

## For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



Well a new year and a new decade have begun. I hope each of you had a wonderful time with family and friends over the holiday season.

Since Mother Nature decided to block our December meeting and pot luck dinner we have moved it to the January meeting date at the same locate as the December meeting. We will install the 2020 Board of Directors as well as present awards. Following this activity you will have lots of time to talk about bees and enjoy a fine meal.

I look forward to 2020 and our meetings. I am sure Erik will have a variety of interesting programs for both beginning and experienced beekeepers. In addition to our regular meetings you will have the opportunity to partake in our 25<sup>th</sup> Beginning Beekeeping Class on February 29. In March the Missouri State Beekeepers Association will host their spring meeting at Longview Community College.

In regards to beekeeping this time of year you have the opportunity to take care of special projects. In January or February you should have days where you can check on your bees and treat for mites with Oxalic Acid vapor if that is your method of mite control. It would also be a good time to check on the food status of your bees. If it appears that they are running low on food you should consider adding supplemental feed with either sugar or fondant. The warm days we have had so far can be a blessing and a curse for beekeeping in this area. The bees consume their food supply much quicker when they can get outside of the hive.

## COMING UP

GENERAL MEETING  
SUNDAY,  
January 19, 2020  
Christmas Social/Potluck  
Yellow Rock Barn



### 2020 GENERAL MEETINGS

#### JANUARY 19-YELLOW ROCK BARN

FEBRUARY 16- BASS PRO

MARCH 15-BASS PRO

APRIL 19- BASS PRO

MAY 17-BASS PRO

JUNE 14-BASS PRO

JULY 19- BASS PRO

AUGUST-PICNIC TBD

SEPTEMBER 20-BASS PRO

OCTOBER 18-TBD

NOVEMBER 15-TBD

DECEMBER 13-TBD

*IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER ON THE DAY OF A MEETING, PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, OR CALL AN OFFICER*



[Renew your  
2020 member-  
ship](#)



[Become a MSBA  
member today](#)



**For the Good of the Bees**  
(continued)  
By Phil Duncan, President

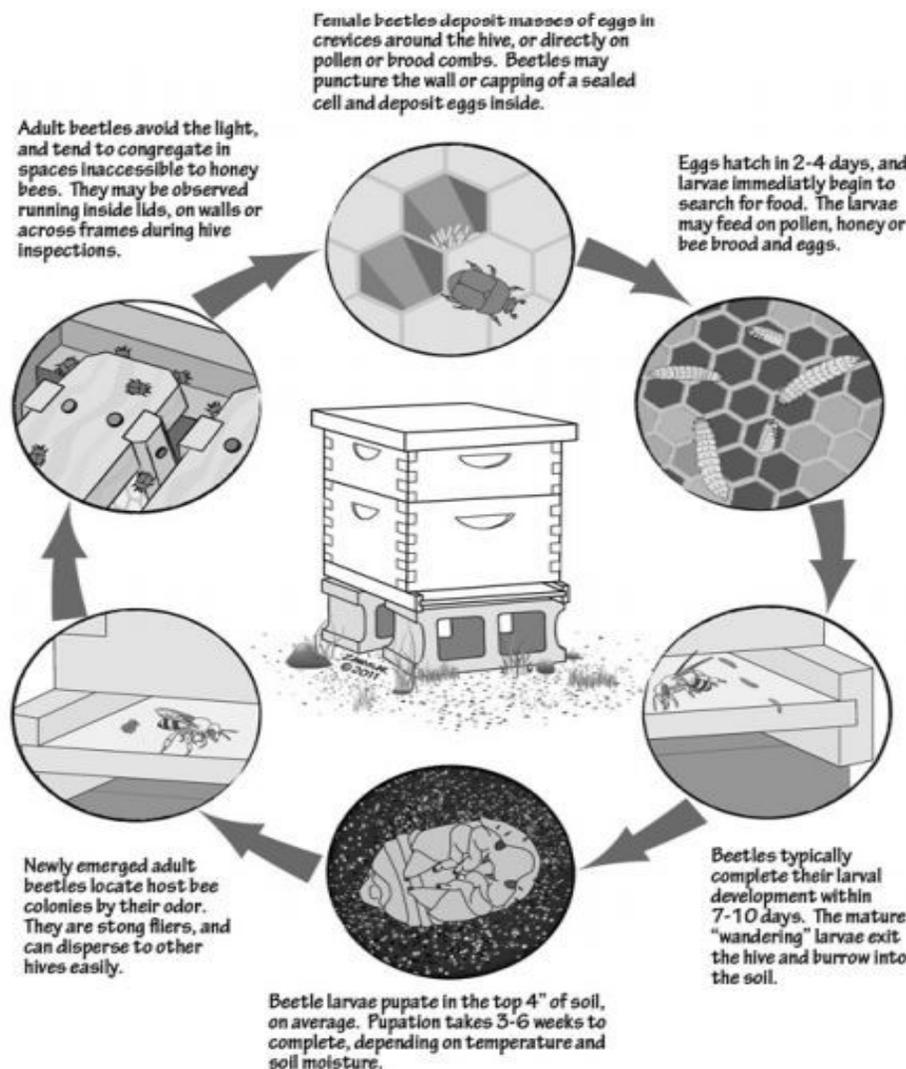
**Welcome New Members**  
By Terry Wright



