

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

April 2012

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Editor
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Ahhhh, Spring! This March 10 snapshot of spring boasts an abundance of eggs, very young larvae, a colorful, healthy variety of fresh pollen, and tiny reflecting pools of early spring nectar.

Note the multiple eggs in a few of these cells. Though sometimes a sign of laying workers, that is not the case here, as these eggs stand at the bottoms of the cells rather than on the sides, and there is ample evidence of a healthy queen on neighboring frames. More likely, this is a matter of a queen outlaying her workers; the population of young bees is low and they cannot prepare cells as quickly as she can fill them, so she makes another circuit and doubles up. The surplus eggs will be removed and consumed by nurse bees.

photo by Eugene Makovec

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From the President by Grant Gillard

As I sit down to write this article, I've just finished all the crazy church activities surrounding Easter. This weekend I'm speaking at the West Virginia Beekeepers' meeting, joining Debbie Delaney (from the University of Delaware) and Randy Oliver. They asked me to speak on Production Issues (maximizing your honey crop) and Graft-less Queen Rearing (using the Nicot system). What excites me the most is I get to hang out with Randy Oliver! If you've never met him, he's a fireball of energy and passion for beekeeping.

Prior to Easter I was rushing around adding brood boxes and supers to prevent swarming. Spring has "sprung" a whole lot earlier than normal and the hives are full of nectar, brood and so far, no swarm cells. Today I received my second swarm call and everything looks like we are headed toward a fantastic year in beekeeping.

Thankfully the weather has been cooperative and I've been extremely intentional about implementing my plans. It's still a little too early (in my mind) to start queen rearing. The farmers' markets are getting ready to start and I've been spending every evening working on equipment.

My wonderful wife keeps asking, "Anything I can do to help?" but most of what I'm doing is that tedious activity of scraping out old comb and installing new foundation. More and more I'm leaning toward foundationless frames (no foundation, just popsicle sticks) and I'm moving toward an aggressive frame rotation this year. Nancy would give me a lot more help but I'm competing with a new season of American Idol and Dancing With the Stars!

So what are your plans for this year? Have you given any thoughts to expanding your operation? How many hives do you want at the end of this summer? Are you looking for new yards or a different location? Is this the year you try your hand at queen rearing and over-winter some nucs for next spring?

One of my goals this year is to keep better, more detailed records of my beekeeping activities. This means I've got to write things down instead of the futility of trying to remember what needs

to be done. I've looked at a variety of hive inspection sheets and with all my different bee yards, I've gravitated to a simple system of note taking. Here's how my plan works:

On each visit to a bee yard, I bring a spiral notebook on which I write three things. I make notes on individual hives (all my hives are numbered) and I record (1) what I observe, if anything out of the ordinary strikes me. Sometimes I just note the hive is weak, good or strong. (2) The second thing I record is what I need to do the next time I come to that yard, and (3) what equipment I need to bring with me on that next trip.

This notebook tends to get sticky with propolis and my handwriting is fast and furious ... and sloppy. So at the end of the day, I take this notebook to my office and legibly re-write the notes in a second notebook. With the day's activities still fresh in my mind, I can write more leisurely and fill in some of the details on what I need to do next. Every yard has its own notebook. Once I transfer the information, I tear out the sticky pages from the first notebook and throw them away.

Then the next time I'm going out to that particular yard, I can pick up the notebook and review what I need to be doing and what equipment I need to bring along. There is nothing more frustrating than going out to a remote bee yard and realizing I failed to bring the equipment I need to get the job done. Then I'm faced with a trip back home, wasted time and wasted gas.

I continue to wrestle with the perceived need to join the 21st Century and computerize my data. But my brain just doesn't make that leap to adapt to today's technology. The beauty of beekeeping is how it allows us beekeepers to work with what works for us.

All the best,
Grant



Monsanto musings: Time for a dialogue? by Eugene Makovec

Back when I worked for a health food company, it seemed that every couple of months something came across my desk touting a new vitamin, herb or other "superfood" -- each purportedly capable of preventing or curing everything from psoriasis to cancer.

I now produce my own wonder drug, HONEY (actually several if you count pollen, propolis, royal jelly ...). At one of our state meetings a couple of years ago, we were treated to a lecture by Dr. Ron Fessenden, author of "The Honey Revolution", on the many virtues of honey. He also directed a healthy dose of scorn toward its modern nemesis, high fructose corn syrup.

