



Blowing Smoke

By Bob Williams, President

Are you ready for SPRING? I find myself somewhat unprepared, as the bees are moving along at a much faster pace than I seem to be. I am still waiting on an equipment order from two weeks ago, the vender said they were backlogged from a previous sale that they had. We have ten hives, and they all made it through the winter just fine, and they are very busy, bringing in a lot of pollen, ranging in color from light grey, light yellow, bright yellow, brown and a greenish yellow. We have been able to go through five of our hives, and brood rearing is well underway, with 5-6 frames of brood in the bottom hive body, and small patches on the upper frames, as several of them are honey bound. All we could do was to put another hive body on to give them more room. The frames in the additional hive body have new undrawn foundation, so I will continue to feed sugar syrup at a ratio of 2:1 water to sugar until they have these drawn out. Please remember that your bees need plenty of water nearby, ponds are great, but if you don't have one close-by, you need to provide a birdbath or some other source, just make sure that if it is deep, that you put in rocks or chunks of wood for them to land on so they do not drown.

I wish to thank all of those folks involved in the planning and in the presentation of the Beginning Beekeepers Workshop. There were a few hiccups along the way, with the sound system being the most notable and with your feedback on the evaluation forms, we, the Association and Workshop Committee, will work to make future workshops better. There was a lot of information presented and a lot to take in. Don't worry, you will not remember all of it. For those who need a refresher, we will have a quick demonstration on installing a package of bees in your hive, at the Value added meeting on April 4th, 7:00 PM, and at the General Meeting on April 21st 7:00 PM. We will also have a beekeeper available to answer questions for you NEW-BEES, 30 minutes before the General Meeting, beginning with the April 21st meeting and continuing until the October 20th, General Meeting. At the May 19th meeting, we will also be holding a silent auction to benefit the Youth Scholarship Program. Please feel free to bring in new or gently used bee items, plants, or maybe even some baked goods. Michelle and I will be bringing a few bee items and cinnamon rolls! Keep in mind that this is to benefit the Youth Scholarship Program and that it is okay to bid the full retail price of these items! The money goes to our young future beekeepers- so make a great bid!

Again, I want to thank Tom Britz, Laura Fish, and Bill George for the program at the last meeting. Laura Fish presented "Restaurant for Honey Bees" where she showed the benefits and beauty of planting a flower garden for your bees, with a slide show and insightful explanation with humorous commentary. Bill George presented "How to Properly Assemble Wooden Ware" in which he demonstrated the actual construction of a hive body and frame. He also explained that with proper painting of outside surfaces, your equipment should hold up for quite some time.

I can't stress enough how important it is for you folks to ask questions. If you don't ask questions, we don't know what you don't know- so please keep asking questions! We will do our best to find you an answer. I hope to see you at the next General Meeting on Thursday, April 21st at 7:00 PM. Come join us, it'll be fun!!!



APRIL 2016

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, April 21st

Bass Pro Shop

Independence MO

6:30 PM

Q&A Session for
Beginning Beekeepers

7:00 PM

General Meeting



VALUE ADDED MEETINGS

Monday, April 4th, 7:00 PM

Monday, May 2nd, 7:00 PM

Bass Pro

Independence MO



In case of inclement weather on the day of a meeting, please check our website, Facebook, or call an officer.



Is available on the website for membership and nametags.

www.midwesternbeekeepers.org

Member Password is

"Smoker"



MidwstnBeekprsA

Midwestern Beekeeper's

Association

Midwestern Beekeepers

Association

Members Closed Group

Conferences & Events

April 16, 2016

Native Plant Sales
Anita B Gorman
Discovery Center

April 23 & 30, 2016

City Market

[Grow native.org](http://Grow.native.org)



May 7, 2016

2016 Annual Plant Sale

Master Gardeners
of Greater Kansas City
Bass Pro Shop
Independence, MO

www.mggkc.org



May 19, 2016

May Silent Auction
General Meeting

Start digging out your gently used beekeeping equipment to benefit the Youth Scholarship Program's **May Silent Auction**. It is a great time to share with others who are just getting started in bees, need some equipment, and clean up your clutter all at the same time! This is also a great event for you master woodworkers to show off your donated items and generate customers! (Be sure to attach your contact info.)



Midwestern
Beekeepers
Association



**May Flowers brings the
May Queen Raffle**

Just in time for Spring Splits and Re-Queening we will have our May Queen Raffle. Be sure to stock up on your raffle tickets each meeting. Winners will be awarded at the May 19th General Meeting.

