

## For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



This is a column topic I never dreamed that I would ever write. We have had meetings cancelled because of bad weather. We have had to move meeting dates and locations due to various reasons. I never thought we would have to cancel not one but two meetings due to the Pandemic. We cancelled the March meeting out of caution for the safety of our members. The April in person meeting is also cancelled due to the order issued by counties in the metro area requiring people to stay at home. While we will not have a regular on-site April meeting we are plan-ning on a regular May meeting but that is even subject to change.

We understand that we have a lot of 1<sup>st</sup> year and 2<sup>nd</sup> year members who will be seeking guidance this spring. Erik Messner is working hard to come up with alternative programs that can be accessed on-line to provide solid beekeeping information. As more information becomes available we will be sending it out to our members.

On a more positive note the sun is shining today and despite high winds it is a great day to be outside. By the time you read this you should have your bees installed or taking a hard look at splitting your existing hives. Hopefully this will be a great season for raising bees and collecting a lot of honey.

I am keeping my column short this month as I know you have more pressing issues than taking time to read my long winded thoughts. Hang in there and stay healthy. Socialize with your bees. If you want people to stay away from you when you shop just wear a full bee suit.

I will close with a completely unrelated topic. I was reminded by one of our members to tell folks to add water to drains that are not used on a regular basis. This is especially true if some of you have returned from your winter migration. Little used drains can dry up and allow sewer gas to enter your house. This year stinks enough without having to deal with it in your home.

