

For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



By the time you get the November newsletter your bees have experienced their first snow fall for the year. Hopefully your hives have lots of food with healthy, low mite loaded bees. Now is the time to start preparing for spring activities with your bees.

I attended the Missouri Stated Beekeepers Association (MSBA) in Moberly, Missouri on October 18 and 19. There were a few of our members there also. Over the two day span we had a chance to hear very interesting presentations by nationally known experts in the beekeeping field. If you subscribe to the American Bee Journal you are familiar with one of the presenters, Peter Borst. It was good to put a face to a name. Here is a photo of Peter. It was provided by Bruce Snavely, Program Chair for MSBA. I had a chance to speak with him on a one to one basis. He is a very knowledgeable beekeeper.

The conference gave me the chance to have dinner with Eugene Makovec, Editor of the American Bee Journal. Spending time with these folks gave me a chance to gain a lot of new insight on beekeeping. The Spring Conference for the Missouri State Beekeeping Association will be held in Kansas City on March 13 and 14 at Rockhurst University. I plan to be there and I hope you also can attend.



COMING UP

GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17,
2019

2:30 PM

The Yellow Rock Barn
8307 Westridge Rd.
Raytown, Mo 64138

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



2019 GENERAL MEETINGS
INDEPENDENCE, MO
Nov 17, 2019, 2:30 PM
Dec 15, 2019, 2:30 PM
Location TBD



**Renew your 2019
membership**



**Become a MSBA
member today**



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

One of the presenters was Sheldon Brummel from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He gave the attendees an overview of the newly created Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program. I hope to have a presentation after the first of the year on this program. It looks promising but more information will need to be gathered to see if it will fit into our club's activities. Here is a link to their web site if you wish more information on this program. <https://gpmb.unl.edu/about-master-beekeeping-program>

One of the activities at our November meeting will be the election of officers for 2020. As I write this column there are Board member positions which still needing candidates. The success of any volunteer organizations hinges on having members who are willing to take an active part in its operations. I hope to see you this month's meeting as there are plans for several interesting activities.

Officer Positions needing to be filled

- 2nd VP/ Memberships
- 1st Board Member
- 2nd Board Member
- Youth scholarship coordinator

More information about the duties of these offices and how to become on one are detailed in the Association By-Laws. The By-Laws can be found at <http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/members-area/association-by-laws/>



Welcome New Members
By Terry Wright



- Gunner Branaman
- Marvin Cochran
- Shalonn Curls
- Anita Scruggs
- Sam Scruggs
- Christy Sipek
- Martin Sipek

Best Beekeeping Apps of 2019

These apps can be useful guides as you build a colony from the ground up, or they can help you track your progress. Many of them are free, perfect for trying out, while some will just require a couple of dollars to download.

- HiveTracks – Apiary Management Software
- HiveKeepers for Beekeepers
- HiveTool Mobile – Beekeeping
- BeePlus Beekeeping Manager – Hive Tool & Apiary Tracker
- Apiary Book
- American Bee Journal
- BeeRM
- Beekeeping Pro
- Best Starting Bee Keeping Guide – Easy Basic Bee Farming Plans & Maintenance Tips for Beginners
- Beekeeping – Learn How to Keep Bees Successfully



Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central
Regional Director

Basic Winter Management Beekeeping

November is here and it's time to have the bees fully ready for winter. I have been feeding like crazy trying to get all my hives ready for winter. I have also been making sure colonies have feed available on the warm days when they are flying to help prevent them from eating on winter stores. With already having snow in the area, we may have a long winter coming.

Any underweight hives should have/be fed (on warm days). Hive inspections, mite treatments, and removal of excess boxes should be done. Reduced or wire the entrance to keep mice and robber bees out. The feeding has stimulated the queen to lay new eggs that turn into new workers and your hive numbers are strong with mostly young bees, as these are the bees that will live for the next 4 months. Right now, an average size hive should be a cluster size somewhere at or larger than the size of a soccer ball. It should have at least 2 deep (3 medium) hive bodies well filled with bees and food. The top box mostly filled with food stores. The goal is to have about 60-90 pounds of food stores, or else you will need to supplement through the winter with fondant or moist white granular sugar.