June 4, 2016

Northeastern Kansas
Beekeepers Association
Funday

Douglas Co Fairgrounds
Lawrence, KS

www.NEKBA.org



June 25, 2016

Advanced Beekeeping:
Pests & Disease Diagnostics
University of Nebraska
Mead, NE

www.entomology.unl.edu/2016/beeworkshops.pdf



July 14-16, 2016

Heartland Apicultural Society
Annual Meeting

Bowling Green, KY

www.heartlandbees.org



August 11-21, 2016
Missouri State Fair
Sedalia, MO

Contact
Dean Sanders

[\(816\) 456-4683](tel:(816)456-4683)

to volunteer to work the
Missouri State Beekeepers
Association booth



October 14-15, 2016

2016 Fall Conference
Missouri State
Beekeepers Association

The Lodge of the Four Seasons
Speaker Randy Oliver

www.mostatebeekeepers.org



Welcome New Members

Jim Allinder, Independence, MO
Melodie Armstrong, Raymore, MO
Jim Banas, Lake Waukomis, MO
Sarah Baum, Mission Hills, KS
Larry Bisbee, Excelsior Springs, MO
Wendy Borders, Kansas City, MO
Marshette Boykin, Kansas City, KS
Phillip Brown, Kansas City, KS
Sharon Brown, Sugar Creek, MO
Brady Bryan, Chilhowee, MO
Christopher Carpenter, Holt, MO
Niki Casady, Unionville, MO
Gordon Clark, Shawnee, KS
Stephen Cluchey, Lee's Summit, MO
Carla Cooper, La Monte, MO
Anthony Dahl, Hoyt, KS
Andrew Dailey, Kansas City, MO
Jennifer Daniel, Gladstone, MO
Christina DeJesus, Kearney, MO
Barbara Dejoode, King City, MO
Norman Dennison, Independence, MO
Jeff Diekmann, Kansas City, MO
Cherie Dupuis, Westphalia, MO
Aaron Eckerberg, Liberty, MO
Marsha Fairbanks, Maysville, MO
Michael Fievet, Kansas City, MO
Guy Gallman, Mission, KS
Michelle Ganson, Independence, MO
Westy Gilbert, Oak Grove, MO
Rosemary Gill, Kansas City, MO
Robert Gordon, Kansas City, MO
R. Graham, Odessa, MO
Alicia Grindstaff, Kansas City, MO
Paul Grisham, Glasgow, MO
Matt Gummig, Liberty, MO
Jolene Hallum, Lee's Summit, MO
Douglas Harshberger, Lake Lotawana, MO
Candee Head, Kansas City, MO
Mike Heffernan, Kansas City, MO
Linda Hezel, Kearney, MO
Robert Hormann, Blue Springs, MO
Braxton Jones, Liberty, MO
Jeff Kaestner, Lee's Summit, MO
Sheryl Keeler, Warrensburg, MO
Paula Kinder, Clinton, MO
Adam Kurth, Blue Springs, MO
Kelly Lee, Oak Grove, MO
Mike Mannino, Pleasant Hill, MO
Steve Mayer, Lee's Summit, MO
Jim McCroskie, Orrick, MO
Becky McGraw, Henrietta, MO
David Meads, Warrensburg, MO
Dennis Merritt, Stewartsville, MO

New Members Continued

Heath Milks, Kansas City, MO
 Kathy Miller, Kansas City, MO
 Shelley Mills, Clinton, MO
 Michael Mollohan, Gladstone, MO
 Melissa Morehead, Blue Springs, MO
 David Murray, Liberty, MO
 Jean Neumann, Independence, MO
 John O'Brien, Blue Springs, MO
 Meike Orlick, Kansas City, MO
 Therese Owen, Harrisonville, MO
 Noble & Sharon Page, Kansas City, MO
 Jack Park, Pleasant Hill, MO
 Nicole Peoples, Sibley, MO
 Debbie Probst, Kansas City, MO
 James Rinehart, Holt, MO
 Betsy Rivas, Kansas City, KS
 Kristapher Roth, Kansas City, MO
 Alex Sandmann, Blue Springs, MO
 Diana Schrock, Garden City, MO
 Brent & Chris Schlotzhauer, Higginsville, MO
 Todd Sharp, Milan, MO
 Jeff Shaw, Liberty, MO
 Mo Sheriff, Olathe, KS
 Scott Simmons, Kansas City, MO
 Rodney & Barbara Simpson, Kansas City, MO
 Brian Stanke, Buckner, MO
 Josh Terhune, Kansas City, MO
 Jim Thompson, Kansas City, KS
 Kenny Thompson, Holden, MO
 Rick & Jeanene Truelove, Kansas City, MO
 Benjamin Voltmer, Gladstone, MO
 Charles Voyles, Lone Jack, MO
 Kevin Weber, Kansas City, KS
 Susan Weber, Hardin, MO
 Pat Wood, Warrensburg, MO
 Keith Winge, Kansas City, MO
 Adam Witt, Garden City, MO
 Roger Wood, Independence, MO
 Dennis Wylam, Lone Jack, MO



