

Missouri State Beekeepers Association
 P.O. Box 448 Oak Grove, MO 64075
www.mostatebeekeepers.org

September 2006

Eugene Makovec
 Editor



A Prickly Business

The Bull Thistle (Cirsium vulgare), a member of the aster family, was among many thistle varieties introduced to the U.S. from Europe and Asia in the early 1800s. Though now widely considered an invasive species, it is sometimes planted in gardens to attract birds, butterflies and bees.

Commonly found in pastures and along roadsides, thistle is distasteful to most grazing animals, which gives it a competitive advantage.

Each plant can grow three to six feet high, and flowerheads sport hundreds of individual purple florets.

After pollination, straw-colored seeds are dispersed on the wind, and can remain viable in soil for over 10 years.

— photo by Eugene Makovec

Fall Meeting to Feature Author, University Researcher

The annual Fall Meeting of the Missouri State Beekeepers Association will be held October 27-28 at The Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Missouri. The Lodge is a premier resort at the Lake of the Ozarks. It is smaller than Tan-Tar-A, but walking is minimal.

The meeting will feature the 2006 Missouri Honey Queen Banquet on Friday evening, and the crowning of our 2007 Honey Queen on Saturday. And like last year, Friday's banquet will feature a Halloween costume party, with prizes awarded for Best Costume, Best Couple in Costume and Best Child Costume.

Learn from the experts

True to form, Program Director Sharon Gibbons is bringing in two beekeeping experts to share their knowledge with us:

- Larry Connor, Ph.D., is author of several beekeeping books and a regular contributor to the trade magazines. He owns Wicwas Press, a publisher of books on beekeeping and other subjects. He will speak on such topics as "Fall and Winter Management", "Drone Biology and Saturation" and "Survivor Stock — What is it and How Can I Use it?"
- Nick Aliano is a graduate entomology student at the University of Nebraska working under Marion Ellis, Ph.D. His primary research project has been on the use of Oxalic Acid for the

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Midwestern Takes Top Honors in State Fair Judging

Hutchison is Individual Grand Champion

The Midwestern Beekeepers Association, based in Raytown, was named Club Grand Champion in Apiculture judging at the 2006 Missouri State Fair. The club took First Place honors in Light Extracted Honey (Lowell Hutchison), Cut Comb Honey (Glenn Davis) and Light Bulk Comb Honey (Glenn Davis).

Lowell Hutchison was awarded Individual Grand Champion for his impressive array of entries. Hutchison earned First Place awards for Cut Comb Honey, Light Extracted Honey and Candles, along with two Second Place finishes.

A complete list of categories and winners can be found on Page 3.

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From the President Monte Richardson

Hello Everybody,

I hope this issue finds you healthy and happy. Over the past three years or so I have had a couple of simple goals as president of the state association; to improve the newsletter and encourage more participation and interaction with the local associations.

Why the newsletter? It's the primary means of communication with beekeepers all over the state. It has been my hope that by producing a quality, eye-appealing newsletter, we would help foster communication between the various regions of the state. I hoped that it would become a forum where beekeepers could proudly exchange ideas about beekeeping. I couldn't hope for a better newsletter. It LOOKS great. Now it's up to our members to take it to the next step and contribute to the CONTENT of the newsletter.

Why encourage participation and interaction with the local associations? I believe that we should all belong to something bigger than ourselves. The first settlers of this country pooled their resources and formed villages, then cities, and so on. People of Faith joined together to strengthen and support each other, and spread the Word locally and abroad.

The same applies to the MSBA with one major difference. The State Association does not exist to pull resources from the local clubs but to lend support and assistance to them. The money that the state association gets from dues barely covers the newsletter's expenses. Charges for the Fall and Spring Meetings haven't even covered all the expenses involved in providing very high quality speakers. I for one am glad to know that varroa are attracted to drone cells, and why. I'm relieved to know that my plastic foundation doesn't interfere with the bees' communication through their waggle dance. I can speak with authority when I say that drone saturation doesn't help in combating AHB encroachment.

