



Missouri State Beekeepers Association
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March 2004



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"Ms. Veneman,

January is, without a doubt the silliest month for the USDA Honey Research community. For it is this month that scores of your highly paid, poorly funded scientists tramp to meetings in random places in the U.S. to strut their research stuff. They do this in front of, maybe, a couple hundred of your stakeholders. They will give, on average, 1.25 presentations to these groups, using expensive laptop computers, and generally the poorest Power point presentations imaginable."

This excerpt is taken from the opening paragraph of a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture, Ms. Ann Veneman. This letter was published in the January, 2004 issue of Bee Culture and written by Kim Flottum. I regret that Mr. Flottum decided to speak for us all without asking how we feel, since his letter went to Ms. Veneman before publication.

From what I perceive, Mr. Flottum does not like the scientists giving us information before he gets it. What Mr. Flottum does not realize is that National and Local Organizations depend of these scientists as a draw to their respective meetings. We pay the scientists' salaries as well as Mr. Flottum's and WE should decide what is "silly" and what is not.

Let's hope we can keep our scientists, and their budgets, from being slashed like so many other programs. I hope you all feel as strongly as I do and Thanks, Mr. Flottum for the nice stab in the back.

On a lighter note, the Spring Meeting was a great success. The raffles went so fast that I forgot to get the name of the person who won the staple gun and 25 ft of air hose (air

hose donated by Ian Brown). I did get the name of the beekeeper that won the English Garden hive. His name is Carl Wingo from Columbia, Missouri. thanks to all who supported the organization by buying tickets and congratulations to all the winners. Our editor, John Sauls, won big on the door prizes with many other people winning one or two.

I was sorry to see that Jolie Wiener and Cecil Sweeney from Midcon were unable to attend as they provide an invaluable service to our members. I also want to thank our vendors who were able to come; Drapers Super Bee, Sharon Waddell, and the Wades.

I want to recognize all of the people that helped make the meeting a success. The promotional efforts of May Schmitt, "if we all had such enthusiasm." Kids n Bees; Valerie Nichols, May Schmitt, Jacie DeWeese (Honey Queen) and a host of others brought the wonder of bees to the next generation of beekeepers. To our speakers; Jim Higgins, Dr. Jerry Bromenshank, John Avery, Craig Farmer and our Queen Jacie DeWeese; Outstanding job! Success would not have been possible without you. All the people that help; Frank and Teg Stokes, Sharon Gibbons, Monty and Glenda Richardson, Ron Vivian, Glenn and Joanne Davis, Don Rinkemier, Steve Harris, John Sauls, Ken Norman, Bob Wade and The Beekeepers of the Ozarks, the Oasis Staff, and any others I might have missed.

Other notable attendees were Arkansas President, James Rhein and Iowa President, Donna Brahms.

I am happy to announce May Schmitt as the new Honey Queen Chairperson and thank you Vera Gelder for your years of hard work.

There will not be a Family Registration rate for meetings. The family rate will be single rate plus ½ of single rate. Children under 19 will be included, meeting registration rates change according to cost for venue and speakers.

A problem has been brought to my attention. Members who have paid dues through their locals are not recognized as members of the state if the local organizations do not forward state dues. I hope no one gets canceled off the mailing list of the state when they have already paid their dues to the local but I can see it being a possibility. Ron will be updating the mailing list after this newsletter so if your local or you have not paid for 2004, your name will be removed. Membership numbers are still dropping despite numerous improvements to the club. Please help support the MSBA.

I hope everyone has a good spring and make sure to check your hives, now, because heavy hives in January can starve by March.

Thanks,

Chris Gibbons
President, MSBA

Announcements

Missouri Value - Added
Grant Program Deadline March 31, 2004
Missouri Agricultural Product and Small
Business Development Authority
PO Box 630
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Telephone (573) 751-2129
Fax (573) 522-2416
e-mail masbda@mda.mo.gov

June 12, 2004 at 9:00 a.m., Ryan's
Steakhouse, Columbia, Missouri

Almost State Fair Time
Volunteers
Bids

Fall Meeting - Tan-Tar-A (tentative)
Last weekend of October, Lake of the
Ozarks.

