

For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



At the November meeting, Stuart Dietz discussed his efforts to get the City of Independence to allow him to keep bees within the city limits. Understanding where you locate your bees, from a local regulation standpoint, is rarely discussed. The rules vary wildly from no restrictions, as in Kansas City, Missouri, to not allowing any hives within city limits unless the area is zoned properly. If you are a current beekeeper who is thinking about moving or a new beekeeper looking at installing your first hive, you need to take the time to understand what regulations you must follow.

In addition to following local regulations, you need to be a good neighbor. I ran across an article, [8 Ways to Be a Courteous Backyard Beekeeper](#), by Angi Schneider, that I have included in this newsletter on page two.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on December 16th at The Yellow Rock Barn, located at 8307 Westridge Rd., Kansas City, MO. The December meal is always delicious.



Nita Dietz, Youth Scholarship Chair, granted Jacob Runyon, 2017 Youth Scholar, complete ownership of all beekeeping equipment and supplies awarded him. Jacob has proven mastery, completed all requirements, and applied diligence to successfully serve as a "keeper of the bees." Congratulations, Jacob, and may your beekeeping adventure continue. Jim and Cindy Connell served as Jacob's mentors.



COMING UP



SUNDAY,
DEC 16, 2018
CHRISTMAS
SOCIAL

2:30 PM

Meat, bread, and drink
will be provided
Please bring a dish
to share.

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



2019 GENERAL MEETINGS

Jan 20, 2019, 2:30 PM

Feb 17, 2019, 2:30 PM

Mar 17, 2019, 2:30 PM

Apr 14, 2019, 2:30 PM

May 19, 2019, 2:30 PM

Jun 9, 2019, 2:30 PM

Jul 21, 2019, 2:30 PM

Aug 18, 2019, 2:30 PM

Sep 15, 2019, 2:30 PM

Oct, Nov, Dec, TBD



[Renew your 2019
membership](#)

8 Ways to be a Courteous Backyard Beekeeper

Tips for Managing A Small Apiary and Respecting Your Neighbors

By Angi Schneider



Being a good beekeeping neighbor is something all backyard beekeepers should be concerned about. When we started talking about keeping bees, we knew we'd have to be careful since our property is only 1.5 acres and we're surrounded by neighbors. We do not want to irritate any of our neighbors with our bees, so we try to be respectful and thoughtful of our neighbors by following these good beekeeping practices:

1. *Know your local laws regarding backyard beekeeping.* Learning what your local and state beekeeping laws are, is something every backyard beekeeper needs to do before starting beekeeping. Usually there are not any ordinances or laws that strictly prohibit backyard beekeepers, but there are usually some that restrict beekeeping practices. This could include how many hives can be on your property or how far away they need to be from neighboring properties. We live outside the city limits and our county does not regulate beekeeping, so we just need to make sure we follow any state regulations for backyard beekeepers.

2. *Always have water available for your bees.* Like all of us, bees need water to survive. In the summer, a bee colony can use a quart or more of water a day. Bees are super resourceful, so if you don't provide water or are gone for a few weeks and your water source runs dry, they'll find water elsewhere. The problem with that is that your neighbor's kiddie pool may become their favorite watering hole. And most neighbors don't take too kindly to a bunch of bees trying to swim with their children. But it's also not good for the bees, as most pools are treated with chemicals and most do not have landing pads floating around where bees can drink and rest safely.

3. *Position your hive opening away from your neighbors' homes.* Your bees will be coming and going all day long and it's best to have them leaving their hive and flying toward your home and not your neighbor's home. Backyard beekeepers are responsible for keeping the bees from being a problem for neighbors, and no one wants to have bees buzzing by their faces whenever they go outside.

4. *Use fences, screens or hedges to alter their flight pattern.* Bees keep a flight pattern when leaving and returning to their hive. And that flight pattern can be altered with a little planning on your part. Backyard beekeepers can build a fence or screen or plant a hedge near the front of the hive so the bees are forced to fly high and steep when taking off and landing. This will help them fly overhead sooner.

