



For the Good of the Bees

By Phil Duncan, President



By now you have harvested your honey and getting ready for the dreaded “W” word, Winter. Success next spring is often determined by what steps you take this fall. Bees, like humans, have the best chances for survival over the winter if they are healthy, have ample food supplies, and have a solid shelter. Our speaker this month is an excellent presenter with years of experience behind him. His topic fits right in with what you need to do to prepare for winter. This is one meeting that you don’t want to miss.

While we are on the topic of fall preparations I would like to remind you that the Board of Directors elections will be coming up soon. The October meeting is when nominations are requested for officers. At the November meeting the election will be held and all elected officers be sworn in at our December meeting. This pandemic has thrown a monkey wrench into our meetings. In all likelihood our fall meetings will continue to be held on-line. If you are interested in holding a position please contact any of our officers. An organization is only as good as those who are willing to keep it viable. I have held the position of President for three terms. I would be more than willing to turn the reins over to anyone who is committed to putting in the time to keep our organization healthy.

Last month I reminded 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.

Now that it is fall you may get to experience the unique honey that is produced from the nectar of Goldenrod. If you have not had the chance to smell and taste this honey don’t be alarmed should your fall honey remind you of old sweat socks. Isn’t nature wonderful?

Hope everyone can attend our September Zoom meeting.

COMING UP

GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY, September 20, 2020



SEPTEMBER 20-ZOOM

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
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Basic Beekeeping

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central
Regional Director

Preparing for Winter

You've got to be ahead of your bees!

Winter is coming soon and with Missouri weather we never know what to expect. Hopefully you are already starting to do the things we covered last month, this month we are basically expanding on those topics and adding a couple things to our to-do list.

The most important thing to do is Check for Mites. Even if you're "treatment-free", "natural", or someone who just got bees last week. There is no reason for any beekeeper not to do a fall mite check. A successful beekeeper, no matter what management practices, will know his/her hives mite levels. One of the first questions that will be asked (or should ask yourself) next spring is what your mite levels were. This will help other beekeepers determine things if your hive didn't make it, or next spring when you're looking for hives to split and make queens from, you will want to pick those hives with the lowest mite counts and think about requeening those hives with high mite counts. Again, I will not tell you which mite check method to use. The debate on alcohol vs. powdered sugar method is a great one and you will see a lot of debate on this topic. The biggest thing about which one you use is to use it correctly and know your mite threshold. I do believe the threshold numbers are about 3% infestation rate (this would be 3 mites per 100 bees, and 9 mites for 1/2 cup of bees (300)) So anything over this would need to be treated.

For winter you need a healthy colony. I believe a healthy colony is made up of three things. A good Queen, low pest numbers, and plenty of food (Pollen + Nectar). Assuming you have done mite checks, and food is plentiful, the next important thing is hive population.

A. A large proportion of the hive population which are new young bees laid and hatched in the fall: September through early November.

B. A large enough population that can cover a larger patch of food during a cold spell.

Check your hives to make sure they are queenright and healthy. Anything below normal or a population below a full box of bees should be addressed by either replacing the queen, combining, treating for disease or pests, and supplemental feeding. You want to build to four or five full frames of brood sometime toward the end of September and into October (for a two deep box size hive) as long as the winter weather doesn't come early. Once we reach weather in the 30's or 40's, the cluster will shrink and you will not be able to manipulate population. Those first few days of cold weather you will see many old bees carried out. It is normal but can also indicate your population is on the old side. Bees will die throughout the winter and you will notice more on certain weeks than others, usually after a cold snap. This is still normal and there is nothing you can do about it.

Once your hive enters winter, other than supplemental feed, there is not much you can do but wait for spring. Your population will naturally dwindle to the youngest bees that were raised in late September and October. You want to feed any hives that you think will need food for the winter. Lift your boxes from the back and get a feel for weight. Also look at the frames and determine how full the box is of stores. If food is needed, sugar syrup should be mixed at two parts sugars, one-part water. This will require less work for the bees driving off the moisture. A lot of beekeepers suggest anywhere from 60 lbs. all the way to 90 lbs. But its all based of the size of your colony.

I like to prevent robbing by reducing entrances and add mouse guards as a precaution. If possible, your hive(s) location should be out of direct prevailing winds or have winter wind blocks. It should be sunny all day. The entrances should be pointed away from those winter winds. If you have solid bottoms, the hives should slope forward slightly to allow water to run out.

Like always feel free to contact me with any questions you have at sunnydaybeekeeping@gmail.com, your mentors, or contact any of the club officers, or bring your questions to the next meeting. This time is very important because what happens in the next few months can make or break a hive in the fast approaching winter months.

Beekeeping Quick List

- Mite Checks
- Prepare Healthy Colonies for winter
- Think about if you need wind breaks and plan to set them up
- Start looking for books/classes/conference to take over the winter/spring

Market Place

Youth Scholarship program

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 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.