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We carry beekeeping supplies, Beehive Botanicals
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If you have something to sell or trade that other beekeepers would be interested in consider a business card size ad like the one above. They are \$7.50 an issue and the proceeds go to help produce the news letter. We also have 1/4, ½ and full page adds as well. Call John Sauls to get prices and discuss an ad.

Four Frame ,over wintered, nucs transferred into your equipment around May 15th to May 30th for \$50.00. A 10% deposit required on all orders. **NO FRAME EXCHANGE.** Locally raised gentle Queens also Available around May 15th , weather permitting, 10% deposit ,and orders picked up at my home. 1-3 queens \$12 , 4-7 queens \$11, 8-10 \$10 contact Bob Graham 9727 Morse Mill Rd. Dittmer , Mo 63023 (636) -274-4609

From The Vice President

Hello Everybody,

Spring is coming in 11 days! I was near Baton Rouge last week and the Dutch clover is 4-6 inches tall. Trees and flowers are also in bloom. The bees in my area are gathering pollen on warm days and the queens appear to be raising brood at a good pace. I generally keep my hives in two stories during the year. But if I have a smaller/weaker hive in the spring I will transfer all of the brood and bees into the bottom hive body and take the top one away. This seems to help them stay warmer and promote brood production.

Honey prices continue to amaze me. I never thought that they would stay this high for this long. I don't have a crystal ball so I don't know how long this trend will continue. Beekeepers have struggled far too long with low prices. I hope you are taking advantage of the atmosphere, possibly doing some equipment upgrades, treating your spouse to a share of the spoils so to speak, or just relaxing a bit from the worry and fret of the "bottom line".

Farmers Markets, festivals, and other activities will soon be in full swing. Don't forget to consider having the Missouri State Honey Queen come and promote beekeeping and honey at your activities. Members of the Women's auxiliary will be glad to help you in that regard.

And finally, the Spring Meeting is coming up as I right this. If you miss the meeting, ask somebody that went to tell you what happened. You may be surprised at the fun and information that you missed. If you have suggestions on how to improve the meetings get in touch with your area Director or other member of the Board.

Monte Richardson

From The Editor,

Well I wanted to put a note in here about the front cover. I've tried to make some improvements on the quality of the news letter. Since we spent the money on a color printer I thought it would be a good idea to add some color to the front cover as well. I mean it is the first thing everyone sees. I brought samples to the fall meeting of the picture and thought it was well received so included it in previous news letters. I guess that bothered some so they voted to remove my amateur art work. I guess I should just take it in stride. Whatever !!!! Just so you know the musical chairs wasn't intended. And now we are back to the doctored up copy of a copy for the silly looking front cover logo. If it were at least a clear image it wouldn't be bad but such is life and politics. Exactly what it is.

John Sauls
Editor M.S.B.A.

P. S. By now most of you are aware I'm stepping down from the editors position at the end of the year. If you would be interested please let Monte Richardson know. I personally feel the association can't survive without a news letter so you would be filling a much needed position.

John

Greetings,

I just got word that the Checkmite+ Section 18 has been issued for Missouri. Mann Lake should be able to ship immediately.
Api-Life Var should be available soon.

Please remember to submit your Checkmite+ and Api-Life VAR report forms.

Thank you,
Mike

(See attached file: CHECKMITE use survey.doc)(See attached file: API LIFE
VAR use survey.doc)

PLEASE NOTE NEW E-MAIL:
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Why Did I Go To The Spring Meeting?

This has to have been the best Spring Meeting I have gone to. The hotel accommodations were some of the best that I have ever stayed in. The programs that were put on were very interesting. And I met some new friends and visited with old friends. The Executive Board covered several topics on Friday night, which I will leave it to somebody else to post.

