

# Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association

**Newsletter  
November 2016**

## **Message from David Gilbert, LCBA President**

Well it certainly has been a good beekeeping year in Kentucky. Although honey harvest was light for some beekeepers it has been enjoyable for me. How does the year slip by so fast, especially when the number of years behind us are many?

Now that it is almost winter I hope all of you have made sure your hives have the required 60 pounds of honey for the cold weather, along with reducers on all hives.

As we look at the year in review I want to thank all the volunteers in the association who have put their time and talents in sending out our mission statement and assisting new beginning beekeepers. This includes all the fairs, career days, special events and instructional activities. You know who you are and much thanks to each of you. A challenge to our new 2017 LCBA officers, ***continue the work to bring awareness to successful beekeeping in Kentucky.***

Best wishes to all,

**David Gilbert**

## **LCBA Officers for 2017**

A new slate of LCBA officers was elected at the October 2016 meeting, as follows:

President: Ginger Renaker

Vice-President: Michael Wooton

Treasurer: Dan Crockett

Secretary: Tony Saylor

## **2017 Joint Bee School with Lincoln County**

A planning meeting for the proposed 2017 Bee School has been arranged for Monday, November 21, 2017 at the Pulaski County Extension Office. LCBA members are invited! If you are interested in attending, or have any suggestions for the bee school, please contact David Gilbert at [gilbertd@windstream.net](mailto:gilbertd@windstream.net), or Beth Wilson at [beth.wilson@uky.edu](mailto:beth.wilson@uky.edu).



***LCBA members celebrate the end of another beekeeping year***

***From left: Ray Tucker, James Mantle, Ginger Renaker, Hilary Forsyth and Ray Forsyth***

See page 4 for more photos

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## Looking back on 2016

At the October 2016 meeting I shared the LCBA Year in Review with attendees talking about the ten monthly program topics and the community outreach conducted by various LCBA members this past year. I also mentioned the tremendous growth of our "bee club" and would like to share a little of LCBA history.

Last month six LCBA members met in the brick house annex to plan a beekeeping presentation for nine groups of 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Wolf Creek Hatchery on Oct. 21. We were sitting around the kitchen table where Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association was formed in March of 2004 and continued to meet each month until 2010. Randy Ison was the first president of LCBA and the group had about 8 very knowledgeable beekeepers. Some of these earlier beekeepers went on to start new "bee clubs" closer to their homes in Clinton, Lincoln, and Russell Counties which exist today.

Membership has always been changing with addition of new folks and the loss of members who passed away, found it more trouble than it was worth, or were physically unable to keep hives anymore. What has exploded is the number of new folks getting into beekeeping since 2010. We had 18 beekeeping operations in 2010 and after the 1<sup>st</sup> Beginning Beekeeping School of 2010 we had 32 operations...a gain of 14 beekeepers.

In April 2010 Ray Tucker was elected President of LCBA. Meetings were held in the basement of the Pulaski Extension Office as we had outgrown the brick annex.

Ray encouraged all members to go out and talk about beekeeping to local clubs, school groups, and whoever would listen. Ray insisted that teaching others should be a big part of our mission statement. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> LCBA Beginning Beekeeping School in 2012 we had about 45 beekeeping operations. Our past president, Randy Ison, was now president-elect of the Kentucky State Beekeepers' Association and LCBA "was on the map" hosting the fall meeting of KSBA in Somerset, KY. The keynote speaker at that meeting talked about the Colony Collapse Disorder which was now the center of a nationwide media blitz. The whole country was worried about the survival of honeybees.

In 2013 when David Gilbert took over as president he appointed a committee to write by-laws, established yearly goals, and led LCBA through the biggest membership expansion to date. The 100 student Beginning Beekeeping School planned and implemented by Dorothy Morgan, Beth Wilson, and other members of LCBA in the spring of 2015 boosted the membership. David Gilbert and Hilary Forsyth submitted regular Commonwealth Journal articles on aspects of beekeeping that aroused much interest in the local community along with LCBA presence at Earth Day, Green Living Fair and other public gatherings. In 2016 our past president, Ray Tucker, served as KSBA president and Lake Cumberland Beekeepers' Association has 17 new members this year for a total 73 beekeeping operations.