Let me say that I truly believe that there are always setbacks and discouragement in any undertaking. I don't believe that dwelling on mistakes and shortcomings is helpful or productive. And while I certainly don't believe that sticking my head in the proverbial sand makes things better, I do believe that being positive at the prospect of being successful in spite of setbacks is important.

I subscribe to the belief that success is brought about by cooperation and teamwork. While success isn't dependent on the actions of one person, I also believe that the ultimate success or failure of any undertaking is the responsibility of the leader of the given project. The successes we enjoy as an association are a direct result of the sacrifice and dedication of countless people. Any failures over the last couple of years are a direct result of my shortcomings.

Countless times I have asked myself and every member of your executive board, "What can we do to help the local associations?" I have struggled trying to find some meaningful way to promote beekeeping at the state level that would in turn strengthen the local associations. After four years of searching and asking I still don't have a clear answer.

There are many members of the local and state associations that have given — sacrificed — to grow an organization that fosters responsible beekeeping, public awareness about beekeeping, and promotion of the lost commodity of honey. Knowing all this I still ask, "What can I do for the local associations?"

The idea has been discussed that the president and other officers

should travel the state and attend local association meetings. We have discussed hosting beginning beekeeping classes at the local level, hosting essay contests, sponsoring student scholarships, hosting beekeeping seminars, moving state meetings to different locales to promote local clubs, etc, etc, etc. Not wanting to even give the impression of "stepping" on local associations we have stood by and waited to be invited to work with local associations. The funny thing is that every single member of the State Executive Board is an active member in his or her local Association too! Many of them are presidents of their local clubs. I am probably the exception, I rarely even get the chance to attend my local club meetings, let alone serve as an officer or other role.

Now, I don't usually drop names. I don't like embarrassing people or drawing unwanted attention. But I owe a huge apology to a local association.

I recently got a phone call that made me giddy with excitement. I finally had a chance to DO what I been trying to do for three years. Gene Foley of the Joplin Beekeepers Association called me. He was excited about an opportunity that his club had to promote beekeeping and the Joplin Association. His phone call to me was timely. There was plenty of time to make preparations. His request was simple: Could the state association provide some literature to promote the state association? I told him that I would be happy to send him literature or anything else at my disposal to assist in their endeavor. And then I suggested that the Honey Queen might be able to attend. Gene and I had a very nice conversation and I was pleased that I had been given an opportunity to help a local association make a positive impact on their community. Let me make it perfectly clear, Mr. Foley treated the occasion with the attention and dedication that it deserved. He called me with plenty of time to spare to make preparations.

I dropped the ball. Each one of us has priorities in life. Very few of us have the luxury of having plenty of time to do what we need, want, or desire to do. I have priorities too. One of those priorities is to find a way to support local associations. Unfortunately other priorities sidetracked me. I won't bore you with excuses. Excuses are like bills, we all have them. Mine don't taste any better now than when I gave them to Mr. Foley.

Mr. Foley, being much more organized and dedicated than me, sent me an email a couple of weeks after our conversation, reminding me of my commitment. Embarrassed, I promptly made a phone call to put in place the things that I had promised. But I made another mistake, I forgot to follow up on my phone call and make sure that things were being done. In fact my phone call was a waste, the message didn't get received, and no preparations were made to support the Joplin Association. Now it's too late. Through my failure I'm afraid that Joplin Beekeepers Association will feel that there is nothing that the State Association can do for them.

