Dr. Thomas Webster, and many others worked to make it happen. A great thanks to all who helped.



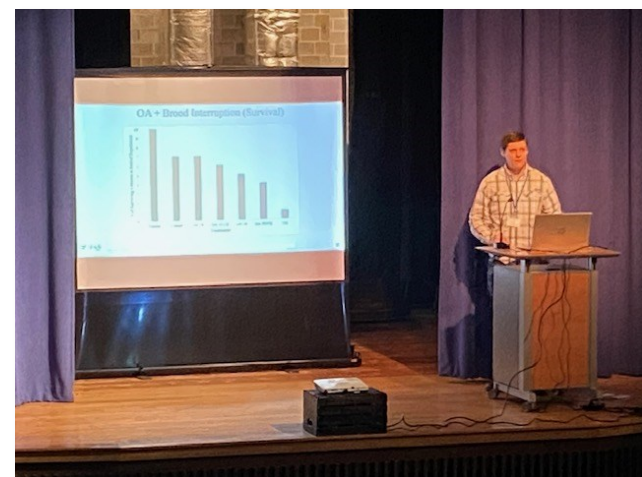
Ky State Beekeepers Assoc. and Certified Ky. Honey Producers were present at the school. CKHP manager, Scott Moore (left) talks with an attendee.

At right, 2023 ABF Honey queen Selina Rampolla speaks with those attending the school.



At right and from left to right, George Fowler, Michael Wiley, Jack Kuhn, and John Anttenucci, at the CCBA table at the 2023 Bluegrass Bee School.

Dr. Reed Johnson (left) and Dr. Cameron Jack (lower left) were keynote speakers and hosted classes too at the Bee School.



Neil Hunt, Pres. Pike Co. Beekeepers Assoc., spoke on Swarm traps and their use.

Capital City Beekeepers Association - Treasurer's Report

Prepared on March 24th, 2023 for the March 28th, 2023 meeting.

General

Beginning Balance (February 24, 2023) \$2035.57

Receipts

Dues \$155.00

Donation \$15.00

Total Receipts \$170.00

Expenditures

No Expenditures this period

Total Expenditures \$0.00

Current Available Balance \$2205.57

Checking Account: \$2155.57

Cash change fund \$50.00

Notes:

Wilson check for March totaled \$315.50 for 6 members.

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

Educational Funds (Saving)

Beginning Balance (February 24, 2023) \$908.08

Receipts

Interest (2/28) \$0.11

Total Receipts \$0.11

Expenditures

No expenditures this period

Total Expenditures \$0.00

Ending Balance \$908.19

Note: The end balance for February 24 should have stated \$908.08 rather than \$908.80.

Submitted by George Fowler,
CCBA Treasurer

Business Capital City Beekeeper's Association Minutes

February 28th, 2023

Program: Club meeting began with hive inspection. Wes stated that this was the earliest ever for hive inspections in the CCBA Apiary, bees were already bringing in nectar.

Business Meeting began at 7pm. Allan Alsip motioned for approval of minutes, Dan Ramey 2nd. Motion passed. George Fowler presented the treasurer's report. Allan motioned for approval, Kathy Stephanski 2nd. Report approved.

Farmer's Market: Winter market--George Fowler is only beekeeper selling and sales have been good.

March 2023 Bluegrass Beekeeping School-discussion on who was speaking and what classes were being offered.

Old Business:

-Dues for 2023 are now "due". Paid members are able to sell at club events, get discount at Frankfort Dadant, have use of extractor/refractometer/club library, vote on club issues.

-Dues are also "due" for KSBA and Certified Kentucky Honey. Go to kybees.org to join or renew

-Mentors for new beekeepers are greatly needed, let one of the officers know if you are willing to be one.

-Spring Farmer's market will begin late April. The club is a rotating vendor. Our week is always the 2nd Saturday. The first market for our club will be Saturday May 13. Members are encouraged to come and be a part of the farmer's market even if they aren't selling honey.

-Franklin County Fair July 18-22. Tanya Peers will again be the honey judge, she will also be judging 4-H honey entries. Lynne Morris discussed the current status of the medallion for Grand Apiarist. Medallion will be in a hexagon shape with a yellow watercolor background and a bee stamped on it. The medallion will be hung from a ribbon. Discussion ensued on type of ribbon that would be best.

For 4-H kids, any non-honey entries must be hand-made and bee-themed.

The category of Melomel was also added to the county fair entries. Melomel is a type of mead that involves fermented fruit in addition to fermented honey.

New Business:

-Swarm list: if you would like to be on the list please let Marsha (me) know. Swarm list is in the form of a mass text. When I receive a swarm call I will text out location, contact information, and any critical information that I have. The beekeeper going after the swarm will need to contact whoever called it in and make sure that it is actually a swarm and retrievable. [First to respond to txt gets the opportunity to catch the swarm]

-George Fowler motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday March 28th.

Minutes submitted by Marsha Bezold, Secretary

CCBA Opportunities

Regular March CCBA Meeting

March 28th, 2022

Franklin County Extension Office

101 Lakeview Ct., Frankfort, KY

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

Remember to Renew your 2023 CCBA Membership.

Franklin County Farmer's Winter Market

April 1st and 15th, 10am-11:30am

404 Wilkinson Blvd., Frankfort, KY

If interested contact Wes Henry

wesnky@yahoo.com