

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. Roger Wood showed us how to go about inspecting hives and what to look for in regard to what happening on each frame.

We will have to hold our May meeting the same way. We have been informed by BassPro that the meetings for May and June will not happen at their location. I am not really surprised as I can understand their caution on reopening to large groups at this time. As a result the April meeting will be another Zoom meeting. Information will be sent out prior to the meeting with the log in information. Erik told me what has been planned and it sounds very interesting. It will offer something for the beginner as well as the more experienced beekeeper. I look forward to seeing more members on the meeting.

As I write this on May 2nd it has been an interesting two weeks. I split four of my five hives and introduced new queens to the splits. Common sense would dictate that there should not be much swarm activity due to the splits. Evidently my bees don't have a lot of common sense. I was mowing around my hives on April 19th and happened to notice something odd in my neighbor's tree. About five feet off the ground was a huge swarm of bees. Of course I was not prepared as they weren't supposed to be swarming. I rushed around and rigged up a temporary deep box with bottom board and cover. I have watched a lot of swarm videos so it should have been a piece of cake. Of course there was a pile of bees on the ground immediately under the swarm so I had to move the box to the side and then shake them into the box. Well, about half landed in the box. By evening's end they were marching into the box. I patted myself on the back and called myself a bee wrangler. The next morning I checked on them and noticed they were all outside the box. So much for bee wrangling! It was then that I happened to notice a second swarm of bees on the ground about twenty feet away. At that point I decided to call in reinforcements. I gave Tom Britz a call and he and Janice dropped by to rescue me. Being part of an organization like ours gives you a beekeeping family that helps each other out. Thanks again to Tom and Janice.

COMING UP GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY, May 17, 2020



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*



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For the Good of the Bees (Continued)

By Phil Duncan, President

I wish I had photos of Tom sitting on the ground and moving the bees around with his bare hands looking for the queen. He wore no protective gear and was so gentle with the bees. He found the queens in each pile and got them into their respective hive boxes. We got them buttoned up and now they are on my daughter's property. My grandson, Austin, is going to learn about beekeeping and the hives will be his responsibility. I hope to get him involved to the point that I can pass my hives on to him.

This is not the end of the swarm story. I had a top bar hive die out over the winter. I cleaned it out and kept two fully drawn brood combs in it. On the same day we got the bees into the brood boxes I noticed a lot of activity at the top bar hive. You guessed it, a swarm had moved into it also. At that point I had five full Langstroth hives, three nuc hives, two top bar hives and two hived swarms in Langstroth hives. I still have three baited swarm traps. I may have to move more to my daughter's place as I am well over my wife's strongly suggested limit of six. I think I have mentioned at our meetings that beekeeping can be addictive and will quickly take over your time. At least with this Stay at Home order I don't have much else to do but build bee equipment and take care of bees.

May you, your family and your bees stay healthy. I look forward to seeing you on our Zoom meeting. I can't wait to visit with you in person.

If you have not paid your dues please do so as it takes money to keep our organization financially sound.

What's the Buzz about the Murder Hornets? These Murder Hornets or Asian Giant Hornets can grow up to 2 inches with a 3 inch wingspan. They prey on insects (not just honey bees) using their large mandibles to kill and carry off the prey to feed their young. Japanese beekeepers surround their hives with wire screens to protect them from hornets. However, many Asian honey bees have been found to protect their hives by scorching these giant hornets. Each honeybee vibrates its wings, and the combined warming of honey bee bodies raises the temperature in the center of the cluster to 122 degrees F (50 degrees C), killing the hornet. Carbon dioxide levels in the nest also increase during this process, which contributes to the hornet's death.

More information about Murder hornets can be found at:

https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Vespa_mandarinia/

Asian giant hornet
Vespa mandarinia



Western honeybee
Apis mellifera



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

May: Listen to the bees and let them guide you - Brother Adam

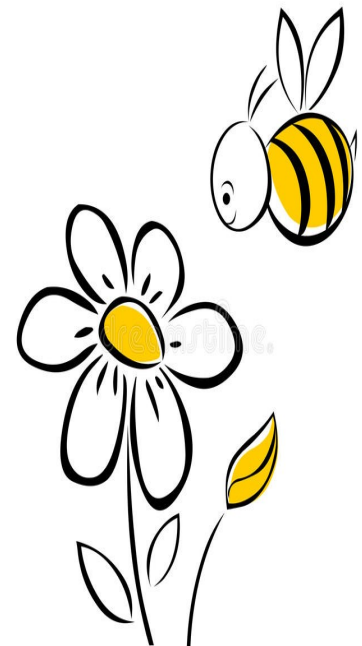
The focus in May is to make sure your hives are healthy and are well fed for maximum expansion, and room to grow. Due to the weather I have heard of many packages and Nucs have been delayed due to weather. The most important tasks when starting these new colonies will be feeding.

