



## COMING UP

### *No August Meeting*



    
SEPTEMBER

**GENERAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, SEP 16, 2018**

**BASS PRO SHOP  
INDEPENDENCE MO  
2:00 PM**

**Q&A SESSION FOR  
BEGINNING BEEKEEPERS  
2:30 PM**

**GENERAL MEETING**



**2018 GENERAL MEETINGS**

Oct 21, 2018, 2:30 PM

Nov 18, 2018, 2:30 PM

Dec 16, 2018, 2:30 PM



*Do you need someone to call to answer a question about your hives? Get your copy of the MBA's Members Directory at the General Meetings!*

## For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



If you weren't able to attend our picnic on the 15<sup>th</sup>, you missed a great meal and even better fellowship. I would like to thank all involved with making this another fun event. I look forward to our next food extravaganza. This column is going to be rather short this month. The dearth is on for our bees and I think my idea bank for a column this month is also suffering a dearth.



**Scholarship Student Kerstin Randolph inspecting her hive with Janice Britz**

*Photo by Tom Britz*

As many of you know, I am a retired high school science teacher. As a result, education has always been important to me. One should always take advantage of learning from others. I mention this because of a conversation I had with one of our members regarding winter losses. This got me to thinking. Why do some beekeepers have high losses nearly every year and others almost no losses? What are they doing differently? This to me is a very important question. If you are one who has struggled to bring your hives through the winter and into the next nectar flow, then maybe you should seek out

members who have been successful for several years bringing nearly all of their hives through the winter and spring.

If you are a new beekeeper, I suggest you do a lot of research into winter preparations. Now this may sound funny considering how hot this summer has been so far, but winter will be here before you know it. It is better to be prepared rather than reacting to cold weather.

Here is my closing thought for the month. If you are still keeping bees in 10 years, will you be a beekeeper with 10 years of experience or a beekeeper with 1 year of experience repeated 10 times?

Hope you get a chance to attend the Missouri State Fair. Be sure to drop by the Missouri Beekeepers Association booth. You will have a sweet time.



**Welcome new member, Gerald Sisson, Lee's Summit, Missouri**



## Fall Management Tips For All Beekeepers

By Kyle Day, MSBA Honey Ambassador

### **“You know, you never can tell with bees.” Winnie The Pooh**

With fall fast approaching, we need to start looking at our Fall Management plans. This is the most important thing to start preparing for and this article will give some of the major things to cover over the next couple of months. Your thoughts and actions starting in August will depend on the strength of the fall honey flow, which is weather related, and the strength and health of your hives. The strength and health of your hives are most associated with your queen’s strength and health, but indirectly related to mite populations and how well your hives deal with it. In your area, you may have to feed with the drought we have been in this year.

In Missouri, most fall management is preparing for winter and that is what I will focus on rather than trying to get a fall honey crop—especially this year.

***The keys to winter survival are healthy young bees; dry, sheltered, well ventilated hives; the appropriate number of hive boxes to match your cluster size; and adequate food stores.***

Start the end of August by setting hives up by what they will overwinter in. There are a lot of different opinions on how many boxes, and the best way to help you determine is to talk to other beekeepers. Attending meetings and Facebook are good options. I currently have been overwintering in double deeps (or three mediums) if possible. This is the method that many beekeepers have used for years and is the norm. If one of my hives/late nucs haven’t filled one full deep brood box (or two mediums,) I would move them to a stacked five frame nuc boxes (this year, I am testing out a double nuc box system) or combine hives together. Newer beekeepers, I would suggest talking with mentors/experienced beekeepers for guidance. If they fill one full box, they need a second box of comb filled with honey to survive the winter, but if the comb is not drawn, it will be difficult to draw comb and to fill it by feeding syrup. With multiple hives of about equal strength, I will balance honey frames between them. The goals are to ‘manipulate’ hives with adequate space for their current size, small growth area for the brood that will be laid in the next couple months, and then space of an adequate store of food.

There are several methods of assessing your hive’s mite load and I will not try to describe them here, but I will say that you need to read about them, experiment with them, and find one that you feel comfortable. No method is better than another if you don’t use it, can’t understand it, or don’t feel confident that you are doing it right. Try to be consistent between tests and between hives. It does take practice. Once you have your counts, it’s time to treat for mites if you believe in this practice. I want to know the mite load regardless of whether I treat or not, because if I lose that hive through the winter, I want some data to help determine what went wrong. After mites, we must evaluate each hive and ultimately the queen.

