

Missouri State Beekeepers Association
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April 2010

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Spring Meeting draws scores to Hannibal

Jennifer Berry headlines semi-annual gathering of state's beekeepers

Over one hundred beekeepers flocked to Mark Twain's hometown in March for the MSBA's annual Spring Meeting. They gathered to share stories, food and drink; to visit vendors; to learn from experts in the trade; and most of all, to talk about honeybees and beekeeping.

The news was not all good. With few exceptions, members talked of significant bee losses this past winter. Some blamed mites, others starvation, and a couple even chalked it up to that mysterious malady, Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). In recent weeks, national news outlets have been filled with similar stories from other parts of the country.

Headline speaker **Jennifer Berry**, Agricultural Research Coordinator at the University of Georgia, College of Agriculture/Entomology, talked about a study on comb contamination, and it was troubling. While we've all been worried about our brood comb, they tested foundation made from cappings wax, and found residues of several miticides, with coumaphos the biggest culprit.

We know that wax is transferred from place to place within the hive. But what follows is more disturbing: Mason bee nests also tested positive for these residues, suggesting perhaps that this stuff is somehow being deposited, albeit in miniscule quantities, on flowers for anyone to pick up.

Having sworn off plastic foundation several years ago due to the bees' obvious preference for wax, this writer is now having second thoughts, as virgin plastic is at least free of miticides. Jennifer stated that for purposes of some test colonies, the UGA bee lab suspends wax starter strips at the tops of frames and leaves it to the bees to draw the rest of the comb, so as to minimize these contamination issues. She cautioned, however, that one should be sure that hives are level from side to side; your bees will have no qualms about starting a comb at the top of Frame 10 and finishing at the bottom of Frame 9, if that's where gravity leads them!

Jennifer also spoke about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as a means of controlling mite populations with chemical application as a

last resort. She discussed the following categories of mite control:

- Biological: Fungal controls have been tested but further study is needed.
- Cultural: Screened bottom boards, drone brood trapping, powdered sugar, brood cycle disruption
- Genetic: Hygienic bees
- Chemicals: There are good and bad, both in



Jennifer Berry

continued on page 4

Egglayers union sets strike vote

Mandatory retirement age at issue

April 1, 2010

St. Louis, MO

Members of the International Sisterhood of Egglayers, Local 1851, are set to vote this month on a strike action against SweetBee Honey Corporation.

At issue is SweetBee's new mandatory retirement age of two years for queen bees. The policy was announced on March 1, and drew an ominous hum of indignation from egglayers across the company's 1200-hive operation.

"It's completely arbitrary – it's not even a matter of individual ability," buzzed Myrtle, a 26-month-old queen who declined to give her last name. "They just assume we're too old and can no longer do the job."

Myrtle was summarily dismissed as she reached her second

continued on page 6



Erected in 1913, this giant statue of Mark Twain gazes out across the Mississippi River from Hannibal's scenic Riverview Park. In 2010, the city marks the 175th birthday of Samuel Clemens, the 125th anniversary of Twain's pinnacle work Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, and the 100th anniversary of his death.

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From the President

by Scott Moser

It looks like Spring has finally sprung here in the eastern part of Missouri. The Maples have bloomed, the Forsythia and Daffodils are blooming, a few Dandelions are showing, and the Virginia Bluebell is beginning to bloom as well. It is a good thing too, because it was one of the hardest winters Missouri has seen in a long time. Heavy snow in many parts, record lows several times, and extended periods of cold were the norm rather than the exception.

It was also a tough winter for the bees! Winter losses were really high due to the extended cold and poor fall honey crop last year. Many beekeepers were lulled into a sense of false security based on past winters, thinking their bees would be able to make it through this winter like all the rest. In most cases, unless the colony was well fed going into winter, or emergency feeding during the winter was done, many colonies perished.

In many cases, I have heard of losses as high as 50%, while normal winter loss usually runs at about 10%. In most cases, the bees were unable to break cluster because of the prolonged cold, and starved inches away from food. Upon inspection beekeepers found the bees head first in the cells, with honey inches away. This is usually a classic sign of starvation.

