



The Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers May 2017

April's CCBK Program: Hive Inspection Turns Swarm Catch

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Our first hive inspection for The Capital City Beekeepers the year was an interesting and informative one. The inspection was led by Wes Henry and John Antenucci and began with a reminder to have a plan



Dan and Wes Light the smoker in prep for the inspections

– what are we going to do when we open the hive and are we prepared to do it? A look to see where we are in honey production, an inspection for possible swarming and over all health of the hive, and if we see the queen, great! We did find honey was in production in both colony's super



Honey super removed, the inspection goes into the brood chamber.

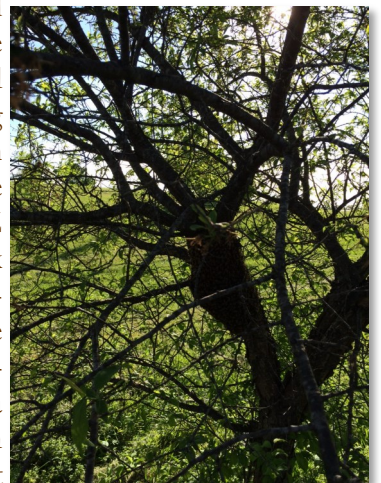
and being capped in the east hive. Half way through the first inspection we were pleasantly interrupted by the discovery of a swarm 50 yards from the apiary half-way up the trunk of flowering



CCBK members observe, inspect, and learn from a brood frame.

crabapple tree. We had equipment on hand to make a split but utilized it to then turn our attention to a demonstration and tips on catching and keeping a swarm.

John and Wes were successful in shaking the swarm into the white "EZ Nuc" box and securing it to the low branches. With a thorough look about the tree and not finding the queen



The hive inspection was interrupted by a discovered swarm near the apiary.

Bee-Lines



Member Mike Swatzyna "hiving" a swarm in his apiary.

CCBK Farmer's Market, May 2017



A little bartering goes on as well-Asparagus for a pound of honey.



Kids Day! Each kid gets a free honey stick at the CCBK booth.

Hive Inspection turn Swarm Catch

and bees making their way into the box, the caught swarm remained in the leaf-we were confident the queen was inside. We also secured a frame of brood from the most vibrant and populous east hive and added it to the swarm with empty frames of pulled comb to give them more of incentive to stay.

With the swarm secured the hive inspections continued and found as we entered the west colony that it was most likely from where the swarm had come from or issued. The signs that pointed to that was not only the close proximity to the swarm but also the were no open brood



John Antenucci (left) holds the nuc box while Wes Henry ready's for the "shake" to hive them.

cells- eggs, or larva. What the colony was capped with a lot of nectar being stored in the empty cells of the brood chamber. The box containing

ing bower of the crab-tree during the rest of the hive inspection and business meeting to allow the remaining bees to enter of their own accord. Afterwards at dusk and all but a few bees enjoying the spring glooming at the entrance were inside. Closing the entrance the box was carefully removed an taken to an apiary at the Forks of the Elkhorn where a feeder was added and set n place to "settle", where after a few days a progress check will be taken. Reports on the hives pro-nectar will be given here and on the FB page and Website.

CCBK Farmer's Market Booth: Our first for 2017

Again, every second Saturday of the month is the Saturday for CCBK members to setup and sale honey, candles, wax, honey made foods, and any other "hive-products" they may have to offer at the [Franklin County Farmer's Market](#). At the April meeting the price was set by the club at 12.00 for 1 lbs. jars and 7.00 for 8 ounce jars of honey. All other sizes of honey and hive product prices are set by the seller.

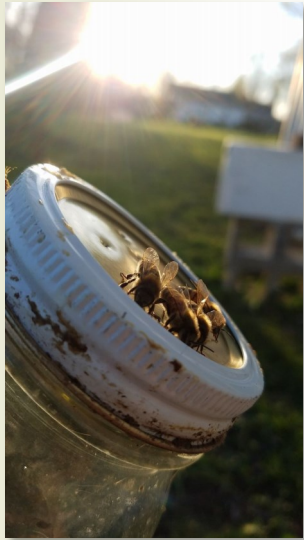


President Ken Daniels and Dan Ramey "man" the booth.

There is a 10.00 sellers fee to the club and helps offset the club's 100.00 annually fee for the booth. The sales and interaction with the community has always been robust and rewarding. Even if you don't have products to sale it's a great time to come participate and visit. May 13th was the first Saturday for our booth. The market was full of eager shoppers. Dan Ramey and Ken Daniels recently extracted and reports that they sold out. 150 honey sticks were given to kids.

Bee-Lines

Evening Feeding



Mason Jar feeders with nail-holes punched in the lid are commonly used as an economical and appropriate feeder not only for nucs but growing colonies that have been moved to full size hive-bodys. They seemingly defy gravity with the vacuum they create. To the cadence of spring peepers the day marched away— a moment in the apiary captured by Morgan Henry- at the refilling of such a feeder in his newly established apiary at the Forks of the Elkhorn.

Yards and Tales

Members and their Apiaries

Mike Swatzyna

This is our first year keeping bees and learning about these amazing creatures. Looking forward to the adventure! We planned to start with only one hive and reluctantly decided to jump in and get two based on recommendations at Bee School. Installing the bees was an exciting proposition that I was excited to un-



Mike started this year with two hives.

“Looking forward to the adventure!”