A beekeeper once told me, “take your loses in the fall, and not in the winter.” He was right! It is hard to give up on a hive or queen in the fall, but it is harder to lose a hive in February. You must learn how to fairly evaluate the queen. If it was a late swarm and the queen did not have the time or the nectar to build a strong hive, don’t blame that on the queen. But if this queen has a poor pattern, and perhaps you got this swarm in April but the hive is still small, the queen will not improve next year and may not survive winter. A good way to evaluate is to compare queens side by side. If one queen has a solid brood pattern and the other doesn’t, and the good pattern hive has lots of bees and the other hive does not, that is pretty good evidence that the poor pattern queen needs to be culled and combined with another hive.

The next thing we want are young bees going into winter. So, we need 6-8 weeks or more for the queen to lay new brood in the fall. We want to encourage this as late as we can, so I start feeding late September and go until mid-November or thereabouts. It is all dependent on the weather, so look for the first frost forecast and watch the average daily temperatures. If the temperature during the day comes up into the upper 40’s to lower 50’s, the bees can still raise brood. To raise brood, the bees need food. We prefer a nectar flow to supply that, but we learned in the spring that feeding a 1:2 syrup—1 part sugar, 2 parts water—stimulates brood rearing. If your hives are full of honey, but you still need brood rearing, you should be feeding a 1:2 syrup. If there isn’t enough space in the hive to expand the brood nest, your hive may swarm even if you don’t feed because there is nectar coming in from the fall flow.

So you know from spring build-up we need 6-8 frames of room for the brood nest for a large, strong hive. We need that same room now to grow our winter bees. A smaller cluster needs less but still we want a sizable space of open comb in the bottom box situated below the honey cap (winter storage) in the top box when we arrange our boxes.

The last thing to manage in fall is food for winter. Many say to make sure that your bees have at least 80 pounds of honey, or in other words, a full brood box of honey in the comb. It is preferable that this is dark comb, i.e., the queen has laid eggs in these frames in the past. That suggested quantity has come down in recent years. If you have a full box or a couple of medium boxes of bees on comb, a box with seven to eight frames full of honey in the top box should be plenty of food. If you have less than that on September 30th, you can feed throughout October and maybe into November. Put the empty space of drawn comb on the hive no later than September 30th and feed 2:1 syrup—2 parts sugar, 1 part water. Keep track of how much you feed each hive. You may ask why I have given you two different concentrations of syrup for fall feeding. The short answer, they are for different results. If you need to feed to supplement food for winter, feed 2:1. Brood rearing will be stimulated enough. If you just need to stimulate brood rearing, feed 1:2.

The biggest thing I want to stress is timing. Beekeeping is all about timing and trying to be ahead of the bees. All the requirements of management are dependent on the beekeeper to know his/her bees and recognizing their behavior, always being aware of the weather forecast, your knowledge of bees and what to do in each season, and doing management tasks at the right time. I attempt to give you a timeline, but even that is not set in stone, because weather is the biggest factor.

## August Beekeeping Quick List

- Size cluster for winter and add/remove boxes
- Mite checks and treatments
- Evaluate hives for strength and health
- Prepare for feeding

Community America Credit Union Transactions for June 26, 2018 to July 25, 2018	
Checking Account Balance: June 26, 2018	\$ 7,448.66
Savings Account Balance: June 26, 2018	\$ 5,121.43
Total Receipts Deposited	\$ 0.00
Total Expenses Paid	\$ -112.13
Dividends from Savings & Checking	\$ 0.86
Checking Account Balance: July 25, 2018	\$ 7,236.11
Savings Account Balance: July 25, 2018	\$ 11,318.65

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

## Youth Scholarship



Youth Scholarship Applications will soon be available for 2019. Watch for further details in upcoming newsletters and on the website.

## Honey Extractor Rental

You can rent the honey extractor and equipment by contacting Stuart and Nita Dietz at (785) 304-5905. Pickup and return of the honey extractor and equipment will be at Independence, Missouri.

## Bee Culture

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

[Subscription](#)  
(800) 289-7668



## Award Nominations

[MSBA award nominations](#) are due September 1st and you are invited to nominate an individual for an award.

Awards include:

Beekeeper of the Year,  
Junior Beekeeper of the Year,  
Mentor of the Year, and  
Lifetime Achievement

## Honey Plants

By Luanne Oneal



## Nominating Committee for 2019 Officers

According to Wikipedia, there is a nice list of honey plants to round out the honey producing season. Perhaps the heavy nectar flows are behind us, but here is a short list of flowers you may see in the country-side or perhaps your very own garden spaces: Anise Hyssop, Milkweed, Butterfly bush, Marigold, Bone-set, thistles, sunflower and vetch. Cucumber, melon, pumpkin, okra rely on pollination by the humble honey bee while nectar and pollen are collected to feed the hive or add to our soon to be extracted supers. As an advocate for honey plants and cover crops, now is the time (perhaps a bit late) to consider what to grow in your idle growing spaces. We will sow turnip seed before the end of July "On the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, sow your turnips, wet or dry" The plants you don't harvest have the potential to offer an early, yellow spring blossom your bees will benefit from.



