

For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



A new year has begun and I can't do much with my bees other than an Oxalic Acid (OA) treatment in January, if conditions are right. Speaking of which, I need to remind you that OA vapors are nasty things to inhale or get on your eyes. I spent 25 years teaching Chemistry to high school students and I always stressed safety. I have seen many videos of beekeepers that seem to think they are indestructible while performing treatments. If you are treating with OA, please wear the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which includes a mask rated for organic acid vapors, chemical safety goggles (not safety glasses) and chemical resistant gloves. Lastly, always read and follow the instructions that come with the OA.

How does OA affect the human body?

The target organs are the kidneys, heart, eyes, skin, brain, nerves, and mucous membranes. Oxalic acid is corrosive to tissue and causes burns. Inhalation may cause severe respiratory tract irritation with possible burns. It may cause severe digestive tract irritation with possible burns. I am reminded of the old joke about how you tell the age of an Iowa corn farmer. You count the number of fingers left on his hands. I don't want to modify that for beekeepers and replace fingers with remaining lung lobes.

While I am on a safety kick I might as well visit shop safety. This is the time of year when beekeepers are in their shops repairing equipment or building new stuff. If you are using power tools, it is very easy to get careless and get hurt. I can attest to that by showing you my left thumb. I was reaching around my table saw blade to catch a piece of wood that I was running through the saw. Luckily there was just a small portion of the spinning blade protruding through the wood. I was focusing on catching the piece of wood and let my left hand drop onto the spinning blade. Yep, after driving myself to the ER and 7 stitches later I can attest that accidents do happen in the blink of an eye.

As with the OA treatment, make sure you follow safe operating procedures when working in your shop. Be safe out there and come to our January meeting with all organs and extremities undamaged and working as intended.

COMING UP

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JAN 20, 2019

2:30 PM

BASS PRO SHOP

INDEPENDENCE, MO

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



2019 GENERAL MEETINGS

BASS PRO SHOP

INDEPENDENCE, MO

Feb 17, 2018, 2:30 PM

Mar 17, 2018, 2:30 PM

Apr 14, 2018, 2:30 PM

May 19, 2018, 2:30 PM

Jun 9, 2018, 2:30 PM

Jul 21, 2018, 2:30 PM

Aug 18, 2019, 2:30 PM

Picnic

Sep 15, 2018, 2:30 PM

Oct 20, 2018, 2:30 PM

Location TBD

Nov 18, 2018, 2:30 PM

Location TBD

Dec 15, 2018, 2:30 PM

Location TBD



MIDWESTERN
Beekeepers
ASSOCIATION



Renew your 2019 membership



Become a MSBA member today



January General Meeting
Sunday, January 20, 2019
Bass Pro Shop at Independence, MO

Welcome New Members
 By Terry Wright



January General Meeting
Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 2:30PM
At the Bass Pro Shop in Independence
Tammy George will be presenting on the
topic:
“Sales Tax Laws, Bottling and Labeling in
Missouri”



- Vance L. Rooks Jr**
Buckner, Mo
- Vance L. Rooks III**
Buckner, Mo
- Corey & Meredith Harwood**
Sibley, Mo
- Maryanne Rodrock**
Louisburg, Ks
- Ed & Mary Gilliland**
Plattsburg, Mo
- Shane Alexander**
Smithville, Mo
- Quincy Taylor**
Lathrop, Mo
- Ben Hobert**
Westwood Hills, Ks
- Jay Thompson**
Kansas City, Mo
- Linda Siemens**
Kansas City, Mo
- Kathleen Foster**
Kansas City, Mo
- Rebecca & John Vanscoy**
Blaine Waterworth
Odessa, Mo

