



# Knox County Beekeepers Association



Vol.3 Issue 2

Web Page

February 6 2012

<http://www.kcbaofn.org>

NEXT MEETING:

February 6,2012

7:00 p.m.

New Harvest Park

Washington Pike



## President's Message

Lynda Rizzardi

February Newsletter Information:

Bee Keepers,

What a difference a few hours can experience. Thanks to all who attended our January 2 planning meeting. We arrived in warm, breezy sunshine to depart in an inch of snow and much ice. Hopefully everyone had a safe journey home.

Our program and speakers calendar is almost full; yet if there are further suggestions, please share them.

I share items discussed during our planning:

- (1) Need for Mentors. We have many new KCBA members who have asked for a Mentor. Please consider helping someone learn beekeeping information and skills.
- (2) How to encourage Grant Hive Recipients to attend monthly meetings and fulfill requirements of their contract with KCBA and TBA.
- (3) Committees will be appointed by the February meeting.
- (4) Recycling of Fumagilin prescription bottles and caps - if you are not using them; let's recycle.
- (5) Bee Medications - Try a sign up sheet - be thinking about medications you would use this year and sign up by providing your name, name of medication, and quantity desired. This will help to decide what to order in bulk. Sign up sheet will be available in February.
- (6) Please, if you promise to catch a swarm, deliver a product, assist someone -fulfill that promise.
- (7) In December 2011, six members signed up for Keith Delaplane's new book entitled THE NEW FIRST LESSONS OF BEEKEEPING, a paperback with 166 pages and 150 color prints. Price is \$8.95 plus shipping for one book OR \$6.70 plus shipping for

quantities of 24 or more. Would you like to sign up to order a personal copy? And save money? Sign up sheet available in February.

(8) Smokey Ridge Apiaries in Maryville operated by Coley and Judy O'Dell are taking orders for bees, queens, and nucs:

3 pound package of bees with an unmarked queen \$85 OR 3 pound package of bees with a marked queen \$88

Queens - unmarked \$18 OR Queens - marked \$20

3 frame Nucs with unmarked Queen \$130 All orders to be placed and prepaid by March 17.

Contact Info: phone 984-5393 OR e-mail dorcus08@yahoo.com

Since the January Planning:

(1) Odra Turner has volunteered his apiary for a Beginner Beekeeping Field Day on Saturday, April 7 at 1:00 p.m. with a rain or inclement weather date of Saturday, April 14 at 1:00 p.m. Odra will have experienced beekeepers present to discuss essentials and answer questions.

(2) Charlie Parton with Blount County Beekeepers and TBA East Regional Vice President will host a Beginner Beekeeping Field Day on Saturday, April 28 at 1:00 p.m. in Maryville. KCBA members are welcome; especially if one cannot attend Odra Turner's Field Day.

(3) HURRAY! Tennessee Beekeepers Association annual Conference will be in Cookeville, TN at the Hyder Burks Pavilion September 28 and 29, 2012 with the Executive Board Meeting Thursday evening the 27th.

(4) KCBA Executive Board has voted to promote and encourage visitors and guests to attend our February and March meetings with programs including Beginning Beekeeping and Maintaining Bee Hives. We will take applications for the TBA Hive Grant Program Kits and award them in March so the recipients will have time to build, paint, and prepare for their nucs of bees.

(5) The PINS we voted to order are here; if you wish to purchase, be ready with cash or check made to KCBA at our monthly meeting. See Shirley DeBusk.

Reminders:

(1) Our March 5 meeting will be at the First United Methodist Church on Kingston Pike. Exit onto Kingston Pike at the University of Tennessee; go west about one mile. The Methodist Church is on the left immediately past Calvary Baptist Church also on the left. Go behind the church to park. There is an entrance /exit on both sides of the First United Methodist Church. We cannot meet at New Harvest Park Community Building due to VOTING.

