

Missouri State Beekeepers Association  
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[www.mostatebeekeepers.org](http://www.mostatebeekeepers.org)

June 2012

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Editor

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## Heartland is coming to St. Louis!

Annual HAS conference takes place July 12-14  
at University of Missouri - St. Louis

The 2012 Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS) Conference will be held July 12-14th on the University of Missouri (UMLS) campus in St. Louis, Missouri. The three-day conference will be swarming with beekeepers old and new, instructional programs in the classrooms, "hands-on" classes in the apiary, vendor displays and on-campus accommodations. Virtually all of the conference activities will take place under one roof at the UMLS JCPenney Conference Center with labs and an apiary 200 yards from the main auditorium.

According to Phil Craft, HAS Program Director, the Heartland Apicultural Society was established in 2001 to fill a void in the Midwest for beekeeping education, to provide an economical beekeeping conference every summer, with hands-on training. "We always hold the conference at a university to have easy access to economical accommodations. Membership by beekeepers is established by attending a conference; there are no dues. Member states are established by participation in the HAS organization

*continued on page 4*

Native to South Africa, *Kniphofia uvaria* is a tall, sturdy perennial well-suited to sunny areas and moist, well-drained soil.

Commonly known as torch lily, tritoma or red hot poker, it sports exotic blooms atop two-to-four-foot stems. The flower heads can grow as long as 10 inches and last up to a month, attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

While welcomed in yards and gardens in many parts of the world, it is considered an invasive weed in much of Australia.

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## From the President by Grant Gillard

The calendar says it's the end of May, but my bees tell me it's the Fourth of July. In a normal year, the Fourth of July signals a tremendous turn in the nectar flow, due in part to decreasing rainfall in the latter part of June. For all principle purposes, the flow is normally over in early July and it's time to consolidate the brood nest and begin extracting. In a normal year, I wait until after the fourth to start extracting.

This year, the only place I find "Normal" is on the washing machine in the basement.

The nectar flow has been intense and sensational. Even the swarms I caught produced harvestable honey, but part of the key to this success is to hive swarms on drawn comb, then give them supers of drawn comb.

The late George Imirie, a highly opinionated and irascible beekeeper and teacher, was fond of saying over and over how a protecting drawn comb was a beekeeper's duty, that drawn comb was a beekeeper's treasure and how it should be treated like gold. I watch as even nucs joyously fill and cap nectar in drawn comb when they continue to balk at drawing out new foundation. Once again, I am reminded how drawn comb is a valuable resource.

That being said, I continue to swap out my old comb in the brood nest utilizing quite a bit of foundationless frames. I still use wire supports, but the bees are allowed to draw out the natural-sized cells. However, I'm ending up with quite a bit of drone comb.

I've also been pleased with the early jump I got with my bees thanks to the excessively mild winter and the unwarranted

early spring. Wow! OMG! I felt like I was really "with it" this year. I wasn't fighting the weather at every turn. I had zero swarming in my hives thanks to checkerboarding and an expanding brood nest.

And the results have been populous hives and loads of honey. But this has been my mantra for decades: Prevent Swarming! And I must concede the early spring worked in my favor. My bees seemed to have shifted from the swarm mode to the foraging mode, and in most years, if I can prevent swarming until the main nectar flow commences, I'm almost swarm free. It's delaying that impulse until the nectar starts to flow that is vital and I do it with an expanding brood nest.

I also was privileged to address the Jackson High School Baccalaureate this year as my youngest child, Claire, graduated. Of course, I mentioned honeybees and their work ethic. You can read the full address at <http://revgrantl.xomba.com/baccalaureate-address>.

Also, be ready for the Heartland Apicultural Society meeting July 12-14 at UMSL. Details, including on-line registration, can be found at <http://www.heartlandbees.com>. Lots of top-level speakers and entertainment.

Hope all continues to go well in your life and in your bee yards. All the best,

Grant



## Researchers find the cause of Colony Collapse Disorder ... or do they?

-- courtesy of Bee Culture's "Catch the Buzz"

CCD has now been solved;  
And all the questions been resolved.  
So what's the cause of this mayhem?  
Why, Evil Giant Agro-Chem!