Due to the unusually high losses across the country, and the cold weather across the south, many package, nuc and queen suppliers are feeling the pinch. By early January, shipping dates for queens and packages were already into June. If a beekeeper didn't order early, many suppliers were sold out. Those waiting until mid-March to order packages were finding it difficult to get bees before mid-June, or possibly

at all. The lesson that should be learned from this winter is to have your bees ready for the winter months, and don't rely on past years as indicators of how much preparation you should give them. Assume all winters are going to be cold and harsh, and get your bees ready.

A few weeks ago, the MSBA held its Spring Meeting in Hannibal once again. There was a large turnout of members at the meeting, which was great to see. Jennifer Berry, our guest speaker, did a wonderful job with all of her talks. She discussed a variety of topics, including residual chemicals in the hive, how to keep bees healthy, use of more bee-friendly mite control (including the use of powdered

sugar to control Varroa mites), and the latest information about Colony Collapse Disorder. She is currently working on a method of applying powdered sugar to a colony from the bottom rather than the top of the hive that holds promise in giving us another tool to effectively combat the Varroa mite.

Jennifer was asked about the effectiveness of powdered sugar in controlling mites, specifically a study from Florida that indicated that powdered sugar was ineffective against Varroa. She said she respected the work that the researchers did, but felt the study was badly flawed because of several problems that she pointed out. It is her hope that her research will prove that powdered sugar will be an effective tool against the mite. She was a very informative and entertaining speaker, and many members said they would like having her return to speak again. In addition to the meeting, the Banquet was wonderful as well. This year, the MSBA chose Jim and Val Duever as Beekeepers of the Year.

Plans are in the works for the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 meetings. It looks like the Fall Meeting will be held in Cape Girardeau, and the Spring 2011 Meeting in the Springfield/Branson area once again. As many members know, Sharon Gibbons has stepped down from the Program Chairperson position, and Pam Brown has stepped up to take her position. Pam is currently working on the Spring 2011 meeting, and it sounds like it is coming together well. Hope to see you all in Cape this fall.



Bee Culture

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Help needed with bee loss survey

Data important to continuing research

The Apiary Inspectors of America and the USDA-ARS Beltsville Bee Research Laboratory are seeking your help in tabulating the winter losses that occurred over the winter of 2009-2010. This continues the AIA/USDA survey efforts from the past three years which has been important in quantifying the losses of honey bees for government, media, and researchers.

This year's survey is faster, easier and does not require your time on the phone. It is all web based and automatic, just fill and click.

Please take a few moments to fill out our winter loss survey at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/beeloss0910>

This survey will be conducted until April 16th, 2010.

If you have any questions or concerns please email beeloss@gmail.com, or Honeybee.Survey@aphis.usda.gov

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Jeff Pettis; USDA-ARS Beltsville Bee Research Laboratory

Dennis vanEngelsdorp; Penn State University

Jerry Hayes; Florida Department of Agriculture

Dewey Caron; University of Delaware and Oregon State University



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AIHHH, IT'S FINALLY SPRING!

Are you ready to split your hives?

If you're splitting you may want to have the following:

- Nuc boxes
- Queen mating boxes
- Cell bar frames
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More notes from Spring Meeting

continued from page 1

terms of effectiveness and safety.

IPM is used for the following reasons:

- Decrease chemical treatments
- Reduce selection pressure (in mites) for chemical resistance
- Reduce risk (to bees and beekeepers) and reliance on chemicals
- Reduce risk of environmental contamination
- Reduce cost

Jennifer mentioned that, while past studies of powdered sugar dusting have been inconclusive, the UGA bee lab has begun a new, two-year study in which treatments begin in January rather than March, hives are dusted from the top down rather than bottom-up, and treatments consist of four dustings, four days apart, rather than the common method of two-week intervals.

As for CCD, there was not much to report in the way of answers. Ms. Berry did mention the fact that there have been several previous bee die-offs of note, including "Disappearing Disease" in the 1970s, Isle of Wight Disease in the early 1900s, and a similar phenomenon in the 1860s.

Although migratory stress in pollination operations has been blamed by many for this latest malady, a recent study showed similar rates of CCD among migratory and non-migratory enterprises.

