



Blowing Smoke

By Bob Williams, President

Hello folks, it is time to form the Nominating Committee; I would like to encourage folks to get more involved in the Association. Member participation is necessary, in order to lighten the load of those elected to run the business affairs of the Association. Three members are needed to form a Nominating Committee. The Association belongs to the membership, participation is not mandatory, but necessary in order to insure the freshness of ideas and direction for the Association. So, non-board members, need to step up to fill the Association's need for three volunteers for the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall nominate an eligible person for each office to be filled and report its nominees at the regular meeting in October each year. These nominees shall be from the membership in good standing and chosen for their qualities and abilities to lead the Association. Only those who have signified their consent to serve, if elected, shall be nominated for or elected to such office. Additional nominations to those offered by the Nominating Committee are to be called for from the floor in the October meeting. Folks come to the meetings to learn about bees and bee related topics, but it is a registered Association, thus we have certain Association business items that we must include in the meetings, but we try to keep it to a minimum.

All board members will not be in need of replacement this year. Some will be willing to continue working on the board, and others wish to withdraw from the board to give others a chance to serve. Although the board members that are stepping away will be missed, new participants will be welcomed as their enthusiasm will generate renewed energies to the board and the Association. Please feel free to contact any of the board members to volunteer for the Nominating Committee. Our contact information is in this newsletter.

I want to thank the folks from HERC-U-LIFTS, for their demonstration of the bee hive lift, at the July Value Added Meeting. If you need more information on the bee hive lift, go to www.HERC-U-LIFTS.com Or link through our website, under the resources tab. Thanks also to Wes Johnston for once again, hosting the Q&A session for the beginning beekeepers before the General meeting, and to Robert Hughes of Jordy's Honey for his presentation at the General meeting on Managing your honey supers, extracting honey and the importance of correct moisture content of your honey. Robert Hughes, carries a full line of beekeeping supplies. For more information, or to order supplies call Robert at (913)681-5777, Monday-Friday 8:00AM-6:00PM and weekends by appointment.



NO AUGUST GENERAL MEETING



**SEPTEMBER 15, 2016
GENERAL MEETING**

**Bass Pro Shop
Independence MO
6:30 PM
Q&A Session for
Beginning Beekeepers
7:00 PM
General Meeting**



In case of inclement weather on the day of a meeting, please check our website, Facebook, or call an officer.



www.midwesternbeekeepers.org

**Member Password is
"Smoker"**



MidwstnBeekprsA
Midwestern Beekeeper's
Association
Midwestern Beekeepers
Association
Members Closed Group



Continued on Page 2:

Blowing Smoke continued from Page 1:

The next General Meeting will be September 15th, 7:00PM, where Terry O'Bryan will give a presentation on "Winter Management". I hope to see you at the August 7th picnic at Fleming Park Meeting Hall.

The Missouri State Fair will be held August 11-21 2016. Dean Sanders is also looking for more volunteers to help out at the State Fair booth. It is a lot of fun, air conditioned, and you get to pick up free tickets at the hospitality booth before entering the Fairgrounds, which means that you can also enjoy the Fair. You can reach Dean Sanders @ (816) 456-4683, so come on out and join us, it'll be fun!!!



Library News By John Martin

Note from the Editor:

John is recuperating from a fall at work, we wish him a quick and full recovery.

To check out books, go to:

www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/library/;

View the list and make your selections, include the book number from the left column and title.

Contact John Martin at jmartin98@comcast.net or 816-726-6371

You must be a member of Midwestern Beekeepers Association to check out books or videos.



September General Meeting

Thursday, September 15, 2016
Bass Pro Shop at Independence MO



6:30 PM

Q&A Session for Beginning Beekeepers

7:00 PM

Winter Management

Presented by Terry O'Bryan

To continue our FREE drawing of door prizes at the end of every General Meeting, we are asking you to bring your donated items for the drawing. Thank You!