Bee Culture

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

www.beeeculture.com

(800) 289-7669



April General Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Bass Pro Shop at Independence MO

6:30 PM

Q&A Session for Beginning Beekeepers

7:00 PM

Swarm Prevention

Presented by Matt Winstead

Demonstration of a Package Installation



Value Added Meeting

Monday, April 4, 2016, 7:00 PM

Bass Pro Shop, Independence MO

On The Spot Queen Rearing

Presented by Kyle Day

Nuc Initiative

Presented by Stuart Dietz

Demonstration of a Package Installation

May Value Added Meeting

Monday, May 2, 2016, 7:00 PM

Bass Pro Shop, Independence MO



Community America Credit Union Transactions for the Month of February 2016

Bank Balance as of January 31, 2016	\$ 9,212.84
Total Receipts Deposited	3,431.00
Total Expenses Paid	-100.00
Interest on Savings & Checking Account	.40
Bank Balance as of February 29, 2016	\$ 12,544.24

A complete report is available under the member's area on the website.



Deadline for newsletter submission is the 25th of each month

Contact britzjs@gmail.com or (816) 419-1327

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Nectar Flow Preparations

By Roger Wood

Howdy folks! Our editor has asked me to write a piece on “Nectar Flow Preparations,” so here goes. This is really just an outline that can move and adjust to the conditions for the current year with some reasons why thrown in to bind it all together. You experienced beekeepers will probably recognize some similarities in your process and mine. I hope so. You will also think about other factors like swarming, parasites, disease and such. These are all valid topics but do not speak to the essence of preparation for the nectar flow. New beekeepers will try to make this a cookbook recipe for success. I hope you don't. Not because it won't work but because I believe your beekeeping should fit the way you think. This is the way I approach it and it works well enough for me and you can start here, but you can do better. I am still tweaking and refining myself so I hope to grow my knowledge. I do hope you all find some value.

As I write this, it is the first week of March 2016, and the bees are flying almost daily. Daffodils are in full bloom and pollen is pouring into the hives this week from the early blooming trees. It looks like an early spring coming. But if we were farther south, the big storms running through the states would present a different backdrop. I will probably see my first dandelion in a day or two and plums and pears to soon follow. Why am I talking about blooms? Because they predict the future. Or rather they indicate the level at which the sun has been warming the environment. I keep a calendar in google called “blooms” (I should have called it “bees” but anyway, its blooms). I enter on each day when I see my first bloom for that year. I set it as an all-day event and repeat yearly so it shows the following year and thereafter. I will also note weather info like a snow or subzero temps; a storm or unusual rain. You'll notice I also have a note on April 1: “Hive Strength – 3 frames”. That is the target you are looking for on or about April 1, your queen has laid up an area equivalent to 3 full deep frames of brood.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30 Daffodil 2014 Redbud in the yards 20	31	Apr 1 Hive strength - 3 frames	2
3	4 Dandelion 2011	5 dandelion 2013	6 Redbud in the woods 21	7 Pear 2013	8	9 dandelion 2014
10 Pear 2014	11 Redbud 2014	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Dogwood 2015	19	20	21 Buckeye 2014	22	23
24	25 Clover 2014	26	27	28	29	30 Black Locust 2015 Buckeye 2015

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We are currently seeking volunteers to review our bylaws for: redundancy in provisions; updating or removal of outdated provisions; better clarification of provisions; update the chronological history of the bylaws; and seek input from the membership. To be on the committee you must be a member, have opinions and willing to voice them, able to communicate by email and receive PDF and/or Word/WordPerfect documents. If you are interested, please contact **Wes Johnston (816) 392-4960** or at wj2@kc.rr.com. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

