



## Wisps of Smoke

By Cathy Misko

Accompanying ice drizzles winter is finally setting in and all hopes are that the hives are ready. (Ideally, all hives should have mouse guards on, full of honey over the cluster, and have ventilation assured under the lids. Learning the hard way about ventilation while trying to keep “drafts” from freezing my bees, I witnessed icicles flowing out from the entrances. A ¼ inch shim works great under the inner cover/lid to duo as an upper entrance and ventilation hole.) I am appreciative that tea and honey can warm my soul as the flowers go dormant and the rest of the leaves blow out to pasture...With pride and gratitude, my kitchen is adorned with a honey gate fitted 5 gallon honey bucket to supply the perfect sunshine food, honey, for all my recipes and gifts during this holiday time.

It was with honor (along with *our hero* Eugene Makovec, Charlotte Ekker Wiggins, Bruce Snively, and Mike McMillan,) that I received the *Mo State Beekeepers Association 2015 Beekeeper of the Year Award* for the team contribution testifying in Jefferson City for “Missouri’s Honey Bill.” This heart pounding new experience for me came with counsel from member Ezekiel Amador III; Ezekiel carved success by encouraging “concise talking points” and “visiting” my representatives covering 3 counties (KC, Johnson, and Polk.) Gabe Dadant recently shook my hand to say “thank you” for many beekeepers are now encouraged at the possibility that they too can promote better access to raw local honey. The story has been picked up by Bee Culture (Oct.) and the American Bee Journal (Sept.)...other states are looking at the example of the *Missouri Honey Bill* (Senate Bill 500) and I say, “Go for it, for there will not be a sweeter bill!”

We will soon be accepting registrations for our *21<sup>st</sup> Beginning Beekeeping Workshop*, March 12<sup>th</sup>. If you have never attended...I highly recommend that you register for it is excellent, intense, and is also good for returning beekeepers. *Every day is a learning day* and education takes a different twist when you have experienced a year or so of placing your head into a beehive. The rumors are true! We will be at the Lakewood Oaks Golf Club, Lee’s Summit. Yes, we may have VIP golf cart transportation!

*Continued on Page 2*

**Youth Scholarship Applications Deadline January 31, 2016**

Contact [cathymisko@earthlink.net](mailto:cathymisko@earthlink.net) (660) 656-3485

## DECEMBER

### GENERAL MEETING POTLUCK DINNER

Dec. 13, (Sunday) 2:30 pm

### Graceway Church

### Fellowship Hall

5460 Blue Ridge Cutoff

Kansas City, MO 64133



## JANUARY 2016

### GENERAL MEETING

Jan. 10, (Sunday) 2:30 pm

### Bass Pro

### Independence Mo

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

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



MidwstnBeekprsa



Midwestern Beekeeper's  
Association



Midwestern Beekeepers  
Association

Members Closed Group



**Deadline for newsletter  
submission is the 25th of  
each month**

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## Bee Culture

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

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

(800) 289-7669

### Wisps of Smoke Continued

Wish us good luck for in January my husband and I will be speakers for the American Beekeeping Federation Conference in Jacksonville, Fl. My physician husband Mike will present *Medical Issues in the Apiary: How to Prevent, Recognize, and Address*. I will get to brag about YOU and present "How To" *Develop Value Added Programs for YOUR Association: Youth Scholarship Program, An Exciting Outreach Team, and Launch an Association Nuc Initiative*. As Midwestern is in the successful honeymoon stages of some programs, it will be a treat to share documents and insights. Other associations can glean how they too can get started and tweak programs according to their own needs and assets available while meeting the needs of a growing association.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our end-of-the-year Christmastime Celebration. Please bring your favorite appetizer finger foods and honey treats; your directors will provide meat dishes. Hint: Shared recipes are coveted! Our Mo State Honey Queen will present to us, we will be awarding *Lifetime Membership*, *Beekeeper of the Year* will be revealed, and more surprises. Please prepare to feast and jot down some of your beekeeping highlights to share via the open mic. With honor I will give a departing address as your president. We promote new genetics in our hives and likewise new ideas in our association are refreshing. Please come and participate in Bylaws voting, the installation of your 2016 Board of Directors including your new President. 2016 is a new year for us all and looks to be exciting, fresh and hopeful. Your new Board will be meeting and planning so feel free to send them your thoughts and ideas.