5. *Be helpful.* There are people who legitimately are allergic to bees. But even if none of your neighbors are allergic, they might still be concerned about honey bee farming so close to their property. Most of the time their concerns are easy to resolve, if you just take the time to educate them on what you are doing and why the bees are acting a certain way. Once, a neighbor knocked on our front door to tell us that she couldn't go out to her backyard because our bees were swarming all over the place. Our son went over to see what the problem was and sure enough there were hundreds of bees flying around the back porch.

Our neighbors had a new recycling bucket for soda cans on their porch and our bees were feasting on the remnants of soda left in the cans. Our son explained what was happening and let them know that if they rinse out the cans, the bees won't be back. The issue was completely resolved in five minutes.

6. *Encourage your neighbors to feed the bees.* Most neighbors will be excited or, at least, intrigued by you keeping bees and will ask what they can do to help. Planting plants that attract bees is a great way for them to be a part of what you're doing and they'll have a good harvest because of the bees. It's a win-win situation.

7. *Share your harvest.* People are most excited about things they benefit from, so every so often share a small jar of your honey with your closest neighbors. When a backyard beekeeper brings over a jar of honey it will put a smile on even the most concerned neighbor's face.

8. *Only keep gentle bees—this is the most important backyard beekeeper rule.* The more populated the area you live in, the more gentle your bees need to be. This is especially important if you live in an area that has Africanized genetics in the bee population. I know we all want to do whatever we can to help bees survive but keeping aggressive bees in an urban or suburban area is not wise. Our family does, in fact, keep feral bees in our hives. However, we have no problem destroying a hive that gets too aggressive. By aggressive, I don't mean bees that sting because you are mowing near their hive and shooting grass into the opening.

Those bees are probably just defending their hive. By aggressive, I mean bees that start attacking you at the watering hole or start dive bombing your head when you're on the other side of the yard. Keeping aggressive bees in a backyard apiary puts all the backyard beekeepers in your area at risk, not to mention yourself, your family and your neighbors.

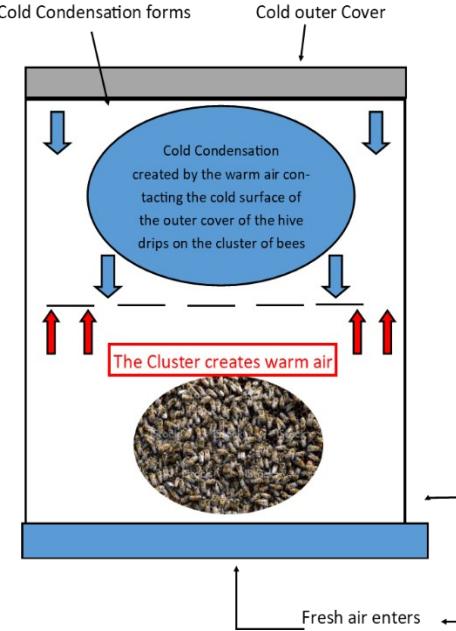


December in the Bee Yard

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central Regional Director

What crazy weather we are going through right now. I checked my hives, then just a few days later a blizzard covered most of this part of the state. I was glad to see all my hives were still heavy and bees were flying. There isn't much we can do with our hives during this time of year. The important things to manage through the winter are ventilation, moisture, and food. If any of these three are not managed correctly, our hives will die. Cold, by itself, will not usually kill hives. There are people far north of us that will overwinter beehives in much colder weather than we will ever have here in Missouri. Some people still like to wrap/insulate their hives here in Missouri; but most experienced beekeepers consider it to be not necessary. Insulating hives can help during the coldest part of winter, but it can become a problem and hard to manage during the warmer spells of the winter months. It is one of those things you may try, then decide how well it worked for you; but if you're not careful, it can kill your hive.