- Pat Rizenbergs

## Latest news from KSBA

### Beekeepers asked to report October 1 Honey Production

In addition to the request for LCBA members' hive counts for 2016 described in Pat Rizenberg's article above, Tammy Horn Potter requests that members let her know how many pounds of honey they harvested up to October 1, 2016. Email [tammy.horn@ky.gov](mailto:tammy.horn@ky.gov) stating your name, county, and pounds of honey harvested. Full details of Tammy's request appear in the latest KSBA newsletter, **Beelines** at (<http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/documents/BEELINES-OCTOBER-2016.pdf>).

The information on hive counts and honey harvests is requested by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, which is updating its information on honey crops within the Commonwealth in accordance with state law. Beekeeper participation is voluntary, but these are vital

statistics that will give more power to us beekeepers and our bees!

Also in the latest KSBA newsletter, **Beelines**:

### The Top 10 Mistakes most newbie beekeepers make

Written by Hilary Kearney, and reprinted in Beelines from *Modern Farmer* magazine.

With our bees settled down now for the winter, this is an excellent time for beekeepers to review their beekeeping gains and losses for the year,. What better than a simple review on beekeeping practices.

This article should be recommended reading for all of us beekeepers, new, middling and experienced alike!

<http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/documents/BEELINES-OCTOBER-2016.pdf>

### New regulations regarding antibiotics come into effect January 1, 2017

New regulations covering the use of antibiotics in beehives come into effect in January 2017. Information on these new regulations is posted on the LCBA website at <http://lakecumberlandbeekeepers.com/resources/>

# LCBA outreach at Wolf Creek Eco-Day 2016

On October 21, 2016, Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery in Jamestown, Kentucky, held its annual Outdoor Eco Adventure Day for over 200 Grade 4 pupils of Russell County schools. LCBA was invited to give a presentation on bees and beekeeping at the event, and a team of six LCBA members ran the exhibit.

We divided our presentation into 3 stations: Beth Wilson introduced the exhibit and, to put beekeeping in context with farming life, explained that keeping honey bees was much like keeping any other livestock. Hilary Forsyth demonstrated the components of a bee hive and described how bees drew their comb on the

frames; Pat Rizenbergs recounted the lifecycle of a bee; Mike Wooton donned his bee jacket and described the process of inspecting a hive and harvesting a frame of honey. Finally we had the LCBA observation hive on display to give the kids a close-up view of some bees.

What a great opportunity this was to share our enthusiasm for bees with these young people! The students were very attentive and came up with some very astute questions.

Thanks to Imants for the photos, and to Beth Wilson and Ray Tucker for setting up the observation hive.



**Left: School buses arrive**  
**Right: Beth Wilson does the introductions**



**Left: Mike Wooton**  
**Above left: Kids examine a partially-drawn frame**  
**Above right: Hilary Forsyth**



**Above: Pat Rizenbergs**  
**Left: (l-r) Beth Wilson, Ray Forsyth, Mike Wooton, Pat Rizenbergs, Hilary Forsyth**

# A timely reminder from the Farm Services Agency

Keep in mind that **November 20** is the deadline to obtain Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for the 2017 program year. NAP coverage provides disaster payments when loss of honey production occurs below established thresholds as a result of eligible natural disaster or weather conditions.

Producers who are beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged, or limited resource producers can obtain this coverage at no cost, but must take action by the No-

vember 20 deadline. Visit your local FSA Office to sign-up!

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# End of year potluck dinner celebration



*LCBA members celebrated the end of the beekeeping year with a wonderful potluck dinner. Pictured here are (above left) Imants Rizenbergs and Tony Saylor; (above right) Dale and Dan Crockett ; (at left) Ray Tucker and Jewel Florea*

*What a feast! Everybody enjoyed the potluck dinner celebrating the end of our beekeeping year.*



Read our previous newsletters: <http://lakecumberlandbeekeepers.com/resources/2016-lcba-newsletters/>