



Missouri State Beekeepers Association
PO Box 7514 Columbia, Missouri 65205
www.mostatebeekeepers.org

February 2015

Eugene Makovec
Editor
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photo by Danny Lake

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Save the date!

The MSBA's annual **Fall Conference** will be held this year on Friday and Saturday, October 16-17. Location is still to be determined.



From the President by Valerie Duever

Letter from the President-January 2015

Greetings from beautiful, downtown Bachelor, MO!

Let's start with a few introductions...

As was noted in our December newsletter, our MSBA Executive Board has a couple of new faces. John Timmons is now the Past President and oversees our five area directors. Clayton Lee has joined us as Vice President and Mike McMillen is our new Program Coordinator. These two gentlemen are going to be a huge help in coordinating speakers and venues for upcoming events. Charlotte Wiggins is our secretary and Steve Moeller is our treasurer. Both are doing a wonderful job keeping us organized, documented and solvent. Ron Vivian, Wanda Johnston and Dean Sanders are still with us as Membership Chair, Honey Queen Chair, and State Fair Program Chair, respectively.

I am Valerie Duever, your new President. For those of you that haven't met me, I have been playing with bees for nearly 2 decades, have been teaching others how the honeybee functions for half that time, and have been looking for ways to help the general public understand how important ... and how cool ... these little creatures really are. Professionally, I am a BS in Horticulture from Mizzou and have worked as an accountant for a number of years. My husband of 30 years, Jim, is also a Mizzou graduate and keeps me sane and focused.

When I first became President, my friends and family gave me grief about being the new "Queen" of the largest Missouri hive ... that I get to direct the worker bees on how to get things done. Since the majority of them are not beekeepers, they don't understand that it is the worker bee who makes the decisions for the hive. Knowing this, yeah ... I am kind of like the "Queen". My job is to keep the worker bees happy, keep positive pheromones flowing and to ensure our "hive" survives the rough times.

Back in November, Wanda asked me if I would mind hosting Erin Mullins, our 2015 Honey Queen, as she attended the annual MO Governor's Conference on Agriculture that was held on December 18-20th. I thought ... why not? Might learn a little something and it would be wonderful to talk with Erin about her adventures in Queendom.

As it happens, the MSBA is, apparently, a sponsor of this event, and when our contact, Charlie, called to make sure we were bringing honey for the event, I knew I needed to attend. Since I, personally, feel it is a conflict of interest to promote my business through MSBA venues, I asked Nancy and Dom Giofre from Millersburg if they could provide the honey and little honey ice creams for sampling during the trade show. Erin agreed to help with the sampling table that was positioned in front of the AgriMissouri booth during two breakout sessions.

It was during the honey ice cream sampling that I met a director of a national farm association who happened to be a fairly new beekeeper. Extremely nice man from the Cape area, his father had kept bees when he was much younger ... think pre-1980's ... until dad had a severe reaction to a bee sting and decided to not do that any longer. The gentleman decided to take up the beekeeping practice again recently, only to have his bees die after three or so years, so he wanted advice on what happened and why.

After I asked our gentleman friend what resources he had used for his education on beekeeping (*The Hive and the Honey Bee*), I proceeded to suggest he attend a beekeeping class and hook up with a local association in his neck of the woods so he would have the support of those that are going through the same struggles. Heads up, Grant ... I did give him your name.

After our beekeeping conversation, it was my turn to ask him about how we could encourage larger farmers to become more aware of how their daily practices may affect pollinators and our honeybees. His response was to dismiss the importance of honeybees because they were: a) not native and, as such, b) competed for resources that should be reserved for native pollinators. Needless to say, I spent the next 20 minutes helping him understand why agronomists do need to care what happens to the honeybee, even though it isn't a native pollinator.

I tell you this little story to help illustrate how much beekeeping has changed over the past 30 years. The ability to simply purchase a package of bees with a queen, stick them in a hive out back and go get some honey in the fall are long gone. Pests such as varroa mites and hive beetles, coupled with less food for our girls, have made keeping bees very challenging. In fact, we might consider renaming our practice of "keeping" bees to "hosting" or "attracting" bees, because that would be a better description.

