



Missouri State Beekeepers Association  
PO Box 7514 Columbia, Missouri 65205  
[www.mostatebeekeepers.org](http://www.mostatebeekeepers.org)

**April 2015**

Eugene Makovec  
Editor  
[editor@mostatebeekeepers.org](mailto:editor@mostatebeekeepers.org)

**Church and State and Agriculture:** An American flag braves the late winter breeze between the Missouri State Capitol and the spire of St. Peter Catholic Church. Astride the Capitol dome stands Ceres, Roman goddess of agriculture.

A committee of five MSBA members met in Jefferson City on March 17-18 to testify before House and Senate Agriculture Committees in support of a bill to relax stringent Health Department regulations on the sale of honey. See story on page 7.

photo by Eugene Makovec

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## From the President by Valerie Duever

Wow, we have been so busy the past couple of months that I almost forgot about the newsletter. Thank goodness Eugene is organized!

Welcome to our newbees. Many talented folks have taken the time to teach beginning and advanced beekeeping classes all around the state. During your local association meetings, please be sure to thank them for sharing their knowledge, experiences and wisdom that encourages others to become beekeepers.

In case you haven't been following along, there are some exciting events taking place in Jefferson City with what is affectionately known as "the honey bill". House Bill 1093 (HB1093) and Senate Bill 500 (SB500) were both introduced and read over the past month. Basically, both of these bills are requesting changes to the current laws requiring either a commercial kitchen or a processing facility for any honey bottled that is not sold at a Farmer's Market. Eugene has been providing updates as this bill works its way through our legislative process. A big THANK YOU to all the folks that are working so hard on making sure this stays alive and continues to stay in front of those that can help make this change.

I was able to meet with the Dean of CAFNR, who happens to be an entomologist, as well as two other professors and two gentlemen from University of Missouri Extension, to discuss the possibility of developing a certification program for beekeepers. It is in the very early stages, but we are all very excited at the possibility of this taking place. Stay tuned and we will help update you as things progress.

The two Extension folks I mentioned, Travis Harper and Jim Quinn, are truly friends of the beekeeping community. They were able to obtain a grant, in partnership with the Missouri Vegetable Growers Council, that is helping to pay for beginning and advanced beekeeping classes around the state. Travis is a beekeeper himself and has always been very positive and supportive of any efforts that involve providing education to potential beekeepers. Jim is an incredibly gifted grant writer ... what a great combination. With their guidance and support, we will get some type of certification program together but it might take a few years before this project is completed.

Speaking of grants, we are learning about a number of ways we can fund both education and research in the world of honey and bees. One of our southeastern beekeepers is working on a grant that incorporates nectar-rich cover crops with traditional agricultural crops, benefiting both the farmer and the honeybee. Another researcher in the same area is working on a grant to cover the cost of flags so folks that crop dust will be able to see and avoid hives while they are doing their job.

It makes me very excited to see how we all work together ... just like our bees do in their own little hives.

April will be buzzing with package bees being delivered, nucs being created and the flowers starting to open.

May will hopefully be warm and sunny, providing lots of nectar and pollen to our bees. It will also be a great time to purchase a nuc or two.

And June should be rocking and rolling, with everything in full bloom. Don't forget to celebrate Pollinator's Week (June 13 thru 20th). Actually, just keep an eye on our MSBA website calendar for upcoming events ... and let us know if you have something to add to the calendar.

I will be reaching out to local associations to make plans to attend one of their meetings. I want to personally meet and greet every local association on their turf ... I believe we are up to 34 at this writing.

Let's see ... what else? ... We are still finalizing the plans for the fall conference but that will be determined by early April, so watch the calendar for more information. We are thinking late October and in Mid Missouri area. If you have ideas on topics you would like to see presented or covered at this annual conference, let us know.

Finally, I invite you to get involved. Become a committee member. Volunteer to help at the State Fair. Become a mentor for someone that has never kept bees. If you would like more specific ideas, give me a shout. I'm sure we can use your help, regardless of your experience level. And, if you are like me, you get so much more from the experience by just being brave enough to say, "Sure, I can do that!"

Thanks for being a member of the Missouri State Beekeepers Association and I hope you have a wonderful next couple of months.

Valerie



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## Bee colonies, honey prices up in 2014 per USDA

### Missouri produces less per colony, but commands higher price

Released March 20, 2015, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

#### United States Honey Production Up 19 Percent

Honey production in 2014 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 178 million pounds, up 19 percent from 2013. There were 2.74 million colonies producing honey in 2014, up 4 percent from 2013. Yield per colony averaged 65.1 pounds, up 15 percent from the 56.6 pounds in 2013. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 41.2 million pounds on December 15, 2014, up 8 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

#### Record High Honey Prices

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2014 to 216.1 cents per pound, up 1 percent from 214.1 cents per pound in 2013. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2013 crop reflect honey sold in 2013 and 2014. Some 2013 crop honey was sold in 2014, which caused some revisions to the 2013 crop prices.

