

For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



This marks my first entry into the Midwestern Beekeepers Association monthly newsletter. This also marks the second time I have been a President of an organization. The first time happened when I missed a homeowners' association meeting. It pays to attend meetings, especially when officers are being selected. This time I said I would help out wherever needed. I am humbled that you all chose me to lead this organization. Following in Bob Williams' footsteps is not going to be easy. He has provided outstanding leadership during his tenure and I will be leaning heavily on him and others for advice, both as an officer and as a beekeeper, during the coming months. Our goal is to do our best to provide interesting and educational programs that address issues raised by members in our recent survey.

As I write this we are experiencing one of the coldest nights in the past few years. The past few months have been very mild, with the bees flying almost daily. I have seen my ladies bringing in pollen almost every day but I am fairly certain that they were not finding much in the way of nectar. This "frivolous foraging" consumes more honey stores due to the increased flying, which can put the colony at risk of running out of food earlier than anticipated. You need to keep a more vigilant eye than usual on your hives to monitor their need for supplemental feeding.

We had a great turnout at the December meeting with many new members present. The Association provided the meats and bread for sandwiches, vegetables and chips, along with drinks. Members provided a large variety of delicious desserts and fellowship. We also handed out the Beekeepers of the Year award to Tom and Janice Britz for their dedication to the Association and all of its endeavors this past year. I would personally like to thank Tom and Janice for helping me get started with beekeeping and to introducing me to this organization.



Tom and Janice Britz
2017 Beekeepers of the Year
Photo by Terry Wright.



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COMING UP

JANUARY

GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JAN 21, 2018

Bass Pro Shop
Independence MO
2:00 PM
Q&A Session for
Beginning Beekeepers
2:30 PM
General Meeting



2018 GENERAL MEETINGS

BASS PRO SHOP

INDEPENDENCE MO

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



Midwestern Beekeepers Name Tags

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



Renew your 2018 membership

<http://>

www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/2017/12/join/



L to R: Phil Duncan, 2018 President and Bob Williams, 2017 President. Photo by Terry Wright

As a thank you for service during his term as President, Bob Williams was presented two certificates for queens from the Association.

A big thank you goes to those returning members of the Association Board, including officers. I look forward to you keeping this one of the top organizations in the region. The new officers were listed in last month's newsletter so there is no need to list them again.

January is also a good time to pay your Midwestern Beekeepers Association membership dues and possibly subscribe to "The American Bee Journal" or "Bee Culture" magazines. The American Bee Journal subscription form is on our website, <http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org>, under the upcoming events tab. It allows you to receive the magazine at a reduced cost because you belong to a beekeeping association. Be sure to order your equipment for the coming season, it will give you plenty of time to build and paint. It is a great time to catch up on reading books that you were too busy to read during the holidays. We have a vast library available to members, which is found on our website. If you would like to check out any of these books, email John Martin your choices and he will bring them to the next meeting. You could also sign up for our 23rd Annual Beginning Beekeeping Workshop to be held on Saturday, February 24th, at Drumm Farm Center for Children, Nelson Hall, 3210 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, Missouri. The registration form is on our website and in this newsletter. I attended last February and found it well worth the money and time.

At the January meeting we will have a presentation by Kyle Day, Missouri State Beekeeper Association Honey Ambassador. Come join us, it'll be fun!!!

American Bee Journal:(217) 847-3324

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

Discounted Rates!

New Renewal

Prices good through Dec. 31, 2018

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

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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.	

Welcome New Members

By Terry Wright



Norman & Joan Dennison

Independence MO

Thank You

It was a great honor to be presented with the 2017 Midwestern Beekeepers Association Beekeepers of the Year. Since we began with this association in 2009, we have been welcomed, educated, coached, instructed and encouraged by its members and the programming. We have made some new friends and our lives are richer because of this association. It has been our pleasure to serve you. When we consider the list of folks who have earned this award before us, we are indeed humbled. Thank you for the award and our hope is that we may give back to you as much as we have been given. Tom and Janice Britz



January General Meeting
Sunday, January 21, 2018
Bass Pro Shop at Independence MO

Executive Board
Report

2:00 PM

Q&A Session for Beginning Beekeepers

2:30 PM

Kyle Day, Honey Ambassador

Missouri State Beekeepers Association

Presenting

“Sustainable OTS Queen Rearing”

Basic overview of On The Spot Queen Rearing. A simple queen rearing system for any beekeeper with basic equipment to expand any apiary and create a sustainable apiary system.