And if these "in the hive" issues weren't enough of a struggle, we beekeepers have some interesting public relations concerns. Our contact with the MO Department of Agriculture thinks the main focus of the MSBA is honey production. More than a few people truly believe that the non-native honey bee is competing with more native species of bees for food sources and should go away, even though this "competition" has not been scientifically proven. Many other areas of food production see the honeybee as a necessary expense for their businesses and are starting to explore other ways to pollinate their crops.

Don't even get me started on harvesting or selling honey. I think Eugene did an excellent job of sharing all of our frustration on this in our December 2014 newsletter.

The entire landscape of food production really has changed over past 30 years. It seems to be cycling back around to the point where more people have become interested in raising their own and getting connected with the sources of their food.

Husband Jim and I tend to teach a number of beginning beekeeping classes during the winter months and we get to work with folks



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Almond grower acquires beekeeping operation Plans to invest in research in honeybee health

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. – February 2, 2015 – Paramount Farming, the world's largest grower of almonds and pistachios, today announced that it has acquired Headwaters Farm, one of the larger beekeepers in the U.S., to ensure the availability of bees to pollinate almond orchards in California. Going forward, the beekeeping operation within Paramount Farming will be called Wonderful Bees.

Bees are critical for the annual pollination of almond trees. By getting directly involved in beekeeping operations, Paramount intends to contribute to the long-term health of bees and help the beekeeping industry recover from a recent decline that has been marked by rising costs, greater environmental risks and fewer bees. Beekeepers have been losing a third of their bees every year, on average, for the past ten years. Reports in the last couple of years also point to colony collapse disorder as a reason for a vast, mysterious dying off of honeybees in the U.S.

One way that Paramount will contribute to the beekeeping industry is by significantly investing in research and development to figure out better ways to care for and protect bees as well as their hives. This initiative will help bridge the gap between beekeeping science and practical, commercial applications. As a leader in growing almonds and pistachios in California, Paramount Farming has been working closely with Headwaters Farm and other beekeeping operations for years on the annual almond orchards pollination, providing the company with valuable experience with bees.

"The survival and availability of bees doesn't just impact our almond crop; it impacts the domestic food supply as a whole," said Joe MacIrvine, president of Paramount Farming. "We look forward to working with the leaders of our new beekeeping operation, Wonderful Bees, to make sure beekeeping continues to be done right and that the industry itself is supported and healthy for generations to come."

Paramount is in the process of creating a beekeeping management training program that lays out a career path for college graduates to join the beekeeping profession. As beekeepers retire, this training program is expected to help raise up the next generation of beekeepers. To boost the entire industry, Paramount will share its best practices with other beekeeping operations.

"As a beekeeper, I realize how exciting it is to have a big company like Paramount Farming be so committed to making a positive difference in beekeeping," said David Mendes, founder of Headwaters Farm. "The way Paramount is committing resources and energy to the risky business of beekeeping is courageous and ambitious. I anticipate that Paramount Farming will change the way beekeeping is done."

Under the terms of the agreement, Paramount Farming will now oversee and have direct access to Headwaters Farm's beekeeping operation in Florida. The deal has officially closed. Employees of Headwaters Farm, along with the infrastructure and trucks to nurture and transport the bees in the operation's 20,000 hives, have joined the Wonderful Bees operation. Financial terms of the deal are not being disclosed.

This "Catch the Buzz" message brought to you by Bee Culture, The Magazine Of American Beekeeping, published by the A.I. Root Company.

MSBA loses a friend

Gay Andrew, 1946-2014

Gay Elaine Andrew, 67, passed away on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 in her home. Gay was born on December 23, 1946, in Quincy. She married Bernie Andrew on December 28, 1966 in Fowler.

