

# Kentucky Bee Line

## Sept/Oct 2007

Volume 58 Issue 5

Bobbie Vernon, Editor

*A Publication of the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association, Inc.*

The Kentucky Bee Line is published bi-monthly to all members of KSBA for the purpose of providing to them "up to date" information relative to the Beekeeping Industry. Additionally this publication provides a forum for interaction among KSBA members in the sharing of ideas, meeting notices and other pertinent information considered beneficial to them and the promotion of beekeeping locally and nationally.

For information or any business regarding this publication, please contact Bobbie Vernon at 3583 Brownsford Rd, Scottsville, Kentucky 42164.



*The Kentucky Bee Line is published in collaboration  
with Kentucky State University*



Kentucky State University Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

## **From the desk of the KSBA President:**

This past year has flown by and we have reached the time again where the presidency of the KSBA is changing. It has been an exciting and busy year. As the 2006/2007 KSBA President I would like to thank everyone on the executive committee, and all local beekeeping association executive members for all the hard work that you have done to keep beekeeping active in Kentucky. I would like to thank everybody for supporting me throughout this year as president. I met a lot of new beekeepers in our state, and having our meetings in the different parts of Kentucky has helped bring beekeepers together and encouraged a larger group of beekeepers. Thank you for inviting me to your local club meetings, and I enjoyed getting to know you better.

The State Fair was a great success this year. I would like to thank Gordon Vernon for stepping up and being willing to run it for us. Gordon, you did a great job! Also a big "Thank You" to everybody who helped out at the State Fair and to everyone who supplied honey for sale! Without you it would not be possible! Thank you Bobbie for doing the Beeline.

A special welcome to all new KSBA members!

I wish Kent Williams, our new President, all of the best for this coming year. Let us all support him!

Thank you,  
Robin Mountain  
President KSBA

## **From the KSBA President Elect:**

I remember as a youngster watching or listening to Johnny Cash concerts. At each concert, as a way of introduction, Johnny would begin by sayin' "Hello, I'm Johnny Cash". That is how I am compelled to begin my first column as president of KSBA... by introducing myself.

Hello, I'm Kent Williams, current president of KSBA. I want first to say how grateful and humbled I am to have gained the confidence of the State Association's membership, to the degree of being elected president. I will make every attempt to maintain the high standards set by the preceding presidents of our association; and to build on and improve, if possible, the foundations laid by our past officers.

The Fall convention of KSBA was held Oct. 15 in Prestonsburg. The attendance was reasonably good, and several new acquaintances were made between KSBA members and prospective members from the Prestonsburg locale. Personally, I learned what a "plum granny" is. I can tell you, my truck smells A LOT different now, since we rode home with the "plum-granny" in the cab. (A plum granny is a tennis ball-sized melon of sorts that has a very distinctive fragrance.)

The subject of meeting venue(s) is one area that I would like to build on by holding the three seasonal conventions in different regions of the State. I believe by having meetings in regional locations, KSBA might make itself more accessible to beekeepers that would not consider driving four to five hours to attend a meeting but would be agreeable to driving an hour or less. My aim is to have new faces at these regional meetings. I am sure there will be some of the "regulars" at each meeting as well, but do not expect to see the same crowd in its entirety at each meeting. The intent of holding regional meetings of KSBA is to draw more local beekeepers to the convention and expose them to both the State Association and some nationally recognized speakers. So here is the challenge to the beekeepers in the Louisville/Lexington, London/Somerset, and Hopkinsville/Bowling Green areas: get the word out and get the membership mobilized. Make sure there is a good attendance at "your" KSBA meeting. In my opinion, it is a shame on us all that there are more than 500 beekeepers in Kentucky and our average attendance at KSBA meetings is usually in the 25-40 person range. I am at a loss to understand the reasons behind the poor attendance — wondering if it has to do with the

perceived quality of speakers/programs, personality conflicts between members, or a general lack of interest in becoming a more informed beekeeper and enjoying the fellowship with other beekeepers. With the media attention that has been focused on honeybees and beekeeping - due to CCD - it is striking that the general public seems to have a greater interest in learning more about beekeeping than do the beekeepers. It is also possible that the low attendance at State meetings is due to a sort of "conference overload", with more and more beekeepers attending conferences such as HAS. If that is the case, I am pleased that our state beekeepers are seeking knowledge from a very good resource, and commend the attendees for their efforts.

