

For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



Because the number of members attending our monthly meetings have increased dramatically, you may have noticed a change in seating to allow for an even larger number of attendees.

The emphasis of this month's column will be on educational resources available free to our members. The number one source, in my opinion, is our web page. It is filled with a tremendous number of resources. Take a few minutes to look at all of the articles, photos, columns, beekeeping links, etc... They are available at the click of a mouse. Another valuable resource our group has is its library. There are dozens of books and videos for you to check out to help you in your beekeeping journey. The webpage is found at <http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/>.

In addition to what is found on our web page, take time to surf the web. If you are interested in building your own equipment, you can find excellent YouTube videos online. There are a couple of sites that I can recommend. Jeff Horchoff, at <https://www.youtube.com/user/mygracieme/videos>, has put together many videos on building equipment, and beekeeping in general. He is located in southern Louisiana.

Another beekeeper and equipment builder is located much farther north in Ontario, Canada. I have taken a lot of his ideas for building equipment and have incorporated them into my apiary. Here is his website: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiA38zEnFZW7SmcI0ogQGgQ/featured>. These are just two of many sites that can be found online. Have fun surfing that World Wide Web.

To go along with these educational resources, our association has initiated a new mentor program. We hope each member can participate as either a mentor or a mentee.

There has been a new addition to our materials list. We purchased a three frame mechanical extractor for use by the association's members. It will be available on a first come, first served basis for a nominal fee. Rules are being written to manage the use of the extractor. As they say on TV, stay tuned.

I look forward to seeing you at the April 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.

COMING UP

APRIL

GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, APR 15, 2018

Bass Pro Shop
Independence MO
2:00 PM

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



2018 GENERAL MEETINGS

May 20, 2018, Plant Sale &
YS Silent Auction, 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



April Q & A

By Phil Duncan, President



Q: What is an important step to take for a beginning beekeeper?

A: An informal survey was conducted on Facebook and the overwhelming response was for a new beekeeper to get paired up with a mentor. The first few years can be discouraging for a new beekeeper. Having a good mentor can get you through some rough spots.



Call for Mentors for Mentoring Groups



April General Meeting
Sunday, April 15, 2018
Bass Pro Shop at Independence MO

Thank you to Midwestern Beekeepers member, Roger Wood, for organizing a new kind of mentoring program. One mentor will be assigned to a group of two to three new beekeepers. We are asking the mentor to have a field day five times with your group: one in April, May, and June; then one in July or August, and one in September or October. We are especially in need of mentors in Kansas City and Independence, as well as other areas. If you are interested to learn more or to volunteer, please contact Roger at rwood310@gmail.com

May Field Days

Field Days are being planned for Saturday, May 5th, weather permitting. To attend a Field Day, you must wear protective gear and sign up at the April General Meeting. The field day is limited to 20 people per site.

Robert Hughes, Jordy's Honey

Robert will conduct a field day at the apiary at Johnson County Community College. You must have full suit protective gear to attend this field day.

Tom and Janice Britz, Drexel MO

This field day will be at their personal apiary. You will meet at the Justice Center at I 49 and Hwy 2 in Harrisonville, then drive to Drexel. Some walking will be required and a primitive bathroom is available.

Another Field Day location may also be available.

2:00 PM

Q&A Session for Beginning Beekeepers

2:30 PM

Terry O'Bryan, presenting
"Swarms and Splits!"

**Drawing for one admission
to the NEKBA Bee Fun Day**
Membership Directory will be available for pickup
Sign-up for May Field Days



May General Meeting, Plant Sale, and Youth Scholarship Silent Auction

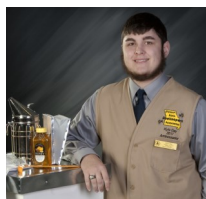
Sunday, May 20, 2018
Bass Pro Shop at Independence MO



Save this date! You do not want to miss the May General Meeting.

Dennis Culpepper will be presenting about Small Hive Beetles. We will have our Annual Silent Auction to benefit our Youth Scholarship Program. Nita Dietz, Youth Scholarship Chairman, has been busy securing donations from major beekeeping vendors to have for auction. Additionally, we are asking members to donate new or gently used beekeeping items, gifts, plants or other items of interest to beekeepers, to be auctioned. This annual event has been a major fundraiser for our Youth Scholarship program. Since the program's inception in 2012, Midwestern Beekeepers have granted some type of award to nearly 40 students. Luanne Oneal and James Reeves have arranged to have a Plant Sale at this meeting, too. There will be a limited supply of Missouri Primrose, Butterfly Weed and Bee Balm (Monarda.) The tagged plants are in 2 quart planters and will be reasonably priced. Proceeds will also go to the Youth Scholarship Program.

