

Dr. Horn has key role in five-state, \$8 million USDA reforestation grant

Kentucky State Apiarist Tammy Horn will be part of an \$8 million five-year USDA grant to reforest surface mine sites that were sold to private landowners in Appalachia.

Kentucky was one of five states pooling resources to obtain the grant. Kentucky's contribution to the project includes in-kind services from Dr. Horn. The other states involved are Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

"Kentucky is the only state to focus some of the grant monies to pollinator habitat to promote forest-based beekeeping," Dr. Horn said.

"In addition to working with Green Forest Works to get pollen- and nectar-producing trees planted, I will plan and organize beekeeping workshops in Appalachia," she said. Future workshops to help

(see **GRANT**, page 2)

From KSBA President John Benham:

- **Volunteers are STILL needed** to coordinate the KSBA Honey Booth at the Kentucky State Fair August 16-30, 2015. Interested parties, please contact me at (270) 678-7924, or at purebarrenriverhoney@gmail.com.
- KSBA is close to getting membership cards to distribute to members.

Dates To Save:

Kelley's package bee/nuc pickups: Bees, April 8, 11, 18, and 25, and May 2 and 9. Nucs April 11, 18, and May 2.

Dadants (Frankfort) package bee/nuc pickups: April 10 and 24, noon-5 p.m.; April 11 and 25, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT.

Kelley's Field Day June 6 in Clarkson.

BeeLines

State Apiarist Dr. Tammy Horn

Kentucky Department of Agriculture, James R. Comer, Commissioner

April 2015



Save the Date:
KSBA Spring Meet: May 16, 2015
Franklin County Extension Office • 101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort • 8 a.m.-3 p.m. EDT

Spring 2015: Workshops continue

- **Bluegrass Beekeepers Association** will host a beginning beekeeping workshop on April 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. EDT, at the North Lexington Public Library on Russell Cave Road. This is a one-day free class for beginning beekeepers. No lunch will be provided, so you might want to bring yours. Space is limited; reserve your spot with Phil Clark at pdc3393@twc.com.

- **Kentuckiana Beekeepers Association** Apiary Field Day Sunday, April 12, 2-4 p.m. at the home of Beth Wagner, 2827 Alta Vista Court, Louisville. Please bring veils and lawn chair. Children are welcome, but no child care is available, and children should have veils if they attend. More information from Beth Wagner at bwagner1972@gmail.com.

- **Kentuckiana Beekeepers Association** will host a booth at ThunderBlast April 18 at the Kentucky Science Center, Louisville. More at <http://kysciencecenter.org/thunderblast/>.

- **"Beyond Beekeeping"** is a course designed for people who already have bees, but know they need to learn more. It will be held April 18, 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. EDT, at the University of Kentucky Ecological Research and Education Center (EREC), 1737 Russell Cave Road, Lexington. More about EREC at <http://darwin.uky.edu/~erec/>. Course handout material will be provided. Lunch on your own, or bring a lunch to participate in an informal lunchtime discussion and q/a session. Fee is \$40; 40-participant limit. Register at philcraftbeekeeping@windstream.net.

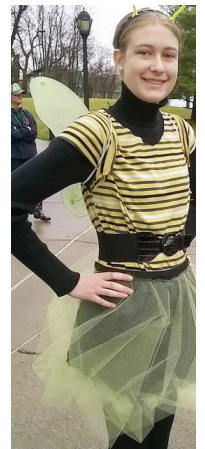
- **Big South Fork Beekeepers Spring Field Day** April 25, Sandhill Camp, Highway 700, Whitley City. Hands-on sessions begin at 10 a.m. EDT. For lunch the club provides meat and drinks; please bring a covered dish. Afternoon open-hive hands-on program requires at least a veil. Email Greg Whitis, gwhitis@uky.edu.

- **Bluegrass Beekeepers Association** Bee Info booth April 25, UK Arboretum, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. EDT. Details: Jed Davis, jedand50384@peoplepc.com.

