



## Blowing Smoke

By Bob Williams, President

Hi folks! For the past two years, I have had the privilege of being your president of the Midwestern Beekeepers Association and the honor of working with all the board members. It is with their wisdom and support that my job was made easier. Wes Johnston is also leaving his position as Treasurer. Wes has held that position for many years, and he has done an outstanding job and is also currently the Treasurer for the Missouri State Beekeepers Association. Dean Sanders is stepping down as Board Member and State Liaison. Dean has also been a long time member of the board. I wish to thank you all.

In January, we will have a new President, Phil Duncan, First Vice President/Program Chair, Dennis Culpepper, Treasurer, Robert Scott, as well as new Board Members, Debbie DeCaigney and Harold Wright. I am grateful to all these folks for volunteering their time and talents to support the goals of Midwestern Beekeepers Association.

I would also like to thank all the folks who were able to make it to the November General Meeting. We held a round table discussion to hear your comments, as well as discuss topics that were included in the survey that was recently sent by email and available on our website. Topics included group hive inspections, a teaching apiary, bringing in speakers, offering for sale bee friendly native plants and trees, and "sharing resources." All of you, ARE the association! Your ideas, your involvement in the meetings, and the volunteering of your time and talents will make the association better for all who attend. Thank you again.

At the December 17th Christmas Social, the association will provide meats, bread, and drinks. We ask that you please bring a dish to share. It will start at 2:30PM. Come join us, it'll be fun!!!

SUNDAY, DEC 17, 2017

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Bass Pro Shop

Independence MO

2:30 PM

Meat, bread, and drink will be provided, please bring a dish to share.



2018 GENERAL MEETINGS

BASS PRO SHOP

INDEPENDENCE MO

Jan 21, 2018, 2:30 PM

Feb 18, 2018, 2:30 PM

Mar 18, 2018, 2:30 PM

Apr 15, 2018, 2:30 PM

May 20, 2018, 2:30 PM

Jun 10, 2018, 2:30 PM

Jul 15, 2018, 2:30 PM

*No August Meeting-Missouri State Fair*

Sep 16, 2018, 2:30 PM

Oct 21, 2018, 2:30 PM

Nov 18, 2018, 2:30 PM

Dec 16, 2018, 2:30 PM



SUNDAY, DEC 17, 2017

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Bass Pro Shop

Independence MO

2:30 PM

Meat, bread, and drink will be provided please bring a dish to share.



Midwestern Beekeepers Name Tags

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



Renew your 2018 membership by January 1, 2018

<http://>

[www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/2017/11/join/](http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/2017/11/join/)

[017/11/join/](http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/2017/11/join/)



## Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day,

MSBA Honey Ambassador

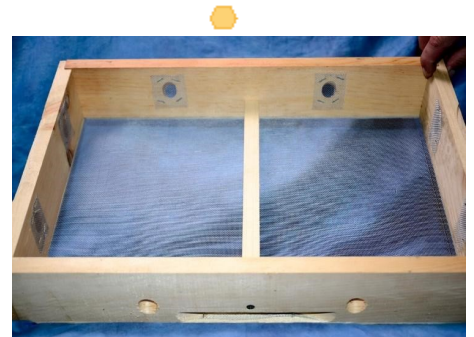
The smell of Thanksgiving dinner has drifted away, the Christmas joy is spreading, and winter is finally here. There isn't very much we can do with our hives during this time of year. The important thing to manage through the winter is ventilation, moisture, and food. If any of these three are not managed correctly, along with cold weather, it will kill hives.

Cold, by itself, will not usually kill hives. There are a lot of people north of us that will overwinter beehives in much colder weather than we will ever have here in Missouri, but some people still like to wrap/insulate their hives here as well. Most experienced beekeepers consider it optional because, though it can help during the coldest part of winter, it can become a problem during the warm parts. With Missouri weather, this option can be hard to manage, since we can have warm spells in the winter months. It is one of those things you will have to try out and decide how well it works for you.

