

THE KENTUCKY COLONELS ‘KERNEL’

“Scion” of the Kentucky Nut Growers Association

Kirk W. Pomper – Editor/Publisher

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KENTUCKY NUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION **FALL MEETING, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019**

A Date to Remember: The Fall meeting of the Kentucky Nut Growers Association will be held this year on Saturday, **October 26, 2019**, Grayson County Extension Office, 124 Commerce Drive, Leitchfield, KY 42754. 270-259-3492. 9:30 a.m. CDT. Directions: From the Western Kentucky Parkway take exit 107 onto 259 in the south direction. Make the first left on to Commerce Drive, which is right at the interchange. The Extension office will be on your left across from the Huddle House. Please bring a dish for the potluck luncheon and nuts to exhibit. Contact Ken LaVere, KNGA President 270-369-8764.

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KNGA Spring Meeting Notes

Douglas Hines, past Secretary KNGA

The Spring Meeting in Elizabethtown was well attended. A number of members brought an abundance of many types of nut tree scion wood for distribution. Also available on the table was an eye-popping assortment of dozens of varieties of fig cuttings for rooting. Thanks for the outstanding efforts to make the meeting such a success!

During the business meeting, ideas were proposed to promote the KNGA and to attract new members. It was decided that we would support pilot efforts, with Hugh Ligon taking first turn. He is authorized to innovate and to use up to \$200 for outreach efforts for the upcoming Fall Meeting.

New officers (President and Secretary) were nominated and elected. Ken LeVere is our new President. Ken's farm is located in Upton, KY, where he has recently established a commercial planting of pawpaw and chestnut trees. He has developed great skills as a grafter, and has plenty of enthusiasm to lead us well. Ken is replacing Danny Ganno, who has served us well for many years. Be sure to thank Danny when you see him for his great service to KNGA!

Blake Cothron is our new KNGA Secretary. Blake is the owner of Peaceful Heritage Nursery, located in Stanford, KY. Blake has a passion for fruit and nut trees, and is a great choice for moving the KNGA forwards into new media outreach opportunities.

Other upcoming meetings:

November 19-21, 2019: Kentucky State University Small, Limited-Resource, and Minority Farmers Conference. Kentucky State University's Small, Limited-Resource/Minority Farmers Conference is a gathering of farmers from Kentucky and the Southern US. Kentucky State University has been hosting this conference for over 20 years. This year's theme is "The Future of the Small Farmer: Innovation to Success in the 21st Century". The conference includes educational programs, tours, recognition of the Kentucky Small, Limited-Resource Farmer of the Year, and "Third Thursday Thing" Cost: Registration fee of \$50.00 per person. For more information contact Shelley Spiggle at shelley.spiggle@kysu.edu or 502-597-6325.

Jan. 6-7, 2020 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Embassy Suites Hotel, 1801 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY 40511. Contact John Strang Office phone: 859-257-5685; Email: jstrang@uky.edu

Pecan Trees Damaged by the Hickory Shoot Curculio

Raul T. Villanueva, Extension Entomologist and Daniel Becker, Extension Associate for Vegetables/Fruit. Posted in June 4, 2019 edition of Kentucky Pest News.

Pecan samples brought to the University of Kentucky Entomology Laboratory in Princeton exhibited injury to new shoots and stems. These samples were collected by Darrell Simpson (Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent in Muhlenberg, KY) on behalf of a grower. The damage consisted of darkened holes near the bases of several shoots (Figure 1), along with leaf flagging (Figure 2). Further inspection of the samples, showed tunnels in the stems that extended into the pith caused by a legless larva (Figure 3). The larva had a yellowish color with a dark brown head and was approximately 10 mm in length. The combination of all these factors identified the hickory shoot curculio (*Conotrachelus Aratus*, Coleoptera: Curculionidae) as the culprit. Acrobasis shoot borers (*Acrobasis* spp.) cause similar damage during spring, but larvae are larger and have a dark olive-green coloration when mature.