I remember telling someone at the time, "Boy, I kind of wish the corn growers were meeting in the next room, because I'd love to hear their side of the story."

I'm certainly no fan of HFCS, but my point is, every industry has its own story to tell. I happen to believe ours, as I'm sure most beekeepers do, but that doesn't make everyone else's wrong.

I mulled this over last month as I waited with some 50 beekeepers to tour Monsanto's Chesterfield campus prior to our Spring Meeting down the road.

The recent renaissance in backyard beekeeping has brought an influx of nontraditional beekeepers. We are no longer a bunch of old guys in overalls. We are now doctors and lawyers, engineers and architects, homeschoolers and horticulturists. Oh, and did I mention (gasp!) women?

Perhaps more significant are the motivations of these newbees. While some may have joined us for the usual reasons (Dad or Grandpa was a beekeeper back on the farm, I'm not seeing bees in my garden anymore, etc.), quite a few have taken up the craft as part of the whole grow local/organic gardening movement. And a sizeable contingent is a direct result of the media frenzy surrounding Colony Collapse Disorder, the "disappearing of the bees". I have heard many a novice beekeeper make the statement, "I want to help save the bees!"

But save them from what -- that is the question. As the media piled on the CCD story, everyone looked for someone to blame. If modern journalists have one shared philosophy, it's a disdain for Big Business: Big Oil, Big Pharma, Big Insurance, Big Banks -- all are routinely blamed for various ills that plague society. So in the search for whatever,

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Record crowd attends Spring Meeting in Chesterfield

First meeting in St. Louis in nine years

by Eugene Makovec

"I am not a beekeeper." **May Berenbaum, PhD**, made this statement several times in her talk entitled *Bees and Pesticides*. About five minutes in, it became apparent that I am not a chemist. Just to illustrate, there were two main things I took home from this lecture:

- The molecular structure of quercetin, a flavonoid present in most plant nectars, looks remarkably like a dog (my own observation, not hers).
- "Beekeeping practices that replace honey with sucrose or high fructose corn syrup may compromise detoxification and immunity." This was printed on one of her slides, and was backed up by numerous other slides, many of them loaded with utterly incomprehensible (at least to me) graphs and charts, and scores of previously unheard of (at least by me) chemical names and molecular structures -- none of which were as cute as quercetin.

But in all seriousness, there was a lot of good stuff in this talk, some of which I actually understood. Every time I heard her say, "... and this is just astonishing!", I paid extra close attention, usually to my benefit.

Dr. Berenbaum, University of Illinois entomologist, made the point that one of the great advances in beekeeping was the invention of the centrifugal honey extractor, which allowed us for the first time to reuse our combs. However, she added, there were at that time no fat-soluble pesticides in use -- but that is certainly not the case now, when in fact every major class of insecticide, whether farmer- or beekeeper-applied, is absorbable by honeycomb; indeed, lab testing of used combs reveals an average of six of these chemicals.

As for those beekeeper-applied pesticides, she said it's important to understand that when dealing with arthropod pests like varroa, "their clock ticks faster", meaning that with a short life-span, high reproductive rate and intensive selection pressure, they can evolve very quickly and develop resistance to many of the chemicals we throw at them.

While May's lecture was extremely well-researched, and her dry wit on display throughout, there were times when it was a bit difficult to follow by us simple beekeepers. At the end of the segment, when questions were slow in coming, she asked, "Was it too much chemistry?" This drew a polite laugh from the audience of about 150, at least half of whom were still awake.

But the lecture was not without controversy. A Columbia-area beekeeper later argued vehemently that quercetin in fact resembled a cat! Jeez, they'll let anyone into these meetings ...

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May Berenbaum

Steve Harris named 2011 Missouri Beekeeper of the Year

by Eugene Makovec

Steve Harris was introduced as Missouri's 2011 Beekeeper of the Year at the MSBA's annual Spring Meeting in Chesterfield.

It's a little hard to believe Steve has not received this honor before now. He has been our Eastern Director (now renamed Northeastern Director) for as many years as I can remember, and has been heavily involved in the organization, doing everything



from selling raffle tickets years ago to more recently coordinating shirt and hat printing and distribution.