(2) Our Short Course/Beginner Beekeeping Course will be Monday, April 2 and Wednesday, April 4. Robert Elwood will be our speaker on Monday. Be thinking about what you as a KCBA member might do as a demonstration, exhibit, or table display, and a door prize to contribute for Wednesday

COMMITTEES for 2012

Executive Committee: elected officers, state representatives, and members at large

By-Law Committee: appointed in years ending in ---9

Fair Committee: Harry and Debbie Bowie

Library Committee: Don and Martha Simpson

Medication Committee: Shirley DeBusk, A. C. Mann, Lynda and Ned Rizzardi

Nominating Committee: appointed in September each year

Refreshment Committee: Chairman Marjorie Ford

Monthly Helpers: January - February - Phyllis Close and Nick Allen

March - April - Debbie Greenwood, Robert and Delores Moore

May - June - Angela Rhee and Julie Lien

July - August - Debra Adams and Gwen Jackson

September PICNIC - Executive Board, Charles and Jennie Wilson

October - November - Anne Clark

December CHRISTMAS DINNER - Executive Board, Charles and Jennie Wilson

Our February 6 Program will include:

(1) Joan Davis: Beginning Beekeeping and Bees Wax - cleaning, preparing to mold, uses of beeswax

(2) Ed Close and Nick Allen: Building, preparing, and using a Top Bar Hive

(3) Charlie Parton, TBA East Regional Vice President and Blount County Beekeeper will share about advantages in joining a local and the state Beekeeping Associations

Looking forward to seeing everyone February 6, Lynda Rizzardi

## Seasonal Management

By Joel Parton

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### **This Month in the Apiary**

"To Do List" for February

Drone rearing and brood nest expansion will be getting underway in earnest this month. Unfortunately, because clustered bees are so close together, this is also the time of the year for peak tracheal

mite populations. This is one reason, starvation being the other, that so many hives are lost at this critical time of the year.

You should notice bees taking cleansing flights on warm, sunny days. You may notice several dead bees at the entrance or on the ground just outside the hive. It's usually nothing to be alarmed about as the bees are just doing some housekeeping.

We usually experience at least a couple of warm, sunny days this month. Take advantage of the first warm (>55 degrees), windless day and do a very quick check for a laying queen, the brood pattern and to assess honey stores. Don't pull frames of bees out for more than a few seconds. We want to avoid chilling brood and be sure it's early enough in the day that the bees can re-cluster before night time. Colonies should have a minimum of 6 shallow frames or 2-3 deep frames of honey left. There should be a minimum of 3 frames of bees. Anything less probably will probably not survive or will need extra feeding or combining with another hive.

Notice if there is excessive condensation underneath the top or inner cover. Moisture dripping on the bees can chill the bees and brood or cause mold problems. If you see lots of moisture, prop a small stick under the cover or otherwise provide added ventilation.

If necessary, feed light hives with a 1:2 sugar syrup directly over the cluster. It wouldn't hurt to add a teaspoon of Fumidil-B to a gallon of feed per colony as a treatment for Nosema. It's not too early to place some treatments for varroa mites, especially if you didn't treat last Fall.

Be preparing supers and other

## **Interesting Web Sites**

Map your hives and see what they may be foraging on  
[maps.google.com](https://maps.google.com)

What chemicals are on your foods  
<http://whatsonmyfood.org>

Free books  
<http://www.gutenberg.org>



## THE CLASSROOM

### History of Beekeeping

Beekeeping is one of the oldest forms of food production. Some of the earliest evidence of beekeeping is from rock painting, dating to around 13,000 BC. It was particularly well developed in Egypt and was discussed by the Roman writers Virgil, Gaius Julius Hyginus, Varro, and Columella. A pioneering beekeeping popularizer in the 19th century United States was Amos Root.



Beekeeping was traditionally practiced for the bees' honey harvest, although nowadays crop pollination service can often provide a greater part of a commercial beekeeper's income. Other hive products are pollen, royal jelly, and propolis, which are also used for

nutritional and medicinal purposes, and wax which is used in candlemaking, cosmetics, wood polish, and for modelling. The modern use of hive products has changed little since ancient times.

