



Wisps of Smoke

By Cathy Misko

Storms, rainbows, celebrations, summer fun, blazing flowering beauties, bird serenades, creepy crawlies, lightening bugs, and fishing... the summer in the Midwest is the best! My lily gardens are spectacular and I have learned that some are edible. Considered invasive by some, the old fashion orange lilies are quite tasty. Tasting like fresh tender green beans, I have served the unopened pods fresh in salads and slightly stir fried. The pods make a great snack while working in the garden especially after a rinsing from the rain! Blossoms have adorned the iced tea and I will miss them when they are finished blooming. Instead of thinning them next year I will harvest more for dinner!

While eliminating the need for me to water my gardens, all the rain has been challenging to the bees. I hear chatter that colonies seem to be low in population and it stands to reason that if nectar supply is low then the bees adjust and the queen lays fewer eggs; summer starvation can occur if not enough food stores are available for brood and when the baby bees emerge. Keep a close eye for supplemental feeding needs especially if drought follows all this abundance of rain. If needed, provide 1:1 sugar syrup as long as the honey supers are not on. Question? What is best... sugar cane or sugar beet syrup? From the mouth of Michael Bush, "I have always said that it matters not at all if it's beet sugar or cane sugar. But that was before they started using GMO beets and neonics on the beet seeds. Now I would probably go for cane sugar but keep an eye on current events as they are talking about using both of these on sugar cane in the near future. It matters a lot if it's granulated white sugar or anything else. Powdered sugar, brown sugar, molasses and any other *unrefined* sugar is not good for bees. They can't handle the solids." (Please note that it is refined sugar that is advised...Cathy)

For those hives with virgin queens one would want to check for worker brood. Queens have about a two week opening to be mated or otherwise they will be infertile. With all the rain it may be complicated for them to achieve proper mating flights. It now appears that the spring swarm impulse has decreased however I still get calls with bees in structures and try to point homeowners in the right direction.

Continued on Page 2

COMING UP

GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 7:00 PM
Graceway Church Fellowship Hall

2015 GENERAL MEETING

Aug. 9, (Sunday) 2:30 pm

Sep. 17, (Thursday) 7:00 pm

Oct. 15, (Thursday) 7:00 pm

Nov. 15, (Sunday) 2:30 pm

Dec. 13, (Sunday) 2:30 pm

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

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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Wisps of Smoke Continued

This time of year is a fav for me also when on the highways. The yellow edging is Bird's Foot Trefoil reminds me of the "yellow brick road" rewarding my eyes with each mile! I hope the highway department lets it all bloom. A mowing *after* blooming however can help a re-bloom. It is all about timing and the pollinators can use all the help that they can get. Hopefully the growing season gets extended by all the wet weather and we all get a honey harvest. I have a new extractor to try this year and look forward to the new taste of the 2015 honey crop. Each year is different and each year I try to figure out what nectar sources did the bees collect. After harvest it feels good to share the sunshine food with others. This year with pride my bees' honey was given to about 200 people at our daughter's wedding reception stating "how sweet it is to be loved". "Ya just can say it any better than with *honey!*"

It is not too early to think about August Auction, Honey Show, Scholarship Awards, and Picnic. Put items aside as you de-clutter or have extra items that can be donated to benefit the Youth Scholarship Program. Anything goes at the auction: new, used, food, plants, and crafts. Hopefully there is something for everyone! Bring your products from the hive to "show off" and we can get them to the State Fair. And the food....beekeepers provide the best desserts, pot luck and side dishes and I cannot wait to do some grazing! Remember your recipes!

Mark your calendars for the Missouri State Conference October...

Michael Bush who is well known for his genius and natural approach to beekeeping is the guest speaker. I have not had the opportunity to attend one of his presentations so this will likewise be a treat for me.

As a follow up and continuation to last month's excellent presentation from Grand Champions Jim and Taya Fisher covering how to get you products ready for the fairs, I am excited to take in Roger and his son Jerry Nichols' program covering *Honey Extraction*. Roger was my first teacher in the early 70's, a founding father/President of this association, our Regional Mo State Beekeeper's Director, served as State Bee Inspector, and owns Santa Fe Honey Farm providing honey for many of the area's stores and bulk wax. I hope you can take advantage of this month's presentation!

Join us early at 6:00 for networking and setting up the room...and may all your supers fill up!

"By the way, if in my neck of the woods on a week day please give a call and stop by to walk my gardens, sip tea, and talk bees!" Cathy



The Midwestern Beekeeper's Assn. extends condolences to the family and friends of respected and long time beekeeper Hiram Gensler. "Hi" is also known for his ingenuity, inquisitiveness, and as a "gadget" genius.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/kansascity/obituary.aspx?pid=174975271> <http://www.terraceparkfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Hiram-Gensler/>



July General Meeting

Thursday, July 16, 7pm

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816-612-9030

"All You Ever Want to Know about Extraction!"

