

Capital City

Bee-Lines

The Official Newsletter for The Capital City beekeepers November 2017

Capital Bee News

Collective Supply Order

Dadant's New Manager

2018 Membership

Kevin Hale Speaks:

**Tips for 100 pounds of honey From
each hive**

**Candlelight Tour
2017**

**CCBA October
Minutes
Dates to
Remember**

Giving
Thanks
for the
Drone



2017 CANDLELIGHT TRADITION



The Old Marcus Furniture store (above) on Saint Clair Street, was the location for the club to setup during the the 2017 Candle-

light Tradition in downtown Frankfort. It is the kickoff to the Christmas Shopping season in Frankfort for the 37th year and CCBA

day and Friday evenings and sales and interaction with the public was reported as ro-bust.



John Antenucci interacts with Folks stopping by CCBA's candlelight booth.

has been a participant for many years now. Besides honey sales, members also donated honey for a tasting (below) that was conducted to showcase the variety of aromas, colors, and tastes of local honeys. Information about bees and pollinators and honey recipes were also free for the taking. The hive products were offered Thurs-



Jack Kuhn selling his honey at Candlelight.



CAPITAL BEE NEWS

CCBA SUPPLY RUN ORGANIZED

THE TREMENDOUS CONVENIENCE AND PRIVILEGE OF A BEEKEEPING SUPPLIER IN FRANKFORT WAS REALIZED BY THE MEMBERS OF CCBA AND ALL BEEKEEPERS IN THE NEAR AREA WHEN DADANT'S FRANKFORT BRANCH CLOSED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. MANY BEEKEEPERS IN NEED OF SUPPLIES, I.E. WINTER PATTYS, BOTTLES AND SYRUP, APPRECIATED THE ADVANTAGES OF ASSOCIATION AS AN ORGANIZED AND A COLLECTIVE ORDER TO KELLEY BEEKEEPING WAS MADE BY CCBA. MEMBERS MADE AND PAID FOR THEIR ORDERS BY PHONE USING THE CLUB'S ACCOUNT FOR PICKUP ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH. PRESIDENT KEN DANIELS AND MICHAEL WILEY MADE THE EARLY MORNING DRIVE TO CLARKSON, KENTUCKY TO COLLECT THE ORDER. THANKS GOES TO **JOHN ANTENUCCI (RIGHT)** FOR ALLOWING DISTRIBUTION OF THE ORDER AT THE KENTUCKY FARM BOUNTY HONEY HOUSE ON WILKINSON BLVD.



DADANT'S FRANKFORT BRANCH REOPENS



**Andrew Fogg, Dadant's
Frankfort branch Manager**

In an email to customers, Nick Dadant announced the return of normal business operations of Dadant's Frankfort Branch beginning Monday, November 20th. He also introduced beekeepers to Andrew Fogg as the new manager " [who] is at the branch now getting things organized and staff in place...and are looking forward to meeting you and serving your beekeeping needs". Nick encouraged folks to feel free to drop by or give Andrew a call. As before, normal business hours at the branch are Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. The officers of CCBA hope to have Andrew attend our next regular meeting and introduce himself.

CAPITAL BEE NEWS

2018 DUES NOW BEING TAKEN

The last meeting of 2017 for the [Membership for the Kentucky State Capital City Beekeepers Association](#) [Beekeepers Association](#) as well and will be November 28th, 2017 at the when we do you help the CCBA in Franklin County Extension Office that we get two dollars in doing so in Frankfort. Some members have from KSBA. You can bring your been very proactive and have al- check or cash and KSBA and/or ready “re-uped”- paid their 2018 CCBA application to the November membership dues. If you are cur- meeting and have those benefits of rently a member there is no need to association continued on into 2018. fill out an [application found on our website](#) . Also we collect and process al plate.

100 POUNDS OF HONEY ON AVERAGE FROM EACH HIVE!

KEVIN HALE SPEAKS AT ANNUAL POTLUCK

The regularly scheduled business meeting and annual potluck for CCBA was held at the Franklin County Extension office Tuesday, October 24th, with guest speaker Kevin Hale giving a great program on his “100 # per Hive Honey Production” presentation. In addition to this he also presented the attendees with information on Fall Management and Over Wintering. The honey production handouts are reprinted here on the following pages. It makes for good planning during the “down season” for the 2018 season to come.

10/24/17

Capital City Beekeepers
October 24th, 2017
Kevin Hale
www.haleshoney.com

100# Per Hive Honey Production

Keys to Honey Production

- Apiary location
- Know when the flow starts in your area
- Strong bee populations
- Nutrition and feeding
- Control disease and pests (mites)
- Swarm management
- **WEATHER**

For Maximum Honey Production

- **You must have strong overwintered colonies**
- August thru December is most critical time for preparing bees for spring honey flow
 - Fall bees must be strong and healthy
 - Highest mite counts usually August to December
 - Build up bees for winter with syrup and sugar/protein patties
 - September and October bees are winter bees
- **Winter feeding should never be considered emergency feed**
 - Winter is not a survival time, just another phase in beekeeping.
 - Late December thru March I use sugar blocks and sugar/protein blocks on top frames in 3" spacer
- **I am a firm believer of providing protein all winter**

