

The Capital Bee

August/September 2023

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"Face deep!"

Bumbles, one of our native pollinators give us good reason to raise the easy and long blooming Zinnia in our home gardens. Close up, they are as member Marcia Arista calls them, "flying teddy bears".

Beekeeper's Almanac

THE 'KEEP'S TO DO LIST

- ◆ With honey extracted/ the mior mite treatments ought be enforce or completed.
- ◆ Properly store “cleaned” surplus honey comb to prevent moth and mouse damage.
- ◆ Do mite washes to test for efficacy of mite treatments
- ◆ Plan to combine weaker hives with others.
- ◆ Feed colonies light on stores.
- ◆ Consider collecting Fall honey (asters, golden rod, iron weed) on strong hives with lots of stores.



Honey Health Benefits
almanac.com

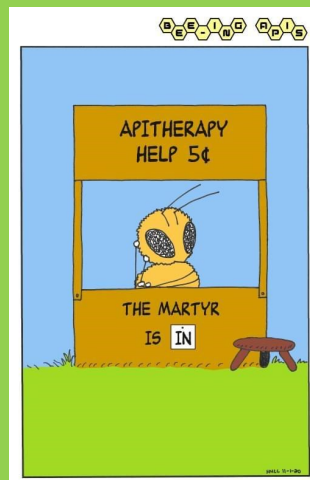
How Does Honey Get its Healing Power?


By Margret Boyles

Cuts, scrapes, scratches, burns, coughs, canker sores, heartburn, stomach upsets, diaper rash—mostly minor ailments, but sometimes painful and always inconvenient—are common occurrences in most households. What to do? Some people reach for the honey! [See the Full Article.](#)

A Record Year For The KSBA Honey Booth →

It's Worth a
Laugh...



 **Kentucky State Beekeepers Association**
Aug 29 · 🌐
What an incredible 2023 **Kentucky State Fair!** It was a record breaking year as we set multiple da... See more



The 2023 KY State Fair Honey Booth was an enormous success. The efforts of the officers of KSBA, CKHP, and all the members of local associations across the state like CCBA made it happen.

[See full details Here.](#)

August/September CCBA Farmer's Market Honey Booth



Five members participated in the Farmer's Market CCBA Honey Booth in August. Left to right- Dan Ramey, Kay Daniels, Annette Riddle, George Fowler and Wes Henry. Sales were good and the conversation and Fellowship good. All members welcome. Next Booth is October 14th.

Six members participated in September, L to R: Kay Daniels, George Fowler, Ted O'Canina. Marsha Bezold. Dan Ramey and Wes Henry are not pictured below. The Observation hive was as always a great draw..

Canaan, Pres. Bondurant FFA, and others help us during their "Farmer for a Day Program". Ted here explains beekeeping to him here pictured below.



2023 Kentucky State Fair



Eight members were able to make the drive to Louisville to work the KSBA honey booth. Left to right: Jack Kuhn, Eddie McNutt, Lynn Morris, Marsha Bezold, George Folwer and Phillip Patterson. Members MacKenzie Preece and Scott Moore are not pictured here.

Secretary Marsha Bezold assists Two children in the making of beeswax candles from wax foundation. It's Always a popular activity at the Hon-



"Try before you buy"., that's the business model at the Honey Booth and Member Eddie McNutt here prepares a sample of honey-of-choice. Fair-goers can select honeys from all parts of the state and usually do



2023 Kentucky State Fair



Above, Eddie, Mackenzie, and Phillip (L to R) interacting with folks as they ask questions and decide what honey or hive products they may want to take home. From honey straws, cut comb, salves and lip balms to extracted honey of every color, and more as you can see, there was a variety as always to choose from around Kentucky.



