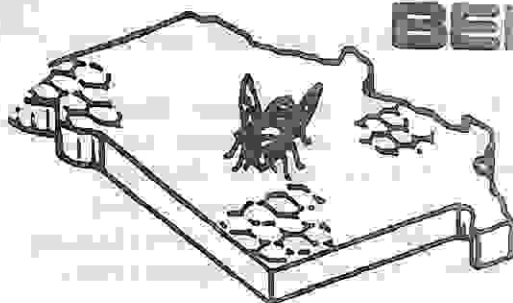


MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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VOLUME 26

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
MARCH 1988

NUMBER 1

DEAR BEEKEEPING FRIENDS,

The Annual Spring State Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 19, at the Memorial Union Auditorium at the University of Missouri at Columbia.
(See the last page of the newsletter for directions.)

Bring a friend!! It's a good way to increase interest in beekeeping. There has been an alarming decrease in young beekeepers, and we should do anything we can to foster an interest in our favorite pastime: BEES. The program for the meeting is excellent and will feature:

- 1) Mr. Steve Taber of Honey Bee Genetics will talk about breeding disease resistant bees and also show us slides of a beekeeping tour of Europe. Perhaps he will bring autographed copies of his new book "Breeding Super Bees" just off the press in January.
- 2) If you want to know how to produce and package blue ribbon honey, come to hear pointers from Mr. Gary Ross, Kansas State Apiarist, who has judged honey at the Missouri State Fair.
- 3) Whether you want to learn more about attracting swarms to your hives or to control the Africanized Honey Bee swarm when it arrives here in Missouri, Dr. James W. Johnson will talk about Honeybee Pheromones and Bait Hives.
- 4) Mr. Joe Francka and Mr. Jim Hausam will give reports on the 1987 State Fair and information on 1988's State Fair.

The complete agenda for the day is found on the last two pages of this newsletter. There is also information for the Friday evening board meeting.

NOTICE: EACH AND EVERY LOCAL ASSOCIATION is expected to have at least one representative present at this executive BOARD MEETING.

Suggested motels along with their rates and a map of their locations is found on page 15 of this newsletter. MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

Well folks, it's that time of year again. Time to do all of those beekeeping chores that you have been waiting all winter to do.

This year I would like you all to try to set aside some time to attend your Spring meeting in Columbia. We have a very fine program lined up and some extremely interesting topics to discuss.

This is your chance to catch up on all of the latest State news concerning such things as the Varroa Mite and the State Fair. This will also be an opportunity to have your voice heard at the State level.

I will look forward to seeing you all at our 1988 Spring Meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph F. Solt
President - Missouri State
Beekeepers Association

DOOM AND GLOOM???

You might think that, as every beekeeping publication seems to dwell on future problems our industry faces.

"Well, heck no", says George Vanarsdall of Osage Honey Farms, after returning from the American Beekeeping Federation convention in Houston, Texas. He said that there are alot of good people out there who are not going to let the smaller (hobbyist) beekeepers become obsolete. "Beekeeping will be going through alot of changes in the next few years and I'm confident we'll come through it alright. After all, I don't know what else I would do. I never learned to do anything else but keep bees," says George.

George highlights the ABF meeting

1. He feels that the Honey Board is moving along faster than he expected. His sales for January were up from previous years, and wonders if the increased advertising by the Honey Board is responsible..

2. Tours of the Queen Breeders in Southern Texas gave a nice break in the schedule. Weaver Apiaries were in full swing producing new queens. Weather was warm.

3. Chemicals will become a major part of beekeeping. Beekeepers will have to go back to school to learn how to use them. State and local beekeeping organizations will become more important as a way to disseminate information and to educate beekeepers on managing hives with mite infestations and Africanized colonies.

4. Beekeepers who do not use chemicals to control mites will lose those colonies within two years. Fluvalinate-impregnated plywood strips seems to be an effective treatment for the Varroa mite, but better yet, let's not let them get started in Missouri. Beekeepers, up to now, have not had to deal with chemicals; as row-crop farmers have.

5. The government will have alot more regulations brought on by the use of chemicals around a food product. Liability insurance will become a must.

"Have you looked at your bees, yet," asks George? He says that you might find a large amount of dead bees. Don't be alarmed if the colony looks otherwise healthy. His colonies went into the winter cluster very strong; so he is seeing alot of old adult bees dying.

Report from
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JOE FRANCKA

At this time there are two large beekeeping operations in Missouri that have the tracheal mite, and no known operations that have the varroa mite. We need your cooperation to stop the spread of mites into Missouri. The most important thing for a beekeeper to do is to order queens and packaged bees from a reputable queen breeder. Ask them to furnish current certificates of inspection. Do not order any queens or packages that come out of Florida.