To the Joplin Beekeepers Association: Please don't take my mistakes as a lack of appreciation or unwillingness to support you in an opportunity to promote beekeeping and your Association. In all the time that I have been associated with this association I have never, ever, ever heard anybody say that one local association is better, more important, more anything than another. Nobody at the state board level has ever said that because a local association was this

(Continued on page 4)

**MISSOURI STATE FAIR
2006 Apiculture Judging Contest Results**

INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES			
Candied Honey	1 st Place	Glenn Davis	Bates City
	2 nd Place	Evelyn Sanford	Raymore
Cut Comb	1 st Place	Lowell Hutchison	St. Joseph
Light Extracted	1 st Place	Lowell Hutchison	St. Joseph
	2 nd Place	Don Reinkemeyer	St. Charles
	3 rd Place	Ted Jansen	Chesterfield
	4 th Place	Larry Hensley	Florissant
	5 th Place	Glenn Davis	Bates City
	6 th Place	Jim Fisher	Raymore
	7 th Place	Bob Finck	Fenton
	8 th Place	Van Jones	Sedalia
Dark Extracted	1 st Place	Ted Jansen	Chesterfield
	2 nd Place	Kirby von Shouse	Overland
	3 rd Place	Don Reinkemeyer	St. Charles
Bulk Wax	1 st Place	Bob Finck	Fenton
	2 nd Place	Lowell Hutchison	St. Joseph
Sealed Deep Frame	1 st Place	Glenn Davis	Bates City
Sealed Shallow Frame	1 st Place	Glenn Davis	Bates City
	2 nd Place	Lowell Hutchison	St. Joseph
Wax Art Design	1 st Place	Larry Hensley	Florissant
Candles	1 st Place	Lowell Hutchison	St. Joseph
Observation Hive	1 st Place	Don Reinkemeyer	St. Charles
INDIVIDUAL GRAND CHAMPION		Lowell Hutchison	St. Joseph

LOCAL ASSOCIATION ENTRIES			
Light Extracted	1 st Place	Midwestern	Lowell Hutchison
	2 nd Place	Eastern	Ted Jansen
	3 rd Place	Eastern	Bob Finck
	4 th Place	Midwestern	Jim Fisher
	5 th Place	Midwestern	Glenn Davis
	6 th Place	Midwestern	Roger Nichols
	7 th Place	Midwestern	Gerald Foster
Cut Comb	1 st Place	Midwestern	Glenn Davis
Dark Extracted	1 st Place	Eastern	Ted Jansen
Light Bulk Comb	1 st Place	Midwestern	Glenn Davis
	2 nd Place	Lowell Hutchison	St. Joseph
Sealed Deep Frame	1 st Place	Glenn Davis	Bates City
Sealed Shallow Frame	1 st Place	Glenn Davis	Bates City
	2 nd Place	Lowell Hutchison	St. Joseph
Wax Art Design	1 st Place	Larry Hensley	Florissant
Candles	1 st Place	Lowell Hutchison	St. Joseph
CLUB GRAND CHAMPION		Midwestern Beekeepers	



Fall Meeting is October 27-28 at Lodge of Four Seasons

(Continued from page 1)

control of varroa mites. In addition to this topic, he will lecture on "Honeybee Biology", "Queen Rearing" and "Varroa Detection and Control Methods".

NOTE: Dr. Ellis was originally booked to speak at this meeting but had to withdraw due to a scheduling conflict.

The Lodge of Four Seasons is located at: Horseshoe Bend Parkway (State Road HH), P.O. Box 215, Lake Ozark, MO 65049 888-265-5500

From Business 54, Take State Road HH toward Four Seasons. The Lodge is three miles down on the left. Call the Lodge or visit www.4seasonsresort.com for more information.

The group room rate is \$77.00 for single or double. Please mention MSBA to get the special rate. Rooms will be held for us until September 26, 2006. The hotel's regular room rate is \$164. Make sure that you are quoted the \$77 rate. All rooms include irons, ironing boards, hair dryers and in-room coffee service. The hotel has both indoor and outdoor pools and an exercise facility.

Please support our meetings by attending. It is becoming more difficult and expensive to book speakers and hotels. We have a good meeting scheduled, but costs have gone up with the increase in fuel costs. We have increased minimums on the food contracts for the next two meetings. If you support our banquet and lunches, we will be able to meet the \$3000 food minimum required. Otherwise it has to come out of our treasury.