Next, are moisture control and ventilation. These two things go hand in hand. You must give the hive the ability to breathe by allowing the moist air that comes off the cluster to rise and exit the hive instead of condensing on the internal surfaces and dripping back onto the cluster. The way I do this is by having a bottom opening which allows air to come in. The air may come in the hive entrance and/or by leaving a screened bottom board open or slightly opened, depending on the hive. I will then add a sugar board on top of the hive with holes drilled in it to release the air. Also, if you don't use sugar boards, you can take a couple of popsicle sticks and put between your inner and outer covers to release the air that way. You can also make quilt boards or winter rims to allow moisture to escape. Throughout the winter, your cluster must be in contact with some sort of food source constantly. Cold snaps keep a cluster tight and unable to move, except up. A cluster which moves up to the top of a hive is bypassing honey stored on outside frames and ends of the frames. A cluster is usually round (unless you have a huge cluster of bees,) and does not fit end to end or side to side in a Langstroth box. Because of this, there is always honey not covered by the tight cluster. If your bees reach the top of the hive, you will need to provide food up there until the warm weather returns to us. Use fondant or moist granulated sugar to supplement your hive until warmer weather. Generally, if the temperature is back and forth between warm and cold, the hive will use more stores.

Winter inspections are a lot less intrusive than checking your hive any other time. If you want to see if your hive is alive, simply put your ear next to the hive, lightly tap on the side of the hive, and listen for the bees to buzz. Also, lifting the back of the hive, will allow you to roughly check the weight and will give you an idea of how much food to add, if any at all. You can open the hive once a month, on a warm day, to look down through the frames, and that will give an idea of how close the bees are to the top. You can also see how big the cluster is.

This time of year is a good time to repair, clean and paint, build and buy new products for next season. Also, it's a good time to read about other ways of beekeeping and reflect on what you did this year and what you want to try next year. There are plenty of books, videos and movies out there. Just remember, always know your author's location and their beekeeping experience. Beekeeping is always changing and we all must remain students if we want to be successful beekeepers. Like always, I can answer any questions you have at [kyle.day.1999@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.day.1999@gmail.com), or you can ask them at the monthly meetings.