Your hive provides a dry, adequately ventilated home for the bees. I have successfully wintered bees with fully opened screened bottom boards. The choice is yours and the debate is never ending. I also provide a top exit for air. Either by using some popsicle sticks on the inner cover to slightly raise the outer cover or have a sugar board rim with a couple 1/4 inch holes in it. I highly suggest some type of air exit at the top of the hive. (look at the diagram of a hive without adequate ventilation. on page 5)

The cluster moves almost always straight up, so frames with honey along either side are almost never consumed unless the width of the cluster brings them in contact with the frame. A smaller cluster may be drawn to one side or the other due to the sun's radiant energy on the south side of a hive, or a second hive being immediately next to the subject hive.

Radiant heat can be transferred through the two walls of the adjoining hives and both clusters will be drawn to that shared side of the hive. This isn't always a good thing because the hive could get drawn to one side then if the weather gets cold the cluster will not move back over to the middle where the major food is stored. The keys to cluster survival are a dry space with ventilation to allow moisture to be driven off and constant contact with a food source.

Larger clusters can cover or stay in contact with larger parts of the food source in the hive and can therefore survive longer periods of cold and that may keep a cluster from moving during that time. During extreme cold, the cluster may be able to access stores above due to the heat from the cluster warming this space. The periodic warm spells allow you the opportunity to visually access the health of your hive and provide emergency food. You can open the top and investigate the hive on these warmer days. Do not remove frames or break the seals between boxes unless there is a dire reason. If you do break seals, consider wrapping the hive after you put it back together to prevent wind from penetrating between the boxes, I like to use the blue painters tape around these seals that have been broken. On these warmer days when the bees can fly, observe each hive and notice if there are differences. Check hives that have less activity by lifting the backs and comparing their weight to other hives. Lesser active hives may need food.

You can periodically check your bees in colder weather by putting your ear to the hive box and gently tapping on the boxes and listening for the buzz. If no buzz, your hive has died. Inspections need to be brief, limited, and infrequent if the last inspection was positive. I usually tap on my hives two to three times a month but only actually open the hive once/twice a month, unless I know I need to be doing something.

Market Place

Honey Plants

Beekeepers.com

Robert Hughes

12333 Wedd Street

Overland Park, KS 66213

913-681-5777

RobertLHughes2000@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



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



Jim Smith

H# 816-230-4102

Cell# 816 419-0717

If no answer leave message.

jimsbusybees@gmail.com

I am selling the all the following items for \$200.00 or best offer:

Dadant 2 frame extractor (hand cranked), Food grade greese, Refractometer, Electric decapping knife, 2 non-electric decapping knives, Bottling bucket, 2 stainless steel sives and double screens, cheese cloth straining bucket, plastic utility deep sink, capping scratcher, grafting cups & Queen cages, 4 swarm traps, 2 fume boards and bottle of bee go, 2 man hive lift, multiple hive bodies, supers, nucs frames, Top feeders, bottom boards, innercovers, and queen excluders.

Now that that the gardening season is coming to a close there are still a few chores that that need to be done :

- With the weather changing and the leaves starting to pile now is a good time to start raking and mulching those leaves .
 - Clean , sharpen and oil garden tools .
 - Research new plants to plant for next season.
- BeeSmart Pollinator Gardener** is a new app that comprehensive guide to selecting plants for pollinators specific to your area. Never get caught wondering what plants to buy again!





Basic Beekeeping (Continued)

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central Regional Director

US MiteCheck Interactive Map

www.mitecheck.com

I wish everyone luck with overwintering your hives! If they don't make it through winter I hope you do not give up. Beekeeping always has its challenges and you must face them head on. Learn from the mistakes and try again. Failures are only learning experiences that you can use next year.

