

Lake Cumberland Beekeepers Association



January 2018 Newsletter

LCBA's first meeting of 2018

The first LCBA meeting of the year will be held on
Monday, January 15, 2018.

Come and join us, and get the latest buzz on bees and beekeeping in our area.

Schedule for the evening:

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

6.30pm Brief LCBA business meeting

7:00pm Discussion on topics for future meetings: what do you most want to learn about beekeeping?

Refreshments, coffee and cakes will be served after the 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 want to learn more about keeping bees.

LCBA membership renewal

It's a whole new beekeeping year, and time to renew your annual LCBA membership.

For your convenience, there is a membership application form on the last page of this newsletter. Simply fill out the form and attach your membership dues. Your membership application may be handed in at the next LCBA meeting, or you may mail your application to:

Dan Crockett
LCBA Treasurer
2656 Slate Branch Road
Somerset, KY 42503

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

Hello to all beekeepers,

Another year is upon us. We have been cleaning and painting old boxes, checking old frames and planning for this coming year.

Last year was good in a way and bad in another way. First, I harvested quite a bit of honey and learned, as I do every year, new things about beekeeping. I will be trying some new things this year with the idea that I can make it easier for my bees to just do their thing. My bees helped in the crop pollination of a farmer friend of mine and he plans to add more bees to his operation. My bad thing is that I lost several hives, probably from not paying close enough attention to mites. I had to

combine some hives that were weak and I just lost a couple hives for unknown reasons. I resolve to do better this year!

Let's pray for a good spring nectar flow and weather that will help our bees thrive. Come join us for meetings the third Monday of each month.

Mike Wooton
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Hive Maintenance Notes from Dr. Tammy Horn Potter

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

"Other winter apiary activities include making sure that your hives have plenty of honey (their "fuel") to help them maintain "winter cluster" temperatures around 92-94 F degrees. Moisture is the enemy of the hives this time of year. If you feed, make sure that the supplemental feed has very little to no moisture.

If you have a day when the temperatures are above 55F and you can't resist opening a hive, take a look inside to see if the winter cluster has moved against a hive wall. In my experience, this tends to happen in mid-January. If the cluster has isolated itself against a hive wall, I place a frame or two of honey between the bees and the hive wall. Getting the cluster "off the hive wall" will help the bees access honey in other places inside the hive and also give the cluster room to expand as the winter transitions into spring. Once I close the hive, I slowly rotate the hive structure so that the sun warms the hive's exterior more evenly. This entire "exercise" should be done **quickly**, with an awareness of temperature and wind. Don't dawdle in any hive this time of year."



Dr. Tammy Horn Potter

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

Casey County Bees

With unprecedented cold temperatures since just before Christmas, the past three weeks have been tough on our bees. All we could do during that time was to press our ears to the side of the hives, and take some little comfort from the low hum that indicates the bees were still alive and tightly clustered around their queens.

On slightly warmer days, we briefly pull out the inspection boards to glean what information we can from the debris. We have found several dead small hive beetles on some of the boards, but no signs of any frass (beetle 'poop'); this could mean that the bees have managed to push the beetles out of the cluster, and the beetles have died from the cold—but that's just a guess. We have found very few varroa mites on the boards, but we continue to check the mite situation regularly.

Good news is that a brief warm-up is expected this week, which should at least allow for the bees to clear out their dead, take needed bathroom breaks, and loosen their clusters just enough to access their honey supplies.

Back in November, we took careful note of the amount of honey available in each of our hives, and weighed the

hives to give us a datum point. We weighed the hives again a week ago, and calculate that while hive weights are down a few pounds from their November figures, there should still be ample supplies of honey available for the bees.

Bee activity will start to increase in January with (hopefully) warmer temperatures and longer daylight hours. Also, the queens recommence egg laying at this time, resulting in brood that needs to be fed. February and March are thus critical times for bee survival, and we will be closely monitoring food supplies in the hives.

- Hilary Forsyth

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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	\$ _____
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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.