



## Blowing Smoke

By Bob Williams, President

Hi Folks, Fall and Winter management are critical. Now is the time you should make sure that you have strong hives. Combine weaker hives with stronger hives, check their food stores, check your mite loads and treat if necessary, install entrance reducers and mouse guards, insure proper ventilation, and feed with 2:1 sugar to water syrup, sugar patties or candy boards. If you are feeding sugar syrup, make sure you keep up with it. You will know when to stop feeding because they will stop taking it.

At the October General Meeting, Daphne Mayes, presented "Buzz About Bees." Daphne is a graduate student at KU focusing on wild native bees, their habitat, life cycle, and contribution to our food supply. While she did speak about honey bees, the presentation largely targeted non-Apis species. She also provided a Midwest Plant list and several links that may interest our members. The Midwest Plant list and the Bug Guide are available on our website, under the resources tab, along with another link that she provided, <https://xerces.org>. Thank you Daphne Mayes!

Midwestern Beekeepers Association held a Fall Beginning Beekeeping Workshop on October 28th, at the Fleming Park Meeting Hall. I would like to thank Robert Hughes, of Jordy's Honey, and Tom Britz for teaching the workshop. I would also like to thank all the folks who helped organize, set up registration and paypal, provide food and drinks, and setup and cleanup for the workshop. Their names are Tom and Janice Britz, Jim and Cindy Connell, Michelle Williams, Steve and Debbie DeCaigney, Terry and Harold Wright, Melody Armstrong, Phil Duncan, Dennis Culpepper, John Martin, and Wes Johnston. It takes a lot people to volunteer their help for the workshop in order to provide an enjoyable experience. I believe a good time was had by all. Thank you again.



We have received the 2018 native pollinator calendars created by Eugene Makovec, a Missouri beekeeper. They can be purchased at the General Meeting for \$15. They are great looking calendars and all proceeds benefit the Youth Scholarship Fund.

At the November 19th General Meeting, we will have a round table discussion about what you would like to see presented at the meetings, so bring your suggestions. We will also hold our annual election of officers. The Q&A session for beginning beekeepers starts at 2:00PM. Come join us, it'll be fun!!!



## Coming Up

SUNDAY, NOV 19, 2017

NOVEMBER

GENERAL MEETING

Bass Pro Shop

Independence MO

2:00 PM

Q&A Session for

Beginning Beekeepers

2:30 PM

General Meeting



November 30, 2017

2018 Youth Scholarship

Applications Due

[midwesternbeekeepers.org/  
youth-scholarship-2](http://midwesternbeekeepers.org/youth-scholarship-2)



SUNDAY, DEC 17, 2017

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Bass Pro Shop

Independence MO

2:30 PM

Meat, Bread, and Drink  
will be provided, please  
bring a dish to share.



Renew your 2018 membership  
by January 1, 2018

[www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/  
2016/11/join/](http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/2016/11/join/)



## Welcome New Members

By Terry Wright



## Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day

Denise Kiehnhoff, Wathenam KS  
Traci Gosnell, Richmond MO  
Lauren Hudson, Lee's Summit MO  
John House, Kansas City MO  
Shelly Leffingwell, Kansas City MO  
Andy Johnson, Lone Jack MO  
Mark Manville, Edgerton KS  
Wendy Leif, Lathrop MO  
Adam Kush, Holt MO  
Desiree Libeer, Holt MO  
Kathy Manville, Edgerton KS  
Nick Martin, Parkville MO  
Marc Spencer, N. Kansas City MO  
Amy Harris, Kansas City MO  
Nate Harris, Kansas City MO  
Wesley Revels, St. Joseph MO  
Grant Fischer, Belton MO  
Christopher Hockaday, Greenwood MO  
Robert Hardt, Overland Park KS  
Nancy Burford, Lee's Summit MO  
Brian Bartch, Kansas City MO  
Joseph Shost, Kansas City MO  
Marielaina Carney, Blue Springs MO  
Russell Sullivan, Belton MO  
Becky Schauwecker, Kansas City MO  
Roy Schauwecker, Kansas City MO  
Tammy Thompson, Platte City MO  
Caroline Henbest, Kansas City MO  
Sarah Fields, Kansas City MO  
Scott Burford, Lee's Summit MO  
Robert Pryor, Booneville MO  
Debbie Cothran, Pleasant Hill MO  
AJ Ali, Grain Valley MO  
Sam McDowell, Prairie Village KS

## Midwestern Beekeepers Name Tags

Magnetic bar or pin back clasps available. \$8 each with proceeds going to Youth Scholarship.