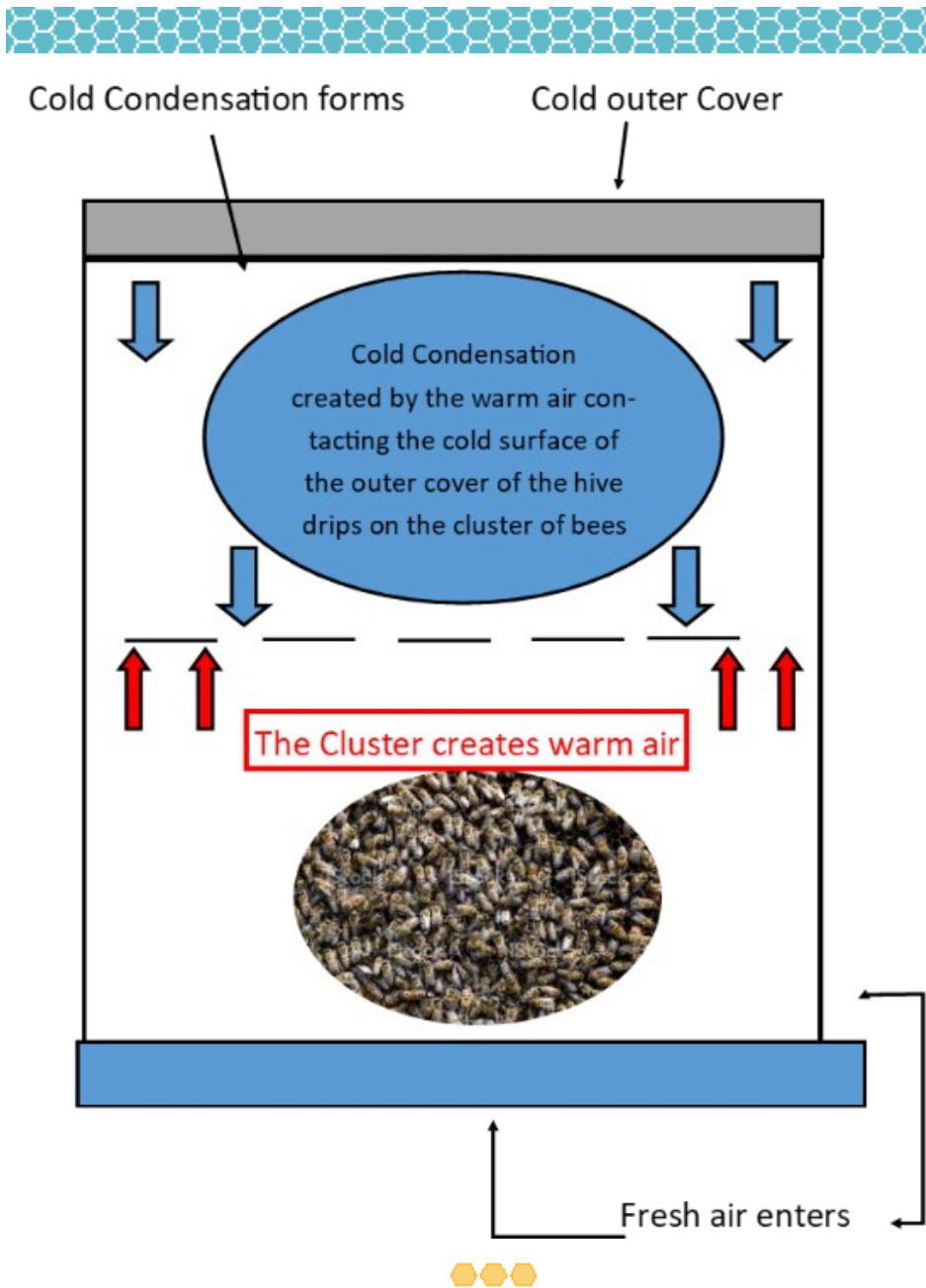


Quilt Box (above) is a rim with the underside covered with fine wire or fabric. Once on the hive, the box is filled with wood shavings to soak up the moisture the cluster creates. Picture from <https://jtbeekeepers.com/product/quilt-box-8-frame/>



A winter rim is a 2 inch tall box/honey super. This rim also has 2 holes for ventilation. The holes are 3/8" to 1/2" in diameter.

## Example of Hive Without Adequate Ventilation



Unfortunate result of winter bees without adequate ventilation.

## December Quick List

- Manage ventilation, moisture, and food.
- Make sure inspections are a lot less intrusive than checking your hive any other time.
- Repair, clean, build, paint, and buy new products for next season.
- Read more about beekeeping and reflect on what you did this year and what you want to try next year.



## Winter Feed Recipes

### Candy Board

5 lbs. white granulated sugar  
 1 lb. water  
 ¼ teaspoon cream of tartar

Heat the water and mix in the sugar and tartar. Cover and stir regularly. Bring to "Hard Ball" @ 260 degrees. Let it cool down to about 225 then whip in air which will make it turn white. Careful when you whip in the air, the stuff starts to grog.

Line two cookie sheets with wax paper and carefully pour mixture. Candy can also be poured onto paper plates and stored in baggies ready to invert over the needy clusters.

<http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/recipes-for-winter-emergency-only-feeding.pdf>

## 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: Wood-ware (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](mailto:Jim.Fisher@mba.org)

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

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After reading a few reports in mid November of pollen being brought into hives, I took a little more notice while out walking of what might be offering late season nutrients. There huddled close to the ground I spotted dandelions doing there best to survive. Perhaps, the bees are working over these late bloomers.

You probably do this as well. I set aside jars, spatulas, lids, any item with a bit of honey or syrup prepping residual, for the bees to clean up on a warm day. I like the sound of a group of eager bees in a gallon jar cleaning up every last bit. It's a bee-utiful hum.

While not a honey bee, this important pollinator left an impression on me while out on the front porch enjoying a Sunday morning cup of coffee last June.

### Light, fast, swift and speedy-a visit from a bumble bee

And just like that my hair was on edge-  
Goosebumps did appear.  
Approached, untouched  
My nerves only vexed.  
I was not what it wanted  
Onto the next.  
And just like that my hair was at ease.