Several years ago, Steve headed down to Sedalia to help out with our State Fair booth, got hooked, and has been an integral part of its planning and operation ever since.

But most people probably know him as that bald-headed, wise-cracking guy who wears the funny hats and somehow always seems to win the big prize at the end of the raffle! So yeah, we kind of hate him for that, but we love him, too! Congratulations, Steve!



Steve Harris reacts along with his wife, Addah, as he is announced as 2012 Missouri Beekeeper of the Year.



MSBA FALL MEETING PREVIEW

October 26-27, 2012, with special activities on October 25

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Speakers include:

Orley R. "Chip" Taylor, Jr., PhD - Professor, Insect Ecology, University of Kansas

Ph.D., University of Connecticut

"My research efforts have included studies of reproductive isolating mechanisms in sulfur butterflies, reproductive and life history patterns in plants, comparative biology of European and Neotropical African honey bees and migratory behavior of monarch butterflies. Work in progress utilizes genetic markers to quantify the interactions between invading Neotropical African bees and resident European bees in North America. These investigations should clarify why, even after 40 years of hybridization, Neotropical African bees have retained their genetic integrity. Monarch Watch [www.MonarchWatch.org], an outreach program I initiated in 1992, now occupies much of my time."

Meeting lectures to include: *Biology of Swarms, Saga of the African Bees*

Gary Ross - retired US Navy Officer and retired Kansas State Bee Inspector, former Missouri State Fair Honey Judge

Meeting lectures to include: *The Big Five Diseases and Pests* (American Foulbrood, European Foulbrood, Nosema, Varroa Mites and Small Hive Beetle). *Preparing Honey for Competition*

Break-out Sessions

Bernie Andrews - How to Make Comb Honey

Dadant - How to Make Creamed Honey

Michael Godfrey - How to Make Honey Beer

Jan Amos - Making Divisions

Chip Taylor - Monarch Butterflies

Bob Owen - Machinery Needed to Build Hive Bodies

Fred Meder - Widgets & Gadgets - Neat Things in the Beekeeper's Toolbox

Art & Vera Gelder - Agri-Tourism

Yvonne Von Der Ahe - Products From the Hive

Gary Ross - Bring your honey sample, and Gary will "test" it.



Winners of the various contests at the Spring Meeting pose with their award ribbons. Yvonne Von Der Ahe, front row, second from right, cleaned up in several categories.



Musings on the Monsanto - Jerry Hayes connection

continued from page 2

or whoever, was hurting the heroic honeybee, what better culprit than Big Agriculture, with its fertilizer runoff, its genetically modified "frankenfoods", and its new, systemic pesticides?

And if you're going after Big Ag, what better place to start than Monsanto, the Biggest Ag of them all? After all, this St. Louis-based agri-chemical giant (\$11.8 Billion annual sales) was built on pesticides, herbicides and GMOs.

Against that backdrop, renowned beekeeper Jerry Hayes, American Bee Journal columnist and Florida Apiary Inspector, announced a few months ago that he was leaving the latter post to take a position with ... Monsanto! The corporation had just purchased Beeologics, an Israeli firm using cutting-edge RNAi technology to fight viruses in honeybees, and Jerry was brought on board to help out.

This was good for Monsanto, and good for Jerry, but the apicultural community roiled with controversy. Had Jerry gone over to the dark side? I heard leaders of two local clubs express doubt that anything good could come of this.

As luck would have it, we had Jerry scheduled to speak at our Spring Meeting in March, and not only did he honor that commitment, but with Monsanto right down the road, he arranged a tour specially designed for us. Of the company's 14,000 annual visitors (mostly American farmers), we would be the first beekeeping group ever to walk through a Monsanto facility.

And the company put its best foot forward, providing us lunch and a meet-and-greet with Jerry, Chemistry Lead Tom Adams, and

Steve Padgett of the Corporate Strategy Group. The team clearly felt that a little public relations could go a long way. As Padgett said, "Those of us who put our career in agriculture see ourselves as good

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guys, but we understand that there are those who have a different perspective."

He continued, "When we bought Beeologics – we don't know anything about bees, right? ... That's why we have Jerry."

"Bees are really, really important to our business," added Adams, noting that Monsanto actually buys hives to place in its canola fields.