Spring Buildup

- Know when honey flow in your area starts
- **Your foraging bees must be built up before the flow starts**
- **Number one reason for weak honey crop is the bees build up on the flow**
- Start feeding 1:1 syrup mid-February until honey flow begins
 - 1:1 syrup stimulates queen and bees to start rearing brood
- Start feeding protein patties mid-February until honey flow begins
 - Queen requires protein to lay eggs
- Around first or second week of March inspect hive and evaluate queen
 - March 1st I want 7-8 frames bees minimum, 1250 average each side, so 2500 per frame
 - Russian bees can be an exception to this, they usually have less
- Depends on temperature, need 3-4 days a week in mid to high 50's for inspection
- Want to see 3-4 frames brood (a frame with 70% brood is about 2300 cells each side (6500 cells total on deep frame) so that is 4600 bees to hatch per frame (4 frames = 18400 baby bees)
- Egg to forager is 42 days
- Inspect again in 2 weeks, **want increase in bees and brood frames, DOUBLED**
- Grade bees A-C and record frames of brood

- A's and B+'s are your honey producers
- B's and C's should be combined with A's, re-queened or make nucs from them with new queens
- **Remember you must have a STRONG colony of bees to produce honey**
 - You want 60,000 plus bees around first of May if possible for main honey flow
 - One large colony 60,000 bees will out produce two colonies of 30,000 bees by 70%
- Combine hives if necessary to create a strong honey production hive
- Boost a weak hive with a overwintered nuc
 - brood and bees
- Re-queen a weak Spring hive ASAP
 - One of the main reasons to overwinter a couple nucs
- Spare queens when needed

Swarming

- Congestion
- Weak queen pheromone (queen perfume)
- Lack of egg laying space (honey bound)

Swarm Prevention

- If you find swarm cells, break hive down into nucs.
 - Almost impossible to remove all swarm cells and control swarming urge once started
- Reverse hive bodies
 - Need nightly temperatures averaging around 50 degrees
 - Don't separate a cluster
 - Reverse more than once if necessary
- Re-arrange frames, create queen laying space, keep her laying in the center and in bottom box
- Equalizing brood / swapping frames of brood from strong hive to weaker hive
 - Brood frames with bees or without bees (depends on hive strength)
- Remove honey if necessary to provide laying space
- Have young queens
- Add supers of drawn comb, foundation doesn't work
- Remove old queen and re-queen

Honey Flow Management

- Have 3 boxes of pulled comb on every honey hive by April 15th tax day
 - Helps to prevent swarming
 - Ready when the flow starts
 - Nectar starts out at about 80% water and bees process it to 18.5% to create honey. You must have extra storage space for the nectar storage until bees can process it.
- I only use excluders if necessary and only my modified version
- A super of honey is the best excluder
- Install ventilation spacers
- Remove Screen Bottom Boards by May 1st
- If using foundation, use only one super at a time
 - When foundation is 60-70% pulled, add another super on bottom

- 8# of honey required to produce 1# wax (1# wax about 4-5 medium pulled combs)
- Medium super requires approximately 2 pound wax or 16# honey
- At \$6.00 pound, box of foundation cost you \$96 in lost honey
- use one or more hives to pull foundation only and then move to honey hives
- **Once honey flow starts Leave Them Alone**
- I harvest three times a year
 - 1st June, July 4th and August 1st
- All supers off by August 1st
- Place extracted supers back on hives for additional honey or for cleanup
- As soon as last supers pulled I feed all honey hives 4-5 gallon syrup and 2 or more sugar/protein patties
- Treat for mites (this is when mites are at their worst)
- Continue to feed 1:1 if necessary
- August is usually a very poor month for nectar
- Continue to feed sugar/protein patties
- Watch out for Robbing

Recipes

- **Protein/ Sugar Patties: Fed in the Spring**
 - 9 cups AP 23 protein powder
 - 3 cups sugar
 - Add enough 1:1 or 2:1 syrup to make consistence of peanut butter and form into patties on wax paper.
- **Sugar/ Protein Patties: Fed in summer and fall**
 - 3 cups AP 23 protein powder
 - 9 cups sugar
 - Add enough 1:1 or 2:1 syrup to make consistence of peanut butter and form into patties on wax paper.
- **Hard Sugar Blocks: Fed in the winter**
 - 1 quart water
 - 12 lb. sugar (24 cups)
 - 6 teaspoons Honey B Healthy
 - Five 7" x7" x1.25" cake pans or five 9" pie pans (makes five 3 lb. pans)
 - Heat water to boil, add Honey B Healthy, add sugar and mix, heat to 250 deg. mixing occasionally, remove from heat and let cool to 210 deg., stir quickly and pour into pans, let harden (don't let it get to hard while cooling or you can't pour it)
- **Hard Sugar/ Protein Blocks: Fed in the winter**
 - 1 quart water
 - 12 lb. sugar (24 cups)
 - 3 cups protein powder (I use AP 23 protein powder from Dadant)
 - 6 teaspoons Honey B Healthy
 - Five 7" x7" x1.25" cake pans or five 9" pie pans (makes five 3 lb. pans)
 - Heat water to boil, add Honey B Healthy, add sugar and mix, heat to 250 deg. mixing occasionally, remove from heat add protein powder and mix in quickly. Once mixed, pour into pans, let harden.