Community America Credit Union Transactions for the Month of October 2017	
Bank Balance as of September 30, 2017	\$ 9,638.84
Total Receipts Deposited	13.96
Total Expenses Paid (-\$ 240.00 Pending)	-252.94
Interest on Savings & Checking Account	.41
Bank Balance as of October 31, 2017	\$ 9,400.27

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



The National Honey Board has moved!  
The new mailing address is :

**National Honey Board**

**P O Box 2189**

**Longmont CO 80502**

You may contact them at [honey@nhb.org](mailto:honey@nhb.org)  
or (303) 776-2337



## DO YOU WANT TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT BEEKEEPING IN 2018? HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO!



### Renew your **Midwestern Beekeepers Association** Membership!

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.

You can renew online here:

<http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/2017/11/join/>



### Join or Renew your membership with the **Missouri State Beekeepers Association!**

There are many advantages of an MSBA membership, including discounts to MSBA-sponsored events and conferences, educational resources for new and seasoned beekeepers alike, the member newsletter, and legislative support for matters important to honey bees and beekeepers. As a unified, collective voice, we recently obtained passage of the Missouri Honey Law. Join us!

You can join or renew here:

<http://mostatebeekeepers.org/membership/>



American Bee Journal: (217) 847-3324

### Subscribe to the **American Bee Journal** and **Bee Culture**.

These two journals are by far the best way to keep informed on what is happening in beekeeping!

See below how you can subscribe or renew your subscriptions.

# Bee Culture

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

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

(800) 289-7668



# 2018



#### Discounted Rates!

New       Renewal

*Prices good through Dec. 31, 2018*

#### Association Member Subscription

	U.S.	Canada	Foreign
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr.	\$23.80	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. \$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. \$48.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr.	\$45.05	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. \$79.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. \$89.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Yr.	\$63.75	Retain yellow copy for your records.	

Return white copy to: American Bee Journal, 51 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341

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# MIDWESTERN Beekeepers ASSOCIATION

## 2018 Officers

## Midwestern Beekeepers Association 2018 Survey

### President

**Phil Duncan**  
[phildu196771@embarqmail.com](mailto:phildu196771@embarqmail.com)  
(816) 380-2463

### Immediate Past President

**Bob Williams**  
[thebeltonbee@gmail.com](mailto:thebeltonbee@gmail.com)  
(816) 331-6634

### 1st VP/Programs

**Dennis Culpepper**  
[dennis.culpepper@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.culpepper@gmail.com)  
(816) 258-3563

### 2nd VP/Membership

**Terry Wright**  
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(816) 578-4460

### 3rd VP/Publicity/Editor

**Janice Britz**  
[britzjs@gmail.com](mailto:britzjs@gmail.com)  
816-419-1327

### Secretary

**Cindy Connell**  
[Goldwingers2004@yahoo.com](mailto:Goldwingers2004@yahoo.com)  
816-732-6579

### Treasurer

**Robert Scott**  
[scottbob@centurylink.net](mailto:scottbob@centurylink.net)  
(816) 630-0042

### Auditor

**Robert Burns**  
[rburnshoney@gmail.com](mailto:rburnshoney@gmail.com)  
(913) 481-3504

### 1st Board Member

**Debbie DeCaigney**  
[debrats@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debrats@sbcglobal.net)  
(816) 719-3615

### 2nd Board Member

**Steve DeCaigney**  
816-257-5258

### 3rd Board Member

**Harold Wright**  
[926wright@gmail.com](mailto:926wright@gmail.com)  
(816) 578-4460

Thank you to all who took the time to complete the survey. We had 67 responses and the Executive Board will use these responses to plan for 2018. We also had many who told us where they would be able to serve.

We received a snapshot of who we are and how we are keeping bees. Of those 67 responses, 46% have 0-3 years of beekeeping experience, while 42% have 3-10 years, and 12% have over 10 years experience.

61% have 0-5 hives, 30% have 5-25 hives and 9% have over 25 hives.

Most keep bees as a hobby and give honey away to friends and family. Many do sell honey and other products. A few sell queens, nucs, offer pollination services, sell beekeeping equipment, and teach educational classes.

