

# Capital City Bee-Lines

The Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers

October 2017

In the  
CCBK  
Apiary

Summer's  
Last Rose-  
Autumn's  
Asters

October's Farmer's Market  
September Minutes  
Dates to Remember

The  
Beekeeper's  
Calendar:  
John's Holiday  
Reminders



## In the CCBK Apiary September's Program

Members met outback in the apiary for the Program segment of the September meeting. Treasurer Jack Kuhn led the inspections and focused on things you should be doing now including checking feeding, honey stores, supers (if any on), protecting supers, mite control, and mouse defense.

Before opening the hives Jack focused on feeding and the use of top and internal feeder. Jack concluded that no matter which feeder you choose to use, feeding 2:1 sugar syrup or pure fructose is what should be being fed now. The feed will allow the bees to put away capped stores with less effort than the 1/1 syrup.



Members and Jack then donned their veils and popped the tops and found good capped stores in the hives. Supers that were still being worked by the bees where left on to collect the golden rod and asters then in bloom and would be later removed for extracting.

## In the CCBK Apiary September's Program

With coming cold weather members were reminded to reduce the entrances of their hive against mice. A warm dry place with food is very inviting to a brown field mouse. To say the least, when you go to do spring maintenance you do not want to find the stinky mess of over wintered mice, which also, gnaw on frames and other woodenware. Mice will eat and destroy the wax as well. Though many products can be used to prevent mice entering the hive, Jack demonstrated using common wooden reducers and installed



Pests including moths and mites were then discussed in the yard. First, with supers to be extracted they must then be prepared and stored properly to preserve the drawn comb from the ravages of wax moth to be used again by the bees come spring. It has been calculated that it requires seven pounds of honey for bees to produce a pound of wax, not to mention the time. Jack encouraged members to use Paramoth, never use moth balls, and to seal them, in containers or in plastic wrap. The October 2016 issue has a detailed process given by Ken Daniels and George Fowler.

## In the CCBK Apiary September's Program

Before ending the program and inspections, Jack reminded us that the hives in the club's apiary had already been treated for mites and urged to continue beetle treatments and warned all that if their colonies had not been that it is getting very late and as a matter of fact should have already been done so for their sake and their neighbor's. Hives that haven't been treated or done so ineffectively, can be what has become what are called "mite bombs" as they become weak and die. The stores from these hives will then be robbed by others bees and mites can then be carried back to robbing colonies and infect them. It is suggested then to use a "clean up" treatment of oxalic acid (OA) in November. OA only kills exposed mites and this time of year there should be very little capped brood and mites are exposed. OA is applied by the use of a vaporizer or "drench". Whether drench or vaporizer "its better than doing nothing!", said Eddie McNutt. Jack reiterated Eddie's statement enthusiastically.



Untreated, hives can be become  
"Mite Bombs"

## “Summer’s Last Rose”

### Autumn’s Asters

Sulfur Lick road lies just before or past Peaks Mill, depending on which way you’re coming from. It follows the branch for which it’s named, a place between the ridges. Just past Turkey Branch where you once drove across the creek ledge, my grandparents lived. Many a childhood memory is there, whether on the hills or the rock strewn beds of the tributaries that split them. As a beekeeper, my grandmother’s memory is brought to bear this time of year with the aster blossom.

“Summer’s Last Rose”, she’d call ‘em. It fits.

The once bright hillsides and unkempt places now are now dulled with the fronds of the spent goldenrods. Like patches of snow, it is Liz’s “last rose” that herald’s the end of nectar ‘til spring.

Asters are actually a part of 180 species of fragrant and multicolored flowering plants in the family *Asteraceae*. Their name, comes from the Greek word meaning “star” and refers to their star like shape. It makes me think of the word *astronomical*.

As in all families there is a black sheep and in the aster family that’s the Alpine Asters (*Aster Alpinus*). All but these flower in late summer and fall which do so come May and June. Yet, all are used by a number of insects besides bees, including butterflies and moths and their larva, and in turn like many flowering plants, depend on them for pollination. Interestingly, Bushy Aster seeds look like tiny parachutes and are spread by the wind. Just look around before the first killing freeze while checking the heft of top-box stores and installing mouse guards, and enjoy the beauty of these last wild flourishes– Summer’s Last Rose. -Wes

When goldenrods have faded it is persistent and diverse Aster that bring the last of Autumn’s flow.



Member Michael Wiley setup and ready to offer the golden goodness from his hives.

# OCTOBER'S FARMER'S MARKET



Treasurer and member Jack Kuhn was setup on the sunny side on the crisp Autumn Morning.

“The exact condition of every stock should now be known...” -Langstorth’s Hive and the Honey-Bee, Bee Kepper’s Calendar, October.

## A Central Kentucky Beekeepers Calendar: What to do and when based on popular holidays.

*“The beekeepers year begins properly with October...”*

- Tickner Edwardes *“Bee-keeping For All”*

John Antenucci shared with the club at the August when”, is of great help to all us ‘keeps. The following is meeting his strategy of beekeeping management and a summary from my notes and if any corrections or ad-how he uses the popular holidays of the year to imple- dendum are needed, the will be forth coming. John ment his method. He has over the years proven its use- agrees with “the bee-man of Burpham” that October-fulness. Using holidays as reminders of “what to do and Halloween in particular– is The Beekeeper’s New Year.