#### Missouri colonies increase by 20 percent, honey prices by 36 percent

The full USDA report, available at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/PUBS/TODAYRPT/hony0315.pdf>, also provides statistical breakdown per state. Missouri is shown to have approximately 12,000 managed hives (up from 10,000 in 2013), producing an average of 47 pounds per hive (same as 2013), with a selling price of \$3.57 per pound (way up from \$2.62 in 2013). That works out to 564,000 pounds of honey, worth \$2,013,480, produced in this state in 2014!

Note that this report does not include beekeepers managing five or fewer colonies. Given the large influx of new beekeepers over the last several years, it is safe to assume that actual numbers of managed colonies are significantly higher than shown in this report. It may also be that the average production per colony would be slightly lower if these newer beekeepers were included.

## Local clubs announce Queen Rearing workshops

**Three Rivers Beekeepers** holds its annual Queen Rearing Workshop, instructed by Cory Stevens, on Saturday, May 30, from 8 am to 6 pm, at the University of Missouri Extension Center in St. Peters. Cost is \$85. Visit [www.ThreeRiversBeekeepers.com/qrw](http://www.ThreeRiversBeekeepers.com/qrw) for information and registration.

#### **Midwestern Beekeepers**

is holding a Queen Rearing Workshop, also featuring Cory Stevens, on Saturday, May 2, at the Jerry L. Litton Visitor Center in Smithville. For information, see [www.midwesternbeekeepers.org](http://www.midwesternbeekeepers.org), or call Cathy at 660-656-3485. **Note: This class is full.**

#### **Boone Regional Beekeepers**

will hold a Queen Rearing Class featuring Cory Stevens, with two dates to choose from, June 6 or 7. The location is Columbia, and pre-registration is necessary. Contact Marty Comstock for information: [treasurer@boonebees.org](mailto:treasurer@boonebees.org)



Cory Stevens assists students in the grafting of larvae into queen cups at the Three Rivers Beekeepers 2014 Queen Rearing Workshop.



## Fedor Lazutin: Keeping bees with a smile, 1966-2015

by Dr Leo Sharashkin

For many, beekeeping begins with the hives. For others it begins with the bees. For Fedor Lazutin it began with the flowers, and a vision.

Leaving the city in the early 2000's he leased some 300 acres of abandoned agricultural fields sown in forage grasses - a desert in the bees' eyes. His family built a small cabin and started planting hundreds of different species of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers beneficial to the bees.

Fedor wrote in *Keeping Bees With a Smile*: "The magnificent linden trees stand to this very day as a living reminder of the good people who planted them so long ago. What else could serve as such a beautiful memory of a human being?"

When I visited his homestead in 2010 it was hard to believe that the lush landscape drowning in flowers and filled with the buzz of the bees had been a barren old field just a few years earlier. And this was true not only about Fedor Lazutin's acreage. Inspired by his example others had followed suit and created an eco-neighborhood of some eighty families who shared the desire to work together and restore the Earth - just as bees do.

### Beekeeping without sugar or splits

Fedor's beeyard drew visitors from around the world. He never fed his bees sugar, did not treat against disease or parasites, inspected the brood nest only once per year - and joked that it was one time too many. In his hundred beautiful peaked-roof hives, he never had to locate the queen - not even once. In his entire beekeeping career he did not make a single split, relying instead on natural swarming. Many other things we take for granted (like queen excluders or buying bee packages) he had no use for at his apiary.

Fedor brought back the tradition of keeping bees in single-box horizontal hives, and perfected his techniques to a fine art. With the horizontal hive layout, you have access to all frames without having

to lift a super. You can pull honey from one end of the hive without disturbing the brood chamber on the other, minimizing disturbance.

You can even remove old dark comb from the brood chamber without encountering a single bee. To achieve this, early in the season close the entrance of your horizontal hive and open another on the opposite end. The bees will move their brood nest there - closer to the fresh air and the influx of nectar and pollen. Late in the fall, when the bees form the winter cluster, you are able to remove the abandoned old dark comb and the bees won't even notice.

### Natural beekeeping that works

When one of my Ozark neighbors heard that I wanted to follow a similar natural approach with my bees, he had a nervous laugh. "You can't keep bees naturally anymore. I fumigate all my hives every fall, and even then half of them may not survive until spring. Imagine what will happen if you don't treat!"

However, my own experiences with horizontal hives and natural beekeeping are those of healthy bees and joy. Swarm traps work remarkably well, and horizontal hives are easy enough for my 5-year-old boy to manage. I am very grateful to Fedor Lazutin for introducing me to *Keeping Bees With a Smile* and the natural methods. I am in touch with beekeepers the world over who share this sentiment.

