



For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



If you missed our April meeting you missed a great presentation by Grant Gillard. I hope we can have him back to talk about other aspects of beekeeping. If you want to learn more from his experiences raising bees look for his books on Amazon. He is quite the prolific writer.

My column this month is geared for our new and second year beekeepers. By now you beginners have either installed your packages of bees or your nucs. Congratulations, you are now headed down the road that will have a lot of thrills and scares. Hang on as it really is a fun ride. Don't get too hung up on how much you have spent. That first pound of honey is going to be costly. The same applies if you go on a fishing trip to Canada. The price of the fish you bring back is way more than you can buy it for at the grocery store. Basically, if you have started beekeeping you need to understand that the value is in the journey not the honey you ultimately harvest.

Our second year beekeepers face a different challenge. If you are lucky your bees survived the winter and our spring. At this point you will have to address the natural reproductive cycle of a hive or in other words, swarm season is here. The thought of your hive swarming can either be great joy or sheer terror. The great joy comes from knowing that you can split your hives and expand your apiary. The sheer terror comes from knowing that your bees are getting ready to swarm but you don't want more hives. Now what do you do? Here is where belonging to our Association comes in. Contact your mentor or other members and see if they would like to help you split your hives. You might be able to find a member that will pay your for the split. If that is not an option see if there is another beginning beekeeper that you can help out. The best advice is to communicate with other members for help.



COMING UP

GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019
2:30 PM
BASS PRO SHOP
INDEPENDENCE, MO



2019 GENERAL MEETINGS
BASS PRO SHOP
INDEPENDENCE, MO

Jun 9, 2019, 2:30 PM
Jul 21, 2019, 2:30 PM
Aug 25, 2019, 2:30 PM
Picnic

Sep 15, 2019, 2:30 PM
Oct 13, 2019, 2:30 PM
Location TBD

Nov 17, 2019, 2:30 PM
Location TBD
Dec 15, 2019, 2:30 PM
Location TBD



MIDWESTERN
Beekeepers
ASSOCIATION



Renew your 2019
membership



Become a MSBA
member today

For the Good of the Bees (Continued)

By Phil Duncan, President

Welcome New Members

By Terry Wright



Now if you are an unlucky second year beekeeper and all your bees died over the winter you have two options. You can do what too many beginning beekeepers do and give up. I encourage you not to take this option. Like most of us you got into beekeeping for the adventure and hopefully, some honey. Losing hives is part of the game. Instead of giving up you need to find bees to replace your losses. There are a variety of options which you consider. Ask other members if they have bees for sale. Try hanging swarm traps and catch free bees. That old brood comb in your hive will go a long way to entice a swarm to take up residence. As a last resort check around to see if any of the commercial beekeepers have nucs for sale. No matter what option you chose, don't give up. Treat your failure as a learning experience. You gain more knowledge from failures than through successes.

Every one of our experienced members has faced some of the same trials as you have this spring. Talk to them and find out what they learned from their failures that made them a better beekeeper.

No matter if you a relatively new beekeeper or one with many years of experience be glad you won't (hopefully) face an issue anytime soon that is developing in southern Missouri. There is an excellent article in the current Missouri Conservationist about black bears. Bears like food that is easy to get and a bee hive is an easy to open sweet treat for them. I suspect that as their range extends we will see some in our region. When that time comes you will become an expert on installing electric fences.

I hope you have a great beekeeping season and your bees produce lots of honey for you. I look forward to hearing you tell of your experiences this season.



Federico Lamus

Kristy Lamus

John O'Bryan

Jonathan Preslar

Michelle Preslar

Dustin Sanders

MEMBERSHIP AND FEES BY-LAWS

Section 1: Membership in this Association shall consist of those interested in or engaged in the beekeeping industry and paying dues as provided in these Bylaws.

Section 2: The membership year shall be January 1 through December 31st.

Section 3: Membership in the Association shall cease upon failure to pay dues ninety (90) days after December 31st or any calendar year or to conform with the Bylaws of the Association.

Section 4: Membership is mandatory for any individual seeking office in this Association.

Section 5: Membership allows an individual the privilege

- A. to vote in any election;
- B. of recommending policy and amendment changes;
- C. of borrowing literature from the library;
- D. of recommending Association activities;
- E. of holding office;
- F. and of receiving the Association's newsletter.

Section 6: Membership dues shall be

- A. \$1.00 per year for student members. Student being any individual still in school and/or college.
- B. \$200.00 for any individual wishing to be a life-time member.
- C. in an amount to support the annual budget of this Association for regular membership.

Section 7: All dues are payable January 1st of each year.

For More information on the Associations By-Laws please visit the Members area of the website



Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central
Regional Director

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

The focus in May is to make sure your hives are healthy and are well fed for maximum expansion, and room to grow. Due to the weather I have heard of many packages and Nucs have been delayed due to weather. The most important tasks when starting these new colonies will be feeding.