Joe asks us to voluntarily send in samples of our bees to be checked for both the varroa mite and the tracheal mite. Please bring these samples to the spring meeting in Columbia, or send them to the addresses listed below. By the middle of March we should have done our Spring housekeeping chores. Thoroughly investigate hives that have died during the winter. Although it would be better to take 500 bees from one hive, most beekeepers are reluctant to do that in early spring. If you have several hives in an apiary, take bees from brood combs in each hive to total about 500 bees. It would be best to take samples from each apiary if the locations of the apiaries are some distance apart. Please follow the procedure listed here as soon as the weather permits. Samples need to come from all areas of the state to have an accurate picture of the mite situation in Missouri.
LET'S KEEP THE MITES FROM SPREADING!!

Take a sample of bees from near the brood nest. Fill a pint jar 1/3 to 1/2 full of bees (about 500). Pour in about 1/2 cup of rubbing alcohol and cap the jar. Please label the jar with your name, address, and location of the apiary that the sample was taken from.

The samples may be delivered to the Department of Agriculture office in St. Charles (call 314-441-6933 and ask for Bill Brennecke or Don Courtney). Dr. Joe Francka will take samples delivered to the MSBA meeting in March, or delivered to him in Jefferson City (314-751-2462).

If you cannot attend the meeting in Columbia, send your samples with someone from your local association.

As for control of the varroa mite--- Dr. Francka said that strips of the chemical fluvalinate (trade name Mavrik™) placed in the brood chamber seem to be quite effective. At this time these strips are only available to State Inspectors. Just in the past week, Apistan, the fluvalinate-impregnated plastic strip, has been approved for commercial use.

Dr. Joe Francka and Dr. Flermoy Jones will be available to answer any questions pertaining to chemical management of mites, following the State Fair Report at the March meeting.

FEDERAL APHIS RECOMMENDATIONS (reprinted from American Bee Journal Feb. 1988)
As we went to press, the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) still had not released their recommendations for federal mite involvement. However, sources familiar with the recommendations expected that no depopulation would be suggested. Instead, a federal quarantine would be instituted which would supercede state quarantines now taking effect in many different states.

(continued)

APHIS continued

This federal quarantine would require that the beekeeper with infested colonies treat them on two different occasions at three-week intervals with an approved acaride such as fluvalinate-impregnated plywood strips. After being reinspected by an apiary inspector, and found to be free of the mites, then, the beekeeper could move his colonies to a different location for a honey flow or pollination purposes.

VARROA DETECTION METHOD

Here is a simple detection method that will rapidly and effectively determine the presence of brood mites in a honey bee colony.

Materials:

- A wide mouth glass quart jar with a lid.
- An aerosol formulation of ethyl-ether (auto engine starting fluid).
- 12" x 12" white cardboard or formica sheet.

Procedure:

A comb well covered with adult bees is removed from the colony. While holding the comb in a near vertical position, the mouth of the glass jar is slowly passed up the face of the comb so that 300 to 500 adult bees are dislodged and fall into the jar (Figure 1). The lid is firmly positioned on top of the jar. One or two short bursts of ether are injected just under the jar lid (Figure 2). The lid is then firmly screwed on and the jar turned horizontal while at the same time it is slowly rotated for five to ten second (Figure 3). Both the bees and any adhering adult mites will immediately be anesthetized. If present, adult mites become detached from their bee hosts and adhere to the moist side of the jar where they are readily visible. After determining the presence or absence of adult mites on the inside of the jar, the anesthetized bees are poured onto the white cardboard or formica sheet. The bees are then gently moved about on the sheet, which then may be visually examined for any additional mites that may have been missed. If the procedure is done in front of the colony, the recovering bees will fly back into the colony within a few minutes.

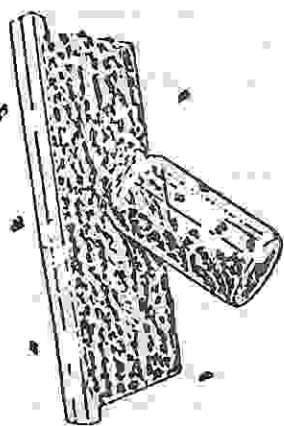


Figure 1



Figure 2

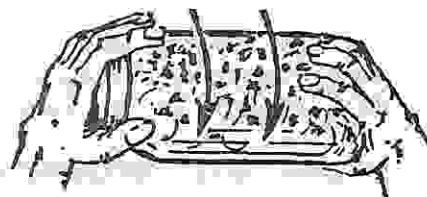


Figure 3

By D. M. Burgett Associate Professor, G. W. Krantz, Professor and Joe Capizzi Extension Entomologist Oregon State University. From the November 1987 issue "The Speedy Bee".

FROM THE EDITOR

Far from the American Beekeeping Federation meeting in Houston, Texas, I traveled north to Minnesota, where the windchill was down to -32. As bees are always on my mind, I talked to a few Minnesota beekeepers to get their perspective of the honey industry today. I talked with Don Olson of the Melford Olson Honey Company. The Olson family had been commercial beekeepers for many years, but now are a wholesale packing company serving Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Northern Iowa, and Western Wisconsin. Don feels that the Honey Board is passing their expectations. That the Honey Board is progressing at a faster rate than they anticipated. He sees the federal government slowly getting out of the honey business and the market stabilizing. His company makes alot of 'creamed honey' so I had a question I've been wondering about for along time. Maybe some of you would have better answers than he did. I would love to hear them.