### Spreading the word

A bee in the hive works until the very last moment contributing to the common wealth and perpetuation of her colony. Very similarly, Fedor Lazutin continued to travel and inspire others with his bee-friendly beekeeping - for as long as his wings could carry him.

In October 2014 - just four months before his passing - Fedor came all the way from Russia to Missouri and presented to hundreds of people across the state. His talks at the Missouri State Beekeepers Association conference, at Saint Louis Beekeepers Club meeting, and the two-day comprehensive natural beekeeping course in Rockbridge, Missouri, expanded our understanding of the beekeeping alternatives available to us all.

To celebrate Fedor Lazutin's life work, his comprehensive book *Keeping Bees With a Smile: A Vision and Practice of Natural Apiculture* is now available for only \$25 (save \$10 off the regular price). Visit [www.HorizontalHive.com](http://www.HorizontalHive.com) or mail a check for \$29 (this includes shipping) to Deep Snow Press, HC 73 Box 470, Drury, MO 65638. Discounts good through April 30, 2015.

Dr. Leo Sharashkin lives on a homestead in south-central Missouri where he catches feral swarms and keeps bees treatment-free in a variety of horizontal hives.

Leo is a regular contributor to *American Bee Journal* and teaches natural beekeeping courses around the country. His website (with free hive plans): [www.HorizontalHive.com](http://www.HorizontalHive.com)



Fedor Lazutin in October 2014



The bee-friendly horizontal hives of Fedor Lazutin's design are well-insulated and minimize the keeper's intervention in the life of the bee colony.

Photo by Fedor Lazutin





## Missouri beekeepers lose a beloved friend

The MSBA lost a long-time friend on February 20. **Steve Harris**, of St. Charles, died after a long-term illness.

Steve was long active in St. Louis and Missouri beekeeping circles. He was a past President of the Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association (EMBA), Northeast Regional Director of the MSBA, and a member of Three Rivers Beekeepers. He received Beekeeper of the Year honors from both the EMBA and MSBA, and was a fixture at the Missouri State Fair's MSBA booth.

But Steve was best known for his self-deprecating humor, his swarm stories, his good-natured ribbing of our Honey Queens, and his tireless dedication to the cause. We miss him already.

Steve Harris poses in a fur hat at the MSBA's 2011 Spring Conference in Branson. Sharing in the fun are Dean Sanders, left, and Tim Hyde.



## Oxalic Acid registered by EPA for use against varroa

by Chris Kulhanek, Bee Informed Partnership

<http://beeinformed.org/2015/03/oxalic-acid-registered-by-epa-for-use-against-varroa-mite-on-honey-bees/>

Oxalic acid (CAS #144-62-7) has just been registered by the EPA for use on honey bee colonies here in the US. Oxalic acid has been legal to use on honeybees in Europe and Canada and is a naturally occurring chemical that can be found in a number of plants. It also occurs naturally in honey and is commonly used as wood bleach. A few oxalic acid applications have been registered (per the EPA):

### Application Methods and Labeling

Oxalic Acid will be labeled for application by three different methods:

1. By Solution to Package Bees (Oxalic acid in sugar solution is applied as a spray to the package)
2. By Solution to the Beehives (Oxalic acid in sugar solution is trickled between frames and other spaces)
3. Vapor treatment of Beehives (Oxalic acid dehydrate is heated and the vapor sublimates in the hive).



The most useful application method for side-liner and hobby beekeepers is trickling the oxalic/sugar syrup mixture between the frames. The product label includes important information on dose and personal protection equipment including, but not limited to: gloves, goggles and a respirator. It is particularly important to not breathe in the dust when you are preparing the solution. Be certain to read and follow the label directions to ensure the best results when treating your bees.

Always be sure to monitor your bees for varroa mites so that you know the mite load before you prophylactically treat your colonies. If you treat with the same synthetic chemical at each treatment, this continual exposure may cause the mites to develop resistance to that specific varroacide.

Additionally, treatments can negatively impact honey bee larval development and adult life span and should be applied only after the mite levels have crossed the threshold for treatment. That threshold is different for different operations. It is not likely that mites will develop resistance to a naturally occurring compound such as formic or oxalic acid as these acids desiccate mites and it is difficult to see a resistance developed to this mode of action.

*Editor's note: Additional research, mixing and application information is available at <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/?s=oxalic+acid>*

## Bee Informed Partnership ... National Loss Survey Underway

Beekeepers needed! Thank you for your interest in participating in the National Colony Loss Management Survey organized by the Bee Informed Partnership and sponsored by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Please go to our online survey at <http://10.selectsurvey.net/beeinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=BIP2015> and complete the survey there. It will be live on April 1st and close on April 30th. Please do not complete the survey more than once. Information about past Winter Loss and National Management Surveys and the annual reports can be found online at <http://beeinformed.org/>.

