



Missouri State Beekeepers Association  
 P.O. Box 448 Oak Grove, MO 64075  
[www.mostatebeekeepersassociation.org](http://www.mostatebeekeepersassociation.org)

March 2006

Eugene Makovec  
 Editor

## Spring Meeting Just What the Doctor Ordered Program is heavy on the science of beekeeping

Thought you'd never use your high school biology? Think again.

This year's Spring meeting, held jointly with our neighbors in Kansas, is geared heavily toward the science of beekeeping, with "Drone Selection", "Breeding Bees" and "Pollination" among the offerings.

If State meetings are great for camaraderie, they are essential for continuing education. And program chairs Joli Winer (KS) and Sharon Gibbons (MO) have brought in some heavy-hitters to instruct us.

A look back at apiculture texts from a century ago finds beekeepers arguing over many of the same issues as today. Extracted vs. comb honey, whether to use queen excluders, and what to do about the evil foulbrood.

But a lot has changed, too. Deadly mites. New medications, followed by resistance and still more medications. More recently, hive beetles

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### Signs of Spring

*Coming soon to a garden near you: The grape hyacinth is among the first perennials to bloom in the early Spring, attracting local honeybees with its generous supply of sweet nectar.*

*Plant a few bulbs in full sun or partial shade, and they will spread over a few years to create a sea of April azure. According to the Iowa State University Extension service, grape hyacinths multiply via both bulb offsets and seed dispersal.*

— photo by Eugene Makovec

## New Foulbrood Medication Approved by FDA

*The following information was provided to us in the form of a National Honey Board press release:*

On October 20, 2005, the Food and Drug Administration approved tylosin (brand name Tylan) for the control of American foulbrood disease (AFB) of honey bees. The label and other information can be found on the Elanco website:

[http://www.elancous.com/products/tylan\\_soluble.htm](http://www.elancous.com/products/tylan_soluble.htm)

The approval has several stipulations, including that tylosin:

1. is used for the **control** of AFB (not the prevention);
2. is applied as a **dust in confectioners/powdered sugar** (not in syrup or patty form);
3. treatments consist of three (3) applications of 200 mg tylosin in 20g sugar per application, dusted over the top bars of the brood chamber, once weekly;
4. is consumed by the bees **before the honey flow**, and
5. treatments are completed **at least four (4) weeks prior to main honey flow** (withdrawal period).

*(Continued on page 4)*



## From the President Monte Richardson

Hello Everybody,

It's the first of February and winter is just now hitting us here in West Central Missouri. Those 60-degree days in January were simply unbelievable. Hopefully all the warmer weather hasn't made the bees eat up all their spring stores.

There were a couple of items at the recent Executive Board Meeting that I would like to share with all of you. The first is that Sarah Jackson, YOUR 2006 Honey Queen, has been busy. She has attended some local association meetings and is in the process of making arrangements to attend some beginner workshops. These are excellent opportunities for local associations to make a media event. Sarah is a charming individual and is YOUR spokesman to the media, promoting honey, bees, and beekeeping. I hope all of you will take advantage of her abilities and willingness to contribute to OUR avocation.

The second item that I would like to bring to your attention is the Spring Meeting, "Three Queen Bees and a Drone", March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> in Overland Park, KS (Kansas City Metro Area). The Missouri and Kansas Beekeepers Associations have come together for this meeting. Some of you may be asking why we do this, combine associations for such meetings. For some of you it means a terribly long drive. For others it means fighting big city traffic. I'm going to be frank for a moment and explain some logistical facts of life. We have two wonderful ladies that can, and do, get the most qualified bee researchers and practical beekeepers available for our meetings. However, these people are in high demand and must prioritize their time and efforts. These researchers and beekeepers are dedicated to getting "the

word" out to as many people as possible, as efficiently as possible. The bottom line is that the more people we have attending a meeting, the better chance we have of attracting the quality speakers that we have all come to expect at these meetings.