I am working on article outlines for the next year, if you have any article topics you would like to see or something I can do to better the articles for you all, let me know. Feel free to contact me at sunnydaybeekeeping@gmail.com.

Basic Beekeeping in Nov. Quick List

Sugar syrup should be 2 parts sugar to 1 part water. As it gets cold you will need to switch to winter feeding with fondant or candy boards. 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.

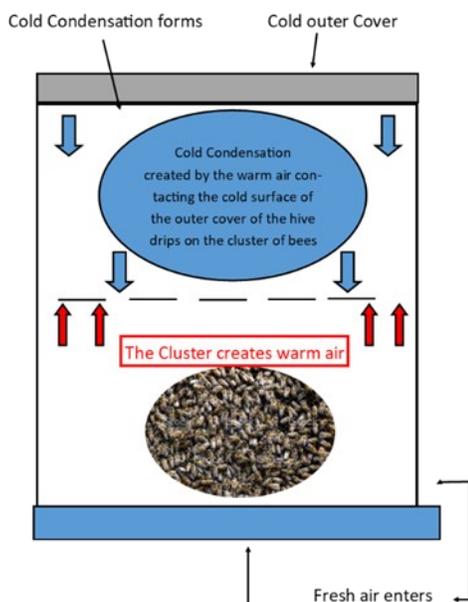
Add entrance reducers and or mouse guards for your entrances.

Hives should be exposed to the sun with entrances facing away from prevailing winds.

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.

Start preparing for next season. Clean up around beehives, start considering equipment, bees, and other supplies (talk with the local bee suppliers, they have a lot of good deals and great products) for next Spring. It's better to have them ordered early, before things sell out. Read books, magazines, articles, etc. Beekeeping is always changing and there are continually new things to learn.



Hive without adequate Ventilation.

Hive without adequate Ventilation.

By: Kyle Day

The US MiteCheck Interactive Map has been launched with a new app! A joint effort by the University of MN Bee Squad, Michigan State University Michigan Pollinator Initiative, University of Maryland College Park's VanEngelsdorf Bee Lab and the Bee Informed Partnership. MiteCheck was founded to share varroa mite population information among beekeepers and provide an opportunity for beekeepers to join a 'beekeeper citizen science' effort. If you keep bees in the US, please share your powdered sugar roll mite test results with us via this survey at

www.mitecheck.com

Help us learn about Varroa destructor mite infestations across the country at the county level. Check out the map to see if mite levels have been reported in your county.





General Meeting

Conferences & Events



March 13-14 2019
Missouri State Beekeepers Association
Spring Conference
Rockhurst University KC Mo

GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

2:30 PM

The Yellow Rock Barn
8307 Westridge Rd.
Raytown, Mo 64138

John Speckman will be presenting on the
topic:
“Beekeeping Through the Ages”



American Beekeeping
Federation

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



Jan 9-11, 2020 Great Plains
Growers Conference Missouri
Western State University St. Joseph,
MO greatplainsgrowersconference.org

Community America Credit Union Transactions for October 2019

Checking Account Balance: September 26, 2019	\$ 5,402.88
Savings Account Balance: September 26, 2019	\$ 5,708.33
PayPal Account Balance: September 26, 2019	\$ 100.00
Total Receipts Deposited in Checking	\$ 200.41
Total Expenses Paid from Checking	\$ -760.38
Checking Account Balance: October 31, 2019	\$ 4,467.68
Savings Account Balance: October 31, 2019	\$ 5,783.98
PayPal Account Balance: October 31, 2019	\$ 100.00
CD's total capital as of September 26, 2019	\$ 22,469.25
Dividends received	\$ 31.96
CD's total capital as of October 31, 2019	\$ 22,501.21

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

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

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019
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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!