She was a life member of the Geronteers and a member of the Loraine United Methodist Church, American Legion Auxiliary, Spoon River Activity Association, the Silver Dollar Square Dance Club, Missouri and Illinois State Beekeepers Associations and the Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association.

She enjoyed crafting, scrapbooking, playing cards, crocheting, playing bunco, square dancing, singing, and collecting clown figurines and honey bee memorabilia.





Studies show neonic level drops dramatically as crop season progresses

by Forrest Laws

Jan 26, 2015 | Delta Farm Press

The Mid-South Extension entomologists who work in cotton, corn and soybeans have been conducting extensive tests to determine how long neonicotinoid seed treatments persist in those crops.

The persistence of those insecticides – thiamethoxam, clothianidin and imidacloprid – has become an important issue in the debate over the declines in honey bee populations. Environmental activists have asked EPA to cancel the registrations of those products in those crops.

But the entomologists' studies show the insecticides in the neonicotinoid seed treatments generally drop to extremely low levels by the time honey bees would normally be foraging in those plants.

Scott Stewart, Extension entomologist with the University of Tennessee, talked about those studies during a presentation at the Consultants Conference at the Beltwide Cotton Conferences in San Antonio. Stewart's work involved the application of Poncho (clothianidin) 250, Poncho 500 and Poncho 1250 as seed treatments on corn.

"The point I want to make is that during the seedling stage we got very

high concentrations – hundreds or thousands of parts per million," he noted. "By the time we get to the flowering stage when bees might be foraging on pollen, in this case, we had over a 97 percent reduction in the concentrations of clothianidin."

"The reduction is even more dramatic when you get into other crops. Some of Jeff Gore's work with an Aeris seed treatment in Mississippi shows that in that early seedling stage we're talking about hundreds of parts per million of imidacloprid in cotton. By the time, we get to first flower it's 2.5 parts per million. That's over a 99 percent reduction."

Other tests in Mississippi and in Arkansas have shown similar reductions between the seedling stage and the flowering stage of the different crops.

"I think this provides a lot of context," said Stewart. "You know we're losing efficacy in cotton by the third-leaf stage, and we're at hundreds of thousands of parts per billion. It doesn't seem very likely to me that one part per billion a month down the road is having any significant measurable effect on bees."

This article reprinted courtesy of the Western Apicultural Society's January 30 newsletter.

From the President

Beekeeping is changing, and so is your MSBA

continued from page 2

from all over the state. Seems like we spend as much time explaining the differences between GMOs and organic as we do explaining how the society of a honeybee functions. There is so much confusing information floating around and being passed off as "scientific evidence" that it is becoming very apparent that we need to step up our game in the education arena.

Learning how to keep bees has really changed as well. Methods of communicating and avenues of educational materials are incredibly different and extremely overwhelming. And I will bet you can find statistical information to back up any type of claim. The internet is a fantastic research tool, but it should never be taken at face value. I think it should be used as a way to open up discussions on interesting subjects and not as the last word on any particular one practice.

Our MSBA Executive Board has 17 members, and the President and Vice President positions change every two years. I have served on the board for three years now. Some of our other members have been with us for over 20. We have an excellent mix of older, established beekeepers from rural areas, younger and brand new beekeepers from urban areas, and everything between. This entirely volunteer organization is charged with educating the public about beekeeping, supporting beekeepers across the state and presenting new ideas and research in areas that might affect Missouri beekeepers. That is quite a task to tackle.

Over the past two years, we have made a few changes that will make us more efficient as an association. We have centralized our banking. We have streamlined our membership process so it is now (or will be pretty soon) entirely online and available

for updating by our individual members. We offer a free first-year membership to anyone that attends an approved beginning beekeeping class and has an email address. We are evolving into a more supportive role for our local associations as outlined in our Mission Statement.

This year, instead of having a Spring Conference, we are inviting a representative from each local association join us for the last two hours of our Executive meetings, and those meetings are going to be moving around the state. We want input, suggestions, and ideas on making a better MSBA from everyone associated with our organization. These brainstorming sessions should make for some excellent speakers and classes that will be offered at future annual Fall Conferences, scheduled for mid-October.