Relating with many of you, I too went into the winter with fewer hives this year; I hope for the best for you and for me. As I look to 2016 my goals include providing a few nucs, investing through education, and harvesting more products from the hive. I anticipate a new helper for I will be asking my first grandson to be grandma's smoker! I cannot wait to witness the power he will feel when he chases the bees back down into the hive with a little smoke! And oh yes, my husband has some snazzy plans for me too!

Finally I extended the biggest hug and THANKS that I can to you the association. I have been truly blessed to be encouraged and enriched by you the members. To serve as your president has been a privilege, has provided new experiences and treasured friends, bolstered me to be a better beekeeper, teacher, listener, and helped me stay focused when life's curve balls came my way. Between working with the Board of Directors and you...I have worked with the best! I highly recommend you too to volunteer for the board and association events to help continue to take this association to new places. You will be rewarded!

Have a wonderful Christmastime with your family and friends. From my heart I ask for God's blessings on *all* of you...Cathy Misko



**Mountain Camp Feeding** -The most basic and a way of hardship is to provide raw sugar, the finer the better. Some will spray mist water over it causing the sugar to crust so to prevent the bees from carrying it out as a foreign substance. It can be poured in division board feeders, on top inner covers, or directly on newspaper lined directly over frames. Space (shim) needs to be added to allow bees' access.



## December General Meeting

### Potluck Dinner

Sunday, December 13, 2:30pm

#### Christmastime Celebration

Bring your favorite appetizer finger foods, honey treats, and recipes

2015 Mo State Honey Queen, Miss Erin Mullins

Scholarship Presentation "The Seasons of Beekeeping" by Summer Ficken

Lifetime Membership and Beekeeper of the Year recipients

Installation of 2016 Board of Directors

Bylaws vote

open mic

I do want to take this moment to say thank you for your suggestions and ideas for programs these past two years. I truly appreciated your input! I encourage you to do the same for Tom Britz in 2016!

-Laura Fish, 1st VP/Programs

Please remember to bring a donation to REAP! We overflowed the drum last month and it was grand to see! Let's see if we can do it again!

See you on Dec. 13th



## Library News

By Tom O'Neill



Looking for an over winter project? Check out our newest addition to the library. GROW A LIVING WALL by Shawna Coronado. One hundred and fifty six pages of colorful ideas on how to build and maintain vertical gardens. Ms. Coronado explains all the basics including tools needed, which type of wall is right for you, soil and compost and choosing the plants that best fit your needs.

She covers the differing purposes from herbs to vegetables or creating shade or insulating a wall.

You can grow any number of plants in a very small area and save water while eliminating the dreaded chore of weeding. I may try some of these in my raised beds just to increase my harvest. Best of all the bees will thank you for your effort



## 2016 Officers

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## Under Appointments

Honey Plants

Angela Summers

Hospitality

Rick Messenger

Youth Scholarship

Cathy Misko

Nuc Initiative

Stuart Dietz

Urban Liaison

Ezekiel A. Amador III



## Member Spotlight

### Connie Unzicker & Diane Wilson

Diane and I are good friends from way back and our lives touch at many common interests. Two interests are our Christian faith and our love of Physical Therapy. At one point in 2009, Diane suggested we might try keeping bees. Actually, I had already considered this when another friend had talked to me about her beekeeping experiences. Then they had stopped keeping bees and offered me some of their equipment. My response to Diane was immediate and impetuous; her response tempered mine with encouragement to carefully think out what we were getting into, and what would be needed. We signed up for a beekeeping class given by the Northeast Kansas Beekeeper's Assoc. in March 2010 and off we went. That was one of the smartest moves that we made. We decided to start out with two hives each, which, in hindsight, was a very smart investment. We each bought two packages of bees from Ed Fisher for \$85.00 each, met Robert Hughes from Jordy's Bees at the class and ordered our 2 hives. The total cost for two hives was \$494.00. Then the other necessities of a bee suit with hood, smoker, hive tool and gloves for about \$150.00. Our husbands looked at this truckload of equipment and informed us that this was our hobby, not theirs. So onward we plunged.

The next smart move was enlisting Lowell Hutchison as our mentor. Who can keep bees successfully without a mentor? We pretty much informed him that he was our mentor although we were virtually strangers. I think I had heard he kept bees at some point and I had met Lowell at a church-related activity. Lowell graciously responded to our request by helping introduce our bees to the hives. He has continued to be our go-to guy and, of course, has become a wonderful friend. We also connected with Midwestern Beekeepers Assoc. and a local group called Swarm Chasers in St. Joseph. These groups have offered much information and fellowship.

