

# THE BEE LINE

**THE BEE LINE IS THE  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
OF THE MIDWESTERN  
BEEKEEPERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**VOLUME 67 • NUMBER 10**

**Membership dues are \$15  
per year. (Jan 1 – Dec 31)**

**New members joining after  
July 1 may do so for \$7.50**

**We also encourage our  
members to join the  
Missouri State Beekeepers  
Association for \$15 per  
year.**

**Membership is open to all  
people interested in  
beekeeping and entitles you  
to:**

- **Monthly Newsletter**
- **Free 30-day loan of  
books from our library**
- **Discounts on Bee Journals**
- **Right to free (non-  
commercial)  
advertising in the  
newsletter**
- **Monthly Meetings**

**Visit our website:  
[www.midwesternbeekeepers.org](http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org)**

**Like Midwestern Beekeeper's  
Association on Facebook**

**Follow us on Twitter  
@MidwstnBeekprsA**

**In case of inclement weather  
on the day of a meeting,  
please check one of the above  
or call an officer.**

## Wisps of Smoke

*By Cathy Misko*



Burrrrrrr! As I type, our first freeze warnings are posted! The wind is howling reminding us to assure wind breaks for our hives. I am still feeding sugar syrup making sure the colonies have enough stores (65 pounds) for winter. This week will be warm enough for the bees to break cluster and move food around. Last year I learned from other beekeepers to feed liquid feed early and to not just rely on a candy

board. Candy boards are only to be used as an emergency feed in the coldest of winter when the bees are trapped against the inner cover. It is our responsibly as good stewards to assure that the bees start winter in the lower box with plenty of honey stores above them....lessons in the losing!

Thank you, Tom O'Neill for sharing your many years of experience of *Fall Beekeeping Management* last month. Questions/answers abounded! All walked away with something new I am sure. I also want to extend how warming it was to see our REAP barrel over flow with items to help those in need of assistance. A little from each

of us helps so many; I hope such kindness is returned to you!

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the Mo State Meeting; I hope that you gleaned new information and ideas. The State is having a changing of the guard contributing to new leadership

and ideas which can keep things fresh and I say "helps make the world go round!" I returned with more equipment from vendors for I got to shop with a "hands on" approach. I even loaded up a new extractor that I am excited to use to make my life easier next year! I brought back

some 2015 Beekeeping Calendars so be sure to get yours at the back table for \$15. Many of us got to have a taste of Cory Steven's *Queen Rearing* whom is planning on a class in our neck of the woods this spring. Grant Gillard's quote has stuck with me from his *Sustainable Beekeeping* talk, "nothing important merely just happens."

I glowed with pride at the Queen Banquet when I listened to the 2014 Mo State Honey Queen give her final farewell speech. Honey Queen Lauren Collins started out with beekeeping as one of Midwestern first Youth Scholarship Students and she has

***Final checks are calling  
me to make sure that  
my bees are still in the  
bottom brood chamber,  
mouse guards tight,  
fresh Beetle Blasters are  
placed, 3/8 inch stick  
under the lid for  
ventilation, and top  
boxes are heavy with  
food. -Cathy***

*Continued from Page 1*

proved to be a remarkable young lady and beekeeper representing us with much grace and knowledge. We hope the best for your future and "Thank you Lauren."

Final checks are calling me to make sure that my bees are *still* in the bottom brood chamber, mouse guards tight, fresh Beetle Blasters are placed, 3/8 inch stick under the lid for ventilation, and top boxes are heavy with food.

Except for the nucs, I leave my screened bottom boards open for my hives do not sit high off of the ground. If you have not checked your hives for queens then you better on your next warm day for I am getting numerous reports of queen failure. The only suggestion I can give this time of year if you do not miraculously have an extra queen, combine your hives using the paper method. Place the weaker hive on top of the stronger hive with a piece of paper laid smoothly between the colonies. Make one-two thin slits in the paper and allow the bees to chew through and mingle. It usually just takes 24-48 hours and then you can remove the paper. Think about the timing of this maneuver for you are looking at two mature colonies which should be set up for winter. I personally would go out to the hives early in the morning when the bees are mostly clustered below (otherwise one would want to remove unused frames replacing with used.) Smoker smoking, if possible, remove the surplus food boxes so that I could

combine the brood chambers together. Transfer carefully to avoid shaking bees off the cluster. I would place the honey filled supers back on top. After combining the 2 brood chambers I would recheck on a warm day to relocate brood frames in the bottom, food to the sides and on top. You may still have enough food for a third box and extra honey stores to share with other hives! Top feed if you do not have enough winter stores. Make sure you have beetle blasters in place and bank on an early split!!!

