

For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



Now that Spring has actually appeared, I am sure there are a lot of our members on their way to an exciting adventure with this crazy ride called beekeeping. By now most, if not all, packages and nucs have been delivered and installed. I wish you much success. Be forewarned that beekeeping can be very addicting. You can go from a beekeeper with a couple of hives to a yard full of hives in a short time. Hopefully you have a spouse who understands your addiction to these creatures.

If you run into problems, talk to your mentor or other experienced members. I am quite certain that all have run into the same problems you encounter.

Keep educating yourself regarding beekeeping and beekeeping equipment. There are many resources available both through our Association's library and at your local public library.



Photo by Janice Britz

There have been a lot of postings on social media regarding swarms in our area and throughout Missouri. The swarming season is upon us. If you are a new beekeeper, you might want to visit with our members who are on the MBA swarm list. You never know, you might get to go with them to see them catch a swarm. That can be very educational.

If you haven't done so already, please inform your friends and neighbors that it is swarm season and how MBA can help. Tell them about [MBA's swarm list](#), which is one way MBA empowers

others to protect honey bees

I look forward to seeing you at our May meeting. Until then, take time to sit and observe your bees coming and going on a sunny afternoon. You will be amazed at how relaxing this can be. Enjoy.



If you are a member of the Missouri State Beekeepers Association, you can sign up for the [swarm list](#) on their website.



COMING UP

MAY GENERAL MEETING,
YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION
AND PLANT SALE
SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018
BEGINS AT 2 PM

BRING YOUR NEW OR SLIGHTLY USED ITEMS TO DONATE TO THE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP SILENT AUCTION

Bass Pro Shop
Independence MO



May Q & A

By Phil Duncan, President



Q: What is the ratio of sugar water for feeding package bees?

A: Start feeding packages a sugar syrup ratio of 1:1 (**1 Part Sugar to 1 Part Water**) to get bees to draw out comb. One half gallon of hot water is added to a four pound bag of sugar. It is not unusual for a new package of bees to consume a quart of sugar syrup per day.

Make sure you use only granulated white sugar. It does not matter if it is pure cane sugar or beet sugar.

Q: How long do I feed my newly installed package?

A: Keep feeding until the bees will no longer take the sugar syrup.



Youth Scholarship

By Nita Dietz



May General Meeting

Sunday, May 20, 2018
Bass Pro Shop at Independence MO

2:00 PM

Q & A Session

Youth Scholarship Silent Auction & Plant Sale

2 Quart Planters for \$5 each

Missouri Primrose, Butterfly Weed

& Bee Balm (Monarda)

*Auction will end at the conclusion
of the General Meeting*

2:30 PM

Dennis Culpepper, presenting
"Small Hive Beetle Control"

Youth Scholarship Presentations & Awards

Anna Johnson, 2016 YS, presenting
"Plan B(ee)"

Ashley Wilton, 2016 YS, presenting
"My Year in Beekeeping"



Last drawing for one admission

to the NEKBA Bee Fun Day

Membership Directory will be available



Community America Credit Union Transactions for the Month of March 2018

Checking Account Balance as of February 28, 2018	\$ 6,170.67
Savings Account Balance as of February 28, 2018	\$ 5,120.78
Total Receipts Deposited	\$ 811.60
Total Expenses Paid	\$ -818.75
Dividends from Savings & Checking	\$ 0.49
Checking Account Balance: March 31, 2018	\$ 6,163.79
Savings Account Balance: March 31, 2018	\$ 5,121.00

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



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



Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day, MSBA Honey Ambassador

May: Listen to the bees and let them guide you -Brother Adam

The focuses in May are to make sure your hives are healthy, queen-right, well fed for maximum expansion, and have room to grow. I have heard that many packages and nucs have been delayed due to the weather. The most important task when starting these new colonies will be feeding. Mid to late May usually starts the strongest part of the spring nectar flow, but you will still need to be feeding the new colonies of bees while they draw out wax. While the bees are expanding and growing, you will need to remember the rule of seven. Once there are seven fully drawn frames that are covered with bees, you can add another box. Usually, first year beekeepers will only be able to add the brood boxes. If you do get lucky enough to add honey supers, you will need to think about choosing to use a queen excluder or not. I know many beekeepers on both sides of this debate. My own opinion is to use queen excluders. If brood is present in honey frames when you want to extract, you will be unable to do so. Also, wax moths are more likely to go for darker combs. While your bees are building up, you will need to watch for (SHB) small hive beetles. There are many different options for controlling SHB. In my hives, I use two different types of traps for SHB. On top of the frames in the top box, I will place two non-scented Swiffer Dry Mop Cloths. Use the cheapest ones you can find. If I need more traps for control and the colony is more than a single box, I will place two SHB traps between frames in the bottom box. I usually use mineral oil as the main liquid and add a little Apple Cider Vinegar as bait. This year, I am going to try and fill them with pickling lime found in the canning section of stores. I have heard from other beekeepers that it is just as effective and will be less of a mess. I also suggest once your hive is well established, check for varroa mites. Controlling varroa mites are a key part of beekeeping. For more information on controlling varroa mites, I suggest reading the [Honey Bee Health Coalition's Guide](#) that can be found on the club's website.

