

For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



The Family Center here in Harrisonville, held a two-hour free Beekeeping Class on January 26th. From a report by one of the attendees, it was estimated that over 100 people attended. There definitely is a lot of local interest in beekeeping. We have seen that, in the numbers who have signed up for our beekeeping classes, over that last year. It looks like there will be good numbers at our class on February 24th. I am sure there are a lot of our new members that can't wait for Spring to get here and start their beekeeping journey. I am also certain that our experienced members are looking forward to another year with their hives. Having said all this, I feel the need to bring up an issue with so many folks jumping into beekeeping.

I question if all the new beekeepers understand that beekeeping is a time and money consuming endeavor. Beekeeping is not like a programmable thermostat that you set and forget. There are a lot of things that can go wrong, such as the expensive package of bees that get installed on Saturday decide to fly away on Monday. It is very easy to get frustrated and give up beekeeping. I wonder how many complete hives sit abandoned in backyards? The beekeeping classes are a great start, but there is so much one has to learn beyond what is presented in classes.

My advice to new beekeepers, coming from a first year beekeeper, is to study everything you can, talk to experienced beekeepers, find a mentor, attend all the Association's meeting, watch online videos and don't give up the first time things go wrong. Beekeeping is a wonderful trip along life's highway but you have to be committed to staying on the road and enjoy the ride.

We had a great turnout at the January meeting with many new members present. I looked around the room and all of the tables were full and folks in chairs around the perimeter of the room. Kyle Day, former MBA scholarship student and current MSBA Honey Ambassador was our speaker. He presented "Sustainable On The Spot Queen Rearing." Kyle did an outstanding job and answered many questions at the end of his talk. Because of his presentation, I am starting to get the queen rearing itch.

After Kyle's presentation, we opened the floor up to questions from the group regarding issues they were interested in or were experiencing. There was a lot of discussion with many members sharing their wisdom. I know I learned a lot. If time permits at future meetings, I propose to repeat this.

COMING UP

FEBRUARY

GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEB 18, 2018

Bass Pro Shop
Independence MO
2:00 PM
Q&A Session for
Beginning Beekeepers
2:30 PM
General Meeting



2018 GENERAL MEETINGS

Mar 18, 2018, 2:30 PM
Apr 15, 2018, 2:30 PM
May 20, 2018, 2:30 PM
Jun 10, 2018, 2:30 PM
Jul 15, 2018, 2:30 PM
No August Meeting-Missouri State Fair
Sep 16, 2018, 2:30 PM
Oct 21, 2018, 2:30 PM
Nov 18, 2018, 2:30 PM
Dec 16, 2018, 2:30 PM



**Renew your Midwestern
Beekeepers Association
Membership!**

[http://
www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/
2017/12/join/](http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/2017/12/join/)



**Join or Renew your
membership with the-
Missouri State Bee-
keepers Association!**

[http://
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membership/](http://mostatebeekeepers.org/membership/)

Youth Scholarship

By Nita Dietz



Following the January General Meeting on January 21st, the Executive Board met with the youth scholarship applicants and their parents. The board briefly interviewed each applicant individually.

Congratulations to these students on earning the 2018 Youth Scholarship Award.

**Kari Ehlers
Kerstin Randolph
Rebekah Papisifakis**

Students will attend the Beginning Beekeeping Workshop on February 24th with their parents and be given their hive ware, suit and tools.

Thank you to the Midwestern Beekeepers members who have agreed to mentor the 2018 students. Terry O'Bryan mentoring Kari Ehlers; Tom and Janice Britz, mentoring Kerstin Randolph; and Cathy Misko, who will mentor Rebekah Papisifakis.

The mentors will begin by assisting the students in preparing their hive, installing their bees, and hive management for the first year. Upon completion of the first year, the students will do a presentation at one of the monthly General Meetings.

You can learn more about the Midwestern Beekeepers Youth Scholarship Program at:

[http://](http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/youth-scholarship-2/)

www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/youth-scholarship-2/

Applications for the 2019 Youth Scholarship will be available September, 2018.

For the Good of the Bees Continued:

Before the meeting was closed, the door prize drawings were held and folks took home a few items.

As I stated in the last issue, February is also a good time to pay your Midwestern Beekeepers Association membership dues and possibly subscribe to "The American Bee Journal" or "Bee Culture" magazines. "The American Bee Journal" subscription form is on our website, <http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org> under the upcoming events tab. It allows you to receive the magazine at a reduced cost because you belong to a beekeeping association. If you have not paid your 2018 dues, please do so as soon as you can.

