

For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



By the time you read this the 25th Annual Beginning Beekeeping Class will be in the history books. We had a large turnout. I would like to welcome all our new members both those that took the class and those who recently joined. You are in for an amazing adventure. The class has been approved for inclusion in the Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program. If you have taken the 2020 class and wish to pursue this program here is a link to get you started: <https://gpmb.unl.edu/about-master-beekeeping-program>

Beekeeping is an interesting hobby. It is populated with folks from all ages and walks of life. They range from beginners to those who have decades of beekeeping experience. It is often said that if you ask 10 beekeepers a question you will get 15 answers. It has been my experience that this is definitely true. Beekeeping is so dependent upon your location. What works for one beekeeper will not work for another a few miles away. Oftentimes we forget this.

Despite getting conflicting advice there are a few a few absolute truths. Here is my Dozen Absolute Truths list regarding beekeeping.

1. What you learned in a beginning beekeeping class is just the tip of the iceberg. Beekeeping is an ongoing learning process.
2. Beekeeping takes dedicated effort to be successful.
3. You will lose one or possibly many of your hives at the beginning and for years to come. You have to be prepared to accept this and not give up. Part of the fun in beekeeping is learning from your mistakes. To quote our late friend and fellow club member Dennis Culpepper "I've found lots of ways to kill bees." He was also a successful beekeeper. I valued his insight.
4. You will feel bad when a bee stings you because you know that she probably died because of something you did.
5. Beekeeping presents you with the opportunity to make lifelong friendships based on the common love of bees.
6. Beginning beekeeping can be confusing as you will be given conflicting advice prefaced with "This is the way you have to do this." Your goal should be to find successful beekeepers and find what their circumstances are regarding their apiary and how they approach beekeeping.

COMING UP

GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY,
March 15, 2020



2020 GENERAL MEETINGS

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

7. Beekeeping can lead to hoarding, in the good sense. You might start with two hives but before you know it that number doubles to four and then doubles again. What started out to be just a fun little hobby in your backyard becomes a desire to build more hives and scout out your friends and family members for hive locations.
8. Your family members, who claim not to want to get involved with your hobby, suddenly start answering bee related questions. They will pick up information without even knowing it.
9. Friends and family members will soon stop asking simple questions regarding bees as they will learn that your answer will involve at least two hours of conversation.
10. You will start accumulating books and magazines regarding beekeeping as the desire to learn more will drive you.
11. Your schedule will become centered on what needs to be done with your bees. You can't take many days off when the nectar flow is heavy. They can fill a honey super before you know it. You have to learn to anticipate the needs of the bees. Bees are like cats. They just let you think you are in control.
12. Sitting near your bees on a warm summer afternoon can have more mental health benefits than any other treatment. Watching them buzz by you, either leaving to find nectar and pollen or coming back laden with nectar and their pollen sacs bursting with color, can bring an inner peace

I am sure other more experienced beekeepers could add to this list. The most important thing about beekeeping is to have fun. The first day of Spring is March 19. It can't come soon enough for me or my bees.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on March 15, 2020. No need to beware the Ides of March this month. I hope you take the opportunity to attend the Missouri State Beekeepers Association Spring meeting at Longview Community College on March 13 and 14. They have an outstanding slate of presenters. You will not be disappointed. One last reminder is to pay your 2020 dues if you have not already done so.

Welcome New Members

Welcome to all the new members who attended the 2020 Midwestern Beekeepers Workshop. General information about the association is listed below.

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/)



Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central
Regional Director

Basic Beekeeping

New Beekeepers It's Time to Prepare!

