

For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



If you did not participate in our Zoom meeting last month you missed a program that could not have been done at our in person meeting. Robert Burns discussed queen genetics. It was quite informative. It didn't matter if you were a new beekeeper or a very experienced one he provided a wealth of information about queens and queen raising.

Speaking of meetings the June meeting is going to be quite different. Instead of our regular meeting we invite you to participate in the Great Plains Master Beekeeping (GPMB) program, a program created out of demand for beekeeping courses in the mid-west, has decided to put on a Virtual Bee Fun Day. You will be able to participate in as much or as little as your time allows. I am confident that no matter what your experience level is you will learn something new.

Since many local beekeeping events have been cancelled, this fun day was created to allow beekeepers the opportunity to continue to learn and hear from well-known honey bee experts.

The event will take place on **June 13th and 14th**. Presentations for the virtual fun day will include research lectures by experts from a variety of universities, agencies, and organizations that focus on a multitude of topics including honey bee health, stressors impacting our colonies, honey bee pheromones, and much more. There will also be management lectures describing how to handle things such as mite pressure, pesticide exposure and monitoring, planting and managing bee friendly landscapes, and queen rearing.

Not all presentations will be lectures, as there will also be some demonstrations. These demonstrations will include how to make value added products such as soaps and lotions, how to harvest your honey, and a couple of field demos showing Varroa mite testing techniques as well as how to troubleshoot certain hive problems. Follow along at home in your kitchen if you want to have some hands on value-added practice!

COMING UP GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY, June 14, 2020



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



MIDWESTERN
Beekeepers
ASSOCIATION



[Renew your
2020 member-
ship](#)



[Become a MSBA
member today](#)

For the Good of the Bees (Continued)

By Phil Duncan, President

This will be a fundraising event for GPMB and their partnering associations, but it will be offered to the public free of charge. There will be a **suggested** donation fee of \$10 per person with the ability to customize your donation amount.

Please see this link for more information and to register to attend!
gpmb.unl.edu/virtual-bee-fun-day

Like you I miss the personal atmosphere of our regular in person meetings. A big part of the meetings besides the programs is the opportunity to visit with each other and to exchange ideas. This spring has been difficult for all.

There is one issue I need to bring up regarding membership. Often our members renew their annual dues in person. Since we have not had an on-site meeting since February this has not been possible. Some of the benefits of the membership are the monthly newsletter, our annual picnic, our programs, including the Youth Scholarship Program and access to our extensive beekeeping library. An organization of our size has expenses to meet so having an adequate revenue stream is imperative. **If you have not renewed your membership please do so. More information on how to renew is in this newsletter.**

As far as the meetings go for the rest of the year we have to approach them on a month by month basis. I look forward to our next in person meeting.

As I write this my bees are beginning to fill their honey supers. I hope your bees are doing great. If you are on Facebook please share photos of your apiary and your bees. Nothing encourages new beekeepers more than seeing how others are successful.

COLOR	FOR YEAR ENDING IN:
White (or Gray) ●	1 or 6
Yellow ●	2 or 7
Red ●	3 or 8
Green ●	4 or 9
Blue ●	5 or 0

Welcome New Members

MEMBERSHIP AND FEES

BY-LAWS

Section 1: Membership in this Association shall consist of those interested in or engaged in the beekeeping industry and paying dues as provided in these Bylaws.

Section 2: The membership year shall be January 1 through December 31st.

Section 3: Membership in the Association shall cease upon failure to pay dues ninety (90) days after December 31st or any calendar year or to conform with the Bylaws of the Association.

Section 4: Membership is mandatory for any individual seeking office in this Association.

Section 5: Membership allows an individual the privilege

- A. to vote in any election;
- B. of recommending policy and amendment changes;
- C. of borrowing literature from the library;
- D. of recommending Association activities;
- E. of holding office;
- F. and of receiving the Association's newsletter.

Section 6: Membership dues shall be

- A. \$1.00 per year for student members. Student being any individual still in school and/or college.
- B. \$200.00 for any individual wishing to be a life-time member.
- C. in an amount to support the annual budget of this Association for regular membership.

Section 7: All dues are payable January 1st of each year.

For More information on the Associations By-Laws please visit the Members area of the website



Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central
Regional Director

June: The only consistent thing about bees is their inconsistency -Dr. C.C. Miller

With this bee season seem to be buzzing by bring us to June which is usually our last full month of our main nectar flow, but with all this rain we have been getting it could continue longer. This is true to most of our state but timing can vary as much as two weeks give or take. The key to the clover flows is soil moisture and sunny days. If summer heat comes early in June and the rains stop, the soil moisture will dry up and even if the clovers are still in bloom, the nectar will slow or stop. There can also be a difference in bloom time between city locations and rural locations even if they are in the same county. The best advice I can give you for this is to talk to experience beekeepers who have hives close to yours and they can tell you their opinion on this year's bloom. Another great way to track blooming periods in your location is to keep a bloom calendar and record when you first see plants bloom and bees bringing in nectar and when they quit. After a few years you will know within a few days when plants will bloom in your area.