The Beekeeper's Association of the Ozarks did an excellent job sponsoring the Kids-N-Bees program. We had a large turnout for that. They were also indispensable in arranging many of the details for the conference and some of the media attention that we received. MayBEE (Schmidt), Director for the southwestern part of the state appeared on Springfield television a couple of different times for the conference and Kids-N-Bees. Thank You Very Much Beekeepers of the Ozarks!!

I could take a large portion of the newsletter just describing the hotel that we stayed in. I have had the pleasure of staying in \$300 dollar a night rooms with a TV and telephone in the bathroom. I have also had the not so pleasant experience of staying in hotels where the "night life" was in full swing if you know what I mean. The Oasis Inn and Conference Center has probably the best decorated rooms I have been in. The tile floors and distinctive wallpaper caught my eye. The staff was accommodating as well. I wish I had the time to stay another day. I heartily recommend a stay at The Oasis if you go through Springfield.

The Program is really why we all get together though. Because of other duties I didn't have a chance to listen to all of the presentations. However, the speakers that I did miss were gracious enough to sit down for a few minutes and tell me what their

programs were about.

John Avery, a research assistant at Southwest Missouri State University talked about Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) John has 40 hives of his own so he is aware of the concerns people have with GMO's and their impact on the eco-system. Examples of GMO's at work are varieties of cotton that have been treated with a bacterium that targets moths that feed on the cotton plants. Treating cotton with "B.T.", that isn't harmful to bees, lessens or eliminates that need for pesticides, which are harmful to bees, something that beekeepers in the boot heel are more than aware of. The development of GMO's to date has been into the most productive and lucrative crops. John sees GMO research and development targeting more precise applications for pest control and applications for more crops.

Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk of Montana State University gave two lectures at the meeting. His first discussion was on the development of bees as "explosives detectors". I have to be honest and say that when I first saw that there was going to be a talk about bees as bomb detectors, I rolled my eyes. But the old adage Don't Judge A Book By Its Cover applies. Dr. Bromenshenk's material was actually very interesting and could be applicable toward the development of targeted pollination and other commercial applications someday. I found it interesting to learn that bees can be trained much like dogs or other animals using the stimulus/reward system. Just as a dog can be trained to ring a bell and receive a treat, bees can be exposed to a substance and then rewarded with syrup. After a certain amount of "training" the bees will react with surprising accuracy to the desired scent. And not just flowers, but explosive chemical compounds. Dr. Bromenshenk explained that earlier studies that indicated that bees

have a reasonably sensitive sense of "smell" using their antennae actually have a very sensitive sense of smell rivaling that of dogs and more accurate than most laboratory equipment can measure.

Dr. Bromenshenk's second lecture demonstrated an advancement in nanotechnology applicable to beekeeping and other agricultural applications. He explained that advancements in the ability to make extremely small circuits for retail and inventory control could have applications in identifying and tracking bee hives and also conditions in the hive. The technology to make "programmable" chips small enough to adhere to a bee weren't available 18 months ago. Now the technology is available to mass-produce these chips at a price that is affordable for large buyers (millions of chips at a time). These new "chips" are making it possible to "scan" a truckload of bees and identify which hives are on board. Other chips could identify relevant information about how long a queen has been in place, or possibly temperature and humidity levels inside the hive, etc. You can read more about Dr. Bromenshenk's work at <http://beekeeper.dbs.umt.edu/bees/>. Craig Farmer of the Missouri Department of Health, Springfield Region talked about what is required to have an approved honey house. He explained that honey extraction is treated like any other food processing enterprise. He made the requirements appear to be pretty straightforward. And while some people might balk at some of the requirements, they appeared to be relatively simple. The basic goal of the rules is to provide a work area that is cleanable, safe, and free from pests. At this point I must say don't take the information provided here as authoritative. It is too brief to rely on to keep you out of trouble with a health inspector. Hopefully we can get something onto the website soon that will help. He said that