Foul pesticides, the farmer's vice  
— the neonics, to be precise —  
They kill the bees for short-term gain,  
While laying waste to fruited plain.

The vile purveyors of this rot  
Are Bayer, Monsanto and the lot.  
They own the government, you see,  
And laugh at folks like you and me.

Soon all the bees will be extinct,  
And human beings on the brink —  
And all so Farmer Brown can gain  
A couple bushels more of grain.

Sounds frightening, doesn't it?  
I composed this little rhyme  
with tongue planted firmly in  
cheek, but I'm sad to say that  
this is exactly the type of stuff  
that's been floating around  
the internet in recent weeks.

Ever since Colony Collapse  
Disorder first made headlines  
in 2006, media and  
environmental types have  
swerved blindly from culprit  
to culprit (cellphone towers,  
genetically modified crops,  
commercial beekeeping  
practices), seizing on every  
half-baked "study", the more  
sensational the better, and  
rushing to press without taking  
time to vet their sources.

Finally a couple of years ago,  
they were placated by a long-

awaited report that pointed to a combination of pathogens led by  
*Nosema ceranae* and Israeli acute paralysis virus. But not everyone was  
satisfied, least of all beekeepers.

And now here we go again: A couple of recent studies purport to  
tie CCD to the systemic pesticides called neonicotinoids. A flurry of  
headlines proclaim "Mystery Solved — It's Pesticides" (Reuters), or  
similar versions thereof. And the internet is awash with petitions — to  
chemical companies, EPA, USDA — demanding an immediate ban of  
these products. Never mind that these latest studies have by no means  
been accepted as legitimate by either the beekeeping or scientific  
communities. And never mind that if we do in fact ban the neonics,  
they will be replaced in large part by earlier classes of insecticides with  
well-documented records of killing honeybees.

I had every intention of running in this newsletter a synopsis of the  
most widely reported of these recent studies (from Harvard University),  
alongside one of several critiques I'd seen of its findings and its methods.  
But then the email postman delivered the attached missive from Bee  
Culture Editor Kim Flottum, in the form of one of his "Catch the Buzz"  
blogs. I gave it a quick scan, then a more in-depth read, and decided  
that I could not have said it better myself.

Eugene Makovec, Editor

See story next page





## More than pesticides are killing bees:

### Why you shouldn't take those recent neonic reports at face value

Hanna Nordhaus wrote a book recently detailing the life and times of John Miller, a commercial beekeeper who spends time in California and North Dakota. It took her over a year to gather the information she needed for the book ... the whole beekeeping cycle the Millers spend each year, back and forth ... and during that time she gleaned much about the beekeeping industry, the science and the business of honey bees, and a bit about the lives of those who move from here to there with bees on the truck. She writes a blog for boingboing, and I stumbled across it just today. It was published a week or so ago at <http://boingboing.net/2012/05/07/the-honeybees-are-still-dying.html>. And, you can find out much more about her book *Beekeeper's Lament: How One Man and Half a Billion Honey Bees Help Feed America*, reviewed in *Bee Culture* by Gary Shilling recently.

We send this detailed and somewhat lengthy piece out on the BUZZ because it is a reasonable voice in the cacophony of noise recently raised to damn all pesticides, and some in particular. Of course pesticides and honey bees are not meant for each other. But there is more to the story, more that needs to be done before we banish these materials forevermore. The science that has recently been published has been flawed and biased say some. Worse, say others, it had an agenda. The voices of both sides of this debate are linked here so you can read for yourself the arguments for and against. Randy Oliver offers a tidal wave of evidence not against pesticides, but aimed squarely at the techniques used to reach the conclusions to which these papers sunk to get their wrongful end and I urge you to read his comments on his web page. Sadly, the author has declined to comment on Mr. Oliver's queries.