Thank you for your participation in this event to provide future scholarships to our beekeeping youth.



Basic Beekeeping April: “The Buzz is On”

By Kyle Day, MSBA Honey Ambassador

April marks the start of many beekeeping careers and marks the start of the spring flow. The flow is the time of the year that at least one of the major nectar sources are in bloom and your bees are getting an abundance of nectar. The nectar sources are usually generalized by region, but can vary within the region by days, sometimes weeks, depending on what floral sources are around your area. As we prepare for the arrival of our bees (Yes, I said ours! I am getting some nucs this year for the research project I am working on with one of my professors.), there are a couple of things we need to think about and prepare ahead of time.

First, you want your apiary completely set up before the arrival for your bees. Have the hive set up and ready to go a couple days before the bees arrive so it can air out and any new paint or glue smell will go away. Have sugar water made and ready to be put on the hive. It is always a good idea to have a spray bottle with sugar water in it with you when you pick up your bees. The sugar water will not only help the bees stay cool, but it will also relax them, and help with the hard transitions. If you are not installing your bees the day you get them, you need to keep them in a cool, dark place. When I must keep a package of bees overnight, I like to keep them in my basement. I will take one of my empty deep hive bodies and place around the package. Then, I will put another hive body with frames above the empty hive body. I only do this because it will make it impossible for the dogs and cats at my house to get to the bees. You will need to install your package soon! If you missed Robert Hughes', of Jordy's Honey, presentation at the last meeting, make sure you watch plenty of beekeepers on the internet or get in touch with a Midwestern beekeeper to try and find a mentor to help you install your package or nuc. Make sure to add sugar water for the bees when you put them in your hive. This will help with spring build up and keeping the bees in the hive.

You need to feed sugar water (1:1) to build comb on new foundation and increase build up. Packages will not begin to grow in numbers for three more weeks and your flying force will not start to grow for five weeks (mid May if you get the package around the 9th of April). Nucs will already be growing when you receive them. Give them room by adding frames of foundation. Feed sugar water, but growth will begin almost immediately, so make sure you provide space early. Once you have comb on seven frames, it is time to add another hive body with frames of foundation or drawn comb.

The major dynamic within the hive is the brood nest and the hive's interaction with it. Where is the brood nest? How big is it? Is there open space around it? Is it expanding or contracting? These are all traits that you should learn to recognize. Most of the advice you hear from other beekeepers is about ways to manipulate the brood nest and its relationship to the rest of the hive.

Most beekeepers, no matter how long they have had bees, are still working on learning to read the brood nest. Don't beat yourself up too badly if you miss something, it takes time to learn. Beekeeping is an uphill battle and everyone has their own way of doing things. You just have to find yours and go with it. As always, if you have any questions, you can email me at day1999@live.missouristate.edu, or contact any of the Midwestern Beekeepers board members.



Basic Beekeeping in April Quick List

- Prepare Apiary
- Figure your way of installing your package or nuc
- FEED, FEED, FEED



Recipes for Sugar Water

(can be measured by
volume or weight)

1:1 (One to One)

Equal parts of pure sugar
and warm water

Example:

1 cup sugar/1 cup water

1pound sugar/1 pound water

Used to promote brood rearing and
colony build up in new colonies

2:1 (Two to One)

Two parts of pure sugar
and one part warm water

Example:

2 cups sugar/1 cup water

2 pounds sugar/1pound water

Promotes Honey Storage
for winter



Midwestern Beekeepers Name Tags

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

Beekeeping for the 2nd Year Beekeeper and Beyond

By Kyle Day, MSBA Honey Ambassador



April: Preparing for Royalty

From the sound of things, swarm season will be coming early this year. I have been hearing of drones and queen cells already being made from a lot of areas around Missouri. Generally, drones start appearing around April 1st and you can start splitting around Mid-April. If you are splitting hives, remember your hive must be strong enough to split. If you are feeding to stimulate for brood rearing, you use a 1:1 sugar water. As the nectar flow strengthens, there isn't a need to feed sugar water unless we get a solid frost or you are building up for splits. There are a lot of different ways to split hives. Each option has its ups and downs and some options will fit you better. If you are looking for a rapid increase of colonies, I would suggest queen rearing by grafting or the Nicot or Jenter systems. If you are looking for a small-scale increase in colony numbers, I would suggest looking into the Miller or On the Spot Queen rearing methods. The main thing you want with all systems are strong hives and use the strongest hives to make the queen cells.

