###### The Bee Line

###### A newsletter from

**The Midwestern Beekeeper’s Association**

Volume 67; Number 7 Editor: Joli Winer June 2014

**General Meeting & Program**

**Thursday, June 19th, 2014 7:00 p.m.**

**Michael Stauffer**

**The Hunt for Honey in Marrakech**

**& Linda Hezel**

**Musings from a Humble Bee Hostess**

**& Jim & Cindy Connell**

**Extracting Your Honey**

It's a full meeting in June!  Come and be swept away, both far and near, in our journey to learn about bees.

We are starting off with a reading from Michael Stauffer. He will be sharing an article he found in a travel magazine about the hunt for honey in Marrakech.

 Linda Hezel will be presenting, *"Musings from a Humble Bee Hostess"* Linda owns Prairie Birthday Farm in Clay County.  Linda is a steward of the earth and she believes in producing food that is healthy and protects humans and other planet health.  Come and join us for this photo rich inspiring talk!

Jim and Cindy Connell will be teaching us about extracting the golden goodness the bee's make- all the hows and when's that go into this rewarding part of beekeeping.

June 19th, Thursday night at 7 pm at Graceway Church in the Fellowship Hall - just follow the "bee filled" path from the lobby entrance to get you right to where you need to bee!

Also, Bee sure to come early (6ish) and network with your fellow beekeepers! We will always welcome help setting up chairs and taking them back down afterwards!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Meetings are held at the Graceway Church Fellowship Hall, 5460 Blue Ridge Cutoff, Kansas City, MO 64133 Please park on the west side.

 Please note: If there is inclement weather on a meeting date, feel free to call an officer and/or check [www.midwesternbeekeepers.org](http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org) for an update.

**New Members for May & June**

Chuck Booth                  Lee's Summit, MO

Phil & Vicki Evans               Bates City, MO

Robert & Audra Felton        Sibley, MO

Barry Ballenger                        Liberty, MO

Matthew Fleming                     Blue Springs, MO

Ryan & Andrea Lorton           Peculiar, MO

Heath Milks                             Parkville, MO

Steve & Ann Mowry                Trimble, MO

Angela Summers                    Lee's Summit, MO

**Silent Auction**

Thank you to all who set up, brought in donations, and bought items to support our youth scholarship program. Thank you Carol Kjelshus for calling us up to donate your bee equipment! The auction was quite successful, raising $620.00!

**Let’s Pay it Forward**

To show our appreciation for Graceway’s sponsorship of our state-of-the-art meeting venue, please bring one of the following to our Monthly Meeting to aid the city of Raytown:

\*Non – Perishable Food Item

\*School Supplies

\*New Toy

Place in the provided Raytown Emergency Assistance Program (REAP) Bin. [www.raytownreap.org](http://www.raytownreap.org)

(Thank you for filling the barrel up last month. Beekeepers are sweet and giving!!!!)

. **Wisps of Smoke**

**By Cathy Misko**

 May delivered queens, equipment, and a magnificent program by Barb and Jeff Fetchenhier educating all on the history and potential future of GMOs. My view is that one cannot do “one up” from the creator’s design and purpose in life! I say “Stop to GMOs” and find myself reading labels more and rethinking various ailments we all face. Medicine seeks to discover a pill for everything but can we basically help heal ourselves by what we eat and invest into our bodies? It would be wise to give our intake a second look and to try!

 This week I stooped and worked blisters on my fingers by pulling up countless Daisy Fleabane growing in our once-upon-a-time-pasture lawn; I saw hundreds of young praying mantises. I constantly giggled, yes, as they scurried about. I was recalling pieces from *Bringing Nature Home* by Tallamy, a gift from Merv Wallace, of *Missouri Wildflowers Nursery* that has me focusing on the monoculture of most lawns. I currently maintain about 5 acres of gardens with 60 rose bushes. Last year I was inundated with Japanese beetle armies. In just a couple of hours they would decimate a rose along with a Rose of Sharon, a Honey Crisp apple tree, and Crape Myrtles. I collected thousands by patrolling plants 3 times a day to shake beetles off into baggies or into a cup of soapy water. I have learned that they need predators to keep them at bay. Walla! I found a bee assassinfeasting on one. I now relocate all assassins from the apiary to the rose bushes. For the insects to work together and hopefully have a healthy balance in our ecosystem, they require vegetation that would host their families which brings me to monoculture lawns. We have gotten ourselves in a pickle by growing one type of grass which tends to give rise to grubs and not the balance of opportunistic insect life and food attracting bug eating birds. To address the host of problems from over invasion of insects we spray insecticides which dramatically increase the problem. We kill the good and the bad. Whew. There is so much to learn and to work on in an attempt to achieve a balance in nature and our lives. Every day is a learning day!