Community America Credit Union Transactions for November 26, 2018 to December 25, 2018	
Checking Account Balance: November 26, 2018	\$ 7,372.89
Savings Account Balance: November 26, 2018	\$ 5,124.56
Total Receipts Deposited	\$ 775.00
Total Expenses Paid	\$ -109.40
Dividends from Savings & Checking	\$ 0.92
Checking Account Balance: December 25, 2018	\$ 7,634.90
Savings Account Balance: December 25, 2018	\$ 6,173.86
CD's total capital as of November 26, 2018	\$ 18,252.97
Dividends received	\$ 24.36
Matured CD #4 transferred to Savings on Dec. 21	\$ -1,048.67
CD's total capital as of December 25, 2018	\$ 17,228.66



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



New Year, New Beekeeper

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central
Regional Director

Happy New Year everyone! With the new year it's time to start thinking of the upcoming bee season. What are your goals for this year? If you're ordering more bees, have you contacted your local supplier to get put on an order list? How's your equipment looking? Do you need more equipment? This month you need to make sure all of this has been at least ordered. It is a great time to repair or build equipment and read books since we can't do much in the apiary. Don't forget, these winter months are great for researching and asking questions for the fast approaching spring. Also, if you feel you need a mentor, now is a great time to start looking for one. We have a lot of members from all over the Kansas City area with a lot of experience. If you're still new, I highly suggest going to the Midwestern Beekeepers Beginning Beekeeping Class. It will be February 23th, and more information is posted at midwesternbeekeepers.org and in this newsletter.

Missouri State Beekeepers Association will be having a Spring Conference March 15th and 16th in Cape Girardeau, Missouri at Southeast Missouri University. These state events are great to hear from "famous" beekeepers around the country with years of experience. I do not know if an agenda has been posted yet, but more information can be found at mo-statebeekeepers.org.

As for what's going on within the apiary in January, the queen will slowly start brood production. Since the cluster will have brood to protect, the cluster isn't as mobile as it was before. With the combination of colder weather, longer cold periods, and brood the cluster must cover enough food to support itself. Usually people will say a hive consumes 25 pounds of honey this month depending on weather and cluster size. As brood rearing continues, the hive's food needs also increase as we approach spring. This is usually when late winter losses occur. If your cluster has not yet reached the top of your hive, your bees have plenty of stores for now. If the cluster is at the top of your hive, you will need to add fondant or dry/moist sugar "cakes." Do not feed liquid syrup during freezing temperatures because it could cause an "icebox" effect on the hive. Check on your hives only when temperatures are at least 50 degrees F and make sure to not break any of the propolis seals between boxes. Check only for life and location of the cluster.

As warm days approach, it is normal to see yellow streaks (bee poop/dysentery) across the front of your hives and within the immediate area. An abundance of this streaking could mean a sick hive. There isn't a lot

you will be able to do for it now; but with some timely warm weather, they may be able to make cleansing flights and pull through. If you have a hive that you suspect may be sick, the best thing is to open the top box of the hive and look for evidence of dysentery. If the hive is sick, you will smell the problem before you see additional proof. If you have any questions, always bring them with you to the monthly meetings. You can also email me at sunnydaybeekeeping@gmail.com. I hope you had happy holidays. Now it's time to prepare for honey season.

Basic Beekeeping in Jan. Quick List

- ◆ Continue to better your beekeeping knowledge by reading books and magazines.
- ◆ Consider taking a beekeeping class.
- ◆ Order bees and equipment and start building. April will be here in no time, and you will be behind if you wait.
- ◆ Keep hive entrances clear of snow and ice.
- ◆ Check out local and state meetings for the spring.
- ◆ Remember, hives will go through stores. Make sure hives have a good number of stores and add fondant or dry/moist sugar to your hives, if needed.
- ◆ Don't forget the three key things to manage in winter: ventilation, moisture and food.



Market Place

Honey Plants By James Reeves



Beekeepers.com

Robert Hughes
12333 Wedd Street
Overland Park, KS 66213
913-681-5777

**Rob-
ertLHughes2000@yahoo.com
Beekeepers.com** is your local Kansas City Bee Company. We carry a full line of Beekeeping Supplies, Bees and Queens. Visit our website www.Beekeepers.com for your all your beekeeping supplies. Go to our website BeePackages.com to order your Bee Packages and QueenBees.com to order your Queens. We are available by appointment Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00 and weekends.