Where has the time gone? It feels like just last week I was extracting honey and preparing to leave for college. Now it's November, midterm grades are out, and at this point, your hive preparations for the next 4 months should be complete. Underweight hives should have been fed, your hives checked and, if necessary, treated for mites, removed excess hive bodies, and reduced or wired the entrance to keep mice and robber bees out. The feeding has stimulated the queen to lay new eggs that turn into new workers and your hive numbers are strong with mostly young bees, as these are the bees that will live for the next 4 months.

Right now, an average size hive should be a cluster size somewhere at or larger than the size of a soccer ball. It should have at least 2 deep (3 medium) hive bodies well filled with bees and food. The top box mostly filled with food stores. The goal is to have about 60-90 pounds of food stores, or else you will need to supplement through the winter with fondant or moist white granular sugar.

Your hive provides a dry, adequately ventilated home for the bees. I have successfully wintered bees with screened bottom boards. The choice is yours and the debate is never ending. I also provide a top exit for air. Either by using some popsicle sticks on the inner cover to slightly raise the outer cover or have a sugar board with a couple 1/4 inch holes in it. I highly suggest a quilt box or some type of air exit at the top of the hive.

The cluster moves almost always straight up, so frames with honey along either side are almost never consumed unless the width of the cluster brings them in contact with the frame. A smaller cluster may be drawn to one side or the other due to sun radiant energy on the south side of a hive or a second hive being immediately next to the subject hive. Radiant heat can be transferred through the two walls of the adjoining hives and both clusters will be drawn to that shared side of the hive. This isn't always a good thing because the hive could get drawn to one side then if the weather gets cold the cluster will not move back over to the middle where the major food is stored.

The keys to cluster survival are a dry space with ventilation to allow moisture to be driven off and constant contact with a food source. Larger clusters can cover or stay in contact with larger parts of the food source in the hive and can therefore survive longer periods of cold and that may keep a cluster from moving during that time. During extreme cold, the cluster may be able to access stores above due to the heat from the cluster warming this space.

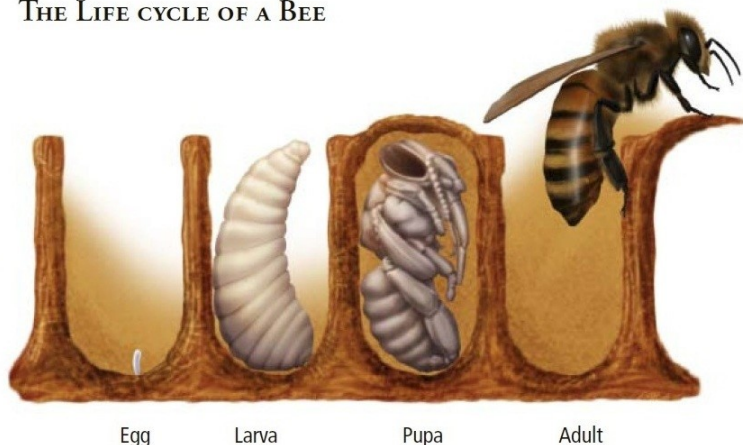
The periodic warm spells allow you the opportunity to visually access the health of your hive and provide emergency food. You can open the top and look into the hive on these warmer days. Do not remove frames or break the seals between boxes unless there is a dire reason. If you do break seals, consider wrapping the hive after you put it back together to prevent wind from penetrating between the boxes. On these warmer days when the bees can fly, observe each hive and notice if there are differences. Check hives that have less activity by lifting the backs and comparing their weight to other hives.

These lesser active hives may need food or you may wrap this hive to help insulate this smaller cluster. I always like to wrap my hives in black tar paper to help them warm, but with this, the hive has a greater chance of eating more and you will need good ventilation. You can periodically check your bees in colder weather by putting your ear to the hive box and gently tapping on the boxes and listen for the buzz. If no buzz, your hive has died. Inspections need to be brief, limited, and infrequent if the last inspection was positive. I usually tap on my hives two to three times a month but only actually open the hive once a month, unless I know I need to be doing something. I wish everyone luck with overwintering your hives! If they don't make it through winter I hope you do not give up. Beekeeping always has its challenges and you must face them head on. Learn from the mistakes and try again. Failures are only learning experiences that you can use next year. As always, if you have any questions you can contact me at [kyle.day.1999@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.day.1999@gmail.com).