Hello all! Welcome all new members, this is a good time to remind everyone and let our new members know if you ever have any questions feel free to contact me. Email is usually the best and quickest way to get a response, my email is sunnydaybeekeeping@gmail.com. Time is running out to order Nucs and Packages and to get your beekeeping supplies, be sure to do this as quickly as possible. Start working on where you want your bees and get the apiary set up. Make sure you have all your gear ready to go. Talk to other beekeepers and find a mentor or people you can ask for help as needed. Watch videos and decide which method you want to use to install your bees. The to do list for March is always getting bigger. If you plan on planting spring flowers, you may want to go ahead and order them, so you can have them planted as soon as possible. You will want to go ahead and paint your boxes and give them a couple days to dry. When putting hive equipment together, the key is everything needs to be as square as possible. A little off square on each box or frame can make a big difference by the end. When painting your hive equipment, you only paint any parts that would be affected by weather. Paint the top and bottom edges of the boxes and bottom board, where the boxes sit on top of each other. This will make your boxes last longer, by not allowing water to get in the wood between the boxes. When setting up your apiary, you will need to figure out what you will use as a hive stand. You will also want your hive in full sun to help control hive beetles. Slightly slope your hive forward so rain will run off the front. I also like to add something on the ground in front of my hive, so I don't have to mow right in front of my hives. These next couple of months are going to be a busy time for beekeepers. I wish you all good luck on your beekeeping endeavors.

Beekeeping for the 2nd Year Beekeeper and Beyond

Is anyone else just itching to get into hives? The last warm day when I was out checking a few colonies I did see a few bees bringing in pollen so spring is slowly coming!

I am patiently waiting for the MSBA Spring Conference so I can listen to great speakers and hopefully get some new ways to expand my apiary, and bring back some tips for you all also! With most of the next few months being different for first year beekeepers and those who are at least in their second year, I will attempt to write an article for both.

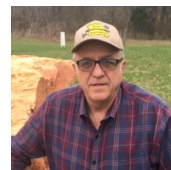
Most of the time March 1st marks the beginning of Spring build up. With Missouri Weather, no telling what will happen. Even though your bees have been raising brood most of February, the numbers were small (if you weren't stimulating your bees with extra feed.) The bees will not raise a lot of brood during early to mid-February because they will not risk losing brood by raising more than they can handle. The weather will get a little warmer and the bees will be out more and there will be more pollen available. This is usually the first month you can actually open the hive and pull frames. If the weather is permitting (high 60s to 70s), you will need to be making a full hive inspection: check for eggs, laying pattern, and number of brood frames (frames that are mostly filled with eggs, larva, or capped brood). Since the hive numbers are low, there is a good chance of seeing your queen.



Market Place

Honey Plants

By James Reeves



Beekeepers.com

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

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 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



As spring slowly approaches, (by the way, don't put much stock in that old groundhog seeing or not seeing his shadow, it just doesn't work!), it is time to start looking at different plants that benefit the bees. I would like to look at plants that work for our area. One of these plants is the *Monarda* or bee balm. Bee balm is also called wild bergamot. This plant comes in a variety of colors such as purple, pink, red, and white and blooms in summer. They are winter hardy for our growing zones here in Missouri. Bee balm attracts hummingbirds as well as bees. Finches also love the seeds in the winter. This plant thrives best in loamy soil, full sun, and slightly acidic to neutral soil ph. Bee balm can be planted in the spring or the fall. Plants tend to get tall (2'-4' depending on the variety) and "leggy" and may require support of some kind especially if planted in partial shade. They should be planted about 18 inches apart in well draining soil. *Monarda* needs good air circulation or it has a tendency to develop powdery mildew. Here are some tips about growing Bee Balm from the "Old Farmers Almanac"

- Add mulch around the plants to preserve the moisture in the soil and control weeds.
- Deadhead faded blooms to encourage the plant to re-bloom in late summer.
- After the first frost in the fall, cut stems back to about 2 inches above the soil.
- Divide bee balm every 2 to 3 years to ensure its vigor. In the spring make small divisions of the newer roots of established plants and replant.

Being from the mint family, it propagates from rhizomes (runners). This plant can be mildly invasive but it is easily maintained by severing the runners from the mother plant and then decide if you want to start another patch. It also can be grown in a large container forming the centerpiece of a pollinator friendly attraction.

Not only is the plant good for the bees but is also good for humans as well. It is from the mint family and has a rather minty taste. Many of the early settlers used the leaves for medicines as well. Native Americans and early colonists used fresh or dried bee balm leaves and flowers to make tea.

Bee balm foliage has a mint-like aroma and is used in herbal teas, salads, and as garnishes. The flowers are also edible.