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.

Midwestern Beekeepers Association Page 4

Deliveries at Cameron, MO every Tuesday from 6-7 pm. Please call first.



Messner Bee Farm Store

Erik Messner
8301 Westridge Road
Raytown, MO 64138
816-585-6814

www.messnerbeefarm.com



Sunny Day Beekeeping

Kyle Day
Richmond MO 64085
816-654-5287

www.sunnydaybeekeeping.com

OPENING Jan. 2019. Open by appointment on most days. Wide range of hours are available throughout the week. Due to college and work schedule, phone calls may not be answered right away, but feel free to text. I will contact you back as soon as I can.

Locally made high quality woodenware. We offer all things needed to keep bees, including: woodenware (assembled and unassembled/painted available), hive kits, frames, foundation, smokers, tools, bee suits, veils, books, honey containers, extraction equipment, NUC boxes, swarm traps. Free delivery to most Midwestern Beekeepers Association meetings.



I trust that everyone has had a blessed holiday season, with family and friends in abundance. As I sit here today, looking out my window at the cold morning, and the brown leaves (that I didn't get raked) and grass, and shiver at the thought of going out to work in this, my mind can't help but wander to the time when spring flowers will be blooming, the maples will be budding and of brighter days. I am fleshing my thoughts with a Burpee magazine in my hands, thinking and planning the spring garden. The bees are dependent upon us having the right mix of flowers for their abundant supply of nectar and pollen.

There is just not much to do except wish for spring. Now is the time to do some spring planning for when the weather breaks. Research the nursery sites for the best method of planting, and locations for the plants. Remember, native plants are better for the bees. Cultivars are least favored. So while we wait for spring to arrive, let's be diligent about feeding and planning for 2019.



FOR SALE!

Four frame Nucs with Italian or Carniolan queen.

Available about May 10th, 2019.
50% deposit with order.
816-777-9726

Missouri State Beekeepers Association

Spring Conference

March 15-16, 2019 Southeast Missouri State University



In 2006-2007, Kirsten received a German Chancellor Fellowship & drove over 50,000 miles throughout Western Europe to study the differences between European & American beekeeping. She reported her findings through 50+ published articles. Fascinated with the social complexity of a honey bee hive, she earned her PhD in biology from Arizona State University with Dr. Robert Page. While a grad student, she spent almost a year in Avignon, France in the lab of Dr. Yves Le Conte as a Fulbright Fellow. She investigates how pesticides impact honey bee health as a postdoc with Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp and edited American Bee Journal from November 2017 – December 2018. She is the author of *Two Million Blossoms: Discovering the Medicinal Benefits of Honey and Simple, Smart Beekeeping*. She manages a boutique organic apiary producing top quality nucs and Maryland reared queens. Using the biology of the bee against the biology of the varroa mite, she keeps her colonies healthy without synthetic chemicals.

Presentation Titles for Kirsten Traynor: “*Simple Smart Beekeeping*” “*Halting the Unstoppable*”



Zac Lamas is a PhD candidate at the University of Maryland. He studies mite feeding and does pesticide research on honey bees. Prior to joining the lab, Zac worked for Michael Palmer in Saint Albans, Vermont where he managed colonies for honey production and made nucleus colonies. While Zac worked for French Hill Apiaries, he also ran a few hundred migratory hives between North Carolina and upstate New York. He is most focused on beekeeping management, and best practices for productive colonies and low overwintering mortality. Zac continues to be a contributor to the American Bee Journal.