To the left, Jack Kuhn showing two of the blue ribbons he won at the fair this year. He and Lynn Morris (pictured above) won multiple ribbons with multiple entries in various classes. [See complete list here.](#)



Above: CCBA Fair Liaison Lynn Morris and George Fowler too help fair-goers with their purchase at the KSBA Honey

CCBA

Community Service



In July an email was received from MarcheLe Jenkins, Executive Director of Franklin County Senior Citizens Activity Center asking if the association would be willing to do a presentation on bees and beekeeping. This would be in honor of August 29th being National Honeybee Day. At our July meeting George Fowler and Annette Riddle volunteered to team together and represent the CCBA in the project.



The presentation was made August 30th, with Annette and George presenting a program on beekeeping and honey at the Franklin County activity center. George reports that "The program focused on the life cycle of honey bees, the importance of bees to pollina-

tion, honey production, and the value of choosing local honey. About 30 members of the activity center were present."

Thank you George and Annette for representing us so well.



Combine or Bank?

What to do with small end-of-season colonies

By Wes Henry

I and many others have stressed that we as beekeepers should keep one or more nucs to help maintain our apiaries. If you have attended my presentation on “The Spare Tire of the Beeyard” you know how we can use nucs to help us be more self-reliant for such things as queens, brood, stores and such when needed, not to mention to save us some money.

As has been said, “Why one queen alone can save us forty bucks!”

We now find ourselves however, at a time of year, when Kentucky’s flower, with its fountains of gold, sways in cool pre-autumnal zephyrs, and begin to wonder what then to do with these small and useful colonies; for soon frost will stop any hope of nature’s nectar and pollen until February. They may still be in a five-frame hive body, or a single ten frame painted and finger-jointed box. The bigger question then is, can they survive the coming winter alone with only the stores these configurations allow for?

There is a safer bet, especially since the queen or queens most likely are “young”- less than a year old. Using one of two methods, we can get them through the winter more assuredly than on their own, then able to grow or build-up these colonies quickly to production size in spring, insomuch to even possibly from them make nucs again for maintenance purposes the next year. For now, though, we have decisions to make. Do we Combine or Bank?

To combine we do just that. We can take one colony and combine it with another colony. That other colony can be another weak colony or one with an old queen (to me possibly two years old or more) in need of a new queen. The idea is that it is better to go into winter with one strong colony instead of two weak ones- “cut your losses”. It is better to lose one than two. The most popular and from my experience,

the most successful, has been the ol’ newspaper method. Simply, take a sheet of newspaper and lay across the top bars of one of the colonies take a pocket knife and make a slit or two between a center top bar and set the other on top. The newspaper slows down the process and allows them time to get used to one another.



The ol’ newspaper method of combining

Complete combining takes but a few days and I then remove the remaining paper to save the bees the trouble. This is only one of the many reasons I still support the printed page for my news getting. Just imagine a world without useful newspaper...I resist the thought with head-in-hand.

As for the queens, I can sell one if she is proven still viable and I am always honest with the buyer. I let them know the situation and how old she is. In the words of Kent Williams, “Sometimes a queen is better than *no queen*”. I must agree.

The other is to kill the oldest, less viable, or one with the least attributes you like and keep the other. Some ‘keeps have even just combined them and let them sort it out. I have even had colonies with two queens before. They seemed to stay at opposite sides of the colony and it worked somehow and I wondered, “how they didn’t read that part of the book, did they?”

The other alternative is to “bank” the colony. It’s the same term and premise as banking queens. The beekeeper will draw from the available resources of a stronger colony, without stressing it, to help sustain and get the nuc through a period of time until

they are again able to sustain themselves. This simply means we will use the warmth from a stronger colony to assist in keeping the weaker/ smaller colony- the nuc- warm. The nuc may be able to get through without it, however, It will utilize less resources if it is banked, of both of their stores and energy to survive. Laid by, a colony will be able to conserve these things because they will not need to use as much to keep warm and will be then able to brood-up earlier and spared some stress as well. It is like literally banking money- putting it in a safer place with interest, for later use.

To bank a colony does requires a simple, extra piece of equipment called a double screen board. Some may call these a Snellgrove board too. A true Snellgrove Board, however, has multiple entrances used in the prevention and management of swarming (which is another subject altogether) but can still be used.