I am looking forward to November's program addressing *Propolis*. It is true that the bee hive can be a medicine cabinet in your own back yard. As we learn more to be good stewards of the bees we additionally learn how to take advantage of their resources. Example, recently a beekeeper wanted me to see his wife's wound. I gave them some *Medihoney* from my Educational Outreach supplies and encouraged a revisit to her doctor. *Medihoney* ([www.dermasciences.com](http://www.dermasciences.com)) is an irradiated medical- grade honey derived from the nectar of Manuka tree used for ulcers, burns, infections, and wounds. Honey has antimicrobial properties but Manuka honey is considered having higher properties. His wife later learned that she had MRSA and her physician recommended *Medihoney* which is now covered by insurance and is used to treat MRSA. Sometimes it takes research a while to catch up to peoples' experiences in life.

***Remember we meet on Sundays now with Daylight Saving Time. Join us early at 1:30 for networking and set up....Cathy***

### **Bylaw Adjustments/Amendments**

The following is the result of our January 19<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Bylaw Amendments.

Bylaw Amendments are to be posted in advance of the general membership vote. Please read and be prepared to vote upon these updated amendments at our November meeting.

### **Article IV: Officers and Elections**

**Section 6:** Chairs of Standing Committees shall have a voice and vote at Board Meetings.

### **Article VII: STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

#### **Section 1: Nominating Committee**

- A. Shall be a body of three members or more (if in odd numbers) elected by the membership at the July meeting each year.

#### **Section 6: Youth Scholarship Program Committee**

- G. The Chair shall be appointed in October of preceding year.

### **Article VIII: Membership and Fees**

#### **Section 6: Membership dues shall be**

- B. \$200 for any individual wishing to be a life-time member

## General Meeting & Program

Sunday, November 16, 2014, 2:30 pm

### ***THE BENEFITS OF USING PRODUCTS FROM THE HIVE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND OVERALL BETTER HEALTH***

Presented by Dasha Adzhigirey

**Election of 2015 Officers and Bylaw Amendments Vote**

Graceway Church Fellowship Hall

5460 Blue Ridge Cutoff, Kansas City MO

Our General Meetings change with the time- so November through March of 2015 we will meet on Sunday afternoons, starting at 2:30 pm

Sunday, November 16th at 2:30pm at Graceway in the Fellowship Hall downstairs, we will have a program from Dasha Adzhigirey, a general manager at Bee Technologies, a Lee's Summit based family business. She will be sharing with us the benefits of using products from the hive for disease prevention and overall better health. Her family started this business 14 years ago, after moving here from Russia. Her father is a professional beekeeper and her mother is a biochemist and self-studied herbalist. This program should be a fascinating journey of simple but extremely effective ideas of how to use bee products such as propolis in everyday living!

We start setting up the room at 1:30- feel free to come early and experience some time to chat before the meeting starts! Don't forget to bring a donation for REAP!



## **Nuc Box Orders**

Stuart and Nita Dietz are now taking orders for the EZ Nuc which can be viewed at [www.jesterbee.com](http://www.jesterbee.com) and you can also view a YouTube assembly.

A sample box will be available at the Nov. Meeting. With a goal of 300 boxes we will have a group rate of \$9 each. Be prepared to place your orders and pre pay at the back table. You may make checks out to Midwestern Beekeepers Assn. Delivery is estimated around the first of the year. When not in use these boxes can be miraculously stored "flat" saving much needed space!!!!

---

**Midwestern Beekeepers will be hosting an Open Meeting at Bass Pro on MONDAY December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm!**

This will be an evening open to members to share your ideas, gadgets and any cost saving tips you may have! Come and join in- the floor is yours! Please note- this is NOT our General Meeting- Bass Pro dates are used as an overflow time for our members!

**Next General meeting will be at Graceway Church on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm.** The general meeting for December will be Awards, Stories, Feasting and 2015 Officer Installation program! Plan to bring dessert, cookies or snacks to share! Busy, Busy month for all- so mark your calendars! Monday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> at Bass Pro and Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> at Graceway!

