

Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association

Newsletter January 2017

LCBA Meeting: Monday, January 16, 2017

The first LCBA meeting of 2017 will be held on Monday, January 16, 2017. LCBA member **Ray Tucker** will discuss **winter feeding strategies**.

Doors open at 6.00pm for informal discussion and meeting registration. There will be a brief business meeting at 6.30, and Ray Tucker's presentation will start at 7.00pm. LCBA meetings are free of charge and open to the public. These meetings are a great opportunity to meet with fellow beekeepers in the area, and to Talk Bees!

Venue: Basement meeting room at the Pulaski County Extension Office, 28 Parkway Drive, Somerset KY 42502.



Checking a beehive for fondant on a warm day in February 2016. The fondant was a bit sticky, so it was placed on paper plates to make it easier to handle. Not that the bees seem interested!

2017 LCBA dues are due!

It's time to renew your annual LCBA membership! LCBA membership costs just \$10 per year per beekeeping unit.

Not yet a member of LCBA? New members are welcome, and we look forward to having you join our beekeeping community.

A membership application form appears on the last page of this newsletter. Completed application forms may be mailed to LCBA Treasurer Dan Crockett at his address set out on the application form. Or simply hand in your completed form and payment to Dan at the next LCBA meeting.

Why be a member of LCBA? LCBA supports our local beekeepers and works with Kentucky State Beekeeping Association to spread the word about correct beekeeping practices. LCBA members form a vital network of local beekeeping information, such as when to feed your bees, where to purchase nucs, how to harvest honey.

In addition, LCBA members will receive this FREE newsletter, with up-to-date information on LCBA activities. Please include your email address on the application form, so that your newsletter can be sent to you electronically. Your details will not be shared with anyone.

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Photo credits: Imants Rizenbergs, and the Editor

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Meet the LCBA Officers for 2017



Above: (l-r)

LCBA President Ginger Renaker

LCBA Vice-President Mike Wooton

(left) **LCBA Treasurer Dan Crockett**

(right) **LCBA Secretary Tony Saylor**

2017 Beginning Beekeeping Classes

LCBA and Lincoln County Beekeepers are joint sponsors of the 2017 Beginner Bee School, in conjunction with Pulaski County and Lincoln County Extension Services.

This 6-session program is an excellent introduction to beekeeping, offering the all-important basic information and guidance to get started in beekeeping. Whether you are totally new to beekeeping, or have dabbled in beekeeping but need to know more, this is the ideal way to learn the art and skills of being a successful beekeeper.

Registration fee: \$25, \$35 per couple.
Time: 6:00 to 8:30 pm.
Classes are limited to 40 participants

Venues:

Pulaski County Extension Service Office:
28 Parkway Drive, Somerset KY 42502
Lincoln County Extension Service Office:
104 Metker Trail, Stanford, KY 40484

Classes will be held alternately at the Pulaski County and Lincoln County offices. The class schedule is as follows:

February 9, 2017 (Pulaski) : Honey bee biology
February 23, 2017 (Lincoln): Pests and diseases, medications and treatments
March 9, 2017 (Pulaski): Hive management, feeding and nutrition, early pest detection, apiary location
March 23, 2017 (Lincoln): Hive components and choices, clothing, tools
April 6, 2017 (Pulaski): What to look for during hive inspection, installing package bees, wintering your colony, swarm capture
TBA (both locations): Hive inspection, queen marking.

To register, call either of the following offices:
(606) 679-6361 (Pulaski), email beth.wilson@uky.edu,
(606) 365-2447 (Lincoln), email will.stallard@uky.edu.

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 www.lakecumberlandbeekeepers.com under Resources

Report honeybee losses to FSA within 30 days to participate in ELAP

The Farm Services Agency has released this important information on reporting honeybee losses to be eligible for assistance under ELAP.

The introduction to the report is as follows:

"The 2014 Farm Bill authorized up to \$20 million in a fiscal year (FY) for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish. It covers losses due to an eligible adverse weather or loss conditions, as described further, below.