So, they wanted me to talk about April and what you do to prepare for the nectar flows to come. Nectar Surplus is a numbers game. The formula is something like this: Blooms + Weather + Flying Force = Surplus. If any one of those things or a combo of these things is too much of a negative, you get no surplus. So in April we are usually negatively affected by Weather (rain, cold) and/or low bee numbers. There are a lot of blooms in April, but because it still can be cold or raining (April showers and all) or our bees do not have enough bees at foraging age (due to cold and rain and the time it takes to build up), you don't see surplus honey in April. If you have a brood nest on April 1 or thereabouts at 3 full frames of brood, (we are talking equivalent area not actually 3 frames filled with brood, so this brood could be across 4 or 5 partial frames of brood) your hive is on course to have a colony of 25,000 to 30,000 total bees come April 30th. That hive can collect surplus and the brood nest will have expanded to 5 full frames of brood or more. What if the blooms come early due to warm weather you might ask? We will miss a surplus opportunity because our bees take 3 weeks to emerge and another 1 to 2 weeks working in the hive but we will be using this flow to continue to build numbers. What if there is a wind storm or heavy rains during the early flow or it stays cloudy for two weeks? No flow at all (not enough energy available for the blooms to nectar) and everything could practically stop in your hive. So every year it is these three moving variables in multiple combinations determining when and if you can get these three variables at the right conditions to have blooms with good weather and the right number of bees in your hive. Easy, right?

So I look at the whole spring build up as different systems, but interrelated, progressing on a time line at variable rates each year. Bee numbers, Weather, and Blooms. No matter when you start your hive, or start keeping track, be it in March, April, May or June, your bee numbers will progress at an accelerating rate but always tied to the brood cycle of 3 weeks. Slow in the first month (less bees to cover brood), faster in the second (one to two full brood cycles) until your bee numbers reach that magic level (3+ cycles). In May, if you're just starting a hive or this is your third month of buildup, all of the conditions for Blooms and Weather are potentially above threshold and now your bees can expand its population based mostly on the strength of your queen and the health of the colony because resources and weather are almost always there. (This is a small reason package bees come at the end of April) There is still a chance for unfavorable weather like we got last year or we may get a "blackberry winter" during the blackberry bloom. But the point is, those are rare or short and as spring weather becomes more stable in May, the hive can usually maintain maximum efforts to expanding their numbers. Earlier than this, the hive must cope with wider differences in temperature and when blooms are blooming and yielding nectar. This is where a beekeeper supplementing food source can keep a hive producing bees at their maximum potential. So bees can continue to bring in food during those rainy, colder days of spring.

Continued on Page 7





MSBA News

By Wanda Johnston



Missouri State Beekeepers Association's Board met in Columbia, MO, on March 12, 2016. Dean Sanders, State Fair Chair, Roger Nichols, Northwest Regional Director, and Wes Johnston, Treasurer for Midwestern Beekeepers Association were among the attendees. Many topics were discussed. One decision that will have a direct impact on MSBA members is that the board has voted to suspend the matching prize money for MO State Fair winning entries.

Plans for the Fall Conference are progressing. The conference will be held again at the Lodge of the Four Seasons at Lake of the Ozarks. Randy Oliver, scientificbeekeeping.com, will be one of the speakers at this two day conference. MSBA will release more details at a later date. More conference plans are for a one day conference in the spring of 2017, in Columbia, MO. This conference is in the early planning stages. Missouri State Beekeepers Association continues their quest to fill board positions. Soon to be open or currently open board positions are: Membership, Editor, Treasurer, and Queen Chair. Of course, MSBA is always looking for volunteers for the conferences as well as State Fair Volunteers.

The MSBA Board is working on developing a minimal requirement for local club membership affiliation. The number of bee clubs have rapidly increased in Missouri over the recent years. The Board discussed asking the local beekeeping clubs to develop brochures to be displayed with the MSBA brochures at various events

The National Honey Board (NHB) announced that it has launched an online catalog for members of the honey industry. In a continued effort to provide materials to help promote honey, the NHB has made available to all industry members various materials that can be utilized to educate the general public about the story and benefits of honey. These materials are made available at little to no cost and can be displayed in storefronts, as well as at farmer's markets and other community events.

