

## For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



My column this month does not deal with beekeeping topics but with our beekeeping family. I am sure many folks wonder why they need to belong to a group such as ours. What do our members get back from their affiliation with other beekeepers?

Here is my take on why being a member of the Midwestern Beekeepers Association has many benefits.

1. You have the opportunity to meet with others that have a shared interest in becoming better beekeepers.
2. You have the opportunity to have live presentations on the various aspects of beekeeping and to get immediate feedback on your questions.
3. You gain the benefits of being able to seek help when you run into problems and need questions answered.
4. You have the opportunity to enjoy a great meal and fun conversations with friends and family.
5. You become a member of the beekeeping family. You can count on family members when beekeeping calls for a lot of physical labor. Having other members available to help share the work is priceless. Collecting honey is a group activity.

I would like to address Benefit #5 in a little more detail. On July 16 Bob Williams, Tom Britz, Janice Britz, James Reeves and I helped our friend and fellow member, Dennis Culpepper, extract this season's honey crop. As most of you know Dennis has been battling cancer and as you can expect the treatments have been difficult. Even through this Dennis has been positive and loves to talk about his bees. In April he and Bob Williams helped me split my hives. He has always been the

first one to offer help whenever I needed it. I cannot imagine how I could have succeeded in beekeeping without the help of our beekeeping family.



## COMING UP

GENERAL MEETING/ PICNIC  
SUNDAY, AUG 25, 2019  
2:30 PM

*Fleming Park Meeting Hall  
21906 Woods Chapel Road  
Blue Springs, MO 64015*

*IN CASE OF INCLEMENT  
WEATHER ON THE DAY OF A  
MEETING, PLEASE CHECK OUR*



2019 GENERAL MEETINGS  
BASS PRO SHOP  
INDEPENDENCE, MO

Aug 25, 2019, 2:30 PM  
*Picnic*

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

*Location TBD*

Nov 18, 2019, 2:30 PM  
*Location TBD*

Dec 15, 2019, 2:30 PM  
*Location TBD*



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2020 member-  
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member today](#)



**For the Good of the Bees  
(continued)  
By Phil Duncan, President**



In October the Missouri State Beekeepers Association will hold their fall meeting in Moberly, Missouri. The dates are October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Our October meeting will follow on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Check out the Missouri State Beekeepers Association webpage and Facebook page for more information. I hope to see a lot of our members there. It is well worth the time and expense.

Don't forget to drop by the Missouri State Beekeepers Association booth at the Missouri State Fair August 8 –18th in Sedalia. Depending on which day you visit you might see some familiar faces and meet new beekeepers. Be prepared to chat. Beekeepers are not noted for having short conversations when they start discussing their bees.

See you at the picnic on August 25<sup>th</sup>.



## Youth Scholarship program

Youth Scholarship Applications are Due October 31st

### ELIGIBILITY

The applicant must:

- Be between the ages of **10** and **18** by **February 1st** of the **Award Year**.
- Be a resident of Missouri.
- Be currently enrolled in public, private, or home school.
- Have permission to apply from a parent or guardian.
- Have no immediate family members that are currently beekeepers.

Submit application (**postmarked**) to Midwestern Beekeepers Association no later than **October 31**, the year before the **Award Year**. (unless previously agreed)

### SELECTION PROCESS

- The Midwestern Beekeepers Association Youth Program Committee may arrange an interview with finalists and their parents or guardian.
- The Scholarship Committee Chair will award the scholarship and notify the applicant(s) after the January General Meeting of the **Award Year**.

**Application can be found at :**

<http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/1.-2018-Youth-Scholarship-Application-Form-3.pdf>

**Welcome New  
Members  
By Terry Wright**



- David Kriegh
- John LaGue
- James Murray
- Destiny Potter



The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund identifies opportunities to establish critical pollinator habitat to help the honey bee and monarch butterfly populations thrive. To get involved or for more information call 1-800-407-5337 or visit

<https://beeandbutterflyfund.org/about-us>



## Basic Beekeeping New Beekeepers It's Time to Prepare!

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central  
Regional Director

### Fall Management Tips For All Beekeepers

*"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, this article will give some of the major things to cover over the next couple months. Your thoughts and actions starting in August will depend on the strength of the fall honey flow, which is weather related, the strength and health of our hives, which is most associated with our queen's strength and health, but indirectly related to mite populations and how well our hives deal with that population. Depending on areas, some may have to feed. In Missouri, most Fall Management is preparing for winter and that is really what I focus on rather than trying to get a fall honey crop.