With spring coming and the nectar flow ramping up soon, you will need to make sure your hive has room. The queen will be needing places to lay eggs. If your hives came out of winter with a lot of honey frames, you may want to think about replacing honey frames with empty combs to provide more space. As nectar starts coming in, add honey supers. Also, I would suggest checking varroa mite levels and your queen status. With chemical treatments, I always suggest treating before adding honey supers. Some treatments say you can have honey supers on while treating. I always say, "better safe than sorry," so I treat before it's time to put honey supers on. If your queen is a few years old, you will need to make sure she is still producing at a good level with a good brood pattern. If queens aren't doing a good job, it can really affect your colony and honey crop later in the year.

Beekeeping in April Quick List

- Preparing for Splits
- Varroa Checks/Treatments
- Provide room
- Queen checks
- Switch out equipment for repair
- Add Supers as the brood boxes fill up



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

Conferences & Events

June 2, 2018

NEKBA Bee Funday

Douglas County Fairgrounds
Lawrence, KS

Day of Workshops, Keynote
Speaker, Swarm Demo, Lunch &
Honey Ice Cream

<http://www.nekba.org>



July 11-13, 2018

Heartland Apicultural
Society

Annual Conference

Washington University,
St. Louis, MO

<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/
educational-programming/tours/](http://www.americanroyal.com/educational-programming/tours/)



October 19-20, 2018

Missouri State
Beekeepers Association
Fall Conference

Truman State University
Kirksville, MO

<http://mostatebeekeepers.org/>



Market Place



Honey Plants

By Luanne Oneal

Crooked Hill Beekeeping, LLC.

Bill and Tammy George

19133 LIV 355

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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.

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Jordy's Honey

Robert Hughes

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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.



Bee visiting the compost pile—resourceful creatures!
Photo by Luanne Oneal

Here in Grundy County, I've yet to see dandelions or henbit in bloom. With the forecasted moisture and warmer temps ahead, the landscape is about to explode! It's a good thing as a healthy hive is doing the same. I do see a tiny blue, low

growing plant in my yard. Its name-Corn Speedwell. This lil' bloom isn't visited by the honeybee.

A few blooms they will be visiting:

- Crocus-pollen & nectar; pollen is bright orange
- Hyacinth-some pollen & nectar; pollen is creamy-white to yellowish green
- Star of Bethlehem-both pollen & nectar with creamy white pollen
- Gooseberry-pollen/nectar with greenish pollen pellets
- Serviceberry-pollen/nectar with yellow pollen
- Japanese Quince-more nectar than pollen; yellowish green pollen
- Redbud-pollen/nectar, creamy white pollen

I've seen some light gray pollen come in this year. Possible source this time of year, is the American Elm, but later in the season a few brambles will produce a light gray pollen.

Check out Wikipedia's "List of Pollen Sources" for more information on pollen sources and value to bees.



Native vs Cultivar for Pollinators

Midwestern Beekeepers' member, James Reeves, has been researching native vs cultivars in preparation for the upcoming plant sale at the May 20th General Meeting and Youth Scholarship Silent Auction. Cathy Bylinowski, Horticulture Educator, University of Missouri Extension Service, said, "I think the consensus of many biologists concerned with pollinator conservation is that native plants have evolved with native pollinators for thousands of years and provide what pollinators need in the way of food and habitat. Some cultivars may support pollinators, but others are sterile or produce less nectar or nectar that is unavailable to pollinators."

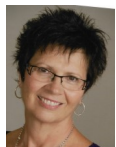
Here are some links to documents that might be of interest:

<https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/plant-lists/pollinator-plants-midwest-region/>

<https://pollinatorgardens.org/2013/02/08/my-research/>

<https://xerces.org/2017/11/21/picking-plants-for-pollinators-the-cultivar-conundrum/>





Welcome New Members

By Terry Wright

Brendan Warren
Kansas City MO
Ron Mason
Fort Scott MO
Eric Horton
Kansas City MO
Leonard Hill
Trimble MO
Gina Hill
Trimble MO
Dawn Zachgo
Independence MO
Jennifer Bradshaw
Lees Summit MO
Janice Marsicek
Lees Summit MO
Sherri Higgins
Overland Park KS
Melissa Bennett
Olathe KS
Brian Scott
DeSoto KS
Alvin Plank
Garden City MO
Sheryl Plank
Garden City MO
Susan Welsh
Kansas City MO
Normandy Davis
Kansas City MO
Kelly Jean
Holt MO
Mark Owens
Kansas City MO
Katherine Lorand
Kansas City MO
Dylan Chan
Kansas City MO
Bill Dickinson
Kansas City MO
Lisa Ortiz Batesel
Independence MO
Justin Batesel
Independence MO