### November Quick Tips List

- Sugar syrup should be 2 parts sugar to 1 part water. As it gets cold you will need to switch to wintering feeding with fondant or candy boards.
- 60 to 90 lbs. of honey or syrup in storage is the rule of thumb for the average two deep box (3 mediums) hive here in Missouri.
- Add entrance reducers and or mouse guards for your entrances.
- Hives should be exposed to the sun with entrances facing away from prevailing winds.
- Hives should slope slightly toward the entrance to allow excess water to drain out. Insure you have good ventilation but not direct drafts from prevailing winds.
- Upper ventilation holes to allow humid air to flow out helps with the bees regulating their environment.
- Start preparing for next season. Clean up around beehives, start considering equipment, bees, and other supplies (talk with the local bee suppliers they have a lot of good deals and great products) for next Spring. It's better to have them ordered early, before things sell out. Read books, magazines, articles, etc. Beekeeping is always changing and there are continually new things to learn.

THE LIFE CYCLE OF A BEE



## 2018 MBA Election November 19th General Meeting

### 2018 Midwestern Beekeepers Association Officer Nominees

#### **President**

Phil Duncan

#### **1st Vice President/Programs**

Dennis Culpepper

#### **2nd Vice President/Membership**

Terry Wright

#### **3rd Vice President/Editor:**

Janice Britz

#### **Secretary**

Cindy Connell

#### **Treasurer**

Robert Scott

#### **Auditor**

Robert Burns

#### **1st Board Member**

Debbie DeCaigney

#### **2nd Board Member**

Steve DeCaigney

#### **3rd Board member**

Harold Wright

#### **Webmaster**

Bob Williams

#### **Librarian**

John Martin

### 2018 Midwestern Beekeepers Association Appointed Positions

#### **Youth Scholarship**

Nita Dietz

#### **Hospitality**

Michelle Williams

#### **Honey Plants**

Luanne Oneal

#### **Urban Liaison**

Ezekiel Amador III



## Market Place



## Honey Plants By Luanne Oneal

### Crooked Hill Beekeeping, LLC.

Bill and Tammy George

19133 LIV 355

Chillicothe, MO 64601

(660)214-0132

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

Open by appointment most days. Store is located on our farm; early, late and weekend hours are available.

Packaged bees and NUCs available in the spring. Locally manufactured high quality woodenware in stock.

We offer a complete line of beekeeping supplies and equipment. Including: Woodenware (assembly and painting available), frames, foundation, smokers, tools, bee suits, Bug Bafflers, veils, books, feed supplements, honey containers, extracting equipment, NUC boxes, materials to build your own hives.



### Jordy's Honey

Robert Hughes

12333 Wedd Street

Overland Park, KS 66213

913-681-5777

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

Monday through Friday 8 am to 6pm

Weekends by appointment.

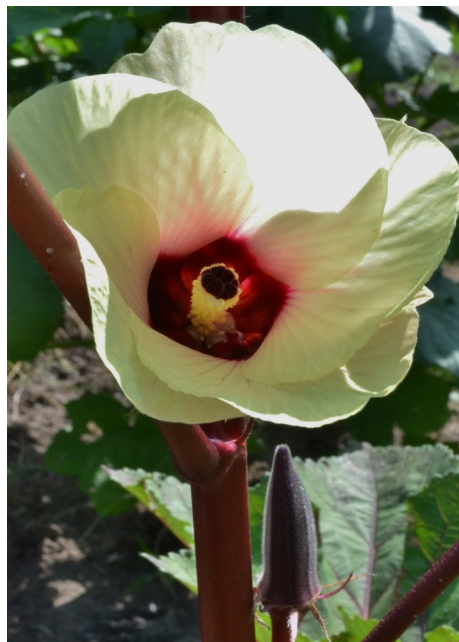
Please call in advance so we can have your supplies ready when you arrive. We carry a full line of beekeeping supplies. Bee hives, supers, frames, foundation, honey containers, smokers, beekeeping books, queens, packaged bees and much more.



### Jim Fisher 816-918-6648

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

Midwestern Beekeepers Association Page 4



"Okra Blossom"  
photo by Luanne Oneal

As far as honey plants go, things are on the skimpy side. A few garden blooms and meadow plants are still hanging on. I didn't take the time to research but I wonder how the cooler temperatures affect the nectar and pollen production? Even though I have several beds of flowers the bees are much more interested in the containers, utensils and cappings I put out after extraction. (A side note on extraction clean up-we finally caught on to the importance of adding the reducers after removing supers and then putting out the sticky vessels. Robbing, if any, was minimal or not happening.)