As with all things, change can be sometimes difficult and sometimes frustrating, especially if we have never done it that way before. But, like our honeybees, we need to do what it takes to make sure our hive (association) survives and as such, we will work as a team for the betterment of beekeeping as a whole.

As your President, I will do my part by listening to comments, suggestions and ideas with an open mind, by helping our members understand that most decisions are made as a group for the betterment of the association, by suggesting ways to communicate more efficiently to our members and to the public and by helping the Board stay transparent in our processes and focused on our goals. I simply request that you, as worker bees, help guide me in this journey by becoming and staying members of the MSBA.

Here's to a wonderful 2015!

Looking forward to meeting each of you and thanks for reading.

Valerie

Local Beekeeping Associations in Missouri

- 1 Beekeepers Association of the Ozarks**
4th Tuesday of each month, 6-9 p.m.
CH Chub O'Reilly Cancer Center, 2055 South Fremont,
Springfield MO 65804
Jeffrey Maddox, President maddox65804@yahoo.com
www.ozarksbeekeepers.org
- 2 Boone Regional Beekeepers Association**
3rd Sunday of month, 3:00 p.m., Columbia Insurance
Group, 2102 Whitegate Dr. (back door), Columbia
President Jim Duever, 573-254-3373 www.boonebees.org
- 3 Busy Bee Club**
4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Cedar County
Health Center, Owens Mill Road, Stockton
Neal Lee 417-276-3090, Neil Brunner 314-276-4252
- 4 Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association**
2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., location
changes. Bob Sears, President 314-479-9517
www.easternmobeekeepers.com
- 5 Golden Valley Beekeepers**
2nd Monday of each month, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Golden Corral, Clinton MO. Tom McCormick, President
tomm@goldenvalleybeekeepers.com
www.goldenvalleybeekeepers.com
- 6 Jackson Area Beekeepers**
4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
First Presb. of Jackson, 206 E. Washington
Contact Grant Gillard, gillard5@charter.net, 573-243-6568
- 7 Jefferson County Beekeepers Association**
2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Hwy B & 21
Jefferson County Extension Center, Hillsboro
Contact Marvin Hook 636-274-1759
- 8 Joplin Area Beekeepers Association**
Last Tue. of each month, 7 pm, SM Bank Community
Building (7th and Duquesne Rd), Joplin
Contact Dale Foley 417-850-0285
- 9 Mid Missouri Beekeepers**
3rd Sunday, 2 pm, Old Train Depot, St. James.
Contact Don Moore, dmoore2@centurytel.net
573-265-8706
- 10 Midwestern Beekeepers Association**
Most meetings: Fellowship Hall at Graceway, 5460 Blue
Ridge Cutoff, Kansas City, MO 64133
Visit midwesternbeekeepers.org for calendar
Pres. Cathy Misko, 660-656-3485 cathymisko@earthlink.net
- 11 Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association**
Last Tuesday of Month in Quincy, IL
