



For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



For The Good of the Bees and the Beekeepers

As you know by now things have changed regarding multiple August activities. Specifically the Missouri State Fair was cancelled and our August picnic has been cancelled. I expect many of you are looking at what is ahead for your family if you have school age children. It is going to be an interesting fall for sure.

Enough of non-bee talk for now. By now many of you have harvested your honey crop. Hope you had a great yield. Something you might have run into was the difficulty of buying honey containers. I had to wait until August 6th to get my 12 oz. honey bears. The pre-forms used to make the honey bears is the same used to make hand sanitizer bottles. The company Robert Hughes of Jordy's Honey uses to make his containers has gone from one shift per day during the week to three shifts per day during the week and two shifts on the weekend. I purchased a full case this week and split it with another member. If you still need containers but don't need a full case get together with other members to split a case. You save around 10 cents per container if you buy a case lot. One his current supply is gone he won't be able to get another shipment for several weeks.

If you have not extracted yet don't forget that our organization as an extractor and other extracting equipment for rent at a very reasonable cost.

A lady contacted me on August 6th offering to donate bee equipment to our club. They had used it for a couple of seasons and lost their bees but no longer wanted to work with the bees. The retail value is over \$580. We will most likely use this to raise funds for our youth scholarship program as this was her wish. If you have equipment that you no longer use please consider donating it to our organization to support our youth scholarship program. If you know someone who got out of the beekeeping experience see if you can talk them into donating also.

Since we are on the subject of the youth scholarship program I would like to remind you that we will be needing applications from young people who are looking to get into beekeeping. We are looking for families who are not involved with beekeeping but would like to get their children involved. It is a great program that has been ongoing for several years. To fund our scholarship program we rely on donations of money and equipment. The equipment is used at our annual fundraising auction. It normally would have occurred this spring but without in person meetings it had to be postponed. Hopefully we can be able to meet in September and hold our fundraiser at that meeting.

COMING UP GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY, August 16, 2020



AUGUST 16- 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*



MIDWESTERN
Beekeepers
ASSOCIATION



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For the Good of the Bees (Continued)

By Phil Duncan, President

Now that the nectar flow is essentially over you need to monitor your bees and watch for robbing, mites and small hive beetles. An apparently strong hive can go downhill very fast. If you have a queen that becomes unproductive the hive will replace her. One danger is if the new queen doesn't make it back from her mating flight. Your hive numbers can



crash very quickly. When that occurs the small hive beetles can move in and take over. It takes no time at all for a hive to become a slimy mess. I speak from experience.

Hope everyone can attend our August Zoom meeting.

Welcome New Members

Life time Membership Requirements

ARTICLE IX: AWARDS

Section 2: Lifetime Membership Award

A. This award shall go to an individual who has been a member of this Association for at least twenty years and has paid dues in at least 15 of the last twenty years.