Question: Why do the sides and top of a container of creamed honey get a whitish bloom after about 30 days in storage? This is aside from minute air bubbles that appear after settling.

Answer: Crystallized honey shrinks away from the container and after awhile air-penetration causes this whitish look on the jar. For this reason most major honey packers prefer to package the honey in opaque containers.

PROJECT UPDATE

PROJECT UPDATE

PROJECT UPDATE

The Best of Missouri Farm catalog, which tells stories of rural Missourians and the food and beverage products they produce, will be published in the spring. About ninety products from 30 producers in 27 rural counties are included. All products use Missouri-grown ingredients and are from sites approved by the appropriate health licensing agency, usually the USDA or Missouri Department of Health.

The Best of Missouri Farms Catalog is cooperatively sponsored by the University of Missouri-Columbia, University Extension and Lincoln University. It is one of the eight Alternatives for the 80's projects. Our goal is to assist farmer/producers in marketing their foods and beverages, and to help them develop an alternative source of income, in addition to regular farming activities.

The catalog will be available for purchase on June 1, 1988. For further information or to reserve your copy, please write to BEST OF MISSOURI FARMS, 1-98 Agriculture Bldg. UMC, Columbia, Mo 65211. There will be a small charge for the catalog, which has yet to be determined.

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT MISSOURI AGRICULTURE!! BUY MISSOURI PRODUCTS!!

Several Missouri Beekeepers will be featured in this catalog!



EASTERN MISSOURI BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

In the early Fifties a few beekeepers started meeting in the Judge's Chambers at the Clayton Courthouse. This was the beginning of the Eastern Mo. Beekeepers. They soon moved the meetings to Shaw's Garden. This was a small group-generally 3 to 7 at a meeting. This early group included: Max Thiel, Mel Schroeder, John Morden, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert, and Dr. Willard Walker. I was told that Lou Ludecke was one of the early Presidents. Belva Schroeder was Bee Queen in 1960.

In the early 60's the two people who contributed the most to building this club were Elmer Headlee and Max Thiel. Mr. and Mrs.

Edwin Calvert took care of refreshments. On the day of the meeting they drove in early (around noon) from their home in Defiance, Mo. It was about a 40 mile drive, so they made a shopping trip out of it. For years they brought doughnuts and coffee to the meetings.

In the late 60's the meeting place changed to the Kirkwood Community Center, where they have been held since. I attended one of the early meetings at Kirkwood with Ken Schaefer. Ken said that the main person responsible for renewed interest in Eastern Mo. was Mel Schroeder. Elmer Headlee was elected President at the Kirkwood meeting place. As to the date of the Kirkwood meetings, Mrs. Headlee told me that Elmer retired from teaching at Washington University in 1969. He and Jerry Cottrell decided to read up on bees and have a class in beekeeping at Washington University. Later both of them had classes at Meramec Community College and these classes brought many students into the club.

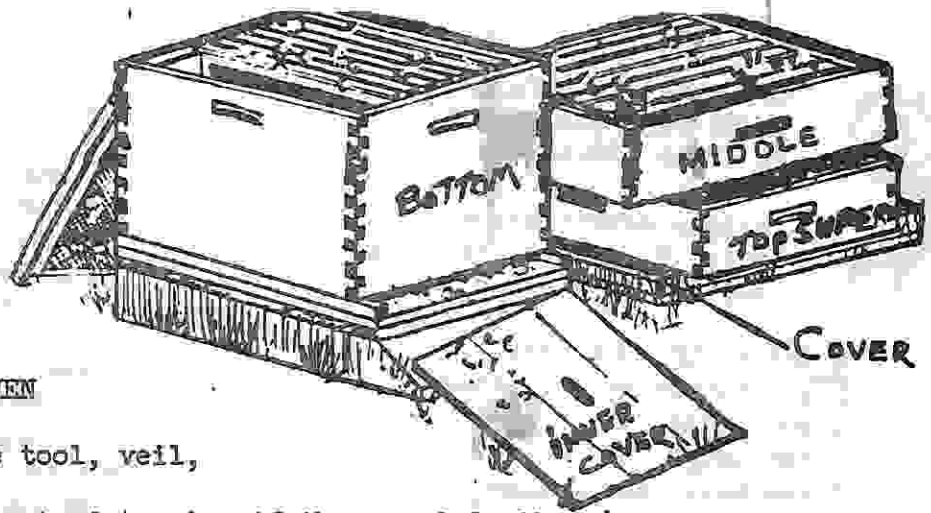
The rest is history. Elmer Headlee had a policy of short business meetings. In fact, he said that when they run over ten minutes, there better be something important said. We often hear about Charter Members of various groups. Some of the early Kirkwood meetings were attended by Elmer Headlee, Max Thiel, Jim Martin, John Morden, Mel Schroeder, William Garesche, Dr. Willard Walker, Edwin Calvert, Fred and Greg Giessow, Dave Grimme, Claude Brumitt, Al Mertsch, Kenneth Schaefer, Percy Wilson, Audrey Anderson, Ralph Altmann, and myself, Oren Setzekorn.