Of the bee losses that occurred in 2009, Jennifer stated that approximately 30 percent have been attributed to starvation, and only five percent to CCD.

Grant Gillard lectured on the causes and prevention of swarming, which he described as "your penalty for successfully bringing a strong colony ... into spring". Still, he said, "Swarming doesn't just happen.... Bees are reactive," making swarm preparations several weeks in advance. Therefore, "beekeepers need to be proactive" to head them off.

Congestion causes swarming, Grant said. But we should not confuse congestion with crowding, which he called simply "bees per volume.... Congestion," on the other hand, is "the competition for available cell space between incoming nectar and the queen's need to lay eggs and their need to raise brood." This condition can be alleviated in various ways:

- Buy a queen and make a split.
- Add frames of empty comb or foundation, either by adding a box or by swapping for honey frames.
- Reverse brood boxes.
- Perform a Demaree manipulation as follows:
 1. Split colony by moving brood to top box.
 2. Keep queen in bottom box.
 3. Separate with new brood box between.

Jennifer Hopwood, of the Xerces Society (www.xerces.org), gave a wonderful talk on the diversity of pollinators in our world. Over 4000 species of wild bees exist just in the United States. These include sweat bees, mason bees, leafcutters (look for half-moon cutouts in leaves), plaster/polyester bees (secrete a waterproof

substance to line their nests), and orchard bees, in addition to the more common ones we see like bumbles, carpenters and, of course, good old *Apis mellifera*.

Jennifer said that 70 percent of native bees are ground-nesting solitary bees, while the other 30 percent nest in tunnels, including the stems of blackberries and raspberries.

Amazingly, despite the incredible diversity of the world's pollinators, Jennifer said that China, which is the world's largest apple producer, pollinates 40 percent of that fruit by hand! Of all the fascinating photos she presented, the most memorable may have been the one of an apple grower pollinating apple blossoms with the filter end of a cigarette.

State Entomologist **Collin Wamsley** gave an update on his department's efforts at surveying the state for the presence of Africanized Honey Bees. The 2010 Missouri AHB Survey offers swarm traps to beekeepers in the southwest part of the state in order to test samples for AHB DNA. A limited number of such samples was returned in 2008-09, with none testing positive for AHB. Africanized bees have yet to be reported in Missouri.

Collin also suggested that beekeepers submit bee samples from nuisance hives or suspicious swarms to his office, which he forwards to the Tucson Bee Lab for testing. See page 13 of this newsletter for Collin's contact information.



Jennifer Hopwood



President Scott Moser thanks Sharon Gibbons for her dedication as Program Director, a position from which she is stepping down after many years of service. Pam Brown has agreed to take over, and is already lining up speakers for upcoming meetings (see page 9).



A and B, Bernie Andrew shows off equipment and methods at his honey house near Loraine, IL; C, State Entomologist Collin Wamsley talks with Art Gelder; D, Jennifer Berry shows off her new MSBA T-shirt and hat; E, Steve Harris demonstrates some of his swarm-catching equipment; F, Jann Amos plays the role of auctioneer for the benefit of the Queen Fund; G, Yvonne Von Der Ahe and Bob Sears talk to Stephanie Barry about her beekeeping folklore project.



Egglayers strike threatens St. Louis beekeeping operation

Queens protest new two-year retirement mandate

continued from page 1

anniversary at SweetBee, just weeks after the new policy took effect. She was able to find work in a nearby observation hive, but while she considers herself lucky, she acknowledges that this is a huge demotion for her. "This used to be where old, worn-out queens went to die," she mused. "I love my hive-mates and am treated well by my keeper, but it's not the same as running a full-scale production hive. I need to be challenged."

"It's just not fair," complained Rosie Romano-Ortis-Petrova-Schultz-Bertolli-Bremer-Maggiano-Boehner-Milosevic-Anderssen-Bommarito-Yurovich-Hegel, a 22-month-old single mother of 54,371. "I feel like I'm just coming into prime production age. I've got a lot of mouths to feed, and now I have to worry about one day being plucked out of my work station like some yellow jacket, and tossed out into the grass ... or worse."