It's not too late to consider a pollinator plot. Many perennial seeds require a period of moist cold weather before germination can take place.

I hope it was a good beekeeping season for you. If you are like me, the losses experienced are only a temporary set back; they prove to be excellent teachers.



Community America Credit Union Transactions for the Month of September 2017	
Bank Balance as of August 31, 2017	\$ 9,508.63
Total Receipts Deposited	513.00
Total Expenses Paid (-\$ 40.38 Pending)	-383.18
Interest on Savings & Checking Account	.39
Bank Balance as of September 30, 2017	\$ 9,638.84

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



## Youth Scholarship

By Nita Dietz



## Conferences & Events

Applications are now being accepted for the 2018 Youth Scholarship Program. Applications must be postmarked by November 30th, 2017. The scholarships will be awarded following the January 2018 General Meeting. Applications may be downloaded here: <http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/youth-scholarship-2>.

To be eligible, the applicant must:

- Be between the ages of 10 and 18 by February 1st of the Award Year.
- Be a resident of Missouri.
- Be currently enrolled in public, private, or home school.
- Have permission to apply from a parent or guardian.
- Have no immediate family members who are currently beekeepers.

There are two awards that may be given:

### The Youth Scholarship Award

- A two-year MBA membership.
- A beginning beekeeper seminar and textbook
- A complete set of woodenware for a beehive.
- A nucleus colony or package of bees for the hive.
- Basic beekeeping gear: hat, veil, gloves, hive tool, and bee smoker.
- Mentoring by a MBA member for one year.

### The Apis Award

- A MBA membership.
- A beginning beekeeper seminar and textbook.
- Mentorship sessions in an apiary with a beekeeper.

We encourage you to tell someone you know who may have an interest in the Youth Scholarship Program and to consider being a mentor to one of our Youth Scholarship students.

January 9-13, 2018  
2018 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Trade Show  
Grand Sierra Resort  
Reno, Nevada  
[abfconference.com](http://abfconference.com)



March 2-3, 2018  
Missouri State Beekeepers Association  
Spring Learning Event  
Warrensburg, Missouri  
<http://mostatebeekeepers.org/>



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



## Dr. Meghan Milbrath MSBA Keynote Speaker

## 2017 Missouri State Beekeepers Association Award Winners



**“The most important thing is to talk to people and work with someone who is already keeping bees really well.” – Dr.**

**Meghan Milbrath**

Dr. Meghan Milbrath began working bees with her father as a child over 20 years ago, and now owns and manages The Sand Hill Apiary, a small live-stock and queen rearing operation in Munith, Michigan. READ MORE

HERE: [http://](http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/pollinationpodcast/2017/06/12/meghan-milbrath/)

[blogs.oregonstate.edu/](http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/pollinationpodcast/2017/06/12/meghan-milbrath/)

[pollinationpodcast/2017/06/12/](http://pollinationpodcast/2017/06/12/meghan-milbrath/)

[meghan-milbrath/](http://pollinationpodcast/2017/06/12/meghan-milbrath/)

In March of 2016, Dr. Milbrath was a guest blogger for The Bee Informed Partnership, addressing “Why did my honeybees die?—Learning to Identify a common cause of Winter Death in Northern Climates.” <https://beeinformed.org/2016/03/08/why-did-my-honey-bees-die/>

If you search out the Michigan Pollinator Initiative, you can find Dr. Milbrath’s informative PDF download “Planning For Varroa.” <https://pollinators.msu.edu/resources/beekeepers/planning-for-varroa/>. In that same post of March 2017, Dr. Milbrath wrote, “We are in the middle of an epidemic of varroa mites (Varroa destructor). Varroa mites damage developing honey bees and transmit a number of deadly viruses, often leading to colony death.”



### 2017 MSBA Award Winners

State Fair  
Volunteer  
Amy Giffen

Jr BeeKeeper  
of the Year  
Kyle Day

Mentor of the Year  
Bill and Tammy George

Lifetime Achievement  
Roger Nichols

Volunteer  
of the Year  
Jeff Jungk



President Clayton Lee  
Presenting  
Roger Nichols  
with the Lifetime Achievement Award

Photos by Dan Lake, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/msbainfo/>



Presenter Cathy Misko with  
Mentors of the Year  
Tammy and Bill George

***Congratulations!***

Congratulation to all the Midwestern Beekeepers Association members who won MSBA awards.