food processing must be done in a separate area from the living quarters. Separate means that there must be a wall or other means of keeping the processing activity separate from normal day to day family activities. Extracting can take place in say the basement of the house or a garage, but must be separated by a wall/door type situation. The area outside the facility should be clear of trash and weeds that would harbor pests. Windows and doors must be weather tight, secure, and not allow pests to enter. Floors and walls in general should be in good repair and weather tight as well. They should also be easily cleanable on a repeated basis. The floor/wall joint should be sealed to prevent honey and water from seeping between the floor and wall, allowing mold to grow. While not specifically required, Mr. Farmer said that floor drains would be a plus. Plumbing was a hot topic during the discussion as well. Hot and cold water, under pressure, must be supplied to the facility. Regular "city" water is fine, well water might have to be tested. Four sinks have to be available for wash-rinse-sanitize, and hand washing. Farmer said that there must be a sign that says that workers must wash their hands before returning to work. He agreed that seems a bit silly for a one-man operation. Two separate two-hole sinks can be used, or four single sinks. He didn't seem to have a problem with stainless vs. porcelain vs. plastic sinks. The major concern was that they could be cleaned and sanitized. Restroom facilities are only needed for large facilities. I can only think of one or two beekeepers in the whole state that this might apply to. Farmer said that sewage is governed at the local level. He said that honey processing is known not to be a volatile process and doesn't require a huge amount of water so hazardous waste concerns don't apply. He recommended that anybody that is concerned about using

lagoons or other processing systems other than a regular sewer consult with their county. There was some discussion about the new FDA Bioterrorism registration requirement. The registration process was put into effect fairly quickly and a lot of people have questions. Mr. Farmer did a very good job of addressing the questions put to him. Instead of trying to recite the applicable rules and adding to the confusion, I strongly suggest that everybody check out the information provided by the National Honey Board in regard to the Bioterrorism Act at

<http://www.nhb.org/download/bioter/bioterrorism.pdf>. I will say that the registration process appears to be relatively simple and is free.

Jim Higgins, "Dr. Sting", provided two very fine lectures on Apitherapy. Mr. Higgins has some impressive credential and delivered talks about products of the hive and sting therapy. I wasn't able to attend his lectures but some fine handout material was made available to everyone at the conference.

There was a Women's Auxiliary meeting, silent auction, a raffle drawing, and fellowship during the Spring Meeting. It's hard to believe that so many activities all occurred in one day. It was well worth the time and money spent. I hope you will remember and plan to attend the fall meeting. Plans are being made to hold it in the Lake of the Ozarks area.

Monte Richardson



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A Note From The New Queen Chairperson

At the Executive Board Meeting on March 12, I volunteered and was appointed to take over the position of Queen Chairperson. I am very excited about this new road that I am going to journey down. I am looking forward with working with our Honey Queen, Jacie DeWeese for the rest of this year.

I wish to express my thankfulness to the ladies who have shown interest in helping me. One thing that I have learned in my lifetime: **Never** turn down help! Yes, I can use help from all of you- men and women. But please don't "mother" over me as if you don't think I can handle the job.

You know what festivals, fairs, farmers markets, school activities, etc will be happening in your area. If you can contact me with the event and date, I will coordinate it with Jacie to see if she can attend your event. Jacie has expressed that she is interested in going to Nationals. Wouldn't it be great to have an American Honey Queen who is from our great state of Missouri? You can do your part to help by inviting her to attend activities in your community.

This is not a one sided street! She will also be helping you to promote your honey! Last spring, we invited the past Honey Queen, Hannah Nelson, to come to Willow Springs for the WillowFest festival. I contacted the newspapers and radio stations to let the public know that the MO State Honey Queen would be there. It works -- we had people come to the event because they didn't know Missouri had a Honey Queen. Also, it brings kids to the event. Kids are infatuated with the idea of Princesses and Queens. And most of them will want their picture taken with the Queen!