Continue to stay ahead of your colony's needs, and continue to add honey supers as long as the bees are collecting nectar. The rate at which bees need space varies again with the strength (numbers) of the hive and the flow intensity. A full box of bees (1 deep brood box) equals about 25,000 bees and that number is approximately the threshold number (there is probably a debate on that number) for a hive to begin to have enough surplus bees to collect surplus honey. If you just started your hive 4 weeks ago, you just completed your first brood cycle (numbers of bees will increase about half). You are just wanting to see your colony grow into at least one full deep brood box (or two mediums if you are going that route). You may struggle to complete a second full brood box before the end of our spring flow. This happens more than not so do not worry. You may need to feed sugar syrup again to help finish comb. Bees will not look at unfinished comb and decide they better finish pulling those frames. They need a reason that makes sense in their world. Feeding is the only way to get the bees to "think" like you do.

You want to concentrate on completing any comb building your bees have started. Moving partial combs to stronger or faster comb building hives will allow you to complete frames before the nectar runs out. Nectar flow can turn off overnight so you will hope to avoid putting on new foundation or empty frames the last of June if you can. Not that this is the end of the world if they only partially work that last super. It is just a bit of a nuisance to deal with partial combs with some nectar stored in them as well. Sharing comb between hives means sharing health between hives (good and bad health). If you suspect virus or AFB/EFB in any hives sharing those combs would be a bad idea. So, you might dispose of comb coming from a sick hive and adding comb from a healthy hive, and replacing the losses with new frames. Honestly, I think if your hives are in the same location I think the idea of your hives not already sharing these diseases already is wishful thinking, and of course if you don't believe that then you would have to sterilize your hive tools, frame grips, brush, frames, and gloves between checking hives.

If you have gotten honey this year it's time to start thinking about harvesting honey. Remove and extract any supers of well-ripened honey. Some folks will run out of boxes or the hive stack is too high to work and they will extract to reuse or reduce the stack.

A rule of thumb is if the frame is capped, the honey is ripe, however, checking the actual moisture content is the only way to know for sure (The club will usually have them available at certain meetings in the upcoming months) . The second rule of thumb is that you can extract a frame even if it has open cells of honey if over 50% of the cells are capped. You can expand this to include the ratio between all frames rather than by the frame. So if you have one fully capped frame and one only 1/4 capped, you can extract both frames fully and your moisture content should be ok. The last tip is turn the frame on it's side with the open cells facing down and shake. If nectar drips out it is not ripe enough. Because we have some very humid summers, the bees may not cap their honey due to the high humidity. We will talk more about extracting next month.

It's also time to begin thinking about your varroa mite populations. Their numbers have been growing all spring and once you have your honey off, you can sample the brood nest more easily. To determine if your mite count is too high: 50 or more mites drop on a sticky board in a 24-hour period or 3 mites per 100 bees are found using a sugar shake or alcohol wash.

Like Always if you have any questions get in touch with mentors, MBA members, or you can email me at sunnydaybeekeeping@gmail.com.

Basic Beekeeping in June Quick List

- Checking Blooms and learning blooming seasons
- Stay ahead of your colonies
- Make sure all frames in brood boxes are drawn out
- Start preparing to harvest honey
- Plan mite checks

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

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



FOR SALE!

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

\$250 complete hive.

Call Norman Dennison

816-772-4956

While driving through the country, I noticed some beautiful yellow and pink bowl shaped flowers along the roadway. Upon further inquiry, I discovered these flowers are called Missouri primrose, or evening primrose. They are native to the US and grow about 10" tall x 18-24" wide (seed propagated). This native wildflower is renowned for the huge 4" yellow flowers that open each afternoon and close up the following morning. Long blooming throughout the summer months, it keeps going until it feels it has set enough seed pods to retire for the season. Long-lived, it forms a huge underground tuber to keep itself going from year to year. Evening Primrose cascades nicely over rocks and retaining walls.

Preferred growing conditions

- Plant in low fertility ("lean") soil including dry clay, positioned in full sun. Mulch with gravel or not at all.
- Water regularly the first growing season to establish the plant. Thereafter, infrequent but deep watering is all this plant needs.
- Deadheading is not needed as these are naturally long blooming species. Fertilize lightly in the fall with Yum Yum Mix.