Community America Credit Union Transactions for the Month of November 2017	
Bank Balance as of October 31, 2017	\$ 9,400.27
Total Receipts Deposited	1,977.64
Total Expenses Paid (-\$ 407.24 Pending)	-701.95
Interest on Savings & Checking Account	.43
Bank Balance as of November 31, 2017	\$ 10,676.39

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



Renew your Midwestern Beekeepers Association Membership!



You can renew online here:

<http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/2017/12/join/>

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



You can join or renew here:

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



We’re listening! In response to the membership survey and to make plans for 2018, the Executive Board and Appointed Chairs met in the home of Tom and Janice Britz on December 9th.

Here are some of the 2018 goals we are striving to implement:

- Printed MBA Members Directory available at the April General Meeting and thereafter.
- Mentor Program. Available mentors in your area highlighted in the directory. Mentor led field days.
- In addition to the Swarm List, we will be adding a Pollination Services list.
- A MBA Swap and Shop Facebook group for member’s exchanges.
- Purchase an extractor for member’s use.
- Provide a resource to order MBA Hats and T-Shirts.
- A listing of pollinator plants created by our members. Sale of pollinator plants.
- Various programs as suggested by members and to meet the needs of all levels of beekeepers.
- Support and promote Missouri State Beekeepers Association and other local educational events.





Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day,

MSBA Honey Ambassador

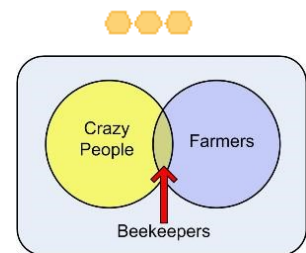
Happy New Year everyone! With the new year it's time to start thinking of the upcoming bee season. What are your goals for this year? If you're ordering more bees, have you contacted your supplier to get put on an order list? How's your equipment looking? Do you need more equipment? This month you need to make sure all of this has been at least ordered. It is a great time to repair/build equipment or read books since we can't do much in the apiary. Don't forget these winter months are great for researching and asking questions for the fast approaching spring. Also, if you feel you need a mentor, now is a great time to start looking for one. We have a lot of members from all over the Kansas City area with a lot of experience.

If you're still new, I highly suggest going to the Midwestern Beekeepers Beginning Beekeeping Class. It will be February 24th, and more information is posted at midwesternbeekeepers.org and in this newsletter. Also, Missouri State Beekeepers Association will be having a Spring Conference March 2nd and 3rd in Warrensburg, Missouri at the Johnson County Fairgrounds. These state events are great to hear "famous" beekeepers from around the country and Missouri Beekeepers with years of experience. I do not know if an agenda has been posted yet, but more information can be found at mostatebeekeepers.org. I recommend being a member of Midwestern Beekeepers Association, and the Missouri State Beekeepers Association. Both Associations have a lot of great people in charge and I believe they will put on some great programs this year. As for what's going on within the apiary in January, the queen will slowly start brood production. Since the cluster will have brood to protect, the cluster isn't as mobile as it was before. With the combination of colder weather, longer cold periods, and brood the cluster must cover enough food to support itself. Usually people will say a hive consumes 25 pounds of honey this month depending on weather and cluster size. As brood rearing continues, the hive's food needs also increase as we approach spring. This is usually when late winter losses occur. If your cluster has not yet reached the top of your hive, your bees have plenty of stores for now. If the cluster is at the top of your hive, you will need to add fondant or dry/moist sugar "cakes." Do not feed liquid syrup during freezing temperatures because it could cause an "icebox" effect on the hive. Check on your hives only when temperatures are at least 50 degrees F and make sure to not break any of the propolis seals between boxes. Check only for life and location of the cluster. As warm days approach, it is normal to see yellow streaks (bee poop/dysentery) across the front of your hives and within the immediate area. An abundance of this streaking could mean a sick hive. There isn't a lot you will be able to do for it now; but with some timely warm weather, they may be able to make cleansing flights and pull through. If you have a hive that you suspect may be sick, the best thing is to open the top box of the hive and look for evidence of dysentery. If the hive is sick, you will smell the problem before you see additional proof.

If you have any questions, always bring them with you to the monthly meetings. You can also email me at kyle.day.1999@gmail.com. I hope you had happy holidays. Now it's time to prepare for honey season.

January Quick List

- Continue to better your beekeeping knowledge by reading books and magazines.
- Consider taking a beekeeping class.
- Order bees and equipment and start building. April will be here in no time, and you will be behind if you wait.
- Keep hive entrances clear of snow and ice.
- Check out local and state meetings for the spring.
- Remember, hives will go through roughly 25 pounds of stores. Make sure hives have a good amount of stores, and add fondant or dry/moist sugar to your hives, if needed.
- Don't forget the three key things to manage in winter: ventilation, moisture and food.