The hickory shoot curculio is an insect well distributed in the USA: from Massachusetts to Florida and from Texas to Kansas. Damage by this insect is most common in the eastern USA; however, infestations can occasionally build up enough to warrant notice in the Midwest and south-central regions. Damage is often sporadic year-to-year, but if an outbreak occurs, more than 50% of shoots can be affected, severely diminishing nut production. Pecan orchards near wooded areas containing hickory trees or wild pecan stands are more susceptible to infestation.



Figure 1. Holes on pecan shoots (Photo: Raul Villanueva, UK)

Figure 2. Leaf flagging caused by hickory shoot borer (Photo: Raul Villanueva, UK)

Biology

Adults overwinter near host trees in leaf litter and brushy areas filled with debris. They emerge in spring (around mid-April) and migrate to tender, rapidly growing shoots where the females will feed and lay their eggs. Larvae will hatch and begin burrowing into shoots shortly afterward, creating a tunnel. When the hickory shoot curculio larva completes its development, it comes out of the tunnel (Figure 4) and drops to the ground where it pupates for 2 to 3 weeks. The adult weevil emerges from August to September, feeds for a little while, and finds a well-sheltered area to pass winter. This insect has only one generation per year.



Figure 3. Tunnel caused by hickory shoot borer in pecan. Larva is legless and with a brown head (Photo: Raul Villanueva, UK)

Figure 4. Hickory shoot borer emerging from pecan shoot (Photo: Raul Villanueva, UK)

Management

Cultural controls are the most effective management tools when populations are low and infestations sporadic. Cultural controls include eliminating brush and debris to limit hibernation sites around trees, collecting all damaged tree shoots from the ground, pruning affected parts, and burning infested shoots outside the orchard. Establishing new plantings away from infested woodlots also helps but is often impractical for homeowners and smaller growers.

Chemical control is usually not warranted, unless there is a consistent history of this pest in an orchard. Preventative sprays to control adults before they lay their eggs can be done starting in mid-late April or early May when shoots are $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 inch long. Insecticide treatments after the larvae have entered the shoots is ineffective.

More Information

- Hickory Shoot Curculio (Weevil), Kentucky Pest News June 10, 2014
- Hickory Shoot Curculio *Conotrachelus aratus* (Germar)
https://wiki.bugwood.org/Archive:Hickory/Conotrachelus_aratus
- Northern Pecans: <http://northernpecans.blogspot.com/2012/04/hickory-shoot-curculio.html>

2019 Kentucky State Fair Winners

Congratulations to the fruit and nut winners of the 2019 Kentucky State Fair!

Best Plate Persimmons, Yates variety

1 Glenn Wuest Depauw IN

Best Plate Persimmons, any other variety

1 Matthew Davis Louisville KY

2 Andrew Davis Louisville KY

3 Charlie Nadorff Brooks KY

4 Joyce Salmon Louisville KY

Best Plate Persimmons, any seedling

1 Charles Thompson Jeffersonville IN

2 Teresa Nadorff Brooks KY

3 Charlie Nadorff Brooks KY

4 Charles Matthew Nadorff Brooks KY

Best Plate Pawpaws, Pa Golden

1 Steve Sizemore Louisville KY

Best Plate Pawpaws, Sunflower variety

1 Charles Thompson Jeffersonville IN

2 Joyce Salmon Louisville KY

Best Plate Pawpaws, any other variety

1 Steve Sizemore Louisville KY

2 Samuel Zimmerman Simpsonville KY

3 Tony Cissell Fern Creek KY

4 Norman Bader Louisville KY

Best Plate Pawpaws, any seedling

1 Charles Thompson Jeffersonville IN

2 Tony Cissell Fern Creek KY

Best pint Chinese Chestnuts, Crane

1 Marilyn Loy Mount Washington Ky

Best quart Shellbark Hickory, any other variety

1 Philip Schaaf Smithfield KY

Best pint Shagbark Hickory

1 Ray Armstrong Shepherdsville KY

2 Ray Armstrong Shepherdsville KY

3 Ricky Bowling Shepherdsville KY

4 Charlie Nadorff Brooks KY

Best quart Shellbark Hickory

- 1 Joyce Salmon Louisville KY
- 2 Charles Matthew Nadorff Brooks KY
- 3 Charles Matthew Nadorff Brooks KY