Trent Mumm
Higginsville MO
Flora Mahaffy
Kansas City MO
Denise Kiehnhoff
Wathena KS
Anna Lemus
Kansas City MO
Dave Burmaster
Independence MO
Joyce Theis
Wathena KS
James Stephen
Sugar Creek MO
Rob Durham
Odessa MO
Eric Garbison
Kansas City MO
Virginia Davis
Kansas City MO
Chris Homiak
Kansas City MO
Christopher Rhinkleft
Kansas City MO
Christopher Gray
Independence MO
Sam Beavers
Independence MO
Daniel Trent
Pleasant Hill MO
Stacy Epema
Pleasant Hill MO
Leo Wetherill
Prairie Village KS
Brittany Frazier
Kansas City MO
Sam Steiger
Kansas City MO
Melvin Keyser
Concordia MO
Mary Ann Keyser
Concordia MO
Kathryn Pelzmann
Lawson MO

Joe Pelzman
Lawson MO
Paul Gilkey
Kansas City MO
Lynette Gilkey
Kansas City MO
Carol Caplinger
Leavenworth KS
AnnMarie Powers
Warrensburg MO
Karen Hastings
Smithville MO
Jeff Paulic
Lees Summit MO
Lance Carroll
Lees Summit MO
Stuart Carpenter
Kansas City MO
Dan Richards
Independence MO
Sara Richards
Independence MO
Sam E. Ware
Blue Springs MO
Astacia Hauck
Lees Summit MO
Brian Wathen
Lathrop MO
Bobbie Wathen
Lathrop MO
Gail Hodges
Independence MO
Mendy Althouse
Westwood KS
Darla Lilly
Lansing KS
Annette Gercken
Kansas City MO
Robert Middleton
Kansas City MO
Matthew Weston
Independence MO
Bill Kennedy
Greenwood MO

Amanda Canon
Lees Summit MO
Derrick Prince
Belton MO
Douglas Webster
Lees Summit MO
Jill Erickson
Kansas City MO
Marjorie Craig
Independence MO
Jared Presler
Independence MO
Ron Baltzer
Lees Summit MO
Tim Barton
Blue Springs MO
Bryn Takle
Blue Springs MO
Erin Nelson
Kansas City MO
Stuart Brown
Kansas City MO
Gary Wesche
Kansas City MO
Kelly Daniels
Stillwell KS
Timothy Schmuke
Kansas City MO
Christopher Downs
Grain Valley MO
Sue Engbroten
Leawood KS
Elliott Laine
Independence MO
Alphonse Mendy
Westwood KS
Debi Yeager
Adrian MO
Bob & Jean Wisecup
Independence MO
Denise Potter
Holt MO
West Uman
Liberty MO
Jeremy Terry
Kansas City MO
Thomas L Thissen
Kansas City MO
Brittany Lamb
Kansas City MO
Jerome Cook
Harrisonville MO



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

<http://u.osu.edu/beelab/>

2018 Bee Lab Webinar Series (60 minutes well spent!)

April 18, Olivia Carril, author and scientist: Identifying Common Bees of the Great Lakes Region

May 16, Reed Johnson, OSU Entomology: Where are Honey Bees Foraging in Ohio?

June 20, Kim Flottum, author and editor of Bee Culture Magazine: Ethics in Beekeeping

July 18, Alex Zomchek, Master Beekeeping Instructor: Insect/Animal Husbandry – What You Do and Don't Do Matters!

August 15, Elizabeth Long, OSU Entomology: Protecting Pollinators from Pesticides

September 19, Kelley Tilmon, OSU Entomology: Pollinator Diversity in Ohio Soybeans

October (date TBA), Randy Mitchell, The University of Akron: The Ohio Bee Survey: In Search of the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee



Top Bar Hive Silent Auction



Thank you to Bob Williams for organizing the Top Bar Hive Silent Auction. As you may recall, these hives were donated to Bob by beekeepers that were moving out of state. \$190 was raised from the silent auction to go toward the Youth Scholarship Program. Well done, Bob!



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Releasing Package Bees in the Rain

www.onetew.com

By Jim Tew

According to Dr. James E. Tew, State Specialist, Beekeeping, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, in general, installing package bees is about a five step process: (1) Remove the outer lid and feeder can, (2) remove the queen cage and check her out, (3) remove the cork from the candy plug end and insert—end up—between frames in the colony, (4) bounce and shake bees on the queen cage, (5) place the empty cage in front of the hive and close things up. But, some days it rains! Watch “Rain Packages Final” on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/256084852?ref=embed-share>



Bee Culture

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

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

(800) 289-7668





RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Terry Wright

9203 South Litchford

Grain Valley MO 64029

April General Meeting

Sunday, April 15, 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



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