An exciting surprise for Mike was hiving his first swarm. He now has three colonies.

undertake after watching the video at the March club meeting. All went well until I wouldn't leave well enough alone and stuck my hand in per hive m o v e feeder. stings huge "hamburger Helper" hand (As Karen referred to it) later, we were in business. Fast forward a few weeks and I found my first swarm. With child-like vigor I rushed to Dadant to purchase a hive to house my new f o u n d strays. Nothing is ever as simple as I believe it to be but I felt I was successful However, something went awry and with Wes and his experience as my guide, we concluded that the queen was missing from this hive. Taking Wes' advice, I added a frame of partial brood from one of the other hives and added a new queen this week. Hoping all is well in there now!

Ken Daniels and Dan Ramey

How I and Dan Ramey got started as a beekeeper's, was six years ago on a cold January day. It was during a meal at the church after a funeral and I was sitting next to George Fowler. I asked him if he still had bees? He said he did. Jokingly, I told him I would like to be a beekeeper also. Dan Ramey, also sitting next to me, jumped in and said if I did he would do it with me.



One of two apiaries Dan and Ken manage.

George said if we wanted to get into it we needed to order bees that week. We ordered two packages. We then visited George's apiary after the weather warmed. When I seen all the bees in the hive and flying around us, I wondered, what did we get into?

I wondered, what did we get into?

After losing all the hives the first year things improved to 12 strong hives this year, and a 2nd place for our honey at the State Fair last year.



After losing every hive the first winter Dan and Ken now manage twelve.

Thanks George !!!

Bee-Lines



Use brood frames like this from nucs to give a weak hive a boost and/or replace old comb.

CCBK April Program Swarm Update:

Unfortunately, the swarm caught during the April meeting's Program swarmed again in less than a week. All seemed right but I suppose sometimes when they got "leaving on their mind" you just can't stop them.

"The Spare Tire of the Apiary" A Quick Praise for the Nuc

I've often been warned to "be careful what ya wish for", and this year's swarm season is such. Before it all began I told Penny how I hadn't caught a dog-gone swarm in two years and hoped to get one or two. She reminded me of the warning of old as now not only am I catching but losing too and having to make nucs to keep what I have in check. However, there's power and versatility in the nuc, the "spare tire of the apiary". Every beekeeper should have one or two at their disposal. Need a queen? Need a brood frame or two to boost a hive or help a swarm you've caught? Need to replace a broken or old frame with a new one and with comb already pulled? You got it! And there's time for them to make more. Not only is it a moneysaving thing for yourself, but there's income to be made, either with selling the nuc itself, or Kentucky born and bred queens—queens already acclimated to our climate. And what a teaching opportunity. With less bees they are not as intimidating to beginners or "squeamish" folks who are simply interested. Also, if you had-a mind-to do an experiment or two you can with a nuc, and don't have to risk a production hive to do it. It just may work! In all the nuc is a mighty powerful tool for the beekeeper.

CCBK Minutes April 25th, 2017

The Club met 6 p.m. in the apiary before the business meeting

Wes Henry and John Antenucci led the hive inspection.

A Swarm was found in a crabapple tree next to the apiary and an impromptu lesson on and swarm capture was conducted.

At 7 p.m. Ken Daniels gaveled the business meeting to order and distributed Hive Inspection worksheets.

John Antenucci was invited to conduct the program on "Making nucs/ Splits" before the remainder of the meeting was conducted.

John first made the point of making splits to preventing swarming and to determine the purpose of the split- for either bee or honey production.

For bees: best to make 2-3 splits before June.

For Honey: Split early and once.

He described three methods of making splits/ nucs:

- 1.)walk-away splits.
- 2.)finding queen and making split by adding a queen or allowing the split to make a queen.
- 3.)the "Doolittle Method" of using excluder to allow nurse bees only to migrate onto brood frames to be transferred and adding or allowing to make queen.

Bee-Lines

Dates To Remember:

Next CCBK Meeting-
May 23rd, 2017,
6 p.m., [Franklin County Extension](#), 101 Lakeview Dr., Frankfort, KY

CCBK Saturday Farmer's Market Booth
June 10th, 7:30-12

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

[Franklin County Fair](#),
July 18th-22nd

CCBK Minutes April 25th, 2017 Cont.

John also explained equipment and when to move frames when nuc/split has grown to eighth or tenth frame equipment.

Q and A followed.

After The Program the business meeting continued.

Curt Wallace made a motion to approve minutes from March meeting, George Fowler made the second and the motion was approved.

Treasure's report was read:

Beginning balance of 2712.29

Total receipts- 1242.00

Total Expenditures- 342.00

Available Balance- 3612.29

Treasure's report was approved.

Marsha Bezold gave report on Elkhorn middle school's hive:

Due to extraordinary circumstance the hive will not be complete for auction at the bee package pickup at Dadant's April 28 & 29th.

The club agreed to allow them to complete and hold for auction later

Ken mentioned and distributed hive count sheet from Tammy Horn.

The sheet included: how many years a beekeeper, and how many swarms caught.

Ken announced the first Saturday booth at the Franklin County Farmer's Market will be 5/13/17.

The prices were set by the club: 8 ounce jars- 7.00, 1 lbs. jar- 12.00, all other sizes determined by the seller.

There will be a 10.00 seller's fee. Setup begins at 7:30 am.

George Fowler spoke on the County Fair:

Tasting and sale will be the night of the horse show.

Fair will collect 10% of sales, Proposed Judging to be held Friday night.

Members were encouraged to participate in helping distribute packages at Dadant's April 28-29 9 a.m.

Next meeting 5/23/17.