

The Missouri State Beekeepers Association Brood



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Wealth of Information

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Since 1888

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It is True... Mo State Sales Tax Exemption for Honey Bees!

By Cathy Misko, Heartland Beekeeping Partnership

After years of confusion questioning if honey bees can share in Missouri's farm sales tax exemption for agricultural animals and pollination services...Honey bees and beekeeping supplies and equipment can now take advantage of the Missouri Department of Revenue Farm Form 149. Bees themselves are no longer taxable due to the fact that the department has listed honey bees as "livestock" for tax purposes. Missouri sellers no longer need to charge or collect State sales tax, nor require a Form 149 from the buyer for honey bees themselves. However, to receive MO State Sales Tax Exemption for approved beekeeping supplies and equipment, beekeepers now have the option to submit Form 149 <https://dor.mo.gov/forms/149.pdf> to their Missouri vendor. To qualify for use of the 149, beekeepers are to participate in retail sales. That is, sell a honey bee product on any level; with hope of profit, beekeepers should keep basic records. Residents of other States may also take advantage of Missouri's new law if they are patronizing a Missouri vendor. Some have already received an official letter ruling on what is deemed tax exempted. Your beekeeping suppliers should also know about exemptions. Beekeepers should keep abreast of yearly changing tax laws and if any questions or requesting a personal Letter Ruling visit: <http://www.dor.mo.gov/business/sales/sales-use-exemptions.php> for additional information.

In May, 2016, Heartland Beekeeping Partnership (Founded by Bruce Bird and Cathy Misko) agreed to get the ball rolling to seek State sales tax exemption for honey bees. On their radar to address and after previous legal leg work from Bill and Tammy George @ Crooked Hill Beekeeping Supplies, it was the final encouragement from a retired State Representative who lit the fire. Apparently, Representative Jim Howerton experienced the imbalance that his farm animals

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Mark Your Calendars for the MSBA Spring Field Day
May 4th, 2019 in Eldridge, Mo. For More Info See Page 5!

From the President

by Cory Stevens

We've been getting plenty of rain lately, and have had no shortage of cold dreary days. I'm feeling the deep longing for warm spring days and hearing the dull roar of the bee colonies working much anticipated flowers. I always look forward to the winter break, but by late January or February, I'm ready for spring. It will certainly be here before we know it. The window for the procrastination of spring preparation is closing rapidly, so I'd better get those frames assembled. Sometimes it takes the daffodils blooming or a certain event to remind me it's almost here. That mental marker lets us know it's time to turn off the TV, and dust the Cheetos crumbs off our shirt. It's time to get moving! The big date this year is March 15th and 16th, so mark your calendars. The MSBA Spring conference will be held on that date, and is the perfect event to get us amped for spring. You can come and discuss your plans for the



year with other people who can tolerate your long conversations about bees. Those special individuals are always in short supply, but not lacking at a bee conference. I certainly know my wife gets sick of hearing about it. I hope you are able to join me there, so we have a great turnout. Admittedly I am hoping it remains a viable option for future conferences as it is close to home. There will be some great vendors there as well. If you don't want to pay shipping on a few items you've been meaning to pick up, you can pre order with them and pick up your order at the conference.

We also have a field day scheduled May 4 in Eldridge, MO. Way back in the day, I hosted a field day

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Wealth of Info In Past Newsletters

By Clayton Lee, Past President

<https://mostatebeekeepers.org/newsletters/>

MSBA held its 1979 Fall Conference in Cape Girardeau. Eighty-seven (87) MSBA members attended and Dr. Elbert R. Jaycox, Professor of Agriculture from the University of Illinois was the featured speaker. Dr. Jaycox's presentation on "Pollination of Fruits and Vegetables" was excellent and followed by over an hour of questions. If you are interested in additional information about the conference, check out the December 1979 newsletter (<https://mostatebeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/newsletters/4%20Newsletter%20December%201979.pdf>).

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MSBA Membership

Membership dues remain at \$10 per individual. You may renew your membership by going to the MSBA website and utilizing PayPal or mail your check to me with your first and last names, address, telephone number, and email address. I gladly accept batch memberships if given the information on a typewritten list and either a check from the local club's treasurer or secretary.