The Colony Loss Survey has evolved from our winter loss survey because last year we found that commercial beekeepers lost 25% of their colonies over the summer, and so we are now starting to monitor and report annual, in addition to winter losses. The National Management Survey is conducted annually in conjunction with the Colony Loss Survey. Designed to take about 30 minutes, the 2 surveys are aimed at looking for relationships between colony losses and colony management (including disease treatment strategies, supplemental feeding, etc.) and/or other factors that may influence colony health (such as colony location, honey production, and forage type). Your participation in this research is voluntary and your responses will be kept confidential. In any publication or presentation resulting from this research, no personally identifiable information will be disclosed.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at [askbeeinformed@gmail.com](mailto:askbeeinformed@gmail.com). Once again thank you for your participation.

Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Project Director, Bee Informed Partnership, University of Maryland

The Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) is a USDA/NIFA funded project with the stated goal of reducing colony losses.





## Bill to deregulate honey sales pending in Missouri legislature

SB 500, HB 1093 find smooth road so far; time is a factor

by Eugene Makovec

Legislation to relax Missouri's stringent regulations on honey sales is currently pending in the legislature, and has garnered enthusiastic support in committee hearings.

Senate Bill 500 was introduced February 24 by Senator Jeanie Riddle (R - Mokane). SB 500 would eliminate the requirement that beekeepers selling honey through third party retailers extract and bottle that honey in a full commercial kitchen. It would also remove the required label statement, "This product has not been inspected by the Department of Health and Senior Services," from home-bottled honey.

An identical House bill, HB 1093, was introduced March 3 by Representative Jay Houghton (R - Martinsburg).

### MSBA testifies in committee

On Tuesday, March 17, a team of five MSBA members traveled to Jefferson City from different parts of the state to testify before the House Agriculture Policy Committee in support of HB 1093. The group consisted of: Eugene Makovec, MSBA Newsletter Editor and President of Three Rivers Beekeepers near St. Louis; Mike McMillen, MSBA Program Director, Columbia; Charlotte Wiggins, MSBA Secretary and Founder of Rolla Bee Club; Cathy Misko, President of Midwestern Beekeepers in Kansas City; and Bruce Snavelly, MSBA Southwestern Director, near Springfield.

On Wednesday the 18th, four of the five (all but Bruce) made it back to Jeff City, on one day's notice, for a rescheduled hearing of SB 500 before the Senate Agriculture, Food Production and Outdoor Resources Committee. That hearing had been set for the prior Wednesday but postponed due to Senator Riddle taking ill.

Both hearings were notable for the complete one-sidedness of the committee members. In each case, no sooner was the bill introduced than members began asking questions like, "Isn't honey, like, the perfect food?", "Doesn't local honey cure allergies?", and "Isn't it true that honey never spoils?" We felt very much like the home team on both days.

In the House hearing, the Committee Chair, Jay Houghton, was the bill's sponsor and introduced the bill to the Committee. Rep. Houghton had not met with any of us, and was not as well versed on the issue as Sen. Riddle. But his opening remarks were along the lines of, "Well, it looks like the Health Department is overstepping its bounds again and we need to rein them in. They've been picking on our small beekeepers with this commercial kitchen requirement, so this bill will take that authority away from them."

After a couple of questions from Committee members, the Vice Chairman asked if anyone wished to speak in support of the bill. The five of us had coordinated our statements beforehand, each keeping to about three minutes with a minimum of redundancy.

After our remarks, the Vice Chairman asked whether anyone wished to speak against the bill. We had considered the possibility that someone from the Department of Health and Senior Services, the folks whose enforcement started all this, might show up in opposition. But to our surprise, a woman stepped forward to register opposition on behalf of two non-governmental health and environmental groups. "I should have worn Kevlar today," she began, to laughter. She then stated that, while everyone agrees that honey is a wonderful food, her objection to the bill was the removal of the "not inspected by" label disclaimer. It's one thing, she argued, for someone to buy something at a farmers' market where they can ask questions of the seller and make judgements based on his/her appearance and cleanliness. But it was her position that, when purchasing a product in a store, people make an assumption that it has been inspected by some government agency, and they need to be aware if that is not the case.

Rep. Linda Black found it odd that honey is singled out for such a label requirement when fresh fruits and vegetables are not. But when the Vice Chairman asked Rep. Houghton why the label requirement was being changed, he was unsure about that part of the bill. Fortunately we were given an opportunity to follow up with "informational testimony", and I explained all the reasons why beekeepers are opposed to that label disclaimer: that it is

*continued on page 9*



The MSBA legislative team stands outside a hearing room following testimony before the House Agriculture Policy Committee on March 17. From left to right: Cathy Misko, Charlotte Wiggins, Eugene Makovec, Mike McMillen and Bruce Snavelly.

