

# Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association



November 2017 Newsletter

## 4-H Beekeeping Club

4-H received a \$1600 Pride grant to purchase a bee hive, bees, tools, equipment, and protective clothing. The first meeting will be November 20 at 5:30 pm at the extension office. We are hoping to meet invested students and plan out the direction of the club. We start purchasing supplies in December and putting hives together in January. We are very excited about starting this project and are so thankful for the support of the Lake Cumberland Beekeepers.

Meagan Lucas  
Extension Agent for 4-H Youth  
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Pulaski County  
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## Hive maintenance notes from Dr. Tammy Horn Potter, KY State Apiarist

In her email notes accompanying the November 2017 issue of "Beelines", Dr. Tammy Horn Potter had some important hive maintenance reminders:

"This is the time of year to reduce moisture inside the hive. If you have to provide supplemental feed, consider using **Ann Harman's recipe for sugar cakes**.\* The recipe is quick, easy, and will leave no residues in the gut of the honey bee.

Also, the end of November and December are ideal times of the year to apply oxalic acid to your hives to reduce varroa mites inside the hive."

\*For the recipe, access "Beelines" on the LCBA website at [www.lakecumberlandbeekeepers.com](http://www.lakecumberlandbeekeepers.com), under "News".

## Mike's Ramblings

As winter comes upon us we need to prepare for next year. It is a good time to repair hives, paint new hives and protect frames from wax moths. I have checked hives and added blankets on some. Probably will do more. Unfortunately I have lost one of my hives. Checked all and one was empty- no bees- honey, brood or anything, just a few dead bees on bottom screen. I have no idea why. Very disheartening but seems to be common with beekeepers. We either throw up our hands and quit or try harder. I guess I will try harder. I plan to re-queen most hives in the spring.

I read on the internet that Cuba has a thriving bee population. It seems that they don't have access to pesticides and honey is a huge money crop for them. Does anyone have more info on this?

We can only try to help our bees this winter, so keep on striving.

Like every other creature on earth, bees have their own

unique ways of coping with cold temperatures during the winter season.

Honeybees head to the hive when temperatures drop into the 50s. As the weather becomes cool, the honeybees gather in a central area of the hive and form a "winter cluster". Though the queen is always at the center of the cluster, worker bees rotate from the outside to the inside of the cluster, so no individual worker bee gets too cold.

Let's keep striving to protect our bees. We will be in a world of hurt if bees are gone.

Till next time!

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Photo credits: Imants Rizenbergs

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## 2017 LCBA Year In Review

**January:** Ray Tucker talked about winter feeding methods at the January meeting.

**February:** KSBA president, Rick Sutton, talked about using double screen boards at February meeting.

4<sup>th</sup> Beginning Beekeeping School sessions began alternating between Pulaski and Lincoln extension offices. Beth Wilson and a Lincoln County extension agent led the school assisted by various LCBA members and Katherine White president of Lincoln County beekeepers. The school consisted of 6 weekly sessions.

**March:** James Foster, president of Big South Fork Beekeepers, spoke on spring management and swarm prevention at the March meeting.

**April:** April was a busy month. Local beekeeper and LCBA member, Dorothy Morgan, is president of a new association focused on queen bee production called Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association. She and Dwight Wells of the Heartland Honey Bee Breeders Coop conducted a Sustainable Queen Rearing Workshop in Somerset on April 7 and 8. On April 6 a free Sustainable Beekeeping talk was given by Mr. Wells open to the public at the local library.

LCBA member Bobby Goodin spoke on how to collect swarms at the April meeting.

At the Green Living Fair on April 8, LCBA President Ginger Renaker and new member Cindy Robinson set up a booth and talked to folks about bees and answered questions about beekeeping. Mike Wooton and David Gilbert conducted a one hour beekeeping workshop at the fair.

April 21 President Renaker assisted by Cindy Robinson spent the day instructing groups of students at Northern Elementary about honeybees and beekeeping.

April 23 The Earth Day Event at Somerset Community College with LCBA members Ginger Renaker, Cindy Robinson, Mike Wooton, Hilary and Ray Forsyth, and Pat and Imants Rizenbergs answering questions about bees and beekeeping at the LCBA booth.

**May:** Hive Inspections were conducted by Mike Wooton assisted by David Gilbert at the May LCBA meeting. The hives which were inspected belonged to the Pulaski Extension Office. Students from the Beginning Bee School were in attendance for the hive inspections and meeting.

New LCBA Tee Shirts were ordered for some members by Mike Wooton.

**June:** Control of Varroa mites and Small Hive Beetles was discussed with Pat Rizenbergs giving information. Methods of honey extraction were demonstrated by Mike Wooton at the June meeting.



**Pat Rizenbergs is pictured at the recent Wolf Creek event**

June 8- RECC Annual meeting (attended by some 5000 people). LCBA booth was manned by Ginger Renaker and Cindy Robinson and assisted by Roger and Dakota Baird.

Beth Wilson ordered new Kentucky Beekeeping brochures from State Apiarist.

Club voted to order 1000 honey straws for more outreach events.

**July:** Dorothy Morgan spoke on importance of queens in beekeeping and shared information on her work in Purdue Bee Lab's mite biting program.

**August:** Beth Wilson represented LCBA at the Kid's Fest held at the Center for Rural Development.

August Meeting- Laura Rogers spoke on fall hive management.