SweetBee officials declined to comment for the record, citing ongoing negotiations. But one high-level manager, speaking on condition of anonymity, called it "a matter of simple economics.... It is true that you can't put a definitive age on productivity," he said. "But the simple fact is, once they get beyond that two-year point, it's really hit-or-miss." And since the union has consistently resisted the idea of its older members submitting to viability testing, he added, "This was our only option."

Another company official concurred. "Close to 50 percent of queens experience significant production declines in their third year, and the worst part is, it's so unpredictable. You have a queen who looks to be doing a great job, and suddenly she starts producing nothing but drones. It's very difficult, and very expensive, to replace her when that happens in mid-season."

It is widely acknowledged that queen productivity declines with age, often during the third year and almost always by the fourth. The reasons are complex, but experts agree that the largest issue is a decreasing supply of sperm in the egg-layer's spermatheca. This organ is supplied on a mating flight within the first two weeks of a queen's life, and is never replenished. (Sperm is required for fertilization of worker eggs, while unfertilized eggs develop into drones.)

In previous labor negotiations, management has floated the idea of requiring queens to make additional mating flights, possibly annually, in order to circumvent this supply issue. But while drones have generally supported that proposal, the egglayers' union has been vehemently opposed. Some members object on ethical grounds. "It's just not natural," said one queen. "No queen in nature has ever been subjected to this ritual more than once, and we shouldn't have to start now."

Then there is the safety issue. There are occasional reports of virgin queens falling victim to birds or other predators during mating flights. "Foragers deal with this danger as a part of their

job," said Myrtle, "but they're also more nimble than we are, and have extensive flight training to boot." After mating, the only time a queen would typically leave the hive is in a swarm, when she's surrounded by a large contingent of workers.

The last time the apiculture industry saw open labor strife was in 1962, when the International Union of Drones (DUI) declared a general strike, protesting the industry-wide policy of releasing drones in the autumn months in preparation for the winter dearth period. But the ill-fated strike occurred in late September, at a time when apiaries had little to gain from negotiation with the union. The action was settled within days in a humiliating defeat for the union. In an effort to save face, and in exchange for a promise not to strike the following spring when a work stoppage would have had more serious repercussions, DUI leaders asked for and obtained an unrelated concession -- the free-agent status that their membership enjoys to this day. (Some conspiracy theorists maintain that this was the result the union had in mind at the outset, though most experts agree that drones are just not that intelligent.)

Under the free agent policy, drones are allowed to drift from hive to hive as they see fit. It is not uncommon for a drone to leave his home hive in the morning, visit several drone congregation areas during the course of the day and then follow other drones back to a different hive in the evening. In recent years this state of affairs has been blamed in part for the spread of mites and disease conditions between hives, but there has been no serious discussion about amending the policy.

As far as the impending strike vote is concerned, most believe the motion will pass easily. "It's just too much," said an executive at another apiary. "SweetBee can't expect this big a change to go uncontested. But (a strike) won't last long," he added. "The company certainly can't do without the queens' services this time of year. I'm guessing management will cave quickly -- if they let them walk out at all."

Meanwhile, Rosie Romano-Ortis-Petrova-Schultz-Bertolli-Bremer-Maggiano-Boehner-Milosevic-Anderssen-Bommarito-Yurovich-Hegel, the 22-month-old soon-to-be retiree, is busy planning for life after SweetBee. She's developing a plan for a pheromone-marketing business, and is looking for consulting work.

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- Dadant **Bottling Tank** 45 gallon-stainless, double water jacket - \$1200.
- 30 cases 190 ml **Hex Jar** with gold lids - \$9 per case
- Round **Section Supers** with frames - \$20 each
- 1 Kelley **Grocers Tank**, holds 15 gal. honey - \$200 with brass valve

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Book provides rich hive history

by Eugene Makovec

With the intensive coverage of CCD in recent years, modern beekeeping methods have endured much criticism, both within the industry and from environmental circles. The gist of much of this criticism is that it is not natural to put bees in boxes of our making, to stifle their natural tendencies, or to transport them all over the countryside and force them to work in locations, and on schedules, of our choosing.