 I have Apple Blossom Honey this year! One single hive put up 2 supers in 4 weeks. Happy day; to place hives in Harrisonville was an experiment and a good one! It is true; you will not have honey unless you put your supers on! I like to bottom super by placing new supers underneath already full supers. After that I work wiser, save my back, and place the rest of the empty supers directly on the top. I mark my supers with stickers noting what was blooming at the time if applicable. If not whole supers, I like to at least slide a few comb honey frames into my supers. I mark these frames with a “C”; I have accidently uncapped and have placed them into the extractor with regret! Not so good news, in some of my hives the bees have already taken their honey back under!

 June is busy and exciting. I just returned as guest speaker for the Beekeeper’s Assn. of the Ozarks and June 10-11 I will be in Jefferson City assisting Lincoln University with hands on apiculture education reaching out to university educators, master gardeners, and extension specialists. I will be in great company with one of my favorite educators Jennifer Berry from the University of Georgia, Dr. Ed Spevak, and other experienced beekeepers! June 14 Midwestern will be represented at the Raytown Farmers Market doing demonstrations with our scholarship students. The following week is *National Pollinator’s Week* and we will be at Powell Gardens June 21 at 10:30. We will be there with an observation hive, equipment, Missouri State Honey Queen, Lauren Collins, and our Scholarship Students sharing and promoting our State Insect, The Honey Bee. *7 C’s Winery* will host mead tasting and the whole day is dedicated to the honey bee. Come on down! <https://www.powellgardens.org/pollinators>

 I have inquiries on starting a nucleus, which I use to prevent swarming. It is not too late, they are fun, and can house a queen that you may need in the fall! I do not know why but last year I had numerous reports of failed queens from packages. I will say that June-July is a great time for queen mating flights in Missouri; the weather is more stable and drone population is high allowing for more breeding! Misko Missouri Mutts Method: #1) Order/make your nuc box or buy one premade! #2) Locate your Queen! #3) Relieve congestion in your hive/hives by loading your nuc with a frame containing finished or started swarm cells, another frame of brood, 2 frames of food, and an empty frame! Place your newly assembled nuc next to the parent colony. Now watch the magic begin. Check back; just because you have a capped swarm cell does not guarantee a viable queen for the original queen could have stung that cell.

 June’s Program will be another winner! Linda Hezel has been on my radar for some time to hear and *Extracting* will be a joy with instructions from Jim and Cindy Connell!

Join us early at 6:00 for set up and net working! Happy Honey Supering!

**More Queens Arriving**

For those of you needing queens bring $1 to enter the June Queen Raffle at our meeting. Who knows, you may win an Italian, Carniolan, or a Russian queen.

**Honey Plants**

**Tom Britz**



The days are getting longer and more and more plants are blooming so you know what that means: HONEY FLOW!

This month I picked 3 honey plants to discuss in slight detail; fireweed, lavender and willow.

Fireweed (Chamerion Angustifolium) is a very common plant in North America. It is found in open areas and is especially prevalent where fire has consumed other vegetation. The plant will blossom as long as adequate sunlight and water is available. Fireweed dies back and becomes dormant when over taken by other vegetation. The seeds may remain visible on the surface of the soil for many years. Honey bees get both pollen and nectar from this plant, up to 800 pounds of honey per acre has been reported.

FIREWEED

LAVENDER

WILLOW TREE

Lavender (Lavandula Augustifolia) is a Mediterranean herb and of course is not native to this part of the world. It is an excellent choice of a pollinator of herb garden because of its beautiful flowers and wonderful aroma. It thrives in hot sunny locations, soils that are too damp are detrimental to lavender, and the plant needs to be protected from harsh winter winds (much like our bees). The Varroa Destructor mite does not like the smell of this plant thus aiding in our IPM program. Honey bees get both pollen and nectar from lavender. Lavender will produce 70-120 pounds of honey and up to an astounding 300 pounds of pollen per acre.