With the change of the website some folks have renewed well in advance of their membership expiration. You should now receive notice the month preceding your membership expiration. While the website is going through growth spurts please contact me if you have questions regarding your membership. Some of you have paid until 2019! Thank you for supporting MSBA!

Wanda Johnston
MSBA Membership
401 NW Heady Avenue
Ferrelview, MO 64163
mailto:bees@kc.rr.com



Tax Exempt

Honeybee Tax Exemption

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were rewarded sales tax exemption but to his surprise, his serving honey bees were excluded. Representative Howerton contacted me asking if beekeepers could come together and address this issue.

Seeking out pros and cons of sales tax exemption, we put a team of advisors together, sought council from other states, and started calling our State Senators and Representatives for help. Like a Christmas present, super hero Senator Denny Hoskins agreed to help us. He launched his research team and by January 30, 2017 concluded that the best and easiest way to garner State sales tax exemption for honey bees was to place them where they belonged - the smallest, vitally important, foundational to all agriculture...as "Livestock". Make note that aquaculture is defined as livestock in Missouri's tax codes. Going higher, the United States Department of Agriculture and EPA also define honey bees as specialty livestock. I agree, very special! Actually, livestock can be defined large or small but in reality, livestock is any "managed" animal that produces food, fiber, labor, and or profit.

Our foremost consideration when investigating beekeeping tax exemption was to assure that Missouri Tax Code Law definitions did not impact zoning laws. We were assured that zoning laws take place at local levels and tax code law does not implicate zoning. We, along with other beekeepers, uphold and appreciate our rights and privileges to keep honey bees to benefit all, free range and non-

discriminatory to serve all within their flight pattern! To this it is well taken that many cities, towns, and HOA are behind the times and should update zoning regulations to include the basic right for people to be sustainable, caring for their own bees which pollinate gardens and orchards.

February 23, 2017 Senator Hoskins first read the SB472 describing "Honey Bees" as "Livestock" via the Dept of Rev and the full Senate Agriculture Committee hearing March 13, 2017. Official testimony of support was given at the Capitol by Jane Sueme from Isabees Beekeeping Supplies and myself, Cathy Misko; in closing, as I placed a jar of liquid gold I celebrated, "Here is proof that size does not matter, a jar of Missouri Black Locust Honey. I submit this evidence produced by the smallest and the sweetest of agricultural animals, Missouri's State Insect, The Honey Bee!" Representatives were contacted, visited, and encouraged by beekeepers; all looked great! SB 472, aka "The Honey Bee Bill", went up and down the halls of law making, finally passed the Agricultural Committee, and was well on its way. We were cautioned that out of 1500 filed bills in the House, only about 100-150 make it to the Governor's desk. This bill needed to go through multiple channels and might probably be attached to a bunch of other ones and it may not make it but we knew that we would learn along the way.

After breathing through a series of legislative procedures that appears complicated by most, SB472 was alive and unfortunately in a flash, it was dead by the day's end of the

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Honeybee Tax Exemption

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second Friday in May! It was on the Perfection Calendar, I was excited beyond belief, but apparently it was not important enough and was not heard before the end of the legislative session Friday, May 12, 2017. The end of the legislative session had a mountain of bills to be heard and ours was not one of them.

Senator Hoskins was kind to agree to review his agenda for the Fall. I thanked him for considering us and confirmed that maybe the professional Farm Bureau lobbyist may need to help us in the future. I agreed to help but laid down my veil on the topic.

Then out of the blue, May 31, 2018, I received a call from the MO Dept of Rev asking for my testimonies from the previous year. See, maybe the bill was dead in our eyes... it was NOT dead in Senator Hoskins' heart. At the end

of the 2018 session, Senator Hoskins asked to slip our bill into SB 627 as an amendment on the Senate floor to Senator Munzlinger's omnibus Ag bill. It passed! Signed into law June 1, 2018 by outgoing Governor Greitens, "The Honey Bee Law" providing beekeeping tax relief was made effective August 28, 2018! Whoop! And that is how sausage and laws are made!