Moreover, the prestigious IBRA also reaches the same conclusions, conclusions published in *Bee Culture* several months ago ... that there are more wrongs in the world of honey bees than simply pesticides. Many more wrongs, and all should be fixed.

Kim Flottum

Here then are Hanna Nordhaus' thoughts...

#### THE HONEY BEES ARE STILL DYING

The eerie mystery of the vanishing honeybees has not been put to rest.

In the last few weeks, three separate studies explored the effect of insecticides on honeybee and pollinator health. One paper linked neonicotinoids, a new class of systemic insecticides that have come into widespread use in recent years, to impaired honeybee navigation; a second noted the effects of low levels of the pesticides on bumblebee reproduction.

The most talked about study, from a Harvard team, found that the colonies fed neonicotinoid-laced corn syrup collapsed in a manner that appeared to mimic the effects of Colony Collapse Disorder, or CCD -- the mysterious phenomenon in which otherwise-healthy bees simply vanish from their hives. Neonicotinoids, declared the Harvard team, were "the likely culprit in sharp worldwide declines in honeybee colonies since 2006."

Dramatic headlines soon followed: "Mystery of the Disappearing Bees: Solved!" announced a Reuters headline. Ah, if only that were true. Even if neonicotinoids were banned tomorrow, honeybees

would still be in big trouble.

The recent studies add to mounting evidence that low levels of neonicotinoids may have "sub-lethal" outcomes -- long-term effects on pollinators that haven't been measured in chemical-company testing submitted for EPA approval. What those papers don't prove, unfortunately, is that "neonics," as they are called, cause CCD -- or explain the troubling colony losses we've seen in recent years.

CCD is defined as a condition in which the majority of bees disappear from a healthy hive in rapid fashion, usually within two weeks -- leaving behind a queen, ample honey and brood, and little obvious sign of disease that might explain the colony's collapse.

Since the phenomenon was first named and made headlines in late 2006, however, the disorder has too often been conflated -- by the media, and sometimes by beekeepers as well -- with honeybee losses in general. "It's like saying that everyone's dying of a heart attack," explains Dennis vanEngelsdorp, the Pennsylvania entomologist who first discovered the disorder. "When in fact we die from all sorts of causes."

#### A Matter of Life and Deaths

Bees, too, die in all sorts of ways: they suffer from parasites and fungal and bacterial and viral infections; they starve to death; and yes, they also succumb to pesticides -- sometimes when they are mistakenly sprayed and are poisoned outright, and also, perhaps, due to long-term neurological and developmental effects when exposed to lower amounts. Not many of them, however, actually die of CCD.

In fact, though about a third of the nation's honeybee herd has died each winter since 2007 -- a number much higher than the 15 percent loss beekeepers consider "acceptable" -- few recent losses can be attributed to CCD. In 2008, beekeepers reported symptoms of CCD in 60 percent of colonies that died; in the last year, "I haven't seen one verifiable case of CCD," says vanEngelsdorp. Annual winter losses have been just as heavy in the last couple of years as they were in 2008. But "they can usually be explained by something else," he says. And that's true even though neonicotinoid use continues apace.

The recent neonicotinoid studies have also come under fire. Bayer CropScience, which manufactures a number of widely used neonicotinoids, argued that the dosing given to the bees in all of the recent research was higher than what is considered to be "field realistic" -- and most of the non-industry scientists I spoke with agreed with this assessment.

The Harvard study -- which most explicitly linked neonics to CCD -- has earned particular censure: "The study out of Harvard is sort of an embarrassment," vanEngelsdorp said, noting that the team fed colonies "astronomical" levels of CCD-laced corn syrup, that the sample sizes were way too small, and that the symptoms the colonies subsequently suffered did not, in fact, mimic the symptoms of CCD. Randy Oliver, a biologist and beekeeper in California,

*continued on page 5*

**"The study out of Harvard is sort of an embarrassment," vanEngelsdorp said, noting that the team fed colonies "astronomical" levels of CCD-laced corn syrup.**

**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](http://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 JudgeMeeting 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.**Heartland Apicultural Society to meet in St. Louis July 12-14***continued from page 1*

leadership. This annual conference is our only activity, hence low overhead."