## 2015 Board of Directors and Officer Bios

As we look to 2015 it is that time again to elect new officers and appoint committee chairs. Here are some brief bios to give you a peek into the lives of those who have agreed to serve this association in support of the honey bee and the beekeeping industry. Thank you volunteers!

**Cathy Misko: (President)** Privileged to be the mother of 8 and enjoying 2 grandchildren, I reside on a hobby farm with my physician husband of 34 years. I manage an average of 20 colonies and have served MBA for 7 years through the offices of Secretary, Youth Scholarship Chair, and now President. 25 years ago "God sent a swarm of bees" which officially started my adventure of "keeper of the bees." My appreciation, respect, fascination, and knowledge concerning this tiny amazing animal continue.

**Laura Fish: (Programs)** Pete and I are in our 4th year of beekeeping. The first 2 years I was as much hands on as he was. Due to my work schedule recently I am a lot less hands on but - I go see the girls as often as I can!! I do research and reading and love to talk to others about their experiences!

**Tanya Fisher: (Membership Chair)** My husband Jim and I have been members of Midwestern for 10 years. In that time, I have served 8 years as Hospitality Chairperson and Membership Chairperson for 5 years. We have been Missouri State Fair Grand Champions the last 5 years. We have mentored scholarship students and numerous new beekeepers.

**Janice Britz: (Publicity Chair/Editor)** I took the new beekeeper's class in 2010 after my husband, Tom, began keeping bees the year before. I

initially was only interested in the processing of honey but as I began getting into the hive I found the bees fascinating. Each passing year has been a learning experience and increased my respect for the hive. In my professional years, I worked as a legal secretary and recently retired as a Shelter Insurance agent in Harrisonville, MO. I am happy to contribute to our association by way of the newsletter. Tom and I have 3 grown children and 6 grandchildren.

**Cindy Connell: (Secretary)** My husband Jim and I got involved with bees purely by accident. Jim cut down a tree filled with bees and after some encouragement from a beekeeper in the area we decided to join in the crusade to save the little insects. That was 5 years ago when we went to our first meeting, took our first beginning beekeeper class, and had our first hive. We work as a team with the bees mainly because what one forgets the other usually remembers. I've been Secretary of the club for 2 years now and still learn new things at every meeting from fellow members and the great educational programs. Life is a learning experience.

**Wes Johnston: (Treasurer)** I have been involved in beekeeping for the past 5 years, with my wife Wanda, since we both retired from Federal employment. We currently have five hives and two nucleus colonies. Our first beginning beekeeping class was given by Great Plains Growers Conference in St. Joseph, MO. Our first hive came after I built a bee vacuum to capture a feral hive that had become a nuisance for my aging mother-in-law. We are members of eight different beekeeping organizations throughout the region.

We have traveled to conferences in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Tennessee, and of course Missouri. We are very interested in queen rearing and sustainable beekeeping. We are organizing a Queen Rearing Program with Cory Stevens set for May 2, 2015. We are both involved with Missouri State Beekeepers Association. We enjoyed helping at the Missouri State Fair Booth in 2013, 2014 and looking forward to 2015.

**Tom O'Neill: (Librarian)** I had bees for a couple of years when I was a kid in Fla. We moved out of state so the bees had to go. After High School I spent 30 years in the Air Force, retiring in 1996 and starting bees again in 1997. I usually keep between eight and ten hives. I've been the Librarian for three years now I think. I've had the chance to work with several new beekeepers in our local area and that's fun helping someone else get started in this hobby that gets out of control.

**Dean Sanders: (1<sup>st</sup> Board Member and Mo State Liaison)** I've been a beekeeper 24 years and owe credit to a hive I rescued from a concrete form. I have served 15 years as the MO State Beekeeper's State Fair Chair and enjoy getting together with people and meeting new beekeepers. I love watching the bees working in and out of the hive. "Bees are better therapy than a fish tank!"

**Steve De Caigney: (2<sup>nd</sup> Board Member)** Inspired by the sweetness of honey and wanting more I have been beekeeping along with my wife Debbie for 5 years. We started with 3 hives and lost all three the first year. We bought 3 more and now have 19 hives!!

