

## For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



It is hard to believe that summer is over. If you are like me, you have pulled the last of your supers and started feeding 2:1 sugar water to help your bees have enough stores to get them through the winter. If you have not taken a mite count yet, you need to be checking your hives. All too often I hear of folks losing hives that have plenty of food but the mites caused too much stress on the hives. If you aren't sure how to check for mites, contact one of our experienced members. If your mite counts are high, then you need to treat. Some folks put on Mite Away Quick Strips this time of year to knock down the mites until Oxalic Acid (OA) vaporization can be used more effectively in December when there is little or no brood. Other folks begin with OA treatments. Personally, I put on the MAQS at the end of September and plan to do the OA treatment in December. Let's hope and pray that winter treats our bees kindly and we have a much nicer spring in 2019.



With the arrival of fall, our organization had the opportunity to participate in the American Royal School Tours. I want to give a big thank you to Tom and Janice Britz, Bob Williams, Lenora Woolsey and our scholarship graduates, Will Pryor and Ian Parrish, all of whom served with me during the school tours. There were up to 1500 students that we talked to about beekeeping each of the four days.

As I stated in last month's column, if you have youngsters who are interested in the Youth Scholarship program, the application deadline is October 31st.

I look forward to seeing a lot of members at the October meeting.



## COMING UP

OCTOBER

GENERAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, OCT. 21, 2018  
2:30 PM

BASS PRO SHOP  
INDEPENDENCE MO

NO Q&A SESSION  
PRIOR TO MEETING  
A TIME FOR QUESTIONS  
WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE  
GENERAL MEETING



YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATIONS DUE  
OCTOBER 31, 2018  
APPLICATION IN  
NEWSLETTER AND  
ON [MBA WEBSITE](#)



MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS  
FALL CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 19-20, 2018  
TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
KIRKSVILLE, MO  
[MSBA REGISTRATION](#)



2018 GENERAL MEETINGS  
Nov 18, 2018, 2:30 PM  
Dec 16, 2018, 2:30 PM



Location Change  
for November  
General Meeting.  
We will meet at:

[The Yellow Rock Barn](#)  
8307 Westridge Road  
Kansas City, MO 64138





**October General Meeting**  
 Sunday, October 21, 2018  
 Bass Pro Shop at Independence MO

**Welcome New Members**  
 By Terry Wright



**2:30 PM**  
**Stuart Dietz, presenting**  
*“Treatment Free”*  
*and How I Got There*

There will be no *Question and Answer Session for Beginner Beekeepers* prior to the meeting. Instead, we will have a portion of our meeting dedicated to answering questions.



**November General Meeting**  
 Sunday, November 18, 2018 at 2:30 PM  
 The Bass Pro Shop is not available to us for our November meeting. We will hold the meeting at:

[The Yellow Rock Barn](#)  
 8307 Westridge Road  
 Kansas City, MO 64138  
 Adjacent to the [Messner Bee Farm](#)



<b>Community America Credit Union Transactions for August 26, 2018 to September 25, 2018</b>	
Checking Account Balance: August 26, 2018	<b>\$ 7,015.38</b>
Savings Account Balance: August 26, 2018	<b>\$ 5,122.63</b>
Total Receipts Deposited	<b>\$ 314.00</b>
Total Expenses Paid	<b>\$ -97.36</b>
Dividends from Savings & Checking	<b>\$ 0.95</b>
Checking Account Balance: September 25, 2018	<b>\$ 7,232.32</b>
Savings Account Balance: September 25, 2018	<b>\$ 5,123.28</b>

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

**Buren R. Crawford**  
 Stilwell, KS

**Krista Weatherd**  
 Lenexa, KS

**Robert Svoboda**  
 Overland Park, KS



**October Quick List**

- Sugar syrup should be 2 parts sugar, 1 part water.
- 60 to 90 lbs. of honey (or syrup) in storage is the rule of thumb for the average two deep box (3 mediums) hive here in Missouri.
- Add entrance reducers and/or mouse guards for your entrances.
- Hives should be exposed to the sun with entrances facing away from prevailing winds.
- If you have solid Bottom Boards, your hives should slope slightly toward the entrance to allow excess water to drain out.
- Insure you have good ventilation but not direct drafts from prevailing winds.
- Upper ventilation holes to allow humid air to flow out helps with the bees regulating their environment.