Presented by Roger Nichols!

Are your bees filling up the honey supers with capped honey and you are thinking "Now What?!" Well! We have the answers for you!

Come and watch a hands on honey extraction! Roger and his son will be taking us thru the entire experience. This will get you ready to fill your bottles in time for delivery to the State Fair!!

Bring your questions for Roger- he is a wealth of bee information!

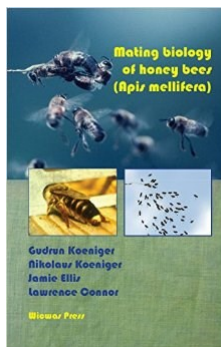
Come join us- Thursday, July 16th at 7 pm at Graceway Church in the Fellowship Hall located downstairs.

Please remember to bring a donation for REAP and I look forward to seeing you!



Library News

By Tom O'Neill



Spring and early summer are the primary times for swarming and the production of new queens.

Our new book, Mating Biology of Honey Bees by Lawrence Connor, explains what is going on during this important time.

One tidbit I learned was it may be up to ten days before a virgin queen makes her mating flight.

Many of us tend to rush the process, looking for eggs much too early.

The book is only 150 pages but has great info for beginners or the budding scientist among us. Stop by the library at our next meeting and check out our great selection of books, DVD's or Video's.





Basic Beekeeping

By Roger Wood

The first week of July usually marks the end of our spring nectar flow in Missouri though it varies by as much as 2 weeks. With the extra rain we have gotten all across the area, our flow may be extended this year. In some cases, it might be delayed rather than extended.

This month, we all start to think about harvesting the honey. Rule of thumb is if your hive is no larger than 2 deeps or 2-3 mediums, you should not harvest any honey. I tell my students to not expect surplus in their first year hives. It doesn't mean you won't have surplus, just don't be disappointed if there is none. Your main concern is to build and establish a strong hive to make it through that first winter.

Harvest any time after the bees cap at least 2/3 to 3/4 of a comb. You can generalize this to 2/3 to 3/4 of the entire harvest as long as the total harvest is blended into a single container. The only way to know for sure is to measure the honey by hydrometer. You want around 18% or lower. I do not own a hydrometer and I have never had fermented honey so I believe in this rule of thumb.

Due to the high cost of glass jars and delivery charges from the supply stores, I use local glass canning jars, purchased or recycled (mason, ball, etc.) to bottle my honey. I do order plastic bears though.

If you need to keep your bees calm and quiet, you will put the empty boxes with wet comb back on the hives to allow the bees to clean them up before storage.

Separate any dark comb from your white or yellow comb to minimize wax moth damage to your supers (wax moth want the dark comb). I keep dark comb on the bees and let them protect those frames.

The bees will get testy when the nectar flow stops. This is because your hive has the highest population of the year with nothing else to do, they will start trying to rob the other hives in the apiary. The guard bees become more plentiful and defensive and movements around the hive are eagerly challenged. Mowing around the hives can become a challenge. Wear your veil. Be sure you don't point the exhaust at the entrance.

After the harvest, this is a good time to evaluate your hive's health, access your mite load, treat if so incline, replace poor queens. Having more than one hive allows you some comparison on relative health. If you only have one, see if you can spend a day with another keeper in your area. If you plan to treat for mites, prepare your plan this month to carry out the treatments in August or September. I wait for the summer heat to break unless a colony has a heavy mite load.

Our Apologies!

Cancelled Bees at the Pro

We had to cancel the July 2nd Bees at the Pro meeting with only about a week's notice to our membership.

We posted the cancellation on our Facebook pages; however, there were a group of folks that didn't get the message and showed up for the meeting.

The Board apologizes for your inconvenience and will work on providing a more complete method to get out the information you need.



Congratulations on your marriage, Lillian Misko Panella, former Honey Queen. These cute little bears were the wedding favors!



Stain Glass Spinners \$25

Place your orders

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Honey Plants

By Tom Britz



Stop and smell the flowers

50,000 ladies can't be wrong !

Shared by Dolores Vivian

Name Tags (\$8)
available to purchase
at general meeting

Welcome
New Members

Shawn Lee
St. Joseph MO
John Martin
Kansas City MO

Bee Culture

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

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

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

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

I did not realize a month could make a huge difference. My wife and I inspected our hive nearly 10 days ago and the honey flow is underway in our area. We were amazed at how quickly things have changed. We had hardly any nectar/honey two weeks ago and then in a short amount of time two supers were completely full and we were ready to add a third super. Beekeepers need to be ready to add a super at a moment's notice, especially when so many plants are blooming, like we have experienced in the last few weeks.