Western honeybees are not native to the Americas. American, Australian, and New Zealand colonists imported honeybees from Europe, partly for honey and partly for their usefulness as pollinators. The first honeybee species imported were likely European dark bees. Later Italian bees, Carniolan honeybees and Caucasian bees were added.

Western honeybees were also brought to the Primorsky Krai in Russia by Ukrainian settlers around 1850s. These Russian honey bees that are similar to the Carniolan bee were imported into the U.S. in 1990. The Russian honeybee has shown to be more resistant to the bee parasites *Varroa destructor* and *Acarapis woodi*.

Before the 1980s, most U.S. hobby beekeepers were farmers or relatives of a farmer, lived in rural areas, and kept bees with techniques passed down for generations. The arrival of tracheal mites in the 1980s and Varroa mites and small hive beetles in the 1990s led to the discontinuation of the practice by most of these beekeepers as their bees could not survive among these new parasites.

In Asia, other species of *Apis* exist which are used by local beekeepers for honey and beeswax. Non-*Apis* species of honeybees, known collectively as stingless bees, have also been kept from antiquity in Australia and Central America, although these traditions are dying, and the trigonine and meliponine species used are endangered.

## Getting Started

When starting any new hobby there's a lot to learn. And often, there's a lot to buy before you get down to the business of practicing that hobby. If you've decided that you'd like to have a hive or two in your backyard there are certain basics that you just can't do without.

The best way for a beginner to start is to buy all new equipment and package bees. New equipment will keep you from bringing pests and diseases into your colonies. Getting the bees from a nearby beekeeper can cause problems with swarm control, defensiveness of the colony and re-queening. The new equipment will help you to learn all of the parts of a hive as you put it together. The package bees will help you gain experience in working with a small colony before you branch out into a larger operation. You will be able to see that colony grow from the package you picked up to a real honey producing colony.

Buy both the bees and the equipment - all of your apiary supplies - from a reputable source. You can learn about reputable sources from other beekeepers, beekeeping organizations or groups, and from beekeeping journals. Again, you want clean equipment and healthy bees.

You will, of course, need at least one new hive. If you are planning to make your own hive or hives, you will need a hive outer cover, an inner cover, shallow honey supers, a queen excluder, a hive body (or brood chamber), a bottom board, a hive stand, frames and

a foundation.

You will need certain equipment to protect yourself. Buy an easy to light smoker and a hive tool. A smoker should always be burning when any beekeeper, new or experienced, opens a hive. If the colony is opened before the smoker is lit, the bees, not the beekeeper, are in control.

You will need bee gloves and a hat and veil. Until you learn more about your bees you will always need to wear those gloves. The veil should cover your face and hang down over your shoulders. Most beekeepers use a pith hat they are usually plastic and look sort of like a safari hat. Theyre inexpensive and work great. The veil will be either a folding veil that you can fold up and put in your pocket or a round veil thats made of metal or plastic.

Beginners should also wear boots with straps that seal the legs of your boots around the legs of your pants so that bees cant fly up your pants. You should wear long sleeved shirts or suits that cover your arms. Beekeepers should have a jacket thats often called an inspectors jacket that will protect beekeepers when removing bees from areas that may cause the bees to become defensive. It will come with an attached hat and veil. Lighter color denim blue jeans work to cover the bottom of the beekeepers body. Bees do not like light colors and will not be attracted to light jeans. You can buy pants that are specifically for beekeeping but are not really a necessity.



## *Honey Recipes*

## **HONEY CAKE**

Honey cake is the traditional cake of the "Land of Milk and Honey." Honey cake is a must for the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashana, since its sweetness symbolizes the wishes for a good year ahead.

3 1/2 cups sifted flour  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 1/2 cup nuts, walnuts, or almonds  
4 eggs  
3/4 cup sugar  
4 tsp. vegetable oil  
2 cups dark honey  
1/2 cup brewed coffee  
Optional

1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
1/4 tsp. nutmeg  
1/8 tsp. powdered cloves  
1/2 tsp. ginger

Sift flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ginger together (spices depend on your personal taste).