<p><u>Columbus Day-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove supers</li> <li>Begin feeding 2-1 sugar syrup on hives light of stores</li> <li>Merge weak hives with stronger ones</li> <li>Requeen if necessary</li> </ul>	<p>Equipment prepared for spring splits (assemble, clean, paint, caulk)</p> <p><u>President’s Day-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin feeding 1-1 sugar syrup</li> <li>On a warm day 60 degrees or more, open colonies and take stock, determine what can be split.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Tax Day-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treat new split for varroa (Apivar)</li> <li>Continue feeding 1-1 especially splits</li> <li>Splits can now probably requeen themselves (mature drones should be about)</li> </ul>
<p><u>Halloween- “The Beekeepers New Year”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check and balance stores and brood</li> <li>Last time to merge weak hives</li> <li>Ventilate top covers</li> <li>Continue to feed 2-1 sugar syrup if needed</li> <li>Remove beetle traps</li> <li>Reduce entrance/ install mouse guards.</li> </ul>	<p><u>“Dandelion Day” (when first Dandelion’s appear)-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earlies to begin to seriously thinking of doing splits.</li> <li>Have mated queens ready for early splits</li> <li>Do Hive maintenamce, reverse boxes (empty boxes on top- brood and stores in bottom)</li> </ul>	<p><u>Derby Day-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep a check on swarming.</li> <li>Continue feeding new colonies 1-1 syrup.</li> <li>Black Locust blooming, have Super on now!</li> </ul> <p><u>Memorial Day-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep Swarming in check and make splits.</li> <li>Check supers and add more if needed</li> </ul>
<p><u>Thanksgiving-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place winter patties on top bars above cluster (they may be in lower hive-body) and enjoy the holidays</li> </ul>	<p><u>St. Patricks Day-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stop feeding patties (freeze whats left for future use)</li> <li>Get supers ready.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Summer solstice-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check bottom boxes for brood and stores and rotate if they’re empty.</li> <li>Check queen- good laying pattern?</li> </ul>
<p><u>New Years-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check and place more winter patties again where the cluster is.</li> </ul>	<p><u>April Fool’s Day-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do splits</li> <li>Inspect for drone brood (expect drones by mid April)</li> </ul>	<p><u>Summer- July and August-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pull honey supers and extract</li> <li>Treat for mites.</li> <li>Begin summer feeding especially in dearth. (2-1 for production hives for Fall flow)</li> </ul>
<p><u>Martin Luther King Day-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin to add Brood/Pollen patties unless still very cold</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add supers on production hives</li> <li>Begin being diligent about swarm control (queen cells, larva in queen cups?)</li> </ul>	<p><u>Labor Day-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fall supers on hives with stores for winter.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Valentines Day-</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requeen poorly performing queens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check mite count after treatments.</li> </ul>

**CCBK Minutes**

**September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Program**

Jack Kuhn led the program in the apiary and focused on what to be doing in the next several weeks to prepare the hives for winter.

**Business Meeting**

Business meeting opened at 7 p.m.

Ken Daniels discussed the queen classes available at the KSU Farm and The Annual Craft Fair in Lawrenceburg.

No minutes for August meeting to approve (no business meeting in August)

Treasure's report was given by Jack Kuhn

Beginning Balance- 2449.29

Total receipts- 331.75

Total expenditures- 391.75

Available balance 2389.29

Thanks was given to all who helped at the State Fair. Club made \$158.72 for working from KSBA.

Farmer's Market Booth reminder to all for 10/4

Potluck (10/24) was discussed and signup sheet distributed

Confirmed Club will furnish meat, flatware and plates and cups and drinks.

Members to bring sides and desserts

Kevin Hale to be speaker, a vote to pay 50.00 in appreciation passed.

Door prizes were solicited.

2018 Bluegrass Bee School Discussed

John Antenucci to contact Bluegrass Beekeepers for planning.

George Fowler announced that Library was available and asked for any who had donations for books.

John Antenucci discussed 2017 Candlelight Tour.

Club to have booth in Old Marcus Furniture Bldg. on St.Clair Mall

Club to setup 11/9, selling 11/9 and 11/10. Saturday 11/11 TBD.

Members encouraged to bring honey for tasting even if not selling.

Nomination sheets for 2018 officers was distributed and collected.

Officer will be elected in October and announced in November.

KSBA Fall meeting was announced 11/4/17 in Hopkinsville, KY

Next Meeting 10/24/2017 (Annual Potluck), meeting adjourned with Q&A from the floor and fellowship.



## Dates to Remember

Next CCBK Meeting– Annual Potluck

October 24th, 2017,

6 p.m., Franklin County Extension, 101 Lakeview Dr., Frankfort, KY

KSBA Fall Meeting

November 4th, 2017,

Christian County Cooperative Extension Office, Hopkinsville, KY

Frankfort Candlight Tradition (Candlelight Tour)

November 9-11, 2017,

(CCBK booth, Old Marcus Furniture Bldg.)

311 St. Clair Street, Frankfort, KY

CCBK Saturday Farmer's Market Booth

November 11th, 2017

7:30 a.m.-12 noon