Sharon and Joli have crammed as much as possible into this meeting. There will be an E-Board meeting on Thursday evening 3/2, but there won't be time for a "business meeting" during the weekend. Sharon and Joli have done a marvelous job of scheduling the breakout sessions so that you can pick and choose several of them to attend. It seems that my wife and I have to have a major discussion before the meeting to see which one of us will attend which breakout session so that we can learn as much as possible for our business. Given the quality of our speakers and the accommodations, the prices are very reasonable. I hope to see as many of you at the Spring Meeting as possible. For more information see the rest of the newsletter or go to [www.mostatebeepersassociation.org](http://www.mostatebeepersassociation.org).

One last thought as I shake off the chill. The Missouri State Fair will be held August 10<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>. For those that have to make arrangements early, please consider donating a half or whole day to the State Association's State Fair Booth. It truly makes a wonderful impact on the children. And adults come back year after year. Don Reinkemeyer and Dean Sanders will be supervising the booth this year and would appreciate your help. We also have some cooking demonstrations scheduled during the fair that we could use some help with.

See You Soon!!!

Monte Richardson

### VIDEO FOR SALE

## "A Year With the Honeybees"

This video follows Dick Blake, of Shenandoah, Iowa, through an entire production season. It starts with spring feeding, progresses through splitting, supering and honey removal, and finishes with the barrels of honey being loaded on the truck.

With a running time of 35 minutes, this video offers information for beekeepers on all levels.

Produced and directed by the Iowa Honey Producers. Available on DVD or VCR tape.

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## The Empty Super ... Diary of a Hopeful Hobbyist

by Eugene Makovec

### Flight Path

I was in the back yard when my son brought the phone out. It was Ray Downing, my neighbor across the street.

"What's with these bees attacking me?" he asked. He sounded perturbed.

"You may want to ask their owner," I responded, trying to be funny.

I wasn't, and the line was silent for a moment. The bees' owner was Jackie, Ray's wife. The Downings had moved in a couple of years prior, and she'd asked me to place a "small hive" in her backyard to pollinate the humongous garden she was putting in. I explained to her that a "small hive" would not stay small for long – I could install a small package of bees in the spring, but by summer Jackie would have herself a "big hive" with many thousands of bees.

(I should mention here that I was not completely honest with Jackie. I am actually quite adept at keeping small hives small – each year at least one of my four hives (usually the one I spend the most time on) manages to remain undersized. So in truth, her chances of having a puny, unproductive hive were at least 25 percent – maybe higher if I gave them my constant attention.)

The deal was, she would pay for the equipment and all expenses, I would take care of the bees, and we'd split the extracting duties and the honey. Jackie's bees had been there over two years with no incidents. Until now.

I tried a more inquisitive tack. "What are you doing?" I asked Ray.

"I was just cleaning up this compost pile," he answered. "I've been out here all afternoon, and all of a sudden they just attacked me. I got stung once and there's a couple more that keep dive-bombing me."

"Hmmm," I thought. "Compost."

"I'll be right over," I said. I knew from what I'd read that there are certain scents almost universally despised by bees. Things like perfume and bananas. Horses and sweat. *And compost.*

The Downings' asphalt driveway went straight back past the left side of their house to a detached garage which, like ours, was ancient and cluttered, with doors too narrow for easy automotive storage. Instead, the drive opened to a larger slab behind the house with room to park a couple of cars. Beyond this was a four-foot chain link fence covered with vines and lined with shrubs on the back neighbor's side.

To the left, tucked away behind the garage, were my – er, Jackie's – bees, a bustling, O'Hare-like enterprise whose flight path paralleled the fence.

As recently as last week there had been a huge pile of compost on the asphalt slab. It had been delivered in the early spring and Ray and Jackie had been chipping away at it ever since, though

with little discernible progress. But now it was gone, and in its place stood Ray with a large push broom.