Welcome New Members

Craig Hickson,
Raymore, MO

Leslie Carlisle,
Parkville, MO

Stephen James,
Sugar Creek, MO

Thomas Shue,
Excelsior Springs, MO



Community America Credit Union Transactions for the Month of June 2016	
Bank Balance as of May 31, 2016	\$ 12,567.05
Total Receipts Deposited	947.70
Total Expenses Paid (-\$ 0.00 Pending)	-824.29
Interest on Savings & Checking Account	.52
Bank Balance as of June 30, 2016	\$ 12,690.98

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

Honey Plants

By Debbie DeCaigney
and Janice Britz



Useful Resources

By Janice Britz

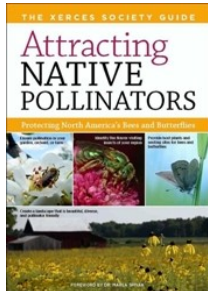
Debbie is unavailable this month so I will fill in for her by bringing you some information about recent publications from The Xerces Society.

<http://www.xerces.org/>



Farming for Bees, Guidelines for Providing Native Bee Habitat on Farms, You can download it here:

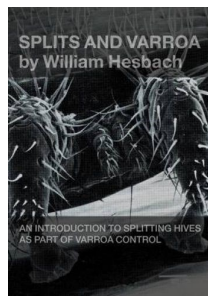
<http://www.xerces.org/guidelines-farming-for-bees/>



Xerces most recent book, ***Attracting Native Pollinators: Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies***, is available to purchase from their website.

<http://www.xerces.org/announcing-the-publication-of-attracting-native-pollinators/>

This next book is not about honey plants, but I read the following book review in the July 2016 issue of Bee Culture and found it interesting.



Splits and Varroa. By William Hesbach,

Kim Flottum writes, "This is a straight forward approach to making splits and divides as part of a non-chemical control program for Varroa. It's the basics, but seldom are basics all gathered together in one place. Walkaway splits, using ripe queen cells, dealing with virgin queens, dealing with the weather, swarms and the all important brood breaks. It has solid info on Varroa biology and date to day data on post split management."

You can read an article written by William Hesbach on the Bee Culture Website, dated July 21, 2015, here:

<http://www.bee-culture.com/splits-varroa-more-colonies-fewer-mites-new-queens-what-could-be-better/>

Project Apis m

<http://projectapism.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/ProjectApis/>
[videos/1361693643845229/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1361693643845229)

Project Apis m.'s mission is to fund and direct research to enhance the health and vitality of honey bee colonies while improving crop production.



Keeping Your Bees Alive

Webinar with Jim

Tew, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, 7/27/2016

<http://u.osu.edu/beelab/keeping-your-bees-alive/>



American Beekeeping Federation

Conversation with a Beekeeper Webinar Series

Join at: <http://www.abfnet.org/>



Download it here:

honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/



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



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FYI from the Editor

By Janice Britz

Like most of you, I try to keep reading to increase my knowledge of beekeeping; and along the way, I come across a lot of acronyms. I have to stop, think of what the acronym stands for, then continue on with my reading. Here are a few that I have seen recently. Can you name them all?

PMS, DWV, IPM, BPM from the BIP

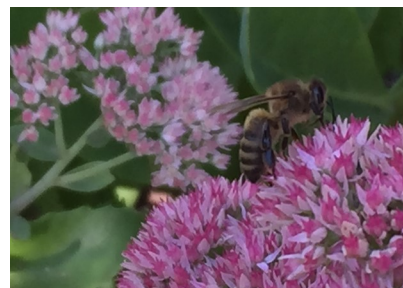
Many of you will know immediately; but if you are wondering, I have them listed on Page 8 on the bottom left column.

Another new “term” that I have come across seems to be familiar to many; but new to me, is this: “Did you send a sample to ‘Beltsville lab?’” “Beltsville lab,” is the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center –East, a Bee Disease Diagnosis, Bee Research Laboratory for the United States Department of Agriculture. At the Beltsville lab, beekeepers can send a sample of adult honey bees or a comb sample free of charge for a diagnosis. Instructions on how to send a sample can be found here: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=7472>. I would be interested in hearing from you if you have actually sent a sample in for diagnosis. It seems to me to be a great resource.