The sweet clovers seem to be worked heavily and often by the bees. The honey bees will work clovers when the plants are secreting plenty of nectar. Both yellow and white sweet clovers entice the bees best after a warm night. We have had plenty of rain



and now with temperatures beginning to warm, there should be some excellent forage for the bees for the foreseeable future in our area.

The bees will work the large number of native and ornamental plants blooming now. One thing to remember is the bees will go to what they prefer, no matter what we think or have heard/read.

This month I'm going to discuss the Purple Coneflower. The Purple Coneflower is a very pretty and native plant that is still blooming.

The Purple Coneflower is a member of the daisy family and is available at most garden centers. It grows along roads, edges of timber, savannas, and pastures. It prefers moister soil, as opposed to other types of Coneflower. All types of Coneflowers are a target of illegal harvesting because its roots are used in herbal medicines. Echinacea is an extract derived from the Coneflower used to aid in the treatments of common cold and other ailments. Purple Coneflower is an excellent source of nectar not only for the honey bee but also butterflies.

Happy Beekeeping, Tom Britz



Member Spotlight

Matt Winstead

Midwest Bee Removal



When did you start beekeeping and how did you become interested in bees?

I have a little homestead, and several years ago I asked my wife, Felicia, "What do you want to do here that will be your own?" She chose bees. I, being the loving and supportive husband that I am, said "sure, why not". The plan was that she would manage them and I would help with the heavy lifting. Well, after getting stung a few times and having worsening reactions she was done, and I got "the bug". I couldn't get enough into bees, I watched millions of Youtube videos on bees and cut outs and swarms, I was addicted.....and I still am to this day.

What process have you done to learn about managing your bees?

Trial and error. You can ask 5 beekeepers the same question and get 12 different answers. I have enough hives now I can experiment different methods and procedures and find out what works best for me and my bees in our certain situation.

What had been the greatest hurdle in keeping bees?

Crappy genetics. I had terrible luck with Italians or Carnolians that were imported from another state. You will never know how easy beekeeping can be unless you get some good ole Missouri/Kansas survivors. Every bee in my 4 yards come from completely feral survivor stock.

What has been your greatest success in keeping bees?

Seeing and interacting with bees in the wild. This has given me more success than anything else. I am learning the "what and why's" they do the things they do. When you do cut outs all spring and summer and see all the different wild hives you get a better understanding how one can mimic nature easier. I am very fortunate to be able to do all the cut outs I do and learn to be a better beekeeper as well as to educate the public on the wonderful honeybee.

Where are your bees located?

I have 4 bee yards within 15 minutes of my house in Oak Grove, MO. My backyard having most of my hives. Matt Winstead, owner and operator of Midwest Bee Removal, [816-217-4214](tel:816-217-4214)

"Don't get wrapped up in what people say is the "Right" way to do something. Every hive is different just like every child is different. What works for me here might not work for people in western Kansas. Don't be scared to try things, how else are you going to learn? Also, have someone you can call. I have several people that I trust and that aren't scared to say they don't know, be leery of someone who knows everything. Call me, I am by no means an expert at anything but I might be able to shine a little light on your issue. Mostly beekeeping should be fun, if you aren't having fun, you are doing it wrong."

-Matt



Important Urban Location Consideration

Adapted from Small Farm Magazine
by Cathy Misko



For the future of beekeeping in all areas it is vital for proper management within the urban setting so bees do not become a public nuisance.

*Check for needed Permits, Licenses, and Homeowner's Insurance (better to know up front)

*Confirm that adjoining neighbors do not have serious bee allergies.

*Require Gentle Bees / Re-queen if necessary

*Fences Make Happy Neighbors...out of sight, out of mind! Vegetative corral or bush barrier adds beauty. (Place fence 6 feet high and 6 feet away from hive entrance! Natural barriers are great!)

***Face entrances AWAY from public sidewalks, neighbors, pets, playgrounds, clothes lines, and cars**

*Provide Water and more water in front feeders! Bees' memory is 72 hours...pools, pool toys, and wet hanging clothes can be convenient-don't let them get into a habit of using your neighbor's water or you will need to retain them!