Contact Bernie Andrew 217-938-4975
- 12 Missouri Valley Beekeepers Association**
3rd Monday, 7pm, Union, location varies
President Calvin Brandt cvbrandt@landolakes.com
- 13 Parkland Beekeepers**
3rd Tuesday of month, 7pm, North College Center,
Mineral Area College, Park Hills. Pres. Gregg Hitchings
573-880-2899 PBA_President@mineralarea.edu
- 14 Pomme de Terre Beekeepers**
2nd Thursday 7 pm, Missouri Extension Office, Hermitage
Contact Rebekah Huddleston Rebekah_421@yahoo.com
- 15 SEMO Honey Producers**
2nd Thursday of month, Church of Christ, Poplar Bluff
Contact Cory Stevens 573-225-6935
wells.ernie@gmail.com
- 16 South Central Missouri Beekeepers Association**
1st Friday of month, Howell Electric Coop, West Plains
Monty Wiens, President 417 257-3994
- 17 Southern MO Beekeepers of Monett "MOBees")**
3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
United Methodist Church, Hwy 37 NW of Monett
Kevin Young, President 417-847-5464
- 18 Southwest Missouri Beekeepers Assn. of Neosho**
1st Tuesday of month, Neosho High School FFA Bldg
Contact Thelma Ross 417-472-3504
rtross@jscomm.net
- 19 Three Rivers Beekeepers**
3rd Monday, 7pm, University of Missouri Extension,
260 Brown Rd, St. Peters, info@threeriversbeekeepers.com
President Eugene Makovec 314-703-7650
- 20 Northwest Missouri Bee Busters**
2nd Monday of month, location varies
nwmobeebusters.blogspot.com
beebusters2012@gmail.com
Gerald Auffert, President 660-944-2535
- 21 Lake of the Ozarks Beekeepers**
3rd Saturday of month, 1:00 p.m.
Square Deals Ice Cream Shop, Versailles
Contact Garrett Blackwell 573-374-7402
- 22 Northeast Missouri Beekeepers Association**
1st Friday of month, 6:30 pm Running Fox Elementary
(3 miles south of Wayland) Acting President
Randy Ewart 573-248-5561 rewart@centurytel.net
- 23 Gasconade Region Beekeepers**
2nd Tuesday 7:00, First State Comm. Bank, Owensville
Pres. Chris Bilbrey 573-692-0698 twaa01@fidnet.com
gasconaderegionbeekeepers@hotmail.com
- 24 St. Louis Beekeepers**
4th Tuesday 6:30, Schlafly Bottleworks
contact@saintlouisbeekeepers.com
www.saintlouisbeekeepers.com
- 25 Western Missouri Beekeepers**
2nd Tuesday 6:30, Moor-View Community Room, Nevada
Caroline Phillips, President 417-321-3587
bcphillips81@gmail.com
- 26 Meramec Valley Beekeepers**
First Sunday 2 pm, Peace Lutheran Church in Sullivan
Contact Sam Elia 573-732-5597 samnora1@gmail.com, or
Laurie Rose at laurierose1219@yahoo.com
- 27 Quad County Beekeepers**
1st Tuesday, 7:00 pm, Missouri Extension Office, Troy
Contact Fred Meder (573) 760-2574
quadcountybeekeepers.com
- 28 North Central MO Beekeepers Association**
1st Monday, Area Career Center, Macon, 7:00 pm
Contact Bill George (660) 646-3354, www.ncmobees.org
- 29 Bees Alive**
(Springfield area) www.beesaliveclub.com
1st Thursday, 7pm, Empire Bank, Highlandville
Dan Barton, dannyohboy@hotmail.com
- 30 Wright County Beekeepers**
2nd Thursday, Laclede Electric building, Hartville, 7 pm
Rick Bledsoe, Contact 417-741-7466
wrightcountybeekeepers@gmail.com