**Terry O'Bryan: (3<sup>rd</sup> Board Member)** I live in Pleasant Valley Mo. I have been a bee keeper for over 6 years under the mentorship of Roger Nichols. I own a farm and am CEO of AustinO Farms LLC. I manage row crops, cattle, bee hives and do full time deer and wildlife management. I specialized in IT and have been employed at the VA Medical Center for 34 years. I run from 25 to 50 hives in Platte, Clay and Ray County. I'm a honey producer and seller.

**Cheryl Westra: (Webmaster/Social Media)** Always interested in bees, I was encouraged by my husband and Lynn Cheatum to finally jump in over 10 years ago. I've kept a hive or two in my backyard ever since, sometimes aided enthusiastically by my children, sometimes not. An enthusiastic computer user, I learned to create web pages out of my desire to find info easily on the internet and to help others find what they need.

**Tom Britz: (Honey Plants Chair)** I am a retired member of Plumbers and Gasfitters Local and served in the US Army as a Calvary Scout. I began my beekeeping expedition in 2009 on the urging of my wife to find a hobby. I attended the beginning beekeepers class at Gardner KS., bought one package of bees that year, and lost them before it got cold. The next year I was smarter and bought two packages; only one made it through winter. I had learned enough to make a split coming out of winter in year three and it appeared to be doing fine then I discovered on an inspection that my hive was full of drones. I contacted Cecil Sweeney and after a short chat he figured I had laying workers (Queen had been lost). Cecil gave me a frame of brood and a marked queen at NO

CHARGE. If it weren't for him I probably would have given up. I have learned a few things since, but like a lot of things in life the process of learning never stops.

**Ezekiel A. Amador III: (Urban Liaison)**

I became interested in beekeeping about 7 years ago at the start of my neighborhood's urban farm. I took a few classes at JCCC and researched clubs in the area. I started out with 1 hive and now have 2 -3 depending on the winters. I have mixed hives, Warre, Top Bar and the conventional Langstroth. I, along with other members of our urban farm are now building our own hives and catching swarms. It has been very rewarding and beekeeping has introduced me to many bi-products of beekeeping; woodworking, legislation, lip balm, honey, and beeswax.

**Stuart Dietz: (Nuc Initiative Chair)**

I first got interested in beekeeping from earning the beekeeping merit badge in Scouts in 1971. At one time I had 350 colonies, marketing about 30,000 lbs. of honey yearly to 20 grocery stores. I assisted Gary Ross in inspecting bee colonies for the state of Kansas and we made the first documented discovery of the varroa mite in KS in 1992. I also judged the open class and 4H honey at the KS State Fair. My wife Nita is responsible for getting me back into beekeeping when I helped her start a couple of hives several years ago. Nita and I now have around 20 colonies. Nita is a natural when it comes to working with bees and knowing how to read them. She is a Special ED teacher, serves the Air Guard, has deployed to Germany and Africa, owns and manages several rental houses, and enjoys horses and gardening.

**Rick Messenger: (Hospitality Chair)**

From Sedalia, I first became interested in honey bees after a Beekeeping Presentation at a Show Me Crafters' Program. I went on to observe honey extraction at State Fair College given by Bruce Bird who encouraged me to join the association. I am privileged and honored to be mentored by Bob McCarty and manage 5 hives with a limit of 6 hives!

---

**Needed: Educational Outreach Team**

I am putting a list of interested beekeepers new and seasoned to assist with the public demand of Honey Bee Education and Appreciation. These volunteers can hopefully be called upon with opportunities to invest in their specific regions. This past year I conducted an estimated 70 programs and in much need of others willing to share the joy and importance of beekeeping along with the marvelous nature of our State Insect. I have put together a rolling footlocker of equipment used in demonstrations that is available to the volunteers. I am willing to share outlines etc. Please sign up at our meeting or give me a call. The more the merrier! Cathy M. (660) 656-3485

---

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Mike Lewis, Olathe, KS  
Abbie Stockett, Huntsville, MO  
Bryan Hornsby, Independence, MO  
Sheila Johnson, Cameron, MO**

---



# 2015 Youth Scholarship Applications are now being accepted

Forms can be found at the back table and also downloaded from our website.

(Partial/Sample Application)

## Midwestern Beekeepers Association (MBA) YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### APPLICATION / AGREEMENT OBJECTIVES

- To educate youth in the art of beekeeping and to promote a better understanding of the value of honeybees to our environment and to the food chain.
- To provide an opportunity for youth to experience responsibility and enjoyment through beekeeping.
- To provide an avenue for youth to engage in an avocation and gain the potential to pursue beekeeping as a sideline or a full-time vocation.