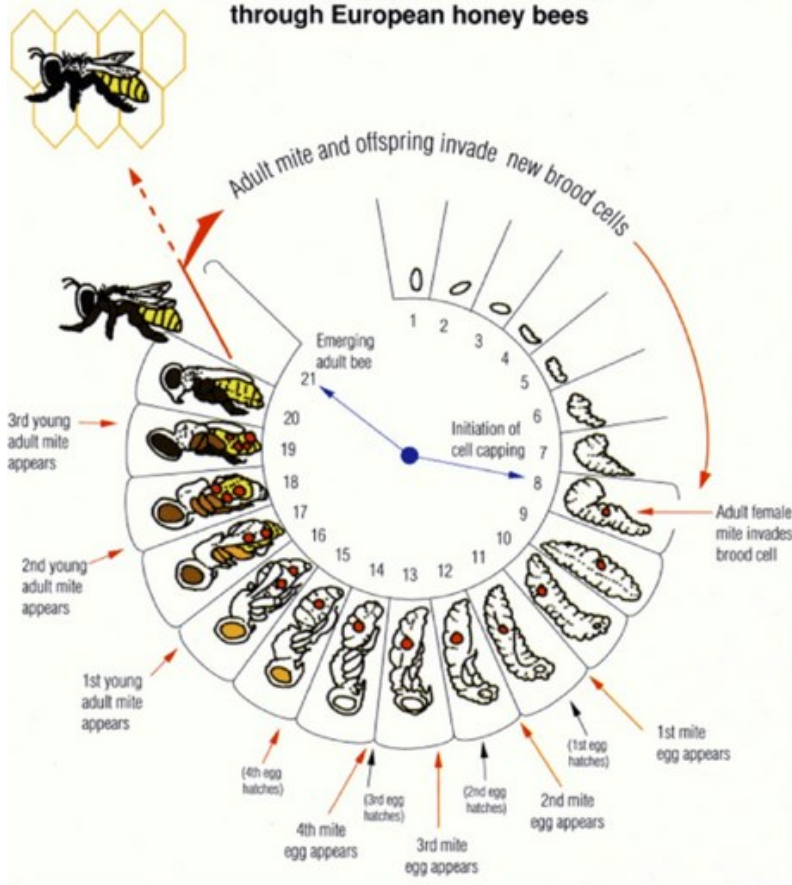
B. The member selected for this award shall have the following attributes:

- a. Do the most to promote the art of beekeeping.
- b. Promote the Association.
- c. Promote Membership in the Association.
- d. Publicize beekeeping and to introduce the art of beekeeping to prospective future beekeepers.

<http://>

www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/members-area/association-by-laws/

Life cycle (days) of the Asian mite through European honey bees





Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central
Regional Director

Fall Management Tips For All Beekeepers

“You know, you never can tell with bees.” -Winnie The Pooh

With fall fast approaching we need to start looking at our Fall Management plans this is the most important thing to start preparing for, this article will give some of the major things to cover over the next couple months. Your thoughts and actions starting in August will depend on the strength of the fall honey flow, which is weather related, the strength and health of our hives, which is most associated with our queen's strength and health, but indirectly related to mite populations and how well our hives deal with that population. Depending on areas, some may have to feed.

In Missouri, most Fall Management is preparing for winter and that is really what I focus on rather than trying to get a fall honey crop.

The keys to winter survival is healthy young bees; dry, sheltered, well ventilated hives, sized to match your cluster size; and adequate food stores.

We start this towards the end of August by setting hives up by what they will overwinter in. There is a lot of different opinions on how many boxes, the best way is to talk to other beekeepers (Via Meetings/Facebook would be the best options). Overwintering in double deeps (or three mediums) if possible. This is the method that many beekeepers have used for years and is the norm. If late hives are in singles, overwintering is possible and many large scale beekeepers do it, or you can combine hives together to have a double deep. Newer Beekeepers, I would suggest talking with mentors/experienced beekeepers for guidance. For new bees I suggest 2 deeps (3 mediums) to overwinter in. If they fill one full box, they need a second box of comb filled with honey to survive. You can try white comb if that's all you have, but if the comb is not drawn and filled, it will be difficult to draw comb and fill it with nectar or syrup. With multiple hives of about equal strength, I will balance honey frames between them. The goal is to 'manipulate' hives with adequate space for their current size and a small growth for the brood that will be laid in the next couple months, and then space for an adequate store of food.

There are several methods of assessing your hive's mite load, and I will not try to describe them here nor tell you which is best because we all our own opinions. I will say that you need to read about them, experiment with them, and find one that you feel comfortable with. No method is better if you don't use it, can't understand it, or don't feel confident that you are doing it right. Try to be consistent between tests and between hives. It does take practice. Once you have your counts, it's time to treat for mites if you believe in this. I want to know the mite load regardless if I treat or not because whether I lose that hive through the winter, I want some data to help determine what went wrong.