Be sure to order your equipment for the coming season, as it will give you plenty of time to build and paint. It is a great time to catch up on reading books that you were too busy to read during the holidays. We have a vast library available to members, which is found on our website. If you would like to check out any of these books, email your choices to John Martin, at jmartin98@comcast.net, and he will bring them to the next meeting.

If you are a new beekeeper and have not taken a beekeeping class, I strongly urge you to sign up for our 23rd Annual Beginning Beekeeping Workshop to be held on Saturday, February 24th, at Drumm Farm Center for Children, Nelson Hall, 3210 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, Missouri. The registration form is on our website. I attended last February and found it well worth the money and time.

At our February 18th meeting, we will have Ezekiel Amador who will be doing a presentation on Top Bar Beekeeping. If you are looking at getting into beekeeping but have limited funds, Top Bar Beekeeping is a very affordable option, especially if you have some basic woodworking skills. In addition, Tyler Boss will do his scholarship presentation. I look forward to seeing you at the February meeting.

Community America Credit Union Transactions for the Month of December 2017

Bank Balance as of November 30, 2017	\$10,676.39
Total Receipts Deposited	\$514.44
Total Expenses Paid (-\$ 23.25 Pending)	-\$1,614.93
Interest on Savings & Checking Account	\$0.40
Transfer from Savings to 60 Month CD #14	-\$2,000.00
Bank Balance as of December 31, 2017	\$7,576.30

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

Midwestern Beekeepers Name Tags

Magnetic bar or pin back clasps available. \$8 each with proceeds going to Youth Scholarship.

Bee Culture

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

<http://www.bee-culture.com/magazine/>

(800) 289-7668



February General Meeting
 Sunday, February 18, 2018
 Bass Pro Shop at Independence MO

**Conferences &
 Events**

2:00 PM
Q&A Session for Beginning Beekeepers
2:30 PM
Ezekiel Amador
“Top Bar Beekeeping”
&
Tyler Boss
“Youth Scholarship Presentation”



March 2-3, 2018
Missouri State
Beekeepers Association
Spring Learning Event
Warrensburg, Missouri
Featured Speakers
Dr. James E. Tew
Alexandria Payne
Cory Stevens
Charlotte Wiggins
Bill Allinder
<http://mostatebeekeepers.org/>



23rd Annual Beginning
Beekeeping Workshop
 Saturday, February 24, 2018
 Drumm Farm Center For Children

June 2, 2018
NEKBA Bee Funday
Douglas County Fairgrounds
Lawrence KS
Day of Workshops, Keynote
Speaker, Swarm Demo, Lunch &
Honey Ice Cream
<http://www.nekba.org>



Ezekiel Amador
Moderator
Tom Britz
Honey Bee Biology
Steve & Debbie DeCaigney
Equipment Basics
Lenora Woolsey
Smoking & Getting Into Your Hive
Stuart & Nita Dietz
Ways to Acquire Bees, Installing a Package of Bees and
Package Bees Management
Connie Unzicker & Diane Wilson
Location: Urban and Rural Bee Hives
& Honey Plants
Kyle Day, MSBA Honey Ambassador
Educational Resources: Books, Videos & Magazines
Robert Hughes, Jordy's Honey
Seasonal Colony Management
Bill George, Crooked Hill Beekeeping, LLC.
Bee Disease & Pests and Integrated Pest Management
Jim & Cindy Connell
Extracting Honey
Register by February 17th



July 11-13, 2018
Heartland Apicultural
Society
Annual Conference
Washington University, St. Louis
Featured Speakers:
Dr. Marla Spivak
Dr. Keith Delaplane
Jennifer Berry
Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp
Samuel Ramsey
University of Minnesota Bee
Squad
<http://www.heartlandbees.org/>



August 9-19, 2018
Missouri State Fair
Sedalia, MO
<http://www.mostatefair.com/>

<http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/2017/12/22nd-annual-beginning-beekeeping-workshRp/>



Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day,

MSBA Honey Ambassador

February is here, which means we are usually starting the transition from winter to spring. We have been getting some warm days and beekeepers have been checking their hives and adding feed. I still suggest checking on your hive at least once a month from the outside, put your ear against the side of the box and knock to try and hear a buzz. On 40 degrees days or warmer, it won't hurt to open the top and take a quick peek at the bees, but don't pull any of the frames or pull apart boxes. I remember Roger Wood saying to use a flashlight to see down in between the frames. If the bees are on top, I would suggest putting on fondant, or dry/moist sugar. I don't like to feed liquid syrup because it puts moisture into the hive and can increase cleansing flights., If the weather brings another cold snap and the bees cannot fly, it could lead to dysentery. I also don't like to feed liquid syrup and pollen patties, because if you feed too much, it can stimulate brood production and a booming hive in March can be a nightmare to beekeepers in their second year. If you need to put feed on and the bees are on top of the top bars, I would suggest going out on a day when they are flying and using only a very little smoke to just get them off the top bars, so you can place the feed and don't smash them.