### THE AWARD

- A two-year Midwestern Beekeepers Association membership.
- A beginning beekeeper seminar and textbook (**March**)
- 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 Midwestern Beekeepers Association member for one year.

### ELIGIBILITY

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 that are currently beekeepers.
- Submit application (**postmarked**) to Midwestern Beekeepers Association no later than

**January 31st** of the **Award Year**  
(unless previously agreed.)

### SELECTION PROCESS

- The Midwestern Beekeepers Association Youth Program Committee may arrange an interview with finalists and their parents or guardian.
- The Scholarship Committee Chair will award the scholarship and

notify the applicant(s) by **March 1st** of the **Award Year**.

*A complete Application can be downloaded at*

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

Youth Scholarship Chair: **Cathy Misko**  
**(660) 656-3485**

### Membership Name Tags

If you would like to have a name tag with your name, city, our association name and a honey bee logo, please place your order at the back table at the General Meeting. The cost is \$8.

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

*Non – Perishable  
Food Item  
School Supplies  
New Toy*





# QUEEN REARING CLASS BY CORY STEVENS

Saturday, May 2, 2015, 8:00 AM to 4 PM

Classroom instruction followed by hands on larvae grafting.

Class size limited; must be pre-registered to attend.

**Recommended for beekeepers with at least 3 years beekeeping experience.**



Cory Stevens is known for his breeding program that focuses on raising pest and disease resistant bees. His operation is completely treatment free. Cory utilizes VSH and Hygienic II'd breeders to mix with his local survivor stock to create hardy genetic lines. Cory has instructed several successful hands-on queen rearing courses throughout Missouri. He has served as Southeast Director for The Missouri State Beekeepers Association as well as being involved in local bee clubs. Cory was certified as a Master Beekeeper by The Eastern Apiculture Society in 2013. Earlier this summer Cory was trained, by bee breeder-geneticist Dr. Susan Cobey, to instrumentally inseminate honeybees.

Cory and his wife Jaime have been married for ten years and have two children together. Cory, his family, and his bees all reside around Bloomfield, Missouri.



## **Jerry L. Litton Visitor Center**

16311 State Route DD, Smithville, MO, is located near the south end of the Smithville Lake Dam. Take MO Highway 92, in Clay County, to State Route DD then follow the signs to the visitor center.

*A special thanks to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for use of their wonderful facility.*

## **Basic Beekeeping by Roger Wood**



Normally, beekeeping is about anticipation and action before the bees need it. But the winter months is the time I stop looking forward for at least a moment and try to reflect back on all the

lessons I learned in the spring and summer before. Good log notes from the previous year help the feeble mind remember details. I lay out a calendar of events or organize a log book for hive inspections for next year based on my notes. I also make note of when flowers bloom each year. I put this into a google calendar that repeats entries. I also have general mileposts that I lay out and use to gauge my hives to an ideal. My calendar starts March 1 and I will share details of this with you through the spring and summer here in this column. Taking good notes of your hive inspections will help you see all of the moving parts that are a beehive. The axiom that “all beekeeping is local” will become clearer as you see how different 2 hives sitting beside each other can be let alone if you have out yards or you are comparing what your friend sees at his apiary down the road.

Find a book (or 2) on beekeeping and read it this winter. Much of what we will cover will be found somewhere in those books. Use the internet. A lot of old bee books are on line for download. Our club has a great library you can use as well. Knowledge is power.

Tips for the actual bees and bee yard,

- Relocate your hives if necessary now. Pick a cold spell of 3 or 4 days below 55 degrees F but above 45 (doesn't matter if nights are colder). Look for level, sunny, sheltered from wind, easy access, and secure location. Preferably, face east or south. A word of caution, moving them when it is too cold, some of your bees could be jarred from the cluster, chill, and die.
- Rebuild or build new hive stands for expected expansion. Having a level hive is important for comb building.

- Place wind breaks around or at the base of the hive. You do not need to remove the screen bottom boards but it is optional.
- Optionally, you can wrap your hives with tar paper. Most of our winters do not need this if the hives are sheltered.
- If you have screened bottom boards do monthly mites drop. Take 3 24-hour readings per hive and average results.