Willow trees contain over 400 species found all over North America. Salix Caprea is the sub species we will touch on. Willow trees are very hardy and are most often found in very moist areas often on the bank of a pond. Willow tree pollen is considered to be the absolute best hands down. Willow will produce up to 1500 pounds per acre of pollen alone it is said. Honey production is way down at a mere 150 pounds maximum.

The honey plants are really blooming now. Is it just me or is this year’s white Dutch clover and dandelion crop been exceptional? I’ve noticed the yellow sweet clover is blooming profusely too.

**Midwestern Beekeepers 2014 Meeting dates**

Most meetings are held at the Graceway Church Fellowship Hall, 5460 Blue Ridge Cutoff, Kansas City, MO 64133 Please park on the west side.

Mark your calendars accordingly!

Thursday, July 17, 7:00 pm

Sunday, August 3rd, Picnic place to be determined

Thursday, September 18, 7:00 pm

Thursday, October 23rd, 7:00 pm

Sunday, November 16, 2:30

Sunday, December 7 or 14 2:30

**The Honey Pot**

**By Becky Tipton**

![MCj02412790000[1]]()

 The Doctor of the future will give no medicine, but will involve the patient in the proper use of food, fresh air, and exercise.” Thomas Edison

Well, ol’ Thomas might not be pleased with the “progress” of the medical profession….or maybe the future has not yet arrived. I have recently heard and read several reports of powerful bacteria, resistant to nearly everything, and killing those unfortunate enough to encounter it. I’ve also heard and read accounts of the healing power of honey. Honey is nearly antibacterial. There are only a couple of very rare bacteria that can survive in the thick, acidic, sweet food of the Gods making it an excellent wound and burn dressing.

Dr. Ron Fessenden, author of The Hibernation Diet and The Honey Revolution, will be one of our guest speakers at next week’s Funday. Dr. Ron’s book(s) offer rich food for thought. Honey is the sweetener of choice for diabetics—it combats diabetes. Honey can help you get better sleep, helping both those who tend to wake frequently during the night and those who suffer with restless leg. Honey can help you lose weight and reduce body fat. Honey is excellent for athletes, improving recovery time after strenuous exercise. Metabolic stress and stress related disease can be treated by including honey in your diet. Dr. Ron recommends a spoon of honey at bedtime. I like both of the drinks below for a bedtime treat.

**Orange Juice Frothy**

1 carton plain yogurt (8 oz)

1 small can frozen orange juice concentrate

1 cup cold water

1/3 cup honey

1 ½ tsp vanilla

Ice cubes

Combine the first 5 ingredients in a blender container and blend. Add enough ice cubes to bring the mixture to the 5 cup level—process slowly until frothy. This is supposed to serve 4—or just Steve and I. I like to freeze ripe bananas. Added to this recipe makes it very smooth and rich.

**Life Gave me Lemons**—great for the end of a hard day.

1 cup hot or warm water

1 TBL honey

1 TBL lemon juice—fresh

3 whole cloves

Heat water (very hot if you are making a hot drink, warm if you are making a cold drink). Pour hot water over honey, lemon and cloves. Steep for several minutes. Enjoy as is for a hot, relaxing beverage; pour over a glass of crushed ice for a refreshing, cooling drink.

Looking for a recipe using honey, e-mail me at bstbees@embarqmail.com and I’ll search my cookbooks and try to find what you’re hungry for!

**Books for Beekeepers**

**Phill Levi**

**The Sixth Extinction by Elizabeth Kolbert, 2014**

****This one may not be entirely appropriate. It isn't about bees. It is about many of the various scientists and their theories about what has happened on this mud ball over the last 500 billion years.

 Kolbert is a journalist who writes a very readable as well as informative story. She visits six locations; Gubbio, Iceland, Dob's Linn, Scotland, One Tree Island, Australia, Castello Aragonese, near Naples, Italy and reserve 1202 in Brazil. Her work is necessarily embellished by Entomologists, Herpetologists, Geologists, and a slew of other disciplines to discuss the ice ages, impact theories, earth tilt on its axis, and other details about man, megafauna, bats, global trade and global travel, ocean acidification, monoculture farming, Neanderthals and more.

 I found it a great read.

**Buzz’s Column**



**Dear Buzz:**

I have a question about requeening a hive. We have acquired some hives that belonged to a relative, Bob, who passed away last fall. This man had over 50 years experience as a beekeeper! I loved to spend time with him and ask him questions. It's an honor to have Bob's hives and we want to do everything we can to insure they continue to thrive.