This was written as an early history of Eastern Mo. Beekeepers. Only a handful of those beekeepers are present members. There are about 125 members in today's club. We are well organized today and offer classes for the beginner, work shops, prominent speakers at monthly meetings, a Spring banquet honoring the Beekeeper of the year, a summer picnic, and a honey baking contest in fall. We also have a honey judging contest similar to the State Fair. As a club our major responsibility comes in Spring with the Swarm Retrieval List we operate to direct beekeepers in the city and county to catching swarms. We get alot of publicity from Bob Hardy of KMOX Radio and more swarms than we can take care of. This is good public relations to help us with our problems in dealing with city ordinances against beekeeping.

Our membership dues are \$7.00 a year. Membership entitles you to the monthly newsletters, discounted bee journals, free (non-commercial) advertising monthly meeting, and lots of friendship. Please contact Treasurer Larry Hensley, 13520 Old Jamestown Road, Florissant, Mo..63033.

Sharon Gibbons
Oren Setzekorn

In The Beginning . . .



OPENING A HIVE--HOW, WHY AND WHEN

Equipment needed: Smoker, hive tool, veil, gloves, bee suit

Bees need periodical examination to determine if they need feeding, (especially in early spring and late fall). You need to check on the queen to be certain that she is laying a good solid pattern. The productivity of each hive depends on egg laying ability of the queen.

When you open the hive, (study the sketch), stand at the side or back of the hive. Do not stand in front. Standing in front blocks their flight path. Now, with your smoker going good, lift up the top cover a little and puff some smoke under it. (It is important to practice using your smoker, as it tends to go out when you need it the most. Suggested fuel for the smoker could be burlap cloth, pine needles, corn cobs, rolled up cardboard box or lint from the drier. Do not use anything that might have chemicals in it.) After a few seconds, remove the cover laying it upside down on the ground. If your hive has a top inner cover, puff some smoke thru it's center hole and proceed to pry up the inner cover and lay it up side down in front of the hive. (see illustration) If the queen happens to be on it, (which isn't very likely) she and the young bees can run back into the hive. If you intend to check the entire hive, proceed to pry loose the top hive body and set it crosswise on the cover, and likewise with the other hive bodies until you get to the brood chamber.

Preparatory to removing the frames, smoke the tops of the frames a little, and pry loose the side frame nearest to you, and stand it up against the hive. This will give you room to manipulate the remainder of the frames. It is a good idea to replace the frames in the same order they were originally, especially if brood is present. Check the bottom board, and if it is dirty and clogged with dead bees, remove the brood chamber and clean it before replacing the brood chamber. Replace the hive bodies which you have set aside, using the same method in examining the frames. Carefully smoke bees hanging on the outside of the supers so you don't kill them when you put the supers back on the hive. Smoking under the top super which has been sitting on the ground (on the top cover), will save many bees from getting crushed. Replace the top cover and hold it down with a brick or large rock.

Do not examine bees in cold weather, unless an emergency exists, and then leave the hive open only as long as is absolutely necessary. Damp, rainy weather is also a poor time to go into your hives. It is a good idea when examining a hive to scrape the propolis and wax off the frames. When frames have almost solid wax, (burr combs) between them, take your hive tool and knife it back and forth between the frames and remove it. Remove all wax and propolis from the bee yard. Don't leave it laying on the ground. A clean hive is a pleasure to work. Keep grass and weeds clear in front of the hive. An old rug, canvass, plywood, or tar paper spread in front of your hives will keep the weeds and grass away and make it easier to work your hives.

Some ideas came from "The Bee Buzzer", May 1985

MISSOURI STATE FAIR
GRAND CHAMPION RIBBON
in Honey Cookery

Recipes submitted by
Louise K. Johnson of Columbia
1987 Grand Champion

HONEY APPLESAUCE CAKE

1 cup butter or margarine
1 cup sugar
1 cup honey
Cream well. Add 2 eggs
Sift together:
3 cups flour $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. nutmeg 1 tsp. ground cloves
1 Tbsp. Cinnamon 1 Tbsp. baking soda
Add to egg mixture alternately with
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ cups Applesauce
Add 1 cup raisins, 1 cup dates and
1 cup nuts. (chop dates and nuts)
Pour batter into a tube pan and bake
in a slow oven (325°) for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

EIGHT-DAY HONEY COOKIES

1 cup honey 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ cup blanched
1 cup sugar almonds
2 Tbsp. brandy 2 cups flour
1 oz. each candied $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
orange peel, lemon peel, citron
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. each cinnamon, cloves,
nutmeg and allspice
Heat honey. Add sugar and brandy. Force
citron, peels and 2 cups almonds through
food chopper. Add to first mixture.
Sift the dry ingredients and add to
above. Cover and chill for 8 days.
Roll very thin, and cut with floured,
scalloped cutter. Bake on greased
cookie sheet for 8-10 mins. at 325°
Spread with icing of confectioner's
sugar mixed with vanilla. Top each
with a whole almond. Store in an
air-tight container for 2 weeks before
using! Orange juice may be substituted
for the brandy and vanilla.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Louise says that the
secret to her success is in the amount
of time she beats the honey, sugar,
shortening and eggs in her recipes.
Honey recipes take more beating than
regular recipes. I want recipes from
all the other entries at the State
Fair. I don't have your addresses to
contact you. Please send them as soon as possible.