Picture a man in his mid-50s, with bad knees, a bit of a paunch and a full grey beard. (One of the neighbors had joked that "Jerry Garcia didn't die; he retired and moved to Pearl Avenue.") He was breathing heavily, sweating profusely, and as I approached he swatted furiously at a passing bee. I almost busted out laughing, and I know the smirk on my face didn't help his mood any.

"Like I said --", he stammered, swinging an arm around his head again, "like I said, I was just sweeping up the rest of this mulch when they came after me."

"Hmmm," I wondered aloud. "Which way were you sweeping it?"

"That way." He pointed toward the fence.

"So ... right across their flight path," I observed. I proceeded to explain the compost thing to him, along with the sweat thing, and for good measure I threw in a little advice about flailing at passing bees.

A few days later I was back in the Downings' backyard, this time for a graduation party. Honeybees were a popular topic of conversation. I said hello to Ray, and did a double-take. He was sitting in a lawn chair with shorts on. His entire right thigh was black-and-blue, like someone had taken a baseball bat to it. "Is that where you got stung?" I asked incredulously.

"That's where I pulled a muscle trying to get away," he replied. "I can hardly walk."

Again, I had to suppress my mirth. And again, I was only marginally successful. But this time my smirks were joined by snickers from Ray's brother and several others, and finally even a chuckle from Ray.

Ray's actually a good guy, a great person to have as a neighbor, and while he never cared for the bees, he loved the honey. When Jackie couldn't make it once on extracting day, Ray cheerfully volunteered, and found that honey from the comb is even better than that from the bottle.

Jackie's bees remained in her yard for another year, without incident, until the Downings moved across town. She hasn't gotten around to a garden at the new place.

As for Ray, he's my right-hand man every year at extracting time. It's all I can do to keep him from eating up the profits.

*He was breathing heavily, sweating profusely, and as I approached he swatted furiously at a passing bee.*

## DRAPER'S SUPER BEE

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## Tylosin Approved for Treatment of American Foulbrood

(Continued from page 1)

### TOLERANCES

Since the residue levels in our human food safety studies were low and the *per capita* consumption of honey is low (relative to other food items), the FDA decided:

*"... the exposure resulting from the consumption of honey from treated hives does not represent a human safety concern and a tolerance for tylosin in honey is not needed."*

This is quite different from a "zero tolerance" where no ("zero") amount is allowed.

### MIXING

**TYLAN** (the ELANCO formulation of tylosin) comes in a 100 gram bottle.

100 grams = 100,000 milligrams; if each treatment is 200 milligrams then the bottle is enough for 500 treatments (100,000 divided by 200).

What about SUGAR? If each treatment is 20 grams (approximately 1/4 cup) of confectioner's sugar and the TYLAN bottle is enough for 500 treatments, then 500 X 20 grams = 10,000 grams or 10 kilograms. A kilogram is 2.2 lbs so 10 kilograms is 22 lbs.

Therefore, **one 100-gram bottle of TYLAN would be mixed with 22 lbs of confectioner's sugar to yield mate-**

**rial for 500 treatments.** If each colony was treated 3 times, one week apart, 500 treatments would be enough for about 166 colonies.

That is a large amount to mix in a single batch, particularly since Tylan and sugar are similar in color. Mixing smaller portions may be appropriate.

### Editor's Note —

Tylosin is an antibiotic. As noted above, it is indicated for AHB control, not prevention. The reason we have a new foulbrood control measure is that the old one, Terramycin, no longer works for many beekeepers. Years of misuse (treating preemptively when no AHB is evident, or not following label instructions) are thought to have sped up the natural process of resistance. Apistan misuse has been blamed for similar resistance by varroa mites.