As for Jerry, he sees nothing but upside in this. When Monsanto purchased Beeologics, he said, they "didn't have to keep the bee part," but realizing that "honeybees are the keystone" in plant pollination, they "stepped up and said we have technology that can help you."

And he sees Beeologics' virus research as just the first step, with varroa the ultimate target.

As for joining a corporation that many beekeepers see as the enemy, Jerry has no qualms. While people have concerns about the introduction of new farming technologies, "a billion pounds of chemicals" have been taken out of the environment due to technology from people like Monsanto. And, he said, none of the products Monsanto produces have been shown to harm honeybees.

In early March, as I was forwarding information about the meeting and the Monsanto tour, a friend of mine in the organization replied with alarm, asking why we would "give [Monsanto] any semblance of legitimacy" by setting foot inside their facility. When I mentioned this to Jerry Hayes during a break in the meeting, he smiled and nodded and said, "That's why we need a dialogue."

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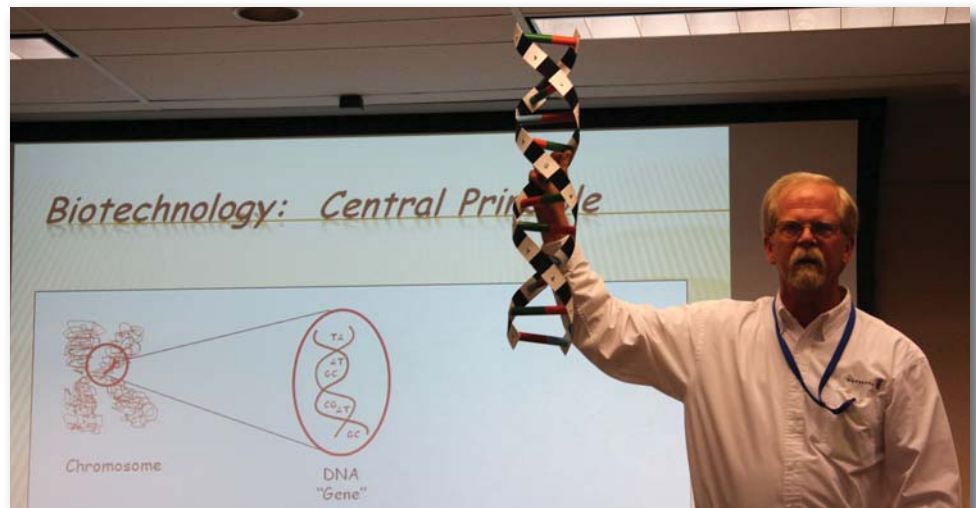
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Tom Hoogheem, one of several Monsanto tour guides, gives beekeepers a brief primer on the science behind genetically modified crop development. photo by Eugene Makovec



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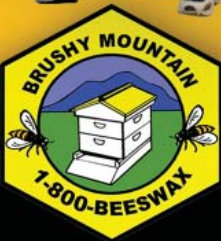
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From the Queen Chair by Cathy Misko

Our Chairperson Joyce was unable to come to our Spring Meeting in St. Louis and we had big shoes to fill. One just can never know how much work Joyce does unless you try to do what she does. Dolores Vivian and I got to experience first hand how much work is put into keeping the hospitality room open and for our Friday night Queen's Reception. Joyce, we missed you every hour! Thank you Dolores for your endless hours and showing me the ropes. Thank you MSBA for providing such a beautiful and convenient room for all of us.

I want at this time to thank our 2012 Honey Queen Megan Allen for her beautiful Patriotic Tribute and helping us with our meeting. Some of you already know that the Missouri State Beekeepers fund the Honey Queen to be our ambassador and promote beekeeping, honey, and education about our State Insect "The Honey Bee!"

A BIG "Thank You" to everyone for being so generous to bid on the Silent Auction and the St. Patrick's Basket, and to give donations in support of our Queen Program. It appears Spring has come early, and as you are penciling in your schedules, please remember we are here to help, and the Honey Queen is excited to promote your events, provide education in your schools, and finally promote your bees and their products! We are looking forward to your inquiries. Happy Spring!