Bee Culture

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

<http://www.bee-culture.com/magazine/>

(800) 289-7668

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

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

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.

As the days lengthen, so the cold strengthens—an old proverb.

We've reached the winter solstice, marking the lengthening of daylight, but we all know what's in store. Just yesterday, thanks to mild and dry weather, I was able to finally put my main garden to bed. These growing spaces provided much delight to me and my family this past growing season. I believe the bees added to my success.

A few items on winter checklist:

***Check with the local MU Extension for a soil test.** For a reasonable rate they will test your soil sample so you can amend it, if needed.

***Consider last year's plantings.**

One plant, I really got a kick out of (my neighborhood kids as well) was the Toothache Plant. While the flower and greenery is very pretty, the plant causes a temporary numbing of the mouth—thus the toothache plant. I had to wonder if that property would carry over to the honey. (Now that could be an interesting marketing idea.) I'm not sure I'll grow it again.

***Continuing education:**

A few of my favorite resources

100 Plants to Feed the Bees The Xerces Society

Garden Plants for Honey Bees Peter Lindtner

Missouri Wildflowers Edgar Denison

***Subscribe to a beekeeping magazine**
Hope the holiday season was a blessing to you and your family. Happy New Year!



Toothache Plant. Photo by Luanne ONeal.



July 11-13, 2018
Heartland Apicultural 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/>



23rd Annual Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

Saturday, February 24, 2018

Drumm Farm Center for Children

Nelson Hall

3210 South Lee's Summit Road, Independence MO

Registration: 7:30-8:00 AM, Class: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

(Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email for Newsletter: _____

Pre-Registration Required—Class Size Limited

Registration Closed When Class Is Filled or By February 17, 2018

No Refunds after February 17, 2018

Fee includes presentation notes and First Lessons in Beekeeping by Keith S. Delaplane

Class Fee, Lunch,

& Midwestern Beekeepers Association One Year Membership \$60 ea _____

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, and the right to free noncommercial advertising in the newsletter plus the opportunity to attend our informative monthly meetings.

Current Midwestern Association Members:

Class Fee & Lunch: \$45 ea _____

Make Checks Payable to: Midwestern Beekeepers Association

Mail registration form and fees to:

Cindy Connell

365 SW 1081

Holden MO 64040

For More Information, call Bob Williams at (816) 331-6634 or Janice Britz at (816) 419-1327

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

Missouri State Beekeepers Association Spring Conference



March 2nd & 3rd, 2018
Johnson County Fairgrounds, Warrensburg, MO

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Dr. James E. Tew is the Beekeeping Specialist for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University and Emeritus Professor, The Ohio State University. Jim has taught classes, provided extension services, and conducted applied research on honey bees and honey bee behavior –specifically pollination behavior.



Alexandria Payne attended Texas A&M University and earned Bachelor's degrees in Bioenvironmental Sciences and Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. She currently works in Dr. Juliana Rangel's Honey Bee Lab and is currently studying the transmission of honey bee viruses between honey bees and different species of ants.



Cory Stevens is a beekeeper that resides in rural Bloomfield, MO with his wife Jaime, and two children Jade Olivia and Camden. He is likely best known in the beekeeping community for his breeding operation which is focused on selecting for mite and disease resistant traits. He was certified as an EAS Master Beekeeper in August of 2013 in West Chester, Pennsylvania. In July 2014 Cory was trained by Sue Cobey in the practice of instrumental insemination of honeybee queens on Whidbey Island, Washington.



Charlotte Wiggins is currently on a University of Missouri working group developing a certified master pollinator steward program, the first formal master pollinator steward program in the US. Charlotte has a master's degree in management from Webster University and is a University of Missouri advanced master gardener.



Bill Allinder is a beekeeper and pollinator habitat conservationist. He is also an enthusiastic foodie and wine collector. Bill is a graduate of the Kansas City Culinary Center's Professional Culinary Arts Program, Series I and II. He also teaches honey cooking classes at the Culinary Center and he is an ANSI-CFP certified Food Protection Manager.



Register Online At:
www.mostatebeekeepers.org

Lodging Available At:
Comfort Inn, 660-429-4848 • 609 E Russell Ave, Warrensburg, MO 64093
Fairfield Inn & Suites, 660-422-3540 • 355 E Russell Ave, Warrensburg, MO 64093
Holiday Inn Express, 660-747-3000 • 626 E Russell Ave, Warrensburg, MO 64093



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Terry Wright
9203 South Litchford
Grain Valley MO 64029

January General Meeting
Sunday, January 21, 2018
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



Membership/Renewal



MidwstnBeekprsA



Midwestern Beekeeper's
Association



Midwestern Beekeepers
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Members Closed Group