Speakers attending HAS this year include: Dr. Greg Hunt – Purdue University, Dr. Tom Webster – Kentucky State University, Dr. Jim Tew – Auburn University, Kim Flottum – Bee Culture Magazine, Jerry Hayes – Monsanto Corporation and the American Bee Journal, Dr. Zachary Huang – Michigan State University, Michael Bush – Bush Farm, Phil Craft and others.

Sessions are designed for beekeepers at all skill levels in a flexible track format with most classes offered in several time slots over the three days. Classes offered will include a special beginners' track for those with no beekeeping experience, as well as advanced topics for beekeepers with many years' experience and those in-between. A three-day queen-rearing course will be offered in half-day sessions conducted in the apiary and lab.

In addition to the education programming, there will be a large vendor show, evening social events, and sightseeing tours in the St. Louis area during the day. The evening social gathering on

campus is a great time to meet fellow beekeepers from the region – Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Missouri, Tennessee, West Virginia and beyond!

Accommodations will include University of Missouri dormitory housing and meals available at an economical cost for participants, as well as special rates at nearby hotels.

For the non-beekeepers joining us in St. Louis, there will be guided tours to some of the favorite points of interest in the area.

St. Louis, like other urban areas across the country, has experienced an explosion of interest in beekeeping in the past five years. The formation of Three Rivers Beekeepers in 2009, as well as popular beginning workshops hosted by the Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association and other local bee clubs, together draw over 300 members to area meetings every month. The St. Louis beekeeping community is "abuzz" with excitement to be hosting this important regional event!

Pre-registration forms and program details are available online at [www.heartlandbees.com](http://www.heartlandbees.com). Forms will need to be returned by mail only (no on-line submission) by June 25th for pre-registration.



## Blame neonicotinoids for colony collapse? Not so fast ...

continued from page 3

provided this in-depth exploration of the study's weaknesses on his website, [Scientific Beekeeping.com](http://ScientificBeekeeping.com). This study was "fatally flawed," both in its design and its conclusions, added Scott Black, executive director of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

Chensheng Lu, the author of the Harvard study, had no such reservations. He compared his findings to those of Rachel Carson, whose book *Silent Spring*, published 50 years ago, linked pesticides to plummeting bird populations and human cancer, and helped launch the modern environmental movement. "The hives were dead silent," Lu told *Wired News* of the failed colonies in his study (<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2012/04/neonicotinoids-colony-collapse>). "I kind of ask myself: Is this the repeat of *Silent Spring*? What else do we need to prove that it's the pesticides causing Colony Collapse Disorder?"

### One Piece of a Bigger Puzzle

What we need, sadly, is better evidence -- and so far, it's not there yet. This is not to say that anybody working with pollinators believes insecticides aren't a big issue for bee health. It makes perfect sense that systemic pesticides -- which are absorbed throughout plants' vascular systems and into their pollen and nectar, and remain toxic to insects for a year or more after application -- might present issues not seen with traditional pesticides. Perhaps chronic exposure to low doses of poisons disorients bees, or interrupts brood production, or weakens them so that another

**In Australia, which has among the healthiest bee herds in the world and has never reported a case of CCD, neonicotinoids have been in widespread use for over a decade.**

pathogen -- one that would under normal circumstances cause only limited mortality -- can finish them off.

In a recent review of neonicotinoid research, the Xerces Society noted that neonicotinoids upended conventional wisdom about safe pest management. This is because pesticides can't be avoided by relocating hives during application, or by not spraying during the bloom. Still, while the organization advocates a more critical look at these pesticides, especially revisiting the high dosages permitted for horticultural use -- "we should have a better sense of the risk before we

start spreading poisons around our kids, our pollinators and our farmworkers," the Xerces Society's Scott Black told me -- the group doesn't recommend an outright ban, because neonicotinoids are still considered safer for wildlife and human health than the organophosphate pesticides they replaced.