Soon, Midwestern Beekeepers Association officers will be doing some strategic planning for 2017. Education of beekeepers has always been and always will be a focus of this association. It takes a lot of people serving to bring about quality programs and services. Would you consider how you may participate?

I hope you find the time to visit the Missouri State Fair. Good luck to those who enter honey and products for competition. Call Dean Sanders if you still want to help in the Missouri State Beekeepers booth.

Finally, I leave you with a photo of one of my favorite pollinator plants, Autumn Sedum. This was last year’s bloom and it is always a thrill to see your bees on them.



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Conferences & Events

August 11-21, 2016

Missouri State Fair

Sedalia, MO

Contact

Dean Sanders

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to volunteer to work the
Missouri State Beekeepers
Association booth



October 14-15, 2016

2016 Fall Conference

Missouri State

Beekeepers Association

The Lodge of the Four
Seasons

Speaker Randy Oliver

www.mostatebeekeepers.org



January 10-14, 2017

2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow

Galveston, Texas

San Luis Resort and Galveston Island Convention Center.

www.nabeekeepingconference.com



October 8-15, 2017

Keynote Speaker Dr. Marla Spivak

<http://beesquadtravel.com/>



<http://extension.missouri.edu/masterbeekeeper>

Yellow Jacket, Wax Moth, & Mosquito Mix and Trap

By Wanda Johnston

Thanks to Bob Brammer for sharing this recipe and trap design!

MIX:

1 Cup Water

1 Cup Sugar

1/2 Cup Vinegar

1 Banana Peel

Cut a 1 inch hole near the top of a 1 gallon or 2 liter jug. Put the mixture inside and hang in a tree.

Fall Bee Festival

November 5, 2016

(Beginning and Advanced Tracks)

Presented by **Midwestern Beekeepers Association &
University of Missouri Extension, Platte County**

**Must be pre-registered to attend; NO WALK-INS ADMITTED
REGISTRATION TO BEGIN AFTER MO STATE FAIR, AUGUST 23, 2016**

Platte County Resource Center

11724 NW Plaza Circle

Kansas City, MO 64153



Beginning Beekeeping Class \$40

limited to 30 participants

Instructed by **Valerie Duever**, President Missouri State Beekeepers Association & **Jim Duever**, President Boone Regional Beekeepers with hands on hive assembly by **Bill George**, Crooked Hill Beekeeping, Chillicothe, MO.

Advanced Beekeeping Workshop \$40

limited to 50 participants

Instructed by **Grant Gillard**, Past President (2009 - 2011) Missouri State Beekeepers Association, sideline beekeeper, and author of many fine beekeeping books. Grant will discuss :

"Expansion Opportunities"

"Raising Your Own Queens: Why? ...and how"

"Sustainable Approaches and Innovative Beekeeping"

Additional Advanced Topics (Subject to Change) by:

Dasha Adzhigirey, Bee Technologies, LLC, www.beetechllc.com

Danny Woods, Roadside Manager for the Kansas City Region MoDOT, current roadside management goals at MoDOT, MoDOT Adopt-a-Highway butterfly and pollinator options, and Grow Native program.

Greg Hudek, Bayer Crop Science, Topic to be determined



Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day



August is usually a tough month for bees here in Missouri. It is the hottest month and usually the driest. We usually will see a dearth of varying length which could start in July and carry over until the end of August or more. This year, has been different. We have started to get the heat, but we have also had some rain and decent temperatures for most of July, the nectar flow has lasted longer because of it.

Humidity has been low, but if you have high moisture content, the way to drive off moisture to allow extraction, is to place the supers cross stacked in a small room with a dehumidifier and a box fan to move the drier air through the supers.

After extraction, put the wet frames back on the hives and let the bees clean up the honey. Then stack white comb separate from any dark comb. After extraction and super cleanup and storage, you want to start configuring your hives for winter, remove extras space and bring your hives to the equivalent of two deep boxes if they have been larger.

Smaller hives must be evaluated as to their winter viability. There are different paths you can take and none of them are better or worse than the next, just different. Perhaps the easiest, would be to combine smaller hives to makeup a larger 2 box hive.