Usually in mid to late May starts the strongest part of the spring nectar flow, but you will still need to be feeding the bees while they draw out wax. While the bees are expanding and growing you will need to remember the rule of seven. Once there are seven fully drawn frames covered with brood marks the time when you can add another box. Usually first year beekeepers will only be able to add the brood boxes for the bees to work with. If you get lucky enough to add honey supers you will need to think about wanting to use a Queen Excluder or not. I know many beekeepers who are on both sides of this debate. For my own opinion I use queen excluders, if brood is present in honey frames when you want to extract them you will be unable to do so. Another thing to think about is wax moths are more likely to go for dark combs. Also, while your bees are building up you will need to watch for Small Hive Beetles(SHB).

There is many different options for controlling SHB, For my hives I usually use two different traps for SHB. On top of the top box of my colonies I will place two non-scented Swiffer Dry Mop Cloths (I used the cheapest ones I can find usually Great Value brand). If I think I need more traps and the colony is more than a single box I will two Beetle Jails between frames per box. use mineral oil as the main liquid and add a little Apple Cider Vinegar as bait. Last year I filled them with pickling lime found in the canning section of stores, it is a little less effective but a whole lot less of a mess so I will be using it again.

I will also suggest once your hive is well established is checking for Varroa Mites. Controlling Varroa Mites is a key part of beekeeping, for more information on controlling Varroa Mites I suggest reading the HBHC Varroa Guide that can be found on the club's website (midwesternbeekeepers.org).

Like always if you have any questions about your hives or beekeeping information you can contact me at sunnydaybeekeeping@gmail.com the first part of this month I will be dealing with finals and long work hours as this is the time all my jobs really overlap so it may take some time for me to get back to you but I will as soon as I can. Happy Beekeeping to you all!



Market Place

Beekeepers.com

Robert Hughes

12333 Wedd Street

Overland Park, KS 66213

913-681-5777

RobertLHughes2000@yahoo.com

www.Beekeepers.com is your local Kansas City Bee Company. We carry a full line of Beekeeping Supplies, Bees and Queens. Visit our web-site **www.Beekeepers.com** for your all your beekeeping supplies. Go to our web-site **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.



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

\$250 complete hive.

Call Norman Dennison

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Honey Plants

Planting a pollinators paradise!

There are 2 basic things to consider when planting a pollinators garden:

1. Pick a nice sunny spot or an area with 6 or more hours of sun
2. Choose a location that is near or has access to a water source. This will help the seedlings to grow and give your pollinators some water as well.

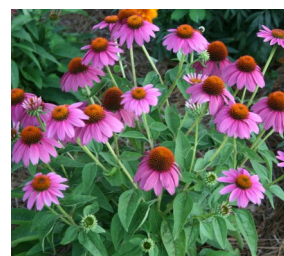
Also make sure to mulch in your new plants. Mulch will keep the weeds at bay and help to hold moisture in the soil. When planting, make sure to read about the plants you are wanting to plant. Know how big they will get to space them accordingly. As you take care of your garden make sure to be chemical free. Using pesticides and herbicides can kill pollinators.

Here are a few plants that grow well in Missouri to consider for your pollinator garden:

Butterfly Milkweed



Purple Cone Flower



Bee Balm





Basic Beekeeping (Continued)

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central
Regional Director

Beekeeping For the 2nd Year Beekeeper and Beyond

May: Bring on the Sweetness

Use caution these next few weeks, it can be deadly on a beekeeper's wallet, and I hope everyone has a boat so they can get to their hives. Remember when they told us about different locations during beginning beekeeping course, and they said to make sure you can drive to your location when it's wet. Yeah, I didn't follow that rule and I will be getting my exercise for the next few weeks. One of the things all beekeepers should know is three main things that contributes or causes swarm impulses. 1. Decreasing queen pheromone production and distribution within the hive. 2. Congestion or decreasing space in the brood nest (lack of room to lay eggs). 3. Nectar storage begins to crowd the brood nest from above forcing the queen down to the bottom of the comb (Honey Bound).

