

For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



If you were not at our January meeting you missed a fine meal and the recognition of outgoing Board members, the swearing in of the 2020 Board, and honoring our Beekeepers of the Year. Congratulations to Debbie and Steve DeCaigney for being recognized as the 2019 Beekeepers of the Year. Debbie and Steve have given countless hours supporting our organization and promoting beekeeping in our area.

January is finally over. Yeah!! Spring will be here before you know it. Have you done all you could do to make sure your bees survive until the next nectar flow? Well fed, healthy bees with low mite counts have the greatest chance of surviving.

Have you checked on them to see if they have enough food? If they have moved to the top of your top brood box it is likely that they are running low on food. Now is the time to add supplemental food. In terms of labor you have multiple options. The most labor intensive is to make fondant or bee candy and have it ready to place on the top of the upper frames. A little less labor intensive is to build screened bottom feeder frames and pack moist sugar in them. Both of these methods can be done in advance. The least labor intensive method is to place a newspaper on top of the frames and spread dry sugar on the paper. You can search for videos on YouTube showing each method.

Mite treatment may be a consideration for those who are not treatment free. Find a time in early February on a day when the bees can break cluster and consider treating for mites. I personally use an OA vaporizer as there is little brood this time of year. I make sure I follow all the safety precautions. Inhaling OA vapors can cause a lot of lung damage. I recommend that you don't follow the methods seen on lots of YouTube videos where they ignore multiple safety rules. OA is like electricity. Both are useful as long as you respect them.

COMING UP

GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY,
February 16, 2020



2020 GENERAL MEETINGS

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

This is going to be a busy month for you all as there will be lots of prep work taking place and ordering bees and/or queens. On February 29th we will be holding our 25th Annual Beginning Beekeeping class. See the newsletter and our Facebook page for more details. If you are just getting into beekeeping I recommend that you take the class.

I look forward to seeing you at our February meeting. I am writing this on February 1, as I need to get it to our newsletter editor, plus I plan on being busy on Sunday watching the Chiefs in the Super Bowl.

2019 Beekeeper of the year

Congratulations! Steve and Debbie DeCaigney



Welcome New Members By Terry Wright



- Kenneth Williams

Could Mushrooms Save Bees?

Researcher Paul Stamets has spent 40 years studying mycelium (the vegetative part of fungus). Mycelium has the ability to recycle nutrients and the ability to sustain life from the ground up.

Paul's ground breaking invention is called MycoHoney, and it is made by bees that sip the mycelium droplets, to provide extra nutrients and safeguard survival.

The following article goes into more detail on Paul Stamets experiment with mycelium and MycoHoney:

https://bioneers.org/solutions-underfoot-zmaz2001/?fbclid=IwAR0gyTbLg_6Y35-tYO-eFsicIaffE3fb2E2zjGM6GRhXbtoyimHMmZnWWew



Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central
Regional Director

Almost Spring: A Dangerous Time

February is here, which is when we usually start preparing for spring. As bees build up and crank up brood rearing, hives can run out of food quickly, I suggest checking on your hive often from the outside, put your ear against the side of the box and knock to try and hear a buzz.

On 40 degrees days or warmer, it won't hurt to open the top and take a quick peek at the bees, but don't pull any of the frames or pull apart boxes. If the bees are on top, I would suggest putting on fondant, or dry/moist sugar. I don't like to feed liquid syrup because it puts moisture into the hive and can increase cleansing flights. If the weather brings another cold snap and the bees cannot fly, it could lead to dysentery. I also don't like to feed liquid syrup and pollen patties, because if you feed too much, it can stimulate brood production and a booming hive in March can be a nightmare to beekeepers in their second year.

If you need to put feed on and the bees are on top of the top bars, I would suggest going out on a day when they are flying and using only a very little smoke to just get them off the top bars, so you can place the feed and without smashing them.

In February, bees will start bringing in pollen, mostly from trees or shrubs. Usually, towards the later part of the month when there is a constant flow of pollen coming into the hive, is when liquid feed becomes an option if the weather is staying warm. If you're interested in seeing what is in bloom, Missouri extension has a chart in their "Seasonal Apiary Management For Missouri Guide" that can be found at <https://extension2.missouri.edu/g7601>

I also suggest you buy a guide of honey plants and pollen charts and talk to local beekeepers about what color pollen certain plants produce. Don't forget to read the Honey Plants articles in this newsletter.