After mites, we must evaluate each hive and ultimately the queen. A beekeeper once told me, "take your losses in the fall, and not in the winter". He was right. It is hard to give up on a hive or queen in the fall, but it is harder to lose a hive in February. You must learn how to fairly evaluate the queen. If it was a late swarm and the queen did not have the time or the nectar to build a strong hive, don't blame that on the queen. But if this queen has a poor pattern and maybe you got this swarm in April, and the hive is still small, the queen will not improve next year and may not survive winter. A good way to evaluate is to compare queens side by side. If one queen has a solid brood pattern and the other doesn't, and the good pattern hive has lots of bees and the other hive does not, that is pretty good evidence that the poor pattern queen needs to be culled and combined with another hive.

Market Place

Honey Plants

Beekeepers.com

Robert Hughes

12333 Wedd Street

Overland Park, KS 66213

913-681-5777

RobertLHughes2000@yahoo.com

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 for your all your beekeeping supplies. Go to our website BeePackages.com to order your Bee Packages and QueenBees.com to order your Queens. We are available by appointment Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00



Sunny Day Beekeeping

Kyle Day

Richmond MO

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www.sunnydaybeekeeping.com

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Crooked Hill Beekeeping, LLC.

Bill and Tammy George

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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. 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.



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Erik and Rachael Messner

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Raytown, MO 64138

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

\$250 complete hive.

Call Norman Dennison

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Earlier this spring, I was at the local Garden nursery to buy plants for the summer. I have an interest in pollinator friendly plants, so a particular plant caught my eye. It was catnip. I don't have a cat, neither do I plan to get one in the future. (Sorry cat people)

So I purchased two plants to put by the edge of the deck. They grew quite large and had an abundance of blooms.

Catnip is a vigorous and weedy herbaceous perennial native to Eurasia in the mint family (Lamiaceae) that is hardy in zones 3-9. While not native to the US it grows prolific in our area. *Nepeta cataria* is one of several species that are referred to collectively as catmints.

This plant is fragrant with a sweet rosemary/Oregano smell all day and an added benefit was there were no mosquitoes or they were greatly reduced to the point of not being a nuisance. The glands under the leaves produce an oil that is a repellent to mosquitoes and other nuisance insects. It can become invasive if not properly taken care of. They can grow up to four feet tall and four feet wide, so they need a lot of space.

Other gardeners plant them in their garden to ward off harmful insects. They will also deter deer foraging in the garden.

However, what I did notice was that the bees, all kinds of bees were in large amounts all over the blooms. Early in the morning and late in the evening, the honey bees were gathering nectar. Fat, fuzzy bumble bees were all over the blooms, gathering their share of the nectar. All throughout the day, various native bees were there as well.



Basic Beekeeping (Continued)

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central
Regional Director

The next thing we want is to have new, young bees going into winter. So, we need 6-8 weeks or more that the queen is laying new brood in the fall. We want to encourage this as late as we can. I start feeding late September and go until mid-November or so. It is all dependent on the weather so look for the first frost forecast and watch the average daily temperatures. If the temperature during the day comes up into the upper 40's to lower 50's, the bees can still raise brood. To raise brood, the bees need food. We prefer a nectar flow to supply that. We learned in the spring that feeding a light syrup (1 part sugar, 1 parts water) stimulates brood raising. If your hives are full of honey, you still need brood rearing. If there isn't enough space in the hive to expand the brood nest, your hive will swarm even if you don't feed because there is nectar coming in from the fall flow. So you know from spring build-up we need 6-8 frames of room for the brood nest for a large/strong hive. We need that room now to grow our winter bees. A smaller cluster needs less but still we want a sizable space of open comb situated below the honey cap (winter storage) when we arrange our boxes.