Thanks - Sharon Gibbons, Editor

HONEY SUGAR COOKIES

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup honey
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter or margarine
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vegetable shortening
2 small eggs 1 tsp soda
1 tsp. vanilla $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
2 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups flour 2 tsp cream
of tartar
Cream together honey, sugar, butter
and shortening. Add eggs and vanilla
Sift together dry ingredients and
add to first mixture. Chill dough
overnight. Roll into small balls and
then roll ball in sugar. Put on
cookie sheet and bake at 350° until
slightly brown. WATCH CLOSELY.

HONEY FRUIT COOKIES

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter or margarine
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar Cream
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey together
Add and beat well:
1 egg $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. vanilla
Sift together and add:
2 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. baking powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp baking soda
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
Add: 1 cup chopped mixed candied fruit
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped nuts
Drop by spoonfuls onto ungreased
baking sheet. Bake at 350 for
12-15 minutes. About 60 cookies.

HONEY AMBROSIA COOKIES

1 cup shortening
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. butter flavoring
1 cup honey
1 cup sugar
Cream together above ingredients
Add 2 eggs, one at a time, beating well
Add:
1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. orange flavoring
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. lemon flavoring
Sift together and add:
2 cups flour $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. baking powder $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
Stir in: 1 cup coconut, 1 cup chopped
nuts, 1 cup chopped dates, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups
Quaker Oats. Drop on lightly greased
baking sheet and bake at 375 10-12
minutes or until lightly browned.

WINTERING SURVEY

DEAR MISSOURI BEEKEEPER,

With the possibility of increased bee mortality in the years to come with the varroa mite and the acarine mite looming on the horizon, we ask you to complete this survey. This will give us some ideas as to the percentage of bee loss due to mites as compared to normal wintering losses. Please send completed survey by April 1, 1988 to President Joe Solt, 4235 Gallatin, Bridgeton, Mo. 63044. Results will be published in June issue.

With how many colonies did you start the winter, (October, 1987) _____

How many colonies did you lose? (Spring, 1988) _____

Please indicate how many and what size box you winter the majority of your colonies in.

Deeps _____, Medium supers _____, Shallows _____

An estimate of what your average hive may have weighed in October _____

Did you use some type of insulated ventilation above supers? _____

Did you use a windbreak behind your hives? _____

In what month did you learn you had lost colonies? _____

Do you know the queens' ages in your lost colonies? _____

Did you use any method of insulating around the hives' lost _____

In your 'lost' colonies did you find surplus honey that the bees had not reached? _____

Do you think the bees died of starvation? _____

How many of your lost colonies were short of stores?
(Dead bees in cells, head first, mean starvation) _____

Had you installed mouse guards in fall? _____

When opening your hives for the first time this year did you notice water condensation under the cover? _____

Other than for medication, did you have to feed your bees in order to keep them from starving? How many colonies? _____

Did you medicate for American Foulbrood and noseema last fall? _____

Did your 'lost' colonies have any unusual look or odor? explain _____

Optional: Have you ordered any queens or packages from Florida in the last two years? _____

Number of years a beekeeper _____ What is your home county _____

MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION?

- Promote Missouri beekeeping, honey, and bee products.
- Promote crop pollination by honeybees.
- Provide educational programs for beekeepers.
- Support beekeeping research.
- Provide general public education about honey and honeybees.

HOW WOULD I BENEFIT BY JOINING THE ASSOCIATION?

- Two state meetings each year.
- Noted beekeeping authorities from around the nation as speakers.
- State-wide communication.
- An opportunity to participate in Missouri beekeeping programs.
- Quarterly newsletter sent to you.
- Discounts on the price of the national bee journals.

WITH JUST A FEW COLONIES WOULD I BENEFIT?

- Most of the educational programs are specifically designed for the hobbyist.
- Over 98% of MSBA members are hobbyist beekeepers. You can share common experiences and problems, exchange information, and get answers to your questions.

WHAT ARE SOME OTHER BENEFITS OF MSBA MEMBERSHIP?

- Associate with others in the "fraternity of beekeeping".
- Develop friendships at the State and National level.
- Participate in Missouri Honey Week held each October, the Missouri State Fair, and other promotions.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DUES ARE \$4.00 per year. Make check payable to the MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION. If you belong to a local association, pay \$3.00 state dues through your local treasurer.