So when I obtained a copy of Gene Kritsky's new book *The Quest for the Perfect Hive*, I expected an attempt to address at least one of these criticisms of modern beekeeping – that of the “modern” beehive, which is not in fact modern at all, but which has existed in much the same form since 1851, when Lorenzo Langstroth first introduced his movable-frame design, along with its underlying concept of bee-space, to the American market.

But Kritsky, as it turns out, expresses no disagreement with Langstroth's ideas or the fundamentals of his design. (His invention, and the principle of bee space upon which it depends, are not described until chapter 9, and his name does not even appear until page 104.)

Nor does the author offer any design proposals of his own. What he does present, and exhaustively so, is a history of mankind's relationship with the honeybee, complete with descriptions, photos and drawings of hundreds of hive designs over the centuries.

The one drawback the author expresses about the Langstroth design is its relative expense compared to prior skep and box hive designs. Once you've invested hundreds of dollars on a hive and its accessories, it is difficult to justify spending additional funds investigating novel, incompatible designs.

In other words, says Kritsky, the Langstroth hive, while solving many of the problems endemic to previous designs, has essentially stifled innovation in the industry during the century and a half since. This would perhaps be a matter of great pride for Langstroth the inventor, but Langstroth the beekeeper would undoubtedly be disappointed in his colleagues in the apiculture industry.

Beekeepers are well-known for tinkering around the edges of their equipment and accessories. Someone is always coming up with a new feeder, extractor, smoker or bottom board, and Kritsky devotes a chapter to such “paraphernalia”. But virtually every new development is designed around the same basic design we are all using.

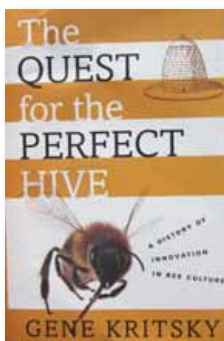
We live in what may be considered the golden age of scientific discovery, and the area of honeybee research is no exception. We may also be overdue for a new revolution in hive design, and Gene Kritsky's comprehensive look at past innovations is a great place to start.

The Quest for the Perfect Hive

A History of Innovation in Bee Culture

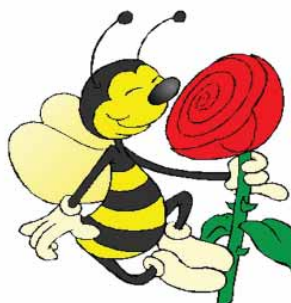
by Gene Kritsky

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Student seeks help with folklore project

I am Stephanie Barry, a Truman State University student from St. Louis City.

I am writing a paper on beekeepers for my Folklore class. To my knowledge, this is the first time that someone has chosen to study beekeepers in Missouri, so the project is really exciting for me! Collecting information is part of the process, and I am looking for volunteers to participate in interviews or questionnaires. Questions will center around folklore, which is a very broad field that includes stories, jokes, riddles, anecdotes, recipes -- really anything that you share with your apiarist friends.

If you have questions or are interested in helping with my project, please contact me ASAP at seb183@truman.edu or 314-791-7276.



Winged Warriors Train for Terror, Drug Wars

aolnews.com (courtesy of Pam Brown)

LONDON (March 28) -- It's the ultimate honey trap. A British company has successfully trained bees to sniff out explosives, drugs and other hazardous materials, and their winged warriors could soon be on duty at airports, train stations and other potential terrorism or trafficking sites.

Honeybees have incredibly sensitive olfactory organs, which they use to help track down their favorite food -- sugary nectar -- in the wild. Realizing that the bugs can be taught to smell much more than just sweet stuff, U.K. firm Inscentinel developed a gadget that harnesses this powerful sense to identify would-be bombers or drug smugglers. And while it takes about six months and \$37,000 to train a single sniffer dog (which has a similarly strong sense of smell as the average bee), swarms of honey harvesters can be skilled up in just a few minutes.

The British company has figured out how to train bees to detect explosives or drugs by exploiting their desire for nectar.

A note from the Queen Chair by Joyce D. Justice

The Spring Meeting Queen Fund was a success!