Again, it is your job to prevent your bees from becoming a public nuisance! You can choose to elevate your hives up on light colored roofs and balconies. You would want to consider the 400 pound potential of the hive and addressing weight limits for the roof. Hives can be found on hotel roofs, city halls, and art buildings in cities like Minneapolis, Seattle, San Francisco, Detroit, Chicago, D.C. and NYC! Dream: Hives are not new in big cities for even the White House has bees. I hope there will be a time that most of us have our own backyard garden with its own supporting hive.

Community Education is important and enriching while beekeeping in an urban area. Promote the community benefits of honey bees through pollination, providing unique local honey, and environmental balance. Present individual ways the community can help the bees by planting honey plants, providing non-toxic water, buy local products, decrease chemical use, and become aware and support positive legislation.

Eliminate the "fear of the unknown" by praising the importance of hive reproduction and migration...the marvelous nature of a swarm!

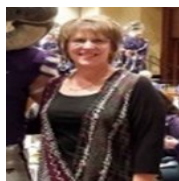
Lastly it is important to promote *Happy Bees* to mirror *Happy Neighbors*...avoid agitating your girls. Be a "keeper of the bees" while respecting their instincts and practicing good management. All of this takes education, patience and years of learning from the bees. When you learn the bees' instincts...you can respect and manipulate them for the good of all.

Rules of Thumb for Urban Beekeeping:

www.agdev.anr.udel.edu/maarec

- Keep only gentle colonies and employ good swarm management techniques.
- Keep no more than four hives on a property of 1/4 acre or less.
- All hives within 20 feet of a property line should have a solid fence or vegetative obstruction 5 feet or more in height between the hives and the property line.
- All hives within 30 feet of a public sidewalk or roadway should have a solid fence or dense vegetative obstruction or be elevated so as to direct the flight path of the bees well above traffic and pedestrians.
- An adequate supply of water should be provided by the property owner or beekeeper from March 1 to October 31.

There is a fact that one will not get away from, "Your neighbor's view...belongs to your neighbor!" Address this issue by having an "HGTV" hive- a decorative hive with blending color. If not in use...store the clutter! Put idle equipment in a decorative shed and assure that unused equipment is bee tight to avoid a robbing frenzy. Bee Creative! Enjoy a decorative bee yard but avoid over-the-top whimsical items. As you promote a healthy respect for bees you also want to discourage inviting children into your yard as a play yard/ amusement park.



FYI from the Editor

By Janice Britz



It was my pleasure to team up with Midwestern Beekeeper's Association to create a new logo and re-brand the association. I enjoyed learning about honeybees in my work with Cathy, Janice and Cheryl. They were a delight.



Pictured from left to right, Angela Blomberg, Designer and Susan Lawlor, M.F.A., Chair, Department of Art + Design, Avila University

Midwestern Beekeepers give an honored "Thank you" and appreciation to Avila College for awarding and accepting us into their 2015 Graphic Design Project Program. Beginning the first of this year Webmaster Cheryl Westra, Editor Janice Britz, and President Cathy Misko met regularly with Angela and Susan to discuss and tweak multiple creative ideas to help brand and promote our respected organization. It is with great excitement for me to see the unfolding of the professional, time intensive and fresh work of Graphic Designer Angela through our new logo, Bee Line design, and webpage creation. We three ladies went back to college and were inspired with new tools. Again... "Every day is a learning day!" Enjoy! Cathy Misko



I am a recent graduate from Avila University and am embarking on my "second career" in graphic design. I do freelance design and create logos, business cards, signage, packaging, invitations ... you name it!

I'm from the Blue Springs area and have two grown children and a dog named Dolce. I love to cook, travel and read.

My instructor and mentor who supervised me on the Beekeeper project (with the "bee ladies" as we liked to call them!) is Susan Lawlor. I believe the ladies convinced her that beekeeping is in her future.

I hope you like my new logo for MWBA and enjoy the new website and newsletter.

Here's my contact info:

Angela Blomberg

Angelablom@aol.com

816-223-4461

Greetings! I hope you will enjoy the new look to the Midwestern Beekeepers Association newsletter. I adore the logo that Angela and Susan developed for us. They were very kind and helpful and Angela even met with me after she had graduated. Many thanks, Angela.

I know that many of you are attempting to "brand" your own business and having a professional logo on your labels, signs, and business cards will get you noticed. If you are looking for someone to help you in this process, I hope you will give Angela a call.

Enjoy the dog days of summer and I will see you at the Missouri State Fair!

Janice



Conferences & Events

Missouri State Beekeepers Association Fall, 2015 Membership Conference October 16th - 17th Hilton Garden Inn, Columbia, Missouri



Michael Bush

Plus More Exciting Speakers To Be Announced SOON!

Visit With & Purchase From Major Vendors!
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Meet Beekeepers From Across the Region!
Compete In Our Cooking & Artwork Contest!