ENCLOSED IS \$ _____ FOR _____ YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

Mail to the State Treasurer JIM HAUSAM P.O. BOX 141 Lincoln, Mo. 65338

DEADLINE MAY 1st.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL
STABILIZATION and
CONSERVATION SERVICE

234 Old Meramec St.
Suite A
Manchester, Mo. 63021

February 1, 1988

TO: St. Louis County Beekeepers
From: St. Louis County ASCS Office
Subject: 1987 Money Loan Program

Many of you are familiar that the Department of Agriculture sponsors a Honey Loan Program for all beekeepers in the United States, but few know of the recent changes that make it simple for anyone to qualify and participate.

No longer is it a requirement that metal containers be used. A new type of loan is available that virtually lets you use any type of storage container for the program as long as you immediately buy the honey back. Plus, the "loan" doesn't even look like a loan. The Agriculture Department is now offering a loan program that works like this:

1. You request a loan from our office.
2. We come out and measure the quantity of honey and take samples for moisture. (You do not need to be state inspected, nor does our office notify the state) Moisture must be under 18.5%.
3. Honey is graded and a loan is made at the following prices:

White	\$.641/lb.
Extra light amber	\$.601/lb.
Light amber	\$.553/lb.
Amber	\$.494/lb.
4. You are then immediately able to turn around and buy the honey back at the following rates:

White	\$.40/lb.
Extra light amber	\$.37/lb.
Light amber	\$.36/lb.
Amber	\$.34/lb.
5. Loans are made at 90% of the honey in storage.
6. There is a honey check-off taken from your loan @ one penny per pound which is sent to the National Honey Board.
7. There is a \$10.00 service fee per loan.

The example on the following page is a producer in St. Louis County with 1000 pounds of light amber honey stored on his property in the county. The producer is immediately paying the loan off using the new buy back provision.

Deadline March 31, 1988.

EXAMPLE:

1000 # of light amber honey @ \$.553/lb.	=	\$497.70	
	-	10.00	Service Fee
		\$487.70	
900# * \$.36/lb.	=	-\$324.00	Buy Back
		\$163.70	
900# \$.01/lb.	=	9.00	Honey Board
		\$154.70	

Our office would write checks to:

Commodity Credit Corporation	=	\$324.00
National Honey Board	=	\$ 9.00
YOU	=	\$154.70

You would not have to write any checks yourself and the whole thing could be done in a few short minutes in our office. The honey is still yours to do with as you please.

Honey raised in any area is eligible for a loan in St. Louis County as long as it is stored in this county.

Only honey produced in 1987 is eligible for a loan at this time and you only have until March 31st to request one.

If you have any questions on how this works for your individual operation, please contact our office at 394-5051 between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Michael C. Eggerman
County Executive Director
St. Louis County ASCS Office

NOTE: I included this in the newsletter as an example of how the honey loan works. Please contact the ASCS office in your county.

DONALD DUCK



In 1930, two beekeeping journals featured vitex grown in Missouri on their covers.



Vitex Fever

By MICHAEL ROLING*

ORDINARY PEOPLE take up the avocation of keeping honey bees. Normally this is confined to two or three hives and they live happily ever after. However, there are some of us ordinary people who pursue beekeeping and get "bee fever." Should the disease be contracted there is no limit to the time and energy spent on this adventure. Symptoms of "bee fever" may be expressed in many ways. One activity that frequently becomes the pride and joy of this new disciple involves nectar plants. Bees need nectar to produce honey. What better activity to engage in than planting the raw material for honey production. One such story concerning this zealous pursuit of nectar plants has played out in the Ozarks region several times.

Turn the calendar back to 1928. At that time a reporter for Missouri in the publication, "Beekeepers Item", noted that considerable interest was developing in the Joplin area for a plant called vitex. It was considered to be an extra heavy nectar producer. It was so good that it was supposed to produce through the hot, dry season when normally little nectar was produced.

Vitex is native to Europe and Asia. The plant usually ex-

hibits multiple stems. Single stems can be produced when appropriately pruned. A height of ten to 20 feet is common. Leaves superficially resemble marijuana. As a result of the leaf shape, it is sometimes mistaken for marijuana and destroyed. Blue to lavender blossoms occur in dense spikes on new growth from early summer to fall. Besides the interest of beekeepers, vitex is sometimes used for ornamental and landscaping purposes or windbreaks.

By 1930, "vitex fever" was in full bloom in the Ozark region. Two national beekeeping journals displayed cover photos in Southwest Missouri of the plant. These journals carried articles describing the plant's attributes. Admirers of the tree (and, of course, they were beekeepers) described vitex as unaffected by droughts. One author envisioned it in the following manner; "...the remarkable thing about it was that they (the bees) would remain stationery so long, as though the nectar kept flowing as fast as the bees gathered it."

