

For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



We had a great turnout at the February meeting with 74 people in attendance. Lots of new faces and familiar faces were around the room. I thought the January meeting was big but this one topped that meeting. The meeting started off with Stuart Dietz conducting a question and answer session. He was not expecting to do this but got volunteered when we needed an experienced beekeeper to field the questions. Thanks Stuart for doing a great job.

Tyler Boss gave his Youth Scholarship program presentation and a certificate was given to him in recognition of him completing the requirements of the program. The certificate conferred all of the equipment supplied by our Association to him permanently. You gave a great presentation today, Tyler. I hope you have a great year with your hive.

The second program was put on by Ezekiel Amador and Roger Minniear covering Top Bar Hives (TBH.) They discussed the pros and cons of TBH along with how they are constructed, how they are managed compared to the Langstroth hives and how honey is harvested. Before the meeting was closed, we handed out door prize drawings.

For members who are more concerned with having bees for pollination, as opposed to harvesting lots of honey, the TBH approach should be considered. One big factor in their favor is the low cost to get into beekeeping. For what someone would spend on a honey super with frames and foundation, one could build a complete TBH. As I know from personal experience, TBHs are a gateway drug to get you into traditional hives. I plan on putting in one more TBH and three Langstroth hives this Spring.

On a personal note I would like to point out that our organization is much different than many bee groups around the country. I have had folks tell me that when they brought up TBHs at those groups they were basically told not to bother the members as no one was interested. I joined a year ago and all I have are TBHs and I was made to feel welcome. You should pat yourself on your back. I am proud to tell folks I am a member of this organization.

While I am on the topic of congratulations, I would like to recognize Bob Williams for his outstanding job keeping our Facebook page and our web site up to date and relevant. I have had the chance to look at a lot of different groups online. Some appear to have not been updated in over a year. Others are really good but none can compete with the job Bob does. Thanks again, Bob for doing such a good job.

COMING UP

MARCH

GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, MAR 18, 2018

Bass Pro Shop
Independence MO
2:00 PM

Q&A Session for
Beginning Beekeepers
2:30 PM
General Meeting



BEGINNERS MEETING
ALL ARE WELCOME
THURSDAY, MAR 22, 2018
BASS PRO SHOP
INDEPENDENCE MO
7:00 PM



2018 GENERAL MEETINGS

Apr 15, 2018, 2:30 PM
May 20, 2018, YS Silent
Auction & Plant Sale, 2:30 PM
Jun 10, 2018, 2:30 PM
Jul 15, 2018, Picnic-
Fleming Park, 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



**Renew your Midwestern
Beekeepers Association
Membership!**

[http://
www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/
2017/12/join/](http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/2017/12/join/)

As I stated in the last newsletter, now is the 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. If you have not paid your 2018 dues, please do so as soon as you can.

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. I look forward to seeing you at the March meeting, as Dennis Culpepper has assured me that it will be outstanding. If you like our monthly programs, please tell Dennis, as he has been working hard to have great presenters lined up for each meeting.

March Q & A

Q: Should I use 8 frame or 10 frame hives?

A: The choice is up to the beekeeper. The 8 frame hives are easier to handle as they weigh less. A full 10 frame super weighs around 50 pounds where as an 8 frame super weighs around 40 pounds. In addition the 8 frame box is narrower therefore you can hold it so that your grip is closer to your body. Some beekeepers also go with only medium boxes so that all equipment is interchangeable.



March General Meeting
Sunday, March 18, 2018
Bass Pro Shop at Independence MO



2:00 PM

Q&A Session for Beginning Beekeepers

2:30 PM

Robert Hughes, Jordy's Honey
Presenting

"Spring Management & Package Bee Installation"

Drawing for one admission to the NEKBA Bee Fun Day
Mentoring Groups Discussion



Sunday, March 18th is the last date for you to renew your 2018 Midwestern Beekeepers Association membership and be included in the members directory to be handed out at the April General Meeting.

The members directory will be divided by city, and will include your name, city, phone and email. The directory will include mentors to call in your area. The directory will only be available for pickup at the General Meetings beginning in April.

If you would like to opt out of the directory, you may contact Terry Wright.