# Local Beekeeping Associations in Missouri

- 1 Beekeepers Association of the Ozarks**  
4th Tuesday of each month, 6-9 p.m.  
CH Chub O'Reilly Cancer Center, 2055 South Fremont,  
Springfield MO 65804  
Jeffrey Maddox, President [maddox65804@yahoo.com](mailto:maddox65804@yahoo.com)  
[www.ozarksbeekeepers.org](http://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](http://www.boonebees.org)
- 3 Busy Bee Club**  
4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Cedar County  
Health Center, Owens Mill Road, Stockton  
Neal Lee 417-276-3090, Neil Brunner 314-276-4252
- 4 Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association**  
2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., location  
changes. Bob Sears, President 314-479-9517  
[www.easternmobeekeepers.com](http://www.easternmobeekeepers.com)
- 5 Golden Valley Beekeepers**  
2nd Monday of each month, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Golden Corral, Clinton MO. Tom McCormick, President  
[tomm@goldenvalleybeekeepers.com](mailto:tomm@goldenvalleybeekeepers.com)  
[www.goldenvalleybeekeepers.com](http://www.goldenvalleybeekeepers.com)
- 6 Jackson Area Beekeepers**  
4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
First Presb. of Jackson, 206 E. Washington  
Contact Grant Gillard, [gillard5@charter.net](mailto:gillard5@charter.net), 573-243-6568
- 7 Jefferson County Beekeepers Association**  
2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Hwy B & 21  
Jefferson County Extension Center, Hillsboro  
Contact Marvin Hook 636-274-1759
- 8 Joplin Area Beekeepers Association**  
Last Tue. of each month, 7 pm, SM Bank Community  
Building (7th and Duquesne Rd), Joplin  
Contact Dale Foley 417-850-0285
- 9 Mid Missouri Beekeepers**  
3rd Sunday, 2 pm, Old Train Depot, St. James.  
Contact Don Moore, [dmoore2@centurytel.net](mailto:dmoore2@centurytel.net)  
573-265-8706
- 10 Midwestern Beekeepers Association**  
Most meetings: Fellowship Hall at Graceway, 5460 Blue  
Ridge Cutoff, Kansas City, MO 64133  
Visit [midwesternbeekeepers.org](http://midwesternbeekeepers.org) for calendar  
Pres. Cathy Misko, 660-656-3485 [cathymisko@earthlink.net](mailto:cathymisko@earthlink.net)
- 11 Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association**  
Last Tuesday of Month in Quincy, IL  
Contact Bernie Andrew 217-938-4975
- 12 Missouri Valley Beekeepers Association**  
3rd Monday, 7pm, Union, location varies  
President Calvin Brandt [cvbrandt@landolakes.com](mailto:cvbrandt@landolakes.com)
- 13 Parkland Beekeepers**  
3rd Tuesday of month, 7pm, North College Center,  
Mineral Area College, Park Hills. Pres. Gregg Hitchings  
573-880-2899 [PBA\\_President@mineralarea.edu](mailto:PBA_President@mineralarea.edu)
- 14 Pomme de Terre Beekeepers**  
2nd Thursday 7 pm, Missouri Extension Office, Hermitage  
Contact Rebekah Huddleston [Rebekah\\_421@yahoo.com](mailto:Rebekah_421@yahoo.com)
- 15 SEMO Honey Producers**  
2nd Thursday of month, Church of Christ, Poplar Bluff  
Contact Cory Stevens 573-225-6935  
[wells.ernie@gmail.com](mailto:wells.ernie@gmail.com)
- 16 South Central Missouri Beekeepers Association**  
1st Friday of month, Howell Electric Coop, West Plains  
Monty Wiens, President 417 257-3994
- 17 Southern MO Beekeepers of Monett "MOBees")**  
3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
United Methodist Church, Hwy 37 NW of Monett  
Kevin Young, President 417-847-5464
- 18 Southwest Missouri Beekeepers Assn. of Neosho**  
1st Tuesday of month, Neosho High School FFA Bldg  
Contact Thelma Ross 417-472-3504  
[rtross@jscomm.net](mailto:rtross@jscomm.net)
- 19 Three Rivers Beekeepers**  
3rd Monday, 7pm, University of Missouri Extension,  
260 Brown Rd, St. Peters, [info@threeriversbeekeepers.com](mailto:info@threeriversbeekeepers.com)  
President Eugene Makovec 314-703-7650
- 20 Northwest Missouri Bee Busters**  
2nd Monday of month, location varies  
[nwmobeebusters.blogspot.com](http://nwmobeebusters.blogspot.com)  
[beebusters2012@gmail.com](mailto:beebusters2012@gmail.com)  
Gerald Auffert, President 660-944-2535
- 21 Lake of the Ozarks Beekeepers**  
3rd Saturday of month, 1:00 p.m.  
Square Deals Ice Cream Shop, Versailles  
Contact Garrett Blackwell 573-374-7402
- 22 Northeast Missouri Beekeepers Association**  
1st Friday of month, 7 pm, Clark County Courthouse,  
Lower level, Kahoka (location may vary)  
(3 miles south of Wayland) Contact Randy Ewart  
573-248-5561 [rewart@centurytel.net](mailto:rewart@centurytel.net)
- 23 Gasconade Region Beekeepers**  
2nd Tuesday 7:00, First State Comm. Bank, Owensville  
Pres. Chris Bilbrey 573-692-0698 [twaaace01@fidnet.com](mailto:twaaace01@fidnet.com)  
[gasconaderegionbeekeepers@hotmail.com](mailto:gasconaderegionbeekeepers@hotmail.com)
- 24 St. Louis Beekeepers**  
4th Tuesday 6:30, Schlafly Bottleworks  
[contact@saintlouisbeekeepers.com](mailto:contact@saintlouisbeekeepers.com)  
[www.saintlouisbeekeepers.com](http://www.saintlouisbeekeepers.com)
- 25 Western Missouri Beekeepers**  
2nd Tuesday 6:30, Moor-View Community Room, Nevada  
Caroline Phillips, President 417-321-3587  
[bcphillips81@gmail.com](mailto:bcphillips81@gmail.com)
- 26 Meramec Valley Beekeepers**  
First Sunday 2 pm, Peace Lutheran Church in Sullivan  
Contact Sam Elia 573-732-5597 [samnora1@gmail.com](mailto:samnora1@gmail.com), or  
Laurie Rose at [laurierose1219@yahoo.com](mailto:laurierose1219@yahoo.com)
- 27 Quad County Beekeepers**  
1st Tuesday, 7:00 pm, Missouri Extension Office, Troy  
Contact Fred Meder (573) 760-2574  
[quadcountybeekeepers.com](http://quadcountybeekeepers.com)
- 28 North Central MO Beekeepers Association**  
1st Monday, Area Career Center, Macon, 7:00 pm  
Contact Bill George (660) 646-3354, [www.ncmobees.org](http://www.ncmobees.org)
- 29 Bees Alive**  
(Springfield area) [www.beesaliveclub.com](http://www.beesaliveclub.com)  
1st Thursday, 7pm, Empire Bank, Highlandville  
Dan Barton, [dannyohboy@hotmail.com](mailto:dannyohboy@hotmail.com)
- 30 Wright County Beekeepers**  
2nd Thursday, Laclede Electric building, Hartville, 7 pm  
Rick Bledsoe, Contact 417-741-7466  
[wrightcountybeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:wrightcountybeekeepers@gmail.com)