The family was surprised that the bees survived the winter, but they did, and we have moved them 20 miles to our place. Bob's son, who helped his dad with bees, told us that his dad mentioned that the hives would probably need requeening because the queen was two or three years old.

How do you know when to requeen? What time of the year is requeening done? Do you have any other words of wisdom about requeening?

**Buzz Replies:**

Joli and Cecil wish that they had the money to requeen every hive, every year. Requeening with an already mated queen that you have purchased or one that you have raised using queen rearing practices is one of the most important aspects of beekeeping. Your hive is worthless if you do not have a good well mated queen.

It is important to note that when you take a frame of eggs, larvae and brood and put it in a hive you cannot say that you are raising your own queen because you are not. The bees are being forced to use older larva to raise a queen and it has not been fed royal jelly since the very beginning which makes it inferior to start with. It also takes your hive about 50 days to produce a queen this way and by that time many of your hive bees have died, weakening your colony substantially.

16 days for the queen to emerge

10-12 days for her to mate and begin to lay eggs

21 days for the first egg to emerge as a worker bee

Our favorite time to requeen is early in the spring when we are splitting our hives. We find it easiest to requeen smaller colonies. A large hive is too big to get the queen pheromone spread around.

**Words of Wisdom**--

1. Go through your hive to find the old queen –set that frame aside. This is for making a nuc or split. If your hive is small (3-5 frames of brood) you can just kill the old queen—as long as you have a new queen to put in.
2. Introduce your new queen shortly after removing the old queen—some books say to wait 24 hours before introducing the queen but we are never successful doing that.
3. If you think your queen is over 2 years old it is likely that the bees have already superseded her (replaced her themselves). So leave them alone until early next spring.

If you need info on how to make a nuc email Joli and she’ll send an article that was printed earlier.



Above is a frame of brood from what we refer to as our BBQ. We got some queen cells from Bob Burns and put them in some of our nucs, they mated and this is the result. (BBQ Bob Burns Queen) Thank you Bob! Bob raises queens using queen rearing methods that he learned from Marion Ellis who gave several queen rearing workshops in Lincoln NE.

**Dear Buzz:** The past few days I've noticed dead white bee larvae being drug out of one of our two new hives and thrown off the edge. Not many, maybe 10 a day.Has anyone else seen this recently in their hives and can anyone explain what is going on?

I've checked the Internet and the following are the potential reasons I've found.

1. Normal hive maintenance and cleaning. (Can't imagine them throwing away good larvae, but maybe they do.)
2. Bees discard drone larvae at the end of the season since they don't want them in the hive eating honey in the winter. (Maybe they do so in new hives as well, just to cut down on the consumption of limited supplies.)
3. Varroa mites. (I don't think this is the cause, since the hive is new and I don't see any mites on the larvae.)
4. Chalkboard syndrome. Not sure about this one, since it has been damp lately. I don't, however, see how that much moisture could have gotten into
the hive.
5. Foul brood syndrome. Don't really know just what this is other than what I've read.
6. Messed up cells caused by hive inspection. (Most likely the cause, since I did open up the hive to check it out last week end. I had to remove some extraneous comb they were building along the walls of the second super used to hold the feeding tray. They were also building comb on top of the frames of the brood box which I also removed.

So my bet is #6 is the reason, but I would like input from others in the area before ignoring the
other possibilities.

**Buzz Answers:** We are thinking that it is chalkbrood. We have 3 colonies that we saw it in over the weekend.  This cooler, wet weather is perfect for it to flourish, unfortunately.  There isn't much to do about it as it will clear up on its own.  Either the weather needs to clear up or if there was a way to break up the brood cycle so the queen wasn't laying for a few days, that sometimes helps.  We would just let it clear up on its own.

Google MAAREC and choose, bee diseases, chalkbrood for some good pictures--they look like hard pieces of chalk.

 Chalkbrood (MAAREC website)

**Dear Buzz:** Last week I put the first honey super on my hives along with queen excluders.  I checked them yesterday, about a week after.  The bees have not moved up into the honey supers, other than a few (6-8 only).  I know there is a controversy over the use of the excluder in the industry. While doing internet research, I have come across the use of the Imirie shim to create a second entrance above the excluder.  Do you have any opinion of this device?