January and February are also good times to build or assemble new equipment. Having all your equipment ready to go at the start of spring increases the odds of a great year for you and your bees.

I look forward to seeing you at our January meeting. I will close with a quote from Scott Hendriks. He is a beekeeper in Ontario Canada. He has a YouTube channel on beekeeping. "Be good to your bees and I'm sure they will be good to you."

**Life cycle of the Hive Beetle**



- Laura Trembl
- Mark Yioung

Membership dues are \$15.00 per year (January 1-December 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 \$10.00 per year. Membership is open to all people interested in beekeeping and entitles you to our monthly newsletter, the free 30 day loan of books from our extensive library, discounts on bee journals, and the right to free (non-commercial) advertising in the newsletter plus the opportunity to attend our informative monthly meetings. You can renew your membership in person at meetings or on our website at :

<http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/2018/01/join/>

**2020 New Officers**

- Roger Woods-Scholarship
- James Murray-Webmaster
- Sara Hornung-2nd VP Membership
- Marty Hansen- Board Member
- Terry Wright- Board Member



## Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central  
Regional Director

### Beekeeping in January

#### *January: New Year, New Beekeeper*

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 local 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 29th, and more information is posted at [midwesternbeekeepers.org](http://midwesternbeekeepers.org) and in this newsletter. Also, Missouri State Beekeepers Association will be having a Spring Conference March 13th and 14th close to home in Lee Summit, Missouri. 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](http://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 [sunnydaybeekeeping@gmail.com](mailto:sunnydaybeekeeping@gmail.com). I hope you had happy holidays. Now it's time to prepare for honey season.



## Market Place



**Basic Beekeeping**  
(Continued)  
By Kyle Day, MSBA West  
Central  
Regional Director

### [Beekeepers.com](http://Beekeepers.com)

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

[RobertLHughes2000@yahoo.com](mailto:RobertLHughes2000@yahoo.com)

[Beekeepers.com](http://Beekeepers.com) is your local Kansas City Bee Company. We carry a full line of Beekeeping Supplies, Bees and Queens. Visit our website [www.Beekeepers.com](http://www.Beekeepers.com) for your all your beekeeping supplies. Go to our website [BeePackages.com](http://BeePackages.com) to order your Bee Packages and [QueenBees.com](http://QueenBees.com) to order your Queens. We are available by appointment Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00



### Sunny Day Beekeeping

Kyle Day  
Richmond MO  
64085  
816-654-5287



[www.sunnydaybeekeeping.com](http://www.sunnydaybeekeeping.com)

Open by appointment on most days. Wide range of hours are available throughout the week. Due to college and work schedule, phone calls may not be answered right away, but feel free to text. I will contact you back as soon as I can. Locally made high quality woodenware. We offer all things needed to keep bees, including: woodenware (assembled and unassembled/painted available), hive kits, frames, foundation, smokers, tools, bee suits, veils, books, honey containers, extraction equipment, NUC boxes, swarm traps. Free delivery to most Midwestern Beekeepers Association meetings.

### 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: Woodenware (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. Deliveries at Cameron, MO every Tuesday from 6-7 pm. Please call first.



### Messner Bee Farm Store

Erik and Rachael Messner  
8301 Westridge Road  
Raytown, MO 64138  
816-585-6814



## Basic Beekeeping in 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 stores. Make sure hives have a good number 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.



## Midwestern Beekeepers Association

### 25th Annual Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

**Date:** February 29, 2020

**Time:** Registration 7:30AM , Workshop 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

#### Details:

Learn about bee biology, equipment, acquiring bees, seasonal management, bee diseases, pest management, extracting honey and much more at the Beginning Beekeepers Workshop on February 29, 2020.

Hosted by the Midwestern Beekeepers Association. The complete course includes classes, handbook, association membership, refreshments, lunch, a monthly newsletter, prizes and beekeeping supply vendors on site.

The event will be held 8 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, at Westminster Hall, 417 W. Lexington Ave, Independence, MO 64050 Cost is \$65. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org>



With the old year behind us and a new one in front, we can reflect on the accomplishments and failures of the past. Hopefully the accomplishments are more than the failures. We can improve in areas that were not so good and try to repeat the things that were successful.