In February, bees will start bringing in pollen, mostly from trees or shrubs. Usually, towards the later part of the month when there is a constant flow of pollen coming into the hive, is when liquid feed becomes an option if the weather is staying warm. If you're interested in seeing what is in bloom, Missouri extension has a chart in their "Seasonal Apiary Management For Missouri Guide" that can be found at <https://extension2.missouri.edu/g7601>. I also suggest you buy a guide of honey plants and pollen charts and talk to local beekeepers about what color pollen certain plants produce. Don't forget to read the Honey Plants articles by Luanne Oneal.

Sit down and write out a yearly plan and goals that you want to accomplish this year. Go out and buy a notebook to write down your goals and add your hive records throughout this year. Also, you can find a lot of different hive inspection sheets online or order them through a supplier. I highly suggest everyone write down each hive visit and what you did, so you can refer back to it to see what is going on in your hives and help plan future hive visits and refer back to your records year to year. If you haven't done it yet, don't forget to order bees and equipment this month. Suppliers will be sold out soon and you want your equipment ready now so you're not rushing later.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to email me at kyle.day.1999@gmail.com. Next month we will be switching from winter survival to spring build up and also talking about some disease and pest management and treatments so you're all set for the spring and offer some information for the new beekeepers joining us at the end of the month.

February Quick List

- Continue to better your beekeeping knowledge by reading books and magazines.
- Feed for insurance.
- See what color pollen your bees are bring in and research it .
- Order bees and equipment and start building. April will be here in no time and if you wait, you will be behind.
- Check out local and state meetings for the spring.
- Yearly plan and goal setting.
- Don't forget the three key things to manage in winter: ventilation, moisture, and food.



Did you miss Kyle's presentation? On the Spot Queen Rearing is now available on our website. <http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/On-The-Spot-Queen-Rearing-2018.pdf>



FOR SALE! Three Frame Nuc with 2018 Queen. No frame exchange, Missouri. Mated Queen, Antibiotic Free Bees.

Weather Permitting pickup about 15 May 2018. 50% deposit with order, Nuc Boxes returned.

Erno L. Balogh Ph#816-320-3182



Market Place



Honey Plants By Luanne Oneal

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.

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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.



Jim Fisher 816-918-6648

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

Music to my ears! A sight for sore eyes! Smells like heaven! All this and then some, could certainly be heard from beekeepers across the Midwest upon hive inspections during and after the brutal cold weather we all endured. I've yet to go out to disassemble and inspect the one hive that failed in our apiary. With ear tight to the hive body, instead of the "whir" of life, a hollow thud fell when rapped on; there behind the reducer lay the dead bees. A mournful experience. The sting of that dead hive still resonates within me-experience is a good teacher and I hope this experience isn't wasted.

The maple tree family will soon release the first rich source of pollen and nectar for the bees. Pollen (protein) and nectar (carbs for energy) are critical, as food in the hive is quickly dwindling, while the bee population is growing. If the weather is right, these trees will play a key role in late winter and spring build up. Helleborus, an early season flower, also stands ready to feed the bees. Specifically, the Helleborus foetidus, is a bee favorite.

American hazelnut, a statewide thicket forming shrub, will produce good amounts of pollen on the male catkins seen hanging in small clumps. The less visible female flower, red in color, doesn't produce nectar.

Two notable resources you could use in planning your bee yard: Garden Plants for Honey Bees by Peter Lindtner and the 2017-2018 Seedling Order Form George O. White State Forest Nursery. The nursery accepts orders thru April 15, 2018. This a very affordable way to add trees to your space.



<https://mdc.mo.gov/trees-plants/tree-seedlings/order-seedlings>



Photo by Luanne Oneal

Gardening Events



<http://grownative.org/events/>



<http://www.mggkc.org/whats-new/>



MSBA Response to the Defunct Missouri Master Beekeeping Course

By Kyle Day,
MSBA Honey Ambassador

Midwestern Beekeepers Association 2018 Goals

Recently, The University of Missouri Extension officially announced the Missouri Master Beekeeping Course has been halted and recommended that anyone interested in becoming a beekeeper or better their beekeeping skills to contact the Missouri State Beekeepers Association (MSBA.) Upon learning that The University of Missouri Extension had dropped efforts to build their program, Clayton Lee, MSBA President, released a letter on November 1, 2017, addressing other Master Beekeepers Programs that are offered to Missouri residents. In this letter, Mr. Lee said, “MSBA Executive Committee only recommends Master Beekeeping Programs directed by universities or well-established beekeeping organizations.” He also provided the following list of programs that the MSBA currently recommends to beekeepers.