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"Michael Bush is one of the leading proponents of treatment free beekeeping. He has been keeping bees since the mid 70's, usually from two to seven hives up until the year 2000. Varroa forced more experimentation which required more hives and the number has grown steadily over the years from then. By 2008 it was about 200 hives. He is active on many of the Beekeeping forums with last count at more than 50,000 posts between all of them. He has had an eclectic set of careers from printing and graphic arts, to construction to computer programming and a few more in between. Currently he is working in computers." He has a web site on beekeeping at www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm Please check out his books via <http://www.amazon.com/Michael-Bush/e/B005G60224>



January 5-9, 2016 North American Beekeeping Conference and Trade Show

Sawgrass Marriott Golf
Resort & Spa
Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), Florida
www.abfnet.org



August 11, 2015, 5 pm

Apiculture Entry Deadline

Missouri State Fair

Apiculture Rules & Classes

[http://
www.mostatefair.com/wp-
content/uploads/2015/04/
agriculture.pdf](http://www.mostatefair.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/agriculture.pdf)



Contact Dean Sanders at 816-456-4683 to volunteer to work or to obtain information on the Missouri State Beekeepers booth in the Agriculture Building during the Missouri State Fair. Volunteers may pick up their admission tickets (if available) at the shed on Hwy 65 before Gate 11. The Red Caboose used in prior years has been moved. Check with Dean Sanders if you are volunteering and if you will be given admission tickets. Fair admission price for a couple of days are cheaper at the gate than what the club can pre-purchase.



REMEMBER...boost public relations and Share the Harvest; A jar of SWEET rewards will delight neighbors and a pair of beeswax candles may help lighten one's countenance!



CREAMED HONEY RECIPE

Mark Evans

Making creamed honey is a very simple process. The taste and texture are superb and it is another great way to enjoy your honey. This recipe is a combination of several recipes that I have found. Give it a try. I'm sure you'll enjoy it. Before I explain how to make creamed honey, it is important to understand what it actually is and what it is not. Creamed honey is not whipped honey. There shouldn't be any air in your creamed honey. Creamed honey is controlled granulation of honey which results in extremely small sugar crystals. The smaller the crystals, the better the creamed honey. A good creamed honey should be smooth, not grainy, like velvet on the tongue. Here are the basic steps to making creamed honey.

The first rule of making creamed honey is to have a good starter. A starter is simply creamed honey that is added to the liquid honey and serves as a template for the granulation. You can buy creamed honey at almost any grocery store, right next to the honey. Your final product will only be as good as what you start with, so start with a creamed honey you like. After that, you'll never have to buy starter again. Save a bit of your final product to use as the starter for your next batch.

To begin, the liquid honey should be void of any prior granulation. It can be either freshly extracted or warmed slightly to be sure it is completely liquefied. Some recipes call for heating the liquid honey to 140 degrees, then cooling it down quickly (in the refrigerator). This guarantees that the creamed honey will not ferment, but the honey will lose some of its medicinal properties when heated to this temperature. I also warmed my starter slightly by putting it in the microwave for 10 seconds. This made it much easier to mix with the liquid honey. With the honey at room temperature, blend in the starter at a ratio of about 10 parts liquid honey to 1 part starter. This measurement does not have to be exact.

Thoroughly mix until the starter is evenly distributed, but take care not to mix in air. Let this set overnight to allow any small amounts of air bubbles to rise to the surface. The following day scrape off the air bubbles on the top of the mixture. Bottle into containers of your choosing; however, a wide mouth container is preferred so the creamed honey can be scooped out easily.

Once the mixture is in your containers, store in a cool place, ideally 57° F., until the honey has creamed. If it is too warm the honey will not cream properly. I have made some at home in my unheated garage in the fall when the temperature ranges from 45°-65° and had very good success. In the summer, putting it in a partially open ice chest, not directly on the ice should work. Your creamed honey will be ready to eat in 3-5 days. Enjoy!!

MARKETPLACE



MEMBERS OF MIDWESTERN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION CAN ADVERTISE FOR FREE IN THE NEWSLETTER! CONTACT THE EDITOR TO PLACE YOUR ADD



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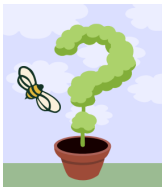
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General Meeting

Thursday, July 16, 7 pm
Graceway Church Fellowship Hall

Bring in your sample honey!
We will have volunteers
with refractometers
to test your water content.

www.midwesternbeekeepers.org



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 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 the following to our monthly meeting to aid Raytown Emergency Assistance Program, REAP.

Non – Perishable Food Item

School Supplies

New Toy