Please keep your eyes and ears open for an opportunity to formally honor Senator Denny Hoskins for standing up for the honey bees and beekeepers. We are collecting "Tastes of Local Missouri Honey" for the Senator and the Agriculture Committee to show beekeeper appreciation and let our bees brag. Please bring labeled honey jars and other hive products for a gift box to the MO State Spring Conference in Cape Girardeau this month. We do plan to have a plaque presentation and hope you can join us at the Capitol. Details are still being finalized. You may contact me cathymisko@earthlink.net or 660-656-3485.

From the President

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at my apiary. Years later I was routinely asked when I would have another. It dawned on me that in the age of unlimited "knowledge" accessible via the internet that something was missing. Indeed, you can access limitless management options, and countless opinions. Some are worthy, and some not so much. The downside of internet knowledge is that it is detached from the world we live in. You do not get to hear the bees buzzing, smell them drying freshly collected nectar, or watch

them bringing in different colors of pollen. You do not get to see firsthand what an experienced beekeeper is pointing out, and providing first hand evidence for. Hands on instruction such as this is invaluable. If this sounds like something you would benefit from, be sure to mark that on your calendar. Check out our website to register as seating is limited. We would love to have you join us!

See you in Cape!

Cory

Wealth of Info in Past Newsletters

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Also in the December 1979 newsletter, you can find a very interesting "Beekeeping Survey" on pages 9-12.

Over 100 MSBA beekeepers provided some insight to their beekeeping techniques. Worth a read!

Do you have any newsletters older than September 1976? Let's scan it and share the information with the membership. I would happy to borrow, scan and post those for all to read. Thanks!! Clayton Lee, email: leeland55@gmail.com.

MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

FIELD DAY

WHEN: Saturday | May 4th | 2019

WHERE:  **THE BEEKEEPERS CHOICE**
18201 Kansas Rd | Eldridge MO

*****Personal Protective Equipment REQUIRED. No Entry to the BEE YARD without it!*****

Schedule for the Day

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 8:30 | Registration and Check-In |
| 9-9:15 | Welcome by Cory Stevens / Candy Seibert |
| 9:15-10:15 | Meet your Regional Coordinator |
| 10:15-10:30 | Jerry Hayes |
| 10:30-11:00 | Beekeeping Equipment & Alternative Hive Styles |
| 11:00-12:00 | Lunch |
| 12:00-3:30 | Hive Station Rotations |
| | 1. Basic Hive Inspections |
| | 2. Queen Marking and Clipping |
| | 3. OTS/Reverse Split |
| | 4. Jerry Hayes |
| | 5. Queen Rearing / Grafting by Cory Stevens |
| 3:30-4:00 | Wrap Up and Q&A with
Cory Stevens and Clayton Lee |

REGISTER ONLINE COST: \$35

mostatebeekeepers.org

Registration limited to the first 150 registrants.

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!

RAIN OUT DATE IS MAY 11th



MSBA – Helping Bees and Beekeepers Since 1888

By *Sandy Richey*

Missouri State Beekeepers Association has been focused on helping bees and beekeepers since 1888. If you take a moment to ponder it, quite a lot has changed since 1888. But as they say, some things never change. The bees still adore Missouri's flowers on sunny days, and Missouri's beekeepers are still fascinated with our beloved state insect.

In recent years, there has been a renewed interest in beekeeping. Lots of new beekeepers looking to get more in touch with nature, or perhaps embark on an exciting new journey, are taking up the hobby. Instead of riding your horse to bee meetings in the late 1800's, or learning the craft from your neighbor on his farm; modern beekeepers usually start their education via the internet.

To compliment their modern internet education, most find it beneficial to hang out with experienced beekeepers and ask lots of questions. This can easily be accomplished on a local level, as well as the state level. If you're looking for a club in your area, check out MSBA's website (mostatebeekeepers.org). There is a list of local clubs and contact information, making them very easy to locate and join.

MSBA is best known for offering spring and fall conferences, which consistently bring in top leaders in the industry. At the conferences you can learn about the latest bee research, and effective management techniques. Socializing and networking with the best beekeepers in the state is both fun and rewarding.