**Lemon balm**  
*Photo by Luanne Oneal*

There shall be a Nominating Committee composed of at least three (3) members elected by the Membership at the August meeting of each year. The Nominating committee shall nominate an eligible person for each office to be filled and report its nominees at the regular meeting in October each year. These nominees shall be from the Membership in good standing and chosen for their qualities and abilities to lead the Association. Only those who have signified their consent to serve, if elected, shall be nominated for or elected to such office. Additional nominations to those offered by the Nominating Committee are to be called for from the floor in the October meeting.

## Volunteers Needed



September 25-28, 2018  
American Royal  
School Tours  
Hale Arena  
Kansas City, MO  
[American Royal School Tours](#)

Can you spare four hours from 8am to noon, the week of September 25-28, 2018, to help in our MBA booth, teaching area youth about beekeeping? If you can, we need you! Contact Janice Britz at [britzjs@gmail.com](mailto:britzjs@gmail.com) to sign up.

If you would like to serve on the Nominating Committee or become an officer, please contact Phil Duncan at 816-835-7686.

We are seeking people for the offices of Third Vice President/ Editor, Secretary, Director and Honey Plants.



Call American Bee Journal:  
(217) 847-3324 for association  
member subscription rates

# Varroa Mite Monitoring

## Meghan Milbrath

### Michigan State University Extension

# How to make a Sugar Roll jar

## Bee Informed.org



Varroa Mite Monitoring using a sugar roll to identify populations of Varroa destructor in honey bee colonies.

As of spring 2018, many experts are using a threshold of 3% infestation (3 mites / 100 bees, or 9 mites in your ½ cup sample .

If you have greater than 3% infestation your hive is likely in trouble – if you can count mites in the double digits, you should take action on that hive. For more information on your options, see the MSU document ‘Managing the Varroa Mite’.

There are three steps to keeping your bees safe from varroa infestation:

1. Know the level of mites in your colonies,
2. Know what level of mites is safe,
3. Know what tools we have to keep mite populations at a safe level—tools that break varroa reproduction by keeping a low mite population low, and tools to use if we have an infestation and bring a high population of mites down.

### Sugar roll step-by-step

- Gather all your materials
- Find a frame of brood
- Collect a ½ cup of worker bees from the brood into your jar
- Add 2 Tbsp powdered sugar to the bees in the jar
- Roll the jar to coat the bees with sugar
- Put the jar to rest in the shade for at least 2 minutes
- Shake the mites out of the jar into a tub
- Count the number of mites in your sample
- Divide by 3 to get the number of mites / 100, and compare to your threshold
- Feel good that you are helping keep your bees healthy!



A sugar roll test is a simple way to monitor your varroa mite loads without killing a lot of bees. It is easy and fast and only a few items are needed

Instructions to make your own jar can be found at the [Bee Informed website](#).

### Alcohol Wash

1. Collect 300 bees in a clear plastic or glass jar
2. Add 70% (or higher) alcohol to the jar to completely submerge the bees and add lid. Ethanol, ethyl alcohol, or isopropyl alcohol work well
3. Shake contents vigorously for two minutes to dislodge mites
4. Remove lid and pour the mixture over a ⅛ inch wire mesh screen into a light colored pan
5. Count the varroa mites in the pan and record these results
6. Divide this number by 3 to get an average mite count per 100 bees

[Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#)



[Guide to Varroa Management](#)



**I can BEE WISE**

by showing good judgment and making good decisions.



**Varroa Easy Check**

[Easy Check System](#)

[Easy Check in use](#)



**September General Meeting**  
**Sunday, September 16, 2018**  
**Bass Pro Shop at Independence MO**

**Market Place**

2:00 PM

**Q&A Session for Beginning Beekeepers**

2:30 PM

**Andy Nowachek, presenting**  
**“Winter Hive Preparation”**  
**Will Pryor & Trevor Norton**  
**Youth Scholarship Presentations**



**Crooked Hill Beekeeping, LLC.**

**Bill and Tammy George**

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Chillicothe, MO 64601

(660)214-0132

[www.chbeekeeping.com](http://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**

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[www.beekeepers.com](http://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](http://Beekeepers.com). Easy store pickup available to save on shipping. Visit [BeePackages.com](http://BeePackages.com) to order Bee Packages for a Kansas City Pickup. For Queens go to [QueenBees.com](http://QueenBees.com).