Yet, a simple double screen can be made using a piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ plywood with a rim made of $\frac{3}{4}$ " square stock, leaving a space for an entrance. A hole is then cut into the center (a hole saw or jigsaw can do this) and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch hardware cloth is then stapled to both sides covering the hole (see picture). The thickness between the "double screen" doesn't allow the bees to touch and keeps them as two separate colonies. The hole also allows for heat to rise from the lower colony and assist the one above. The entrance is oriented to allow the bees on top to come and go in the opposite direction of the lower entrance of the donor colony.

Which ever you decide to do, it almost goes without writing, that you'll need to move the frames to the size hive body you're combining or banking with if your nuc is in a smaller hive body. Just add frames of comb or foundation to make up the empty space. Comb is preferred as they can store nectar/ syrup immediately. Another alternative is to use what is called a *follower board* or *dummy board*- a solid piece the same length and height of full frame that hangs as the same. It mimics the side of the box. I suggest a search of the internet for more on them and their uses.

Also remember to feed as much as they will

take and store if they need it. At this point it is a 2:1 ratio- two parts sugar to one part water. As I've heard Jack Kuhn conclude before, "It's about all the sugar you can stir into water and it still be liquid".

That thick syrup has less water to be removed by the bees to make it "honey". That means less work and less time to store it in the cells for winter/ early spring use.

To combine or bank truly is one of the most important decisions of the sustainable fall apiary to make with the use of nucs and it takes some courage if that old queen needs to be dispatched. Yet, when the world is green again and the air once more breathes of sweet nectar and pollen, those yesternucs will flex their might either because you chose to take your losses in Autumn or made use of the warmth of another to help get them through for production and/or to make up again a few "spare tires" for the next season's bee-yard.

~Wes



A simple and inexpensive double screen board has many uses one of which is to bank a nuc or smaller colony over winter.

Capital City Beekeepers Association - Treasurer's Report

Prepared on August 17, 2023

General

Beginning Balance (July 21, 2023) \$2252.20

Receipts

Dues (family 1; Individual 1)	\$25.00
Donation	\$5.00
Farmers Mkt sellers fees (July)	\$40.00
Sale of honey straws	\$5.00
Sale of Bumper Sticker	<u>\$2.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$77.00

Expenditures

County Fair Prizes	\$150.00
Donation to County Fair Board	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total Expenditures	\$250.00

Currant Available Balance **\$2079.20**

Checking Account: **\$2029.20**

Cash change fund **\$50.00**

Notes:

Wilson check for July totaled **\$276.50** for four participating members.

The Wilson check for August has not yet been received.

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

Educational Funds (Saving)

Beginning Balance (July 21, 2023) \$908.65

Receipts

Interest (7/31) \$0.12

Total Receipts **\$0.12**

Expenditures

No expenditures this period

Total Expenditures **\$0.00**

Ending Balance **\$908.77**

**Submitted by George
Fowler,
CCBA Treasurer**

Capital City Beekeepers Association - Treasurer's Report

Prepared on September 10, 2023

General

Beginning Balance (August 17, 2023) **\$2079.20**

Receipts

Farmers Mkt sellers' fees (Aug) \$30.00

Sale of honey straws \$3.75

Total Receipts \$33.75

Expenditures

No Expenditures this period

Total Expenditures \$0.00

Currant Available Balance \$2112.95

Checking Account: \$2062.95

Cash change fund \$50.00

Notes:

Wilson check for August totaled \$176.00 for four participating members.

The Wilson check for September has not yet been received.

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

Educational Funds (Saving)

Beginning Balance (August 17, 2023) **\$908.77**

Receipts

Interest (7/31) \$0.12

Total Receipts \$0.12

Expenditures

Purchase of book for Library \$90.63

Total Expenditures \$90.63

Ending Balance \$818.26

Note: Book Purchased – Caron and Connor, *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping*,

Third Edition (2023).