Messner Bee Farm Store

Erik and Rachael Messner

8301 Westridge Road

Raytown, MO 64138

816-585-6814

www.messnerbeefarm.com



**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.

Youth Scholarship Applications
are Due October 31st

ELIGIBILITY

The applicant must:

- Be between the ages of **10** and **18** by **February 1st** of the **Award Year**.
- Be a resident of Missouri.
- Be currently enrolled in public, private, or home school.
- Have permission to apply from a parent or guardian.
- Have no immediate family members that are currently beekeepers.

Submit application (**postmarked**) to Midwestern Beekeepers Association no later than **October 31**, the year before the **Award Year**. (unless previously agreed)

SELECTION PROCESS

- The Midwestern Beekeepers Association Youth Program Committee may arrange an interview with finalists and their parents or guardian.
- The Scholarship Committee Chair will award the scholarship and notify the applicant(s) after the January General Meeting of the **Award Year**.

Application can be found at :

<http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/1.-2018-Youth-Scholarship-Application-Form-3.pdf>



Basic Beekeeping (Continued)

By Kyle Day, MSBA West Central
Regional Director

Sugar roll step-by-step

- Gather all your materials
- Find a frame of brood
- Collect a ½ cup of worker bees from the brood into your jar
- Add 2 Tbs powdered sugar to the bees in the jar
- Roll the jar to coat the bees with sugar
- Put the jar to rest in the shade for at least 2 minutes
- Shake the mites out of the jar into a tub
- Count the number of mites in your sample
- Divide by 3 to get the number of mites / 100, and compare to your threshold
- Feel good that you are helping keep your bees healthy!



US MiteCheck

Interactive Map

www.mitecheck.com

The US MiteCheck Interactive Map has been launched with a new app! A joint effort by the University of MN Bee Squad, Michigan State University Michigan Pollinator Initiative, University of Maryland College Park's VanEngelsdorp Bee Lab and the Bee Informed Partnership. MiteCheck was founded to share varroa mite population information among beekeepers and provide an opportunity for beekeepers to join a 'beekeeper citizen science' effort. If you keep bees in the US, please share your powdered sugar roll mite test results with us via this survey

at www.mitecheck.com.

Help us learn about Varroa destructor mite infestations across the country at the county level. Check out the map to see if mite levels have been reported in your county.





Other Links

General Meeting



<https://mostatebeekeepers.org/>



American Beekeeping Federation

<https://abfconference.com/>



greatplainsgrowersconference.org

GENERAL MEETING September 20th 2:30PM

This will be another Zoom meeting. This month we'll have Grant Gillard speaking on Winter Prep / Fall Management!



Zoom call Information

Phone number: +1 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 868 354 59830

Passcode: 867423



Community America Credit Union Transactions for August 2020	
Checking Account Balance: July 31, 2020	\$ 3,343.15
Savings Account Balance: July 31, 2020	\$ 13,575.93
PayPal Account Balance: July 31, 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: August 31, 2020	\$ 3,379.29
Dividend in Savings account	\$.29
Savings Account Balance: August 31, 2020	\$ 13,576.22
PayPal Account Balance: August 31, 2020	\$ 100.00
CD's total capital as of July 31, 2020	\$ 17,857.00
Dividends received	\$ 21.11
CD's total capital as of August 31, 2020	\$ 17,878.11
Total Cash Assets All Accounts	\$ 34,933.62

2020 Fall Virtual Conference

October 10th, 2020
8:30 am – 4:05 pm
Zoom Conference

Dr Samuel Ramsey and **Dr Katie Lee** will give informative and thought provoking presentations at our Missouri State Beekeepers Association Fall Virtual Conference. This is a one-day event on October 10th, beginning at 8:30 am. **Registration is free to MSBA members.** Becoming a member is easy, and annual dues are only \$10. Become a member now to qualify for the free online conference. You are encouraged to register one week prior to the event to ensure there's an online seat for you at our conference.

Samuel Ramsey completed his formal education in Dr. Dennis Van Engelsdorp's Honey Bee lab at the University of Maryland, College Park. He currently is studying the *Tropilaelaps* mite in Thailand which is widely regarded as the next global threat to honey bee populations coordinated through the Bee Research Laboratory, in Beltsville, MD. MSBA financially contributes to Dr Ramsey's research project in Thailand.



Dr Katie Lee received her MS and PhD from the University of Minnesota with Dr. Marla Spivak. Her research focuses on the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*, metrics that indicate queen bee and colony health, and the benefits of pollinator plantings on honey bee health. She developed a parasitic mite sampling protocol that is now a nationwide standard. For the nonprofit organization the Bee Informed Partnership, Katie founded the Northern California and Upper Midwest honey bee Tech-Transfer Teams that provide services for commercial beekeepers by assessing colony health, sampling for pathogens and parasites, and testing breeding stock for disease resistance behaviors. She serves on the board of the American Beekeeping Federation and her long-term goal is to conduct research that generates practical information for beekeepers.

For additional questions regarding this one-day event, you may email Bruce Snavelly at brucesnavelly@hotmail.com.



Return Service Requested

Sarah Hornung

9209 W 90th Ter

Overland Park, KS 66212

**GENERAL MEETING
September 20th
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
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!***