- **Woodford County Beekeeping Workshop** April 25 starts at 1 p.m. EDT at 580 Cummins Ferry Road, Versailles. There is no fee, but pre-registration is required at (859) 873-4601.



photos: Tammy Horn



Michael Walsh and Ruth and Shannon Jeffers represented Bluegrass B.A. in the Lexington Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

State Apiarist's Report: *Potter hive gets new Queen*



By the time you read this,
I will be married to Doug Potter,
a first for both of us,
but my name will remain the same
for the rest of this year.



- The past month has been busy for me, with visits to Lake Cumberland and Powell County, and appearances at the UK Integrated Pest Management Training School and Mercer County group.
- April will be filled with field inspections and visits to Mammoth Cave B.A. (April 7), Kentucky Woodland Owners (10th), Hardin County (13th), Estill County (18th), Paradise B.A. (20th), Indiana (25th), and London (28th).
- I have a newfound respect for the unfortunately-named skunk cabbage plant (*Symplocarpus foetidus*). It is a really good pollen producer, blooming now and providing pale yellow pollen. The plant generates heat, a characteristic known as *thermogenesis*, and you can see pollinators warming up next to the flowers on cold days. It is native.
- An average colony needs 252,000,000 blooms to produce the 126 pounds of honey it will need to get through a year.
- I have tried to kick my Ale-8-One habit, but I still need ginger. This recipe from the National Honey Board was a good substitute: www.honey.com/recipes/detail/13/roasted-ginger-chicken.

State Legislature Update:

- **Senate Bill 143**, sponsored by Sen. Paul Hornback, which had cleared the Senate 35-0, would have included honey bees in livestock so that the sale of bees would be tax-exempt. The bill was amended in the House Agriculture Committee to include a ban on dogfights. The Senate refused to concur with the changes.

Federal Update:

Oxalic Acid is now officially approved for miticide use, but is not on the market yet.

GRANT *(from page 1)*

participants develop marketing strategies will also be included, Dr. Horn said.

The project proposal, from the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture Partnership, was one of 115 high-impact projects funded by the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program under the authority of the Farm Bill, as announced by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

“These partnerships are providing opportunities for communities to have a voice and ownership in protecting and improving our natural resources,” Vilsack said.

Swarming:

When a hive has a lot of brood, a lot of adult bees, an aging queen, limited space, and a day or two of pretty weather after being cooped up by chilly temperatures or rainy weather, it will want to swarm. Although the hive's instinct to swarm is its natural way to reproduce, beekeepers who want a honey crop are disheartened to see half of the colony's workers flying away and looking into a hive that is much diminished in field force.

The best book to learn about swarming: Tom Seeley's *The Honeybee Democracy*. You can reduce swarming by:

- Either reversing the brood boxes in early spring so you have an empty brood box on top, or moving some brood frames up into empty brood box, being sure to put drawn foundation beside the brood. This will create the perception of more room both up and out.
- Adding a honey super if you have drawn foundation in that honey super and do not intend to treat.
- Cutting out swarm cells, although I have found that once swarming has developed to this stage, you have to let the bees take over and play their hand out.

To Catch a Swarm:

- Have a spray bottle of sugar water to “moisten” the workers before putting them in a nuc box.
- Having a stepladder in your vehicle as well as a handsaw (for small tree limbs) and a nuc box with drawn foundation/honey frame is also helpful.
- As a rule of thumb, I do not go above three steps on a ladder to get a swarm. Packages are only \$100, and a hospital visit is so much more than that nowadays (and there is the time lost in a hospital too).

Once the swarm is settled, replace the queen. Generally with primary swarms, the mother queen is older and she has a finite amount of time to lay eggs. The older workers consume honey from the hive prior to embarking on their flight, and when they find a place, they immediately build comb. This gives many beginner beekeepers the perception that the swarm is doing well in its new location. But replace the queen as soon as possible with a new queen, preferably one with mite resistance.

Consider liability before agreeing to catch a swarm. If you get hurt, or someone else is hurt, who will pay? Kim Flottum, editor of “Bee Culture”, states that you should never, ever charge for collecting a swarm unless you are in the pest control business.