The new online tool, found at www.nhbcatalog.com, brings the NHB into the modern digital age by simplifying the ordering process for industry members. This new catalog offers honey industry members a visual representation of materials available with clear product descriptions and photos. Some of the items include educational brochures, promotional items and even a newly redesigned freebie.

The catalog will be updated as products sell out and new products become available. For first time ordering assistance, please contact Andrea Brening, the NHB's fulfillment coordinator at 303-776-2337.

Honey Plants

By Debbie DeCaigney



It's hard to believe that April is here and flowers are blooming. Henbit and dandelions, fruit trees, red buds are blooming just to name a few. Our bees are bringing in yellow, white and some red pollen. I have included a picture of Henbit that I found in my yard. You can also see henbit in the beautiful purple fields. Here is a link to some honey plants it tells if the bees come to it and the pollen color you

will see if the bees are working the plants: <http://www.desertvikingranch.com/documents/pollenguide.pdf>

Library News

By Wanda
Johnston



Nectar Flow Preparations Continued:



You may now place your request to check out books by going to the website. You will find a list of books, pamphlets, and videos available for check out. Please click on the live email link to request a book so we are sure to bring your book of choice to the next regular meeting of Midwestern Beekeepers Association.

A new ninety page booklet has been added to the library. Wes and I attended the NEKBA's Beginning Beekeeping Workshop on March 6 & 13th. One of the books they gave the attendees was ***A Field Guide to Honey Bees and Their Maladies***. This is a colorful and informative field manual to take right to your hive. Through beautiful photographs the beekeeper is assisted in identifying problems commonly encountered in their apiaries. There are more than one hundred photos and information on varroa and tracheal mites, hive beetles, American and European foulbrood and many other apiary situations. You may purchase the spiral bound book through Penn State Extension or you may download a copy on line. <http://extension.psu.edu/publications/agrs-116/view>



So, here is my plan that I follow each year. And, like I said, it doesn't matter when you start the hive, you lay the time frames out for the brood cycles and you follow the weather. I am looking for 1-2 frames of brood on or about March 1 (My starting point). 3 frames of brood by April 1 (or 4 weeks later). 2-3 supers of pulled empty comb go on at the (apple) fruit bloom in April (usually mid-April). If my hives are not on schedule, supers do not go on until they reach 3+ frames of brood. (Equally, if their nest is bigger before fruit bloom, you need to get those supers on sooner. That's a swarming thing and another topic.) I always shoot for May 1 having 4+ frames of brood. Black Locust nectar is the first elusive prize I shoot for unless the bees give me reason to hope for earlier nectar flows. The blooms are delicate and require good sunny days to produce nectar. They are only out for 10 days to two weeks at most. Unfortunately, rain storms or wind are common and can wash the nectar out or knock the blooms off the trees or be too cold to make nectar.

But in one day, a medium strong hive can bring in a full super of nectar. It is pretty amazing. The down side... this only happens maybe once in four or five years. Why? Because either the weather screws it up or you don't have the flying force necessary. Others may get a surplus but you won't. You will ask why. I'm telling you why now. Your formula for surplus didn't add up on the day you needed it. You could miss it by just a few days but because your hive just didn't quite have the flying force, you won't gather a surplus (I am talking noticeable surplus) from that bloom. But do not be discouraged. Clover will follow starting just a week or two more so if your numbers just missed for Black Locust, you will have the numbers for blackberry, strawberry, and clover from the beginning of the flow.

Of course, as your numbers go up so does the chance that your bees will want to swarm. Under normal conditions, I would say you need to watch your bees once your nest gets to that 4-5 frames of brood. If you have empty comb, putting boxes on before they reach 4-5 frames of brood helps.

Those that are starting this year, your additional boxes will be frames of foundation or foundationless. You will add them one at a time when the existing box has been drawn out about 75% or about 7-8 frames. To draw comb, your hive MUST have bees at the right age to draw comb quickly and you need a nectar flow (or syrup). If you do not have those bees, your comb building will suffer until you do.

That's it. That is my plan for honey production. This is not about splits, or anti-swarming steps (except when to put on your surplus boxes). It doesn't include advanced ways to increase your build up speed. No theories on supering or queen excluders. This is based completely on the bee's natural ability and "mother nature". You are just trying to remove any extreme conditions that are unfavorable to the bee's build up. Good luck this season and I hope this information helps you unlock your bee's potential.