Thank You



Thank you to the many volunteers who helped with the 23rd Annual Beginning Beekeepers Workshop held at Drumm Farm Center for Children on February 24th.



Basic Beekeeping in March “The Final Countdown”

By Kyle Day, MSBA Honey Ambassador



Welcome all! We have a lot of new beekeepers joining us now, since they have taken our Beginner’s Class in February. I will be trying something new, along with the beginner beekeeping articles, I will also be talking about what a beekeeper in their second year should be doing in a separate article. As our new friends join us, I would like to remind everyone that you can email me questions at any time at day1999@live.missouristate.edu, I check my school email regularly, so I will usually reply in the same day. You can also send your questions to any of the boards members. We also have a question and answer time before each meeting.

If you don’t have your bees yet, then this month is the month to get everything prepared. Start working on where you want your bees and get the apiary set up. Make sure you have all your gear ready to go. Talk to other beekeepers and find a mentor or people you can ask for help as needed. Watch videos and decide which method you want to use to install your bees. The to do list for March is always getting bigger. If you plan on planting spring flowers, you may want to go ahead and order them, so you can have them planted as soon as possible. You will want to go ahead and paint your boxes and give them a couple days to dry. I like to set mine outside and let them air out for a couple of days. When putting hive equipment together, the key is everything needs to be as square as possible. A little off square on each box or frame can make a big difference by the end. When painting your hive equipment, you only paint any parts that would be affected by weather. Paint the top and bottom edges of the boxes and bottom board, where the boxes sit on top of each other. This will make you boxes last longer, by not allowing water to get in the wood between the boxes. I also suggest everyone buy the metal frame rests and insert those into your boxes. This will make it easier to remove frames during hive checks. When setting up your apiary, you will need to figure out what you will use as a hive stand. You will also want your hive in full sun to help control hive beetles. Slightly slope your hive forward so rain will run off the front. I also like to add roof shingles on the ground in front of my hive so I don’t have to mow right in front of my hives. These next couple of months are going to a busy time for beekeepers. I wish you all good luck on your beekeeping endeavors.

March Quick List for Basic Beekeeping

- Order all supplies
- Paint hive equipment
- Figure out how you plan on installing your bees
- Prepare your apiary.

Beekeeping Q’s and A’s

By Kyle Day, MSBA
Honey Ambassador



Is it okay to start with only one hive? I highly suggest starting with at least two hives. This will help your experience level and help you learn the difference between hives and compare. This isn’t always possible, and I know a lot of people who only start with one hive. If you only start with one hive I suggest connecting with other beekeepers and working their hives with them.

What is a “Super?” A Super refers to the boxes that are strictly for honey and is what beekeepers will pull off for extracting. Usually beekeepers will use medium boxes (most common) or shallow boxes (becoming more uncommon and usually used for comb honey production) for their honey supers.

Plastic vs. Wood Frames? This is totally by preference of the beekeeper. In my opinion I use wooden frames with plastic foundation. I do this for a couple of reasons: first, I bought plastic frames a few years ago and I felt the openings in the frame sidebars left a lot of areas for small hive beetles to hide. Next, I also like to write the year I start using frames on the top bars, so I can rotate my comb every so many years. With the plastic foundations, this is harder to do because it either won’t dry on the plastic or it will come off over time.



Midwestern Beekeepers Name Tags

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



Beginners Meeting

Thursday, March 22, 2018
Bass Pro Shop at Independence MO

Conferences & Events

7:00 PM

Come join us and ask questions from a panel of experienced beekeepers to get you started on a good path to successful beekeeping.
Review of Package Bee Installation
Mentoring Groups Discussion



Beekeeping for the 2nd Year Beekeeper and Beyond

By Kyle Day, MSBA Honey Ambassador



July 11-13, 2018
Heartland Apicultural Society
Annual Conference
Washington University, St. Louis
<http://www.heartlandbees.org/>



August 9-19, 2018
Missouri State Fair
Sedalia, MO

Volunteers Needed

<http://www.mostatefair.com/>



September 25-28, 2018
American Royal
School Tours
Hale Arena, Kansas
City, MO

Volunteers Needed

<http://www.americanroyal.com/>



October 19-20, 2018
Missouri State

Beekeepers Association
Fall Conference

Truman State University
Kirksville, Missouri

<http://mostatebeekeepers.org/>

Most of the time March 1st marks the beginning of Spring build up. With Missouri Weather, no telling what will happen within these next few weeks. Even though your bees have been raising brood most of February, the numbers were small (if you weren't stimulating your bees with extra feed.) The bees will not raise a lot of brood during early to mid-February because they will not risk losing brood by raising more than they can handle. The weather will get a little warmer and the bees will be out more and there will be more pollen available if the weather will work with us. This is usually the first month you can actually open the hive and pull frames.