Like always, if you have any questions about your hives or beekeeping information, you can contact me at day1999@live.missouristate.edu.

May Beekeeping Quick List

- Feed hives while bees are building comb in brood boxes
- Remember the rule of seven
- Check for varroa mites and monitor small hive beetles
- Control swarming and split hives for increases
- Inspect colonies that aren't keeping up with others
- Add honey supers as needed



Welcome New Members

By Terry Wright



Florence Middleton
Kansas City MO
Marty & Christy Sipek
Odessa MO
Shari Schroeder
Richmond MO
Don Brown
Richmond MO
Wes & Ann Westermann
Harrisonville MO
Jerold P Maasen
Pleasant Hill MO
Donna & Daniel Dibben
Peculiar MO
Helen Kloepfer
Louisburg KS
Micia Grindstaff
Independence MO



USDA Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP)



FieldWatch
Communication. Cooperation. Collaboration.



[Field Watch](#)

Beekeeping for the 2nd Year Beekeeper and Beyond

By Kyle Day, MSBA Honey Ambassador



Conferences & Events

May: Bring on the Sweetness

The weather is finally starting to work in our favor, and swarm season is coming right along with it. All beekeepers should know the three main things that contribute to causing swarm impulses. 1. Decreasing queen pheromone production and distribution within the hive. 2. Congestion or decreasing space in the brood nest for the queen to lay eggs. 3. Nectar storage begins to crowd the brood nest from above, forcing the queen down to the bottom of the comb. To combat swarming impulses, beekeepers can manipulate the hive in many ways. The first way is to add honey supers to allow room in the brood nest. Look for signs that it is time to super, such as the bees lose interest in syrup, bees have no robbing tendencies, and white wax on the top bars. If you are adding drawn comb, and the hive and nectar flow are strong, you can add two supers. If adding foundation only and the hive or nectar flow aren't very strong, then add one box at a time. I suggest using queen excluders, but every beekeeper has their own opinion on this topic. Also, many beekeepers have their own opinion regarding top or bottom supering once the first honey super is full. Research says there is no difference between the two. If supers have been stored with wax moth crystals over the winter, remember to allow the supers to air out for a day before adding to your colonies.

The main objectives for all colonies during May are to be queen-right, healthy, and enough feed to produce at maximum production. Remember to check for varroa mites and watch small hive beetle levels. Usually by the first of May, overwintered hives should have the equivalent amount of brood to fill both sides of four deep frames. Visually look at each hive and compare it to your other hives. If one hive isn't keeping up with others, try to find the reason this hive isn't keeping up. Ask other beekeepers their opinion about it. If production is your main goal, weak or poor laying queens should be replaced.

If your hives are strong, I would suggest splitting to avoid swarming. But as the old saying goes, "A swarm in May is worth a bale of hay." Many Midwest queen producers will start to have queens available for sale in May. I am a strong believer in good genetics and buying queens that are produced locally by queen breeders whose queens have a proven track record. There are a couple of different queen breeders in Missouri and they are always my first choice when I am buying queens. If you are interested in making your own queens, there are many different methods you can use. If you are making queens for your first time, I highly suggest "On the Spot Queen Rearing." A copy of my presentation of "[On the Spot Queen Rearing](#)" can be found on the Midwestern's website. This is a simple method and can help you learn the queen rearing basics cheaply. Like always, if you have any questions about your hives or beekeeping information, you can contact me at day1999@live.missouristate.edu.



<https://www.worldbeeday.org/en/>



September 25-28, 2018
American Royal
School Tours
Hale Arena,
Kansas City, MO
Volunteers Needed

[http://www.americanroyal.com/
educational-programming/tours/](http://www.americanroyal.com/educational-programming/tours/)



October 19-20, 2018
Missouri State
Beekeepers Association
Fall Conference
Truman State University
Kirksville, MO

<http://mostatebeekeepers.org/>

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.

We offer a complete line of beekeeping supplies and equipment. Including: Woodenware (assembly and painting available), frames, foundation, smokers, tools, bee suits, Bug Bafflers, veils, books, feed supplements, honey containers, extracting equipment, NUC boxes, materials to build your own hives. Deliveries at Cameron, MO every Tuesday from 6-7 pm. Please call first.