### **Natural Drop/24hrs**

0-8  
8-15  
15-30  
30+

### **Infestation Levels**

Low  
Moderate  
High  
Critical

- Check honey stores once a month. Honey in the last frame on the outside rarely is ever touched. I have thought about building a spacer frame of ¼ inch plywood and foam insulation to replace the 2 outer frames. Someday.

### **How to inspect hives in winter**

On a moderately warm day if possible, lift top and look for signs of cluster. Close quickly. Do not pull frames or disturb cluster. You are just looking to see where the cluster is. If you can't see it, that's good. You can lay your ear on the outside of the hive and tap with knuckles and hear the bees buzz. Lift hive from back, hive should take 2 hands to lift and be pretty heavy in November.

When the temperature falls below 57F, the bees will begin to cluster in the center on open cell frames to stay warm. They need open cells to fill with bee bodies to create a “solid animal mass” for heat. The cluster needs to be large enough to cover some honey frames too and not have bees cut off from the rest of the cluster. This is where mediums frames work better than full frames. A smaller cluster can stay in contact with the seam of open passages between boxes/frames in a medium box but may not in a full box.

Start working in the shop. Clean old frames of dark/bad comb you pulled in September and October and prepare for foundation or starter strips. I will wait until March to put foundation in frames. Separate dark and light comb. Moths like dark comb. If they do get in the dark comb, they won't hurt the light comb if separate. The light comb



should not need to be protected from moths but if you store in unheated space neither will need protection when temperature drops. The separation is more important for spring.

- Assemble and paint new hive bodies, lids, etc. Assemble new frames.
- Clean wax; make soap, candles, mead.

*If things go wrong,*

On inspection, your bees have clustered in the top box or have eaten their way to the top box. You need emergency feed.

Fondant CandyRecipe:

<http://www.honeybeesuite.com/how-to-make-fondant-from-table-sugar/>

Dry/wet sugar (I add 1-2 cup+/- water to 4lb bag of sugar to create mush)

<http://www.indianahoney.org/2013/02/Mountain-Camp-Method-of-Feeding-Sugar.cfm>

Carefully whip air into your candy so that it is not so hard. –Tom O'Neill



Photos courtesy of Laura Fish

## Soapmaking Class by Laura Fish

On a Saturday at the beginning of October Marjorie Brosam, Michelle Williams, Susan Martin and Debbie DeCaigney came to our house to make Oatmeal, Honey soap! We had a absolutely perfect, beautiful day to do this! I had NEVER made soap before and was just a little nervous! I had asked Debbie to teach us and she did a fantastic job!

She gave us a list of items to bring (our own honey and beeswax to use) along with steel pans and utensils, rubber gloves and goggles! Debbie brought the oils, lye and oatmeal! (She had bought these in bulk.)

We started the process by measuring our ingredients with the digital scale that Debbie brought (I hid my cheap, plastic scale after seeing hers!) Exact measurements are very important for the soap to process correctly (since I usually cook by "pinches and looks close" this was good for me to do!)

We went outside on the deck to pour the lye into the water (this is the part that I was the most nervous about) and all went well! A couple of us stayed outside and stirred the water and lye while Michelle and Marjorie stirred the beeswax and oil mixtures at the stove. After the beeswax melted we carried the pots outside and monitored the temperatures of both the lye/water and the beeswax and oils mixture. When all was ready we carefully added the lye mixture to the oil mixture and the whisks came out and we stirred and stirred and stirred until the mixtures left a trace line (looked like a beautiful pudding!) We kept an eye on our local honeybees that smelled the beeswax and wanted a closer look- never letting them get too close! Lots of laughter was shared and we learned the importance of using steel pans and utensils not aluminum as one of us had some bubbling going on that the rest of us did not! When the correct thickness was achieved then we got to pour our soaps into our molds! I was the only one who added some dried lavender flower to my soap so it looks different but it smells wonderful!

After some pots and pans were washed (THANK YOU to Marjorie and Michelle!) we shared glasses of Iced Tea or wine and admired our handy work!

We left our soaps in the molds for a day or two before turning them out and cutting them. I popped mine in the freezer for a couple of hours as mine did not show signs that it wanted to come out of the plastic mold! When I took it out, I just flipped it over and gave it a good whack and the entire thing just popped out! I cut them into bars and as of right now, they are curing on newspaper waiting for about 3 more weeks until ready! I plan on testing one before giving a few away for Christmas!!!