Give a day to MSBA

by Dolores Vivian

Our Missouri State Beekeepers Association State Fair Booth rent at Sedalia has already been paid for 2012. It's time to plan ahead. The dates are August 9th thru August 19th. That's 11 full days to schedule volunteers to represent our club and help fair-goers understand the importance of the HONEY BEE and sell the wonderful products they produce.

Volunteers needed

Please call Dean Sanders at 816-456-4683 or Steve Harris at 314/805-6451 to set up a day and time to volunteer to help in our booth this year. So, as you're planning your summer vacation, "Give a Day to MSBA!"

Watch for more information in your June newsletter about entering your honey and beeswax products for competition.

**Spring Meeting wrap-up from Chesterfield**

Jerry Hayes

continued from page 3

Dr. Berenbaum was just one of several top-notch speakers to join us in Chesterfield last month. It was the first meeting we've had in the St. Louis area since 2003, and drew upon the area's large beekeeping population to set a modern record of about 175 attendees, topping last Spring's 160 in Branson.

The largest draw this time around was **Jerry Hayes**, American Bee Journal columnist and newly hired apiculture expert at Monsanto Company -- this after their recent acquisition of honeybee research start-up Beeologics, a company that he had previously served in an advisory role. As expected, the Monsanto angle was the subject of some concern among beekeepers, many of whom associate it (rightly or wrongly) with all that is wrong with today's agriculture.

And Jerry met these concerns head-on. "Honeybees are the model" for toxicity tests in new products," he said, and none of the products that Monsanto produces have been shown to harm them. Furthermore, he said, when Monsanto bought Beeologics for the technology, they "didn't have to keep the bee part" -- but they did, and their message to beekeepers is, "We have technology that can help you." Viruses have been the focus of Beeologics' research thus far, but to Jerry, varroa is the ultimate target.

"I'm one of you," he added. "I'm on the inside now."

On the subject of genetically modified crops, it's important to realize that the world's population continues to grow and change, and feeding them will be a challenge. "If the Chinese and Indians ate as much meat as we do," he noted, "there's not enough corn in the world" to feed them.

Jerry talked, among other things, on the subject of *Pollinator Decline*, and not surprisingly focused on honeybee colony mortality, which has fluctuated in the 29-36% range over the past five years. He listed the following reasons:

- Globalization and homogenization of pests and diseases
- Production agriculture

*continued next page***THE HAWLEY HONEY COMPANY**

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Spring Meeting wrap-up from Chesterfield

continued from previous page

- Production beekeeping
- Pesticide misuse (by farmers and beekeepers)
- Loss of productive locations
- Entomophobia
- Low honey and pollination prices

David Burns gave a number of interesting talks, including one on *The Sticky Subject of Propolis*. The word "propolis", he said, comes from the Greek "pro polis", meaning "before city". Ancient beekeepers observed the wall of propolis that bees built at the entrance to their "city", as a means of defense against outside germs.

Bees use propolis in a variety of ways, including as an antiseptic agent. Colgate makes a toothpaste that incorporates propolis for gum health.

The bees sometimes imprison small hive beetles in little propolis traps between frames, which are unfortunately opened when we open the hives and move things around.

David also gave a wholly entertaining banquet address, keeping his audience rolling with laughter about his experiences as a beekeeper and a supplier of queens, package bees and equipment.

Greg Hunt, Ph.D., Purdue University entomologist, gave a somewhat disturbing account of a study on bee exposure to the "planting dust" from corn containing systemic neonicotinoid pesticides. The neonics have been a topic of spirited discussion as to whether they play a role in colony collapse disorder or are a general danger to pollinators.

There have been a couple of widely-disseminated studies pointing to a link between the neonicotinoids Clothianidin and Imidacloprid and pollinator mortality, though most research seems to suggest that they have played no role in CCD.

Dr. Hunt noted that talcum powder is added to corn planters to improve flow, and that some of the pesticide ends up in the cloud of "planter dust" that follows the planter down the field. The farmers sometimes exhaust the remainder of this dust to the air when finished planting, and this exhaust has been found to contain high levels of neonics. In the Purdue study, four hives were placed "right at the edge" of the corn rows, and suffered the effects of exposure to this dust. In the worst instance, there were several hundred bees dead on the ground near the hives, but it rained the next day and the colonies appeared to recover.