This year's conference is in scenic Cape Girardeau on March 15-16th. MSBA is also going to trial run a field day this year. The field day offers something the internet cannot - a genuine firsthand look at bee colonies, guided by experts in the field. You can hear the bees buzzing, see them working hard bringing in nectar and pollen, and smell the unique scent of a bee colony. The field day also offers breakout sessions with education ranging from basic hive inspections for beginners, to queen rearing and dividing colonies for those needing more advanced

information. The field day will offer a laid back outdoor function with a fun picnic atmosphere. This will be a nice compliment to the classroom environment of the spring and fall conferences.

Are you are curious what you can do to help the bees and butterflies in Missouri? Plant diverse native flowering trees and plants wherever you can. The bees will appreciate the nutrition, and the flowers will brighten your day with color. An even easier route would be to become a member of MSBA. Annual membership dues are a mere \$10. MSBA members receive a first class bi-monthly newsletter. Members also help financially support industry leading researchers, as well as national and state honeybee and pollinator organizations.

For an educational experience visit Missouri State Beekeepers Association at mostatebeekeepers.org and join the group to talk bees. If you live in an area without an active beekeeping club and would like to get one started, please contact MSBA and someone will get back with you about what it takes to get a successful club started.

Free MSBA Membership

MSBA is offering free 1 year membership to anyone completing beginning beekeeping training through a local club or association.

For more information contact your local club or email Ray Shadow at vicepresident@mostatebeekeepers.org

MSBA Good To Know...

By Charlotte Ekkers Wiggins

Missouri now considers honeybees as livestock. Beekeepers selling bees don't have to pay or collect MO taxes as of August 28, 2018.

Master Pollinator Steward classes start March 22 in Eldon from 9 a.m. to noon every week through April 26. Classes include several field trips. For adults only. Cost \$90. For more details, call (573) 634-2824.

If you have 2 acres or more, the Bee and Butterfly Seed A Legacy Program can help you *get free and discounted seeds* to plant more bee forage. Deadline to apply is March 1. Call (800) 407-5337 for more details.

33 MO Counties are eligible for *emergency credit and emergency loans* to recover from natural disasters including honeybee losses. April 22, 2019 is deadline to apply.

Isabee's, the *Kelley Beekeeping supplies outlet*, has moved from St. Louis to 759 Gravois Road in Fenton. 63026.

***Are you a new beekeeper?* BEEkeeping Magazine was designed to help new beekeepers in their first 3 years.**

If you are an MSBA member, you can *get a discount on American Bee Journal* subscription.

If you have an item you think would be good to know, email msbacharlotte@gmail.com

Beekeeper Day of Appreciation at the Capitol April 8, 2019

Please SAVE-the-DATE for an opportunity to formally honor super hero Senator Denny Hoskins for standing up for the honey bees and beekeepers. We are collecting "Tastes of Local Missouri Honey" for the Senator and the Agriculture Committee to show beekeeper appreciation and let our bees brag.

**Beekeeper Day of
Appreciation at the Capitol
April 8, 2019, 2:00 p.m.
3rd Floor Pershing Gallery**

Buzz to Missouri State Capitol, Jefferson City, to honor Senator Denny Hoskins for his work promoting beekeepers and our State Insect...The Honey Bee!

Please bring labeled honey jars and other hive products for a gift box to the MO State Spring Conference in Cape Girardeau March 15-16. We will have a plaque presentation, possible appearance of our First Lady and Mr. Buzzaround, opportunity of handshakes, and the Capitol Photographer. Hope you can join us at the Capitol. Details are still being finalized. For more info: cathymisko@earthlink.net or 660-656-3485.

The Texas Adventures of Mike and Matt

By Sandy Richey

Mike and Matt are on a Texas adventure in search of “liquid gold”. Liquid gold is a name for rough crude oil that has lured many a “wildcatter” to the East Texas oil fields since the early 1900s. A wildcatter is an adventurer who drills holes in search of the liquid gold. Many a book, song and movie have been made about such. But the liquid gold that Mike and Matt are seeking is the very profitable nectar and pollen that our honeybees turn into pure, sparkling honeybee food used to raise their brood. According to Matt, “Yes, I’m down here for the early pollen. I’ve got 2.5 frames of brood on average already. In 2 weeks those will be 5 frames of bees. So they explode early. Texas is like the greenhouse for beekeepers. It allows you to start the season earlier.”

