

Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association

May 2017 Newsletter

LCBA Meeting: Monday, May 15, 2017

This month's meeting will start off with a hands-on hive inspection specifically for members of the 2017 Beginning Beekeeper class. LCBA members are welcome to attend, and to assist with the inspection.

5:30pm Hive inspection at Pulaski County Extension Office, Presenters: Beth Wilson and Mike Wooton

6:30pm Business meeting

7:00pm Discussion and synopsis of the hive inspection. Class members are welcome to join in.

LCBA meetings are free of charge and open to the public. These meetings are a great opportunity to get together with fellow beekeepers in the area.

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



Beekeepers inspecting bee hives is a familiar sight in apiaries at this time of the year

Getting Ready For May

May is a busy time for all farmers and beekeeping is no exception. We need to monitor our bee yards and do all we can to assist our bees in their pollination and nectar gathering. Watch for swarms, do mite counts, check for pests and varmints, add honey supers as needed and keep promoting bee habitat and safety.

I found a nice essay on bees from the North Carolina Cooperative Extension that I would like to share:

Proverbs 24:13: My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste:

Our society is coming to the belief that bees, though they have been around forever, are responsible for much if not all of our food supplies, pollinating not only flowers but many of the grains and grasses that livestock eat and that we eat. Without bees we would be in a world of hurt.

Bees are in danger of disappearing from our environment. Farming practices continue to disturb natural habitats and the forage of solitary and bumblebees at a rate which gives them little chance for re-establishment. The honey bee is under attack from the varroa mite and it is only the treatment and care provided by beekeepers that is keeping colonies alive. Most wild honey bee colonies have died out as a result of this disease.

The role of a **beekeeper** is very **important** to us today and has a long history of being one of the most **important** contributors to the production of many agricultural crops. ... Honeybees cross-pollinate flowers which produce fruit and seeds for growing crops. To farmers, the honeybees are worth billions of dollars. [North Carolina Cooperative Extension](#)

- Mike Wooton, Vice President LCBA

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LCBA Outreach Reports

LCBA members have been out and about, sharing their knowledge and passion for bees and beekeeping.

Northern Elementary School - April 21, 2017

LCBA President Ginger Renaker talked about bees and beekeeping, while LCBA member Cindy Robinson and Pulaski County Extension Office Coordinator Beth Wilson talked about the importance of worms in the environment. The team talked to children from Kindergarten through to 4th Grade, in successive sessions of about 15 minutes each, with some 15-20 students in each class.

Ginger and Cindy took along the LCBA observation hive, so that the students could see what a frame of bees in a working hive looks like. They also had the LCBA teaching hive available, with its photos of bee activity, bee pests and diseases in the hive, along with the larger display cards, an empty super frame and another frame filled with honey which the students could pick up to compare the weight.

Ginger and Cindy described the components of a bee hive and talked about the equipment needed by a beekeeper. They also explained what a bee swarm was all about; how this could be caught and re-hived; the importance of bees and pollinators; the dangers of using pesticides that might affect or even kill off bees. Each session also included a question and answer session, with plenty of interesting questions from the students.

What a great way to educate young children about the importance of bees and to dispel some of the myths and mysteries of these important insects!



Cindy Robinson (l) and Pat Rizenbergs at the Earth Day event

Green Living Fair - April 8, 2017

The 2017 Green Living Fair was well attended by the Lake Cumberland Beekeepers' Association this year. Vice-president, Mike Wooton, along with Past-president, David Gilbert, instructed a group of students on Beginning Beekeeping.

Information was provided concerning educational resources such as beginning beekeeping books at the library, YouTube videos, beekeeping websites and equipment catalogs. LCBA member Beaver Corder also attended the class.

A booth was set up in the main exhibit hall and information was handed out to visitors by LCBA President Ginger Renaker and Cindy Robinson. The event lasted all day and concluded at 6:00 p.m.

- David Gilbert



"Feel the weight of this full frame of honey," Cindy Robinson encourages this young visitor at the Earth Day event

Earth Day - April 23, 2017

LCBA members Cindy Robinson, Hilary and Ray Forsyth, Pat and Imants Rizenbergs, Mike Wooton and Ginger Renaker headed up the association's table at the 2017 Earth Day event. Cool and wet weather meant that we had to set up indoors, but despite the weather a good crowd of people attended during the day. As always, there was plenty of interest about beekeeping and the plight of the honey bees.

Pulaski/Lincoln 2017 Beginning Bee School Report

Session 5

The fifth session of the Pulaski county Beginning Bee School was held at the Pulaski County Library. The speaker for the evening was Dwight Wells, a noted expert on beekeeping. His topic was **Sustainable Bee-keeping**. The event was sponsored by the Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders' Association.

Dorothy Morgan welcomed all students and guests to the sustainable beekeeping seminar, and introduced the speaker to the group. Mr. Wells has been interested in bees since 1954. He encouraged everyone to become a community of beekeepers. As a Project Engineer in the automotive field, Mr. Wells described the way he was able to connect with others to gain knowledge and to grow the field. He said beekeepers need to do the same by keeping good records and sharing their experiences with others. An organized group can exchange ideas and decide what the best practices are for sustainable beekeeping.

Bees will do the work and it is up to us to help manage them. Just like cattle, row crops, vegetable production, and other types of farming, bees need the same attention that farmers give to their crops. Consider bees as

livestock.

Good management practices are needed to keep bees viable and alive. Without bees our food supply will be in dire danger.

The bee population is on the upswing since the government has recognized the problem of **Colony Collapse Disorder** and has supplied support for the correction. Mites seem to be the major cause for bee losses and by groups getting together to understand and control these mites we can increase our bee population.