## 2018 Missouri Honey Ambassador awarded to MBA's Kyle Day



Dear Midwestern Beekeepers Association,

I would like to thank you for your sponsorship of me as the 2018 Missouri Honey Ambassador, as it is a great honor for me to hold this position for this next year. But, most importantly, thank you for all you have done for me. There are so many people I would like to thank personally. If it wasn't for the present and past association officers and all the members of this association, I would have never gotten this far and my passion for beekeeping wouldn't be as strong as it is. This association gave me the chance to become a beekeeper and the knowledge and equipment it took for me to start my beekeeping journey through the Youth Scholarship program back in 2014. And, I was able to then pass it on by mentoring youth scholarship recipients, write monthly articles, and present at classes and meetings. Without this association, I would have never been able to get this award or be as good of a beekeeper as I am today, and I would have never gotten the opportunity to mentor and teach others about beekeeping. This association has helped me create a passion to help and teach others and because of that, I am planning a career as an Agricultural Educator to teach agricultural education to the generations to come. I will never be able to thank everyone who has helped me through this journey enough. I am proud to say that I am a member of this association and I thank you for helping my generation find a passion for beekeeping.

Sincerely,

Kyle Day

2018 Missouri Honey Ambassador

<https://www.facebook.com/MSBAMBASSADOR/>



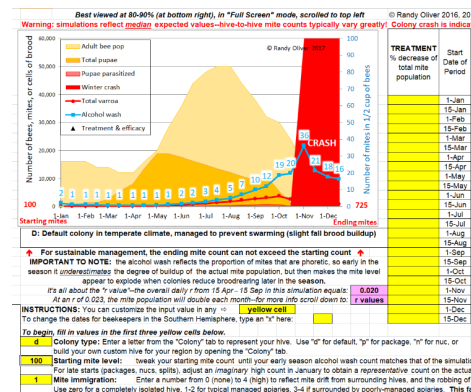
**Kyle Day**  
**Junior Bee Keeper of the Year**  
With Kyle are his parents  
Andy and Roylynn Day



Bees in our Language

- She is busy as a bee. *She's really active and busy.*
- I'm making a beeline to the beach. *I'm going directly to the beach, in a hurry.*
- She's the queen bee. *She is the boss.*
- Our new food blender is the bee's knees. *It's the best in its class.*
- My mother has a bee in her bonnet about the party. *She is very excited.*
- Don't ask me, I'm just a worker bee. *I have no authority. Go ask the "queen bee."*
- My uncle is a drone. He has not worked in years. *He lives on the labors of others, like drone bee.*

## Randy Oliver of Scientific Beekeeping Releases Varroa Model



"I feel that our industry and research community has long needed a useful, accurate, and user-friendly varroa population model—so I spent a year of early mornings and weekends creating this one. You can use this model to predict what sort of mite management strategy will work in your area.

For Joe Beekeeper, the model is easy to use (see above) you simply type inputs into the three yellow cells to the left to see whether your colony is likely to crash. In order to avoid such a crash, you can then apply one or more

"treatments" (percent mite reductions) into any yellow cell to the right—each time you click on another cell or hit "enter," the model instantly runs a new simulation. By this method, you can test various mite management strategies at your computer."—Randy Oliver, Scientific Beekeeping.

To download the model and to view the tutorials on how to use the varroa model, check out Randy's website here:

<http://scientificbeekeeping.com/randys-varroa-model/>



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Terry Wright

9203 South Litchford

Grain Valley MO 64029

**General Meeting**  
**Sunday, November 19, 2017**

**Bass Pro Shop**  
**Independence MO**

**2:00 PM**

**Q&A Session for**  
**Beginning Beekeepers**

**2:30 PM**

**General Meeting**

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

Membership dues are \$15 per year for an individual, prorated for new members after July 1st to \$7.50. Family membership available. Membership is open to all people interested in beekeeping and entitles you to our monthly newsletter, free 30 day loan of books from our extensive library, discounts on bee journals, the right to free non-commercial advertising in the newsletter, plus the opportunity to attend our informative monthly meetings.

Members of Midwestern Beekeepers Association can advertise for free in the newsletter! Commercial Vendors may advertise for \$25 per year plus your annual or lifetime membership. Contact the editor to place your ad.



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



Membership/Renewal



MidwstnBeekprsA



Midwestern Beekeeper's  
Association



Midwestern Beekeepers  
Association  
Members Closed Group