**The keys to winter survival is healthy young bees; dry, sheltered, well ventilated hives, sized to match your cluster size; and adequate food stores.**

We start this towards the end of August by setting hives up by what they will overwinter in. There is a lot of different opinions on how many boxes, the best way is to talk to other beekeepers (Via Meetings/Facebook would be the best options). 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 late hives are in singles, overwintering is possible and many large scale beekeepers do it, or you can combine hives together to have a double deep. Newer Beekeepers, I would suggest talking with mentors/experienced beekeepers for guidance. For new bees I suggest 2 deeps (3 mediums) to overwinter in. If they fill one full box, they need a second box of comb filled with honey to survive. You can try white comb if that's all you have, but if the comb is not drawn and filled, it will be difficult to draw comb and fill it with nectar or syrup. With multiple hives of about equal strength, I will balance honey frames between them. The goal is to 'manipulate' hives with adequate space for their current size and a small growth for the brood that will be laid in the next couple months, and then space for 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 nor tell you which is best because we all our own opinions. I will say that you need to read about them, experiment with them, and find one that you feel comfortable with. No method is better 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. I want to know the mite load regardless if I treat or not because whether 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 losses 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 maybe you got this swarm in April, and 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.

## Market Place

## Honey Plants By James Reeves



[Beekeepers.com](http://Beekeepers.com)

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

[RobertLHughes2000@yahoo.com](mailto:RobertLHughes2000@yahoo.com)

[Beekeepers.com](http://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](http://www.Beekeepers.com) for your all your beekeeping supplies. Go to our website [BeePackages.com](http://BeePackages.com) to order your Bee Packages and [QueenBees.com](http://QueenBees.com) to order your Queens. We are available by appointment Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00 and weekends.



### Sunny Day Beekeeping

**Kyle Day**  
Richmond MO  
64085  
816-654-5287



[www.sunnydaybeekeeping.com](http://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.](http://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: 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](http://Messner Bee Farm Store)

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

[www.messnerbeefarm.com](http://www.messnerbeefarm.com)



**Jim Smith**  
H# 816-230-4102  
Cell# 816 419-0717  
If no answer leave message.  
[jimsbusybees@Gmail.com](mailto:jimsbusybees@Gmail.com)

**FOR SALE!**

I have a 2 frame Dadant extractor (hand crank). An electric decapping knife and 2 non- electric decapping knives. A plastic deep sink. Refractometer. I also have some other beekeeping tools, several brood boxes and supers with frames.

Earlier this spring, I was at the local Garden nursery to buy plants for the summer. I have an interest in pollinator friendly plants, so a particular plant caught my eye. It was catnip. I don't have a cat, neither do I plan to get one in the future. (Sorry cat people)

So I purchased two plants to put by the edge of the deck. They grew quite large and had an abundance of blooms.

Catnip is a vigorous and weedy herbaceous perennial native to Eurasia in the mint family (Lamiaceae) that is hardy in zones 3-9. While not native to the US it grows prolific in our area. Nepeta cataria is one of several species that are referred to collectively as catmints.

This plant is fragrant with a sweet rosemary/Oregano smell all day and an added benefit was there were no mosquitoes or they were greatly reduced to the point of not being a nuisance. The glands under the leaves produce an oil that is a repellent to mosquitoes and other nuisance insects. It can become invasive if not properly taken care of. They can grow up to four feet tall and four feet wide, so they need a lot of space.

Other gardeners plant them in their garden to ward off harmful insects. They will also deter deer foraging in the garden.

However, what I did notice was that the bees, all kinds of bees were in large amounts all over the blooms. Early in the morning and late in the evening, the honey bees were gathering nectar. Fat, fuzzy bumble bees were all over the blooms, gathering their share of the nectar. All throughout the day, various native bees were there as well.

I have Milk Weed and Bee Balm, Missouri Primrose and Holly hocks along with numerous other pollinator friendly host plants also planted in the yard but the catnip was sure the buffet of nectar source.



## Fall Management Tips For All Beekeepers (Continued)

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central  
Regional Director

The next thing we want is to have new, young bees going into winter. So, we need 6-8 weeks or more that the queen is laying new brood in the fall. We want to encourage this as late as we can. I start feeding late September and go until mid-November or so. 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. We learned in the spring that feeding a light syrup (1 part sugar, 1 parts water) stimulates brood raising. If your hives are full of honey, you still need brood rearing. If there isn't enough space in the hive to expand the brood nest, your hive will 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 room now to grow our winter bees. A smaller cluster needs less but still we want a sizable space of open comb situated below the honey cap (winter storage) 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. 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  $\frac{3}{4}$  full of honey you should have plenty of food. If you have less than that on September 30, you can feed all of October and maybe into November. Put the empty space on the hive on September 30th or before if it is not already there and feed 2:1 (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 1:1.