Presentation Titles for Zac Lamas: “*Requeening a Hive*” “*Winter Prep Begins Mid-Summer*” “*Rapid Expansion*”



Bob Finck worked as a Food Chemist for Allen Foods. Married 49 years, two married daughters, two twin grandchildren. Started beekeeping in 1980 and joined the Eastern MO Beekeepers Assn. Immediately became “passionate” about honeybees. Beekeeping for 48 years. Has won 85 ribbons (40 Blue) with honey and beeswax entries at the Missouri State Fair. Served two five-year terms as EMBA president. Enjoys helping new beekeepers overcome their problems and issues.



Breakout Speakers:

Gregg Hitchings will talk on “*Local Club Speaker Development*”

Charlotte Wiggins will talk on “*Native Planting for Pollinators*”

Bernie Andrews will talk on “*Setup for a Sideline Extraction House*”

Chef Bill Allinder will talk on “*Cooking with Honey Part 2*”

Gregg Hitchings will talk on “*European Foulbrood*”...and with weather permitting we will have a group led “*Spring Hive Inspection*”



[Conference Hotel Information](#)

[Conference Registration](#)

Conferences & Events

**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 Beekeepers
Association Spring
Conference
Cape Girardeau, MO
MSBA

June 1, 2019
NEKBA Bee Funday
Douglas County Fairgrounds
Lawrence, KS
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

Beekeeper of the Year 2018

During the December meeting we were happy to announce that Bob Williams was awarded Beekeeper of the year. Bob has become a great and knowledgeable source to his fellow beekeepers as well as the association. At the meetings you can usually find him answering questions and helping new beekeepers. Bob has been a former president and long time member of the Midwestern beekeepers association. He has also participated in working the Honey Bee booth at the state fair as well as entered items. Thank you again Bob for all you have done for the association and the Bees! Congratulations!



Bob Williams

2018 Beekeeper of the Year
Photo by Terry Wright

Officers

New Year and New officers. Please note we have a few new officers . Here are our 2019 officers and their contact information:

President: Phil Duncan;
phildu19771@embarqmail.com

1st VP/Program: Erik Messner;
erik.messner@gmail.com

2nd VP/Membership: Terry A. Wright; 926wright@gmail.com

3rd VP/Publicity/Editor: Marjorie Craig; 1989mmay@gmail.com

Secretary: Lenora Woolsey; lenorawoolsey@gmail.com

Treasurer: Robert Scott; bobbobthefrog@gmail.com

Auditor: Robert Burns; rburnshoney@gmail.com

1st Board Member: Debbie DeCaigny; debrats@sbcglobal.net

2nd Board Member: Steve DeCagney;

3rd Board Member: Harold Wright; wrightmeadows@gmail.com

Librarian: John Martin; jmartin98@comcast.net

Webmaster: Bob Williams; thebeltonbee@gmail.com



24rd Annual Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

Saturday, February 23, 2019

Drumm Farm Center for Children

Nelson Hall

3210 South Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO

Registration: 7:30-8:00 AM, Class: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

(Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email for Newsletter: _____

Pre-Registration Required—Class Size Limited

Registration Closed When Class Is Filled or By February 17, 2019

No Refunds after February 17, 2019

Class Fee, Lunch,
& Midwestern Beekeepers Association One Year Membership \$65 ea _____

Additional Family member of the same household: (Class Fee & Lunch) \$50 ea _____

Current Midwestern Association Members:
Class Fee & Lunch: \$50 ea _____

Make Checks Payable to: Midwestern Beekeepers Association

**Mail registration form and fees to:
Midwestern Beekeepers Association
2407 S. Holloway Road
Oak Grove, MO 64075**

For More Information, call Bob Williams at (816) 331-6634 or Cindy Connell at (816) 517-4357
<http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/>



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Terry Wright
9203 South Litchford
Grain Valley MO 64029

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JAN 20, 2019
2:30 PM
BASS PRO SHOP
INDEPENDENCE, MO
IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER ON THE DAY
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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 Marjorie Craig, Editor, at 1989mmay@gmail.com, to place your ad.



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 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!