(continued next page)



# Local Beekeeping Associations in Missouri

(continued from previous page)

## 31 Rolla Bee Club

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

## 32 Swarm Chasers

% MO Dept. of Conservation,  
701 McCarthy Dr., St. Joseph  
Contact Shannon Holcomb 816-261-8647  
[holcomb\\_shannon@yahoo.com](mailto:holcomb_shannon@yahoo.com)

## 33 EZ Beekeeping

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

## 34 Mark Twain Beekeepers

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

See our interactive club map on the website at: <http://batchgeo.com/map/e64a9d35b439c5309794f4bea8516f333>

## Honey Bill out of committee, heads for floor vote in Senate

*continued from page 7*

unnecessary due to the inherently safe nature of honey; that it implies something possibly unsafe about our product; and that it places Missouri honey at a disadvantage on the store shelf next to out-of-state or even foreign honey that is not required to carry the same warning.

This led to a discussion of Chinese honey, which gave me an opportunity to talk about that country's record of adulteration and dangerous chemicals, and to suggest that perhaps the Health Department's funds would be better spent on spot-checking imported honey than on checking up on Missouri beekeepers who have no such history.

The members seemed satisfied with these arguments, and there was no further testimony for or against the bill.

As we left the hearing room we were joined by Zach Monroe, Legislative Aide to Senator Riddle, who commended us on our testimony and informed us that the Senate Committee had just rescheduled us for the following day. He told us what he thought were the most important points we'd made and advised us to put them first the next day, as we might not have as much time at our disposal. We followed his advice, while making a point to hit on the labeling issue as well, as that had been the only point in contention in the House.

In Wednesday's hearing we had the benefit of Senator Riddle, who was better versed in our issues. We again felt like we were preaching to the choir, and the hearing went off without a hitch. No one stepped forward to speak against the bill, even though Zach told us afterward that there was someone from Health and Senior Services in the room, as well as a lobbyist from one of the organizations represented by the woman who had testified against us the previous day.