As the two men travel the 11.5 hours to East Texas in Matt’s swank F550 with a 275 gallon tank of sucrose plus boxes of pollen patties and 12 pounds of honey for their cozy bees tucked away among the Maple trees of East Texas, they discuss the things they must accomplish on this trip such as mite and shb inspections along with possible treatment options. For even the fields of “liquid

gold” have the pests that sometimes take the fun out of modern beekeeping. But soon Mike and Matt will be bringing their “winter Texan” bees back to Missouri all fat and happy to split and sell as early nucs to get a jump start on the wonderful pollen and nectars that abound in Missouri come spring. When asked how they found their Texas location, Matt replied that he actually ran a Facebook ad for farmers who might want to trade some winter space in exchange for honey.

Mike Immer, who owns BeeResQ, and Matt Winstead, who owns Golden Rule Honeybee Farm and Midwest Bee Removal, keep bees in the northern part of Missouri near Kansas City, where the winter gets very cold. They decided that it was worthwhile to take their bees all the way to Texas to get the winter buildup that they could not get at home. They expect to get 5-7 nucs from each over-wintered hive when they bring them back home in the spring. Matt and Mike, who partner up on a number of ventures, took 148 hives down there. That could translate into 1,036 nucs to sell for \$175.00 each. Now those \$175 nucs are the top of the line 5 frame nucs with

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History Tidbit

By Clayton Lee

Digging deeper takes MSBA back to April 1890 and earlier. ...

“By request, the Secretary of the State Bee-keepers’ Association furnished the following report of proceedings for publication in the report (23rd Annual Report of the State of Agriculture of the State of Missouri):

SECOND SEMI-ANNUAL CONVENTION.
Marshall, Mo., April 16-17, 1890.
FORENOON SESSION.

The convention was called to order at 10:50 a. m. by the President, R.B. Leahy.

The proceedings of the Higginsville convention were read and approved.”

I found this information in the scanned, online Yearbook and the article starts on page 624 (<https://bit.ly/2UFMCC8>). If you read on to page 647, you will find a little more information regarding the when and where MSBA was organized.

“The Missouri State Bee-Keepers’ Association was organized over a year ago (Yearbook article dated February 9, 1891) at Higginsville, Mo., with twenty-two members, thirteen of whom reported having taken nearly 80,000 pounds of honey.”

More in our next issue.

The Weekend I Contracted STB's

By Teilla Parrish-Lathrop

We had just been rained out of our weekend project when I got the call from my beekeeping mentor. He said there was a swarm out by me I could have, if I'd go get it. "It's a good swarm, 12-15' up on a limb, it'll be easy!" he said. My buddy and I were exhausted and soaked to the bone but I said "sure!" and headed toward the house to get my gear.

Everybody knows bees don't like rainy stormy weather, so I was expecting a second call saying my mentor was just messing with me, to see if I'd try it. The second call never came and we rolled up to the house, where about 30 people (or roughly half the town) were standing in the rain, looking up into the tree. The first problem I noticed was that the bees were 30' up in the tree, not 15'. My step ladder was only 12', and I am just over 5'3", and figured I could reach my little broom another 4'. Looking around, I saw that one of these "good ol' boys" had a REALLY lifted truck, so I had him pull up under the tree. I climbed up and threw my safety lanyard over a limb (still in the truck from the grain bin project) and clipped it. I still needed 4', so they handed me a tow strap and we pulled the limb down toward the truck. I took a trash bag and my little smoker back up the ladder, knowing I was now a bright, white, alien lightning rod.

My very good, if not too smart, buddy gamely held the ladder, taking the smoker back when I was done and frantically blowing smoke all around him, thinking the bees wouldn't cross the smoke line. They did, and he bailed off the truck when the first one popped him in the lip. I felt the truck lighten and thought to myself "there goes the last of my friends".

As I carefully brushed the bees from the limb into my trash bag, they launched their little missiles to the warmest, nearest, most vulnerable target they could find, which was just below the bottom of my jacket and just above my knees. The first one hurt, they hurt worse each time and after the eighth one I began to imagine falling off the ladder and wondered who in the world would come rescue me in the rain, hanging from a tree. A tree full of bees.