Our "Flowers for Bees" bees centerpieces really added to the fun of our meeting. They were all so different and really made for some interesting conversations.

First Prize Winner: Midwestern Beekeepers Association, Cathy Misko, designer

Second Prize Winner: Boone Regional Beekeepers Assoc., Valerie Duever, designer

Third Prize Winner: Jackson Area Beekeepers, Grant Gillard, designer

Honorable Mention: Three Rivers Beekeepers, John and Jane Timmons, designers; Three Rivers Beekeepers, Pam Brown, designer; Beekeepers of the Ozarks, Dave Kayser, designer; Midwestern Beekeepers, Joyce Justice, designer

Thank you for your efforts in working on these arrangements and let's do this again next year and see how creative we become over the year. Hard to beat that first place winner with pollen on the legs of the bees!!

I want to add a very special thank you to **7Cs Winery** for their generous donation of the wonderful wine. Everyone wanted that and it added some very good cash to our Queen Fund.

Next, the Silent Auction table was so full of your donations that we were considering adding another table. There were two very honorable mentions on that table. The designer apron by Bonnie Potter was really a hit and had a bidding war. Next was the honey beer that Art Gelder brought. I believe both of these items came from Boone Regional. Your thoughtfulness really does add fun to the table and money to our Queen Fund. Thanks so much.

The Princess, Lillian, has a full schedule adding up. She will make every event she possibly can. With all of your help and cooperation our Queen Program has really become a success.

Inscentinel's bees are taught to identify suspicious substances using Pavlovian conditioning. (Russian scientist Ivan Pavlov famously taught his dogs to drool whenever they heard a bell, as they thought they were about to be fed.) Up to 500 insects are placed in a special "bee hotel" and exposed to a certain odor -- such as a key ingredient of TNT -- and simultaneously rewarded with a sugary liquid. The process is repeated up to five times, says Mathilde Briens, head of R&D at Inscentinel, by which point "the bees associate the smell with food. So next time they sniff this particular smell, they will stick their tongues out because they expect food."

Once their odorous education is over, the bees are ready for work. Thirty-six bugs are transferred from the bee hotel into a hand-held device that resembles a portable vacuum cleaner and gently strapped down with plastic ties. That loading process is entirely automated, so non-bee experts can operate the machine without getting stung.

Once they're seated in the machine -- called a VASOR (for Volatile Analysis by Specific Olfactory Recognition) -- a fan sucks air past the immobilized bugs' antennae. If they detect a trace of Semtex, for example, the bees will extend their tongues in hunger, breaking beams of light that run in front of their heads and sending a signal to the VASOR operator. That automatic warning system means that anyone can use the gadget after a few hours of basic training. In contrast, learning how to handle a sniffer dog can take many months. And as the gadget contains 36 bees, all individually testing the atmosphere, the VASOR offers greater accuracy than a single explosives hound's nose. "It's almost like having a pack of well-behaved sniffer dogs," Briens says.

The bees' conditioning wears off after two weeks unless they're given repeated sweet treats. So after two days hunting bad guys, the bees are safely reintroduced to their hive.

The gadget may sound a little un-bee-lievable, but government-funded tests have repeatedly shown that Inscentinel's bugs are highly effective bomb sniffers. A 2004 study funded by the U.S. military found that trained honeybees could detect lower concentrations of TNT than commercial ion scanners. And a review last summer by Britain's Home Office noted that the bees achieved better results than a popular hand-held vapor detector. Briens says that the VASOR, which is at an advanced prototype stage, could be in service by next year.

So watch out, terrorists and narco-traffickers: You could be soon be caught out by a real sting operation.

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2009 Beekeepers of the Year

Valerie and Jim Duever



Valerie and Jim Duever, proprietors of Jim & I Farms in Auxvasse, and members of Boone Regional Beekeepers, have been named 2009 Beekeepers of the Year. The award was presented by Art Gelder at the 2010 Spring Meeting in Hannibal.

Upcoming meetings:

MSBA Fall Meeting 2010: Cape Girardeau, October 22-23 at the Plaza Convention Center. Featured speakers include David Burns of Long Lane Honey Bee Farms in Illinois (www.honeybeesonline.com), and Michael Palmer, past president of the Vermont Beekeepers Association.

