

# Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association

June 2017 Newsletter

## Next LCBA Meeting: Monday, June 19, 2017

The June LCBA meeting will feature presentations on both the minuses and the pluses of keeping bees:

Pat Rizenbergs will give a presentation on varroa mites and small hive beetles.

Mike Wooton will explain methods of honey extraction. Time permitting, we will be able to extract some honey from a few frames using the Association's honey extractor. New beekeepers can bring some frames for extracting, and should also bring containers for their honey. Mike requests help from some of the experienced beekeepers in the instructions.

There will be question and answer sessions before the meeting and during the extracting.

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

**6:30pm** Business meeting

**7:00pm** Educational presentations.

LCBA meetings are free of charge and open to the public.

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

## New LCBA T-shirts for sale

New LCBA T-shirts are available for sale. At the LCBA meeting held on May 17, 2017, the association voted to purchase an extra 15 T-shirts for anyone who wishes to order them.



Logo for T-shirt front



Logo for back of T-shirt

## Nationwide Hive Losses for 2016-17 Winter

The results of the 11<sup>th</sup> annual survey of honey bee colony losses conducted by the Bee Informed Partnership in collaboration with the Apiary Inspectors of America were recently released for the winter of 2016-17.

Several LCBA members participated in the nationwide survey of 4,963 beekeepers with 363,987 hives. It should be noted that this survey reflects only about 13% of the estimated 2.8 million hives nationwide.

### Survey results:

Nationwide - a winter loss of 21%

Kentucky Beekeepers - a winter loss of 17.6%

**Our LCBA winter loss was 14% following the March Hive count!!**

The full survey is available on the Bee Informed Partnership website at <http://beeinformed.org/2017/05/25/2016-2017-loss-results-thank-you-to-all-survey-participants/>

- Pat Rizenbergs

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Photo credits: David Gilbert, Mike Wooton

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## LCBA Equipment for rent

### LCBA Equipment Rental Guidelines

Updated April 2017

Only members of LCBA may rent the equipment.

Contact Imants Rizenbergs at 606-679-5087 to rent equipment. The equipment is stored at 5004 Ash Valley Road, Somerset, KY located off the southern part of Oak Hill Road directly across from the Winding Ridge Subdivision.

You will be asked to fill out a rental agreement and pay the rental fees listed below.

Equipment available for rent:

Small extractor holding 2 deep, medium, or shallow frames which rents for \$5 for a 24 hour period.

Medium radial extractor (no turning of frames) holding 6 medium or shallow frames at a time and rents for \$15

for a 24 hour period. A separate basket which holds 3 deep frames is also available with this extractor.

Refractometer which measures honey moisture content rents for \$2 for a 24 hour period. Cleaning directions are given to each renter.

Rental agreements, a rental calendar, and receipt box are maintained by Imants Rizenbergs with receipts given to the LCBA treasurer monthly.

Extractors are to be cleaned using only water (NO SOAP) before returning and if needed for a longer period than agreed upon, call 679-5087 to make arrangements as others may be waiting to use the equipment. Failure to return items in clean condition will result in loss of rental privilege.

**Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association**

## 2017 American Honey Queen to visit Kentucky

### FROM: AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN PROGRAM

Maia Jaycox (pictured at right), the 2017 American Honey Queen, will visit Louisville, Kentucky August 17-23. She will make appearances at the Kentucky State Fair during her stay, speaking to fairgoers about importance of honey bees to the public's daily lives and how the diverse flightpath of honey bees extends from food to fiber. Maia will make appearances throughout the fairgrounds and will be present and the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association exhibit.

Maia is a sophomore at Iowa State University in the open option program with an interest in biology. Maia began beekeeping with her family about four years ago and currently tends to seven hives of bees.

As the 2017 American Honey Queen, Maia serves as a national spokesperson on behalf of the American Beekeeping Federation, a trade organization representing beekeepers and honey producers throughout the United States. The Honey Queen and Princess speak and promote in venues nationwide, and, as such Queen Maia will travel throughout the United States in 2016. Prior to being selected as the American Honey Queen, Maia served as the 2016 Iowa Honey Queen. In this role, she promoted the honey industry at fairs, festivals, and farmers' markets, via media interviews, and in schools.

The beekeeping industry touches the lives of every individual in our country. In fact, honey bees are responsible for nearly one-third of our entire diet, in regards to the pollination services that they provide for a large majority of fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes. This



amounts to nearly \$19 billion per year of direct value from honeybee pollination to United States agriculture.

For more information on Queen Maia's Kentucky visit and to schedule an interview, contact Tammy Horn Potter at 502-229-2950 or [tammy.potter@ky.gov](mailto:tammy.potter@ky.gov).

# Pulaski/Lincoln 2017 Beginning Bee School Report



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**Session 6**

The 6th and final session of the 2017 Beginning Bee School was held at the Pulaski County Extension Center, with a hands-on inspection of the center's bee hives. LCBA Vice-President Mike Wooton led the inspections, with assistance from LCBA member David Gilbert, among others.

Besides being able to observe first-hand how to smoke and open the hives and inspect individual frames, the students observed supercedure cells, swarm cells and brood patterns.

- David Gilbert

*Pictured clockwise from top left:*

1. The class gathers around the hives at the start of the inspection
2. Smoking and opening up the hive
3. Hive open and top box set aside
4. Individual frames were removed from the hive so that class members could see the brood frames up close
5. After the class, it was a relief to get those bee suits off
6. A full brood frame, showing an excellent laying pattern
7. An old, empty frame with only a few capped drone brood cells



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## Casey County Bees

### More bee math

As reported in the May LCBA newsletter, we collected two very small swarms back in early May. One of these queens did not survive, leaving only a small number of worker bees which we combined into another hive. The second swarm, however, seemed stronger, so after a week we decided to check them out; this despite Bobby Goodin's advice in his talk in April on swarm catching to leave captured swarms undisturbed for 4 weeks.

As we removed the first frame from the hive, we were surprised to see the queen running up the surface of the frame and taking flight! What was going on? We then realized that none of the worker bees had joined their queen. Could this be a virgin queen, out on her mating flight? We quickly closed up the hive, and hoped for the best.

A week later we checked the hive again, to find a small but cohesive crescent of brand new eggs. Our queen was back and laying! So—the bee math here is: it could take up to 7 days for a virgin queen to fly out to mate (despite a whole week of beautiful weather), and it takes at least a further 7 days before you can expect to see eggs.

A further inspection the following week revealed a brood nest over 2 frames, with capped and uncapped brood. A week later, the cells which had contained capped brood had been recycled and were now filled

again with new eggs, and a definite brood pattern was establishing. Just as Bobby said: it takes 4 weeks to be reasonably sure that a captured swarm will make it.

The more established hives in our bee yard have good brood populations, with plenty of foraging activity. New bees emerge from the hives every afternoon at about 2pm for flying and navigation lessons: these bees all fly facing the front of the hive, the cohort swaying to and fro in unison as they adjust to the breeze, before landing and scurrying back into the safety of the hive.

### Food for bees

Judging by the masses of red and ripening berries, the bees and other pollinators were busy on the bramble flowers early this month. Now in mid-June, the bees are visiting sweet white and yellow clover growing on rough ground along the roadsides; wild smooth hydrangea flowers in the woods; and smooth sumac on field edges. Oxydendrum (sourgum) and milkweed flower buds are about to open, and will provide a rich source of nectar and pollen. The bees are also collecting water from ponds and birdbaths, which they will evaporate from the frames to help keep the hives cool in this hot weather.

- Hilary Forsyth

## Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders' Association



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

