

The Capital Bee

March 2024

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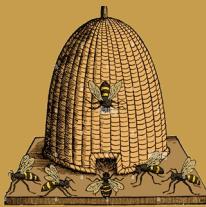
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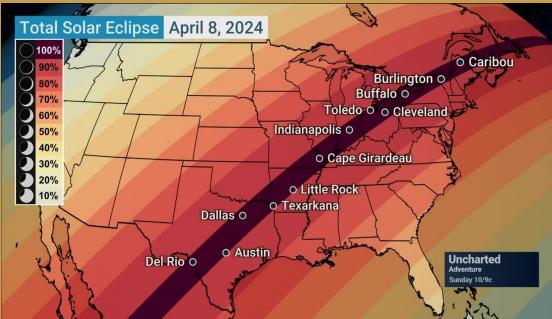
The Boys are back in town! This...is what you want to see before thinking seriously of any queen rearing. Also it is an indicator that swarming is on the radar— capped and emergin drone brood.

Beekeeper's Almanac



THE 'KEEP'S TO DO LIST

- ◆ Melt and clean wax (see January 2024 Almanac) collected from capping and any hive activities for use or sale.
- ◆ Get on a swarm call list, Hang swarm traps.
- ◆ Do inspections at 7-10 day intervals. Equalize brood into week colonies, or split to prevent swarming,
- ◆ Order queens for requeening or early splits.
- ◆ Have colony site and equipment ready for nuc and package installation.
- ◆ Renew CCBA annual membership as well, Cert. KY Honey and KSBA.



Scientists discover bees stop buzzing during solar eclipses

They just stopped flying in the darkness.

Zoey Chong
Oct. 10, 2018 11:52 p.m. PT

2 min read



These busy bees drop everything when the moon goes completely dark.

Susan Walker/Getty Images

Bees do the most peculiar thing when the moon goes dark: nothing.

Get the Eclipse Countdown for Kentucky here!

The Sport of Bee Hunting

Bee coursing, bee hunting, bee lining, Whatever you may call it and more, is almost a lost art. It is one that in that past was more for profit (honey and wax) but still is in its own way now days, after the arrival of varroa mites. Debilitating the managed colonies, the feral honey bee colonies suffered even worse in America's wild places. To find those now we happen upon them or only dis-

cover t h e m after a tree suc-

cums to the elements many times. The old art of finding them on purpose is a sport unto itself and with the use of a "bee coursing box" this a great way to spend an afternoon, one that the CCBA may enjoy as a Field Day come late summer/ early Fall 2024.



Discover the sport with Tom Seeley by clicking here

2024 Bluegrass Beekeeping School

For twenty years now the Bluegrass Beekeeping school has helped "wanna-bee" and experienced beekeepers. This year was no exception. Each year has its challenges, the greatest being the "pandemic" of Covid, once feet of snow, and facilities challenges, but "where there is will there is a way". This year was no exception and having the challenge of a remodel to the building the school has utilized in the past was met with resilience and devotion from many on the planning team as well as the university. Dr. David Peck with Betterbee was our keynote and also in breakout sessions, the ABF Honey Queen attended and promoted beekeeping and the honey industry in various ways and media in the days leading up to the school in Frankfort at Kentucky State University. Beekeeping talent galore, was on hand to help us. With more than an estimated 250 folks it was definitely a success again. A few pictures to the right are only a glimpse. Thank you to all who helped make this again an overwhelming success and help to beekeepers.



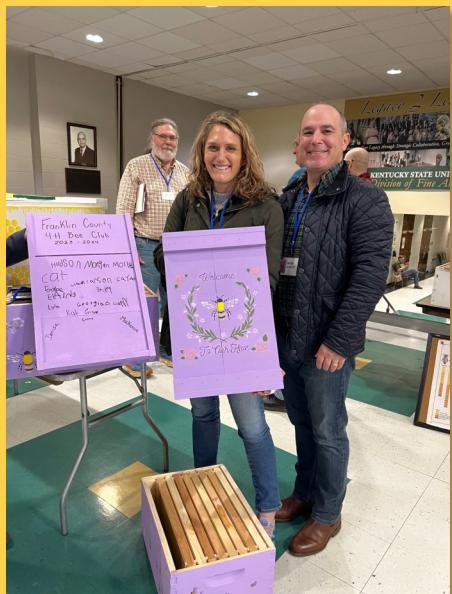
Ellen Melcher and ABF Honey Queen Kaelyn Sumner



The Hives for Heroes Booth to help Veterans in a healthy transition from service



KSBA/CKHP Booth



David and Elizabeth Johnson won the silent auction on one of the painted hives.



