

# Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association

Newsletter  
April 2016

## LCBA meeting April 18, 2016

Pulaski County Extension Service Office.

**6pm** Bobby Goodin: How to collect a swarm

**6.30pm** LCBA business meeting

**7pm** Guest presenter Phil Craft, retired KY State Apiarist.

Phil Craft's presentation will cover increasing honey production and preventing swarms. Phil is well-known for his informative and entertaining presentations about bees and beekeeping. He has the ability to 'talk bees' at all levels, making clear points and tips that even small-time hobby beekeepers like us can understand.

LCBA meetings are free and open to the public. Invite your friends, family and neighbors to join in and talk bees!



**Early April 2016 and the redbuds are in flower. Bees have been busily making the most of this early source of pollen and nectar.**

## Bee News

### Spring 2016 Hive Count

LCBA had 247 hives last October and lost 54 hives this past winter according to the March 2016 count of 193 hives. This is an average loss of 22% which is better than the previous 2 winters of 26% and 36%.

Congratulations to the 38 operations that had 0 winter hive loss!

Thanks to all 59 LCBA beekeeping operations that participated in the recent hive counts!

- Pat Rizenbergs

### March/early April bee reports

March has turned out to be quite a dry month—up here in Casey County, we only recorded about 2 inches of rain, which is half the normal amount for this time of year. The winter, however, has been comparatively

mild, and the bees were out and about on all but the coldest days. Bees were bringing in pollen as early as February, possibly from skunk cabbage growing down in the nearby wetlands.

Elms and maples came into flower in mid-March, and the bees have been busily bringing in large amounts of pollen ever since. These activities will be slowed down somewhat now in early April by cooler, windy conditions.

At our hive inspections in late March, we found good stores of pollen and expanding brood counts. There were queen cups on several frames, and rafts of drone brood. This means that the bees will soon be thinking about swarming! Now is the time to gather all the swarm-catching equipment together, and to think about splitting the stronger hives prior to swarming.

- Hilary Forsyth

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## Upcoming events

**Saturday, April 16, 2016:**

### **Big South Fork Beekeepers Association Field Day**

Big South For Beekeepers Association in Whitley City invites members of LCBA to their annual Field Day to be held on Saturday, April 16 at the Sand Hill Camp beginning at 10:00 EST. Meats (grilled hamburgers and hot dots), drinks, and paper products are provided free of charge for lunch but guests are expected to bring a dish or desert. The morning is outdoor classes on various beekeeping topics and following lunch you will need a veil and/or suit to inspect hives!

Directions: To get there from Somerset: Go south on HWY 27 and as you get close to Whitley City turn left at a flashing light onto HWY 700. Proceed 5-6 miles and Sand Hill Camp is located on the left. This event is well worth the drive! Hope to see you there! - Pat Rizenbergs

**Sunday, April 17, 2016:**

### **Earth Day at Somerset Community College, 1-4.30pm**

LCBA will be hosting a table at Earth Day on April 17, with information for the public about bees and the LCBA observation hive on display.

**Monday, April 18, 2016:**

### **LCBA April Meeting, 6-8.30pm**

Phil Craft, former KY State Apiarist, is the guest speaker at the LCBA monthly meeting at Pulaski County Extension Office, 6pm (details on first page)

## LCBA outreach

### **Somerset Green Living Fair**

LCBA President David Gilbert's presentation on "Beginning Beekeeping" at the Somerset Green Living Fair on Saturday, April 2, 2016

On April 2nd the LCBA provided a 90-minute class on beginning beekeeping to 35 attendees at the 2016 Green Living Fair on the grounds of the Rural Economic Development Center in Somerset. As instructor, I was pleasantly surprised by the assistance of our immediate past-president and current Kentucky State Beekeepers Association President Ray Tucker who was attending the fair and graciously helped me with the presentation.

A power point presentation was utilized from the Ohio State Beekeepers' Association slides on beginning beekeeping. President Tucker presented a visual aid of our educational hive frames and I provided hands on hive boxes, hardware components, drawn frames and equipment.

The main emphasis during the lecture consisted of resources available for beginning beekeeping through instructional books, periodicals, websites and local mentors.

Many attendees stated they would start their beekeep-



ing endeavors soon and become members of the LCBA to receive local instruction from fellow members

- David Gilbert

## March 2016 LCBA meeting report

### Dr. Tammy Horn-Potter

LCBA were pleased to host Kentucky State Apiarist Dr. Tammy Horn as guest speaker at the association's meeting on March 22.

Dr. Horn was appointed State Apiarist in 2014. Her primary goals as apiarist are to document hive health, promote economic development, and provide education and outreach.

Dr. Horn presented a program on spring management of bee hives, with an explanation on bee population development at this time of year and the importance of keeping bees healthy, fed, and free of pests.

Later in the evening, her second presentation covered the development and rearing of queen bees.

Over 70 people attended the special meeting, and Dr. Horn's presentations were well received.

Thanks to Pat and Imants Rizenbergs for arranging refreshments at the meeting.



Following her talk, a gift presentation was made by KSBA to Dr. Horn.

*Pictured above:* LCBA President David Gilbert, Doug Brock, Tammy Horn, Audy Faulkner, and KSBA President Ray Tucker.

## April news from the FSA

### Helping beekeepers find USDA programs and resources

USDA StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity is about getting USDA programs and services delivered to rural communities. In 2014, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced Kentucky's StrikeForce Initiative. (Learn more at [www.usda.gov/StrikeForce](http://www.usda.gov/StrikeForce).) As part of this initiative, local FSA offices have made extensive efforts to conduct outreach to underserved producers representing all sectors of ag, including sectors such as beekeeping. FSA appreciates the partnership of our local beekeeper organizations in allowing us to share information with your membership.

In an effort to connect local beekeepers with programs offered throughout the entirety of USDA, I'd like to share an online resource geared toward beginning farmers, but with a wide variety of information that may be useful to all. USDA's Start2Farm website is a database of programs and resources for beginning farmers. From this online portal, you can find four types of services including training opportunities, financing resources, technical assistance, and networking. The website can be found at [www.start2farm.gov](http://www.start2farm.gov).

As the face of USDA in your local area, staff members at your local FSA office welcome the opportunity to help you explore any USDA programs or services you may have questions about. Even if the program isn't directly administered by Farm Service Agency, we will work hard to find answers or a point of contact for any questions you have concerning any USDA programs.

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*Pulaski and McCreary Counties*

# LCBA Newsletter

## April, 2016

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Visit our website at **[www.lakecumberlandbeekeepers.com](http://www.lakecumberlandbeekeepers.com)**

- Posts on upcoming events
- Photos of past LCBA events and outreach projects, and the 2015 bee school
- Previous LCBA newsletters
- Recommended links to useful bee-related websites
- Details on equipment rental, mentors, honey sales, swarm removal
- LCBA membership form

Not a member of LCBA, or a lapsed LCBA member? Join us and become a part of the local beekeeping community. Membership is only \$10 per year per beekeeping unit. These funds help to pay for LCBA rental equipment, as well as posters and other informational material used at our presentations. Membership forms are available on the website.

Do you have any bee-related news that you would like to include in the newsletter?

Contact us! Email: [lakecumberland.beekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:lakecumberland.beekeepers@gmail.com)

**LAKE CUMBERLAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Promoting healthy honey bees,**  
**supporting beekeepers,**  
**informing the public about bees**