It is not my intent to sound as if I am scolding KSBA members, because I am keenly aware of the hectic nature of life in general these days. There are always conflicts in scheduling conferences in regard to events where many beekeepers depend on selling large amounts of their product. This is unavoidable, unfortunately; but there will be an effort made to schedule the 2008 KSBA meetings around traditional "fests" when possible.

In closing, my admonition to KY beekeepers is to be involved at the local level; be a "driving force" locally. If your local association is not as active as you would like, take charge, do something about it. I am not necessarily advocating insurrection, but if you make enough waves you might rock the ship off the reef of apathy on which it is grounded. You might be a relatively new beekeeper, but a new face - full of enthusiasm - may be exactly what is needed to activate the club. Some of us, maybe all of us, as more experienced beekeepers, sometimes forget the amount of enthusiasm we had when we were fresh to the craft. It is helpful to some of us "old dogs" to have an energetic young "pup" to chase after. This is, I believe, the formula for energizing the KSBA, to get more local association participation, which will hopefully cause a greater desire to participate more in regional and statewide beekeeping events. I can envision members of local associations carpooling to KSBA meetings to hear a notable speaker. To reach this point of activity the local association must first be motivated to learn. None of us should ever become comfortable - or satisfied - with our current level of knowledge. The "status-quo" should not be acceptable. When it does become acceptable, the door is open for another CCD, or the next great pathogen, to enter.

By the way, the speakers for the upcoming year will be Jennifer Berry, Jamie Ellis, and Clarence Collison. There will be other, more regional speakers as well, but these are the "headliners".

On another subject, it will soon be time to think about your plans for 2008 for purchasing queens, nucs, or packages. I am an advocate of purchasing locally or regionally when possible - when the product offered is similar in quality. Give some consideration this year to purchasing KY raised queens or nucs. We have some excellent queen producers in KY, and should take advantage of the situation. Queens from our region are more likely to perform better under our climatic conditions than those from another region of the country. I also urge your support for the beekeeper supply businesses based in KY. Our goal should be to foster a beekeeping industry within our State that is as "self-supporting" as possible.

If there is anything that I can do personally to make a positive impact on either Statewide, local or your personal beekeeping, please do not hesitate to let me know. As KSBA president, I feel it is my obligation to be totally accessible and willing to help in any way possible. My e-mail is: [kwilliams@wk.net](mailto:kwilliams@wk.net); my home phone is 270 382-2348; my cell phone (which, according to Valerie, is never on unless I need to call someone) is 270 970-1307. My physical address is 580 State Route 385 N, Wingo KY 42088. Our door is always open for anyone who would like to visit.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve,  
Kent

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**2007 Kentucky State Fair  
KSBA Honey Booth  
Results**



<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 28,621.85</b>
<b>Paid to Beekeepers:</b>	<b>\$ 14,020.12</b>
<b>Paid to Associations:</b>	<b>\$ 2,728.69</b>

**Thank you Honey Producers and Associations for making this year a huge success. It was my pleasure working with you.**

**Gordon Vernon, Manager**

## NOTICE OF CHANGES FOR BEE-LINE RECIPIENTS

There are a few changes on the immediate horizon for the *BEE-LINE*, which I will take this opportunity to explain as best I can.

This printing will be the final issue printed by Kentucky State University. The KSBA has been extremely fortunate to have had the *BEE-LINE* printed free of charge by KSU up to this point in time. All KSBA members should be thankful for the cooperation and generosity of both the University and those persons responsible for getting the work accomplished in the printing of the *BEE-LINE* over the years.