Moisture control and ventilation—these two things go hand and hand. It's



the ability for the hive to breathe and allowing the moist air that comes off the cluster to rise and exit the hive and not condense on the internal surfaces and drip back onto the cluster. I do this, by allowing air to come in through the bottom hive entrance or leaving a screen bottom board open or slightly opened, then adding a sugar board on top of the hive with holes drilled in it to release the air. Also, you can take Popsicle sticks and put them between your inner and outer covers, use a winter rim, or you can make quilt boxes to allow moisture to escape and to release the air that way. Throughout the winter, your cluster

must be in contact with some sort of food source. Cold snaps keep a cluster tight and unable to move except up. A cluster only moving up to the top of a hive is bypassing honey stored on outside frames and ends of the frames. A cluster is usually round and unless you have a huge cluster of bees, does not fit end to end or side to side in a Langstroth box. Because of this, there is always honey not covered when the cluster is tight. If your bees reach the top of the hive, you will need to provide fondant or moist granulated sugar above the cluster until the warmer weather returns. Generally, if the temperature is back and forth between warm and cold weather, the hive will use more stores.

Another discussion is whether to feed pollen patties. Personally, I have yet to feed pollen patties.

The main issue is that I didn't want my bees to build up too fast because I had limited equipment and beetles love pollen patties. Pollen patties have been thought to be used to ramp up brood production, but from what I have been reading, that turns out to be false and pollen is a food source, just like honey. I am now planning on writing down pollen amounts on my hive inspection sheets. Feeding pollen patties or not, isn't going to be detrimental to your colonies. I will be trying pollen patties in January or February to test the outcome. Your main concern is to make sure they have honey or sugar.

Winter inspections are a lot less intrusive than checking your hive at any other time. If you want to see if your hive is alive, simply put your ear next to the hive and lightly tap on the side of the hive and listen for the bees to buzz. Also, lifting the back of the hive will allow you to roughly check its weight and give an idea of how much food to add, if any at all. You can open the hive once a month on a warm day to look down through the frames to get an idea of how close the bees are to the top and to see how big the cluster is. You do not want to break the seals between the boxes unless you think it's necessary. If you do, I would suggest wrapping blue painters tape between the boxes you broke open. This will help keep cold air from entering the hive.

For those of you using oxalic acid vaporization, please remember all the safety requirements that go along with treating with OAV. Remember to check hives on warm days, and when snow piles up, check that it's not blocking hive entrances. Good luck and I wish for 100% survival rates for everyone's colonies. But don't give up if your hives don't make it. It's all a learning experience so just keep trying!



Recipes for Winter Emergency Feeding



Making A Beekeeping Plan for 2019

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central Regional Director

I know some beekeepers in our group have no interest in growing their beekeeping operation, but I personally want my operation to someday be a good source of income, and who knows, maybe a full time “paying job.” Luckily, right now, my hives almost pay for themselves; but I want to keep growing my operation. I dream of one day having yards as big as Stuart Dietz, Terry O’Bryan or even bigger like Grant Gillard, Roger Nichols or Matthew Winstead. I know I may sound a little crazy, but my life is almost completely beekeeping related. Because of the people of Midwestern Beekeepers Association, they have helped me become completely passionate about beekeeping—or just a crazy beekeeper, lol! I was wondering, when I heard the sad news about Ed Fisher passing away, if he realized just how many lives he had changed. Ed was a starting point for many of us. He was a founding father of Midwestern and had held many different MBA positions and owned Fisher Bee Supply. Ed was a great man who helped many and will be dearly missed by the beekeeping world. Prayers go out to his family during this difficult time.