To combat swarming impulses beekeepers can manipulate the hive and many ways. The first way is to of course add honey supers to allow room in the brood nest. Look for signs that it is time to super, the bees lose interest in syrup, bees have no robbing tendencies, white wax on the top bars. If you are adding drawn comb, and the hive and nectar flow is strong you can add two supers, if adding foundation only, the hive or nectar flow isn't very strong then add one box at a time. I suggest using Queen Excluders, but ever beekeeper has their own opinions on this topic. Also, many beekeepers have their own opinions on top or bottom supering once the first honey super is full. Research says there is no difference between the two, I do a little of both, but usually end up top supering so I don't have to lift alot. If supers have been stored with wax moth crystals over the winter remember to allow the supers to air out for a day before adding to your colonies. Don't forget you can enter honey into the state fair!! Erin Mullins the MSBA State Fair Chair will be at our May meeting to talk about state fair entries, and I highly suggest everyone signs ups to work a day at the fair, it's a great time!

The main objective of May for all colonies is to be queen right, healthy, and having enough fed to produce at maximum production. Remember to check for Varroa Mites, and watch Small Hive Beetle levels. Usually by the first of May overwintered hives should have the equivalent amount of brood to fill both sides of four deep frames. Visually look at hives and compare them to your other hives, if one hive isn't keeping up with others. Try to find the reason this hives isn't keeping up and ask other beekeepers their opinions on it. If production is your main goal, weak or poor laying queens should be replaced as soon as you can make it.

If your hives are strong I would suggest splitting. As the old saying goes "A swarm in May is worth a bale of hay." Many Midwest queen producers will start to have queens available for sale. I am a strong believer in genetics and the location of where the queens are produced at. In my opinion I will buy queens as local as possible and their mothers have proven track records. There are a couple different queen breeders in Missouri and they are always my first choices when buying queens. If you are interested in making your own queens there is many different methods you can use. If you are making queens for your first time I highly suggest On the Spot Queen Rearing (A copy of a presentation of On the Spot Queen Rearing can be found on the clubs website under the resources tab).

This is a simple method and can help you learn the queen rearing basics cheaply. If you haven't already done so, now is the point where you need to decide if your using hives for honey production or increases. Personally, since I don't have and extra drawn comb and have already doubled my colony numbers from last year, I will be using deeps for honey supers to get some more drawn comb for next year (If anyone wants to come help pull these heavy boxes off in a few months your more than welcomed to lol.)

Like always if you have any questions about your hives or beekeeping information you can contact me at sunnydaybeekeeping@gmail.com the first part of this month I will be dealing with finals and long work hours as this is the time all my jobs really overlap so it may take some time for me to get back to you but I will as soon as I can. Happy Beekeeping to you all and see you at the May Meeting!

Beekeeping in May Quick List

- Feed hives while they are building comb in brood boxes
- Remember the rule of 7
- Monitor Small Hive Beetles and Varroa Mite Levels
- Check Varroa Mites and Monitor Small Hive Beetles
- Control Swarming, and split hives for increases
- Inspect Colonies that aren't keeping up with others
- Add Honey Supers as needed



Other Links

General Meeting



<https://mostatebeekeepers.org/>

GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020
2:30 PM
Zoom Conference Video

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

Robert Burns will be speaking on
"Bee Genetics."



<https://abfconference.com/>



[greatplainsgrowersconfer-
ence.org](http://greatplainsgrowersconference.org)

Please go to our website for Spring Video Guides.

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

Community America Credit Union Transactions for April 2020	
Checking Account Balance: March 31, 2020	\$ 2,023.67
Savings Account Balance: March 31, 2020	\$ 9,727.59
PayPal Account Balance: March 31, 2020	\$ 100.00
Total Receipts Deposited in Checking	\$ 153.09
Total Expenses Paid from Checking	\$ -304.04
Checking Account Balance: April 30, 2020	\$ 2043.84
Dividend in Savings account	\$.80
Savings Account Balance: April 30, 2020	\$ 9,728.39
PayPal Account Balance: April 30, 2020	\$ 248.44
CD's total capital as of March 31, 2020	\$ 22,849.08
Dividends received	\$ 29.53
CD's total capital as of April 30, 2020	\$ 22,878.61
Total Cash Assets All Accounts	\$ 34,667.60

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

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EMAIL: _____

NAME#2 _____

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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



**GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 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, 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!***