Please support our vendors

Need to order supplies for the upcoming season? Here's your

From the President (from page 2)

big, or that small, that they got more or less attention or resources than anybody else. In this case size doesn't matter. Gene Foley did everything that was expected of him. He deserves to be disappointed and disenchanted. However, I would ask that both Mr. Foley and the Joplin Beekeepers Association put the blame where it belongs: Be disappointed and disenchanted with me personally.

How can I help the local associations? By following through on my commitments. By getting to know individuals at the local level and sharing with them my sincere desire to help them. And hopefully be invited to be a part of their journey. My term will be over shortly. My opportunity to serve as your president is almost over. I have contemplated life after presidency and feel like I might make a good coat check at a local meeting.

Twenty years ago the Varroa Mite brought beekeeping to its knees. Because the industry banded together (loosely) and tried various methods and shared what worked and what didn't work, we are approaching the point where mites are controllable. It was due to the process of keeping communication open, sharing ideas, and supporting each other that there is even a beekeeping industry in the U.S. today. I want to be a part of that process when AHB, adulterated honey, or some other unforeseen situation threatens our avocation in the future. What do you say?

Sincerely,
Monte Richardson

chance to save on shipping costs, while at the same time supporting our exhibiting vendors. Just contact them beforehand to place your order, and tell them you'd like to pick it up at the meeting. They'll be happy to oblige.

At the time this newsletter went to print, the following vendors had arranged to exhibit at the meeting:

Mid-Continent Agrimarketing: 913-768-8967 (800-547-1392)

Draper's Super Bee: 402-274-3725

Walk-About Acres: 573-474-8837 walkabot@midamerica.net

Dadant (Hamilton Branch): 888-922-1293



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Survey says ...

Honey Production Down in 2006

Beekeepers on this newsletter's email list were invited to participate in a survey on this year's honey production. Questions asked included:

1. Was this year's crop better or worse than last year's?
2. To what, if anything, do you attribute the difference?
3. In what area are you located?
4. How many hives do you have?

Approximately 25 readers responded. Results indicate that overall honey production was down this year in Missouri. See back page for complete results. (Readers of the printed newsletter can access the email version at www.mostatebeekeepers.org.)



MSBA Fall 2006 Meeting Registration Form



NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____
 PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Pre-Registration Fees: Registration must be received by October 10, 2006

Member – 2 day per person	\$20.00 _____
Member---1 day per person	\$15.00 _____
Member Family— 2 day	\$30.00 _____
Or Member family— 1 day	\$25.00 _____
Non-member – 2-day, per person	\$28.00 _____
Or Non-member – 1 day, per person	\$23.00 _____

Registrations made after October 10th:

Member -- 2-day, per person	\$25.00 _____
Or Member – 1 day, per person	\$20.00 _____
Non-member – 2-day, per person	\$35.00 _____
Or Non-member – 1 day, per person	\$30.00 _____

(No family discount on late registrations)

Friday Night Banquet & Entertainment: Filet Mignon, salad, vegetables, dessert

Adult - \$23.50 per person	(\$23.50 x _____)	= _____
Child - \$12.00/child under 12	(\$12.00 x _____)	= _____

Saturday Lunch

Adult - \$15.00/person	(\$15.00 x _____)	= _____
Child - \$7.50/child under 12	(\$ 7.50 x _____)	= _____

Membership 2006 Missouri State Beekeepers Assn. Individual: Renewal New \$10.00 _____

Membership 2006 Missouri State Beekeepers Assn. Family: Renewal New \$15.00 _____

Queen fund donation **Donation \$** _____

Meeting fund donation **Donation \$** _____

Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: MO State Beekeepers Assn. . Send to Sharon Gibbons, 314 Quinnmoor Drive. Ballwin, MO 63011. *If you pre-register and then cannot attend, your registration fee will be considered a donation and no refunds will be made. If you pay for meals and we are able to sell them you will be refunded for those.*