## COMING UP GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY, April 19, 2020



APRIL 19- ONLINE

MAY 17-TBD

JUNE 14-TBD

JULY 19- TBD

AUGUST-PICNIC TBD

SEPTEMBER 20-TBD

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*

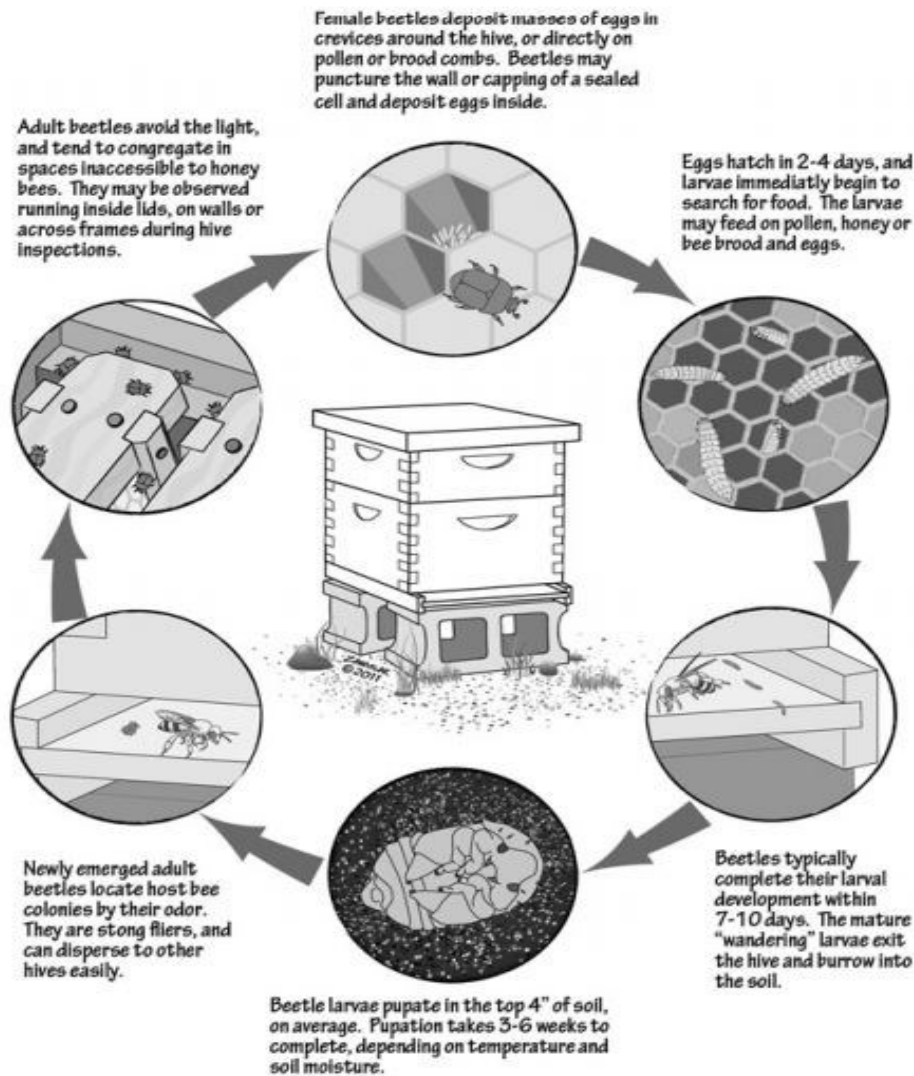


[Renew your  
2020 member-  
ship](#)



[Become a MSBA  
member today](#)

## Welcome New Members



### Association By-Laws

[http://  
www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/  
members-area/association-by-laws/](http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/members-area/association-by-laws/)

### Nuc and Queen Initiative Guidelines

[http://  
www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/nuc/  
nuc-and-queen-initiative-guidelines/](http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/nuc/nuc-and-queen-initiative-guidelines/)

### Youth Scholarship

[http://  
www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/  
youth-scholarship-2/](http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/youth-scholarship-2/)

### Our Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/  
midwesternbeekeepers/](https://www.facebook.com/midwesternbeekeepers/)

## *Recipes for Sugar Water*

*Can be measured by Volume or Weight*

### 1:1 (One to One)

Equal parts of pure sugar & warm water

Ex. 1 cup sugar/ 1 cup water  
1lb of sugar/ 1lb of water

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

### 2:1 (Two to One)

Two parts of pure sugar & one part warm water

Ex. 2 cup sugar/ 1 cup water  
2lb of sugar/ 1lb of water

Promotes Honey Storage for winter



## Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central  
Regional Director

The major dynamic within the hive is the brood nest and the hives interaction with it. Where it is, how big it is, open space around it, expanding or contracting, these are all traits that you should learn to recognize. If you can learn to read the brood nest, the advice you hear from other beekeepers is actually 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 this so don't beat yourself up too badly if you miss something, it takes time to learn. Beekeeping is an uphill battle and there is no wrong answer, everyone has their own way of doing things and you just have to find yours and go with it. As always if you have any questions you can email me at [sunnydaybeekeeping@gmail.com](mailto:sunnydaybeekeeping@gmail.com) or contact any of the Midwestern Beekeepers board members.

### *April: "The start of your Beekeeping Adventure"*

April marks the start of many of your 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. These are usually generalized by a big area but can range within the area by days sometimes weeks depending on what floral sources are around your area. As we prepare for the arrival of your bees 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 water will not only help them stay cool, but it will also relax your bees, 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. For 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 on top. I only do this because it will make it impossible for the dogs and cats at my house to get to the bees. But you will need to install your package asap. Make sure you have a plan on how to install your bees. Watch plenty of beekeepers on the internet or get in touch with Midwestern Beekeepers to try and find a mentor to help you install your package or nuc. Make sure you add sugar water to them when you put them in. This will help with their spring build up and keeping them in the hive. When introducing a package I highly suggest using some time of bucket feed so if the bees need to cluster they can still have easy access to sugar water. For a nuc your feeder options are opened to any feeders. Personally I like to use a hive top feeder or a 1 gallon frame feeder, but find what works the best for you.

Those using new foundation in April, need to feed syrup (1:1) to build comb, establish the colony and help increase build up. Those with packages, your hive will not begin to grow in numbers for 3 more weeks and your flying force will not start to grow for 5 weeks (mid May if you get the package around the 9th of April). Nucs will already be growing when you receive them, just give them room and feed syrup like the packages but growth will begin almost immediately so make sure you provide space early. If you are buying a package or nucs for your first time this year, make sure you have everything set up and ready to go for when they arrive.