## Beekeeping in October

### *The Last Chance*

By Kyle Day, MSBA Honey Ambassador

If the seeds of the persimmon are correct, we are in for a long winter, as I have seen a lot of people reporting spoons. The end of October marks the time to have all final winter preparations done. Of course for me, it happens to be one of the busiest times of the year, but you must take the time now and properly take care of your hives or you will be buying more bees in the spring. If you are a Missouri State Beekeepers Association member, read the September newsletter, because it is filled with a lot of great information!

Like I said last month, and what my beekeeping mentors have told me, “take your losses in the fall.” Make sure your hives are strong and you have managed the hive space. Food stores needs to be equalized between healthy colonies. Feed 2:1 sugar syrup to top off winter stores. Set up wind blocks. Treat for mites as needed and look for signs of diseased bees. Use control methods for hive beetles and add/move beetle jails closer to the middle of the brood boxes. Weak hives need to be combined with strong hives. Add mouse guards and/or entrance reducers to the hive now.

In nature, bees build comb at the top of the hive. The queen immediately starts laying eggs and the nest is formed, gradually expanding the nest as the bees build comb and the colony grows in numbers. This first comb becomes darker as more bees get raised. As the year goes on, the bees move downward, and surplus honey is stored above the nest. Once the nest reaches the lower parts of the comb, if nectar is still coming in, the hive will swarm to reduce the numbers going forward. The nest then moves up during the winter, back onto this old dark comb.

Most of you probably know how a hive in nature works, but I wanted to say it here, because there is among many beekeepers a strong opinion that the honey stores you leave on your hive for winter should be in dark comb. It is believed that the bees fair better in their winter cluster on dark comb. I do not know of any study that suggests this to be true, but I have heard it from many experienced beekeepers, and applying the principal of the natural progression of a colony in a tree makes some sense. Regardless, it’s important to make sure your brood boxes are packed full of honey for winter. I, like most beekeepers in Missouri, run a two deep (three medium) hive system. You will want to make sure your bottom box has the brood combs with honey frames on the outer edges, and the whole top box back is filled with honey or sugar syrup stores. Roughly 80-90 lbs. of stores should be available to the bees by the end of the month.

Protect your drawn comb until freezing weather arrives. Dark comb needs more protection from wax moths than comb that has never had brood raised in it, and the white wax combs can be stacked separately from dark combs and with less protection from wax moths. Moth crystals (Para dichlorobenzene) are used to protect the drawn combs. Stack your boxes and put crystals on a piece of paper on top of every 5th box or so. Then place a lid on top as the vapors kill moths and larvae, but not eggs.

You have to refresh crystals once they have evaporated, but if freezing weather has hit, you are good till next summer. Another method is to freeze the box for several days to kill eggs, and then wrap it tightly in heavy plastic bags. It can take at least 48 hours to kill the eggs, so adding another day is good insurance.

Inspections after November 1st should be less invasive. You do not want to crack the propolis seals between boxes late into the fall without a good reason to do so. Open the lid to take a quick look at the top box to ensure you have adequate stores of honey. If you do have to crack the propolis seal between boxes, use blue painters tape and tape the boxes around that crack. The tape will help from cold wind blowing in and also remind you in the spring you had to open that hive for some reason.

After that, trust in the bees to do what they do and wait. I look into the tops of my hives all winter, so that seal is pretty much compromised, but as long as the bees are down and clustered under the honey, you will be where you want to be with that hive. I limit my open top inspections to once or twice a month on the warmest, windless days I can find to see if the cluster is at the top of the hive and needs additional feed. I put a shim or rim on top of all of my hives in October and let the bees glue that in. That way, when I break the top seal, wind drafts from that broken seal will never blow directly on the cluster, and I use it for feeding should I need to feed during the winter. Lids can be blown off in a wind, so secure them down with a rock or strap. I have wrapped my hives only once in the past. I cannot say for sure whether it is worth it or not, but you do not want to wrap before cold weather comes in and the bees do not fly.

# Honey Plants

By Luanne Oneal



Beekeeping in October Continued from Page 3:

If you wrap your hives, you need to make sure you have plenty of ventilation, and keep track of temperatures all winter long.