Some experiences we can relate are perhaps common to experienced keepers but for us have been both delightful and horrid. Watching our bee hives grow and expand the first year was incredible. They flourished and gave us a total of 5 gallons of honey. How wonderful to have honey for eating every day. Our first unassisted swarm came Easter Sunday 2011. We had family and friends in the back yard feasting and found a swarm in our peach tree. Diane and her husband Rick happened to be there as well. My impetuous nature prevailed and I yelled, "Get the broom" to one of my grown children.



*Connie & Diane after a hot day gathering honey supers. Very happy!*



*Trying to blow bees away. Saw on the internet. They came back!*



*Harvested honey filling Connie's bathtub. Dehumidifier got it ready for extractor.*



*Men folk helping.*



*Batch of spun honey.*

We quickly found a big plastic bin and attempted to use the broom to knock the bees into it. As the whole crowd was watching, I informed them that it was OK because bees aren't likely to sting when they swarm. I now know that this is not true when they are provoked. In the meantime, Diane was calling Lowell and interrupting his Easter dinner. He graciously advised us on how to knock them into the bin with a brood box to settle into. They ended up staying!!! We have lost several hives (which always makes the heart sick) and have had some fantastic results with others. This past summer we had a weak hive being taken over by wax moths. We were determined to try and save the hive as the infestation had just started. So we removed the infected frames and put the hive in a smaller space. I took a few infected frames and put them in with my chickens because chicken seem to eat everything. This is obviously true because they picked off every little squirming wax moth larva leaving the frame intact. It's a win-win for the chickens and us. It's a long story but we learned much from the process. The hive didn't make it but then they were unhealthy anyway which is why the wax moths could settle in.

I feel compelled to share about our husbands, Myron and Rick. They initially were very detached from our new endeavor because they both have enough hobbies of their own. My husband complained about expenses, repeatedly stating, "It's YOUR hobby", but then he started enjoying the honey! Our own sweet honey can change the direction of a man's heart! Reluctantly they both helped us assemble all of our hives and also participated in honey extraction at Lowell's place. They have been jewels whenever we have needed them. Diane and I both believe they have enjoyed the bees more and more and, at times, are actually engaged in thought and fancy about bees along with us!! Our greatest gratitude is extended to both Myron and Rick.

We presently have 4 hives at off site locations. We have two at each of our home yards. Hopefully they will make it through the winter, in spite of us! Both of us work full time and find it challenging to get everything done because it is not always warm, sunny, with only a mild wind on a Saturday or Sunday. We have not used our wax yet although some time ago we took a great candle making class and a class on soap making. These were fun and motivating. Diane and I agree that having one another to brainstorm with has been a necessity when looking at a hive. We each bring a different perspective, which, when melded together, keeps us on track. We have met so many wonderfully genuine and giving people that brighten our lives. My favorite mind's eye picture of Diane is when she described seeing her bees in her large Russian Sage bush. She just stuck her head in and watched and listened to hundreds of bees collecting the wonderful nectar. I smile every time I think of it. We love just taking it all in with a renewed awareness of God's wonderful creation all around us!

Our wish for all of you is to "take it all in" and be amazed at the wonder!



## Honey Plants

By Tom Britz



With the month of December being here there simply is not much activity in the plant kingdom. This is a good time of the year to plan your pollinator garden and study up on honey bee friendly plants.

Here's a link that may be helpful.

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

There are many interesting things to see and do for kids and adults if you happen to visit Missouri Botanical Garden. Be sure to check the times and hours with the holidays being here. Before we know it (late February) it'll be time for some trees to begin budding and the ever faithful henbit and dead nettle, among others, to do their annual blooming ritual and a new plant cycle will start again

Happy Beekeeping,



Tom



<http://www.honey.com/blog/2015/detail/honey-is-a-flavor-honey-named-2015-flavor-of-the-year-by-firminch>