MARKETPLACE



MEMBERS OF MIDWESTERN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION CAN ADVERTISE FOR FREE IN THE NEWSLETTER! CONTACT THE EDITOR TO PLACE YOUR AD.



Crooked Hill Beekeeping, LLC.

Bill and Tammy George

19133 LIV 355

Chillicothe, MO 64601

(660)214-0132

www.chbeekeeping.com

Open by appointment most days. Store is located on our farm; early, late and weekend hours are available.

Packaged bees and NUCs available in the spring. Locally manufactured high quality woodenware in stock.

We offer a complete line of beekeeping supplies and equipment. Including: Woodenware (assembly and painting available), frames, foundation, smokers, tools, bee suits, Bug Baffles, veils, books, feed supplements, honey containers, extracting equipment, NUC boxes, materials to build your own hives



Fisher's Bee Supplies

Ed Fisher

4005 N.E. 132nd Street

Smithville, MO 64089

816-532-4698

Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm Saturdays after 8:30 am Call in advance to make sure we are here.

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies. See us for your woodenware, smokers, containers, foundation, extractors, beekeeping books, queens and package bees. We also have extractors for rent. We will trade your wax for supplies.

[Jim Fisher 816-918-6648](mailto:Jim.Fisher@heartlandhoney.com)

Do you need your honey supers extracted? Contact Jim for custom extracting



**Heartland Honey and
Beekeeping Supplies**

Joli Winer and Cecil Sweeney

19201 S. Clare Rd

Spring Hill, KS 66083

(913) 856-8356

joli@heartlandhoney.com

Monday through Friday (closed Wednesday) from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm and by appointment

We appreciate when you call your orders in ahead.

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies including woodenware, smokers, extractors, books, queens, package bees and containers. We will trade wax for supplies.



Jordy's Honey

Robert Hughes

12333 Wedd Street

Overland Park, KS 66213

913-681-5777

www.beekeepers.com

Monday through Friday 8 am to 6pm

Weekends by appointment

Please call in advance so we can have your supplies ready when you arrive.

We carry a full line of beekeeping supplies. Bee hives, supers, frames, foundation, honey containers, smokers, beekeeping books, queens, packaged bees and much more.



THANKS to the vendors who generously donated items to the 21st Beginning Beekeeping Workshop! Drop them a line of thanks!

American Beekeeping Federation

3525 Piedmont Rd.

Building 5 Suite 300

Atlanta, GA 30305

The American Bee Journal

51 South 2nd Street

Hamilton, IL 62341

Bee Culture

623 W. Liberty St.

Medina, OH 44258

Mr. Kim Flottum

Bee Smart Designs

195 Atlantic Ave.

P.O. Box N

Garden City Park, NY 11040

BetterBee, Inc.

8 Meader Road

Greenwich, NY 12834

Blue Sky Supply

11641 Ryder Road

Hiram, OH 44234

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm, Inc.

610 Bethany Church Road

Moravian Falls, NC 28654

Crooked Hill Beekeeping

19133 LIV 355

Chillicothe, MO 64601

Bill & Tammy

Dadant & Sons, Inc.

51 South 2nd Street

Hamilton, IL 62341

Fisher's Beekeeping Supplies

4005 N. E. 132nd Street

Smithville, MO 64089

Ed and Jean

Gardener's Apiaries

510 Patterson Road

Baxley, GA 31513

GloryBee, Inc

PO Box 2744

Eugene OR 97402

H and R Honey Farm

2700 S Macon Street

Jessup, GA 31598

Honey Acres (Chocolates)

(Since 1852)

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Ashippun WI 5300

Mann Lake, Ltd.

501 First Street South

Hackensack, MN 56452-2589

Mother Lode Products

18480 Striker Ct.

Sonora, CA 95370

Olivarez Honey Bees, Inc.

P.O. Box 847

6398 County Road 20 West

Orland, CA 95963

PIERCO INC.

10309 Regis Court

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Sailor Plastics

08 Maine Ave. PO Box 309

Adrian, MN 56110

Walter T. Kelly Company

PO Box 240

807 West Main Street

Clarkson, KY 42726

Western Bee Supplies, Inc.