In response to a question about genetically modified organisms and other technologies, Greg said, "I think what Monsanto is doing here in St. Louis is great." But, he said, "It's complicated.... I think the GMO crops have actually prevented a lot of bees being killed by reducing pesticide use ... but now they're adding the pesticides back in." He also expressed doubts as to the wisdom of "putting these seed treatments on our corn ... just to get an additional 1-5 bushels per acre."



David Burns talks with Mary Ellen Raymond during a break.

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Strange spring can bring golden opportunity by Chris Gibbons

When I began beekeeping over 13 years ago, we would order mated queens from Texas and California in fairly large amounts. We could usually get a first batch of 50 by the first week of April. I have always wanted to breed my own queens and have dabbled with it over the years. I have certainly made many splits with swarm cells as finding the queen becomes harder and harder. Hint, if there are capped queen cells and fresh eggs you can split and make sure each half gets at least one good cell. Then give each an empty brood box or super. If the queen is still there she will kill the cells in her half once she has been given space.

This year, with our Texas like weather, I am breeding my own queens for increase and I encourage all keepers to give it a try. I am doing this more out of necessity than for fun. Last year I was blessed to have been able to capture year-old queens from a beekeeper who splits and requeens everything with cells. Boy, did I learn a lot. This year I worked for a nuc producer in Florida. I was totally impressed with their commitment to new equipment and new stock. I also learned so much from the experience to bring home to our operation.

The bees have really been exploding in the last couple of weeks. Before I left for Florida, I fed all my hives and put extra brood boxes on most hives to buy time. I had capped queen cells in a three story hive, all deeps, on March 25. So don't sleep in and don't miss a truly golden opportunity.

Bee involved: Bee Informed Survey — Your input is needed

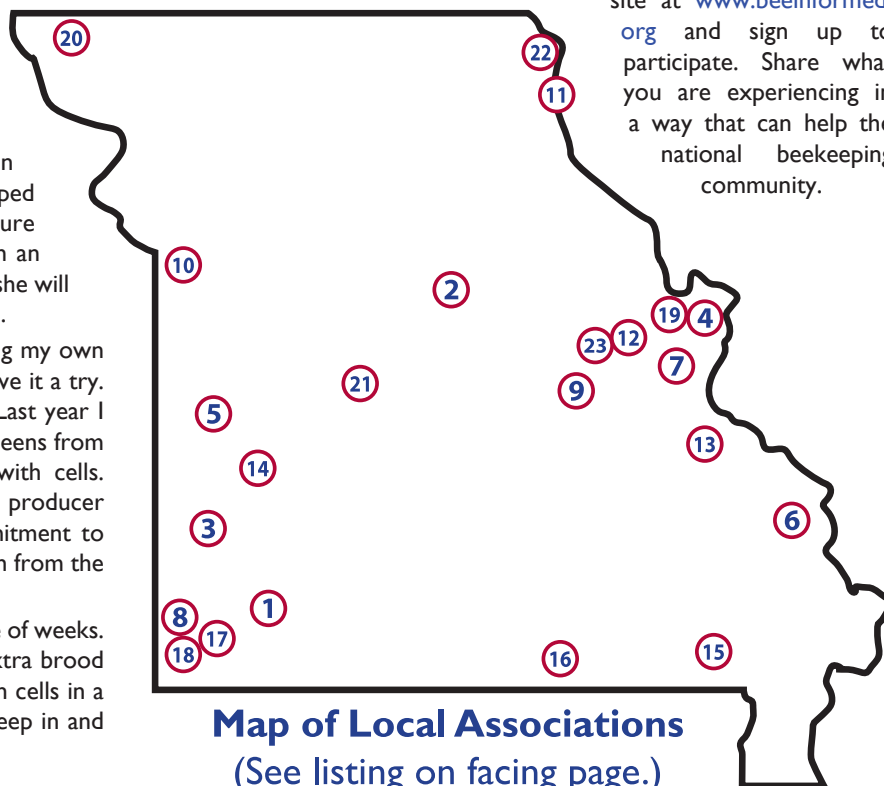
Submitted by Ed Levi

The Bee Informed Partnership needs your help! Take the time now to participate in the second annual Bee Informed Survey, which is being conducted from March 30 to April 20, 2012. This will be the second year the survey asks beekeepers to answer what they do and how well their colonies survived the winter. Last year's survey helped to identify many areas to watch and can help all beekeepers adjust their management to increase winter survivability. Visit www.beeinformed.org to see the details of last year's survey.