**Buzz Answers:** John you can try the shim if you want to but usually an upper entrance will mean a lot of pollen in the upper super which is not very desirable.  Usually if your bees are not up in the super it is because the honey flow is not intense or the bees are not ready to move up since there is still room below.  Stop and think about the weather last week--it was cool and rainy so the nectar was not flowing.  They are not storing honey in the rain; they are eating honey so that will make them store more near the brood nest. Give it time.

Buzz would like to take this opportunity to invite you to send your stories to her c/o Joli at the address on the back of *The Buzzer* or via email at joli@heartlandhoney.com. She’ll let me know of any stories you pass on to her.

**How to Receive the Beeline via Email**

**—How to sign up!**

If you would like to receive your *Beeline* by email you must send an email to our membership chairperson, Tanya Fisher at t.fisher@kinglouie.com*.* In the memo line please type “Beeline.” That way Tanya gets the correct email address and can easily add it to her list. Tanya will also be passing around a clipboard at the meeting so that you can sign up there too. So far we only have had 45 sign up! So we are sending out 287 by regular mail. Make sure and add my email address to your address book so that it doesn’t go to your spam, joli@heartlandhoney.com. As we get more email addresses and the list gets larger we may do something else to deliver it to you via email but this is the current plan.

**Information for Beekeepers**

****I frequently hear comments from new beekeepers about how they feel that subscribing to the Beekeeping Magazines is not worth it. That is so wrong! I have kept bees since 1974 and I have never read an issue of either **Bee Culture** or **the American Bee Journal** where I did not learn a lot. Cecil and I frequently have great conversations about some of the articles, mostly because we totally interpret them differently. One of the comments made in the American Bee Journal this month by Wyatt Mangum was priceless. He stated that if your favorite hunting dog ran away and your friend or neighbor caught it—it would still be your dog. He goes on to state that the same holds true if your bees swarm—the swarm still belongs to you. So we have been trying to convince one of our friends that she caught one of our swarms. She’s not going for it.

Below are three informational newsletters from very reliable sources that you can E Scribe to for free.

**Bee Culture’s *Catch the Buzz***

Bee Culture Magazine comes out once a month, but news and information is constant. To get you the very latest information from the world of beekeeping and all the things we touch as fast as possible, ***Catch the Buzz*** came to be. They routinely post articles of interest, news releases and other informational bits and pieces that never make it to the magazine. If you'd like to automatically receive these FREE POSTINGS via email, sign up by filling out the form at beeculture.com.

**Want the Latest News? ABJ E- Newsletter**

Sign up to receive the ABJ (American Bee Journal)
E-Newsletter. They will keep you up to date on the latest news, events and information you need to be a better beekeeper.

#### Walter T. Kelley Co BeeFriend Us

Sign up here for the Kelley Bees newsletter and receive event info and great deals. Go to Kelleybees.com and go to BeeFriend us and enter your email address to receive their newsletter. They also have a great events calendar and a very educational newsletter.

**Beekeeping Magazine Subscriptions**

To receive the American Bee Journal magazine at the discounted club rate mention that you are a member of the Midwestern Beekeepers Association send a check to:

**For American Bee Journal:**

**1 year $21.00**

**2 year $39.75**

**3 year $54.00**

**Send to American Bee Journal,**

**51 S. 2nd St**

**Hamilton IL 62341**

**For Bee Culture Magazine (Note: Bee Culture no longer offers a discount—but it is still a great magazine)**

**1 year $25.00**

**2 years $48.00**

**3 years $69.00**

**Send to: Bee Culture Subscriptions Dept.**

**PO Box 706**

**Medina OH 44258**

**Membership Name Tags**

We have such a large club reaching members within nearly a 100 mile radius and it is a challenge to get to know and remember each other's name.  Name tags are quite official if you are working a farmers market, at a State Meeting, or giving a community presentation.  If you would like to have a name tag with your name, city, our association, and a honey bee logo, we are still taking orders at the back table.  Please p**rint clearly and prepay $8.00.** Hopefully, they can be picked up at the next meeting. (Please check the table to pick up your name tags if you ordered them previously.)