The two most important elements to winter survival, assuming that food is plentiful, is large hive population with new young bees laid and hatched in the fall: September, October, and even November, and large number of bees that can cover a larger patch of food during a cold spell. The first can allow even a small colony of bees to survive and the second increases the odds of the colony making it through longer stretches of cold weather without the need to move to new honey on the comb.

A second wintering path for colonies less than two deep boxes, Is to winter them in their smaller spaces (one box, or Nucs). I would suggest a mentor to help you with this path as it takes some experience of winters and colony evaluation and the relationship between space and honey stores for the colony. (You don't need 90lbs of stores to get these hives through but you still need a high percentage of younger bees, and the proper balance between space for the nest and honey stores.

The Missouri program, Drift Watch, was featured on the Bee Culture website dated July 25, 2016. You can read the article here: <http://www.beeeculture.com/protecting-pollinators/> The article also appears in the August 2016 issue of Bee Culture.

Missouri beekeepers are not required to register the location of apiaries with the state, but using DriftWatch is a good way to let applicators know the locations of beehives and how to contact hive owners.

The program was developed by University of Missouri Research Entomologist, Dr. Moneen Jones. Driftwatch, together with The Missouri Pollinator Conservancy Program, (MPCP). gives tools to alert pesticide applicators to nearby beehives.

The MPCP is a collaborative effort between the University of Missouri. Missouri Department of Agriculture, and non-profit organization, FieldWatch, Inc. The latter operates DriftWatch Specialty Crop Site. <https://mopollinatorconservancy.com/>

Dr. Moneen Jones is the Research Entomologist at the University of Missouri. Her research program emphasis is integrated resistance management of row crop pests, and her extension duties include Director of the new Missouri Master Beekeeping certification program.



Honeybees at your feeder? This is a sign of a summer dearth. To alleviate the problem, start feeding your bees a 2:1 sugar syrup.

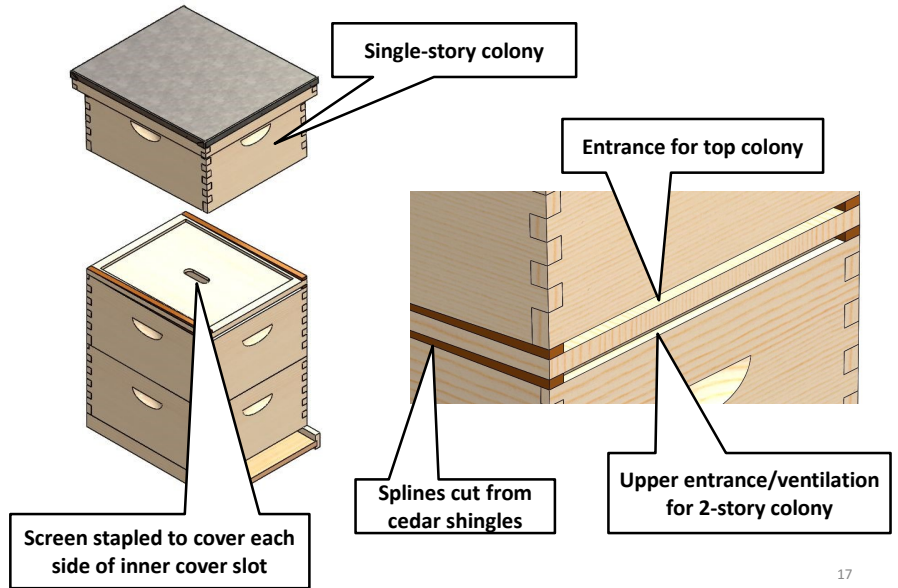


Dr. Judy Wu-Smart demonstrates the Powdered Sugar Roll Method to test for varroa mites. Monitoring of varroa mites should be done in early spring (April-May), and twice in late fall (August/September and again in October.) Testing should be done on a frame containing brood (look for your queen) and collect about 1/2 cup of lightly packed bees (300 bees) by tilting the sampling cup (she suggested a juice box container) downwards over the back of the bees. Place the bees in a mason jar with a mesh cap and add 2-3 Tablespoons of powdered sugar. Set the jar out of the sun for a 1-3 minutes then invert the jar and shake out the loose sugar from the bees into a white container filled with water. Count the number of dislodged mites. Release the bees back into the hive. Count the number of mites collected, divide by the number of bees in the sample and multiply by 100. For example, if a beekeeper collected 15 mites, then:

$$15 \text{ mites} \div 300 \text{ bees} = 0.05 \times 100 = 5\% \text{ (or 5 mites per 100 bees)}$$