## Camdenton Cancer Society Seeks Honey Donations

*The following request was received via email by MSBA President Monte Richardson:*

Hi, my name is Debbie Cribb. I have recently moved to Missouri and being new I decided to get involved in my community. I have joined our local chapter of the American Cancer Society and am a Team Leader for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Each team leader was asked to create a theme for their team, (please be patient with me while I explain myself) to help with fundraising efforts to find a cure for cancer and help the folks in our community who are battling the disease. My team will be called, "Cribb's Queen Bees - Working for a Cure, cuz we Bee the Best" (please find humor in that!!). Anyway, I am looking for someone who can donate some honey as part of our fund raising. We'd like to sell honey as part of our team's efforts. We are also dressing up like bees (wearing tiaras and antennae), washing car windows for donations, etc.

My family has personally been effected by this disease as has every other family I have ever met, in one form or another. So instead of complaining about it, I have decided to take action, however meager it may seem. Please help direct me to someone who might be willing to join my cause.

Looking forward to your reply,

Debbie Cribb, Team Captain, Cribb's Queen Bees



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## Spring Meeting Just What the Doctor Ordered

*(Continued from page 1)*

and the continued northward march of Africanized bees.

Clearly, this is not your father's honey business. We're no longer just farmers — we're pharmacists. Even the hobbyists among us have to take this stuff seriously if we want to survive.

Our Spring program can help. Our four primary presenters, PhDs all, come to us from top university and research facilities. All have studied and written extensively on the biology and behavior of the honeybee, and can't wait to share their knowledge with us.

But if your eyes should start to glaze over from all those science classes, we also have a variety of electives, ranging from "Installing Package Bees" and "Making Nucs" to "Gift Baskets" and "Insect Photography".

Need to order supplies for the upcoming season? Here's your chance to save on shipping costs, while at the same time supporting our exhibiting vendors. Time is getting short, but if you contact them now, you can probably pick up your order at the meeting. Vendor contact information is as follows:

**Dadant and Sons:** (Sioux City office) 877-732-3268

**Mid-Continent Agrimarketing:** 800-547-1392

**Draper's Super Bee:** 402-274-3725

All of these vendors also support this newsletter with their advertising.

This joint meeting of the Missouri State Beekeepers Association and the Kansas Honey Producers Association will convene on Friday morning, March 3, 2006 in Overland Park, KS.

### **Three Queen Bees and a Drone** **Kansas' Honey Producers Association &** **Missouri State Beekeepers Association** **Spring 2006 Meeting** **Friday & Saturday, March 3 & 4** **Overland Park Marriott** **10800 Metcalf, (I-435 & Exit 169 Highway-Metcalf)** **Call 800-228-9290 for hotel reservations.**

#### ***Our guest speakers:***

- **Dr. Marla Spivak** is at the University of Minnesota, Department of Entomology. She is part of the Minnesota Extension Service. She has been instrumental in developing bees with hygienic traits so that we can use fewer chemicals in our hives. She has written several books, including "Successful Queen Rearing" and "Beekeeping in the Upper Midwest"
- **Dr. Diana Sammatara** is with the USDA Bee Lab in Tucson AZ. She has written the book "The Beekeeper's Handbook."
- **Dr. Nancy Ostiguy** is at Pennsylvania State University. Her research is on varroa and virus impacts on honey bees and the environmental consequences of pest control strategies, including non-pesticidal approaches to pest control (IPM), and pesticide residues in foods and other products. She also has interests in sustainable and organic agriculture.
- **Dr. Tom Seeley** is a professor of Biology in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University. He teaches courses in animal behavior and does research on honey bee behavior. He recently has had articles in Bee Culture magazine. Tom has written the following books and is working on a third:
  - Seeley, T.D. 1985. Honeybee Ecology. Princeton University Press.
  - Seeley, T.D. 1995. The Wisdom of the Hive. Harvard University Press.
- **Bruce Boynton** is the CEO of the National Honey Board.