P.O. Box 190

Polson, MT 59860

21st Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

By Cathy Misko



Our Beginning Beekeeping Workshop hit record numbers for the fourth year in a row with at least 215 people in attendance! We did have a couple of glitches out of our control with an apparent “breakdown” in communication with the kitchen chef and *building* “electrical power surges” that expressed unpredicted loud static which was undetected at the night before via sound check run-throughs. However, the overwhelming gratitude, enthusiasm and excitement of attendees to begin and continue the *beekeeping adventure* speak volumes! With a full heart I thank all the hard working volunteers and excellent presenters who made our *21st Annual Beginning Beekeeping Workshop* a highly charged success and kept with the reputation worthy of the Midwestern Beekeeper’s Association... volunteerism and professionalism at its best!

Thank you immensely, Cathy Misko
Chairperson, 2016 Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

PS. The two attendees, whose books were damaged by spilled coffee, please contact me for replacements. (660) 656-3485



**Congratulations to the 2016
Complete Hive and Colony of Bees Winner!**
Drum roll for Marshette and Donald Boykin, KC, KS!
Happy Beekeeping!



THANK YOU

Fisher’s Bee Supplies and ***Crooked Hill Beekeeping*** for all your support and donations each month and for your on-site commitment to our 21st Beginning Beekeeping Workshop. Your expertise and commitment to our Youth Scholarship Program is greatly treasured!



Midwestern Beekeepers Association Website News

New Password for Newsletters
Password is “Smoker”

Nucs for Sale
See Nuc and Queen Marketplace under the “Nucs” Tab.

New 2016 Bee/Swarm Removal List
To be added to the list, see registration table at the General Meetings.

We send heartfelt condolences to the family of Frank Thomas Porter (Jan. 3, 1945-Dec. 15, 2015) of Buckner, MO. Frank was a long time beekeeper, member since 1996, and was awarded one of our workshop prized colonies. <http://www.royerfuneralhome.com/12152015-Frank-Porter-Buckner-MO.html>



Dated 1/21/16 to the Midwestern Beekeepers Association:

With sincere and heartfelt thanks to the association for the lifetime membership award—my only wish is that I could be as good a beekeeper as some folks think I am—and as nice a fellow, as my dog (who has passed), thought I was—Thanks again.

Bob McCarty



It is time to start thinking about your Missouri State Fair entries. There is a change this year that everyone entering items in the competition needs to know. All contest items will need to be brought to the Agriculture Building by 5 PM on Monday, August 8, 2016. The judge will complete the competition judging on Tuesday, August 9, 2016. The fair begins on Thursday, August 11 and will run through Sunday, August 21, 2016. Please contact Dean Sanders @ [816-456-4683](tel:816-456-4683) to sign up to work the fair booth. Your club may volunteer as a group for a full day working the MSBA booth. If your club wants to volunteer for a whole day's coverage, please contact Dean to secure your day. Tuesday is judging day, so no entries will be accepted after 5 PM Monday, August 8, 2016.





Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day

April is the beginning of the Spring nectar flow in Missouri. It starts small and grows big. There are a bunch of things that are blooming. That also means we are a month or so away from the swarm season. Remember, you are always trying to be one step ahead of the bees. If you are not, you are playing catch-up and it is hard to help your bees playing catch-up. This is why the first year is so difficult. You don't know what is coming because you have never witnessed it. This is why a mentor is a great person to have. You will benefit from their knowledge to relate what you are seeing with what is coming.

Actions now can control swarming in May. The important thing for April is space. For many hives coming out of winter, April will be the month your bee numbers will begin to grow exponentially. This means the bees will want the brood nest to expand. You have to stay ahead of this need. Starting April 1st, you would like your bees to have the equivalent of three full frames of brood or better. Some may be less, and this is just a number to gauge your situation.

It does not mean all is lost if you don't have that much brood. It does mean additionally you would need to see at least two or more frames of pollen or nectar (open liquid) You also want space for the nest to expand. By May 1st, hives coming out of winter ideally need to be greater than four frames of brood. This equates to a flying force large enough to begin to collect surplus nectar (i.e. the honey you can pull and extract.) Those with new packages on foundation in April, need to feed syrup (1:1) to build comb and establish. Your hive will not begin to grow in numbers for three more weeks and your flying force will not start to grow for five weeks (mid-May if you get the packaged around the 9th of April.) Nucs will already be growing when you receive them, just give them room and feed syrup like the packages but growth will begin almost immediately so make sure you provide space early.