I hope you have renewed your Midwestern Beekeepers Association (MBA) and your Missouri Beekeepers Association (MSBA) memberships. As the MSBA West Central Director, I must jump on my soap box a little bit. The MSBA is one of the least expensive state organizations in the country and they are working hard to provide members with the best benefits possible. Starting Fall 2019, the MSBA Fall Conference will be in a centralized location of the state, making it easier for members to attend. Recently, the MSBA has been asked to work with the Missouri Department of Conservation to assist with observation hives at the nature centers. We are still working out details, but this is just one example of the MSBA working with many different state organizations, and even national organizations. This time of year is great to look back to see what worked for you and what didn’t work for you. We all can be better beekeepers than we were in 2018, but we must sit down and make a plan. My plans are broken up into four parts: expansion of honey production hives, nuc production for operation growth, products, and woodenware. The second two are dependent on the first two. I usually pick 50% of my operation to be honey producers. The main focus for these hives is honey production. I give them drawn comb, and when needed I will remove brood frames and bees to make small splits to help prevent swarming. The remaining 50% of the hives are for nuc production. I will make splits with purchased queens or, as I’ve done in the past, do On The Spot (OTS) queen rearing. 2019 is the year where I plan to take the dive into grafting queens. The goals of the nuc production hives are to build my hive numbers, draw out frames, and if I’m lucky, they will produce some honey that I can extract. The main goal is to make my operation self-sustainable, and I will only buy bees for new locations and queens for genetic diversity.

For my product goals, I will try to find different ways to increase my profits, such as honey dippers, different bottles, and creamed honey. I may venture into beeswax products, but most of my beeswax goes back into my operation because I don’t see a big profit in beeswax products. However, beeswax gives the bees a great jumpstart if you add wax to plastic foundation.

As I’m slowly finishing college, and in a few years, graduate and have more loans to pay, my goal is for my beekeeping operation to pay for itself, and perhaps turn a profit. I think this is a goal everyone should aim for. Yes, it may be just a hobby for you, but it should, at least, be able to pay for itself.

Lastly, one of my goals for woodenware is to try to buy local—even more so now, for the reason that I will soon be opening up a beekeeping supply store. We have multiple beekeepers selling great equipment in the Kansas City area. However, Mann Lake does have decent products and free shipping on most orders of over \$100. Another goal is to always have an overstock of equipment. If you haven’t found out yet, then I’m sure you will soon learn, that you can never have too much equipment.

One other thing to consider, depending on how much growth you want in your operation, or if you’re looking for hive locations, is to create a farm co-op program. I started one this year. Basically, if someone is looking for bees on their property, but doesn’t want to do it themselves, this is a perfect deal for you. I manage the hives, but the owners may come watch or help. I provide all hive equipment and the owners pay for nuks or packages for that hive. The agreement is that I will keep bees on the property for one year. If the bees die, it’s not my obligation to replace them. Honey is split 50/50, and any splits that are made, are mine to keep.

This can be arranged however it would work best for you. The first farm I did was roughly 300 acres of cattle pasture, hay fields, small row crop fields, and stands of timbers. It made a good spot for bees with different things blooming almost all year long. When looking for places to keep bees, I suggest going out and scouting what types of plants are available. Just because a spot looks great, doesn't mean you will get a lot of honey from that location, because forage may be lacking. If you are interested in growing your beekeeping operation, I think the MSBA Spring Conference will provide you with a lot of great information. Honestly, I wasn't happy about driving to Cape Girardeau until I saw the [featured speakers](#). I hope to see you all there.



Sunny Day Beekeeping
Kyle Day, owner
Richmond, MO 64085
(816) 654-5287
www.sunnydaybeekeeping.com

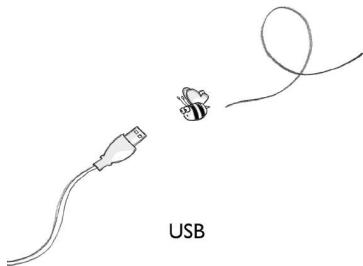
OPENING January 2019



[Become a MSBA member today](#)



What do you call a bee that comes from America?