I finished as quickly as I safely could, unhooked, and marveled at my prize (?). The rest of the adventure went without incident and the bees and I all got home safely. I picked the stingers out of my wet jeans and wondered how many times a person can get stung without, well, DYING and thought I had escaped serious injury. Again.

It's TWO DAYS LATER NOW AND THEY HURT LIKE HECK! My upper legs burn, and itch, and I'm walking funny because my boss insists I wear clothes to work. One busy body in particular teased that I had maybe been on a "really rough date". I solemnly nodded and told her it was "STB's". She stepped backwards about three feet, as if I were contagious, and urged me to see a doctor. "STB's are serious", she said and I started giggling as I described my encounter with "Super Targeted Bees".

Now excuse me, I have to get these jeans off.

Do NOT Try This At Home!

By Teilla Parrish-Lathrop

I noticed a couple of the miscreants I affectionately call “my subcontractors” staring at a job trailer like two little boys trying to decide which color to use for the graffiti. Closer inspection revealed they were being held off by a colony of bees who’d set up their little honey factory inside the toolboxes. I slowly approached and opened the first, then the second bin to see what we were dealing with. You’ve seen those pictures of the guy with the “beard” of bees? Somehow, he crawled right into that toolbox with all his little buddies! As I opened the doors, the bees just spilled out! (I am the only witness to this, as my buddies were wisely beating a hasty retreat!) Gingerly shutting the doors, I caught up with the guys and told them I’d call the beekeeper. I did, and he was out for a few weeks with a knee surgery. I talked the guys into giving me a day to figure out what to do next. I told them I’d return at 0600 with a plan. Which I was awake all night trying to come up with.

By 0530, I had the plan. Thinking the beekeeper would take them if I brought them, I stuffed all my hair into a heavy hooded sweatshirt and tugged my full faced motorcycle helmet over my head. Duct taped the leather gloves, and set to work. I had seen the beekeeper do this before, and saw no reason I couldn’t open the cabinet doors over a cardboard box, gently sweep the colony into to box with a spatula (okay, a 6” long piece of board), then, assuming I got the queen in there...wait...for the others to join her. It was still dark and cold (for them, anyway), and everything was going pretty well, except the board was too cumbersome so I began pushing them with my leather gloved hand.

Meanwhile, guys started filtering into the jobsite and, seeing a highly reflective alien messing around one of the trailers, a small crowd gathered. Once they realized what, exactly, I was doing, they beat feet to their own areas. Except for the two goons from the day before. I turned to chat with them and began hearing something that sounded like a freight train approaching. What the...? It Was A Bee...IN MY HELLLLMMMEETTTTT! It all happened pretty quickly. He was only trying to get out of that clear space just in front of my face. He couldn’t get

through the first time, so he backed up to begin his launch from my upper lip, and then he shot that little stinger out hoping, I suppose, that it was going to propel him right through the visor. It hurt like hell, but at least he only got one shot - little buggers die once they sting you, and it doesn’t matter whether they meant to or not.

God gave me a super anti-anti histamine system - at the expense of ANY common sense whatsoever. Even when stung by a wasp of some other horrible thing, I’ve never gotten so much as a mosquito bite sized welt, so, still breathing okay, I saw no reason not to finish the job I’d started. I put the lid on the box and scraped as much of the honeycomb as I could into a plastic bucket, keeping some in a bag for the honey, which was light, golden, and tasted like the orange blossoms it had been created from. The plan was to let it sit overnight and come package them up in the morning. I turned to tell the guys our plan, when I discovered another little habit of bees I’d been previously unaware of. Just before his kamikaze run into my helmet shield, that bee sent out an SOS to his little buddies, and now...THERE WERE TWO BEES IN MY HELMET!!! Hollering and turning to those two knuckleheads for help getting the tape off my helmet I saw what looked like a couple one legged, 300lb girls playing hopscotch away from me as fast as they could go! Howling with laughter, I ripped off my helmet and took my stings. Those two were worth it.