(continued next page)

Local Beekeeping Associations in Missouri

(continued from previous page)

31 Rolla Bee Club

4th Sunday 2pm, Brownwood Estates Clubhouse, 1341 California, Rolla
Contact David Draker (573) 578-0561
rollabees@gmail.com www.rollabeeclub.com

32 Swarm Chasers

% MO Dept. of Conservation,
701 McCarthy Dr., St. Joseph
Contact Shannon Holcomb 816-261-8647

See our interactive club map on the website at: <http://batchgeo.com/map/e64a9d35b439c5309794fba8516f333>

holcomb_shannon@yahoo.com

33 EZ Beekeeping

3rd Sunday, 2 pm, Peace Lutheran Church in Sullivan
No dues, focus on Horizontal Hives. Contact Jim Roe 636-357-7658 or email jim.roe@aseonline.org. This group has an open group on Yahoo to exchange information. (Yahoo account needed.)

34 Mark Twain Beekeepers

3rd Monday, 6-8 p.m. No dues. February meeting at Gregg Tivnan's workshop near Bunker; call for other months. Contacts: Terry Phelps 573-729-3333 Gregg Tivnan (573) 689-2254 or greggtivnan@yahoo.com

Local clubs, schools announce beginning beekeeping workshops

The University of Missouri **Extension Center of Adair County** will hold a Beginning Beekeeping-Year I course on Saturday, February 21st from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Contact Jennifer Schutter, schutterjl@missouri.edu for details.

Pomme de Terre Beekeepers holds its class for Beginning Beekeepers on Saturday, February 21, from 9 am to 4 pm, at the Senior Citizens Building Community Room in **Hermitage**. Cost is \$10. Call 417-852-1499 for more information.

Rolla Bee Club hosts a basic beekeeping class on Saturday, February 28, 2015 at Rolla Public Library, 900 North Pine Street, from 9:15 am to 1:15 pm. Cost is \$25 per person. Class size is limited. To register, send your name, email and phone number to rollabees@gmail.com and a check to David Draker, 1951 Monterey Drive, **Rolla**, Mo. 65401. Deadline to pre-register is Friday, February 20, 2015.

Bees Alive, along with Nixa Hardware and Seed, will hold a four-week Beginners' Beekeeping Class, meeting "every Friday in March", starting March 6, from 7-9 pm. The location is Empire Bank, 502 W. Mt. Vernon St. in **Nixa**. For information, stop by the bank or call 417-725-3512.

Midwestern Beekeepers holds its 20th Annual Beginning Beekeeping Workshop on Saturday, March 7, 2015 (8-5:30). The location is: The Point @ Graceway, 5600 Blue Ridge Cutoff, **Raytown**, MO 64133 (across the street and south of the Graceway Church Fellowship Hall). For information, see www.midwesternbeekeepers.org, or call Cathy at 660-656-3485.

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Honey Queen report by Erin Mullins

Greetings Everyone!! I have been one busy Queen! It's only been three months since I was crowned and I've already attended six events.

Right before Christmas MSBA President Valerie Duever, Nancy Giofre and I attended the Missouri Governor's Conference on Agriculture. Valerie and I attended the whole conference this year and we both had an amazing time! We helped pass out samples of the Honey Ice Cream that Nancy makes. It was a hit with everyone. We also learned many things involving the big topics in agriculture today.



Queen Erin

January has been my busiest month so far! In one week I attended both the Great Plains Growers Conference and the Northwest Missouri Beebusters beginning beekeeping class. On January 17th I attended the St. Joseph Sport show and helped out the Swarm Chasers beekeeping club. One of my honey customers was there displaying his Trophy Whitetail Deer Collection. He was surprised to find out that I am the Missouri Honey Queen, and told me about recipes he uses my honey for.

Finally, the weekend of the 23rd and 24th I attended the Honey and Wine Tasting event sponsored by the St. Louis Beekeepers, and a beginning beekeeping class sponsored by the Boone Regional Beekeepers. Both events were fabulous and it was great to see so many familiar faces and to make friends with new ones!

Some events I have coming up are the Eastern Missouri Beekeepers beginning workshop February 7th, and the beginning beekeeping class in Kirksville on February 21st. If you have an event and would like me to attend, be sure to get ahold of Queen Chair Wanda Johnston at queenchair@MOSStateBeekeepers.org and we can make arrangements!!

I hope that everyone's bees are surviving the winter months. Just a few days ago mine were out flying and we are expecting some 60 degree weather again and I hope to see them out again!!

