

# Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association

Lake  
Cumberland  
Beekeeper



August 2017 Newsletter

## Next LCBA Meeting: Monday, August 21, 2017

The guest presenter at the August 2017 LCBA meeting will be **Laura Rogers**, Small Farm Area Agent at Kentucky State University.

Laura will be discussing **fall hive management**: what to look for in the hive at this time of year; how to treat hives for varroa mites and other pests; how to prepare bee hives for the winter. Laura has a wealth of beekeeping experience, and has been teaching about bees for many years.

**6:00pm** Doors open for informal discussion with fellow beekeepers.

**6:30pm** Business meeting

**7:00pm** Laura Rogers.

**Meeting venue:** Basement meeting room at the Pulaski County Extension Office, 28 Parkway Drive, Somerset.

## Reminders for hive maintenance from KY State Apiarist Dr. Tammy Horn Potter:

1. **Varroa mite populations** will increase dramatically this month. **Please sample** to know what your mite count is. The USDA recommends that your mite level should be no more than 3 mites/100 honey bees. Please see the Honey Bee Health Coalition website for videos and tools to help you manage for varroa mites: : <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>
2. If you have first year hives, you need to make sure that there is sufficient honey to help the hives handle the high heat. **You may need to feed**, depending on your area. The bees will use just as much honey (i.e., fuel) to keep their colonies cool when the temperatures are over 100F as as they will when it is cold. It is not unusual for hives to die in the middle of summer because they have run out of honey. Do not trust the "lift" method (i.e., picking the colony from behind and assuming that because it is heavy, it has honey). You really need to do a thorough inspection. **Even older established honey producing hives may need feeding if you have taken honey earlier in the year.**
3. **Fall Requeening.** If you like to requeen this time of year, make sure that your new queen is introduced and accepted this month (August). In September, the queen will be laying the "winter cluster" population, and you do not want "issues" such as poor queen acceptance to impact that "winter cluster" population.

**September is National Honey Month**, so you may want to start scheduling some events to feature honey with local bee associations, grocery stores, restaurants, etc. These events can be as big or as small as you'd like, but they are a great opportunity to promote honey and establish connections. The September Beelines will be focused on honey.

*Tammy Horn Potter, KY State Apiarist*  
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Frankfort, KY 40601. Phone 502.229.2950  
**Please note new email: [tammy.potter@ky.gov](mailto:tammy.potter@ky.gov)**  
[www.kyagr.com/statevet/honeybees.html](http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/honeybees.html)



**LCBA Vice President Mike Wooton treats his hives for varroa mites, using the technique of fogging the hives with mineral oil**

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## Mike's Ramblings : Getting Ready for August

Just went to my apiary and noticed one hive that was being robbed, so I reduced the entry and the activity quickly slowed down. Bearding is prevalent now because the nectar flow is low and the girls are just staying cool. I like to see bearding.

August is here and fall is rapidly approaching. Time to start preparing for winter. My honey is extracted and bottled. My bees have cleaned the super frames and I have prepared the supers and frames for storage. After freezing the frames they are stacked with para-moth crystals and awaiting spring. I have cleared weeds around my hives with a weed eater and basically did general clean-up. Now is the time to check for varroa mites and hive beetles. So far, not a big problem for my apiary. I have a couple hives that are getting extra treatment for the hive beetles.

I have a list of things that I need to do :

1. Inspect all hives and decide whether to re-queen or not and whether I have weak hives that need combining.
2. Check for mites and hive beetles. Treat if needed.

3. If robbing is prevalent, reduce entrance for better protection
4. Make sure that water is available .
5. Keep in mind that feeding may be necessary for wintering over. (40 to 60 lbs. per hive)

\*Note I will treat for mites if mite count is in double numbers after a three-day mite check with sticky-board. After checking my hives I will try to have the bee cluster in the middle of the bottom brood box. When feeding many times robbing will occur.

If re-queening is indicated I will try to locate some good queens.

**Remember LCBA Bee meeting  
the third Monday in August.**

Mike Wooton  
Vice President  
Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association  
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## Casey County Bees

As Mike Wooton mentions above, our Casey County bees have also been bearding outside their hives (see photo below). This behavior is in response to hot weather, when temperatures build up in the hives during the day and the bees need to cool off by bearding. However, we have observed the bees bearding even on cooler evenings; perhaps the bees, like us, are simply enjoying the beautiful cool Kentucky evenings.



### Food for bees

Partridge peas (*Chaemacrista fasciculata*) are in flower now. These common native annual plants grow on rough, open banks and along roadsides. Only bumble bees visit the showy yellow flowers, from which they collect large quantities of pollen (see photo at right).

Honey bees are more interested in the small round nectar glands at the base of each leaf, which would explain why you can hear the bees buzzing in the midst of these plants, but you can't see them. Partridge peas are a good source of nectar for our bees.

- Hilary Forsyth

## Former LCBA beekeeper relocates to Franklin County

### An interesting success story : LCBA's beekeepers are spreading their wings!

Curt Wallace began beekeeping in 2012 and has attended LCBA's beekeeping schools since. Last fall he and his wife, Doris, moved to Frankfort, KY where he immediately joined the Central Kentucky Beekeepers' Association. He has increased his Franklin County apiary from 4 hives to 10 hives.

Best of luck to our former LCBA beekeeper.

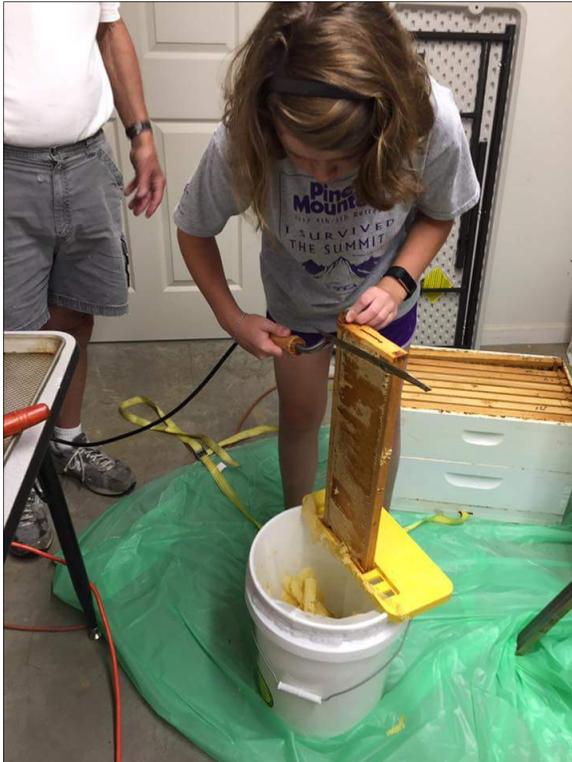
- David Gilbert



**Pictured above:** Curt Wallace (left), Kara Wallace Johnson (center) and young Caroline (right) inspect one of the hives in their new Franklin County apiary.

Kara is Curt Wallace's daughter and Caroline is his only granddaughter.

**At left:** Curt Wallace's granddaughter, Caroline, decapping a frame during honey extraction this summer.



## Solar Eclipse on Monday, August 21, 2017

How will our bees react to the total solar eclipse on Monday? It's bound to be confusing for them, with darkness descending while the sun is still high in the sky.