### Bills now out of committee

On March 31 the House Agriculture Policy Committee voted unanimously "Do

Pass" and forwarded the bill to the House Select Committee on Agriculture. The Senate Agriculture, Food Production and Outdoor Resources Committee voted "Do Pass" on April 1, with the next step being the floor of the Senate.

It appears that the biggest remaining obstacle is time. The legislative session ends May 15, and there are hundreds of bills awaiting action. It is our hope that, given the simplicity of this legislation and its overwhelming committee support, it can be brought to the floor and passed with little or no debate.

The bills can be tracked on the Senate and House websites via the following links:

[http://www.senate.mo.gov/15info/BTS\\_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=4498105](http://www.senate.mo.gov/15info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=4498105)

<http://www.house.mo.gov/billsummary.aspx?bill=HB1093&year=2015&code=R>



State Senator Jeanie Riddle, at right, chats with (l to r) Mike McMillen, Eugene Makovec and Cathy Misko following a March 18 hearing of her bill, SB 500, before the Senate Agriculture, Food Production and Outdoor Resources Committee.

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## Honey Queen report by Erin Mullins

Hello everyone! How about this weather!! I have to say I, along with my bees, have been enjoying this beautiful spring weather. I do have to report that I am down to just one hive. But have ordered a nuc and will hopefully split my remaining hive to get my numbers back up.

Since my last newsletter entry I have been to three different events. I got to attend the Eastern Missouri Beekeepers beginning beekeeping class in St. Louis. While there I got to listen to and meet one of my beekeeping inspirations Sarah Red-Laird, AKA Bee Girl. She along with the others did an amazing job that day.

The next event I attended was the Beginning Beekeeping workshop in Kirksville, Mo. We packed the basement of the extension office which is always a good sight to have! This class was taught by Valerie and Jim Duever who have done a great job developing an outline for a beginning beekeeping class.

Finally the last event I attended was just 10 miles from my house in Maryville, MO!! I got to sleep in and didn't have a five hour drive home afterwards!! This was yet another beginning beekeeping class, 'tis the season! :) This class was a joint effort between the Midwestern, NW Beebusters, and the Swarm Chasers clubs.

It makes me so happy to hear of all the success, in numbers, the beginning beekeeping classes throughout the state bring in! I hope that we have given them that spark to join a club and hopefully the MSBA and get started in beekeeping! Thank you and good job to all the clubs and members for taking the time to set up these classes and getting these people interested!

In signing off I hope you all have a great spring and your bees have a lot of pollen and nectar and produce an abundant amount of honey this year!!!