As KSBA moves from having access to free printing services to a position of paying for the *BEE-LINE* to be printed, we are faced with a dilemma. The cheapest cost found (so far) is about \$1.15 per issue. Since there are around 475 issues mailed, each edition multiplied times six editions annually is not an insignificant cost. There are two options that have been discussed as possible solutions:

- The first option is to create a two-tiered dues system where those receiving the *BEE-LINE* electronically (e-mail) will pay the normal amount of dues each year; while those wishing to receive the *BEE-LINE* in the traditional paper-and-print will pay dues plus printing costs for six issues per year.
- The second option is much more simple...to raise dues across the board regardless of the method by which one receives the *BEE-LINE*.

The one fact in this dilemma is that the printer must be paid. We members of KSBA have been receiving a product for years without cost; the time has now come to pay the piper. It is also worthy to mention at this time the amount of effort put forth for each edition by the editor, treasurer, and mailing agent - free of charge - so the members of KSBA might be better informed. It is very important, if you want to voice your opinion and have a vote on this matter, for you to contact your local association's Delegate to the KSBA Executive Board with your thoughts, or suggestions. Because there will be no regular meeting of the Board before the next two editions of the *BEE-LINE* are due to be printed, it might be necessary to call a special meeting of the Executive Board to address this issue. If this is the case, there will be ample time given to allow local associations to meet and discuss the desired course of action. Of course, there is a third option - to discontinue the printing of the *BEE-LINE* altogether. This will, by necessity, be the default position if no agreement on offsetting the cost of printing is reached.

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The second change for the *BEE-LINE* is due to the Postal Service informing KSBA that the *BEE-LINE* is in violation of Postal regulations by accepting and printing advertisements for "for profit" businesses. (even though these businesses do not pay for this service - the ads are free) This is because the *BEE-LINE* is an extension of KSBA, which is registered as a "not for profit" entity. There is one exception to this law; a product review may be written and submitted featuring a specific product, and listing the contact information and price for the product. Due to this exception, there will be a new column in the *BEE-LINE* this month - Product Reviews. Prior to each edition I will contact the KY based beekeeper supply companies as well as related (KY)businesses, and ask for specific products to review.

Falling under this same law are personal "for sale" listings - *if the listings include a price*. If an ad is submitted with a price listing for the items offered for sale, the prices will be deleted, but the ad will be printed. Failure to comply with this law could result in a change of status for KSBA - from being listed as a not for profit organization to becoming a "for-profit" business.

I am sorry to be the bearer of bad news, especially in the first month of my term as president...but I am firm in my belief that the raw truth is always the best policy. If I sometimes seem a little crude or straightforward with my observations, I only ask that I be judged on the truthfulness of my statements, and forgiven for my plain talking.

Kent Williams, KSBA President

**Gordon Vernon Selected  
2007 Beekeeper of the Year**

Allen County Beekeeper, Gordon Vernon, was selected Beekeeper of the Year for 2007. Committee Chairman, Doc Steudle and KSBA President, Robin Mountain made the presentation to Vernon at the Fall meeting of KSBA held in Prestonsburg KY. Vernon has been active in beekeeping for seven years.

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**EQUIPMENT FOR SALE**

**10 Honey Bees in Hives  
2 Deep Boxes**

**Mite treated, healthy.**

**Benton Godsey  
HC 72 Box 8400  
Monticello KY 42633-8812  
Phone: 606 348-5917**

**1 Full Hive Top Feeder  
1 Telescoping Cover  
1 Inner Cover  
1 Queen Excluder  
All have fresh paint**

**2 botton boards  
2 landing boards  
3 full hive bodies  
5 deep supers 5/8”  
Full of new foundation**

**Phone: Phillip Hellard  
(502) 695-1651**

**From the President Elect:**

Wow, autumn is quickly fading away into the early days of winter and if you're like me, you still have a few odds & ends on your list of things do in your apiary. A beekeeper's work is never done, but some how the passing of each season kindles a flame that ignites our enthusiasm for the next spring, or Autumn Harvest. Over the last two months I have been asked several questions repeatedly by people that I have met a festivals, fairs and farmer's markets: They include: "Is this 100% real honey?" "Do you feed your bee's sugar water to make honey to sell?" "Is this your honey? Where is it really from?"