### Basic Beekeeping in April Quick List

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





## Market Place

## Honey Plants

By James Reeves



### Beekeepers.com

Robert Hughes

12333 Wedd Street

Overland Park, KS 66213

913-681-5777

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

[Beekeepers.com](http://www.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



**FOR SALE!**

I have 6 10 frame complete hives with bees for sale.

\$250 complete hive.

Call Norman Dennison

816-772-4956

So what plants are you planting for the promotion of honey bees? Last month we looked at the Bee Balm or Monarda.

April is the best time to plant clovers. Plant clover in the spring when frost has past and temperature is 40 degrees Fahrenheit or warmer at night. The best time to plant clover in the spring is from mid-April to mid-May to coincide with spring rains. Clover needs about 30 inches of rain, ideally at least 45 inches, and from four to six hours of sunlight daily. If you are able to irrigate, seed clover in late summer to early autumn. If you plant it then, do it at least six weeks before the first heavy freeze. Dutch white clover (*Trifolium repens*) will grow in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 4a through 9b. Also, clover can be planted in borders and along fences to make beautiful mounds for the bees. Most people don't think of clovers as a border but they can be planted against a building out 3-4 feet and reduce the amount of lawn to mow. Especially yellow clover because it will grow tall and lanky. (And it adds color). Little to no maintenance is required for clover and the bees will love you forever.



Clover is a living mulch that helps keep the ground moist, adds much needed nitrogen to the soil, and helps to keep the weeds at bay. It likes the soil ph to be between 6-7. If the ph of the soil is too low, add some lime to the soil or if it is too acidic, add a base. Clover is easy to plant. Add some sand with the seed when planting and it will give you about the right amount of coverage. You will need about 2 oz of seed per 1000 square feet.



## Basic Beekeeping (Continued)

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central  
Regional Director

# Beekeeping For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year beekeeper and beyond

## *April: Preparing for Royalty*

From the sounds of things swarm season will be starting soon this year. I have been hearing of drones and queen cells already being made in areas around central Missouri, and they will quickly move this way. Most generally drones start appearing around April 1<sup>st</sup> and you can start splitting around Mid-April. If you are splitting hives remember your hive has to be strong to split. Generally, if you are feeding to stimulate for brood rearing you use a 1:1 or 1:2 (Sugar to Water) as the nectar flow is getting strong there isn't a need to feed unless we get a solid frost, or if you are building up splits. There is 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 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. I have more experience with these methods than any other method. The main thing you want with all systems are strong hives and use the strong 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. 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, and as nectar starts coming in adding honey supers. Also, I would suggest checking varroa levels and your queen status. With chemical treatments I always suggest using before adding honey supers. Some treatments say you can have honey supers on while treating, but I always say "better safe than sorry," so I treat before it's time to put honey supers on. If your queens are a few years old, you will need to make sure they are 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 later in the year and your honey crop. The UoG Honey Bee Research Centre channel has some great videos on YouTube that are very informational as you continue to grow your beekeeping operation.

## Beekeeping in April Quick List

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





# General Meeting



<https://mostatebeekeepers.org/>

GENERAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020  
2:30 PM  
Zoom Conference Video

You will be sent an e-mail with log in information

Roger Wood will be presenting on the topic:

“Hive Inspections”



<https://abfconference.com/>

Please go to our website for Spring  
Video Guides.

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

There you will find more information on installing packages and nucs. As well as how to conduct splits.



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



# MIDWESTERN Beekeepers ASSOCIATION

PLEASE CHECK ONE: \_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBERSHIP

2019 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$15

2019 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$18

*TWO OR MORE FAMILY MEMBERS AT THE SAME HOUSEHOLD*

*LIMITED TO TWO VOTES, TWO EMAILS AND PHONE CONTACTS*

NAME #1 \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME#2 \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

Midwestern Beekeepers Association

Mail to:

Midwestern Beekeepers Association

9203 S Litchford Rd

Grain Valley MO 64029

Questions:

Contact Terry Wright at (816) 578-4460

[926wright@gmail.com](mailto:926wright@gmail.com)



**GENERAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020  
2:30 PM**

**Zoom Conference Video**

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!***