The biggest thing I want to mention is timing. Beekeeping is all about timing and trying to be ahead of the bees. All the requirements of Fall management are depended on the beekeeper to know his/her bees and recognize their behavior. If we always know the weather forecast and have a good knowledge of bees and the season we're in, then we can use these management tasks at the right time. I try to give you a timeline but not a set in stone timeline because weather is the biggest factor. Talk with experienced beekeepers as close as possible to your location and see what they are doing. I'm in Richmond, MO about 45 minutes east of KC. So if you can find a beekeeper closer to you then me, see what they are doing. The timeline should be close to the same but if you ask 5 beekeepers 1 question you will get 12 answers. Good Luck and I hope to see you all at the Missouri State Fair. Stop by the MSBA Booth in the Ag. Building and grab some honey ice cream and talk bees with us!

### Beekeeping in August Quick List

- Size Hives for Winter
- Mite Checks and Treatments
- Evaluate Hives
- Prepare for Feeding



# August General Meeting

Sunday, August 21, 2019  
Fleming Park Meeting Hall

## Conferences & Events



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](http://apimondia2019.com)



Oct 18-19 2019  
Missouri State Beekeepers  
Association Fall  
Conference  
Moberly, MO  
[MSBA](http://MSBA)



2020 American Beekeeping Federation  
Conference & Tradeshow  
January 8-11 Schaumburg, Illinois  
<https://abfconference.com/>

## Midwestern Beekeepers Annual Picnic

Sunday, August 25, 2019 2:00 PM

Fleming Park Meeting Hall

21906 Woods Chapel Road

Blue Springs, MO 64015

Bring your lawn chairs and join us for a time of good food and fellowship at our annual picnic.

Meat, bread, drinks and paper goods will be provided.

Please bring a side dish and dessert to share.

Refractometers will be available to test a sample of your honey



Community America Credit Union Transactions for June 26, 2019 to July 25, 2019	
Checking Account Balance: June 26, 2019	\$ 5406.35
Savings Account Balance: June 26, 2019	\$ 5384.96
PayPal Account Balance: June 26, 2019	\$ 421.18
Total Receipts Deposited in Checking	\$ 128.23
Total Expenses Paid from Checking	\$ -133.05
Checking Account Balance: July 25, 2019	\$ 5,401.53
Savings Account Balance: July 25, 2019	\$ 5,385.73
PayPal Account Balance: July 25, 2019	\$ 421.18
CD's total capital as of June 26, 2019	\$ 22,371.54
Dividends received	\$ 31.80
CD's total capital as of July 25, 2019	\$ 22,403.34

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

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

# Missouri State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference 2019 October 18-19th

The Missouri State Beekeepers Association will hold its Fall Conference beginning Friday, October 18, at 8:45 am and continue through Saturday, October 19 on the campus of Moberly Area Community College (MACC). Registration is open at 7:00 am on Friday in the spacious auditorium at MACC. There is seating capacity for 400 so there's plenty of room for you to enjoy this conference!

We encourage attendees to register early before the conference to guarantee you will get the meals offered at the conference. Registration will be taken at the door, but meals may not be available at that time.



Keynote speakers include Peter Borst and Dr. Krispn Given. Peter was Senior Apianist at Cornell's Dyce Lab for Honey Bee Studies for seven years, served as an apiary inspector for New York State, and is currently President of the Finger Lakes Bee Club. He is a prolific author and is currently a regular contributor to American Beekeeping Journal and Bee Culture. Dr Krispn Given is Apicultural Specialist at Purdue University's Department of Entomology in West Lafayette, Indiana. Krispn started breeding bees over 25 years ago and gives lectures to beekeepers and researchers at national and international conferences. He was instrumental, along with Dr. Greg



Hunt, in developing the "mite-biter" bee strain in helping to control Varroa mites. Rounding out the General Meeting speakers are Collin Wamsley, Chief Entomologist/Program Administrator for the State of Missouri to talk about what the Missouri inspection program entails to help Missouri beekeepers; Casey Berthoud, Missouri's Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever state coordinator who oversees 16 biologists and the Missouri for Monarchs coordinator to talk about forage planting for beekeepers and how the organization that he oversees might help; and, Sheldon Brummel, Master Beekeeper Project Coordinator, Department of Entomology for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE to talk about the newly developed Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program. Missouri State Beekeepers Association is one of the partnering states in this exciting new developing program.

There will also be breakout classes each afternoon to highlight topics of specific interest to local beekeepers and clubs. These classes will be announced on our website. There are also hotels in the area that have reserved a block of rooms for attendees and hotel reservation info will be forthcoming on our website as well. If you have any further questions you may email [brucesnavely@hotmail.com](mailto:brucesnavely@hotmail.com), MSBA Program Chair.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Terry Wright  
9203 South Litchford  
Grain Valley MO 64029

**GENERAL MEETING/ PICNIC**  
**SUNDAY, AUG 25, 2019**  
**2:30 PM**  
*Fleming Park Meeting Hall*  
*21906 Woods Chapel Road*  
*Blue Springs, MO 64015*

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](mailto:1989mmay@gmail.com), to place your ad.



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



Membership/Renewal



MidwstnBeekprsA



Midwestern Beekeeper's  
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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!***