The major dynamic within the hive is the brood nest and the hives interaction with it. Where it is, how big it is, open space around it, expanding or contracting, these are all traits that you should learn to recognize. If you can learn to read the brood nest, all of the advice you hear from everyone is actually attempts to manipulate the brood nest and its relationship to the rest of the hive. Most beekeepers no matter how long they have had bees are still working on this so don't beat yourself up if you miss something. Beekeeping is a journey and there is no wrong answer. Everyone has their own way of doing things and you just have to find yours and go with it.

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COMPLIMENTARY 2016 ABF MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW MEMBERS!

You're Comped!

<http://abfnet.org/?comp>

2016 Northeastern Kansas Beekeeper's Jamie-Bee-Ree Funday

Saturday, June 4th, 2016 Registration: 7:45-8:45, Program 8:45-5:00

Douglas County Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper, Lawrence KS

Fee includes lunch, beverages, snacks & homemade ice cream and a full day of fun!

Bring your hat & veil—we'll be working through some hives

Cost: \$40.00 per person for those pre-registered, \$50.00 at the door,

Children under 5 free, ages 6-18, \$17.50 for those pre-registered, \$20.00 at the door.

For those pre-registered, by May 21st, there will be a drawing at the end of the Funday to reimburse 1 (one) pre-registered person for their registration!

For information contact, please contact Steve or Becky Tipton at 785-484-3710 bstbees@embarqmail.com

Register online at WWW.NEKBA.org and visit the website for updated information



Our special guests will include:

Dr. Jamie Ellis, Associate Professor of Entomology, University of FL Extension Dr. Ellis joined the Entomology and Nematology department at the University of Florida in August, 2006. His broad research interests include pollination ecology of honey bees and native bees, varroa mite control, honey bee pathology/parasitology, honey bee nutrition, honey bee chemical ecology, sublethal effects of chemicals on bees, and general honey bee behavior/ecology.

Dr. Judy Wu-Smart, *Entomology Extension Specialist University of Nebraska, Lincoln* one of Dr. Marla Spivak's doctoral students her area of interest was sub lethal effects of neonicotinyl insecticides on honey bee and bumble bee queens and colony development. She rocks!

Dr. Marion Ellis, a retired professor of entomology and researcher from the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**, will be a feature speaker. We love him!

Natalia Bjorklund, doctoral student University of Nebraska Lincoln

Dr. Chip Taylor, *Founder and Director of Monarch Watch; Professor Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.*

Trained as an insect ecologist, Chip Taylor has published papers on species assemblages, hybridization, reproductive biology, population dynamics and plant demographics and pollination.

We'll have incredible Hands On Workshops & Presentations at the Bee Hives—watch for updates at nekba.org

Swarm Demonstration with Dr. Chip Taylor

There are presentations for EVERY level of beekeeper!

Vendors



Beekeeping Supplies will be available-

Watch our NEKBA website for a current list

Door Prizes: The swarm from the swarm demonstration will be given away in a single hive. There will be door prizes from supply dealers. You must be present to win and you must fill out an evaluation form to win any door prizes.

Motels that are in Lawrence:

Best Western, 2309 Iowa, 785-843-9100

Hampton Inn, 2300 W. 6th, 785-841-4994

A Silent Auction will be held to benefit the NEKBA Youth Scholarship Program

Donations of auction items are appreciated!

Directions to the Douglas County Fairgrounds: Take K-10 to Harper Street, go north 2 blocks the Fairgrounds. Harper Rd. is on the east edge town and there is a directional sign to the Douglas County Fairground

Programs and Speakers Subject to Change



Wanda Johnston
401 NW Heady Avenue,
Ferrelview MO 64163-1413
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General Meeting

Thursday April 21st, 2016

6:30 PM

Q&A Session for
Beginning Beekeepers

7:00 PM

General Meeting

Bass Pro Shop
Independence MO

2016 General Meeting Dates

Thursday, May 19th, 7:00 PM
Thursday, June 16th, 7:00 PM
Thursday, July 21st, 7:00 PM
Sunday, August 7th, 2:30 PM, Picnic
Thursday, September 15th, 7:00 PM
Thursday, October 20th, 7:00 PM
Sunday, November 13th, 2:30 PM
December Potluck, TBA

2016 Value Added Meeting Dates

Monday, May 2nd, 7:00 PM
Monday, June 6th 7:00 PM
Monday, July 11th, 7:00 PM
Monday, August 1st, 7:00 PM
Monday, September 26th, 7:00 PM
Thursday, November 3rd, 7:00 PM
Thursday, December 1st, 7:00 PM