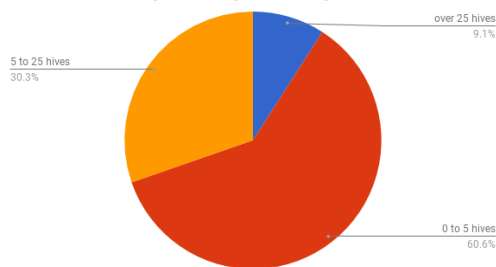
A whopping 85% have 10 frame Langstroth hives, followed by 8 frame Langstroth hives, top bar hives, warre hives, or a combination of hives. We do have one who has a flow hive and it would be interesting to hear of its results.

90% responded that educational programs at the general meeting are currently most important to them. 77% said that the newsletter was important, followed by the swarm collection list, mentoring opportunities, and the youth scholarship program.

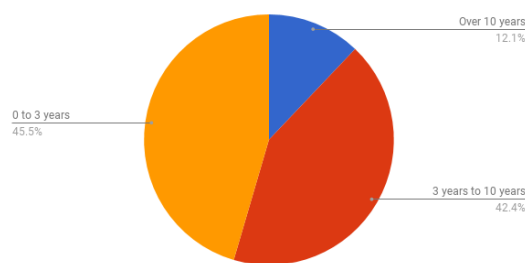
The top five ways that respondents said that MBA can help them in the future were: Education by speakers and presentations (86%), Clinics/hands-on learning workshops (60%), Communication via the newsletter (58%), Share resources with members (57%), and field days/hive inspections at bee yards (51%).

As hard as it is to find a meeting time that suits most beekeepers, 53% said that they likely could attend a meeting on the 3rd Sunday of the month, while another 38% said maybe. For 2018, our meeting date will remain the same.

Count of How many hives do you currently have?



Count of How many years of beekeeping experience do you have?



## Conferences & Events

# MIDWESTERN Beekeepers ASSOCIATION

## 2018 Officers



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



### Librarian

John Martin  
[jmartin98@comcast.net](mailto:jmartin98@comcast.net)  
(816) 726-6371

### Webmaster

Bob Williams  
[thebeltonbee@gmail.com](mailto:thebeltonbee@gmail.com)  
(816) 331-6634

### Appointed Positions

#### Honey Plants

Luanne Oneal  
[oneal63020@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oneal63020@sbcglobal.net)  
(660) 359-7398

#### Hospitality

Michelle Williams  
[thebeltonbee@gmail.com](mailto:thebeltonbee@gmail.com)  
(816) 785-3998

#### Urban Liaison

Ezekiel A. Amador III  
[zekeamador@aol.com](mailto:zekeamador@aol.com)  
(816) 612-9030

#### Youth Scholarship

Nita Dietz  
[nstigall@yahoo.com](mailto:nstigall@yahoo.com)  
(785) 304-5905



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



February 24, 2018  
23rd Annual Midwestern Beekeepers Association  
Begining Beekeepers Workshop  
Drumm Farm Center for Children  
Nelson Hall  
3210 Lee's Summit Road  
Independence MO  
Watch for Details



March 2-3, 2018  
Missouri State Beekeepers Association  
2018 Spring Conference  
Johnson County Fairgrounds  
386 NW 145 Rd. Warrensburg, Missouri  
Featured Speaker, Dr. James E Tew  
Deadline for guaranteed Meals:  
February 19, 2018  
<http://mostatebeekeepers.org/>



July 11-13, 2018  
Heartland Apiary Society  
Annual Conference  
Washington University, St. Louis  
Featured Speakers:  
Dr. Marla Spivak  
Dr. Keith Delaplane  
Jennifer Berry  
Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp  
Samuel Ramsey  
University of Minnesota Bee Squad  
<http://www.heartlandbees.org/>



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Terry Wright  
9203 South Litchford  
Grain Valley MO 64029

**General Meeting/Christmas Social**

**Sunday, December 17, 2017**

**2:30 PM**

**Bass Pro Shop**

**Independence MO**

**Meat, bread, and drink will be provided,  
please bring a dish to share.**

*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