If the weather is permitting (high 60s to 70s), you will need to be making a full hive inspection: check for eggs, laying pattern, and number of brood frames (frames that are mostly filled with eggs, larva, or capped brood). Since the hive numbers are low, there is a good chance of seeing your queen. While it's not important if you see her, you want to see evidence of a queen. During this first hive inspection, keep a record of what you see. Determine how many frames you need to replace (bad or old comb, broken frame sides) so you can come back on your next inspection and replace them. Also, if all the bees and frames of eggs are in the top box, it would be a good idea to reverse your brood boxes. Put the box with the brood on the bottom, but you need to make sure the brood doesn't get split up into each box. It is a good idea to move empty comb and capped honey above the nest because the bees usually move upward. If you reverse your hive bodies, make sure all your brood is in one box. If you split it up, the bees will not be able to take care of all the brood and some will die. Feeding allows maximum increases for a heavy work force of mature bees ready for the April nectar flow. If you do some bee math, the eggs you see in your hive on the first inspection are your future bees and won't be flying for 5 or 6 weeks. If you decide to feed syrup 1:1 or 2:1 (water to sugar), you need to make sure the day and night time temperatures are above freezing.

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

We are open Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM and weekends by appointment. To see our full line of beekeeping products, visit Beekeepers.com. Easy store pickup available to save on shipping. Visit BeePack-ages.com to order Bee Packages for a Kansas City Pickup. For Queens go to QueenBees.com.



Jim Fisher 816-918-6648

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

On January 27th, Gary Walker reported, on the Midwestern Facebook page, Ozark Witch Hazel in bloom near Kansas City. I promptly checked with the Missouri Dept. of Conservation nursery for availability; they are sold out. The clerk recommended placing an order in the event they had more specimens than ordered. Orders accepted thru April 15th.

Trees and shrubs are a significant source of pollen and nectar. Many of the early bloomers provide significantly more pollen than nectar. Pollen, in simple terms, is the building block to a healthy, regenerating hive.



Photo by Luanne ONeal

Pussy Willow, Silver Maple, Red Maple, and, if you are fortunate enough to have an American Elm near your hive, will soon be waking up to feed the bees. Of the Pussy Willow Peter Lindtner says *"If I had a place for only one small tree in my garden, I would plant this one. It is a pleasure to watch bees collecting pollen and packing it into pellets, happily buzzing from one flower to another. Male catkins are more important than female catkins as they produce abundant, nutritious and very fragrant yellow pollen that appears before leaves. Both male and female catkins produce nectar, however."* (Pg. 39 of *Garden Plants for Honey Bees.*) Pages 389 & 399 of the same book offer valuable "suggested bee pasture".

With the welcomed moisture received over the weekend, it won't take much prodding from the sun for our apiaries, pastures, and woodlands to flourish.



<http://grownative.org/events/>

<http://www.mggkc.org/whats-new/>



FOR SALE!

Three Frame Nuc with 2018 Queen. No frame exchange, Missouri. Mated Queen, Antibiotic Free Bees. Weather Permitting pickup about 15 May 2018. 50% deposit with order, Nuc Boxes returned. Erno L. Balogh Ph#816-320-3182

Top Bar Hive Silent Auction

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/702113256545564/>



These two top bar hives were given to Robert Williams in early December. The people who had them, were moving out of state, and moved the bees into langstroth hives earlier in the fall. They didn't have room to take these with them. The hives will be sold by auction and all monies are to be paid to Midwestern Beekeepers Association.

Bids are being taken on our Member Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/702113256545564/> You will have to scroll



down to find the post where bids are being taken. Please place your bids in the comments. Bids are for one hive (per hive.) Highest bidder wins. Please state whether you want one or both hives. If winning bidder only wants one hive, the second hive goes to the next

highest bidder. Bid in \$10.00 increments please.