**August Picnic Scholarship Raffle**

As some may have gotten a sneak peek, artist Bobbi Walker designed and donated her original framed “*Bee on a Flower*” to be raffled in support of the Youth Scholarship Program. This beautiful piece has an appraisal of $500. Heartland Honey has donated the woodenware for a *Complete Hive Prize* and Powell Gardens has donated a *Family Membership*! Bring your money for a ticket or two!! We will choose the 3 winners for the drawing at our annual August picnic.

**2014 Northeast KS Beekeeper’s Programs**

All the meetings are at Douglas County Fair Grounds in Lawrence Kansas-unless otherwise noted.

Please note that we have change to the 3rd Monday of the month so that we can have a larger room. We are now meeting in Building 21 North at the Douglas County Fairgrounds

* July 27th, Sunday, Schwinn Barn,17624 Santa Fe Trail, Leavenworth BeeBeeQue –Travels with Robert Burns-Honey Bees in Germany and Bob and Cecil’s Trip to Heitkam’s Queen and Package Bee Operation – Pot Luck Dinner-the club will provide beverages, hotdogs & hamburgers members are asked to bring side dishes and desserts. Arrive at between 1 & 2-eat at 2:00
* August 18, Monday, Building 21 North Honey Judging, IPM, Wax Rendering & Feeding bees
* September No meeting
* October 20th, Monday, 7:00 Bldg 21 North,

Fall Management

* November 17th, Monday, 7:00 Bldg 21 North Cooking with honey & Gifts for the holidays
* December 15th, Monday, 7:00 Building #1 Program to be announced

**NEKBA Funday &**

**Recipe for Honey Ice Cream**

 Those of you who were fortunate enough to attend the Northeast Kansas Beekeeper’s Funday had the good fortune to have some of Becky’s homemade honey ice cream. We promised to print the recipe in the newsletters so that you could make some yourself.

 FYI if you attended the Funday you’ll know that we had just under 300 people. Tom Seeley sent us an email saying that it was the best meeting that he had ever attended! It was certainly high praise for those of that volunteer and work so hard. We were so fortunate to have two of the finest beekeepers at our meeting—I like to think of them as the “gentle souls” of the beekeeping community. I am referring to Dr. Marion Ellis and Dr. Tom Seeley. Several Midwestern members gave presentations, Jim Fisher presented on Beeswax and Missouri State Beekeeper’s Honey Queen, Lauren Collins gave a cooking demonstration and Erin Mullins, Honey Princess, gave a presentation to children titled “The Buzz in Bees.” Stuart Dietz presented on “Moving Bees” and Andy Nowachek presented on “Supering and Removing Honey with Wendy presenting on “Gifts of Honey”. Thank you all for sharing your expertise.

 Mark your calendars for next year, Saturday, June 6th 2015. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Marla Spivak from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Marla Spivak is the true Queen of beekeeping in the United States and perhaps the world. To get a sense of what you might see from Marla check out her incredible TED talk “Why Bees are Disappearing”.

**Becky’s Honey Ice Cream**

There is something very special about the combination of milk and honey—absolutely delightful. Pamper your family or friends with a freezer full of our traditional honey ice cream.

**Honey Ice Cream—with fruit (6 quart)**

6 Cups milk

6 Cups Cream

2 ¼ cups warm honey

pinch salt

3 TBL vanilla

1 quart crushed fruit (strawberries, peaches, etc.)

Combine milk and honey in a large mixing bowl. Add the remaining ingredients—stir. Pour into the freezer can and freeze according to manufacturer’s directions.

**Vanilla Honey Ice Cream**

8 Cups milk

2 ½ to 3 cups honey

8 eggs

pinch salt

8 cups cream

4 TBL vanilla

Heat milk in a saucepan over medium heat. (Don’t boil) Stir in honey and salt. Beat eggs. Stir a small amount of milk/honey into the beaten eggs. Add all the egg mixture to the remaining milk/honey mixture, stirring well. Cook and stir over medium heat about 10 minutes or until the temperature reaches 165°. Cool thoroughly. (I usually make this custard the day before I plan to make the ice cream.) Stir in cream and vanilla. Pour into freezer can and freeze according to manufacturer’s directions.

Honey does a couple of things for the ice cream. It keeps the ice cream a wonderful creamy consistency even after placed in your refrigerator freezer. But, it can also make the ice cream take longer than sugar sweetened ice cream to freeze. You may need to use some extra salt when freezing the ice cream.

**Old Bee Gal**

**By Joli Winer**

****

Let’s talk about the clovers—“the clovers” are the main source of honey in the United States.