Special comments

- Oenothera are tap rooted plants and does not like to be transplanted once established. Don't divide as they resent having their roots disturbed.
- Leave standing over the winter and cut back hard, leaving 2 to 3 inches of stems above ground.
- O. speciosa 'Rosea' is a showy everblooming species that can spread aggressively and should not be planted into areas where it's enthusiastic nature can be a problem. Deadheaded to reduce reseeding. Dig out suckering roots when spreading too wide.
- Watch for flea beetles (small metallic green beetles) which can defoliate the plants in late spring/early summer.

Native Americans used the whole plant for treating bruises and used its roots for treating hemorrhoids. The leaves were traditionally used for tending to minor wounds, gastrointestinal issues, and sore throats.



Basic Beekeeping (Continued)

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central
Regional Director

As June is our last month of the main nectar flow, we want to make sure our hives are strong and healthy and keep adding on supers as needed. If you have an over-wintered hive that is still not a full 10/8 frames of bees and working strong in a second box, you might want to consider replacing that queen. You have just given her the best month of the year to expand the hive, if she didn't put a dent in that plan she won't improve. This is a hard lesson to learn and I still hesitate to make this decision even though I know this hive needs a queen change. If this is the second season for your queen, you might also consider replacing her. Keeping (or more accurate, relying on) a queen longer than 2 seasons is a gamble.

Once we harvest honey make sure to check mites and keep an out for small hive beetles. Usually if my hives have 3 or more mites per 100 bees I will go ahead and treat.

If your hives are strong and you want to make some splits June is the time to do it before it's too late. Usually, once I take honey off the hives and treat for mites I will look at my hives to see if making splits are possible without hurting the parent colony. There is plenty of ways to make splits, you can buy mated queens or make your own through grafting, OTS, or many other options. If you're going to be making your own queens, it will take a lot of work to get them prepared for winter and you need to make sure you still have plenty of drones available. If I am making splits this late I plan on feeding them and If I don't already have a lot of drawn comb I plan on overwintering them in singles or double nucs like Michael Palmer. His method is using a 10-frame box split in half with a board and has a modified bottom board so each side has an entrance on opposite sides, as they build up add two 5 frame nuc boxes as "honey supers" on top to add space for them to have winter feed. This way both hives share heat, but usually you will have to feed and add sugar to them during winter. This is a great way to have some extra hives when next spring comes around, but they take a lot of management and usually a couple of years to get the process right and get a 100% survival rate if you're lucky (This will be my second year and I'm still learning the ropes myself), and can provide the possibility of selling nucs if you to sell overwintered nucs to other beekeepers. There are many different ways to overwinter Nucleus colonies and best thing to do is research different methods and see what would work best with your management practices. I usually follow an OTS Queen rearing methods pretty heavily when I have the equipment available but in beekeeping there is a lot of different ways to do things and you will have to find what works with your style of beekeeping. I'm thinking of doing some grafting but I will have to see what happens and hive populations. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at sunnydaybeekeeping@gmail.com.

Pollinator Week

National Pollinator Week is a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what you can do to protect them.

Twelve years ago the U.S. Senate's unanimous approval and designation of a week in June as "National Pollinator Week" marked a necessary step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. Pollinator Week has now grown into an international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles.

Pollinator Week was initiated and is managed by Pollinator Partnership.





Other Links

General Meeting



<https://mostatebeekeepers.org/>

GENERAL MEETING

June 13-14

2020 Virtual Bee Fun Days

Please Register at:

<https://gpmb.unl.edu/virtual-bee-fun-day>



American Beekeeping Federation

<https://abfconference.com/>

Please go to our website for Spring Video Guides.

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



greatplainsgrowersconference.org

Community America Credit Union Transactions for May 2020	
Checking Account Balance: April 30, 2020	\$ 2043.84
Savings Account Balance: April 30, 2020	\$ 9,728.39
PayPal Account Balance: April 30, 2020	\$ 248.44
Total Receipts Deposited in Checking	\$ 30.09
Total Expenses Paid from Checking	\$ -207.00
Checking Account Balance: May 31, 2020	\$ 1,866.93
Deposit to Savings from CD 15 and PayPal	\$ 5,240.03
Dividend in Savings account	\$.78
Savings Account Balance: May 31, 2020	\$ 14,969.30
PayPal Account Balance: May 31, 2020	\$ 100.00
CD's total capital as of April 30, 2020	\$ 22,878.61
Transfer CD #15 at maturity to savings	\$ -5,091.69
Dividends received	\$ 28.62
CD's total capital as of May 31, 2020	\$ 17,815.54
Total Cash Assets All Accounts	\$ 34,720.33

MIDWESTERN Beekeepers ASSOCIATION

PLEASE CHECK ONE: _____ RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBERSHIP

2020 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$15

2020 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 _____

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



**GENERAL MEETING
JUNE 13TH AND 14TH
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



MidwstnBeekprsA



Midwestern Beekeeper's
Association



Midwestern Beekeepers
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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!