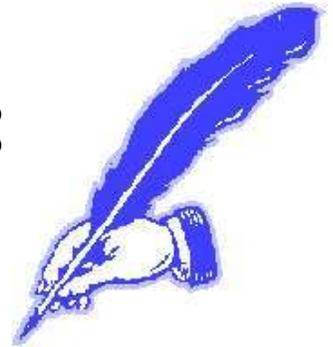


**NEXT MEETING:** Monday November 9th at 6:30 PM at the Blount County Public Library, Sharon Lawson Room, on Cusick Street.

**PROGRAM:** We have a very exciting meeting planned for this month! First order of business will be the election of our directors and officers for 2010. No position is apposed, so we will have a voice vote for the slate of officers. After the election, seasonal management will be provided by member Russell Liles. The remainder of the meeting time before and after the break will be dedicated to our guest speaker, Kim Flottum, editor of Bee Culture magazine. Kim will be speaking on a couple of topics including colony health. We are very excited to have a speaker of such caliber coming to speak to us. We hope to see everyone there, and come early- it may be standing room only!

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

My how time flies especially when you're having fun. It's hard to believe that my term as president is coming to an end and this will be my last letter to you. I'd like to say that I have truly enjoyed serving as president these past two years, and I know under Terry's leadership we won't miss a beat. I want to thank all of you for your encouragement and support. I'd also like to give a special thanks to the officers for the wonderful job they do, it made my job easy. I hope everyone realizes how hard the officers work to make BCBA one of the best local associations in the state. I would also encourage you to let your leadership know how much you appreciate what they do for BCBA. They aren't involved for praise, but we all need to feel appreciated.



As I mentioned last month we are working toward a system to better track our meeting attendance and to eventually have some sort of contact for members who have been absent for a while. We had a sign in sheet in October and according to it we had seventy five in attendance. This data will help in implementing our membership outreach plan and meeting planning. Thanks for your cooperation in this effort.

Good luck with your bees and may God Bless You

*Charlie Parton*



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## SEASONAL MANAGEMENT:

Seasonal management in November and December would hopefully involve time in your workshop getting equipment painted and repaired for the upcoming spring, getting frames of foundation wired up to replace aging combs in the brood chamber, and doing a little reading in your bee magazines you haven't been able to get to these last few months. This is also the time to pull out your apiary logs or journals and see about potential requeening of colonies in the spring and get your queens ordered. I know a lot of the new beekeepers have heard you must requeen each year, but if you keep good records and know which colonies have produced well, and how old those good producing queens are, why take the chance on getting rid of a good producer to only replace with a queen who may not do as well? Just food for thought. But if you have experienced some of the troubles that most of us have had this fall, we are headed into winter, needing to do some emergency feeding to our colonies.



The weather has cooled off enough now that it may be difficult to get the bees to take a more liquid source of feed. They have to break the cluster to move to the feed, and if very dilute feed is available, they may not be able to use it this late in the season. Still, in an emergency, some feed is better than no feed, but a dryer type of feed might prove more beneficial. I have mentioned two forms of a dryer feed in the past newsletters which bears repeating again from comments I have received from our new beekeepers. My favorite winter feed is the fondant candy that Bob Landers spoke about at our last meeting. The process to get it to the hard candy stage involves time and labor, but the ease of use in the hive, and the low risk of any type of accidental death to the bees is of great importance to me. Because the feed is placed on the top of the cluster, you can open the hive at just about any time to quickly lay a piece of fondant across the tops of the frames. The cluster is not disturbed, and you can be in and out of the hive in as little as 1 minute to feed them. I do place a shim under the inner cover on a warm day if I plan to use fondant feed during the winter. If your candy is thin, you can usually just turn the inner cover upside down to accommodate the clearance needed over the candy. The recipe for a small batch of fondant will follow.

Another very effective type of feed for the winter is a feed made with granulated sugar and honey, or "goop" as Coley calls it. This feed is a little more moist than fondant due to the use of the liquid honey, but it is MUCH easier to prepare. You just start mixing honey with granulated sugar and mix it until the sugar clumps together and will hold a form. The drier the mixture the better because you don't want it dripping onto the cluster when the weather warms up and the honey becomes warm. Mold some patties and lay across the top of the frames above the cluster. You can lay the patties on a piece of waxed paper, but don't use an excess amount of paper. You want the bees to be able to get to the feed without too much difficulty. We have all seen colonies in the spring which died over the winter from starvation with ample stores of honey available. They were just too small a cluster to move to the food.