**Submitted by George
Fowler,
CCBA Treasurer**

Capital City Beekeepers Association

Minutes - July 25, 2023

Our club meeting began in the bee yard with Jack Kuhn demonstrating a mite wash. 3 mites were found.

Business Meeting:

*Minutes from June were approved

*George Fowler gave treasurer report: balance as of July 25 was \$2252.20. Upcoming distributions will be fair premiums and fair donation. Treasurer's report was approved.

*July Farmer's Market Honey Booth: were 4 sellers, Wes Henry, George Fowler, Kay Daniels & Dan Ramey. Sales were good. Set up is 7:30 and market is 8:30-12, the 2nd Saturday of month thru November. FUTURE DATES: Frankfort's downtown Candlelight Market will be Nov.9th, 10th, 11th this year and the Farmer's Market Holiday Market will be Dec 9th.

*4-H: McKenzie gave update. 4-H camp has started its own beehives. The local club is rapidly growing and may need to be split into 2 age levels next year. They are looking at 20 members next year. Wes stated that officers would discuss at the next officer's meeting how the club can support the 4-H bee club more.

OLD BUSINESS:

*Franklin Co Fair – Lynne Morris gave update. Had a lot of entries with 44 ribbons passed out and 20 of those were blue. Next year it was suggested by the judge that we have an honorable mention ribbon for kid's entries that do not place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd. George Fowler won Grand Apiarist and Jack Kuhn won Best of Show. Other issues that need to be addressed next year were discussed. Wes passed out premium checks.

George Fowler motioned that we give \$100 to the Franklin Co. Fair Board. Eddie McNutt 2nd. Motion passed.

*State Fair – Scott Moore spoke on the State Fair. They were collecting donations of honey for the various breakfasts. Information on pricing of honey for sale can be found on KSBA website.

*KSBA Fall Meeting – October 28 at Hardin Co. Extension Office. There will be a variety of speakers, they will be listed on the KSBA website. Nominations for KSBA Beekeeper of the Year are due by Oct.1st. Nominations must come from local club, individuals may nominate. There are also officer positions open at KSBA.

*Our club will be working the honey booth at the State Fair on Tuesday Aug 22nd. Shift is from 10am to 3pm. We will meet at the Frankfort Walmart parking lot at 7:30am to carpool there. Anyone planning on working needs to let myself or Wes know so that we can make sure we have enough tickets. THERE WILL NOT BE A CLUB MEETING IN AUGUST BECAUSE OF OUR WORKING STATE FAIR.

*OCTOBER MEETING will be our annual potluck. Will be Oct 24th. We set up at 5pm and will begin at 6pm. We will need contributions of door prizes and help setting up and cleaning up.

*2024 Officer Nominations - Are coming up and all positions are open for anyone interested and we are always in need of fresh faces on the board. Please be thinking about if you would be willing to serve.

*4-H bee club is still meeting on Tuesday August 22nd if anyone is interested in helping. They meet at 5pm. There is no meeting in August for CCBA.

George Fowler motioned to adjourn, Denise Boebinger 2nd.

Next club meeting September 26.

Minutes submitted by Marsha Bezold, Secretary

Note: There will be no August Meeting Minutes due to the meeting being cancelled because the Kentucky State Fair Honey Booth work day was the same as the CCBA monthly meeting day.

CCBA Opportunities

Regular July CCBA Meeting

Sept. 26th, 2023

Program 6 pm, Business Mtg. 7 pm

Franklin County Extension Office

101 Lakeview Ct., Frankfort, KY

CCBA Honey Booth

Franklin County Farmer's Market

October 14th, 2023, 8:30-12

404 Wilkinson Blvd., Frankfort, KY

Setup 7:30 a.m.



CCBA Annual Potluck

October 24th, 2023

Franklin County Extension Office

101 Lakeview Ct., Frankfort, KY

**Please RSVP to forthcoming email*

**Meat and Drinks provided, Members/ Attendees to bring sides and desserts.*

**Phil Craft, guest speaker.*

KSBA Fall Conference

October 28th, 2023

111 Opportunity Way

Elizabethtown, KY 42701