"One of the biggest concerns," notes University of Minnesota entomologist Marla Spivak, a MacArthur fellow and tireless advocate for honeybee health, "is that if all neonics are banned, other much more harmful pesticides will be registered."

And things won't necessarily get any better for the honeybee. This vital pollinator is suffering "death by a thousand paper cuts," as beekeeper John Miller, about whom I wrote a recent book, *The Beekeeper's Lament*, once described the malady of the honeybee.

Pesticides and other chemicals may provide a nasty gash, but so do the stresses of long-distance pollination to which many commercial beekeepers must subject their bees to stay afloat, and poor nutrition, and all varieties of pests and pathogens that have accompanied the globalization of modern agriculture and apiculture.

Indeed, in places where neonicotinoid pesticides have been banned, such as France, Italy and Germany, there's no evidence that honeybee populations have rebounded. And in Australia, which has among the healthiest bee herds in the

world and has never reported a case of CCD, neonicotinoids have been in widespread use for over a decade. Australian agriculture isn't as industrialized as in the U.S., where beekeepers make a living by dragging their hives from monocrop to monocrop, feasting their bees on one single nectar and pollen source, and then moving them on to the next. "The only situation in Australia where honeybees used for pollination are strongly restricted to one crop," Australian bee pathologist Denis Anderson told me, "is in the pollination of almonds. However, we don't see losses among those colonies, even though neonicotinoids are used in the almond industry."

The other thing they don't see in Australia -- but do see everywhere else in the world -- is the varroa mite, a nasty, tick-like creature that latches onto a bee's exoskeleton and sucks the life out of the bee, and then the colony, and the apiary, and eventually, the entire beekeeping outfit. Since varroa was first found in the U.S. in 1987, American beekeeping has changed dramatically -- inalterably. Indeed, this tiny mite has been the major cause of honeybee mortality across the United States. The nation's CCD losses pose no comparison. For most beekeepers and bee scientists, it is the varroa mite, not CCD, that occupies most of their worrying hours.

Here are the conclusions of another recent bee study—one that hasn't seen nearly as much play in the press. The paper, published in the *Journal of Apicultural Research*, puts it this way: "In many cases, bee mortality appears to be the product of many interacting factors, but there is a growing consensus that the ectoparasitic mite *Varroa destructor* plays the role of the major predisposing liability. We argue that the fight against this mite should be a priority for future honeybee health research."

Until we deal with that problem, all the pesticide bans in the world won't make it right with the honey bee.

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### From the Queen Chair

by Joyce Justice

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MSBA President Grant Gillard presents Joyce Justice a plaque at last year's Fall Meeting for her years of service as Queen Chair.

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## Join us at the Missouri State Fair, August 9-19 in Sedalia

### Enjoy the best of agriculture and entertainment, and take a turn in our honey booth!

Join the Missouri State Fair August 9-19, 2012 in Sedalia, in celebration of our great state's 110th annual agricultural showcase! The 400-acre fairgrounds will present premier livestock shows and competitive exhibits, and first-class professional entertainment. Mark your calendar for the summer's best family vacation experience!

The fair will showcase the best of Missouri agriculture; competitions from bull riding to tractor pulls; professional entertainment from Hank Williams, Jr. to Larry the Cable Guy; rural lifestyle experiences; hands-on science, technology and innovation; family-friendly amenities for everyone from infants to mature adults; and other action-packed activities.

The Missouri State Fair is the perfect blend of activities for a memorable family outing. The midway carnival includes games and rides for children and thrill seekers of all ages. The nightlife on the fairgrounds kicks up each evening with free music on the Budweiser Stage and music stars performing on the stage of the Pepsi Grandstand.

Admission at the gate: \$8; age 60+, \$6; ages 6-12, \$2; 5 and under free. Tickets can be purchased in advance for a discount. See [www.mostatefair.com](http://www.mostatefair.com) for schedules and details.