Erin



Queen Erin

## Directory of Officers

- President: Valerie Duever** 314-402-4841  
2362 County Road 185, Auxvasse MO 65231  
[president@mostatebeekeepers.org](mailto:president@mostatebeekeepers.org)
- Vice President: Clayton Lee** 573-864-5172  
90 E. Pope Lane, Smithville, MO 64089  
[vicepresident@mostatebeekeepers.org](mailto:vicepresident@mostatebeekeepers.org)
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[secretary@mostatebeekeepers.org](mailto:secretary@mostatebeekeepers.org)  
1001 Bluebird Ln, Rolla, MO 65401
- Treasurer: Steve Moeller** 573-886-0662  
PO Box 7514, Columbia MO 65205  
[treasurer@mostatebeekeepers.org](mailto:treasurer@mostatebeekeepers.org)
- Membership Chair: Ron Vivian** 816-690-7516  
443 Fricke Road, Bates City MO 64011-8280  
[membership@mostatebeekeepers.org](mailto:membership@mostatebeekeepers.org)
- Past-President: John Timmons** 636-940-8202  
952 Greenleaf Drive, St. Charles MO 63303  
[pastpresident@mostatebeekeepers.org](mailto:pastpresident@mostatebeekeepers.org)
- Northwestern Director: Roger Nichols**  
cell 816-456-6983  
[northwestdir@mostatebeekeepers.org](mailto:northwestdir@mostatebeekeepers.org)
- Northeastern Director: Dan Lake** 636-724-5937  
48 Sterling Pointe Dr., St. Charles MO 63301  
[northeastdir@mostatebeekeepers.org](mailto:northeastdir@mostatebeekeepers.org)
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508 Casady, Republic, MO 65738  
[southwestdir@mostatebeekeepers.org](mailto:southwestdir@mostatebeekeepers.org)
- Central Director: Bob Brammer** 660-415-6480  
31649 Lake St., Macon MO 63552  
[centraldir@mostatebeekeepers.org](mailto:centraldir@mostatebeekeepers.org)
- Program Chairperson: Mike McMillan**  
2005 Devonshire Dr., Columbia, MO 65203  
[program@mostatebeekeepers.org](mailto:program@mostatebeekeepers.org)
- Vendor Liaison: Tim Hyde**  
[tim.hyde@yahoo.com](mailto:tim.hyde@yahoo.com)
- Newsletter Editor: Eugene Makovec** 314-703-7650  
135 Alex Dr., Foley MO 63347  
[editor@mostatebeekeepers.org](mailto:editor@mostatebeekeepers.org)
- Auxiliary Chairperson: Dolores Vivian** 816-690-7516  
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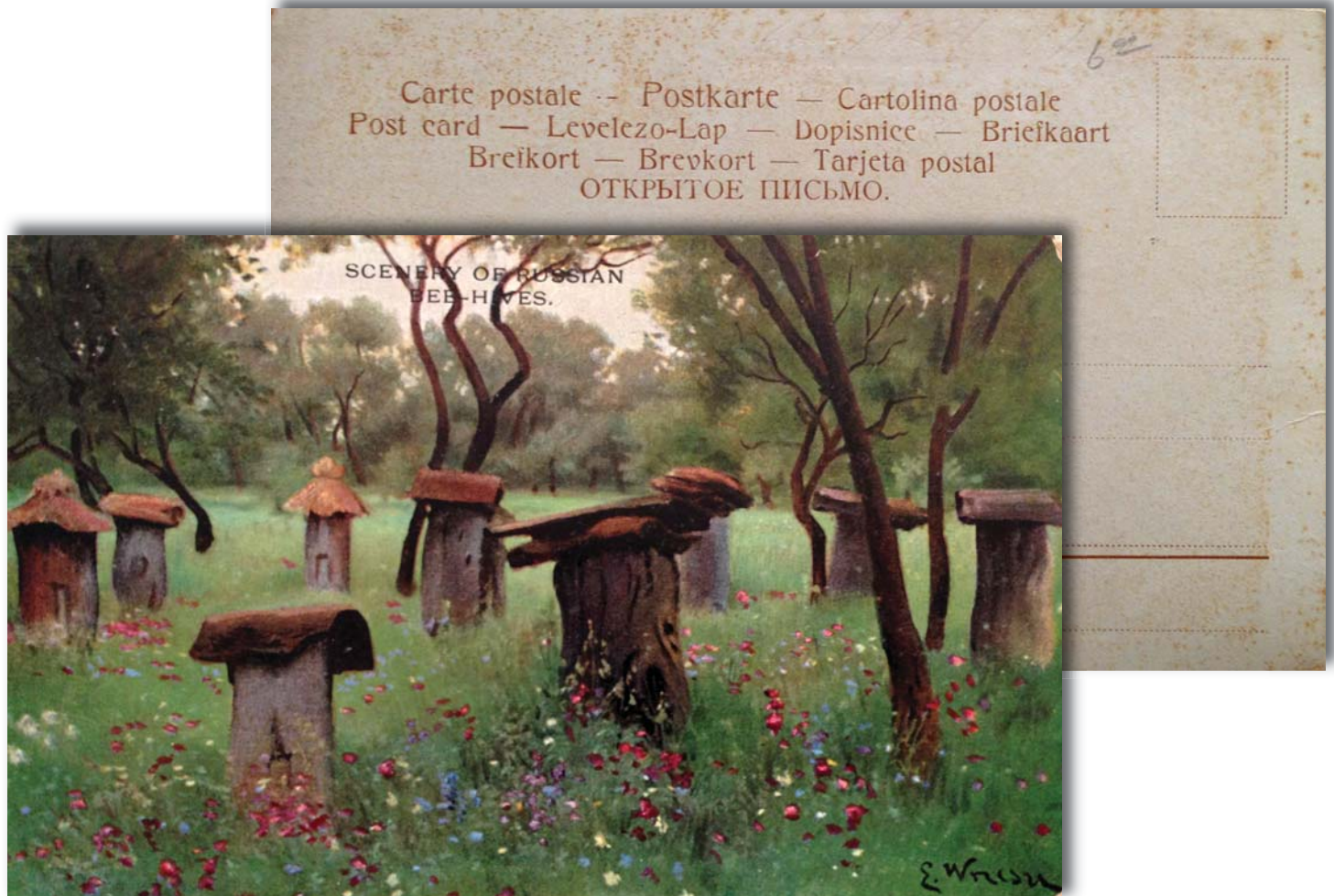
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*In the spirit of Leo Sharashkin's Page 5 story on Russian beekeeper Fedor Lazutin, this vintage postcard shows traditional Russian log hives common in the nineteenth century. Fedor spoke of these hives in his October 2014 lecture to MSBA members.*

- from the collection of Victor Imgarten

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

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