Best pint Chinese Chestnuts

- 1 Ray Armstrong Shepherdsville KY
- 2 Ray Armstrong Shepherdsville KY
- 3 Teresa Nadorff Brooks KY
- 4 Teresa Nadorff Brooks KY

Best pint Filberts or Hazelnuts

- 1 Keith Hancock Ekron KY
- 2 Teresa Nadorff Brooks KY
- 3 Charlie Nadorff Brooks KY
- 4 Charles Matthew Nadorff Brooks KY

Best pint Pecans

- 1 Ray Armstrong Shepherdsville KY
- 2 Ray Armstrong Shepherdsville KY
- 3 Ricky Bowling Shepherdsville KY

Best quart Black Walnuts

- 1 Ray Armstrong Shepherdsville KY
- 2 Ray Armstrong Shepherdsville KY
- 3 Joyce Salmon Louisville KY
- 4 Keith Hancock Ekron KY

Best pint Hicans (pecan x hickory)

- 1 Charles Matthew Nadorff Brooks KY
- 2 Charlie Nadorff Brooks KY
- 3 Charlie Nadorff Brooks KY
- 4 Charles Matthew Nadorff Brooks KY

Best pint jar Black Walnut kernels

- 1 Helen Barr Shepherdsville KY
- 2 Joyce Salmon Louisville KY

Best of Show - Single plate of nuts

- 1 Ray Armstrong Shepherdsville KY

Nut Sweepstakes Award

- 1 Ray Armstrong Shepherdsville KY
- 2 Charles Matthew Nadorff Brooks KY
- 3 Joyce Salmon Louisville KY

Hickory Nut Pie

3 eggs
2/3 cup brown sugar
1 cup syrup (can use a combination of maple and corn syrup, or all of one or the other)
1/3 cup butter
1 cup hickory nuts...if the hickory nuts are plentiful I add a bit more
1 9-inch unbaked pie pastry shell

Beat eggs thoroughly with sugar, dash salt, syrup, and melted butter. Add pecans. Pour into unbaked pastry shell.

Bake in moderate oven (350) 50 minutes or till knife inserted halfway between outside and center of filing comes out clean.

I typically place aluminum foil over the pie (without foil touching the nuts) for the last 20 minutes or so to keep nuts from getting too brown and losing quality of taste. The flavor of this pie is even more wonderful the second day.

Recipe courtesy of www.savoringkentucky.com

Annual Dues Information

NOTICE: the year listed immediately after your address label indicates the year through which your membership dues are paid. **Please note** that dates highlighted in pink indicate that your KNGA membership is past due. Please renew your membership. Thanks!

Please Check out the Kentucky Nut Growers Facebook Page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Kentucky-Nut-Growers-Association-1599224510355036/>

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KENTUCKY NUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION
Carl Ray, Treasurer
3606 South Hampton Road
Philpot, KY 42366

FIRST CLASS

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
KENTUCKY NUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

TO: Carl Ray
3606 South Hampton Road
Philpot, KY 42366

DATE _____

☐ **NEW MEMBER**

☐ **RENEWAL**

☐ **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

NAME _____

ST OR RFD _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

OCCUPATION _____ **COUNTY** _____

AMT. ENCLOSED FOR DUES \$ _____ **FOR YEAR(S)** _____

Dues are \$5.00 for one year. Annual membership begins January 1st. New members joining after July 1st shall be credited as paid in full for the next calendar year.) For additional information about joining KNGA, please contact Ken LaVere, 270-369-8764.