Never before have I heard these questions. Even more startling is the fact that I have heard these questions repeated again & again. Several people who have purchased honey from me have told me about honey they bought from beekeepers which had no taste, was sour or like water. One person brought me a jar to see and when I tasted it, I thought I was eating High Fructose Corn Syrup with a little bit of yellow food coloring added. I know of no one in the KSBA who would ever sell a poor product or intentionally defraud someone by bottling something other than 100% pure honey.

Given the truth of this statement, where are these questions coming from? What has changed the public's perception of their local beekeepers? In each case, the people that I spoke with had purchased "locally" produced honey, not commercial honey imported from places like China or Argentina. I'd be interested in hearing if others have heard these questions or had similar experiences. One of the steps that I am taking to help proactively address these types of question is to put together a story board which shows my apiary, beekeeping in action, harvest, bottling and selling at an event. If I'm lucky the project will better educate the public about the effort it

takes to produce their pound, pint or quart jar of honey.

On a closing note, I like to remind everyone that it's getting to be that time of year to think about packages & queens for next year. 2008 should be another year of "high demand", so now is the time to review how the various colonies in your apiaries performed this year and decide if you need to introduce new or improved genetic stock. If this is the case, I would ask that you consider purchasing hygienic and mite resistant queens, nucs or packages from operations in our geographic region - Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, etc. We have a great opportunity over the next ten to twenty years to contribute to the development of a bee suited to the Heartland of America. We can do that by supporting the efforts of our bee regional queen producers and hygienic & mite resistant stock projects sponsored by our local associations.

Take Care & Happy Holidays,  
Martin Hickey, President Elect KSBA

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September 27, 2007

**Bee Movie: In Theaters Nov. 2!**

**Bee Movie will be in movie theaters in just one month! Bee Movie is a production of DreamWorks, which produced Shrek and other popular animated movies. Bee Movie was written by comedian Jerry Seinfeld, who also provides the voice of the movie's main character, Barry Bee. Other famous stars lending their voices include Renee Zellweger, Kathy Bates, Chris Rock and John Goodman.**



**The movie is expected to generate positive publicity about beekeeping and highlight the important role bee pollination plays in plant production. For more information, visit [www.beemovie.com](http://www.beemovie.com).**

## **Bee Movie Promotional Materials Available!**

**NHB has produced Bee Movie promotional materials for producers and packers to use at retail and farmers markets. The materials also could be used by beekeepers and beekeeping organizations at honey promotion events at their local movie theater during the movie's opening weekend.**

**The materials include graphics from the movie and a 100 percent pure honey message. Promotional materials include:**

**These 9" x 12" Bee Movie Table Signs feature Barry Bee, a "It's Honey Time" message and peel off recipe pads.**

**Bee Movie stickers also are available.**

**The materials must be used between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31. For pricing and ordering information, call NHB at 1 800 553-7162.**

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## **TENNESSEE**

**The Tennessee Beekeepers Association will hold its 2007 Annual Conference Oct. 19-20 in historic Franklin, TN. Guest speakers will include Jerry Hayes, Mike Hood, Ann Harman, Phil Craft, Tammy Horn, Kevin Jester, Ed Levi, Randolph Richards, Gordon Vernon, and Kent Williams. Please visit [www.tnbeekeepers.org](http://www.tnbeekeepers.org) for registration or contact Richard Underhill at 870 702-7976.**

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## **Product Review**

This product review is featured for the purpose of informing beekeepers of the opportunity of selecting an insurance agency which can cover your beekeeping needs using their special farm policy. **Lani Basberg Agency LLC** can set you up with coverage on your apiary, auto, farm, home, as well as liability, life, or commercial needs. Call Lani Basberg, Agent, toll free at 1-866-456-2572 or email at [basberg@bellsouth.net](mailto:basberg@bellsouth.net).