**[Jim Fisher](http://JimFisher.com) 816-918-6648**

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

**CLASS TOPICS**

**INCLUDE:**

- QUEEN PROBLEMS
- INTEGRATED PEST CONTROL
- FALL HIVE MANAGEMENT
- MEDICINE FROM THE HIVE
- BEGINNER BEEKEEPING
- NATIVE POLLINATOR GARDEN
- HARVESTING HONEY
- AND MUCH MORE...



BEES ALIVE CLUB  
presents

3RD ANNUAL

**Bee Day**  
WORKSHOP



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2018

*It's ALL about the Queen!*



**Mel Disselkoen**  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**REGISTER NOW!**

This year's main focus is on the QUEEN! Topics of the day include: On The Spot Queen Rearing, Better Bee Genetics, Queen Problems, Fall Hive Management, Integrated Pest Control, Medicine From the Hive, Beginner Beekeeping, Second Year Beekeeping, Native Pollinator Garden, Mead Making and MUCH more! We have over 12 great speakers lined up this year with over 30 classes to choose from throughout the day! And don't miss visiting our vendors...great opportunities to purchase goods and services!

Our KEYNOTE SPEAKER is master beekeeper, Mel Disselkoen. Mel has kept bees for over 40 years and is familiar with all facets of beekeeping. Today Mel enjoys observing honeybee behavior and teaching beekeepers how to use his OTS queen rearing method to self-sufficiently reach their objectives.

When: Saturday, September 15th 2018 - Starts at 8a

Where: The Bridge Church, 308 W Mt Vernon St, Nixa, MO 65714

[Pre-Registration](#) before August 31st is \$35/adult. Children 15yrs and under are \$10.

Registration AFTER September 1st or at the door is \$45/person.

We can accept Cash/Check/Credit Card/PayPal.

Missouri  
State  
Beekeepers  
Association

# Fall Conference



October 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Truman State University Campus, Kirksville, Mo.

## SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



**JERRY HAYES** is the Honey Bee Health lead for Monsanto's newly formed BioDirect business unit. Before joining Monsanto he was the Chief of the Apicary Section for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. In the role he was responsible for the regulatory health of the 350,000 colonies in the State of Florida, a State highly dependent on Honey Bee pollination for agricultural success. For the past 30 years Jerry has written a monthly column in the American Bee Journal called The Classroom and a book by the same name. Jerry is a founding member of the Colony Collapse Working Group, a science advisory board member for Project Apis mellifera (PAm), the Bee Informed Partnership, and he serves on the Steering Committee of the Honey Bee Health Coalition. He has been author and co-author on multiple research papers that delve into how to understand and preserve honey bee health. In Jerry's 35 plus years in the Apiculture Industry his overarching desire has been to create sustainable honey bee management practices while partnering with other segments of agriculture. The cornerstone of his career has been to educate others that honey bees are the key pollinators and the critical role they play in agriculture; while in parallel encouraging the development of multi dimensional landscapes for the benefit of honey bees and all pollinators.



**JUDY WU-SMART** received her BS in Zoology at Humboldt State University, Arcata, California. She received her MS in Entomology at Washington State University under the advisement of Drs. Walter Sheppard and Carol Anelli. Her MS research examined the effects of pesticide residue accumulation in brood comb on honey bee health. She continued onto a PhD program with Dr. Marla Spivak at the University of Minnesota where she examined the effects of systemic neonicotinoid insecticides on honey bee and bumble bee queens and colony development. She's now an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In her role at UNL, Judy is developing a pollinator health program to help understand the underlying stressors in bee health and their interactions with environmental toxicants. Her goal is to integrate her research and extension efforts with policy to inform the regulatory-decision making process by identifying risk mitigation opportunities and best management practices that will better protect beneficial pollinators in agricultural and urban landscapes.



**DR. JULIANA RANGEL** is an Assistant Professor of Apiculture with the Texas A&M Department of Entomology and is a member of the Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab.



Register Online At:  
[www.mostatebeekeepers.org](http://www.mostatebeekeepers.org)

Watch Our Website  
For More Information  
As The Conference Approaches



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Terry Wright  
9203 South Litchford  
Grain Valley MO 64029

*No August Meeting*

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 Janice Britz, Editor, at [britzjs@gmail.com](mailto:britzjs@gmail.com), to place your ad.



[midwesternbeekeepers.org](http://midwesternbeekeepers.org)



Membership/Renewal



MidwstnBeekprsA



Midwestern Beekeeper's  
Association



Midwestern Beekeepers  
Association  
Members Closed Group

To make a library request, go to [MBA's library](#), and choose your book or video. Contact John Martin at [jmartin98@comcast.net](mailto:jmartin98@comcast.net) or 816-726-6371 to make your request. John will bring your requested items to the next General Meeting. You must be a member of Midwestern Beekeepers Association to check out books or videos.