# Basic Beekeeping

By Roger Wood

- Cold, by itself, will not usually kill your hives. Folks in Alaska and Canada and other states north of here overwinter beehives in much colder weather than you will ever experience here in Missouri. Wrapping or insulating your hives in Missouri is considered optional by most experienced beekeepers mainly because though it can help on the coldest parts of the winter season, it can present a problem during warm periods. I suggest to experiment and decide for yourself.
- The important things to manage through the winter is ventilation, moisture, and food. Any of those three things not managed correctly, along with the cold, will kill hives.
- Ventilation is the process of fresh air entering the hive and stale moist air leaving the hive without drafts of cold wind or allowing precipitation to enter the hive and directly impact the cluster.
- Moisture control in of course providing a rain proof cavity where the cluster is out of the wind and dry. It is also the ability that the hive can breathe(ventilation), allowing the moist heated air that rises off the cluster to exit the hive and not condense on internal surfaces and drip back onto the cluster.
- The cluster must remain in contact with a food source the entire winter season. Cold snaps that keep a cluster tight and unable to move (except up) can cause a cluster to move straight to the top of a hive bypassing honey stored on the outside frames and ends of the frames. A cluster is more or less round and unless you have a huge cluster of bees, it does not fit side to side or end to end in the langstroth box so there is always honey not covered in a hive when the cluster draws down tight. If there is extended cold or the cluster begins to raise brood, the cluster will not move laterally in the hive. In nature, the odds are good that the cluster will fit all of the comb in a tree hollow, side to side and end to end, and the only direction it needs to move is up.
- If your bees reach the top of your hive, you need to put supplemental food on the hive until warm weather returns. Use fondant or moist granulated sugar to supplement the hive.
- Winter inspections are less intrusive than other seasons. You can check to see if your cluster is alive by laying your ear next to the hive and rapping lightly on the side of the hive and listen for the bees to buzz. If they are alive, they will buzz.
- Lifting the back of a hive to check its relative weight will give you some idea of how much food is left in the hive.
- Opening the top once a month on a warmer still day and looking down through the frames to see if you can see the top of the cluster can give you an idea how close they are to the top of the hive and some idea how big it is by counting how many spaces between the frames are filled with bees. Now imagine a ball of bees with that width to estimate the size of your cluster.
- Now is the time you should begin to repair, clean and paint spare parts or build new equipment for next season.
- The winter is a good time to reflect back on the last season and research topics that you found challenging or confusing. Read, or search the internet on the topics. If you are doing this without a mentor, choose one book or one website or one authority to follow and attempt next season. I don't mean that you ignore the rest, read them all, just choose one method/source because different options can be dependent on previous management decisions and mixing your authorities can cause an option to fail. Do not be tempted to "try it all". Learn one thing. Learn all you can on that topic but try only one of the options—the one that makes the most sense or seems the less complicated.





## Conferences & Events



March 12, 2016

21st Beginning

Beekeepers Workshop

Midwestern Beekeepers Assoc.

Lakewood Oaks Golf Club

Lee's Summit MO

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



January 7-9, 2016

Great Plains Growers

Conference

St. Joseph MO

Dr. Lawrence Conner will be speaking  
on queen-rearing

[www.greatplainsgrowersconference.org](http://www.greatplainsgrowersconference.org)



January 5-9, 2016

North American

Beekeeping Conference and Trade Show

Sawgrass Marriott Golf

Resort & Spa

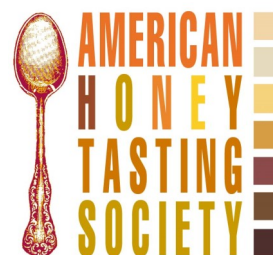
Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), Florida

[www.abfnet.org](http://www.abfnet.org)



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



<http://americanhoneytastingsociety.com/>



February 27, 2016

Missouri Botanical Garden

Dr. Tom Seeley \*

Honey Bee Democracy

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

\*Featured in Dec 2015

Bee Culture, Page 62

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<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr.	\$21.00	\$37.75	\$45.00
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Address \_\_\_\_\_ Address 401 NW Heady Avenue

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip Ferrelview, MO 64163

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (816) 392-4960

**Midwestern Beekeepers Association**  
**YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION**

To be completed by applicant.

(Application is to be **hand** written by applicant—not typed)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email \_\_\_\_\_

Summary of your involvement in school, community, church and other youth or civic organizations.

Write a brief paragraph on why you are interested in bees and beekeeping and what you hope to accomplish if you are chosen for this scholarship.

Please attach to application a **letter of reference** from teacher, community leader, or another organization leader (4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, or Girl Scouts).

Name of person providing reference: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know a beekeeper? Yes / No

If yes, name and address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn of the scholarship program?