Jordy's Honey
Robert Hughes
12333 Wedd Street
Overland Park, KS 66213
913-681-5777

www.beekeepers.com

We are open Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM and weekends by appointment. To see our full line of beekeeping products, visit Beekeepers.com. Easy store pickup available to save on shipping. Visit BeePack-ages.com to order Bee Packages for a Kansas City Pickup. For Queens go to QueenBees.com.



[Jim Fisher 816-918-6648](tel:816-918-6648)

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

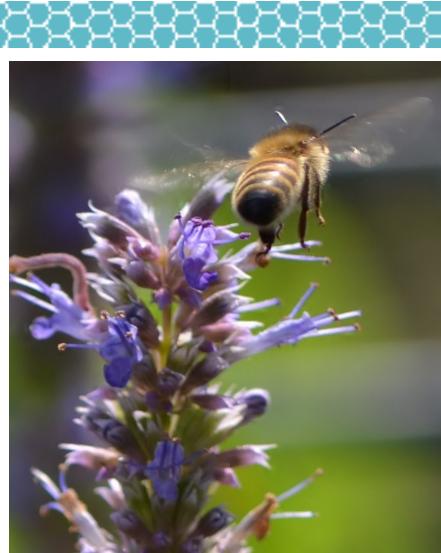


Photo by Luanne Oneal

Pollen baskets tightly packed with orange, light grey, mustard yellow, bright lemon-yellow pollen can be seen going in my hives here in north central Missouri. Can I get a hallelujah!

The plum tree located a few yards from my hive is possibly the source of the light grey pollen.

As of April 23, the red buds are still tightly closed—not for long though, I'm sure.

Dandelions, although an eye-sore to many, are a welcome beneficial weed to us beekeepers. They are a very good food source for the growing hive population. The pollen is red/yellow, orange in color.

According to information at the University Extension, alfalfa, basswood, birdsfoot trefoil, and brambles are good food sources in May. In the garden, brassicas and fruit trees will be blooming.



Missouri State Fair

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



AUG 9-19 2018

SEDALIA

EST. 1901

come HOME

EST. 1901

MISSOURI STATE FAIR

SEDALIA

MISSOURI STATE FAIR

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Funday — Chips off the Old Bloke
A Day to Honor Dr. Chip Taylor — All of his Doctoral Students will be attending
Saturday, June 2, 2018: Registration 7:30-8:30 AM — Program 8:30 AM-5:00 PM
Fee includes snacks, lunch, homemade honey ice cream and a full day of fun
Bring your veil and protective clothing if you would like to work through hives
Cost \$50 per person for those pre-registered, \$60 at the door
Children under 5 free, ages 6-18 \$20 and \$25 at the door joli@heartlandhoney.com
A dinner will be offered for an additional fee - Pre-register by May 21, 2018
Douglas County Fairgrounds 2110 Harper Street, Lawrence KS
Register and pay online at www.NEKBA.org
For more information contact Joli Winer at 913-856-8356

Dr. Orley “Chip” Taylor is the founder and Director of Monarch Watch an outreach program focused on education, research and conservation relative to monarch butterflies. He is a retired Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Kansas. He trained as an insect ecologist. Starting in 1974, Chip has studied Neotropical African honey bees (killer bees) in French Guiana, Venezuela, and Mexico. Chip has been an incredible support to the beekeepers in Kansas. His swarm demo is always a highlight of the Funday. We love and respect him.

Dr. Marla Spivak has been affiliated with the University of Minnesota since 1993, where she is currently Distinguished McKnight Professor in the Department of Entomology. She is the author and creator of numerous beekeeping manuals and videos, and scientific articles. She is developing practical applications to protect honey bee populations from decimation by disease while making fundamental contributions to our understanding of bee biology. Her TED talk “Why Bees are Disappearing” is the buzz!

Dr. Mark Winston is the recipient of the 2015 Governor General’s Literary Award for Nonfiction for his book Bee Time: Lessons From the Hive. One of the world’s leading experts on bees and pollination, Dr. Winston is also an internationally recognized researcher, teacher and writer. He currently is a professor at Simon Fraser University and has directed Simon Fraser University’s Centre for Dialogue for 12 years. His other books include *The Biology of the Honey Bee* and the soon to be released *Listening to the Bees*.

Dr. Jose Villa is now retired from being research entomologist with the United States Department of Agriculture’s Honey Bee Breeding and Physiology Research Station in Baton Rouge. His work included the Russian Bee Project and Nosema.