**See the following pages for complete meeting program.**



## Spring Meeting Program

### ***Thursday night, March 2<sup>nd</sup>:***

**Board meeting for the Missouri State Beekeepers, 8:00 p.m., Sunflower Room**

**Board meeting for the Kansas Honey Producers, 8:30 p.m., Boulevard Suite, 922**

### ***Friday, March 3<sup>d</sup>***

- 7:30-8:30 Registration & coffee & tea (Silent Auction Set-up)  
8:30-8:45 Welcome & announcements, Missouri President Monte Richardson  
8:45-9:30 ***“Bee Breeding — News from the Minnesota Ivory Tower”*** Dr. Marla Spivak  
9:30-10:15 ***“House Hunting by Honey Bees”*** Dr. Tom Seeley  
10:15-10:45 Break  
10:45-11:30 ***“Mite Management”*** research update from the USDA Bee Labs Dr. Diana Sammataro  
11:30-12:15 ***“Organic Certified Honey: Can it be done?”*** Dr. Nancy Ostiguy  
12:15-1:15 Lunch on your own  
1:15-1:20 **Honey Essay** presented by Kansas Honey Queen candidate Britinna Brown  
1:20-2:00 ***“How Viruses Change Beekeeping,”*** Nancy Ostiguy

### **Workshops: Each workshop session consists of several concurrent presentations.**

- 2:05-2:50 ***Workshop 1*** (Choose one)  
***“Plastic Foundation: Good for the Beekeeper. Good for the Bees?”*** Tom Seeley  
***“Making Mead”*** Robert Burns  
***“Easy Herbal Salves and Infused Oils”*** Joan Vibert  
***“Making Nucs”*** Chris Gibbons
- 2:55-3:25 Break — Visit vendors & bid on silent auction
- 3:25-4:10 ***Workshop 2*** (Choose one)  
***“What You Need to Know about Labels for Your Honey Products”*** Bill Bruder, Viking Label  
***“Dealing with Small Hive Beetles”*** Ted Jansen  
***“Preparing Honey for Shows”*** Cecil Sweeney
- 4:15-5:00 ***Workshop 3*** (Choose one)  
***“Using an Observation Hive as an Educational Tool”*** Don and Jan Morey  
***“Putting Together Gift Baskets”*** Kristi Sanderson  
***“Honey Plants”*** Diana Sammataro  
***“Spring Management”*** Steve & Becky Tipton
- 6:30 Banquet & Entertainment, with guest speaker Dr. Chip Taylor, University of Kansas:  
***“Adventures in Beedom — Strange Things Happen When You Work With Bees”***  
Presentation of Missouri Beekeeper of the Year Award  
Coronation of the Kansas Honey Queen

**Program continued next page**



## Spring Meeting Program

(continued from previous page)

### ***Saturday, March 4<sup>h</sup>***

- 7:45-8:15 Registration, coffee
- 8:15-8:30 Welcome & announcements, Kansas President Tim Tucker
- 8:30-9:15 ***“The Beehive as a Honey Factory”*** Tom Seeley
- 9:15-10:00 ***“Questions and Qualms about Queens”*** Marla Spivak
- 10:00-10:30 Break
- 10:30-11:15 ***“The Origin of Parasitic Mites”*** and ***“Tracheal Mites — the forgotten mite”***  
Diana Sammataro
- 11:15-12:00 ***“Pesticide Residues in Honey and Beeswax”*** Nancy Ostiguy
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch on your own, or Deli Luncheon (paid with registration)  
— Vendors will be packing up at this time —
- 1:00-1:10 ***“My Activities as Honey Queen”*** Missouri State Beekeepers Honey Queen Sarah Jackson
- 1:10-1:55 ***“Update on the National Honey Board Programs”*** and ***“Market Research & Consumer Confusion and Label Issues”*** Bruce Boynton

### **Workshops: Each workshop session consists of several concurrent presentations.**

#### 2:00-2:45 *Workshop 1* (Choose one)

- “Plastic Foundation: Good for the Beekeeper. Good for the Bees?”** Tom Seeley
- “Cooking with Honey, Giving Presentations to School-agers”** MO Honey Queen, Sarah Jackson
- “Pollen Collecting”** Steve Tipton