Beat eggs, gradually adding the sugar. Beat until thick and light in color. Beat in oil, honey and coffee; stir in flour mixture and nuts. Grease an 11x16x4 inch baking pan and line with aluminum foil. For 2 smaller cakes, use two 9 inch loaf pans. Turn the batter into the pan(s). Bake at 325 deg F (170 deg C) 1-1/4 hours for the large cake, 50 minutes for the 2 smaller ones, or until browned and cake tester comes out clean. Cool on a cake rack before removing from pan.

## **Tennessee Beekeepers Association Hive Grant For 2012**

Eligibility Requirements for individuals to receive the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and Tennessee Beekeepers Association Hive Grant:

- \* be completely new to beekeeping
- \* be a resident of Tennessee
- \* complete a beginning beekeeping course
- \* commence beekeeping activities in the spring of 2012
- \* accept a beekeeping beginner kit grant
- \* purchase bees
- \* purchase additional equipment as needed
- \* become a member of a local Tennessee beekeeping association for two years

- \* become a member of Tennessee Beekeepers Association for two years
- \* complete the Registration of Tennessee Apiaries form in accordance with the Tennessee Apiary Act of 1995. This form may be completed on line or copied for mailing. Go to <http://state.tn.us/agriculture/regulatory/apiary.html> for regulations and forms.
- \* work with an association member mentor for two years
- \* for the first two years, half of the honey production from the grant hive will be returned to the local association to help defray set up cost. Commencing the third year, all the honey is the beekeepers
- \* if one decides not to complete the two year commitment, Return grant equipment kit to local association for redistribution

Beginner Kit will include:

Screened bottom board, Complete Hive Body (10 frame), Wired beeswax foundation, Inner cover, Entrance feeder, Telescoping cover, Round veil with plastic helmet, Gloves, Hive Tool, Smoker, and Beginner=s book or How to Keep and Sell Honey.

Tennessee Beekeepers Association (TBA) with the help of grant funds from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture will provide the equipment kit for two new beekeepers per club with the local associations purchasing one equipment kit – for a total of three kits per association.

Local Associations please notify your TBA regional vice president by January 25, 2012 and inform him/her of your desire to participate.

Additional kits may be purchased by local associations if ordered through TBA regional vice presidents by January 25, 2012. However, this year the local club will pay for the extra kits.

Grant hive equipment will be distributed at the February Executive Board Meeting.

Once local associations award the grant equipment kits, new beekeeper names, addresses, TBA membership application and dues, and mentor=s names shall be submitted to Petra Mitchell, TBA Treasurer at 3900 Rock Springs Road, Watertown, TN 37184, and Lynda Rizzardi, TBA President at 1903 Rosebud Drive, Maryville, TN 37803.

The Executive Board voted to allow only local associations that have fulfilled previous year’s commitments to participate in the Hive Grant Program. Obligations of submission of names of recipients and mentors, payment of TBA dues for recipients and mentors is part of the eligibility requirements for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and Tennessee Beekeepers Association Hive Grant.

## Last Meeting



It was great to see the turn-out for our 2012 Planning Meeting. Lots of great ideas were brought forth, and at the end of the evening we all but had our calendar filled with programs. We hope to see all members present at the coming programs.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Plan ahead and mark the first Monday meeting dates  
on your calendar for 2012 -  
February 6, March 5, April Monday 2 and Wednesday 4  
(Short Course and Beginning Beekeeper Course), May**

**7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3 - Labor Day,  
October 1, November 5, and December 3.**

## **Register Your Hives**

New beekeepers may register hives with the State of Tennessee at:

<http://state.tn.us/agriculture/regulatory/apiary.html>

## **Hive Inspections**

If you wish to have your hives inspected, please contact Joel Parton or Joe Tarwater.

## **REMINDER**

**Is it time to renew your membership?**

**\$10.00 Per Adult**

**\$5.00 Jr. Members**

This is your newsletter, please help contribute articles, stories, etc. Share your ideas and creative talents with the rest of the club. All ideas are welcome!  
<mailto:eclose2003@yahoo.com>