**September:** At the September meeting Meagan Lucas, Pulaski 4-H extension agent, talked about starting a 4-H Beekeeping Club and Greg Whitis, McCreary extension agent shared his experiences with McCreary's 4-H Beekeeping Club which he sponsors.

**October:** On October 27 a group of LCBA members spent the day at Wolf Creek Fish Hatchery talking about bees and beekeeping with groups of 4<sup>th</sup> graders from Russell County Schools. The group included Beth Wilson, Mike Wooton, Hilary and Ray Forsyth, and Pat and Imants Rizenbergs.

October- LCBA Hive Count results for 2017 - 52 operations reporting 269 hives. That total number of hives was reported to KY State Apiarist Tammy Potter.

October LCBA annual Pot-luck dinner.

- Pat Rizenbergs

## Wolf Creek Outdoor Eco Adventure Day, October 27 2017

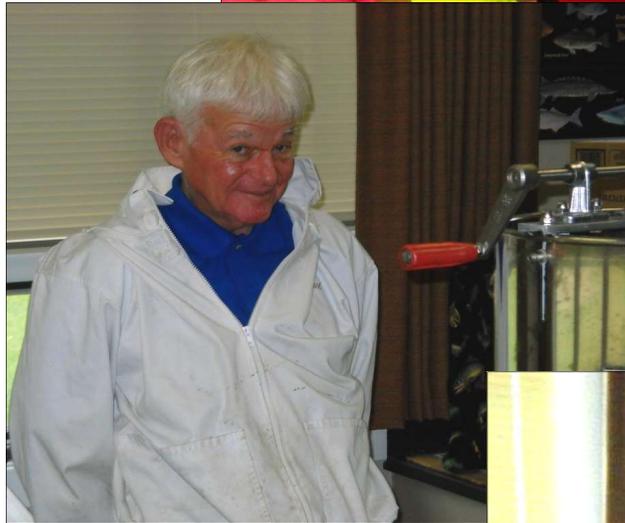
For the second year running, LCBA members gave a presentation on bees and beekeeping at the Wolf Creek Outdoor Eco Adventure Day to some 220 4th-graders from Russell County Schools.

The LCBA team consisted of Beth Wilson, Hilary Forsyth, Pat Rizenbergs and Mike Wooton. Imants Rizenbergs took the photos. Beth introduced students to the concept of beekeepers as farmers and bees as livestock; Hilary explained the size and components of a Langstroth hive; Pat discussed the lifecycle of bees and the three types of bees that make up a bee colony; and Mike demonstrated the protective clothing used by beekeepers, the smoker and hive tool as essential equipment for the beekeeper, and how honey was extracted from the frames.

The day was divided into 9 sessions of 20 minutes, with each group of 20-25 students rotating through 9 stations. It was an incredibly busy day, but thanks to the meticulous planning by Moria Painter and the team from Wolf Creek, everything went smoothly. The students were attentive and their behavior exemplary. Although the LCBA presentation was situated indoors and thus not affected by the weather, a beautiful warm fall day made the event even more of a success.



**Above: Beth Wilson introduced the session**



**Left: Mike Wooton discussed beekeeper safety and honey extracting**



**Above: Hilary Forsyth talked about the components of a hive**



**Left: Pat Rizenbergs (center) explained honey bee lifecycle**

# News from Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association

You are invited to join our group, become a member and start sharing our mission to improve the honey bee and educate the beekeeper. This is our general meeting you must either be a member or join to attend. There will be 2018 membership forms available there. Mr. Kevin Hale will headline our event. He is a very successful beekeeper and queen breeder. Along with his presentation Kevin is bringing some of his own designed

equipment to share with us. We are providing lunch, please RSVP. We will have door prizes as well.  
Sincerely,  
Dorothey Morgan, President  
KQBBAI  
606-871-7300

## Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders' Association 2017 General Meeting/Members Only December 2nd

**Location: Kentucky State Apiarist's Office  
in Frankfort, KY at 109 Corporate Drive Complex.**

9:30 AM ET - Doors open  
10:00 AM - Board meeting  
11:00 AM - General meeting and election of officers  
12:00 PM - Lunch will be provided  
1:00 PM - Kevin Hale  
3:30 PM - Adjourn



**Mr. Hales topics**

- Queen rearing challenges in KY
- Selecting queen stock
- Setting up nuc cell builders and finishers
- Using queen cells and virgin queens
- Evaluating new queens
- Queen introduction
- Honey bees and queen nutrition and feeding

**2018 memberships available at this meeting.** Come join us.  
For more information contact:  
Dorothey Morgan, President KQBBAI,  
lavenderlanefarms@gmail.com or  
606-871-7300



**Our featured speaker is Kevin Hale the owner of Hale's Honey, a beekeeping operation located in Menifee County, KY. Kevin maintains approximately 140 hives during the winter and around 275 in spring and summer. His main business focus is producing nucs and queens, but also he produces a substantial amount of honey. Kevin's winter losses average around 10% while honey production averages around 100-120 lbs. per hive while having several hives that produce up in the 150-175 lb. range. Each spring Kevin produces around 150 nucs and several hundred queens, selling them locally. Kevin runs Italians, Russians, and just recently added Purdue Ankle Biter stock to his apiary.**

### Fondant for Sale

LCBA member Dorothey Morgan has fondant for sale for feeding bees. A 50 pound block costs \$58 and she will cut a block down if you want to order less than 50 pounds. Dorothey's contact number is 606-871-7300.