Here are a few recommended varieties:

- *Monarda didyma* is bright red and grows 3 to 4 feet tall.
- *M. fistulosa* produces lavender-pink blooms in late summer.
- *M. pringlei* grows 18 inches tall and is immune to powdery mildew.
- 'Petite Wonder' and 'Petite Delight' are pink varieties.
- Other powdery mildew resistant varieties include 'Marshall's Delight' (bright pink),



Basic Beekeeping (Continued)

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central
Regional Director

While it's not important if you see her, you want to see evidence of a queen. During this first hive inspection, keep a record of what you see. Determine how many frames you need to replace (bad or old comb, broken frame sides) so you can come back on your next inspection and replace them. Also, if all the bees and frames of eggs are in the top box, it would be a good idea to reverse your brood boxes. Put the box with the brood on the bottom, but you need to make sure the brood doesn't get split up into each box. It is a good idea to move empty comb and capped honey above the nest because the bees usually move upward. If you reverse your hive bodies, make sure all your brood is in one box. If you split it up, the bees will not be able to take care of all the brood and some will die. Feeding allows maximum increases for a heavy work force of mature bees ready for the April nectar flow. If you do some bee math, the eggs you see in your hive on the first inspection are your future bees and won't be flying for 5 or 6 weeks. If you decide to feed syrup 1:1 or 2:1 (sugar to water), you need to make sure the day and night time temperatures are above freezing. Also, don't feed too much because that will cause swarming problems in April. March is a key month to get your hives going in a good direction and try to stay ahead of them, so their development does not get slowed down.

As we prepare for spring we need to think about pest management. The number one pest management strategy is to keep strong hives. For Varroa Mites, I suggest checking your hives at least once a season (Spring, Summer, Fall). If you feel you need to treat for Varroa Mites, there are a couple different options. Due to having brood in the hives, I don't think oxalic acid would be effective, unless you do multiple treatments. If I am treating for Varroa Mites, I choose to use powdered sugar by using a cup per brood box and dusting it on the bees between the frames. When doing this, I will do it three times with roughly a week in between each treatment (If mite count is still high then I would treat with something more effective). There are also a lot of different chemical treatments offered on the market. Remember most of these treatments cannot have honey supers on the hives.

For hive beetles, I use a couple different trapping methods. First, I use one or two beetle traps in each brood box filled with either mineral oil and apple cider vinegar or with pickling lime. Then, I use non-scented Swiffer sheets on my top brood box. These will get the beetles trapped without affecting the bees much and I will change them out once a month unless I feel like they need it sooner. This month is usually the first month you can really get into your hive and get the dust off the hive tool and smoker. In just a couple weeks to a month, we will be in the full swing of this bee season. Don't forget to be prepared for this season or you will be behind in a couple months. The bees won't wait for the beekeeper.





General Meeting

Conferences & Events



March 13-14 2020
 Missouri State Beekeepers Association
 Spring Conference
 Longview Community College
 Lees Summit



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

GENERAL MEETING
 SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020

2:30 PM

Bass Pro Shop

18001 Bass Pro Dr, Independence, MO 64055

Tom and Janice Britz will be presenting on the
 topic:

“Spring Swarms and Splits”



Community America Credit Union Transactions for February 2020	
Checking Account Balance: January 31, 2020	\$ 4,676.29
Savings Account Balance: January 31, 2020	\$ 7,211.52
PayPal Account Balance: January 31, 2020	\$ 100.00
Total Receipts Deposited in Checking	\$ 1,087.75
Total Expenses Paid from Checking	\$ -4,130.69
Checking Account Balance: February 29, 2020	\$ 1,633.35
Dividend in Savings account	\$ 1.12
Savings Account Balance: February 29, 2020	\$12,322.18
PayPal Account Balance: February 29, 2020	\$ 100.00
CD's total capital as of January 31, 2020	\$ 21,523.52
Dividends received	\$ 33.98
CD's total capital as of February 29, 2020	\$ 17,823.46
Transfer from CD#9 to Savings Account	\$ 3,734.04
Transfer from PayPal Account to Savings Acct.	\$ 1,375.50
Total Cash Assets All Accounts	\$ 31,878.99

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

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



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



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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!