*This product review was written by Gordon Vernon*

## **Product(s) Review**

The featured products for the September/October issue of the BEE-LINE are wax foundation from the **Walter T Kelley Company**, and Apiguard miticide from **Dadant**.

It is the time of year to be aggressive in the area of pest control in your hive(s). Along this line of thought, we should all be very aware of the Varroa mite counts in our hives, and should be taking action when the counts near the threshold level. It should also be pointed out that our bees will be declining in population from now until late winter, while Varroa populations will remain static at best, with an increase in population until there ceases to be enough uncapped brood to sustain the increase. This makes the control of Varroa at this time of year even more critical. One method of Varroa control is the product Apiguard. This product is based on the herbal oil Thymol. Apiguard is considered a "soft" chemical, as opposed to fluvalinate (Apistan strips) and coumaphos (Checkmite + strips). Unlike these "hard" chemicals, thymol has not been shown to cause damage to the reproductive systems of queens and drones. When used according to label Apiguard has been shown to be effective in the 85% - 95% range for Varroa mites. As with all miticides, Apiguard is more effective when used in conjunction with a bottom screen. The cost of treatment per hive is approximately \$6.00, by the time you pay shipping. Apiguard is available in both 10 - pack cartons and in bulk tubs containing 60 treatments. You may purchase Apiguard in a 10-pack carton for \$28.75 before taxes/shipping from **Dadant in Frankfort, KY**. Item number MO 1480. **Their toll free order line number is 888-932-3268.**

Along with it being the time of year to consider pest treatment for your hives, we are also entering the time of year for repair and preparation for the 2008 season. One perennial need for beekeepers is foundation. We should all have a management plan that in-

corporates rotating our comb on a regular basis. The reason for this need is that the wax and larval sheds, or cocoons, from brood comb act as "sponges" for chemical residue as well as bacteria and viruses that can cause serious health issues in a colony of honeybees. Most knowledgeable beekeepers rotate their comb on a five-year turnaround - that is, every five years their frames have new foundation installed. As most of you are aware, foundation is not very pleasant to work with in cold weather. The remedy for that issue is to get started early on the replacement of comb. Some of the best foundation I have worked with comes from the Walter T Kelley Company, in Clarkson, KY. I have found their foundation to be very pliable and easy to work with without breaking, even in relatively cool temperatures. The Kelley Company offers several variations of foundation, including ripple wired and plain wax for brood comb and extracting purposes, and thin super and 7/11 foundation for comb honey production. The prices for these various types of foundation range from 27 cents/sheet for thin super, shallow depth foundation to 85 cents/sheet for ripple wired, deep foundation. Of course, there are quantity discounts when buying larger amounts of wax foundation. These types of foundation are currently available from the **Walter T Kelley Company of Clarkson, KY. Their toll free order line number is 800 - 233 - 2899.**

Each of the featured companies are what may be referred to as "full service" beekeeper supply companies, and are available to help with any equipment or resource need you might encounter as a beekeeper. Please check with the company you are patronizing for possible price changes before ordering.

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*This product(s) review written by Kent Williams*

## Annual Honey Show

As part of Clarkson's 2007 Honeyfest celebration, The Walter T. Kelley Company sponsored their Annual Honey Show on Friday, September 28. Judging criteria was much the same as for Kentucky State Fair participation. Entries were judged on color, appearance and eye appeal, flavor and aroma, uniformity of containers, uniform level of fill, and cleanliness of containers, contents free of crystals, foreign matter, air bubbles and froth. Moisture content should be between 14% and 18%.