With these kinds of testimonials, it was a natural for our enthusiasts to begin selling the product. And so it was, in 1930, 1931, and 1932, vitex seed, one-year-old trees and two-year-old trees, were sold in Webb City and Joplin, Mo. During that time these suppliers must have discovered a very receptive market. Adam Scott, the Joplin dealer, remarked in a promotional note in 1931 that he had buyers in such faraway places as England, Canada, Switzerland, New Zealand, Haiti, and the Bermuda Islands. The market was not solely supplied by Missourians, but had competition from Kansas and California. By 1933, the market must have been satisfied or the operations were no longer functioning because neither of the Missouri ads appeared in the journals. But it is hard to keep a good idea down. From 1949 to 1953, J.E. Johnson of Verona, Mo., a beekeeper in his 80's, offered vitex seed and as many as 3000 vitex trees for sale.

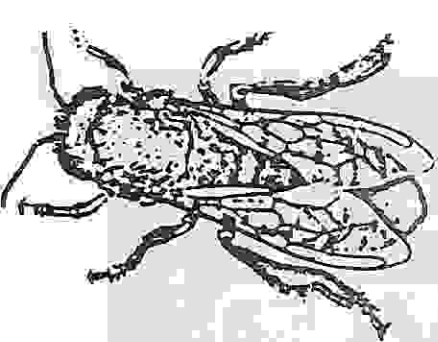
Since the times of these supplies, Missouri beekeepers have been able to obtain vitex on occasion from the Missouri state nursery. I possess some of these vitex trees and indeed the bees like them. But as good as the plant is, my bees don't take buckets with them to haul the nectar back to the hive. □



Typical
vitex
leaf.

*Associate professor of agriculture,
Southwest Missouri State University.

MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
Spring Meeting - March 19, 1988
Columbia, Missouri



University of Missouri

Union Ballroom

A.M.

- 8:30 - 9:00 Registration
- 9:00 - 9:05 Meeting called to order - Mr. Joseph Solt, President, Mo. State Beekeepers Association
- 9:05 - 9:10 Invocation & Welcome - (To be announced)
- 9:10 - 9:20 Introductions - Mr. Joseph Solt, President, Mo. State Beekeepers Association
- 9:20 - 10:20 Breeding Bees for Disease Resistance - Mr. Steve Taber, Honey Bee Genetics, Vacaville, CA
- 10:20 - 10:45 Break
- 10:45 - 11:45 Tips from a Honey Judge - Mr. Gary Ross
Kansas State
Apiarist, Topeka, KS
- 11:45 - 1:00 Lunch (on your own)



P.M.

- 1:00 - 2:00 Beekeeping Tour in Europe - Mr. Steve Taber, Vacaville, CA
- 2:00 - 2:45 Honeybee Pheromones and Bait Hives - Dr. James W. Johnson
Extension Entomologist
- 2:45 - 3:15 State Fair Report - Mr. Joe Francka, State Entomologist, Mo. Dept. of Agriculture, Jefferson City, Mo. and Mr. Jim Hausam, Treasurer, Mo. State Beekeepers Association
- 3:15 - 3:45 Business session
- 3:45 - Attendance prizes and adjournment

Everyone is invited to attend the Executive Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 18 at the new Boone County Extension Center. Take I-70 west of Columbia to Fayette exit, turn left (cross over I-70) on Highway UU, second building on left (large brown building).

See attached sheet for hotel reservations - please register early.