So as a final reminder before things get really cold outside— 1. Remove any treatments which were placed in the fall (preventing chemical resistance), 2. Put on entrance reducers to keep the mice out, and remove any debris on the bottom board (small hive beetles love this debris), 3. Provide a small amount of top ventilation for the hives to prevent condensation, (a cause of colony loss in some instances), 4. Clean all debris from in front of the hives, 5. Clean and replace the attractant in your small hive beetle traps, 6. Provide a wind break for hives which are in the open and susceptible to high winds, 7. Place heavy rocks or bricks on lids to prevent blowing off, 8. Place your spring queen orders, 9. Check your moth crystal supply on your honey supers, 10. Order your bee keeping supplies for spring before the price increases in January. Putting on the cardboard inserts on screened bottom boards is an option during the very cold part of the winter, but many beekeepers do fine without closing the screens.

Hopefully you have been mindful of your colonies food stores and parasite burden, so they are ready for their winter "hibernation". Now let's start thinking about next spring! See you at the meeting, and please remember to bring any comments or suggestions to improve our club to any of your officers. We appreciate those of you who have already done so!!

*Stacey*

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## Slate of Officers and Directors for 2010

The Board of Directors after careful consideration would like to present the following slate of individuals who have agreed to serve on the BCBA board in 2010. No additional names were submitted from the membership in October, so we will consider the entire ballot in an approval vote on Monday evening, November 9th.

President– Terry Best  
Vice President– Dennis Barry  
Secretary– Stacey Adair  
Treasurer– Dale Hinkle  
Alternate Officer and Public Relations– Jim Stovall  
3 year Director– Jim Brown  
2 year Director– Rueben Payne  
1 year Director– Teresa Best

A special thanks to our officers who are stepping down this year, Charlie Parton (Pres), and Mayford Lloyd (VP) .  
Thank you to all the above for agreeing to serve! We look forward to the coming year!

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### Congratulations to our Neighbor!

#### Charlie Wilson awarded TBA Beekeeper of the Year!



Knox County Beekeeper Charlie Wilson was awarded the Beekeeper of the Year at the TBA Fall Convention last month! Many of you know Charlie through his hard work and efforts in directing the Honey Show at the Tennessee Valley Fair. We are proud of the recognition that Charlie received. Please congratulate him the next time you see him!



**This picture was shared with me from member Doug Hardwick. It was one of National Geographic's Pictures of the Year. What a great photo. Thanks Doug for sharing!!**

Here is a small batch recipe for hard candy-can be used to feed 3-4 hives. Should be checked on every 2-3 weeks. A recipe for larger batches can be found in the first edition of Beekeeping in Tennessee.

## HARD CANDY- FONDANT

### Ingredients:

**5# sugar**

**16.5 OZ water**

**10 OZ honey (I use Light Corn Syrup)**

**1/8 teaspoon cream of tartar**

Heat the water while adding sugar and honey. Stir continuously until the mixture is liquid. Remove the spoon; do not stir, but continue to heat the mixture. Heat the boiling mixture to 238 F. Do not stir while cooking. When the temperature reaches 238 F, remove from the heat source and add the cream of tartar. Cool the mixture to 125 F and stir vigorously until the mixture becomes cloudy white. Pour the mixture into a rectangular cake pan or candy feeder box.

Candy molded in cake pan can be wrapped in wax paper and placed in the hive. ( I sat mine on top of the frames and placed a 1 inch shim over the candy)

A candy feed box can be constructed from a piece of one-half inch plywood the size of an inner cover. A 1 1/2 inch rail is nailed around the perimeter of the plywood to make a tray. Nail 12 roofing nails into the inside bottom of the plywood tray to anchor the candy after it hardens. Place the tray candy side down over the bees. Cover the tray with the inner and outer covers.



## BCBA Christmas Dinner and Social

**Monday, December 14th**  
**Immanuel United Methodist Church**  
**2349 Mentor Road, Louisville**

Hello Members! We are planning a wonderful get together for our December dinner. We will have it again at the Immanuel Church in Louisville, at our regular meeting time. Directions will be available in the December notice. The women's group there will be cooking and serving our dinner, and we will have the entire evening to fellowship with one another. The cost will be \$14 per person which includes the meal, drinks and dessert. This year you will need to pre-pay your reservation with Dale Hinkle by December 1st. Unfortunately we will not be able to accept any reservations without payment and we won't be able to accommodate last minute requests, so please try to make your plans to attend early! Seating is limited for the dinner, so we encourage you to make reservations soon! You won't be disappointed, and it is a great time to relax, enjoy the spirit of the season, and socialize with your friends and neighbors. Hope to see EVERYONE there!



**Don't forget our Library!** We have excellent reading materials for those long winter days when you can't get out into the apiary. Please visit Andy Morris to check out your books and videos! If you have had books checked out for an extended time, please remember to return them as we have others who would be interested in reading them too! Also, if there are some books or videos that you have seen and would like for us to have, please give the information to Stacey or Andy and we will try to purchase them for the library!