Usually in mid to late May starts the strongest part of the spring nectar flow, but you will still need to be feeding the 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 covered with brood marks the time when you can add another box. Usually first year beekeepers will only be able to add the brood boxes for the bees to work with. If you get lucky enough to add honey supers you will need to think about wanting to use a Queen Excluder or not. I know many beekeepers who are on both sides of this debate. For my own opinion I use queen excluders, if brood is present in honey frames when you want to extract them you will be unable to do so. Another thing to think about is wax moths are more likely to go for dark combs. Also, while your bees are building up you will need to watch for Small Hive Beetles(SHB).

There is many different options for controlling SHB, For my hives I usually use two different traps for SHB. On top of the top box of my colonies I will place two non-scented Swiffer Dry Mop Cloths (I used the cheapest ones I can find usually Great Value brand). If I think I need more traps and the colony is more than a single box I will two Beetle Jails between frames per box. use mineral oil as the main liquid and add a little Apple Cider Vinegar as bait. Last year I filled them with pickling lime found in the canning section of stores, it is a little less effective but a whole lot less of a mess so I will be using it again.

I will also suggest once your hive is well established is checking for Varroa Mites. Controlling Varroa Mites is a key part of beekeeping, for more information on controlling Varroa Mites I suggest reading the HBHC Varroa Guide that can be found on the club's website (midwesternbeekeepers.org).

Like always if you have any questions about your hives or beekeeping information you can contact me at sunnydaybeekeeping@gmail.com the first part of this month I will be dealing with finals and long work hours as this is the time all my jobs really overlap so it may take some time for me to get back to you but I will as soon as I can. Happy Beekeeping to you all and see you at the May Meeting!



Beekeeping For the 2nd Year Beekeeper and Beyond

May: Bring on the Sweetness

Use caution these next few weeks, it can be deadly on a beekeeper's wallet, and I hope everyone has a boat so they can get to their hives. Remember when they told us about different locations during beginning beekeeping course, and they said to make sure you can drive to your location when it's wet. Yeah, I didn't follow that rule and I will be getting my exercise for the next few weeks. One of the things all beekeepers should know is three main things that contributes or causes swarm impulses. 1. Decreasing queen pheromone production and distribution within the hive. 2. Congestion or decreasing space in the brood nest (lack of room to lay eggs). 3. Nectar storage begins to crowd the brood nest from above forcing the queen down to the bottom of the comb (Honey Bound).

To combat swarming impulses beekeepers can manipulate the hive and many ways. The first way is to of course add honey supers to allow room in the brood nest. Look for signs that it is time to super, the bees lose interest in syrup, bees have no robbing tendencies, white wax on the top bars. If you are adding drawn comb, and the hive and nectar flow is strong you can add two supers, if adding foundation only, the hive or nectar flow isn't very strong then add one box at a time. I suggest using Queen Excluders, but ever beekeeper has their own opinions on this topic. Also, many beekeepers have their own opinions on top or bottom supering once the first honey super is full. Research says there is no difference between the two, I do a little of both, but usually end up top supering so I don't have to lift alot. 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. Don't forget you can enter honey into the state fair!! Erin Mullins the MSBA State Fair Chair will be at our May meeting to talk about state fair entries, and I highly suggest everyone signs ups to work a day at the fair, it's a great time!

The main objective of May for all colonies is to be queen right, healthy, and having enough fed 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 hives and compare them to your other hives, if one hive isn't keeping up with others. Try to find the reason this hives isn't keeping up and ask other beekeepers their opinions on it. If production is your main goal, weak or poor laying queens should be replaced as soon as you can make it.

If your hives are strong I would suggest splitting. 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. I am a strong believer in genetics and the location of where the queens are produced at. In my opinion I will buy queens as local as possible and their mothers have proven track records.

Basic Beekeeping (Continued)

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central
Regional Director

Market Place

There are a couple different queen breeders in Missouri and they are always my first choices when buying queens. If you are interested in making your own queens there is 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 a presentation of On the Spot Queen Rearing can be found on the clubs website under the resources tab). This is a simple method and can help you learn the queen rearing basics cheaply. If you haven't already done so, now is the point where you need to decide if your using hives for honey production or increases. Personally, since I don't have and extra drawn comb and have already doubled my colony numbers from last year, I will be using deeps for honey supers to get some more drawn comb for next year (If anyone wants to come help pull these heavy boxes off in a few months your more than welcomed to lol.)

Like always if you have any questions about your hives or beekeeping information you can contact me at sunnydaybeekeeping@gmail.com the first part of this month I will be dealing with finals and long work hours as this is the time all my jobs really overlap so it may take some time for me to get back to you but I will as soon as I can. Happy Beekeeping to you all and see you at the May Meeting!

Beekeeping in May Quick List

- Feed hives while they are building comb in brood boxes
- Remember the rule of 7
- Monitor Small Hive Beetles and Varroa Mite Levels
- Check 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

Beekeepers.com

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Overland Park, KS 66213
913-681-5777

RobertLHughes2000@yahoo.com
www.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



Sunny Day Beekeeping

Kyle Day
Richmond
MO 64085
816-654-5287



www.sunnydaybeekeeping.com

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.

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.