Addendum to the Newsletter

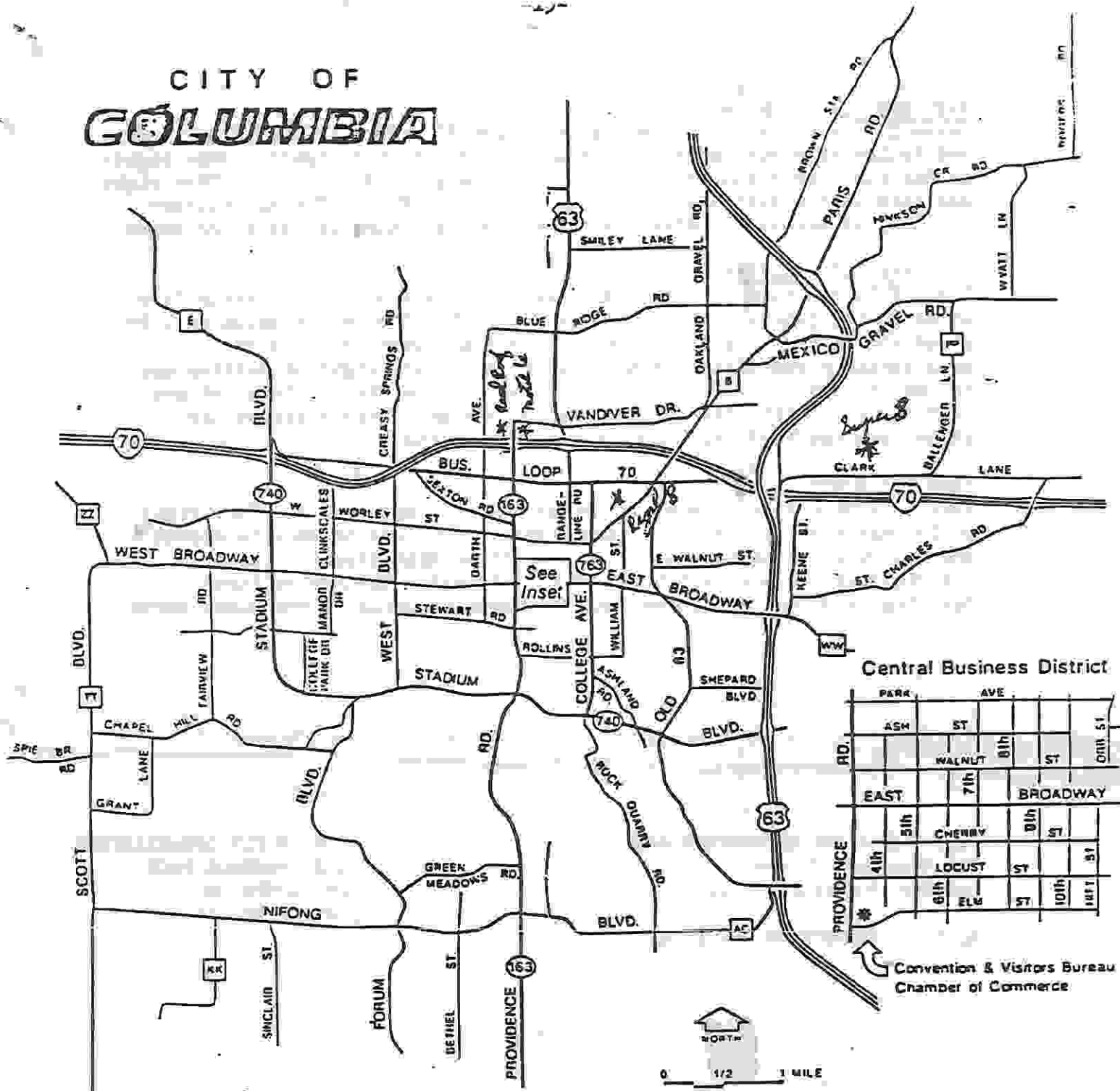
LATE BREAKING EVENTS!!!

With the seriousness of the Varroa Mite, MSBA has obtained a 15 minute video on detecting and controlling these mites. This film was just released through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. At the MSBA Board meeting held in Columbia last Saturday, Feb. 13th, it was agreed that the film should be added to the agenda for the Spring Meeting. The film will be shown at 8:30-9:00 a.m. during registration; at the morning break time; and continuously during the lunch break. Several T.V. screens will be set up in the Memorial Union Auditorium. Join us in Columbia, March 19th! It may be the best time you spend for your bees.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS!! NEED COOKBOOKS?

New shipment has just arrived. Available from George Vanarsdall by the case only. Available to any member of MSBA for \$69.00/case. Each case contains 23 cookbooks. That's only \$3.00 a book. Please call or write George prior to the 19th and he will bring them to the State meeting for you. That's a big saving in postage and handling charges, too. A limited number of individual books will be available at \$3.60 a book.

CITY OF COLUMBIA



MOTEL 6

1718 NORTH PROVIDENCE ROAD 442-3155

REGAL 8 INN

1800 I-70 DRIVE SW 445-8433
1-800-851-8888

SUPER 8

3216 CLARK LANE 474-8488

RED ROOF INN

201 EAST TEXAS AVENUE 442-0145
1-800-848-7878

	1 BED SINGLE	2 BEDS 2 PEOPLE	2 BEDS 2 PEOPLE	2 BEDS 3 PEOPLE	2 BEDS 4 PEOPLE
MOTEL 6	\$18.75	\$23.95	\$23.95	\$27.95	\$31.95
REGAL 8 INN	22.88	27.88	32.88	32.88	32.88
SUPER 8	24.88	29.88	31.88	33.88	35.88
RED ROOF INN	25.95	30.95	32.95	34.95	34.95

I-70 EAST OF COLUMBIA

Leave I-70 and turn into the business loop 70. Turn left at Tandy Avenue and follow this road south to the second set of stop lights. Turn right on Rollins Street and proceed to the stop sign at Hitt Street. Turn right and park in the Visitors lot one-half block up Hitt. The Agriculture building is across the street and the Memorial Union is one block North.

I-70 West OF COLUMBIA

Leave I-70 and turn onto #740 Bi-Pass. Follow #740 approximately five miles to the junction of Providence Road. The football stadium will be ahead and on your right. At Providence Road turn left and go approximately two blocks to Rollins Street. Turn right on Rollins and follow it to Hitt Street. Turn left and park in the visitors lot one-half block up Hitt Street. The Agriculture Building is across the street and the Memorial Union is one block North.

FROM #63 SOUTH

Turn left onto Stadium Road and proceed to College Avenue. Turn right on College Ave. to the first stop light. Turn left on Rollins Street and follow it to Hitt Street. Turn right on Hitt Street. Park in the Visitors lot one-half block up Hitt Street. The Agriculture Building is across the street and the Memorial Union is one block North.

MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSN.
314 Quinmooor Drive
Ballwin Missouri 63011

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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