MSBA Spring Meeting 2011: Springfield or Branson, date TBA. Featured speakers include Dennis vanEngelsdorp, University of PA, and apitherapy expert Reyah Carlson, (www.reyasbeesness.com).

North American Beekeeping Conference: This will be a joint convention between the American Honey Producers Association and the American Beekeeping Federation, in Galveston, Texas, at the San Luis Resort, January 3-9, 2011.

Contact AHPA Executive Secretary Jerry Brown at brownhoneyfarms@hotmail.com if you have any questions. Go to www.sanluisresort.com/media/docs/meetingfacility.pdf for Convention Center details.

Remember to make your reservations SOON as this conference is expected to fill up quickly.

Cookin' with Honey!

by Carrie Sayers

Honey Bran Muffins with Goji Berries (or whatever dried fruit you like)

- Goji influence by Steve Laycock -

3 C Bran Flake Cereal

1 C Dried Goji Berries (or raisins, craisins, dried cherries, dried blueberries etc.)

1 C Granulated Sugar

2-1/2 C All-Purpose Flour

1/2 C HONEY

3 t Baking Soda

1/2 T salt

2 C Buttermilk

2 Eggs

1/4 C Vegetable Oil

Method

Large Bowl: Combine bran flakes, sugar, flour, baking soda, salt and berries of choice. Stir until well mixed. In a separate bowl: Combine buttermilk, eggs, HONEY and vegetable oil until well blended. Stir buttermilk/HONEY mixture into the dry ingredients. Mix well by hand, not mixer. Cover and refrigerate overnight or for up to 3 days.

When ready to bake, preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray muffin pans with cooking spray or line with muffin papers. Spoon batter into cups, filling each about 3/4 full. Bake for 22 minutes or until muffins are browned for regular sized, or 10-12 minutes for mini muffins. Rest for 5 minutes before removing from pan. Slather with HONEY butter or absolutely nothing and enjoy a yummy, healthy homemade treat.

Carrie Sayers (www.sayerscatering.com) is a beekeeper in Glendale, MO, and has been cooking with honey for years.

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Local Beekeepers Associations

Beekeepers Association of the Ozarks

4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
The Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell, Springfield
www.ozarksbeekeepers.org

Boone Regional Beekeepers Association

3rd Sunday of month, 1:00 p.m., Columbia Insurance Group, 2102 Whitegate Dr. (back door), Columbia
Contact Art Gelder 573-474-8837
<http://beekeeper.missouri.org>

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
grnthumb@alltel.net

Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association

2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Powder Valley Nature Center 11715 Craigwold Rd., Kirkwood
Bob Sears, President 314-479-9517
www.easternmobeekers.com

Jackson Area Beekeepers

4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
First Pres. of Jackson, 206 E. Washington
Contact Grant Gillard 573-243-6568
gillard5@charter.net

Jefferson County Beekeepers Association

2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Hwy B & 21 Jefferson County Extension Center, Hillsboro
Contact Scott Moser 636-285-7295

Joplin Area Beekeepers Association

Last Tue. of each month, 7 pm, SM Bank Community Building (7th and Duquesne Rd), Joplin
Contact Gene Foley 417-624-6831

Mid Missouri Beekeepers

3rd Sunday of each month, 2 pm, St. James Tourist Ctr.
Contact Don Moore 573-265-8706

Midwestern Beekeepers Association

Nov-March, 3rd Sunday of each month, 2:30 p.m.
April-Oct, 3rd Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Bass Pro Shop, Independence, Conservation Room
Cecil Sweeney, President 913-856-8356

Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association

Last Tuesday of Month in Quincy, IL
Contact Debi Bridgman 573-439-5228

Missouri Valley Beekeepers Association

3rd Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Scenic Regional Library, Union
Contact Rodney Angell 573-764-2922
bee143@fidnet.com

Parkland Beekeepers

3rd Tuesday of each month, 108 Harrison, Farmington
Contact Gene Wood 573-431-1436

Pomme de Terre Beekeepers

2nd Thursday of each month, 7 pm
Missouri Extension Office, Hermitage
Contact Bessi Shryer 417-745-2527