Lastly, start thinking about ordering more equipment and look into books to read for these winter months to prepare for next season. The Missouri State Beekeepers Association will be having the fall conference October 19-20th in Kirksville. I highly suggest going to this, as it is a great way to not only meet others from across the state, but a great way to see what others are doing and attend classes taught by top notch beekeepers.

### MSBA REGISTRATION

As always, if you need advice or have any questions you can contact me at, [kyle.day.1999@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.day.1999@gmail.com), or any Midwestern board members and mentors. Do you have any suggestions for articles you would like to see? Please email me with your suggestions. Also, think about what you would like to see Midwestern Beekeepers Association do next year or tell them how they can better help you and other beekeepers. Now is a time you want to start planning what you, as a beekeeper, want to accomplish next year. Nothing can be done without action!

## 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.

- \*Slender Mountain Mint, *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*
- \*Hairy Mountain Mint, *Pycnanthemum pilosum*
- \*New England Aster, *Aster novae-angliae*
- \*A blazing star species, *Liatris* spp.
- \*A goldenrod species, *Solidago* spp.
- \*Showy Coneflower, *Rudbeckia Fulgida* Var *Sullivantii*
- \*A coneflower species, *Echinacea* spp.
- \*A coreopsis species, *Coreopsis* spp.
- \*Blue Sage, *salvia azurea*
- \*A milkweed species, *Asclepias* spp.

The above mentioned are from a honey plant list I found on the [Missouri Wildflowers Nursery](#) website. Perennials are very reasonable to pick up at nurseries right now. Even though our growing days are numbered this year, if we have a gentle fall, the plants should be able to survive, given proper care.

Ironweed, Aster, Black-eyed Susan, Cardinal Flower, Sunflower, Boneset are just a few blooms for the honey bee to work over this late season. I reluctantly pulled a wandering melon vine from the garden to make room for fall planted garlic. It was full of yellow blossoms I knew wouldn't be able to produce fruit this season but could have been used by the bees. George O White State Forest Nursery has opened [online ordering](#) as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. Order early as many varieties sell out. This is a very inexpensive resource to grow your honey plants landscape.



This Pipevine Swallowtail, another important pollinator, isn't suited as efficiently as the honeybee, but their beauty is stunning..



Photo by LuAnne Oneal



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## Conferences & Events

## Market Place



Jan 10-12, 2019  
Great Plains Growers  
Conference  
Missouri Western State University  
St. Joseph, MO  
[greatplainsgrowersconference.org](http://greatplainsgrowersconference.org)



Jan 8-12, 2019  
2019 American Beekeeping  
Federation Conference  
& Tradeshow  
Sheraton Myrtle Beach  
2101 N Oak St  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina  
[Conference Registration](#)



February 24, 2019  
24th Annual  
Midwestern Beekeepers  
Association  
Beginning Beekeepers Workshop  
Drumm Farm Center for Children  
Nelson Hall  
3210 Lee's Summit Road  
Independence MO  
Watch for Details



Spring 2019  
Missouri State Bee-  
keepers Association  
Spring Conference  
Watch for Details  
[MSBA](#)

June 1, 2019  
NEKBA Bee Funday  
Douglas County Fairgrounds  
Lawrence, KS  
Guests include Randy Oliver  
from Scientific Beekeeping,  
Katie Lee from the University  
of MN Bee Squad, Dr. Judy  
Wu-Smart from the University  
of Nebraska Extension, Dr.  
Matthew Smart (tentative)  
and Dr. Marion Ellis retired  
from University of Nebraska  
Extension

[NEKBA](#)



July 10-12, 2019  
Heartland Apicultural Society  
Annual Conference  
Tennessee  
[heartlandbees.org](http://heartlandbees.org)



Sep 8-12, 2019  
The 46th Apimondia  
International  
Apicultural Congress  
Montréal, Canada  
[apimondia2019.com](http://apimondia2019.com)



**Crooked Hill Beekeeping, LLC.**

Bill and Tammy George  
19133 LIV 355  
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.

We offer a complete line of beekeeping supplies and equipment. Including: Wood-ware (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](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. 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 816-918-6648](#)**

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









RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Terry Wright  
9203 South Litchford  
Grain Valley MO 64029

**OCTOBER  
GENERAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, OCT 21, 2018  
BASS PRO SHOP  
INDEPENDENCE MO  
2:30 PM  
GENERAL MEETING**

*No 2PM Q&A SESSION*

*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 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.



***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!***