The next morning’s plan was a modified version of the first, which had gone well, relatively speaking. Same time, same dark and cool, same outfit. This time, however, I employed one of our electrical engineerds (Darn! I always mis-spell that...I meant ENGINEERS!) to secure the airspace between my shirt and my helmet with even more duct tape. Messing with the bees made me nervous but letting an engineerd (Darn! Did it again!) run duct-tape around my throat...TERRIFYING! I got to the box and bucket from the day before and...they were EMPTY! Not ONE BEE! NO HONEYCOMB! WHAT THE HECK?? The footprints to and from the booty determined our suspect to be raccoon. Probably the same raccoon I rescued just the day before out of the dumpster! I opened

Do NOT Try This At Home!

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the bins, and the little factory was up and running again just exactly like the day before. I had a 2' x 4' plastic bag and quickly completed the same job as the day before and sealed the bag like I knew what I was doing.

I took the bees to base environmental and told them I had the bees in a ziploc bag, that if they'd kindly call the beekeeper, I'd deliver them. After several versions of "Who

got those bees for you?" I convinced the older gentlemen I had, in fact, harvested the bees myself. They made several calls, but were also unable to reach the beekeeper, so I left, agreeing that if someone hadn't come to get them by noon, I would find a beehive and take them home. Back on the jobsite a lady called from the environmental

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The Texas Adventures of Mike and Matt

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three frames of brood and 2 frames of food available in April. Minnesota Hygienics are the favorite queens of the two men. Along with the purchase of a nuc, a buyer gets plenty of help with questions. Mike, who is part hobbyist and part commercial, does a lot of consulting and teaching one on one. He has a bee yard dedicated specifically to giving free beekeeping lessons. Mike, who likes "tinkering with gizmos" is currently testing the Beetle Buster Base Board and wrote a review on the product in the MSBA November newsletter.

Mike has also been testing the heat treatment method with his Bee Hive Thermal Industries Mighty Mite Killer followed by OAV. He will be reporting on that later in the spring. Mike has three lovely daughters and wife who help him. When he is not beekeeping, he uses his twenty years of experience in computer skills to help people set up businesses. Both men coach, mentor, and present introductory demonstrations to various groups. They have presented workshops at locations including Colonial Garden and Nursery and Terra Health and Wellness in the Kansas City area. Their Introduction to Beekeeping class is aimed at an audience of potential beekeepers who still want to know why beekeeping is important, what equipment is needed, where bees can be procured, how they are installed into hives, steps in caring for them and to treat or not to treat. The classes usually last about an hour with 15-20 minutes for questions. Their next free Beekeeping seminar will be from 12-2pm on March 16th at the Blendwell Community Café in Independence.

Beforehand, however, Mike and Matt will be making a two week trip back to Texas to split their overwintered hives and prepare to bring nucs back to their customers in Missouri. They will be singing along with their new favorite group, Asleep at the Wheel performing Miles and Miles of Texas.

When asked what advice Matt would give to new beekeepers, he stated that one should find a mentor and test for mites. Mite inspections should be done often (like once a month).

Matt went on to say that there are two reasons bees die: mites and winter starvation. Mites need to be treated in spring and fall before they can take over. In addition to OAV treatments, Matt uses Apivar in July after he pulls off the honey supers. When asked how he avoids swarming problems, Matt listed hive splitting, yearly queen replacement and avoiding Russian bees. He retires his second year queens into comb building hives. For his splits in early spring, he likes to go in and shake the bees to the lower box and pull the brood up above a queen excluder. The nurse bees will go up to the brood and can be given a new queen. Finally, when asked if he would encourage his two sons to go into beekeeping, Matt responded that he teaches them how to use their hands, but he wanted them to do what makes them happy.

For more information contact Mike or Matt at:

Mike Immer (816)520-5456 www.BeeResQ.com

Matt Winstead (816) 217-4214 mattwins7@gmail.com
Golden Rule Honeybee Farm and Midwest Bee Removal

This was originally written in February. Now they are splitting and adding queen cells

Do NOT Try This At Home!