Compliments of Joe Stamper

Honey Plants

By Luanne Oneal



Spring 2013, we purchased our first two unassembled beehives from the late Ed Fisher. Later that same spring, we returned to Ed Fisher's to pick up our two packages of honeybees. We waited patiently in line with the others who were there to pick up the long-awaited packages. Mr Fisher, unlike the flurry of bee activity, was cool as a cucumber. He gave us a good start. Thank you.



Photo by Luanne O'Neal

I made a discovery Sunday while riding the storm out in the comfort of my home. Podcasts! [See December 2018 Bee Culture magazine, page 11](#). I've listened to two interviews this week and plan to incorporate this useful resource into my schedule, as is possible. Check it out.

This poor queen didn't have a fighting chance. By the time we got the call about the swarm of bees hanging on a family's outside handrail, the chilly temperatures and rainfall had already killed her attending bees; only she survived, briefly.

Nothing to report on in the way of honey plants this month. Winter is a perfect season for reflection and planning: which plants will you cull, which pollinators will you grow more of? With the current focus on the importance of pollinators, the internet, university extension, library, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have top notch information to share.



Community America Credit Union Transactions for October 26, 2018 to November 25, 2018	
Checking Account Balance: Oct 26, 2018	\$ 7,245.45
Savings Account Balance: Oct 26, 2018	\$ 5,123.91
Total Receipts Deposited	\$ 322.00
Total Expenses Paid	\$ -195.52
Dividends from Savings & Checking	\$ 0.96
Checking Account Balance: Nov 25, 2018	\$ 7,372.89
Savings Account Balance: Nov 25, 2018	\$ 5,124.56
CD's total capital as of Oct 26, 2018	\$ 18,227.72
Dividends received	\$ 25.25
CD's total capital as of Nov 25, 2018	\$ 18,252.97

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

Conferences & Events



Jan 10-12, 2019
Great Plains Growers
Conference
Missouri Western State University
St. Joseph, MO
greatplainsgrowersconference.org



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



February 23, 2019
24th Annual
Midwestern Beekeepers
Association
Beginning Beekeepers Workshop
Drumm Farm Center for Children
Nelson Hall
3210 Lee's Summit Road
Independence, MO
MidwesternBeekeepers.org



March 15-16 2019
Missouri State Bee-
keepers Association
Spring Conference
Cape Girardeau, MO
Featured Speakers: Dr. Kirsten
Traynor, Zac Lamas, Bob Finck
[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
Nashville Tennessee
heartlandbees.org



Sep 8-12, 2019
The 46th Apimondia
International
Apicultural Congress
Montréal, Canada
apimondia2019.com



Market Place

[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](#)

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

MIDWESTERN Beekeepers ASSOCIATION

PLEASE CHECK ONE: RENEWAL NEW MEMBERSHIP

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$15

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$18

TWO OR MORE FAMILY MEMBERS AT THE SAME HOUSEHOLD

LIMITED TO TWO EMAILS/PHONES

NAME #1 _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NAME#2 _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Make checks payable to: Midwestern Beekeepers Association

Mail to: Midwestern Beekeepers Association
2407 S. Holloway Road, Oak Grove MO 64075

Questions: Contact Terry Wright at (816) 578-4460
926wright@gmail.com



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Terry Wright
9203 South Litchford
Grain Valley MO 64029

**CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
SUNDAY, DEC 16, 2018
2:30 PM
THE YELLOW ROCK BARN
8307 WESTRIDGE ROAD
KANSAS CITY, MO 64138**

**MEAT, BREAD, AND DRINK WILL BE PROVIDED,
PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE.**

**IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER ON THE DAY
OF A MEETING, PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE,
FACEBOOK, OR CALL AN OFFICER**



The Bass Pro Shop is not available to us for our December meeting. We will hold the meeting at the [The Yellow Rock Barn](#)

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, to place your ad.



midwesternbeekeepers.org



Membership/Renewal



MidwstnBeeprsA



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 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!