

Michael Rivera
Intro to Folk Studies
End of Year Project

Beekeeping in Southern Kentucky

Beekeeping is not native to the Kentucky or the United States coming from Europe originally. It has been picked up as a way of farming from many residents of Warren County and Allen County. But also it has been sought after as a hobby, one that has recently become more popular. Elizabeth Forbes a Bowling Green resident was the primary source of my project a beekeeper of three years. Forbes is a bee enthusiast who picked up bee keeping through a friend who she went on an ORAC trip with. She became part of the Beekeeping subculture as soon as she picked a hive of her own. She did what most beekeepers in the area do that is join a bee club in order to have mentors guide her through the beekeeping process.

Beekeepers use vernacular at the meetings to communicate the different tools and ways they deal with the bees. Such as “drone bee”, “royal jelly”, “worker bees”. There were many other things that were used as vernacular but for the most part they used these words with each other at meetings or on the field working with bees. Mrs. Forbes picked up on the terms used by beekeepers at meetings and when working with beekeepers one on one. She has now 3 hives and started out with one and now even sells her own honey since she has become more adequate with her beekeeping. An issue that arose with her beekeeping that she has grown fond to is advocating the vanishing of bees. This is an issue of colony collapse that she has felt a strong urge for petitioning for. Not only has she hosted a showing of the documentary vanishing of the bees but she has taken upon herself to go to farmers markets in Warren County and inform people with fliers on how they can help stop colony collapse.

Mrs. Forbes has become active in the beekeeping community not only as a beekeeper involved in a bee association but as well as an advocator for bee awareness.

Works Cited

Elizabeth Forbes-Beekeeper -270-791-3990

Allen County Beekeepers Association- <http://www.allenkybees.com/>

KSBA - <http://www.ksbabeekeeping.org/>

Sky Farmers Market -<http://www.skyfarmersmarket.com/>