#### Booth volunteers needed:

Something new we're trying this year ... Sign up for four-hour increments: 9am (open booth) to 1pm; 1-5pm; or 5-9pm (close).

Sign up to work four hours and then enjoy the fair, or visit the fair events first and then help out in our air-conditioned honey booth for four hours ... or more. We are flexible with your hours. We need at least six people on each shift.

MSBA will pay your way to get in the gate for volunteering. It's a great way to spend a day at the Missouri State Fair and also support your Missouri State Beekeepers Association. Call Dean Sanders at 816-456-4683 or Steve Harris at 314-805-6451 to volunteer some hours.

#### Enter your honey and other products:

Even if you are unable to help out at our booth, you can still participate in the Honey Competition. A list of products to enter are: Cut comb, bulk comb, light extracted, dark extracted, sealed honey frames, candied (creamed) honey, 3 lb beeswax cake, beeswax art design,

beeswax candles and "the queen & her bees". Judging of honey entries will include degree of density, moisture content, free from crystals, clarity, cleanliness of containers, flavor & aroma, color, appearance of containers, and uniformity of volume. Score Sheet for judging the other additional items and more

specific guidelines plus an entry form can be found on the State Fair web site at <http://www.mostatefair.com/premium-guide>. Under "Agriculture, Fine Arts and Home Economics", choose "Agriculture Rules and Classes", and Apiculture begins on page 2.

Start planning now and decide what to enter. Get your jars selected (preferably glass, but not a requirement) and get your creamed honey started by early July. Even if you are just beginning your beekeeping adventure, please consider entering your honey products for judging. You get a score sheet for each item you enter and it's a great way to see how you're doing in preparing your honey for sale or even to give to your friends and neighbors.

If you are unable to deliver your entries to Sedalia yourself, maybe your local club can help find someone. Let's fill up the showcase this year and let the public see our beautiful bounty from all over Missouri.

Note: MSBA matches your winnings if you are a member of the state club.



# The wait is almost over.

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## Buzz off, says Missouri -- and they mean that in a nice way!

A new beekeeping initiative called "The Great Missouri Buzz Off" was launched on Friday, May 11th at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. Led by the Missouri Department of Agriculture and partnered with the Missouri State Beekeepers Association, Missouri Botanical Garden and St. Louis Zoo, the "Buzz Off" is designed to start a "buzz" about bees, promote their importance to food production and encourage Missourians to visit the state-sponsored website at [AgriMissouri.com](http://AgriMissouri.com) and learn about beekeeping.

The Missouri State Beekeepers Association will play a key role in the implementation and promotion of this initiative.

Speaking at the Botanical Garden to launch the initiative were Missouri Director of Agriculture Dr. Jon Hagler, Missouri Botanical Garden Vice President of Horticulture Andrew Wyatt, St. Louis Zoo's Curator of Invertebrates Ed Spevak and Missouri State Beekeepers Association Vice President John Timmons.

For more information about "The Great Missouri Buzz Off", please visit <http://AgriMissouri.com/the-great-missouri-buzz-off/>.



MSBA Vice-President John Timmons says a few words at the kickoff of "The Great Missouri Buzz Off" in May. Also appearing, from left, are Missouri Director of Agriculture Jon Hagler; Andrew Wyatt, Missouri Botanical Garden Vice President of Horticulture; and Bob Herleth, Executive Vice-President of the Garden. Hidden behind Timmons is Eastern Missouri Beekeepers President Bob Sears. photo by Marvin Hook