For updated info. Go to www.NEKBA.org

Dr. Gard Otis retired from the School of Environmental Sciences, University of Guelph. He studies the ecology, behavior, and evolution of insects, with an emphasis on honey bees, their pests, and butterflies. He is most proud of his study of the swarming behavior of honeybees; the breeding project that greatly reduced the impact of the honeybee tracheal mite on bees in Ontario; and the rediscovery of the honey bee species, *Apis nigrocincta*, in Indonesia. He has improved the lives of rural Vietnamese farmers through beekeeping.

Dr. David Roubik, is an entomologist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. For most of his career he has studied tropical insects, especially bees. He has studied African bees, Vulture bees, pollen of native bees and the pollination of Central American Coffee plants by African bees—making for better tasting coffee! He has written *Ecology & Natural History of Tropical Bees, Pollination Ecology and the Rain Forest* and *Pot-Honey A Legacy of Stingless Bees*.

Dr. Judy Wu-Smart is the Extension & Research Entomologist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Department of Entomology. The UNL Bee Lab pursues research questions and extension programs focused on stressors impacting pollinator health in both managed and wild bee communities.

Dr. Marion Ellis is a retired professor of entomology at the University of Nebraska. Dr. Ellis is a world-class researcher on several topics relating to honeybee health. He retired in 2014 and continues to be one of our favorites.

- Swarm Demo with Dr. Chip Taylor
- Douglas County Master Gardeners Flower and Plant Sale Dreher Bldg. Patio
- Vendors: To be Announced
- Silent Auctions to support the Youth Scholarship and Military/Veteran Programs and the Educational Efforts of NEKBA.



<http://www.heartlandbees.org/>



- **Dr. May Berenbaum**, Entomology department head at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, whose research focuses on the chemical interactions between herbivorous insects and their host-plants.
- **Dr. Marla Spivak**, a MacArthur Fellow at University of Minnesota's Bee Lab.
- **University of Minnesota Bee Squad**, a beekeeping instructional and public outreach program to encourage collaboration and public education about bees.
- **Dr. Keith Delaplane**, director of the University of Georgia Honey Bee Program.
- **Jennifer Berry**, University of Georgia Honey Bee program lab manager.
- **Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp**, University of Maryland Honeybee Lab, who directs the Bee Informed Partnership, the Tech Transfer Program and the annual national beekeeping management surveys.
- **Samuel Ramsey**, University of Maryland PhD candidate and researcher.
- **Additional HAS 2018 speakers**, in alphabetical order:
- **Pete Berthelsen**, Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund Partnership Coordinator, President Conservation Blueprint LLC and wildlife biologist.
- **Dr. Dewey Caron**, Emeritus Professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware, and Affiliate Professor, Dept. Horticulture Oregon State University
- **Phil Craft**, retired KY state apiarist (from 1999 through 2011.) He is a past president and past chairman of the Heartland Apicultural Society, past program chairman of Eastern Apicultural Society and past president of the Apiary Inspectors of America.
- **Krispn Given**, Purdue University Department of Entomology Apiculture Specialist, Vice President Indiana Urban Pollination Project. Vice President. Heartland Honey Bee Breeders Cooperative.
- **Dr. Jeff Harris**, Extension/Research Apiculturist at Mississippi State University.
- **Ana Heck**, University of Minnesota Bee Squad bee lab Program Manager.
- **Dr. Tammy Horn Potter**, KY State Apiarist and author "*Bees in America: How the Honeybee Shaped a Nation*", a compilation and study of fact, folklore and history of the honey bee.
- **Dr. Greg Hunt** is Emeritus Professor of Entomology Purdue University and Trustee for the Foundation for the Preservation of the Honey Bee.
- **Bridget Mendel Lee**, University of Minnesota Bee Squad Project Coordinator and Grant Writer.
- **Martin Marklin**, Hand-carved Liturgical candle maker and beekeeper from Contoocook, New Hampshire, Martin took up beekeeping as a sideline to his main candle business.
- **Becky Masterman**, University of Minnesota Bee Squad Associate Director.
- **Dr. Jim Tew**, Beekeeping Specialist for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University and Emeritus Professor, The Ohio State University.
- **Jenny Warner**, a founding member of the UMN Bee Squad.
- **Dr. Tom Webster**, Apiculture Extension Specialist and Adjunct Faculty, Kentucky State University
- **Kent Williams**, past president Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS), EAS master beekeeper maintaining apiaries in KY and southern Mississippi.





RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Terry Wright
9203 South Litchford
Grain Valley MO 64029

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YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION
AND PLANT SALE
SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018
BEGINS AT 2 PM**

**BRING YOUR NEW OR SLIGHTLY USED ITEMS
TO DONATE TO THE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP
SILENT AUCTION**

***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
Association



Midwestern Beekeepers
Association
Members Closed Group

2018 GENERAL MEETINGS

Jun 10, 2018, 2:30 PM

Jul 15, 2018, Picnic-
Fleming Park, 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