Fall Meeting Program

Friday, October 27th

- 8:00-12:00 Setup for Vendors in the Marbella Ballroom
- 9:00 a.m. Executive Board Meeting — Room to be announced
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch on your own
- 12:30-1:15 Registration/Visit with vendors
- 1:15-1:25 Welcome: **President Monte Richardson**
- 1:25-2:15 ***“Honeybee Biology”***
Nick Aliano
- 2:15-3:00 ***“Fall and Winter Management”***
Dr. Larry Connor
- 3:00 Raffle Drawing
- 3:10-3:30 Break
- 3:30-4:10 ***“Getting Missouri Ready for Apis Mellifera Scutellata”***
Panel discussion of the probable event that the Africanized honeybee will be entering Missouri in the next few years. Panel includes Mike Brown, Monte Richardson and Dr. Larry Connor
- 4:00 Judging of Queen Contestants — May Schmitt (Queen Chairperson) — Room to be announced
- 4:20-5:00 ***“Queen Rearing”***
Nick Aliano
- 6:00 **2006 MO Honey Queen Banquet and Halloween Costume Party**
Prizes for Best Costume, Best Couple in Costume, Best Child Costume
Welcome and Social Hour — Sea Chase
- 6:30 **Banquet**
Invocation: Honey Queen Sarah Jackson
After-dinner speaker to be announced
Menu: Filet Mignon, Salad, Vegetables, Potatoes or Pasta, Dessert

Program continued next page

Mid-Continent Agrimarketing, Inc.
1150 W. 151st St., Suite D
Olathe, KS 66061
(913) 768-8967 (Kansas City Area)
Toll-Free 1-800-547-1392
www.mid-conagri.com

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Fall Meeting Program

Saturday, October 28th

- 7:30-8:15 Registration — Marbella Room
- 8:15-8:30 Welcome & announcements: **President Monte Richardson**
- 8:30-9:15 ***“Drone Biology and Saturation”***
Dr. Larry Connor
- 9:15-10:00 ***“State of the Union (MSBA) Address”***
Monte Richardson, Kenny Norman, Ron Vivian
- 10:00-10:30 Break
- 10:30-11:30 ***“Varroa Detection and Control”***
Nick Aliano
- 11:30 Raffle Drawing
- 11:40-12:00 Presentation by 2006 Honey Queen Sarah Jackson
Introduction of 2007 Honey Queen
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch: Italian theme
- 1:00-1:40 ***“Survivor Stock — What is it and How Can I Use it?”***
Dr. Larry Connor
- 1:45-2:15 ***“Oxalic Acid and its Effect on Varroa”***
Nick Aliano (Oxalic Acid research has been Nick’s main project at the University of Nebraska)
- 2:15-2:45 ***“How to Purchase Queens and Choose a Queen Breeder”***
Dr. Larry Connor
- 3:00-3:20 Break
- 3:20-4:15 Annual Business Meeting
Election of Officers
- 4:15 Raffle and Door Prizes

Program and speakers subject to change

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Apiguard has a Section 3 general registration in the United States. Check with your nearest Dadant branch for updates on Apiguard registration in your state. We will also post state registrations on our website: www.dadant.com



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In the market to purchase from 2000-4000 pounds of light extracted 2006 honey in the next few months.

Walk-About Acres
(Columbia) 573-474-8837
Buying honey and wax, especially from Boone County

Buying Comb Honey

Joli Winer
Olathe, KS 913-768-8967 Days 913-856-8356 Nights
Will take in supers to cut and return, or already cut.

Robert Hughes
Kansas City, KS 913-681-5777

Eugene Makovec
St. Louis 314-965-4631 or emakovec@sbcglobal.net
Need 25-30 packages of comb honey.

Want to be included? Just send an email to Eugene at editor@mostatebeekeepersassociation.org with "Trading Post" in the subject line. Or call 314-965-4631.