For example: Did you know the northern states lost an average of 40 percent (northeast was particularly bad) while the south reported a 25-percent loss? Did you know 61 percent of respondents still do not use any Varroa mite products to control our number one enemy? More colonies were lost when kept near corn and cranberries. The survey has yielded hundreds of such comparisons, all reported by beekeepers throughout the United States. Comparisons that include treatments, management practices and regional conditions. Every beekeeper can benefit from this data.

The more beekeepers who participate the better the information! It is confidential, easy to complete online and the results are developed quickly. The new information is released about every two weeks for anyone to see. The survey needs thousands of beekeepers if the information is going to show meaningful management trends that help winter survival.

Get involved by participating in this year's survey. Visit the Bee Informed Partnership Web site at www.beeinformed.org and sign up to participate. Share what you are experiencing in a way that can help the national beekeeping community.



Map of Local Associations
(See listing on facing page.)



Local Beekeepers Associations

1 Beekeepers Association of the Ozarks

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

2 Boone Regional Beekeepers Association

3rd Sunday of month, 3:00 p.m., Columbia Insurance
Group, 2102 Whitegate Dr. (back door), Columbia
President Jim Duever 573-254-3373
www.boonebees.org

3 Busy Bee Club

4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Cedar County
Health Center, Owens Mill Road, Stockton
Neal Lee 417-276-3090, Neil Brunner 314-276-4252
grnthumb@alltel.net

4 Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association

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

5 Golden Valley Beekeepers

2nd Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m. (but varies)
Henry County Courthouse, Clinton MO
Contact Kathy Murphy 660-678-5171
murftk@copper.net

6 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

7 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

8 Joplin Area Beekeepers Association

Last Tue. of each month, 7 pm, SM Bank Community
Building (7th and Duquesne Rd), Joplin
Steve Davis, President 620-202-0232

9 Mid Missouri Beekeepers

3rd Sunday of each month, 2 pm, St. James Tourist Ctr.
Charlotte Wiggins, President
charlotte@bluebirdgardens.com

10 Midwestern Beekeepers Association

Nov-March, 2nd Sunday of each month, 2:30 p.m.
April-Oct, 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
(Schedule varies; please call first to confirm.)
Bass Pro Shop, Independence, Conservation Room
Andy Nowachek, President 913-438-5397

11 Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association

Last Tuesday of Month in Quincy, IL
Contact Bernie Andrew 217-938-4975

12 Missouri Valley Beekeepers Association

3rd Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Location varies, call contact number below if unsure
President Calvin Brandt cvbrandt@landolakes.com

13 Parkland Beekeepers

3rd Tuesday of month, 7pm, Ozark Federal Savings
President Jim Johnson 573-330-6498 or 573-330-6499

14 Pomme de Terre Beekeepers

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

15 SEMO Honey Producers

2nd Thursday of month, Poplar Bluff Extension Office
Contact Ernie Wells 573-429-0222
wells.ernie@gmail.com

16 South Central Missouri Beekeepers Association

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

17 Southern MO Beekeepers of Monett "MOBees")

3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
United Methodist Church, Hwy 37 NW of Monett
Leon Riggs, President 417-235-5053

18 Southwest Missouri Beekeepers Association

1st Tuesday of month, Neosho High School FFA Bldg
Contact Glenn W. Smith 417-548-2255

19 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

20 Northwest Missouri Bee Busters

1st Monday of odd months, 7:00 p.m.
511 4th Street, Conception Junction, MO 64434
Gerald Auffert, President 660-944-2535

21 Lake of the Ozarks Beekeepers

3rd Saturday of month, 1:00 p.m.
UMC Extension Office, 100 E. Newton, Versailles MO
Contact Russell Kasnick 573-372-3122

22 Northeast Missouri Beekeepers Association

1st Friday of month, 6:30 pm Running Fox Elementary
(3 miles south of Wayland) Acting President
Randy Ewart 573-248-5561 rewart@centurytel.net

23 Gasconade Region Bee Keepers

2nd Tuesday 7:00, First State Comm. Bank, Owensville
President Rodney Angell 573-259-5811
2224 Nowack, Rosebud MO bee143@fidnet.com

See state map on facing page for approximate geographic locations.