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pastpresident@mostatebeekeepers.org

Northwestern Director: Roger Nichols
cell 816-456-6983
northwestdir@mostatebeekeepers.org

Northeastern Director: Steve Harris 314-805-6451
1224 Sherbrooke Road, St. Charles MO 63303
northeastdir@mostatebeekeepers.org

Southeastern Director: OPEN

Southwestern Director: Bruce Snavely 417-732-5219
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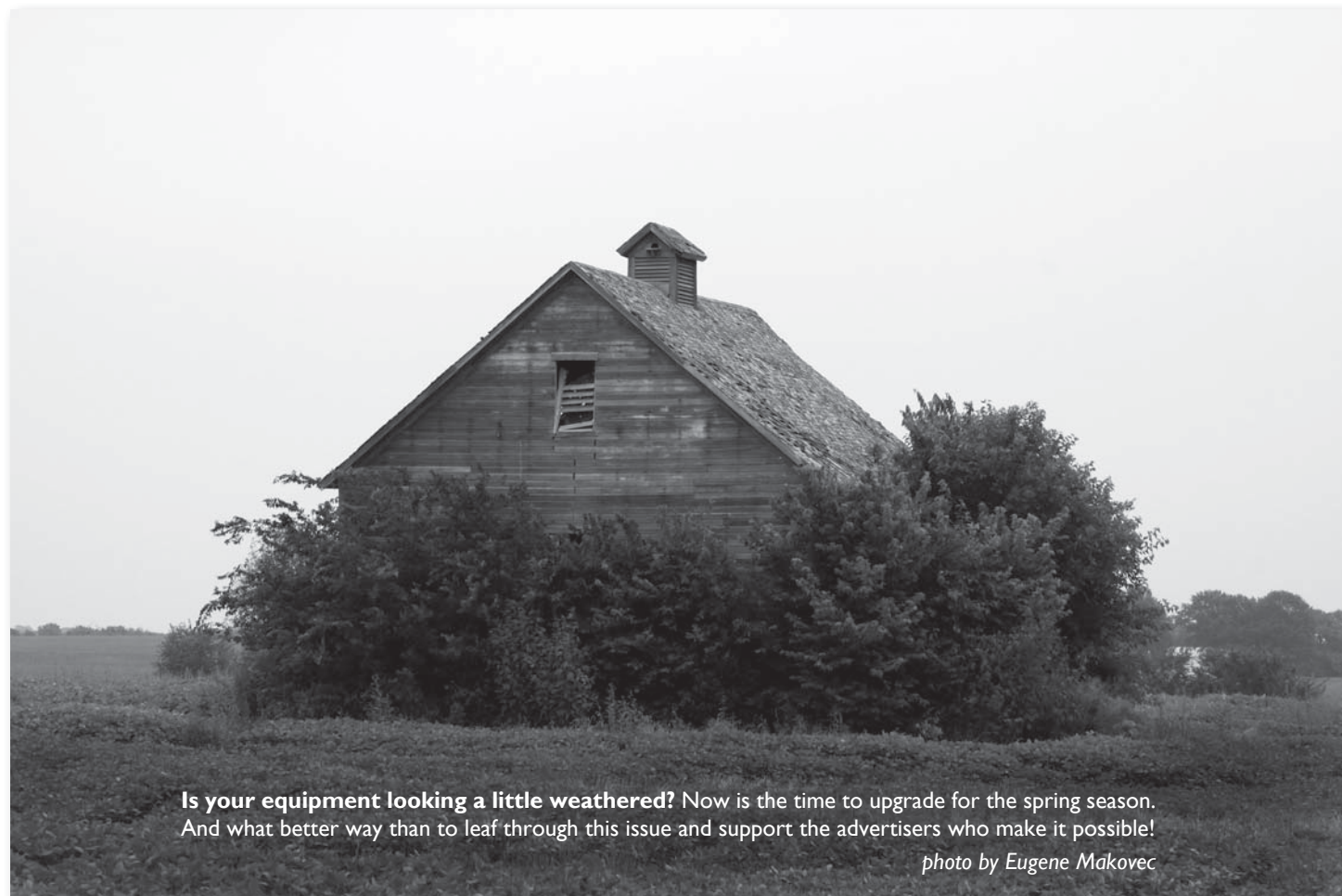
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Is your equipment looking a little weathered? Now is the time to upgrade for the spring season. And what better way than to leaf through this issue and support the advertisers who make it possible!

photo by Eugene Makovec

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