**CAN YOU HELP??** Andy asked at the last meeting if there was anyone who could convert our VHS tapes to DVDs. If you know of someone who could help us out, please speak with Andy at the next meeting. THANKS!

## From your editor:

Dear members— I wanted to include this article from Kim Flottum's Daily Green Blog to encourage you to fill out those USDA forms you will get in the mail at the end of the year. The information they get from these questionnaires helps get the information needed to take a country-wide view of beekeeping-numbers of colonies and their total production. Much of this article's information came from such information, so I wanted to remind you to participate in the questionnaire if you receive one. Thanks!

## 2009 Has the Worst Honey Crop on Record If you like honey, you should buy it now ... and buy a lot.

October 28, 2009 at 9:59PM by Kim Flottum

Each October [BeeCulture](#) magazine surveys our 100 or so regular honey producer/reporters from all parts of the U.S. By October 10 or so much of the U.S. crop has been harvested, and beekeepers have a pretty good feel for what they will be making, even if some is still in the field. These reporters also subjectively (but with years of experience behind them) rank their crop with values ranging from 1 – very good, to 5 – very bad. (What is very good for a beekeeper in Ohio may be nearly a crop failure for a beekeeper in Florida – it depends on how each runs their business.)

They also tell us how good their spring crop was and if they harvested any then, and the same for their summer and the fall crops. And they give us the average production of each of their colonies over the whole season ... not just those that produced honey, but all of them, which is different than the only other survey of this sort that tackle the subject.

Then, beginning with the latest USDA U.S. colony count (which came out in February this year) we adjust that number up or down based on information from our reporters, and then multiply the average colony production our reporters give us, and come up with an estimate of how much honey was produced this season. We've been doing this for several years now, and we're pretty good ... maybe even better than the USDA's figures because, although we have a smaller sample of beekeepers, we have a more finely tuned sample that reflects each honey producing region. The 10 largest honey producing states have more reporters, and more influence in the final figures than, say Rhode Island, which has hardly any honey production.

So what we have is a pretty good picture of U. S. honey production this past season ... which is a good part of the overall picture of what honey costs, but certainly not all of it. Imports from honey producing countries around the world certainly have an impact on the honey market in the U. S. but imports are a function of production in those countries, too, as is demand in the U. S. market. So we need to start at home.

And the key player this year ... the weather! No surprise there if you ventured outside more than once this summer, no matter where you live ... it was one weird weather event, all summer long. Most of the east and mid-west was cool and wet, the south was hot and dry or way too wet and much of the northwest and west was dry and hot, too. Florida and the gulf states, particularly Texas and Louisiana did fairly well this summer, as did the mountain states and California.

The consistent top 10 honey producing states are the 2 Dakotas, California, Florida, Montana, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Texas and bringing up tenth, depending on the year ... Idaho, Georgia or New York. These 10 states produce right about 75% of all the honey in the U.S. each year ... meaning the rest of us pretty much produce squat every year.

But how much honey? Twenty four years ago, before [Varroa mites](#) came to live here and before honey production was a major industry in several countries as an export market, the U.S. was producing something like 220 million pounds a year, with hardly any honey imports at all. Of course back then, even a minor producing state like Ohio had 9,000 beekeepers. Last year, the U. S. produced only 160 million pounds, and Ohio had about 3,200 beekeepers. You can see the problem.

Last year the U.S. produced, by our estimate, about 61 pounds of honey for each of the 2.564 million colonies we figured were honey producers for a total of 156.4 million pounds of honey. USDA measured 161.1 million pounds. We've been that close since we started. I like our numbers better, but why quibble over a 3% difference.

So, this year our predictions are that 2.223 million colonies (down from last year because of colony losses to [colony collapse disorder](#) and last year's poor honey crop) will produce 53.7 pounds of honey each, for a total of 119.37 million pounds of U. S. produced honey ... this is, friends, the worst honey crop ever. EVER!

But, interestingly, demand hasn't dropped an ounce since those pre-Varroa days. Per capita, we consume right about 1.25 pounds of honey every year, and every year there are more people in this country. When you actually ask folks however, it turns out that right about 50% of the population actually goes out and buys honey. About 35% never buy, or

eat honey, while the rest only consume it in foods that have it as an ingredient, like teas, breads, salad dressings and BBQ sauces. Which means, then, that the rest of us actually are consuming far more than that 1.25 pounds each ... probably closer to 2–2.5 pounds each. In my house, the two of us consume over 10 pounds a year ... nearly a pound a month ... but I suspect we are somewhat above average.