PMS –parasitic mite syndrome
DWV- deformed wing virus
IPM– integrated pest management
BPM from the BIP
 best management practices from the Bee Informed Partnership

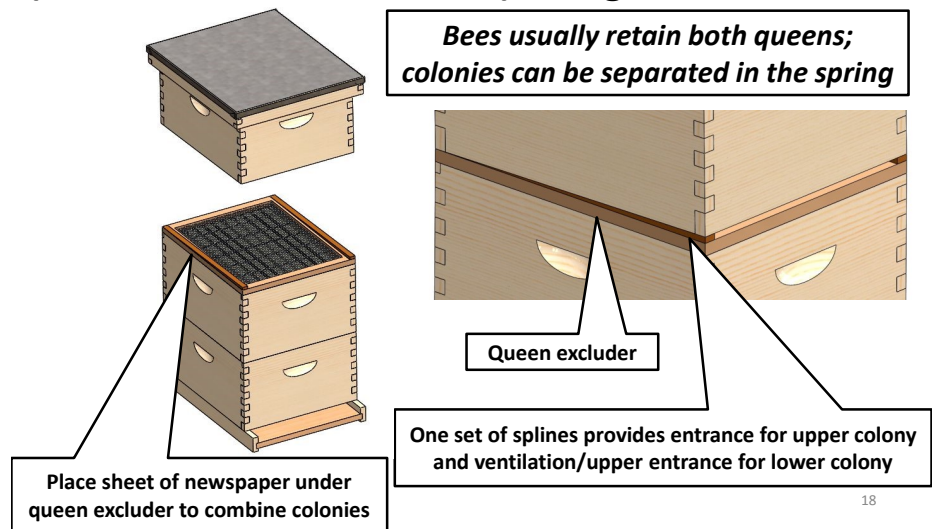
Wintering Single-Story Above Double-Story Colony



17



Wintering Above Full-Strength Colony With Very Weak (*but healthy & with good queen*) Colony (3-4 frames of bees or less) Using Queen Excluder



18

When using the excluder method, make sure both colonies are heavy with honey or feed well before winter so all the bees don't move up to the top and abandon the lower queen below the excluder



Not on the Midwestern Beekeepers Swarm Removal list? Sign up at the next General Meeting or contact any officer.

www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/beeswarm-removal/



Hive Fall Management

By Roger Wood

Hello folks! Fall is fast approaching and we need to turn our attention to our Hive Fall Management plan. Hopefully, you have harvested your spring honey and you may still have the empties stored on your hives. We will need to get those valuable honey supers stored and prepare our hives for winter. Others may still be worried your hives have not grown enough. Do not worry too much on size. If we match the size of our winter hive to the cluster size and if the bees are healthy, they all can make it through to spring. Our 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 cope with that population.

Here in Missouri, most Fall Management is really preparing our hives for Winter and that is really what I will concentrate on, but Fall Management also might include a significant fall honey flow and planning for that while preparing for winter could be a little challenging. Here in Missouri, there are only certain locations or years when a fall flow is of enough strength to gather a surplus. I'm talking about adding an empty super to give the bees room to store the new nectar and prevent fall swarming. There are other places in the U.S. that do have strong fall flows but I have never worked bees with those resources available so I don't plan for a strong honey flow, but I do pray for enough nectar to fill my hives for winter. And, like a good boy scout who is always prepared, I have empty supers available, just in case. Since I cannot count on the strength of the flow in the fall, I plan my management around the worst case scenario which is that I will need to feed my bees. Feeding bees is really the least complicated management activity, but some folks consider it a bad thing. It's your decision.

