

Capital City Bee-Lines

The Newsletter for The Capital City Beekeepers

September 2017



CCBK
at the
Kentucky
State Fair

FEATURE ARTICLE:

Still have
Nucs, Now
What?

Golden Rod Fun Facts and
uses
August Minutes
Dates to Remember

The
Beekeeper's
Calendar:
John's Holiday
Reminders

Nucs in the Fall, Now what?

-Wes Henry

It is a time in the "bee-year" when we are preparing for the long winter dearth and all that comes with it in Kentucky. The season for making increases, catching swarms, putting supers on and extracting, treating for varroa mites (You have haven't you?) and other spring/summer activities are all but over. Whether there are enough stores- honey for the most part- and that there are plenty of healthy bees now and in the process of developing and emerging to last until the first dandelions of spring or not pervade our minds now, and if you're fortunate enough you may have a honey-super or two still on in the hopes of catching some of a fall flow. Afterwards, we then can take a well-deserved rest from our work in the yards though it won't take long when the green's all but gone... to miss the bees.

In all the prep and maintenance for survival, I find myself however, still with a nuc in a deep box. It's a hodge-podge of frames- six deeps, one with freshly "pulled comb", and four empty mediums. To my thinking I'd rather store those mediums there from a failed nuc and keep out the moths for now. I've placing them in the 1-2 and 9-10 position, on the outsides, that they'll have a mind to fill them with stores of honey. I do have one all medium colony I could use them for. I keep my options open.

This nuc was once a swarm, a growing colony that after about two months swarmed again. Allowed to requeen itself, it's now a nuc... in the Fall, and I find myself asking, "Now what?"

It seems I've asked myself that question all season with this colony. When it swarmed I didn't accept defeat. Instead of lemons, I took fermented honey and made mead, you might say. Much of the pulled comb I used to boost a growing colony from another swarm-catch and having added the second deep with foundation I moved that to another growing colony

But again, it's Fall, now what? First, take inventory. What's in the box? What's the health of the bees? How many frames of brood, honey/ pollen are in there? Have they been treated for mites? How's the queen's performance? Where are we on the calendar?

Those questions will help me to determine if I want to keep and try to overwinter this nuc, especially if I have a good queen. To do so I need to be feeding 2-1 syrup if the stores are lacking. I have a ten frame box and I can feed heavy and get them to lay up 6-7 frames of honey (app. 35-40 pounds). And I might want to use a double screen atop a strong hive to help heat this one. The options and considerations are many with

Still having a nuc or two when you see these harbingers of Fall is a great advantage, you just need to decide what, to do.



that needed the room.

overwintering nucs. I know my friend Jim Coss does each year and with success. Like every winter for bee-keepers, he says he may lose some but for the most part they make it with some diligence.

However, as the leaves begin to blush along the hillsides and with the nuc being the “spare tire of the apiary” (see the May, 2017 newsletter), we therefore have a wealth of resources on hand to the help the greater good if needs be. Knowing what’s in the box, I think it more important we ask ourselves, “What do the other colonies need?”

For instance, I quickly stopped by one of my out apiaries recently. I can quickly watch the coming and going and get good feel if things are most likely ok. I noticed one hive I still had a honey super on, seemed to have declined. There just wasn’t as many bees it seemed from what had been there before, one that is a production hive in particular. I broke my own cardinal rule. I quickly “popped” the top with no veil- I had no other equipment either- I hadn’t gone out with the intention of working bees. It passed the smell test, nor did as many bees greet me on entry as usual. I could look no farther. I would return tomorrow.

Driving home I thought on it. Has something happened to the queen? “I had just treated for mites”, I reminded myself,

but the queen seemed ok afterwards.

“In all the prep and maintenance for survival, I find myself however, still with a nuc in a deep box.”

“Had they

swarmed?” I questioned myself.

“Late seasons swarms do happen,” I was thinking out loud by now.

If so, I found some peace of mind remembering the nuc in the yard at the Forks. It would be a little easier on my worn-out wallet too, with a viable young queen on hand.

A weak colony is another scenario to consider here. Now’s the time to give it a boost with a frame or two of brood. Better yet, a sheet of newspaper and I can merge the two. The challenge is determining which is the better queen and dispatching the lesser. As Larry Conner says, she would “run into my hive tool”.