Most beekeepers I spoke with harvested an above normal honey crop. However, due to the amount of rainfall and moisture we received last year, the moisture content in the honey was also higher than normal.

So, with that in mind, I was thinking about how to improve the honey plants. To begin with, what plants worked this year? I found the Monarda Didyma (Bee Balm) was a productive plant. Also the Phlox was also very good at attracting bees. Asters and Zinnias also were productive.

One that didn't work so well this year is the primrose. Not that it is a bad plant, but maybe this year it will be established better and will take off. So with patience, I will allow it to grow.

Another plant that seemed to do well was the cat mint. It was late blooming but when it did, it made a ton of blooms and attracted all sorts of bees. Although we are not suppose to have bees in the city limits of Blue Springs, bees, honey bees in particular, were prolific, in our yard. I also planted some milk weed and it attracted bees and butterflies.

This year I also started journaling to keep records of activity. Recently, while reflecting on the past year, it jarred my memory as to what happened over the year. This is a good way to remember what worked and didn't work. Records can be kept for years to compare results of what happened and what works and didn't work. Graphs can reveal what was expected and give a visual treatment as opposed to just reading numbers.

So while January is not a productive month in the garden, it is up to you to make it an oriented time of reflection. In the mean time while Patiently waiting for Spring.





## Conferences & Events

# General Meeting



March 13-14 2020  
 Missouri State Beekeepers Association  
 Spring Conference  
 Rockhurst University KC Mo

GENERAL MEETING  
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020

2:30 PM

The Yellow Rock Barn  
 8307 Westridge Rd.

Raytown, Mo 64138

***Christmas Social***

The Association will provide the meats, breads, drinks and paper goods. Please bring a side dish to share.



American Beekeeping Federation

2020 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow  
 January 8-11 Schaumburg, Illinois  
<https://abfconference.com/>



Jan 9-11, 2020 Great Plains Growers Conference Missouri  
 Western State University St. Joseph, MO [greatplainsgrowersconference.org](http://greatplainsgrowersconference.org)

Community America Credit Union Transactions for December 2019	
Checking Account Balance: November 30, 2019	\$ 4,386.73
Savings Account Balance: November 30, 2019	\$ 5,784.69
PayPal Account Balance: November 30, 2019	\$ 100.00
Total Receipts Deposited in Checking	\$ 00.18
Total Expenses Paid from Checking	\$ -263.07
Transfer to Savings from CD #5	\$ 1,074.56
Checking Account Balance: December 31, 2019	\$ 4,123.84
Dividend in Savings account	\$ 0.79
Savings Account Balance: December 31, 2019	\$ 6,860.04
PayPal Account Balance: December 31, 2019	\$ 100.00
CD's total capital as of November 30, 2019	\$ 22,534.28
Transfer to Savings from CD #5	\$ -1,074.56
Dividends received	\$ 31.96
CD's total capital as of December 31, 2019	\$ 21,491.68

<http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/about-us/>

MIDWESTERN  
**Beekeepers**  
ASSOCIATION



## 25th Annual Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

Saturday, February 29, 2020

Westminster Hall

417 W. Lexington Ave., Independence MO 64050

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 21, 2020**

*No Refunds after February 21, 2020*

Class Fee, Lunch,  
& Midwestern Beekeepers Association One Year Membership \$65 ea \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Family member of the same household: (Class Fee & Lunch) \$50 ea \_\_\_\_\_

Current Midwestern Association Members:  
Class Fee & Lunch: \$50 ea \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to: Midwestern Beekeepers Association**

Mail registration form and fees to:  
Midwestern Beekeepers Association  
PO Box 374  
Blue Springs, MO 64013

For More Information, call Bob Williams at (816) 331-6634 or Cindy Connell at (816) 517-4357  
<http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/>



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Terry Wright  
9203 South Litchford  
Grain Valley MO 64029

**GENERAL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020**  
**2:30 PM**  
**The Yellow Rock Barn**  
**8307 Westridge Rd.**  
**Raytown, MO 64138**

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 Marjorie Craig, Editor, at [1989mmay@gmail.com](mailto:1989mmay@gmail.com), to place your ad.



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



Membership/Renewal



MidwstnBeekprsA



Midwestern Beekeeper's  
Association



Midwestern Beekeepers  
Association  
Members Closed Group

To make a library request, go to [MBA's library](#), and choose your book or video. Contact John Martin at [jmartin98@comcast.net](mailto:jmartin98@comcast.net) or 816-726-6371 to make your request. John will bring your requested items to the next General Meeting. You must be a member of Midwestern Beekeepers Association to check out books or videos.



***Do you need someone to call to answer a question about your hives? Get your copy of the MBA's Members Directory at the General Meetings!***