Honey Queen Report

(Continued from page 11)

As I finish up my year as your queen, there are several people who I should take the time to thank. First of all, I thank God for being blessed with this wonderful opportunity to learn more about this facet of agriculture and to represent a remarkable and unique group of people. Second, I would like to thank my amazing family and friends for always supporting and helping me in all my endeavors. Thanks to May Schmitt for all she's done as Honey Queen Chairperson. Although circumstances didn't allow her to be as active as she would've liked, I still commend her for all her assistance to me in setting up appearances and being a sounding board for ideas and anything else. A special thank you goes to Sharon Gibbons for taking me under her wing, giving me advice and helping me to better represent the beekeepers.

To the Missouri State Beekeepers Association, thank you for your generosity, kindness, and willingness to teach me about the vast industry of beekeeping. Serving as the Missouri Honey Queen has been an awesome experience that I will never forget!

God Bless,

Sarah

Calling All Locals ...

Send us your news! We'd love to know what's going on in your part of the state. If you edit a local newsletter, how about putting us on your mailing list (editor@mostatebeekeepers.org)? We know you have news and ideas worth sharing. So don't be a stranger!

Bee Culture

THE MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN BEEKEEPING



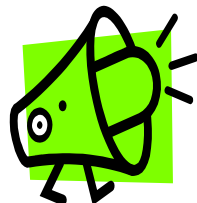
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Local Club Meeting Information

- Jefferson County Beekeepers Association**
2nd 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**
1st 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**
4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
The Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell, Springfield
www.ozarkbees.org
- South Central Missouri Beekeepers Association**
Contact President May Schmitt
417-256-9447
- Missouri Valley Beekeepers Association**
3rd Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Scenic Regional Library, Union
Contact Rodney Angell 573-764-2922
Or bee143@fidnet.com
- Boone Regional Beekeepers Association**
3rd 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**
4th 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
- Southwest Beekeepers Association**
1st Tuesday of each month
Neosho High School FFA Building
Contact: Herb Spencer 417-472-7743
- Joplin Area Beekeepers**
Last Tuesday of each month, SW MO Bank Annex (7th and Duquesne)
Contact: Gene Foley 417-624-6831
- Is your club missing? Contact Eugene at
editor@mostatebeekeepersassociation.org





MSBA Membership Application

Name _____
 Spouse's Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone Number _____ Email* _____

*Check here to receive your newsletter via email.


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

State Association Dues (Check only one box)

Adult Membership \$10.00
 Family Membership \$15.00
 Student Membership \$5.00

Amount Enclosed \$ _____
 Make check payable to: Missouri State Beekeepers Association
 Mail to: P.O. Box 448 Oak Grove, MO 64075

Magazine Discounts: Discounts are available for MSBA members to two beekeeping magazines. You may use the following forms and mail them yourself to the publishers as shown below:



ASSOCIATION MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION

SAVE 25%

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 Subscriber's Name _____ Address _____
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Return to: American Bee Journal, 51 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341



ASSOCIATION MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION

Bee Culture Magazine

Please Print Clearly

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 State, Zip _____ Comments _____
 Phone # _____

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For Office Use Only
 Act. # _____
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Return white copy to: Bee Culture, Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 706, Medina, OH 44258
 Please discard any other forms. Use only this form. Prices subject to change without notice.



Honey Queen Report

Sarah Jackson



Dear Beekeepers,

This will be my last letter to you as your 2006 Missouri Honey Queen. It has been a true honor to represent such a fascinating sector of the agriculture industry. I've learned SO MUCH about marketing a unique product, the special issues concerning beekeeping, commercial beekeeping, and more about how bees produce the most natural and delicious product available!