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

Good management practice starts in August with mite counts and sizing your hive for winter. I wait for the super-hot weather to break so my efforts can start in late August, early September.

Your honey and your supers should be removed and the hives setup with the boxes they will use to winter. There is a lot of different opinion here so I can't give you a simple answer here. The best I can do is tell you to talk to those other beekeepers at the local club meeting and ask them what they are doing. Here is mine rule of thumb. If the hive has not filled one full deep box (or two mediums) I would move them to stacked five frame nuc boxes or combine with another hive. If they fill one full box they need a second box of dark 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

. If you have multiple hives of equal strength, I balance the supply of honey between them. A normal hive (average hive) will have two deep boxes of dark comb (three mediums) (the queen has used most of it for brood rearing at some time). You are trying to create a space with adequate space for their current nest and a little growth for the brood that will be needed to get through winter and space to store an adequate amount of food, either honey or sugar syrup.

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, frankly, I don't know. I will say that you need to read about them, experiment with them, and find one that you feel comfortable. 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 if I lose that hive through the winter, I want some data to help determine what went wrong.

So, after mites, we must evaluate each hive and ultimately the queen. An old beekeeper once told me, "take your loses in the fall, you won't be a better beekeeper but you will be a happier beekeeper". 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

Continued on Page 10:

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 or May, 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. The exception in pattern is VSH queens that carry genes that enable the workers to detect mites in capped brood and open them and pull the larva. This can look like a poor laying pattern but the difference is that the hive still has a population similar to that hive above that had a good pattern and lots of bees.

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. The end of October used to be my target so I fed my bees in September and October. Now, there is brood in the hives into November. So now, 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, 2 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 comp situated below the honey cap (winter storage) when we arrange our boxes.

The last thing to manage in fall is food for winter. There was an old adage to make sure that your bees had 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 as 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 1:2.

"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)."

The last thing I want to mention is timing. Beekeeping is all about timing. All of the above requires the beekeeper to observe his/her bees and recognize their behavior as it relates to outside conditions. Throw in our ability to forecast the weather, our knowledge of bee biology and the life cycle of the worker bee and our knowledge about the seasons, we can apply these management tasks at the right time. I have given you some general timeframes but they are not set in stone. The weather is variable so it is with this schedule. If you are new to beekeeping, you will probably be wrestling with self-doubt and that is pretty natural. Until you have an opportunity to witness anything in beekeeping and you either recognize it for what it is, or someone can point it out, a rookie will rarely do everything when he/she should. Try not to be too hard on yourself. The bees are resilient and much of what we do wrong the bees will correct. I have just covered the general tasks one will need to address in your fall management program and I suggest you read a book on fall management or find a mentor to help you relate these general points with your specific conditions.



MARKETPLACE



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.

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Fisher's Bee Supplies

Ed Fisher

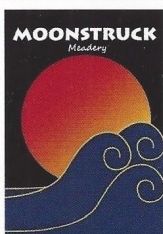
4005 N.E. 132nd Street

Smithville, MO 64089

816-532-4698

Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm Saturdays after 8:30 am Call in advance to make sure we are here.

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies. See us for your woodenware, smokers, containers, foundation, extractors, beekeeping books, queens and package bees. We also have extractors for rent. We will trade your wax for supplies.



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



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Joli Winer and Cecil Sweeney

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Spring Hill, KS 66083

(913) 856-8356

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Monday through Friday (closed Wednesday) from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm and by appointment.

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Bee Culture

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

www.beeeculture.com

(800) 289-7669



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General Meeting
Thursday, September 15, 2016
6:30 PM
Q&A Session for
Beginning Beekeepers
7:00 PM
General Meeting
Bass Pro Shop
Independence MO

If you change your email/ mailing address, contact
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Deadline for newsletter submission
is the 25th of each month
Contact britzjs@gmail.com or (816) 419-1327

2016 General Meeting Dates
Thursday, October 20th, 7:00 PM
Sunday, November 13th, 2:30 PM
December Potluck, TBA
Remaining 2016 Value Added Meetings suspended due to low attendance.