 On Sunday we went to our youth scholarship students’ house and as we got out of the truck we were overwhelmed by the clover fragrance. In this case it was the white Dutch clover that smelled so great. White Dutch clover is the earliest in the spring. It is most common in our yards, fields, Airports etc. In moist years it will come back and rebloom after each cutting.



(picture from Minnesota Dept of Natural Resources

The yellow sweet clover starts blooming here about the middle of May and continues until about the middle of June. After about the yellow has been in bloom for about 2 weeks, near the beginning of June the white sweet clover starts to bloom. These two clovers really produce the most honey in the United States. The yellow and white sweet clovers are both biennial which means that they bloom every other year. There are also varieties of sweet clover that are annuals and are valuable honey crops too.

 If you are interested in growing some of your own you can get what is called “pasture mix” and plant that. At one time it was available from Planters Seed near the KC City Market downtown. Usually these are a combination of several varieties of clover. White Dutch, Alsike, Ladino, yellow sweet and white sweet clover and sometimes has trefoil. If you are just planting clover look for the Hubam variety as it is particularly good for the honey bees. Hairy and purple vetches are sometimes included and are readily worked by the bees.

 The yellow and white sweet clover are introduced species from Europe and are now considered a noxious weed so

 Red clover is the exception to this rule. The bees are not able to reach the nectar because the flower corollas are too deep. Crown vetch is another plant that some think that the bees work however they do not work this plant either.

 Another great honey plant is alfalfa. In the western part of the state where it is raised for seed it is more of a honey plant than here. Around our part of the state it is planted for hay so it is cut a ¼ bloom.

It produces a cloudy, light good tasting honey. However, it is usually cut before the bees can get much out of it---Unless it has rained and the farmers cannot get in to mow. Bad for the farmer but good for the beekeeper!

 As we drive around we are seeing yellow sweet clover in certain areas. In places it is quite abundant in others, where it should be, it is non-existent! We just can’t predict what kind of honey flow we will have this year.

With the Bees this month--

This time of year there is what is called, by me, the common milkweed syndrome. The flower parts of the milkweed are very sticky. You may see bees walking around in the hive with flower parts (pollenia) on their feet. We have also seen the bees with long flower parts stuck to their mouth parts. This is quite common. There have also been reports of bees and other insects stuck on the flowers for good.

This week our Basswood tree is in bloom. We have two of these trees both given to us by beekeepers. One was from Randy Knotts when we moved into our house in 1990 and one from Robert Burns, many years ago. Walking up to them is like smelling something heavenly. The bees were all over it. Basswood produces a very light colored kind of mild tasting honey. The other tree is our Golden Rain trees. Bright yellow blossoms played host to thousands of bees while we watched!! I had never noticed the fragrance before but it was quite fragrant.

 When thinking of adding honey plants to your landscape don’t forget about the honey producing trees.

**Tips for June**

* Check supers/add supers. Move partially capped frames to the outer edges of the super and unfilled frames to the center to encourage even filling.
* Make hive stands that hold 2 hives but only put one colony on it. Use the empty half when you remove supers instead of the ground—it keeps your supers cleaner and saves your back a little lifting.
* Think about getting entries ready for the fair and the club picnic.
* Mow in front of your hives so the bees will have an easy time getting back with their loads of honey.
* Get your comb honey supers ready to put on
* Weed eat around the entrance to your hive—we had a bunch of roof shingles left over and we’ve been putting those down in front of our hives and that is really keeping the grass down on the yards we’ve used them in.
* Watch out for poison ivy and ticks— The ticks are awful this year
* Keep those honey supers on! Keep ahead of the game.

**Future Beekeeping Events**

**Events listed by date**

* **July 10-12, 2014HeartlandApicultural Society meeting, Carbondale IL Southern Illinois University for information heartlandbees.com**
* **October 17th & 18th, 2014 Friday and Saturday, Kansas Honey Producers Fall Meeting, Wichita KS Gary and Ginger Reuter, guests khpa.org**
* **October 24 & 25th, 2014 Missouri State Beekeepers Meeting, Jefferson City MO mostatebeekeepers.org**
* **October 25 & 26th, 2014 Saturday & Sunday Mother Earth News Fair, Topeka KS**
* **Saturday June 6th, 2015 NEKBA Funday, Dr. Marla Spivak guest speaker**