(If you are awarded ***The Youth Scholarship Award***, what is the “planned address” for the location of the hive?)  
Hive Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Bee Suit Measurements: Height \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt size \_\_\_\_\_ Pant Size \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK LIST:**

**Full Application**

**Reference**

**Signatures / Waiver**

**Notary**

**Self addressed stamped envelope**



### WAIVER / BINDER

**We/I** understand that honey bees are unpredictable and that the applicant, participating parent or guardian, and observers risk being stung by the bees. All medical treatment is the responsibility of the applicant's parents or guardian. Special risks, including death, from allergic reaction to bee venom, are inherent for (a) persons allergic to bee stings and (b) those who do not know whether they are allergic to bee stings, when those persons practice beekeeping, and although protective gear is being provided to the applicant, it is not a guarantee against being stung.

**We/I** understand that by signing this waiver I am releasing the Midwestern Beekeepers Association, its board members and officers, the beekeeping mentor and all other MBA members from any liability for all claims for damages and losses of any kind, including those arising from any accidents or mishaps which may occur to the applicant and/or the participating parent in the pursuit of this project.

**We/I** also understand the bee colony and equipment will be located on **owned property** of the **participating parent** or **guardian** and will remain the property of the MBA and cannot be sold, given away or destroyed during the qualifying period without the written consent of the same.

In the event that the applicant loses interest or can no longer pursue the beekeeping project, MBA will be notified and the equipment and bee colony will be returned to the same.

**Upon successful completion of the qualifying term and the satisfaction of stated conditions, the recipient will be presented a *Certificate of Ownership* upon such completion of the program and receive ownership of the beehive and related equipment.**

### PARENTAL CONSENT

I \_\_\_\_\_ am (applicant) \_\_\_\_\_ parent or guardian. She/he is not known to be allergic to bee stings and has my permission to accept this scholarship if chosen.

Parent/Guardian: What do you feel the applicant can gain from this program? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you feel you can support and encourage the applicant in this effort? \_\_\_\_\_

Does anyone in your immediate family have bees? \_\_\_\_ If so, who? \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Parents are expected to attend all activities with the student scholar.

Signatures below indicate agreement with the above terms and requirements.

### SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____	_____
Applicant	Date	Parent/Guardian	Date

**Recipient will sign here upon his/her 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

Mail completed and **NOTARIZED** application, letter of recommendation, and a self addressed and stamped envelope to:

**Cathy Misko 321 SW 58 Hwy., Centerview MO 64019**

**(660) 656-3485**

(Please call or write if you have questions)

NOTARY PUBLIC: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# MARKETPLACE



MEMBERS OF MIDWESTERN BEE-KEEPERS ASSOCIATION CAN ADVERTISE FOR FREE IN THE NEWS-LETTER! CONTACT THE EDITOR TO PLACE YOUR AD.



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**[joli@heartlandhoney.com](mailto:joli@heartlandhoney.com)**

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THE BEELINE BY: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ MAIL

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (2 CLUB VOTING RIGHTS): \$18 \_\_\_\_\_

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the club?: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:       Midwestern Beekeepers Association

Mail to:                       P O BOX 132, Raymore, MO 64083

Questions:                   [itfish85@aol.com](mailto:itfish85@aol.com) or 816-322-9245 (Tanya Fisher)

Missouri State Beekeepers Membership Fees can be paid by Pay Pal or mailed directly to:

MSBA, c/o Steve Moeller, PO Box 7514, Columbia, MO 65205



**TANYA FISHER**  
**P O BOX 132**  
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Warrensburg, MO  
64093  
Permit No. 16

### General Meeting Potluck Dinner

Sunday December 13, 2:30 pm  
Graceway Church Fellowship Hall  
5460 Blue Ridge Cutoff  
Kansas City, MO 64133

Bring your favorite appetizer finger foods, honey treats, and recipes.



The question that I NEED answered:

Topic that I would LOVE to have covered:

Cut this out and bring it to next month's meeting or feel free to e-mail me, Laura Fish @ [DDetailsfish@gmail.com](mailto:DDetailsfish@gmail.com) with your questions or topics that you want covered! I look forward to hearing from you!

### Graceway Church Parking Directions

General parking is on the west side and use the main entrance.

Drop-off and wheelchair only access on the south.

Let's Pay it Forward!

Our meetings are free but to show appreciation for Graceway's sponsorship, please bring one of the following to our monthly meeting to aid Raytown Emergency Assistance Program, REAP.

*Non – Perishable Food Item*

*School Supplies*

*New Toy*