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department and said she'd found a keeper and was on her way to get them. Two ladies showed up in a nice little SUV and their eyes get HUGE when they see this 4' tall bag half full. "They said the bees were in a ziploc bag!" I flipped the bag around and showed them "Z-I-P-L-O-C" on the front. The ladies left, saying the bees were going to the USDA office to ensure they hadn't been "Africanized". (How can you tell, do you check their little "Beesas"?) Then they would be taken to the beekeeper, who, I heard later, said "I thought you said they were in a ziploc bag!" When he called, I told him there were more that I hadn't messed with, under one of the office trailers and he agreed to come out the next afternoon to retrieve them.

I showed Mr. B where the second colony was working and cut the fabric, exposing a long, narrow honeycomb that had been built along the floor joist.

Not planning to get involved, I stepped back about ten feet and squatted down for a better look. The two chumps from the day before got into an SUV with the windows up. The keeper started his little smoker and placed the "super" (the box bees in a beehive live in) beneath the colony. Using a real spatula, he began cutting the honeycomb, dropping it into the super. AND THOSE BEES GOT MAD!

The bees had been notified the day before that this was somehow all MY fault, so they swarmed straight to me! The first battalion landed in my hair and couldn't get out! Fear and panic gets you stung, and so does having bees in your hair! Calmly as I could, I started toward our office trailer, with both hands in my hair trying to gently

help them get out. The second battalion arrived and went straight for my neck and arms! Off with the hardhat, out of the jacket, phone on the ground. . .earrings, safety glasses. . .I was actually trying to decide how much trouble I'd get into for stripping out of my shirt on the jobsite, when I saw a young man come out of an office door. I screamed at him to bring a hairbrush from my desk. He stood there and looked at me like I'd grown a third eye. "My Hairbrush – I HAVE BEES IN MY HAIR!!!" I screamed! At that moment the two who'd followed Mike out the door noticed the swarm around my head and nobly jumped in to help me, beating my head, yanking on my hair, looking like a bunch of monkeys picking out their snacks! Finally the hairbrush came and I continued ripping hair off my own head while the guys did battle with the third battalion bringing up the rear!

The women in the office began pick stingers out of me. There were 22 on the back of my neck, and at least that many in my hair, plus eight or so on my arms and hands. It was strongly suggested I go to the hospital but, ironically, I'm afraid of doctors! (I think I mentioned earlier I was blessed with no common sense whatsoever) I did jot down my medical history for the paramedics I hoped would be called if I turned blue. A few very sore days, several Benadryl and Tylenol later, and the HUGE swollen welts have gone down, and I have decided I am no longer interested in keeping bees for a hobby.

There's a little place just up the street where honey apparently is grown in little jars. My favorite kind.

Interested in Helping Bees & Beekeepers?

MSBA is Looking for Volunteers!

We have opportunities for volunteers to help in a variety of ways. If you're interested in helping, contact Cory Stevens by email at president@mostatebeekeepers.org or Ray Shadow at vicepresident@mostatebeekeepers.org

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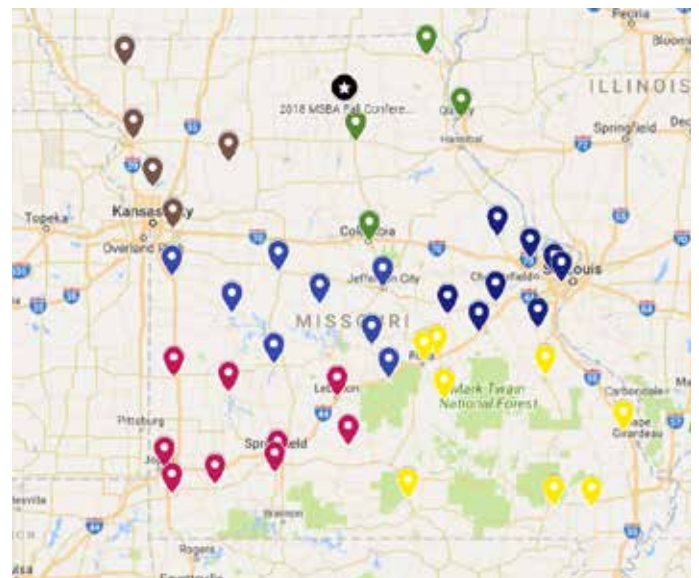
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