South Central Missouri Beekeepers Association

1st Friday of month, Howell Electric Coop, West Plains
Monty Wiens, President 417 257-3994

Southern MO Beekeepers of Monett "MOBees")

3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Monett High School VO-AG Building
Robert Sperandio, President 417-235-6959

Southwest Beekeepers Association

1st Tuesday of month, Neosho High School FFA Building
Contact Herb Spencer 417-472-7743

Three Rivers Beekeepers

3rd Monday of month, University of Missouri Extension, 260 Brown Road, St. Peters, Missouri, 7:00 p.m.
For info: 2952 Greenleaf Drive, St. Charles, MO 63303
info@threeriversbeekeepers.com

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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 \$15.00 ☐Family Membership \$20.00 ☐Student Membership \$5.00 ☐**Amount Enclosed \$** _____

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Honey Princess Report

by Lillian-Grace Misko

Looking outside and seeing the flowers in bloom, I am sure that every true beekeeper and I are sharing the same excitement for spring! This was definitely an active winter, but it looks like spring has finally put her foot down to begin.

Recently, I visited family in New York City. While I was in New York and upon my brother meeting me, he randomly biked past a Bee Dessert Café and had to take me there. Since we desired to have a taste of New York's honey, we ordered their special Honey-lemon Crepe and their "Original Honey Cake" which was dipped in chocolate in a round mold with a bee on top. This café had delicious honey-made desserts and was definitely an inspiration for many ideas!

Another fun thing that happened pertaining to bees and honey on this trip is that my brother and I found hieroglyphic bee symbols on various Egyptian artifacts at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. As if in a competition, we had a blast finding as many bee hieroglyphic symbols as we could. We made such a scene of seeing our first bee hieroglyphic, the security guard approached us and asked what we had found. I then had the opportunity of educating the New York MMA security guard. I explained how the Egyptians viewed bees as gods—or should I say goddesses?

In February, I had the privilege of attending the Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association Workshop in Fenton, with the comical and expert speaker Gary S. Reuter. I promoted the American Beekeepers Federation (if you have not subscribed, now is a great time) and provided my "Good Friends Munchies". At the Fenton workshop a lady called my Munchies (recipe found in my brochure) the "Killer Crunch" because she liked it so much! It was delightful meeting so many new beekeepers who were eager to order their first hives.

In March, I attended the MSBA Spring Meeting in Hannibal, with featured speaker Jennifer Berry. She shared at the banquet about her experience in Bolivia, the second poorest country, assisting beekeepers with working Africanized honeybees. Her pictures and stories were heart touching. It was enjoyable to see everyone's home-made table decorations to auction off for the Queen Fund. I am so thankful that I was there for the excitement and to witness their creativity! I also found out that beekeepers even know how to do magic tricks—or at least Bernie Andrew knows how to!

At the end of March, I had my first experience in assisting with a lecture at the North Eastern Kansas and Midwestern Missouri Beekeepers Beginner Workshop. By making smoker fuel and demonstrating how to properly smoke bees, I accompanied my mother with her presentation on Smoking and Beekeeping Etiquette to nearly 200 people.

I am quite excited about many of the upcoming events that I have been invited to. To name a few, I will be appearing at the Remington Nature Center, Powel Gardens in Kingsville, and the Ozark Empire Fair in Springfield.

Thank you for your welcoming support and generosity,

Lillian



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*We need a volunteer to fill the position of Secretary. Please contact Scott Moser or Grant Gillard for information.

Missouri State Beekeepers Association

P.O. Box 448 Oak Grove, MO 64075

www.mostatebeekeepers.org



That's entertainment! Vice president Grant Gillard and Honey Princess Lillian-Grace Misko appeared to have a good time as they announced the winners of the "Flowers for Bees" centerpiece contest during the 2009 Spring Meeting banquet. The centerpiece contest, planned by Queen Chair Joyce Justice, featured entries from local associations around the state. The First Place ribbon went to Midwestern Beekeepers.

This newsletter is published six times per year, in even months. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

The email edition is in color, and 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@mostatebeekeepers.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
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