Messner Bee Farm Store

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

www.messnerbeefarm.com



FOR SALE! Four frame Nucs with Italian or Carniolan queen. Available about May 10th, 2019. 50% deposit with order. 816-777-9726



May General Meeting
Sunday, May 19, 2019
Bass Pro Shop at Independence, MO

**2019 Association
 Officers**



Here are our 2019 officers:

- President:** Phil Duncan;
- 1st VP/Program:** Erik Messner
- 2nd VP/Membership:** Terry A. Wright
- 3rd VP/Editor:** Marjorie Craig
- Secretary:** Lenora Woolsey
- Treasurer:** Robert Scott;
- Auditor:** Robert Burns;
- 1st Board Member:** Harold Wright
- 2nd Board Member:** Debbie DeCaigney
- 3rd Board Member:** Steve DeCaigney;
- Librarian:** John Martin
- Webmaster:** Bob Williams

May General Meeting
Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 2:30PM
Bass Pro Shop in Independence
18001 Bass Pro Dr, Independence, MO 64055 in
the Conservation Room on the lower level

Erin Mullins will be presenting on the topic:
“The State Fair and How Honey Judging Works”



Community America Credit Union Transactions for March 26, 2019 to April 25, 2019	
Checking Account Balance: March 26, 2019	\$ 4,699.18
Savings Account Balance: March 26, 2019	\$ 10,380.28
PayPal Account Balance: March 26, 2019	\$ 125.25
Total Receipts Deposited	\$ 1,293.00
Total Expenses Paid	\$ -46.70
Dividends from Savings & Checking	\$ 1.52
Checking Account Balance: April 25, 2019	\$ 5,947.00
Savings Account Balance: April 25, 2019	\$ 10,382.36
PayPal Account Balance: April 25, 2019	\$ 204.02
CD's total capital as of March 26, 2019	\$ 17,277.22
Dividends received	\$ 21.96
CD's total capital as of April 25, 2019	\$ 17,299.18

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

<http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/about-us/>



Market Place Continued

FOR SALE!

A limited number of five frame Nucs with survivor bees. Expect to be available around mid-May. 50% deposit to reserve your bees.

honeycombhavenhoney@gmail.com
608-397-5360

AustinO Farms LLC

Terry O'Bryan

Liberty Mo.

816-805-6779

obryanterry@yahoo.com

AustinO Farms LLC

is selling nucs, bees and brood and offering consultation.

Later in April I will be going to my beeyards and pulling brood with attached bees. \$30 per frame up to 3 frames thereafter \$25 per frame. Buyer required to join me in full suit with equipment to put brood and bees in. No frame exchange required.

Early to mid-May, I will be selling nucs by the pair for \$375. The nuc will consist of 4 frames plus division board feeder in new waxed cardboard box. I will come to your beeyard when nucs are ready and install them in your equipment with full explanation of each frame and element. No frame exchange required.

No deposit needed, your word is all that is needed.

I can also do consultation with you at your hives, call or email for more info.

Call or email with questions

Bee Culture

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

<http://www.bee-culture.com/magazine/>

(800) 289-7668

Conferences & Events

June 1, 2019
Northeastern Kansas
Beekeepers Association Bee
Funday
Douglas County Fairgrounds
Lawrence, KS
Day of Workshops, Keynote
Speakers, Swarm Demo, Lunch



July 10-12, 2019
Heartland Apicultural Society
Annual Conference
Nashville, Tennessee
heartlandbees.org

August 8-18,
2019
Missouri State
Fair
Sedalia, MO



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

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



Missouri State Fair



The Missouri State Beekeepers Association (MSBA) has had a booth at the Missouri State Fair for many years where they promote the honeybee and sell honey and other bee products such as; lotions, soaps, wax, honey ice cream, and more.

The Missouri State Fair runs for 11 days in August in Sedalia, Missouri. The dates for 2019 are **August 8 -18**. The MSBA's booth is open for business all 11 days and ask, each year, for volunteers to help man the booth those 11 days. Each day is broken into 2 shifts 10:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. Some local bee clubs pick a day and have volunteers from their club fill an entire day. The MSBA has asked the Midwestern Beekeepers Association to volunteer at the state fair. If you are interested in volunteering as a group or if you want to come as an individual or with your spouse that would be great as well.

To sign up for a time period or periods, please call or email:

- Erin Mullins (660) 254-3471 emullins93@gmail.com
- Wes Johnston (816) 392-4960 2bees@kc.rr.com

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

MIDWESTERN Beekeepers ASSOCIATION

PLEASE CHECK ONE: RENEWAL NEW MEMBERSHIP

2019 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$15

2019 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$18

*TWO OR MORE FAMILY MEMBERS AT THE SAME HOUSEHOLD
LIMITED TO TWO VOTES, TWO EMAILS AND PHONE CONTACTS*

NAME #1 _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NAME#2 _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Make checks payable to:

Midwestern Beekeepers Association

Mail to:

Midwestern Beekeepers Association
9203 S Litchford Rd
Grain Valley MO 64029

Questions:

Contact Terry Wright at (816) 578-4460

926wright@gmail.com



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Terry Wright
9203 South Litchford
Grain Valley MO 64029

MAY GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 19, 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

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!