#### 2:50-3:35 *Workshop 2* (Choose one)

- “Studs”** Marla Spivak
- “Commonsense Methods for Installing Package Bees”** Kristi Sanderson
- “Making Soap”** Diana Sammataro

#### 3:40-4:25 *Workshop 3* (Choose one)

- “Russian Queens”** Bob Harrison
- “Insect Photography”** Betsy Betros
- “Nutritional Analysis of Honey & Honey Products”** Jackie Rowan

4:30- Door Prizes & Drawings

**Program and speakers subject to change**

### **Fall Meeting Preview**

Mark your calendars: The MSBA annual Fall Meeting will be held October 27-28 in Jefferson City, and will feature Larry Connor, owner of Wicwas Press and frequent contributor to beekeeping magazines. Watch for more information in future newsletters.

# The natural way to healthy bees

## A NEW E.P.A. REGISTERED TREATMENT AGAINST VARROA IN THE USA

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## Beginning Beekeeping Class

Presented by:

### Missouri Valley Beekeepers Association

The MVBA will be offering a beginning beekeeping class this spring. The one-day class will cover the basics of beekeeping in our area. It will introduce you to this wonderful and exciting facet of the agricultural industry. The course will explain how to obtain bees, care for bees and harvest the honey the first year.

Date Saturday March 25th

Time 8:30 AM- 4:00 P.M.

Location Union Middle School Union, MO.

Cost \$20.00 per person, or \$25.00 per family. This fee includes a free one-year membership with MVBA.

Contact Rodney Angell 573-764-2922 [bee143@fidnet.com](mailto:bee143@fidnet.com)  
or

Bob Magill 314-302-8775 [aloina@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aloina@sbcglobal.net)

## The Basics of Beekeeping Workshop

Presented by:

### Midwestern Beekeepers Association

Topics covered in this one-day course will include the acquisition and installation of bees, equipment needs, basic honeybee biology, disease prevention, seasonal management techniques, pollination and honey extraction. Several door prizes will be awarded, including a hive and bees.

Date Saturday March 11th

Time 8:45 AM- 5:00 P.M.

Location YMCA, 10301 E. 350 Highway, Raytown, MO.

Cost \$25.00 per family. This fee includes course notebook and a one-year individual Midwestern membership. Some refreshments are provided but lunch is on your own.

Contact Glenn Davis 816-690-8007 for more information and a registration form.



### Selling Honey

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especially from Boone  
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Want to be included? Just send an email to Eugene at [editor@mostatebeekeepersassociation.org](mailto:editor@mostatebeekeepersassociation.org) with "Trading Post" in the subject line. Or call 314-965-4631.

### Local Club Meeting Information

Jefferson County Beekeepers Association  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Jefferson County  
Extension Center, Hwy B & 21, Hillsboro  
Contact Scott Moser (636) 285-7295

Midwestern Beekeepers Association  
Third Wednesday of each month 7:00 p.m.  
YMCA, 10301 E. 350 Hwy, Raytown  
Contact President Bob Justice, 816-358-3893

Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., Kirkwood  
Community Center, 111 Geyer Rd, Kirkwood  
Contact President Steve Harris, 636-946-5520

Beekeeper's Association of the Ozarks  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
The Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell, Springfield  
[www.ozarkbees.org](http://www.ozarkbees.org)

South Central Missouri Beekeepers Association  
Contact President May Schmitt  
417-256-9447

Missouri Valley Beekeepers Association  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Scenic Regional Library, Union  
Contact Rodney Angell 573-764-2922  
Or [bee143@fidnet.com](mailto:bee143@fidnet.com)

Boone Regional Beekeepers Association  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every odd months, 1:00 p.m., University  
Outreach & Extension Office, Rt. UU, Columbia  
Contact: Art Gelder 573-474-8837

Jackson Area Beekeepers  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
First Pres. Church of Jackson, 206 E. Washington  
Contact: Grant Gillard 573-243-6568  
Or [gillard5@charter.net](mailto:gillard5@charter.net)