This was just fun to do and I am planning on re-offering this in January! Watch the newsletter for the next date at my house!!

## Honey Plants by Tom Britz



This month I discovered a new plant I had not noticed before. It is a very common native that the honey bees like to work in late summer/early fall. I noticed this little gem while mowing pasture. I decided this year to

wait as long as possible since many different plants were blooming just a week or two earlier. It appeared about all the plants had ceased to bloom except this one. The common name of this plant is "Aromatic Aster". It is also referred to as purple aster. The scientific name is "Symphyotrichum Oblongifolium"; I'm thinking purple aster sounds pretty good.

The range of aromatic aster is eastern to north central United States, the general size is 18 inches to 3



Photo Courtesy of Tom Britz

feet, with a width of about 2 feet. The blossoms are about the size of a nickel, with yellow centers and a bluish to purple rays. It will grow in almost any soil, can tolerate drought but does not like too much water and much prefers full sun.

What does a bee get at McDonalds? A humm-burger!

Happy Beekeeping



Tom Britz

---

**"Nothing important merely just happens."**

- Grant Gillard, *Sustainable Beekeeping* Talk

---

## MARKETPLACE

Do you need your honey supers extracted? If so, contact Jim Fisher [816-918-6648](tel:816-918-6648) for custom extracting.

---

Heartland Honey and Beekeeping Supplies

Joli Winer and Cecil Sweeney

19201 S. Clare Rd., Spring Hill KS 66083 (913) 856-8356 •

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

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

We appreciate when you call your orders in ahead.

We carry a complete line of beekeeping supplies including woodenware, smokers, extractors, books, queens, package bees and containers. We will trade wax for supplies..

---

Fisher's Bee Supplies

Ed Fisher

4005 N.E. 132<sup>nd</sup> Street, Smithville MO 64089 816-532-4698

Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm Saturdays after 8:30 am

Call in advance to make sure we are here.

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

---

Jordy's Honey

Robert Hughes

12333 Wedd Street, Overland Park KS 66213 913-681-5777

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.

---

Draper's Super Bee Brenda and Larry Draper

914 S Street, Auburn NE 68305

402-274-3725

Monday through Thursday 8 am to 5pm. Closed from 12 to 1 pm.

We offer fast and courteous service to all beekeepers. We sell all the supplies for beekeeping supplies, containers, bee pollen and honey for those who run short. Order is shipped the same day as received in most cases.

Free catalog available on request. Pick up orders at our warehouse must be pre-ordered and picked up by appointment only.

### **2015 Beekeeping Calendars - \$15**

Just in time for Christmas and your New Year of beekeeping. These beautiful Calendars have plenty of room to jot down your notes and were produced by our Mo State Editor/Photographer Eugene Makovec.

Proceeds will benefit our Youth Scholarship Program.

You may pick them up at the back table while supplies last!

2015 MIDWESTERN BEEKEEPERS

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE CHECK ONE: \_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

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 Assoc

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

Questions:                      [jtfish85@aol.com](mailto:jtfish85@aol.com) or 816-322-9245

Missouri State Beekeepers Membership Fees can be paid by Pay Pal at [mostatebeekeepers.org/joinmsba/](http://mostatebeekeepers.org/joinmsba/)

or mailed directly to: MSBA, c/o Steve Moeller, PO Box 7514, Columbia, MO 65205

**MIDWESTERN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
TANYA FISHER  
P O BOX 132  
RAYMORE MO 64083**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

***ATTENTION***

*General Meetings have moved to Sundays!*

**General meeting new date and time:  
Sunday, November 16th @ 2:30 pm**

**Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> – “Extra-Value”  
Meeting @ Bass Pro 7 pm**

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!

**November 6<sup>th</sup> –Bass Pro- 7pm**  
Nuc Initiative

**November 16<sup>th</sup>- Graceway Church-  
2:30pm** General Meeting- Dasha  
Adzhigirey w/ Bee Technologies

**December 1<sup>st</sup> – Bass Pro- 7 pm** Open  
Meeting w/Sharing, Tips – The Floor is  
yours!

**December 14<sup>th</sup>- Graceway Church-  
2:30pm** – General Meeting

Please! Mark your calendars and we hope to see you at as many events as you can make!