This summer has been relatively quiet as far as appearances have been. I was proud to represent the MSBA at the Missouri State Fair Queen Pageant. I gave a speech for my talent, and there were 57 contestants in the entire contest. I was blessed to be chosen as 2nd runner up, and received a \$300 scholarship to go toward my education expenses. Going into the contest, I felt that it was just great media exposure for the beekeepers in my representing them as their queen. Placing really boosted the publicity of my sponsoring group! I do intend to compete again in next year's contest, under a different title, but I would still be happy to have the support of each and every one of you in my pursuit of a longtime goal.

After the pageant part of the State Fair, I worked four days in the honey booth at the fair. I also feel that this is the best public relations effort we can make in representing the honey industry. Most people don't even realize that honey production is a part of agriculture, and I know for a fact we informed hundreds of thousands of Missourians just by having our booth there. I really enjoyed handing out the famous bee stickers to kids of all ages, and greeting the public. I took many fun pictures, and had a lot of fun educating people about the hive and Missouri's state insect. In case you didn't know, it is the honeybee! Also during my work days at the honey booth, Glenn Davis and I did a radio interview for the Brownfield Network. I didn't get to hear the interview, but I hope it was a great promotional to bring more people to our booth!

This fall promises to be a busy one for me as I wrap up my reign. I've got a few appearances planned, and I've contacted a beekeeper I met at the State Fair to even hopefully get suited up in the bee suit and go out in the apiary myself!

I would also like to once again offer that if you would like me to make any presentations at schools, I have no problem talking to young people of all ages, and would be glad to visit any of your home communities. In addition, I want to encourage everyone to come to the fall meeting in October. It's sure to be a great time and learning experience for all who attend.

I am still considering and praying about representing Missouri at the National Honey Queen Contest at the national convention in Austin, Texas. By the fall meeting, I will have made my decision. I am still trying to find out more about how the contest is run before I decide whether this is something I would like to pursue more.

(Continued on page 9)

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Survey Results Suggest Honey Production Down in 2006

First of all, thanks to all of you who responded to the production survey. There were 31 responses in all, and in analyzing the results I noticed that we have a lot of new hobbyists with one or two hives. That and the fact that they care enough to weigh in on this issue bodes well for the future of our Association.

Your survey responses can be broken down into two groups:

- Group 1 is made up of hobbyists with fewer than five hives. After discounting several first-year beekeepers, this group was about evenly split on the primary question of whether honey production was better or worse than last year. Reasons given for improvement included such things as "more hives" and "early Spring", while some declines were attributed to dead-outs, swarms and other catastrophes. (I consider the loss of even one colony to be a catastrophe if I only had two or three to begin with.)
- Group 2 consists of those with five or more hives, which includes what I would generally consider to be more seasoned hobbyists, sideliners and, of course, commercial beekeepers. Among these, there is a pretty clear consensus that 2006 has been a lousy year. This sentiment reigned from St. Louis in the east to the western areas of Kansas City and Springfield. (Exceptions were noted in Columbia and Cape Girardeau.)

So what was the problem this year? Not surprisingly, the weather; typical responses included "drought", "dry spell", "lack of moisture", and my personal favorite: "Everything has died and dried up to nothing."

One large commercial beekeeper bemoaned the "two weeks of cold weather following the locust bloom. The queen shut down laying, and as a result there were not enough field force for the real honey flow."

A sideliner with 75 hives cited a complete lack of locust honey due to cold weather, and a "lack of nectar in clover blooms due to drought." This is in line with my own observation was that there was plenty of clover in the St. Louis area, but for the first few weeks the bees had virtually no interest in working it.

(See page 4 for the list of survey questions.)

The Editor

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 bonus back-page material, while the print version is in black-and-white. If you are a member currently receiving the printed newsletter and you wish to upgrade, just send an email to editor@mostatebeekeepersassociation.org with "email newsletter" in the subject line. I'll reply with confirmation, and add you to my list.

Advertising rates are as follows:

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

Classified Ads: Advertise one to three beekeeping-related items in a one-line ad at no charge. This service is for non-commercial MSBA members only, and is limited to one ad per item per calendar year.

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.