


# Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association

Lake  
Cumberland  
Beekeeper



February 2018 Newsletter

## LCBA meeting February 19 2018

The February LCBA meeting will be held on  
**Monday, February 19, 2018.**

### Schedule for the evening:

6pm Doors open for general discussion and meet and greet.

6.30pm Brief LCBA business meeting

7:00pm **Guest Presenter Rick Sutton.**

Past KSBA President, experienced beekeeper and big-time honey producer Rick Sutton will be talking about splitting hives using the double screen board method, and making nucs.

Rick has a wealth of knowledge to share about beekeeping, built up over his years of experience working with bees. He is an informative and entertaining speaker, with plenty of interesting stories to share. This is definitely a presentation not to be missed!

Refreshments will be served after the meeting.



**Past KSBA President Rick Sutton is guest speaker at the February 19 LCBA meeting**

**Meeting venue:** Lower Ground Floor, Pulaski County Extension Office, Somerset, KY.

LCBA meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, January thru November. Meetings are free and open to all who are interested in bees and beekeeping and want to learn more about this fascinating science.

## Remember to renew your LCBA annual membership

The beekeeping year is in full swing. Renew your LCBA membership, and keep connected with your local beekeeping community. There is a membership application form on the last page of this newsletter. Mail your membership application and check to Dan Crockett, LCBA Treasurer, 2656 Slate Branch Road, Somerset, KY 42503, or hand it in at the next LCBA meeting.

**Editor:** Hilary Forsyth

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LCBA website: [www.lakecumberlandbeekeepers.com](http://www.lakecumberlandbeekeepers.com)

**LCBA President:** Ginger Renaker

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## February Hive Maintenance Notes from Dr. Tammy Horn Potter

In her introductory notes to the February 2018 edition of "Beelines", the monthly KSBA Newsletter, KY State Apiarist Dr. Tammy Horn Potter has some timely information to share with us beekeepers:

"Also, a reminder for those beekeepers preparing to make splits or to reduce swarming (or both), consider **adding** a super of frames with **drawn** wax foundation around **Feb. 14** (Valentine's Day), **if the weather permits**. Doing so will allow honey bees room to expand **up and out**, and theoretically, reduce **their** (i.e., honey bees') perception that they are running out of room.

Similarly, some beekeepers go ahead and "reverse" their hives by the end of February, for much the same reason and weather permitting. The "reversal process" is simply taking the empty bottom super (or "deep") and placing it on top of the top super (or "deep"). Close the hive by putting the inner cover and lid in place.

The point is this: as the days lengthen, flowering plants and trees respond by making more pollen. Worker bees bring in the pollen. The increased amount of pollen inside the hive is a

"trigger" for honey bee queen to begin laying eggs. Spring buildup is still three-four weeks away, but last year 2017, KY had a mild January and February. Consequently, many hives had a lot of brood by the end of February, and the first swarm "call" recorded in my office was March 4, 2017.

Our winter has been a roller-coaster ride with temps in the high 60sF and conversely, well below zero F for extended time. When the weather permits, check to see that the bees still have honey, that the entrances are still reduced so mice cannot inhabit the hive, and slightly tip the hives so that any moisture that has accumulated inside the hive can drain out.

No one can predict the KY weather in February, so monitor those hives. We are not out of the woods. "

Many thanks to Dr. Horn Potter for sharing this important information.

"Beelines" is available online at <http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/documents/BEELINES-FEBRUARY-2018.pdf>

## Mike's Ramblings—A note from Mike Wooton, LCBA Vice President

### GETTING READY FOR MARCH

HELLO TO ALL BEEKEEPERS,

February is here and our bees are starting to stir when the temperature gets to the 50sF and 60sF. Cleansing flights are the norm. Bees can eat up to 2lbs per day when temperatures start to warm up. The Queens are ready to start laying. Be sure hives have enough food to get them into pollen and nectar flow. We need to start our planning for the year. How are we going to assist our bees for the best honey sales and profiting from our bees?

Check closely to see if the Queen is laying a good pattern. If not, re-queen or combine weak hives. Make sure food is adequate. With the early blooming trees and flowers, the bees will be more active.

**January 15, 2018** The Club met and discussed ideas for coming year. We had a fair turnout, with

everyone excited about the upcoming season.

The LCBA planning committee met on Saturday January 27, 2018 to plan the agenda for the new year. For the February meeting, experienced beekeeper and past president of KSBA **Rick Sutton** is our featured speaker. Rick will be discussing making splits and nucs.

**Be sure to attend the February meeting for lots of good information.**

On a private note, I resolve to keep better records this year so I can have an idea of what I am doing right or wrong. I lost a hive last fall because of failure to keep a close watch.

Happy Beekeeping

Mike Wooton  
Vice President  
Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association  
[Mikewooton@hotmail.com](mailto:Mikewooton@hotmail.com)

## Casey County Bees

### Signs of activity in the hives

At last there has been a break from the freezing temperatures of January, and on warmer days the bees have been able to move about inside their hives a bit more. Evidence of this activity is the collection of dead bees outside each hive: it has been warm enough for the bees to carry out their dead, but not warm enough for them to carry the corpses too far away.

### Inspection Board story board

On checking the inspection boards early in February, wax cappings from last year's honey frames indicate that the bees have been able to get up into their honey stores. Even better news: in the middle of February, paler wax cappings on the inspection boards are evidence of newly emerging brood. The queens were obviously laying eggs again by mid-January after the December break, and from now on the brood cycle will really pick up speed.

### Bees take to the air

Even with temperatures hovering at 40F, on a calm, sunny day a few bees venture out of their hives, their wings producing a higher-pitched buzz as the bees work hard to get airborne. As the temperatures reach into the 50sF, more bees emerge from the hive entrances, crawl up the front of the brood box and take to the air.

With more brood coming on line, the worker bees are stimulated to search out pollen and nectar sources. Skunk cabbage growing down in the wetlands will be the earliest source of pollen and nectar. In sheltered areas, henbit is starting to flower, and the bees will soon be collecting the red pollen from these plants. By early March, the first of the maples will start flowering, and then it's all systems go. The spring peeper chorus emanating from our woods on these warmer days is not the only sign that spring is here!

- Hilary Forsyth

## KY State Apiarist to speak on February 15, 2018

Dr. Tammy Horn Potter will give a presentation about the new KDA Pollinator Protection App for Beekeepers and pesticide applicators. See details in the flyer at right.

Date: Thursday, February 15, 2018

Venue: Taylor County Extension Office.



University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service

### KDA Pollinator Protection App

#### Informational Meeting for

#### Beekeepers and Pesticide Applicators

#### **Dr. Tammy Potter, KY State Apiarist,**

will be speaking to the Green River Beekeepers at the Taylor County Extension Office on **February 15th at 7:00 p.m. EST** about the new KDA Pollinator Protection App for Beekeepers and pesticide applicators.

(You do not have to be a member of the Green River Beekeepers to attend.)



For more information please contact the Taylor County Extension Office at (270)465-4511.

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

*Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association*

**2018 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	\$ _____
	=====

**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.