Giving Thanks for the Drone

Having started my winter reading a bit soon this season with *“The Life of Langstroth”*, by Florence Naile, I happened on an article published in March 1888 for *The American Bee Journal* and *Gleanings in Bee Culture* of “the poor slandered drone”. Langstroth records the drone’s self-defense- his cause for justification. Though a jocular essay of yester-keeping, it becomes for the reader in a very subtle way, an opportunity to learn true biological fact profitable for “newbees” today.

In all, it began me to thinking of how indeed the drone has received too often the proverbial “short end of the stick”. We tend to be all consumed with the ladies of the commonwealth- queens and workers- their hygienic behaviors, virility, laying patterns, honey and pollen gathering, and a host of other attributes of the feminine prodigy. However, we gloss over the importance of the drone and liken him to a lazy, all consuming, loaf. I too am guilty, and it makes for an easy laugh to depict them as living like a rock star- eat, mate, and die.

It is true, the drone doesn’t assist in the daily labors of the hive. He is the male of the colony and unlike the lady-workers, does not have the glands to produce nor the ability to work wax. Though he too has hairs covering his body, he yet lacks the pollen sacs- corbicula- to collect the blossom-powder and deliver it to be stored colorfully among the combs. His proboscis or “tongue”, is also too short to forage for nectar, and forget chinking the first crack or glossing the innards of the habitation with the antiseptic propolis. Having no sting, he can not even help defend his home. If that weren’t enough, it goes without saying in matters of hygiene,

that he couldn’t even get his fat rear-end into a worker cell to clean it if he tried!

Yet, as Langstroth conveys, “...to the best of my ability,” says *Sir Drone*, “I fulfill the express purpose for which I was born.” For that, in the spirit of the season, we ought all be thankful.

His shortcomings notwithstanding, he sallies-forth from the hive when the sun is well up, and with as much purpose as the indefatigable foragers. He goes to meet up with others of his kind. We call them drone congregation areas the number of which are anywhere from a few hundred to a few thousand, and the sound they make as they fly about in this place, is described as to that of a swarm. It is here that virgin queens seek out and are then pursued by a group of drones until one overcomes her, partakes of the nuptials and suddenly his bitter pill is swallowed. Yet, upon his death, his spermatozoa is collected by the queen making her a viable mother her entire life, the life of the hive. As the worker, he has gives his all. Successful, he never returns to his home. In the words of Langroth’s defendant, “*While I know most of the young queens come safely back from their wedding excursions, I can not help foreboding the worst, when I see that no drone ever returns to tell of his experience.*”

It is what we are thankful for, without him, as the other castes and chores of “beedom”, the honey bee would cease to exist. And we, even us ‘keeps that look forward to the making of splits and that time for the rearing of queens, watch with anticipation to the first flying drones. It is the beekeeper’s harbinger that winter’s death is again broken and spring’s renewal is at hand. ~Wes

CCBA Minutes

October 24th, 2017

The annual potluck began at 6:00 p.m. with the invocation being given by Wes Henry.

Thanks to all the members who supplied a wonderful host of side-dishes and desserts with the smoked brisket.

Thanks also to Marsha Bezold, and Ken and Kay Daniels who setup and decorate, and to John Antenucci for working with Gibby's and delivering the brisket, and all who donated door prizes.

Kevin Hale was our keynote speaker for the night.

Kevin did an outstanding job explaining his approach for producing 100 lbs. average of honey per hive and Fall management.

After Kevin's presentation President Ken Daniels gaveled the club into regular business meeting.

Dadant's hopefully temporary closure was discussed and a suggestion for a joint club order from Kelly's and delivery by the first weekend in November.

Club to be emailed details.

Treasurer Jack Kuhn gave a treasurer's report and distributes honey checks from Wilson's Nursery.

The club has an ending balance of \$2554.01

The Candlelight Tour was discussed

Scheduled for 11/9-10, 5-9:30 p.m., setup Thursday 11/9- 3-4 p.m.

CCBA to setup in old Marcus Furniture Bldg.

Farmer's Market Booth to be 11/11/17, 7:30 a.m.- noon.

Ken reminded that the KSBA Fall meet is 11/4, Hopkinsville, KY

Ken then informed the club that John Antenucci had contacted Ruth Jeffries (Bluegrass beekeepers) about the Bluegrass Bee School and Tom Webster with KSU had also been contacted to confirm the school will be conducted in March.

Marsha Bezold will take lead.

Before adjourning, members were told that officer elections, more of BFF, and that the last meeting of the year will be 11/28.

Business meeting was adjourned and the Drawing for door prizes then began to close the evening festivities.

Dates to Remember

Next CCBK Meeting-

November 28th, 2017,

6 p.m., Franklin County Extension, 101

Lakeview Dr., Frankfort, KY

Beekeeping 101, December 2, 2017

Kelley Beekeeping, Clarkson, Ky

No December Meeting for CCBA