This year's show featured 14 participants and a total of 51 entries. Winners received Walter T. Kelley Gift Certificates. 1st place \$15, 2nd place \$10, 3rd place \$5. Sweepstake winner received \$50 Gift Certificate. Winners were as follows:

### EXTRACTED HONEY

**Class 1 White (very light)**

- 1st Place Randy Dixon, Loretto KY
- 2nd Place Lucky Frost, Columbia KY
- 3rd Place Paul Dill, Wyoming DE

**Class 2 Light Amber**

- 1st Place Paul Dill, Wyoming DE
- 2nd Place Kyle Powell, Clarkson KY
- 3rd Place H. D. Overholt, Adolphus KY

**Class 3 Amber**

- 1st Place H.D. Overholt, Adolphus KY
- 2nd Place Martin Hickey, Bowling Green KY
- 3rd Place Rose Cline, Cave City KY

**Class 4 Dark Amber**

- 1st Place Gordon Vernon, Scottsville KY
- 2nd Place H. D. Overholt, Adolphus KY
- 3rd Place Lucky Frost, Columbia KY



### COMB HONEY

**Class 5 Pint Containers with liquid**

- 1st Place Gordon Vernon
- 2nd Place Lucky Frost
- 3rd Place Danny Clark, Campbellsville KY

**Class 6 Round or Square Containers of Comb Honey**

- 1st Place Gordon Vernon
- 2nd Place Jerry Renshaw, Rockport IN

**Class 7 Square, Basswood Section Boxes**

- 1st Place Lucky Frost

**Class 8 Frame of Comb Honey**

- 1st Place Gordon Vernon
- 2nd Place Lucky Frost

### CREAMED HONEY

- 1st Place Gordon Vernon
- 2nd Place Lucky Frost
- 3rd Place Martin Hickey

### HONEY GIFT PACKAGE

- 1st Place Lucky Frost
- 2nd Place Gordon Vernon
- 3rd Place Rose M. Cline

### BEESWAX BLOCK

- 1st Place Gordon Vernon
- 2nd Place Lucky Frost
- 3rd Place Paul Dill

### BEESWAX ART OBJECT

- 1st Place Gordon Vernon
- 2nd Place Lucky Frost
- 3rd Place Paul Dill



**SWEEPSTAKES WINNER:**

**GORDON VERNON, Scottsville KY**

**Following is a list of beekeeping journals to which you may subscribe at discounted rates. (Kentucky State Beekeepers Association members only).**

*The Speedy Bee*, P.O. Box 996, Jessup, GA 31596

*American Bee Journal*, Hamilton, IL 62341

*Bee Culture*, P. O. Box 706, Medina, OH 44258

(Note: Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the *Kentucky State Beekeepers Association*.)

## **Attention Beekeepers**

**Bee Informed**

**Bee Up To Date**

**Be Included**

**BEE a member of the KENTUCKY STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

This is your invitation to become a member of KSBA. As a member, you will receive a copy of the Kentucky Bee Line newsletter published six times per year. As a member of KSBA you will be informed of beekeeping news and activities around the state. You will have the opportunity to personally meet many beekeepers from Kentucky and surrounding states by attending the Spring, Summer and Fall KSBA conferences. Membership in the Kentucky Beekeepers Association is definitely in your BEEst interest! Join Now!! Membership dues are \$10.00 per year, per family, until children reach age 18. Local associations may send your dues at \$9.00 per member and keep \$1.00! Send checks payable to KSBA to:

H. D. Overholt  
975 Chapel Hill Road  
Adolphus, KY 42120-9773

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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**The Kentucky State Beekeepers Association Webpage can be accessed at <http://www.ksbabeekeeping.org>. If you have any suggestions or contributions, please send them to the webmaster.**

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Sept/Oct 2007

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The Kentucky Bee Line is published bimonthly, by and for the members of the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association, to offer news about happenings within the Association; to keep current on events within the state and in other parts of the country; to inform beekeepers about local conditions relating to honey bees and beekeeping; to share ideas and techniques; to act as a forum; and to help in promoting the art of beekeeping and production of honey.

You are invited to join the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association. Membership dues are \$10.00 per year. Renewals are due prior to the expiration date on the first line of the mailing label. Local Associations may send your dues at \$9.00 per member and keep \$1.00. Send checks, payable to KSBA, to the KSBA treasurer: H. D. Overholt. Be sure to include your address including zip+4 and your telephone number.

Subscriptions to other beekeeping journals are available at a discount when you become a member of KSBA. When subscribing to these publications, be sure to identify yourself as a member of the *Kentucky State Beekeepers Association*.