The last thing to manage in fall is food for winter. Many say to make sure that your bees have at least 80 pounds of honey. In other words, a full brood box of honey in the comb. It is preferable that this is dark comb. (i.e. the queen has laid eggs in these frames in the past). That suggested quantity has come down in recent years. If you have a full box or a couple of medium boxes $\frac{3}{4}$ full of honey you should have plenty of food. If you have less than that on September 30, you can feed all of October and maybe into November. Put the empty space on the hive on September 30th or before if it is not already there and feed 2:1 (2 parts sugar, 1 part water). Keep track of how much you feed each hive. You may ask why I have given you two different concentrations of syrup for fall feeding. The short answer, they are for different results. If you need to feed to supplement food for winter, feed 2:1. Brood rearing will be stimulated enough. If you just need to stimulate brood rearing, feed 1:1.



The biggest thing I want to mention is timing. Beekeeping is all about timing and trying to be ahead of the bees. All the requirements of Fall management are depended on the beekeeper to know his/her bees and recognize their behavior. If we always know the weather forecast and have a good knowledge of bees and the season we're in, then we can use these management tasks at the right time. I try to give you a timeline but not a set in stone timeline because weather is the biggest factor. Talk with experienced beekeepers as close as possible to your location and see what they are doing. I'm in Richmond, MO about 45 minutes east of KC. So if you can find a beekeeper closer to you than me, see what they are doing. The timeline should be close to the same but if you ask 5 beekeepers 1 question you will get 12 answers. Good Luck and I hope to see you all at the Missouri State Fair. Stop by the MSBA Booth in the Ag. Building and grab some honey ice cream and talk bees with us!

Beekeeping in August Quick List

- Size Hives for Winter
- Mite Checks and Treatments
- Evaluate Hives
- Prepare for Feeding



General Meeting

Other Links



GENERAL MEETING August 16th 2:00PM

This will be another Zoom meeting. This will be a Q and A meeting where we will answer any questions beekeepers have about their bees.

<https://mostatebeekeepers.org/>



Zoom call Information

Phone number: +1 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 834 7921 8257

Passcode: 210291



American Beekeeping Federation

<https://abfconference.com/>



greatplainsgrowersconference.org

Community America Credit Union Transactions for July 2020	
Checking Account Balance: June 30, 2020	\$ 1,855.01
Savings Account Balance: June 30, 2020	\$ 15,029.88
PayPal Account Balance: June 30, 2020	\$ 100.00
Total Receipts Deposited in Checking	\$ 0.08
Transfer to Checking from Savings	\$ 1,500.00
Total Expenses Paid from Checking	\$ -12.00
Checking Account Balance: July 31, 2020	\$ 3,343.15
Deposit to Savings from PayPal	\$ 45.70
Dividend in Savings account	\$.35
Savings Account Balance: July 31, 2020	\$ 13,575.93
PayPal Account Balance: July 31, 2020	\$ 100.00
CD's total capital as of June 30, 2020	\$ 17,836.60
Dividends received	\$ 20.40
CD's total capital as of July 31, 2020	\$ 17,857.00
Total Cash Assets All Accounts	\$ 34,793.23

MIDWESTERN Beekeepers ASSOCIATION

PLEASE CHECK ONE: RENEWAL NEW MEMBERSHIP

2021 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$15

2021 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$18

TWO OR MORE FAMILY MEMBERS AT THE SAME HOUSEHOLD

LIMITED TO TWO VOTES, TWO EMAILS AND PHONE CONTACTS

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EMAIL: _____

NAME#2 _____

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EMAIL: _____

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CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Or pay online at <http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/2018/01/08/join/>

Make checks payable to:

Midwestern Beekeepers Association

Mail to:

Midwestern Beekeepers Association

9209 W 90th Ter

Overland Park, KS 66212

Questions:

Contact Sarah Hornung

sarahthekeeper@gmail.com



Return Service Requested

Sarah Hornung

9209 W 90th Ter

Overland Park, KS 66212

GENERAL MEETING
August 16th
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, to place your ad.



midwesternbeekeepers.org



Membership/Renewal



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To make a library request, go to [MBA's library](#), and choose your book or video. Contact John Martin at 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!