Can't find a local near you? Contact our President or Vice President for assistance in starting a new one!

**MSBA Membership Application**

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____
 My local association is _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone Number _____ Email _____

New!

Join or renew at
www.mostatebeekeepers.org
 and use your credit card
 or PayPal!

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 ☐ **Amount Enclosed \$** _____
 Family Membership \$20.00 ☐ Make check payable to: Missouri State Beekeepers Association
 Student Membership \$5.00 ☐ Mail to: P.O. Box 448 Oak Grove, MO 64075

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

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL		ASSOCIATION MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION		SAVE 25%	
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(PRICES GOOD THROUGH DEC. 31, 2012)		Canada	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. - \$34.25	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yrs. - \$66.25	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Yrs. - \$97.00
Return to: American Bee Journal		Foreign	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. - \$43.25	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yrs. - \$83.25	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Yrs. - \$120.00
51 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341					

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Honey Queen report by Megan Allen

Happy April, fellow beekeepers,

The weather has been unbelievably spring-like and everything seems to be running ahead of schedule. The grass is growing, the flowers are blooming, the trees are budding ... and the bees are buzzing!

I have been busy watching my mom put her bee boxes and frames together for the past couple of months. (Mine came assembled.) Today is sunny and nice, so my mom and I will be painting our hive boxes today in preparation for the arrival of our bees in May.

I attended two wonderful events since my last letter. The Spring State Meeting in St. Louis was very educational. There were several seminars that were really informative and I know I had trouble deciding which to attend.

Some of the classes included how to teach kids about Honeybees and how to make your own pollen patties.

I also toured the butterfly gardens while I was in St. Louis. Butterflies are the number two pollinator. Of course our state insect ... the honey bee ... is number one.

I also attended a beginning beekeeping class in Overland Park, Kansas, which was hosted by the Midwestern Beekeepers Association of Missouri and the Northeastern Beekeepers Association of Kansas. I was told there were over 200 people attending who were interested in becoming beekeepers or learning more about bees. There were a lot of people there to learn and they asked a lot of great questions. I helped by putting on a beekeeping suit to demonstrate some of the necessary equipment required for beekeeping.

I was really happy to get to meet some youths who were beginner beekeepers or wanting to learn more about honey bees before getting their bees. I thought that the presentations were very easily communicated and there were also very wonderful informational beekeeping binders prepared for everyone to take home with them so they would have all the information they would need.

We enjoyed donuts and danishes for breakfast and a wonderful box lunch, with cookies included, along with a variety of beverages to choose from. There was also a table that had beekeeping magazines and equipment catalogs along with various other information on the honey bee. At the end of the day scholarships were given to several of the youths which included basic beekeeping equipment. The youths who were chosen will be mentored by seasoned beekeepers from the clubs for a year to help them learn what they need to know to become good beekeepers.

In April I will be going to Hermann to help with the grand opening of their historic 1880s feed mill. I will be there to talk about bees and pass out honey sticks to the kids. I am really looking forward to it, so if your weekend is free, and you want to attend a really wonderful event ... take the road to Hermann on April 21st.

Megan Allen

2012 Missouri State Honey Queen



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Columbia, Columbia MO 65211

Missouri State Beekeepers Association

P.O. Box 448 Oak Grove, MO 64075

www.mostatebeekeepers.org

I thought at first that I was following a honeybee around these crabapple blossoms, but something looked different about it ...

So I whipped out my new Missouri Bee Identification Guide (courtesy of Garrett Blackwell), and it turns out it's actually a digger bee, a.k.a. mining bee (genus Andrena, species a little tougher to nail down). According to the guide, this solitary ground-nesting bee has a black or dull metallic body, often with brown or reddish hairs; with pollen carrying hairs on upper parts of its hind legs and the side of its thorax (thus appearing to carry pollen in its "armpit").

Mining bees are very abundant in the spring, as they are one of the first bees to emerge each season.

photo by Eugene Makovec

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

Honey Trading Post: This is a free service to members wishing to buy or sell honey on a wholesale basis. Just email or call the editor with contact information and whether you are buying or selling. Pricing is between the interested parties.