Of course if they just needed brood because of a late start, and another colony could use a new queen, I have resources to meet both those needs. I could even split the stores with another colony if they were running a little low this late in the season. That’s three fixes for the entire operation and a fourth might be the deep hive body may be in better shape than another that needs replacing or brought into the shop for a fresh cote or repair which brings its own therapy... Start the Kerosene heater, then feel the wood and smell the wax and propolis mixed with fresh white paint on finger joinery. It’s the perfect remedy when the snow flies and the wind bites- for that wintered cooped up feeling- recollecting you answered rightly the question... “What now?” I suppose then that nuc will have helped more than those clustered colonies, as well the mind, body and soul of the keeper. -Wes



CCBK and 2017 Kentucky State Fair



Above, CCBK members stayed busy giving out taste samples, answering questions, and selling honey at the Kentucky State Beekeepers honey booth on Tuesday of the fair. From far to near is George Fowler, Ken Daniels, Jack Kuhn, and . The club earns a portion of the sales for working the booth.

CCBK members Michael Wiley left, and Jan Rafert worked with those visiting the honey and Bees section of the Fair, with candle making. Folks could buy tickets to make their own rolled candle using a sheet of beeswax .



The educational display at the honey and bees area included many colorful displays of information on the life cycle of bees, the three castes of bees-queen, worker and drone- as well as bee anatomy. One could learn of varroa mites and all the work in a beekeeper's year. A video for folks to watch while they'd "take a load off" from fair-going played continuously, and were even encouraged to "Ask how you can become a beekeeper".

CCBK winners at State Fair

Congratulations are in order again for CCBK members Ken Daniels And Dan Ramey. They were awarded a white ribbon at the 2017 Kentucky State Fair. For their entry into the four one pound jars of white extracted honey.



**See all the 2017 Kentucky State Fair
Bees and Honey Entry Results here.**



2017 American Honey Queen, Maia Jaycox of Webster City, Iowa was on hand at this year's state fair. She is a sophomore at Iowa State University and has an interest in biology. Maia began beekeeping with her family about four years ago and manages now seven colonies of her own. She also dances, likes to paint, and sews in her spare time. When asked, she admitted that she was enjoying her first time in Kentucky.

A blue ribbon was awarded to Tyler Blair of Cumberland County, for this exquisite capped top bar frame of amber honey (right). He also was awarded the blue for another in the light capped honey frame class. Being top bar, there is no foundation – the bees make the entire comb, and the display itself made it quite a site to behold.



The observation hive is always a big attraction at any event. This one lull moment allowed the opportunity to take a quick picture. As can be seen the brood frame was covered with the medium frame above being worked by the bees in the process of making or "pulling comb". As always, the desire to see the queen is the greatest thrill of all.

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

8 Goldenrod Fun Facts

1. Goldenrod is the state flower of; Alabama, Kentucky and Nebraska

2. There are 25 species of goldenrod including one of the rarest plants on earth which was thought to be extinct “Short’s Goldenrod” (*Solidago shortii*) and is known presently to exist in only two locations in the world; a disjunct population in southern Indiana and within a 2-square-mile area near Blue Licks in Kentucky.

3. Thomas Edison made tires for his Model T ford that was given to him by his friend Henry Ford using rubber from the Goldenrod plant

4. One goldenrod (*Solidago bicolor*) is white in color

5. Cluster galls are a species indicator because they are found specifically on the Canadian Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)

6. The Goldenrod midge fly only produces eggs of one sex its entire life, never both sexes.

7. The Goldenrod is one of the most effective treatments for Urinary Tract



Golden Rod (*Solidago*) is the last great nectar flow of the beekeeping year and happening now. Though important to bee survival through winter’s dearth, there are other truths and facts– trivia if you will- upon a closer look. Golden rod tea, Who knew?

infections

8. Its scientific name “Solidago”

means to make whole or heal.

Medicinal uses of Goldenrod tea:

Soothes Sore throats Gargle

Flushes out Kidney and bladder stones

Treats Urinary tract infections

Aids in digestion Combats fatigue

Diuretic/aquaretic agent to flush out excess water

Soothes various body inflammations

Soothes Arthritis/rheumatism Reduce allergies

Reduces cold and flu symptoms

Gargle for Laryngitis or just a great mouthwash

Relieves congestion of the nasal passages -Information gathered by Elkhart County Parks

Capital City Beekeepers
August 2017 Meeting Minutes

- Due to the Club participation at the Kentucky State Fair there was no business meeting .
- John Antenucci lead the program on “A Central Kentucky Beekeepers Calendar- What To Do and When Based on Popular Holidays”

Q&A followed.

- Next Meeting announced for 9/26/17

Dates to Remember

Next CCBK Meeting-

September 26th, 2017,

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

Clarkson Annual Honey Fest

September 28-30th

Clarkson, KY-home to Kelley Beekeeping

Kentucky Queen Breeder's Assoc. Workshop

October 6th & 7th

KSU Research Farm ([map](#))

CCBK Saturday Farmer's Market Booth

October 14th, 2017

7:30 a.m.-12 noon