So, since the U.S. consumes almost 375 million pounds of honey a year (300 million people x 1.25 pounds/year), and produces, this year, only 120,000,000 pounds, where will the rest come from? Well, this year that's a good question. Generally, we can count on Canada, Argentina, China, Brazil and a few other countries to make up the bulk of this shortfall. But mostly, those countries, too, have had less than stellar production seasons. Argentina has turned into the soy-bean capital of the world, and Canada had weather similar to ours, so their production isn't as great this year as it could be.

China sells almost everything they produce to Europe now, because Europe can't get what they were getting from Argentina. Plus, for several years China has been [playing fast and loose with tariffs](#) imposed by our country to offset the imbalance in their prices. They were, for a time, charging something in the neighborhood of \$0.25/pound for their honey ... while U.S. beekeepers need something like \$1.50/pound just to break even.



And then there are the circumvention issues ... to avoid paying the tariffs Chinese exporters were sending honey to the U.S. through secondary countries at almost those same ridiculous prices. Some were caught red-handed and punished, and that seems to have slowed the rush of that honey into the U.S. from anywhere. Too, there have been concerns with Chinese honey containing what are here considered illegal chemical residues ... bacterial control agents applied to their bees to keep them healthy. They are illegal in Europe, too, and right now Europe is buying a lot -- well, almost all of China's honey. That Chinese beekeepers have changed their practices seems odd, but perhaps....

So, honey in the U.S. is scarce. And scarce seems to cause prices to rise ... the old supply and demand thing. But then there's the exchange rate -- the U.S. dollar is weak. U. S. honey packers might actually have a better market overseas than at home, so that just might limit further any available product ... demand stays the same, supply becomes even shorter. Prices ... ?

So ... in the short run, the price of honey this winter is probably going to go up some. Maybe a lot. And you may not be able to find local honey later this winter.

My advice ... buy lots now. It might not be there later, and it will cost more later. And now you know why.  
Photo Credits: Rade Lukovic / Istock, Kim Flottum

Read more: <http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/blogs/bees/honey-beekeeping-47102806?src=rss#ixzz0VtSBzu9h>

**Members**, if you think you are having problems in your apiary, please call on your association inspectors to take a look. There is no cost to you!

Stacey Adair	Joe Tarwater	John Gee	Stephanie Tarwater	Jim Galo	Dennis Barry	Harlen Breeden
983-6223	274-6160	995-2347	805-1994	983-0290	414-2116	609-7272

We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting. Please call on us if you have questions or comments!

Charlie Parton	Mayford Lloyd	Dale Hinkle	Stacey Adair	Dennis Barry
President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary	Alt. Officer/PR
776-1875	423-295-2680	423-420-9376	983-6223	414-2116

**Director's Meeting**  
**November 23rd 6:30 PM**  
**Fairview United Methodist Church**

The next director's meeting scheduled for November is a big one, and all directors, including the newly elected ones are asked to attend. We will be planning the spring events and meetings for the club, the beginner's short course, as well as planning the BCBA/Charlie Stewart auction and awarding of scholarships. We have a lot to do, and have received some wonderful comments and suggestions from our membership, so please make sure you can attend. If you have a conflict, please let Charlie or Terry know!

**Great Website!**



Just a reminder that UT is maintaining a website along with other universities in cooperation with the extension service. The address is <http://www.extension.org/bee%20health>, and I think you will find it very informative. Michael Wilson and John Skinner have an article on European Foulbrood which is very well written and has some wonderful pictures of the disease within the colony. We had some confirmed cases of EF in our area this summer, so I thought this would be of interest to all of us. There is also a question and answer section which was good too. Maybe some of those questions you forgot to ask at the meetings have been addressed here. Take a look around the website and see what you think!



Pictures after the judging at the Tennessee Valley Fair in September. Dale Hinkle coordinated the exhibit for Blount County, and we came home with a second place! The focus was on beekeeping for pollination, and the exhibit was a really nice one. Thanks to Dale and all the members who helped with setting up the display, and providing honey for the exhibit. You are truly appreciated!

*Photos courtesy of Dale Hinkle*

Next Director's Meeting November 23rd

BCBA Christmas Dinner and Social  
December 14th  
Immanuel United Methodist Church

American Honey Producers Association  
January 5-9, 2010  
Sacramento, CA

American Beekeeping Federation  
January 12-16, 2010  
Orlando, FL

University of Florida Bee College  
The 2010 Bee College will be held **March 12-13th**  
at the [UF Whitney Labs](#) in St. Augustine, FL.

Blount County Beekeepers Association  
c/o Stacey Adair  
2725 Stephens Road  
Maryville, TN 37803