The hives are made all cedar with stainless steel bolts. They have a large viewing window and are well made. The owners said they spent about \$300 each to build them. The bottoms are screened, with a bottom board, in case you want to close them up. They come with top bars with starter strips and very little wax. It has plywood storm covers, if you want to use them. Auction will end March 18, 2018 and winners announced at the March General Meeting.

Also, don't feed too much because that will cause swarming problems in April. March is a key month to get your hives going in a good direction and try to stay ahead of them, so their development does not get slowed down.

As we prepare for spring we need to think about pest management. The number one pest management strategy is to keep strong hives. For Varroa Mites, I suggest checking your hives at least once a season. If you feel you need to treat for Varroa Mites, there are a couple different options. Due to having brood in the hives, I don't think oxalic acid would be effective, unless you do multiple treatments. If I am treating for Varroa Mites, I choose to use powdered sugar by using a cup per brood box and dusting it on the bees between the frames. When doing this, I will do it three times with roughly a week in between each treatment. There are also a lot of different chemical treatments offered on the market. Remember most of these treatments cannot have honey supers on the hives. For hive beetles, I use a couple different trapping methods. First, I use two beetle traps in each brood box filled with either mineral oil and apple cider vinegar or with pickling lime. Then, I use non scented Swiffer sheets on my top brood box. These will get the beetles trapped without affecting the bees much and I will change them out once a month unless I feel like they need it sooner. This month is usually the first month you can really get into your hive and get the dust off the hive tool and smoker. In just a couple weeks to a month, we will be in the full swing of this bee season. Don't forget to be prepared for this season or you will be behind in a couple months. The bees won't wait for the beekeeper.

Community America Credit Union Transactions for the Month of February 2018

Checking Account Balance as of January 31, 2018	\$ 7,754.89
Savings Account Balance as of January 31, 2018	\$ 2,038.27
Total Receipts Deposited	\$ 4,270.00
Total Expenses Paid	\$ -5,827.33
Dividends from Savings & Checking	\$ 0.46
Transfer funds from CD 08 to Savings	\$ 3,082.36
CU Checking & Savings Balance: February 28, 2018	\$ 11,318.65

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

Save the Date

May 20, 2018, 2:30 PM

Youth Scholarship Silent Auction & Plant Sale
Bass Pro Shop, Independence MO



2018 is a year for red queens. The color denotes the year of the queen's birth. The International Color Chart works like this:
 Years ending in 0 or 5 are blue.
 Years ending in 1 or 6 are white.
 Years ending in 2 or 7 are yellow.
 Years ending in 3 or 8 are red.
 Years ending in 4 or 9 are green.



March Quick List

- Full Hive Inspection-weather permitting.
- Depending on strength of your hive, prepare for splitting in April or May.
- Get equipment and queens ordered and/or queen rearing equipment prepared for splits.

Busy Bob the Bee Man
 Provided By Delores Vivian



He works bees in the morning,
 He works bees late at night,
 He works bees in foul weather,
 And when the sun is bright.
 He works bees every moment,
 It's his only thing in life,
 But all he ever gets from it,
 Is hell from his fed up wife.

By Laurence Cutts adapted from a poem by his mother, Mrs Paul (Inez) Cutts. This was printed in the first quarter, 2001 of the Honey Producers Magazine



Thank you to Harold Wright for building and donating three beekeepers toolboxes and to Robert Hughes of Jordy's Honey for the Top Hive Feeder which were raffled at the Beginning Beekeepers Workshop held on February 24th. The raffle earned \$208 towards the Youth Scholarship Program. Also, many thanks to Crooked Hill Beekeeping and Jordy's Honey for door prizes. Many other major vendors also donated items for door prizes.



Two Jackets and a coffee cup thermos were found after the Beginning Beekeepers Workshop on February 24th. If you are missing these items, they will be available for pickup at the March 18th General Meeting.

Bee Culture

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

<http://www.bee-culture.com/magazine/>
 (800) 289-7668



<https://honeybeehealth-coalition.org/>



<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/non-regulated/honey-bees>

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Terry Wright
9203 South Litchford
Grain Valley MO 64029

March General Meeting
Sunday, March 18, 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



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