And of course, some adult has to drive the car to bring the kids! And you have the opportunity to sell that jar of honey! Need I say more?

Please contact me and let's help our Honey Queen do all that she can do to promote honey! She can't do it alone - she needs my help and yours!

Thank you! May Schmitt

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417-256-9447 jnmschmitt@townsq.com

Honey Queen Column

I just returned home from the 2004 Spring Meeting in Springfield. What a success! I enjoyed seeing and talking with everyone again, and especially enjoyed learning about Bee Apitherapy and the new security systems for beekeepers. Greeting and working with the kids during the Kids-N-Bees expo was another enjoyment for me during the meeting. We had a great turn out, and I think the kids really enjoyed the activities. It's a wonder what honey and bee pollen can really do for people. I know I'm going to keep spreading the buzz that Dr. Higgins shared in his program.

As for my honey and beekeeping promotion report, I have attended the Governor's Conference on Agriculture at Tan-Tar-A, appeared in several parades, and made an appearance on "The Paul Pepper Show" with Art and Vera Gelder.

Throughout each of these activities I have enjoyed spreading the word about beekeeping and honey, meeting many new people, and getting to know the members of the MSBA much better. I truly feel blessed with the opportunity I have been given and the people who have helped me along the way.

Upcoming events I have helped implement are setting up a booth at the Missouri State FFA Convention in Columbia on April 16th, and possibly having a booth at "Lewis and Clark Days" in my hometown of Brunswick on June 11th. With the FFA State Convention, I may be sending out e-mails asking for help with items to showcase or demonstrate and literature to be obtained. The event in Brunswick is just being discussed as of right now, so we will just have to see how that may work out.

Also, those of you wishing to schedule an appearance or assistance from me throughout the summer, may direct your requests to May Schmitt, the new Honey Queen Chairperson, or the Ladies Auxiliary, and they will relay the message to me. I look forward to helping out this summer, and can't wait until the State Fair!

I feel that the spring meeting in Springfield was a success. It was a very busy time for me and many others. As a director for the MSBA, I wish to say Thank you to **all of you** who worked so hard to make this a successful event.

Among those many people, I want to say thank you to Val Nichols. She organized the KidsN'Bees event and she did an outstanding job! She knew the press release contacts to make in the Springfield area – and I enjoyed working with her. I appreciate all of her time and effort that she put into this!

I believe that we had approximately 80 kids that participated in the expo. And alot of parents and grandparents too. It was a very busy 2 hours for everyone involved, but I really believe that it was worth every minute of it. It did not seem like 2 hours, the time flew by quickly!

For those of you who did not get to attend the KidsN'Bees expo, I will give you a brief summary of what these kids were able to do. Each child got a bag and an activity sheet. They decorated the bag by drawing or pasting a picture of a bee on it. They made beeswax candles, tasted honey, found the queen bee in the observation hive, played "dress up" as a beekeeper, made peanut butter "cookies" and much more. For each activity, they got a bee stamped on their activity page. Everyone got a "blue ribbon" stamp at the completion of all the activities.

When the kids came to the Betty Bee station, they were very attentive and interested in the story, even the parents and grandparents who came in. I heard several good comments about the expo and I believe that we did **much more** than just entertain kids for a couple of hours! I believe that each one of them has a new appreciation for the honeybee – and they won't be eating fruits or vegetables without thinking about the pollinators who made it possible!

Those of you who missed the spring meeting really missed a GREAT meeting. Relax, the fall meeting will be here sooner than we know! Mark your calender and try to set aside the time to attend the fall meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there – and meeting those of you that I haven't met yet!

May Bee

Missouri State Beekeepers Membership Application

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Spouses name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone (____) _____

E-mail address _____

***** If you are a member of a local club please include your state membership dues in your check to your local club*******

Membership one adult = \$10.00 Family Membership = \$15.00 (includes spouses membership in auxiliary)

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