Michael Wiley and Kenny Sallee working the donuts, the sweetest job at the school (above) and the painted hives for silent auction (right).



Elementary Beekeeping

A beekeeping presentation in Owen County



Roughly Fifty First-graders attended

Earlier in the month Mackenzie Whitaker, a first-grade teacher at Owen County Lower Elementary School contacted Wes Henry by email. Her request was if CCBA would be “willing to come present some very basic beekeeper information to first graders”. Noting that she had found our information on the Kentucky State Beekeepers (KSBA) website, she explained that the students were currently learning “how animals can help humans and adaptations that help the animals live in the wild”.

Such is always a good opportunity. The challenge, however, was to find a member that could accommodate the request.

“Always happy to talk about bees”, Member Mark Stutler, whose apiaries



Children were able to try on a bee suit

are in Owen County, accepted the request to represent the association on Wednesday, March 20th.

Roughly fifty first graders attended. After asking, Mark discovered six students have bees at home and transcended the generational boundary, by opening his presentation with a bee-joke about Taylor Swift, which the kids enjoyed greatly. Children also tried on a bee suit (pictured right), were able to see and touch props such as a hive body and frames, and all were a part of mimicking a waggle dance that would lead other workers to a flowering crab apple tree by the McDonalds down the road.

In her final email Mackenzie wrote, “I believe the kids enjoyed it and I know I learned a lot myself from listening! I would love to share the [CCBA] Facebook page with our parents and if any show interest, I’ll gladly share your information to them for monthly meetings. It’s just little moments with these kids that may not have those experiences that mean a lot to me and my team!! Thank you again for coming and speaking with us!”

Thank you Mark for representing CCBA and Kentucky beekeepers in general. We just never know fully what impact we may have.

Note: To all who are members of KSBA, your membership helps support the website that made this opportunity a reality. Thank you.





CKHP Manager's Message



Hey Club! Just a few updates I wanted to pass on from the [Kentucky State Beekeepers Association \(KSBA\)](#).

Last month I attended the Kentucky Farm Bureau Congressional Tour in Washington, D.C. During my trip, I was able to meet with congressional staffers for our Kentucky Representatives from Districts 1, 2 and 3. I presented them with an informational packet on the [Honey Identification Verification and Enforcement Act or the HIVE Act \(H.R. 4764\)](#). This packet included a letter of support signed by the KSBA Board of Directors, the

proposed HIVE Act legislation, and articles about issues facing beekeepers such as honey fraud and labeling laws (or lack thereof). I title



contacts I made in the coming months and upon my return I then mailed the informational packet to the offices of Districts 4, 5 and 6 with whom I did not have a chance to meet on my trip. Currently, the bill is in committee, where no action has been taken since August 2023.

This month has been busy as I have already attended 2 of the 3 bee schools on my schedule. The first school was the Audubon Beekeepers Association annual bee school in Henderson, KY. Held at the Henderson County Cooperative Extension office, it was a well-attended event with over 100 beekeepers and several vendors. The second school was our very own in collaboration with the Bluegrass Beekeepers Association. The school was again held at Kentucky State University and was a remarkable success with

over 200 beekeepers in attendance along with many vendors. KSBA Director Jessica Mayes gave a talk on Labeling and Marketing Honey and Other Hive Products along with KSBA Director Theresa Martin who gave her talk Dead Bees Don't Make Honey. Speaking of Theresa Martin, [her new book of the same name is now available on Amazon](#)

On my schedule for the rest of the month is Nulu Block Fest in Louisville and the Eastern Kentucky Bee School in Hazard, Kentucky. I will be taking part in



Nulu Block Fest with the Jefferson County Farm Bureau, who is a sponsor of the event, in their Farmer's Market. I will have our KSBA/CKHP tent setup and will be passing out literature and talking everything bees. This event was attended by over 30,000 people last year, so it provides a great opportunity to educate the public on the importance and benefits of local honey and our [Certified Kentucky Honey program](#). The Eastern Kentucky Bee School this year will be the first time this school has done an in-person event since 2019. We at KSBA are making a concerted effort to try and expand our reach into the eastern part of the state, much like we have in western Kentucky for the past 2 years. I continue to be busy this time of year processing membership renewals and new memberships alike. At the time of this writing, we currently have 213 Certified Kentucky Honey Producers, making up over one-third of the total KSBA membership!



If anyone has any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.
Scott Moore
manager@ckyhp.com
502.819.1537



Capital City Beekeepers Association - Treasurer's Report

Prepared on March 22, 2024, for the March 26 meeting.