Education and interest will be required to keep bees operating at their full potential. We have a chance and a window of opportunity to get the bees back to what they were centuries ago.

The session was very informative and well attended.

- Mike Wooton, Vice President

Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association
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Jewell Florea receives LCBA Lifetime Membership



LCBA President Ginger Renaker (left) chats with lifetime LCBA member Jewell Florea

At the April LCBA meeting Jewell Florea was granted a Lifetime Membership in Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association having reached the qualifying age. Wanting to learn about keeping bees, Jewell joined LCBA at the January meeting in 2013. Ray Tucker and other members helped Jewell get started in beekeeping. In the past five years Jewell has been regular in attendance participating in Earth Day presentations, the 2015 Beekeeping School, and helping with LCBA October Potluck dinners.

Jewell raises vegetables on her farm in eastern Pulaski County and has participated for some time in the Downtown Somerset Farmer's Market located on the parking lot of Food Fair on Wednesdays during growing season. In her spare time she has authored two published books about life in Pulaski County. Rise and Shine is about life in rural Kentucky during the 1040's. Sun's in the Tree-tops is a story of a young Pulaski girl's life during World War II.

- Pat Rizenbergs



Jewell Florea is always ready and willing to give a helping hand

Bobby Goodin's April 2017 LCBA meeting presentation



LCBA member and swarm catching expert Bobby Goodin (pictured above at left) shared many of his swarm catching tips and suggestions in a question and answer session at the April meeting.

How to remove a bee swarm from the base of a shrub? use a small container to gently scoop up the bees and place them into a bucket or hive box, until you get the queen. When you have captured the queen, the rest of the bees will follow her. Be patient and keep calm!

Catching a swarm up around a larger tree branch? To catch a swarm in this situation, Bobby uses a bucket strapped securely to a long pole. Gently scrape the rim of the bucket from one edge of the bee cluster to the other, and most of the bees will fall into the bucket.

What about catching swarms in house walls? Bobby said that he had to destroy 2 or 3 swarms recently, as the bees could not be removed without causing a lot of damage to the walls.

You can keep a collected bee swarm in a 5-frame nuc for up to 5 weeks. The bees seem to draw comb faster if you only give them 5 frames.

Do you use a lure box? A lure box can attract wax moths. It's better to chase after a swarm, than wait for a swarm to come to you.

Getting bees out from under a porch. Would you use a swarm vacuum? Bobby doesn't have one, but it might be good to have one available. Would the club purchase one?

Do you feed a swarm? Not at this time of year when there is a good nectar flow.

Catching a swarm after June? Best to let them go, because you will probably have to feed them all winter.

How soon to check on a captured swarm? After a month. If all is good and the frames are drawn out, put on an extra deep box. But do not expect to harvest honey this year. Check the hive in about August to make sure the bees have sufficient food stores for the winter.

And remember: sometimes bees have a mind of their own!

Casey County Bees

During April we had some success preventing swarms and splitting hives using double screen boards. The boards were used to divide the hives into 2 separate colonies on the same stand, with the queen and one frame with a little brood in the lower box, and all the other brood and bees in the top box. The double screen board has movable entrances on 3 sides, which can be manipulated to divert returning forager bees away from their original box and down into the queen's box. In this manner, the queen and her bees think they have swarmed, and set about producing a new colony. The queenless bees, meanwhile, react as they would in a hive that has swarmed, creating a new queen to continue the colony.

Even so, in very windy conditions last week, we found two small swarms. They were both on the lower branches of shrubs, almost at ground level, on the lee side of the shrubs, sheltering from the wind. Their position made the swarms easy to catch, but we wondered why bees would leave their hives in such windy conditions. We hived the swarms, and gave them a frame or

two of nectar saved from other hives. Even if the colonies are small, queen bees are valuable creatures! We plan on building up the swarm colonies by adding bees and stores remaining after nucs have been made up.

More recently, a few days of solid rain and cold temperatures have kept the bees inside their hives. At the first sunny, dry day, the hives are buzzing, with hundreds of bees practicing their flying skills in front of the hives, while many more are urgently gathering food stores. Fortunately, the tulip poplar flowers have survived the cold and wet conditions, and the trees are laden with their golden cups. Blackberry thickets are a mass of white flowers, and the bees are making the best of this food source, too.

- Hilary Forsyth



Seating is limited to 15 people
\$150 per person

check or money order to
Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Assoc. Inc
c/o Kristi Willoughby
PO Box 547
Hartford, KY 42347

Class will include all tools needed to graft.
Grafting from **PURDUE UNIVERSITY**
MITE BITTING QUEEN!

Questions or for more information
contact

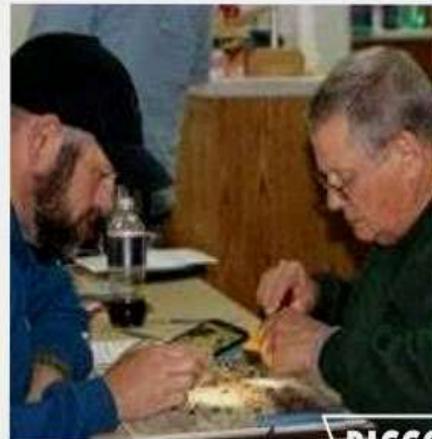
Chris Renfrow
270-556-0853

or
Kristi Willoughby
270-775-2446

Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Assoc Inc

Western Kentucky Queen Grafting Workshop

Chris Renfrow's sustainable
beekeeping and queen grafting class
July 21,22&23 2017 8am to 4pm
Ohio County Corporate Extension Office
1337 Clay Street
Hartford, KY 42347



PIGCOLLAGE