Is your club listed? Contact Eugene at [editor@mostatebeekeepersassociation.org](mailto:editor@mostatebeekeepersassociation.org)



## Missouri State Beekeepers Association Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: If you belong to a local association, please pay your state dues and magazine subscriptions through your local club.**

State Association Dues (Check  only one box) \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Membership \$10.00  \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership \$15.00  \_\_\_\_\_

Student Membership \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Magazine Subscriptions (Check as many  boxes as apply) \_\_\_\_\_

American Bee Journal 1 year  \$18.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal 2 years \$34.05 \_\_\_\_\_

Bee Culture 1 year  \$19.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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## Honey Queen Report

### Sarah Jackson



Hello, Beekeepers!

Once again, I'm excited to be writing to you all. I hope all of you had a wonderful, blessed Holiday season and are enjoying the fantastic weather we've been having this winter!

My duties as Honey Queen have really picked up this month, much to my delight. In January, I traveled to Raytown to attend the Midwestern Beekeepers' regular meeting. As it turned out, the presenter wasn't able to come, so the members just shared stories and strategies for difficult situations that pop up occasionally in beekeeping. It was amazing to listen to everyone's interesting tales!

I also got to attend a workshop and dinner hosted by the Boone Regional Beekeepers in Columbia in late January. The workshop was for beginning beekeepers, and I encouraged them to continue this new endeavor and to jump right in! The dinner was fantastic as well, with all the foods having honey used in them in some way. It was a delicious and fun evening!

A unique publicity experience was presented to me by a writer for the Columbia Missourian newspaper. The reporter was doing an article on the beginning beekeeper workshop, and upon discovering the existence of a statewide Honey Queen, interviewed me about the Missouri Beekeepers Association, beekeeping, and my responsibilities as your ambassador. The finished article was posted on the website for the newspaper along with some of the footage that the journalist had taped during the interview and at the Boone Beekeepers dinner. I can certainly relate to celebrities being followed by the paparazzi after that evening! It was quite the experience!

I would like to again offer to come to any events or festivals in your area where honey or other products of the hive are being sold or promoted, schools in your area to speak to little ones about the incredible process of making honey, local association happenings or meetings, and even parades in your home area. I'm your Honey Queen, here to serve you, so don't be shy! Please contact May Schmitt, Honey Queen Chairperson, to make arrangements. I would also like to encourage each and every one of you to come to the spring meeting in Overland Park, Kansas, on March 3-4. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

God Bless,  
Sarah

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## There She Is!

*What a joy it is to peer into a new hive and see a big, beautiful queen at work. A brightly painted thorax advertises her presence to the novice beekeeper, her age to the more experienced, while intoxicating pheromones stimulate an eager coterie to tend to her every need.*

*Her abdomen ripe with the young colony's future, she moves with seeming purpose, though she knows not her destiny.*

*I know not my own destiny, and for today I care not. For it is Spring, and all things are new. All of the setbacks and disappointments of previous seasons lie as detritus on winter's bottom board, while the new year's hopes take shape in pure, unstained wax born of the nectar of apple blossoms.*

*— photo by Eugene Makovec*

This newsletter is published six times per year, on the first of each odd month. Submissions are due three weeks prior to publication.

The email edition is in color, contains hyperlinks and possibly an extra photo or two, while the print version is in black-and-white. If you currently receive the printed newsletter and wish to upgrade, just send an email to [editor@mostatebeekeepersassociation.org](mailto:editor@mostatebeekeepersassociation.org) with "email newsletter" in the subject line. I'll reply with confirmation, and add you to my list.

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Business card size	\$15.00	Half page	\$50.00
Quarter page	\$35.00	Full page	\$100.00

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**Honey Trading Post:** This is a free service to members wishing to buy or sell honey on a wholesale basis. Just email or call the editor with contact information and whether you are buying or selling. Pricing is between the interested parties.