General

Beginning Balance (February 22, 2024) \$1722.14

Receipts

Dues	\$110.00
Sale of Bumper Stickers	\$4.00
Proceeds from hive sale (gross)	<u>\$1014.70</u>
Total Receipts	\$1128.70

Expenditures

Purchase of frames for hive auction	<u>\$225.57</u>
Total Expenditures	\$225.57

Current Available Balance \$2625.27

Checking Account: \$2575.27

Cash change fund: \$50.00

Notes:

Wilson check for March totaled \$172.00 for three participating members.

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

Educational Funds (Saving)

Beginning Balance (February, 2024) \$1047.41

Receipts

Interest (2/29)	<u>\$0.12</u>
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Total Receipts	\$0.12
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Expenditures

No expenditures this period

Total Expenditures	\$0.00
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Ending Balance	\$1047.53
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2024 Painted Hive Auction

Summary

Hern Elementary School

Sarah Workman - check -\$210.00

Western Hills Art Club

Brandon Cline - cash- \$225.00

The club had inadequate cash to
make change;

Marsha contributed \$20.00; Wes
contributed \$55.00.

See below.

Franklin County 4-H Bee Clubs

Elizabeth Johnson - charge card \$301.00

Good Shepherd School

James Smith – charge card \$300.00

Wes Henry ran the two charges through his
card incurring fees of \$21.30. See below.



Pictured above are the completed hives on display for the 2024 silent auction.

Total Sales	\$1036.00
Less Card Fees	\$21.30
Final Total	\$1014.70

Marsha will be compensated \$20.00 for contributing to the change for #2.

Ck# 3049. 3/16/2024

Wes will be compensated \$55.00 for contributing to the change for #2 and
\$21.30 for credit card fees for #3 and #4 (total \$76.30).

Ck# 3050 3/16/2024

The club will recover \$225.57 paid to purchase frames for the hive boxes.

This leaves \$789.13 for distribution.

Capital City Beekeepers Association

Minutes

February 27th, 2024

-Club meeting began at 6pm with a presentation on methods of swarm prevention

-Business meeting began at 7:15pm, January minutes were approved (Eddie McNutt motioning & Dan Ramey 2nding). Treasurer's report was given by George Fowler and accepted (Michael Wiley motioning & Ted O'Canna 2nding)

Activity/Committee Reports:

Library-New book is available for check out, Honeybee Biology and Beekeeping

Swarm List-Give Marsha (dlozeb@bellsouth.net) a phone number that you can receive texts on if you would like to be on the swarm call list.

Our club now has a bee vac for use. It is a backpack style with a rechargeable battery and a remote control that clips onto your suit. Vac is owned by the Extension Office and renting is thru them. It is a 2 day rental for \$10 with a \$10/day late fee. During swarm season it is recommended that you call the extension office to make sure it is available. Manufacturers recommends not to have the vacuum running for more than 30 seconds to avoid harm to bees

Hive Paintings – Hives are ready for pickup from the schools. Thank you, Denise Boebinger, for being in charge of this.

Old Business:

Don't forget to renew your club dues and for Certified Kentucky Honey. Certified Kentucky honey dues include membership to Kentucky State Beekeepers Association

Bluegrass Beekeepers School: at KSU, March 9th. \$35 preregistration, includes lunch. David Peck from Better Bee is the keynote speaker. There will be 15 breakout sessions and a beginner's beekeeping track.

Tammy Horn: former State Apiarist is now working at Kentucky State University in Frankfort teaching beekeeping. She is also in charge of the autoclave program.

Education Committee: Each calendar year 12 \$50 scholarships are available to beekeepers to attend conferences to increase your beekeeping knowledge. You must be a member of CCBA to qualify and give a report on what you learned at the next CCBA meeting or write an article for the newsletter. The Education Committee is Eddie McNutt, Annette Riddell and MacKenzie Preece. Applications are available and are turned into the Education Committee for approval. Copies of applications are available at club meetings. Club approved new committee and scholarships.

Franklin County Fair: Tanya Peers has agreed to judge the honey entries again this year. Judging will be inside this year. Michael Wiley is building a judging podium.

Meeting adjourned 7:52pm. (George motioned/Curt 2nd)

Next Meeting: March 26, 2024

Minutes submitted by Marsha Bezold
CCBA Secretary

CCBA Opportunities

CCBA Monthly Meeting

March 26th, 2024

Business- 6 p.m.

**Program- 6:30 p.m. (Q and A and
Dr. Thomas Webster on what does
a “spotty brood pattern” mean?)**

Franklin County Extension Office

101 Lakeview Ct., Frankfort, KY

***Membership renewal for 2024 is
being accepted.**