Eligible honeybees include bees housed in a managed hive and used for honey production, pollination or honeybee breeding. Eligible honeybees do not include wild, feral honeybees, leaf cutter bees or other bee species that are not used for producing honey, pollinating or breeding honeybees.

Losses of colonies must be in excess of normal mortality. ELAP covers damage to hives and feed that was purchased or produced, including additional feed pur-

chased above normal quantities to sustain honeybees until such time that additional feed becomes available.

The colony, hive and feed losses must be:

Due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition.

Incurred by an eligible honeybee producer in the county where the eligible adverse weather or loss condition occurred. "

The release goes on to describe the particular eligible weather conditions that would trigger a claim for ELAP, the proposed payments for colony and hive losses, and how to apply for assistance.

The full release from FSA headed "Report honeybee losses to FSA within 30 days to participate in ELAP" is posted on the LCBA website:

www.lakecumberlandbeekeepers.com
under Resources.

Bee news from Casey County

Winter is an anxious time for beekeepers. It is far too cold to open up the hives to see how the bees are doing, but we still visit the hives regularly to check on them. Pressing an ear against the side of a hive, it is of some comfort to hear the low-pitched thrum of the bees as they generate heat to keep warm.

Besides listening for the hum of the beehive engines, we check that the hive entrances are clear of snow and dripping moisture, and that there are no signs of skunk visitations or damage from fallen tree branches.

Briefly checking the removable inspection board can also provide clues as to the health and activity of the hive. Debris from the hive falls through the mesh in the hive base, and onto the inspection board. This debris can provide information on the position and amount of cell cappings being removed, whether these cappings are from honey stores or brood cells, as well as giving an indication of the presence of small hive beetles and wax moth in the hive.

A few dead bee carcasses near the hive entrance is an encouraging sign that the bees are actively clearing out their dead. On warmer days, the number of dead bees increases, as more of the housekeeping bees devote their time to tidying up the hive. On these warmer days, too, a few bees may even be seen flying noisily out of their hive for a quick bathroom break.

The other worry about over-wintering hives is whether the bees have sufficient food available. Hefting the hives to gauge their weight is a task to be done regularly. On a recent weight check, 2 of our 6 hives seemed a bit light, and we decided to feed them using sugar fondant. Choosing a warmer day in early January, we placed spacer rims above the inner covers on the 2 light hives, along with some bee candy. There were quite a few bees hanging about on the inner cover, so we figured that during these warmer periods the bees would be able to access this feed if they needed to. During the very cold spells, however, it is unlikely that the bees will break their cluster to access the food.

January is the time when the queen bees will commence laying again. Just a few eggs at first, gradually increasing as the days lengthen. It is often recommended that bees be fed lots of sugar at this time to stimulate the queen into laying more eggs, but we wonder whether stimulating bees beyond their natural rhythm is such a good thing. Bees have been regulating their hive populations for a whole lot longer than humans have been trying to 'help'. Besides, in previous years we have noticed that the bees appeared to be chewing up small chunks of the bee candy and dropping them down into the hive for us to find on those inspection boards!

- Hilary Forsyth

Visit the LCBA website at www.lakecumberlandbeekeepers.com for links to recommended beekeeping-related websites

2017 LCBA Membership Application Form

Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association

2017 Membership Application

Renewal / New member
(Please check one)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____

Email: _____

LCBA annual membership dues: \$ 10.00

Kentucky State Beekeepers Association
(KSBA) (optional) \$ 15.00

TOTAL \$ _____
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Only one membership required per family beekeeping unit

Please make checks payable to LCBA

Mail this completed form together with your payment to:

Dan Crockett, LCBA Treasurer
2656 Slate Branch Road
Somerset, KY 42503

OR hand in your completed form and payment to Dan Crockett at the next LCBA meeting.

Read our previous newsletters: www.lakecumberlandbeekeepers.com under Resources