If you already have had a hive die this winter and don't know why, there is a great guide to help diagnosis deadouts on the Missouri State Beekeepers Association website in the resources tab (<https://mostatebeekeepers.org/links/>).

I always suggest sitting down and writing out a yearly plan and goals that you want to accomplish this year. Go out and buy a notebook to write down your goals and add your hive records throughout this year.

Also, you can find a lot of different hive inspection sheets online or order them through a supplier. I highly suggest everyone write down each hive visit and what you did, so you can refer back to it to see what is going on in your hives and help plan future hive visits and refer back to your records year to year.

If you haven't done it yet, don't forget to order bees and equipment this month. Suppliers will be sold out soon and you want your equipment ready now so you're not rushing later. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to email me at sunnydaybeekeeping@gmail.com. Next month we will be switching from winter survival to spring build up. Hope to see you all at the next meeting.



Market Place



Basic Beekeeping

(Continued)

By Kyle Day, MSBA West
Central
Regional Director

Beekeepers.com

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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 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
64085
816-654-5287



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

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

Quick List

- Continue to better your beekeeping knowledge by reading books and magazines.
- Feed for insurance.
- See what color pollen your bees are bring in and re-search it.
- Order bees and equipment and start building. April will be here in no time and if you wait, you will be behind.
- Check out local and state meetings for the spring.
- Yearly plan and goal setting.
- 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 29th, at Westminster Hall, 417 W. Lexington Ave, Independence, MO 64050 Cost is \$65. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org>



Hello February

Goodbye January! Glad to see you go and spring is now only 48 days away at the time of this writing. So that brings us to February, the short cold month that is usually wetter than most. At the same time this brings us closer to spring and that makes me happy. February is also a month of transition. Hopefully the old groundhog didn't see his shadow and spring will be just around the corner. I don't know about you but I am ready for warmer weather and to get rid of the drab, winter blues. Warmer weather and longer days will have our girls out in search of nectar and pollen. The maples should be sending forth the shoots, willows will soon be yellow and the oaks will have dropped the last of their lingering leaves. Now is the critical time to be paying close attention to the hive activity because food stores are diminishing quickly and brood will be hatching soon. They will need pollen and nectar to make bee bread for the little ones.

With the warmer weather also brings the need for more swarm traps to quell the swarm activity. Hopefully, the carpenters among us were busy in the wood shop.

Warmer weather and longer days will make the plants come out of their dormancy and spring once again to life. If you planted bulbs in the fall, watch closely for the ground to start to budge and break as the tender plant comes to life again. I was noticing this weekend that the daffodils and crocus were breaking ground. That gives me hope that spring is just around the corner.

Most to the plant catalogs have been poured over and plans have been made to get this year off to a great start. Now it is just wait and see what will happen. Are you ready for a fantastic year in the bee yard?

Best of luck to each of you.



Conferences & Events

General Meeting



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

GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020
2:30 PM

Bass Pro Shop
18001 Bass Pro Dr, Independence, MO 64055

Phil Duncan will be presenting on the topic:
“Making Mead”



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



Community America Credit Union Transactions for January 2020	
Checking Account Balance: December 31, 2019	\$ 4,123.84
Savings Account Balance: December 31, 2019	\$ 6,860.04
PayPal Account Balance: December 31, 2019	\$ 100.00
Total Receipts Deposited in Checking	\$ 1,030.51
Total Expenses Paid from Checking	\$ -94.74
Checking Account Balance: January 31, 2020	\$ 4,676.29
Dividend in Savings account	\$ 0.92
Savings Account Balance: January 31, 2020	\$ 7,211.52
PayPal Account Balance: January 31, 2020	\$ 100.00
CD's total capital as of December 31, 2019	\$ 21,491.68
Dividends received	\$ 31.84
CD's total capital as of January 31, 2020	\$ 21,523.52

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



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, FEBRUARY 16, 2020**

2:30 PM

BASS PRO SHOP

**18001 Bass Pro Dr, Independence, MO
64055**

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



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 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!***