1. Alabama’s Master Beekeeper Program
2. The California Master Beekeeper Program
3. Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Master Beekeeper Program
4. Eastern Apiculture Society’s Master Beekeepers Certification Program with Cornell
5. Florida’s Master Beekeeper Program
6. Georgia’s Master Beekeeper Program
7. University of Montana’s Online Master Beekeeping Program through the School of Extended and Lifelong Learning
8. Ohio State Beekeepers Certified Master Beekeeper Program
9. Oregon Master Beekeeper Program
10. Texas Master Beekeeper Program
11. West Virginia Beekeepers Association’s Master Beekeeper Program
12. Washington State Beekeeper Association’s Master Beekeeper program

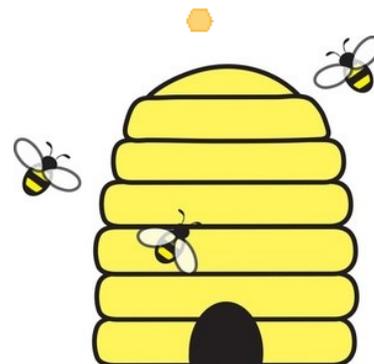
Mr. Lee also stated, “The MSBA Executive Committee also recommends beginning beekeeping education/training from local clubs and associations which includes a thorough curriculum such as MSBA’s best management practices and an element of “hands on/in the hive” experience.”

With this information, all Missouri beekeepers should look into what programs are offering and be careful with the beekeeping knowledge they are receiving and also ask for sources.

We are grateful for having a local association that provides us only with the best knowledge. Don’t forget to thank all of the Midwestern Beekeepers Association Executive Board Members for always providing us with great beekeeping information and working hard to better teach the beekeepers in our area.

More information can be found at <http://extension.missouri.edu/masterbeekeeper#> and <https://mostatebeekeepers.org/best-management-practices/>

- Printed MBA Members Directory available at the April General Meeting and thereafter.
- Mentor Program. Available mentors in your area highlighted in the directory. Mentor led field days.
- In addition to the Swarm List, we will be adding a Pollination Services list.
- A MBA Swap and Shop Facebook group for member’s exchanges.
- Purchase an extractor for member’s use.
- Provide a resource to order MBA Hats and T-Shirts.
- A listing of pollinator plants created by our members. Sale of pollinator plants.
- Various programs as suggested by members and to meet the needs of all levels of beekeepers.
- Support and promote Missouri State Beekeepers Association and other local educational events.



The "Missouri Grown" Promotion Program



Useful Resources

The Missouri Department of Agriculture has funds available to assist Missouri Producers with the cost associated with relabeling of Missouri agriculture products for retail sale. The "Missouri Grown" Promotion Program is funded through the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Ag Business Development Division. The program will provide cost-share assistance to producers for the cost of incorporating the "Missouri Grown" logo on their product for retail sale. Funding is limited and Request for Funding is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and must be postmarked by March 30, 2018 to be considered.

Products grown/raised by Missouri producers or further processed and packaged by Missouri businesses are eligible. Use of the "Missouri Grown" logo must be preapproved by the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

http://agriculture.mo.gov/abd/financial/mogrown.php?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

[https://](https://agrimissouri.com/)

agrimissouri.com/



[https://](https://honeybeehealth-coalition.org/)

honeybeehealth-coalition.org/



<http://www.nhbcatalog.com/>

<https://www.honey.com/>



<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/non-regulated/honey-bees>



American Bee Journal: (217) 847-3324



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February General Meeting
Sunday, February 18, 2018
Bass Pro Shop
Independence MO
2:00 PM
Q&A Session for
Beginning Beekeepers
2:30 PM
General Meeting

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

Membership dues are \$15 per year for an individual, prorated for new members after July 1st to \$7.50. Family membership available. Membership is open to all people interested in beekeeping and entitles you to our monthly newsletter, free 30 day loan of books from our extensive library, discounts on bee journals, the right to free non-commercial advertising in the newsletter, plus the opportunity to attend our informative monthly meetings.

Members of Midwestern Beekeepers Association can advertise for free in the newsletter! Commercial Vendors may advertise for \$25 per year plus your annual or lifetime membership. Contact the editor to place your ad.



midwesternbeekeepers.org



Membership/Renewal



MidwstnBeekprsA



Midwestern Beekeeper's
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