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## Honey Queen report

*continued from page 13*

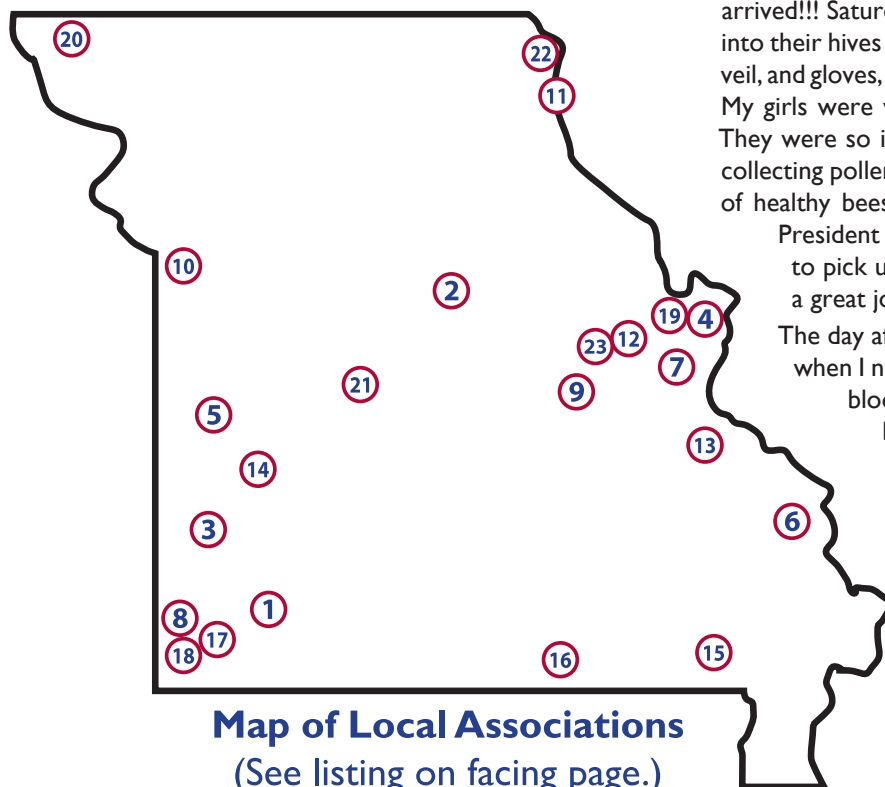
people about Honey Bees.

Many were wowed at seeing the observation hive and to get some yummy honey sticks. People were fascinated by our state insect and how amazing it is. Some individuals were so fascinated that they were going to learn more about bees and try to start up hives of their own. I feel that a great many people both young and old were educated to have a better understanding, appreciation and respect for beekeeping and the lives of honey bees. I hope to go back to Herman for some other events in the Fall and educate more people about honey bees. My thanks to Walter Els and his wife of Hermann Hills Apiaries, Joan Treis who coordinated the event and invited me, and the townspeople of Hermann for their friendliness and generosity in sharing their town with me.

Finally, finally, the long awaited event occurred ... my Carnolians arrived!!! Saturday, May 19th, I installed two nucs of Carnolian bees into their hives and I did it all by myself I might add with only a jacket, veil, and gloves, while Mom and Dad observed from about 6 feet away. My girls were very gentle and docile and cooperated wonderfully. They were so incredibly happy they immediately started flying and collecting pollen and or exploring their new hive. Man what a bunch of healthy bees they are too. Special thanks to Keith Dugan our President at NWMO Beebusters who made the trip to Iowa to pick up my bees since mom had shoulder surgery. He did a great job of picking out my girls for me too!!

The day after installing my bees, I went outside to get the mail when I noticed not only some of my forager bees pollinating a blooming tree in my front yard, but also some wild honey bees, bumble bees and a carpenter bee all pollinating this blooming tree. I am not quite sure what type of tree it is, but I am now interested in finding out what type of tree attracts so many different types of bees. I want to plant some more for all the bees, it's one of my many summer projects. I feel like I have a living classroom in my front yard. Everyone that stops by has to go see the tree with the bees.... I insist ... and they are amazed. Hope to see everyone soon.

2012 Honey Queen, Megan Allen



**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](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  
[grnthumb@alltel.net](mailto:grnthumb@alltel.net)
- 4 Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association**  
2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Powder Valley Nature Center 11715 Craigwold Rd., Kirkwood  
Bob Sears, President 314-479-9517  
[www.easternmobeekeepers.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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  
Leon Riggs, President 417-235-5053
- 18 Southwest Missouri Beekeepers Assn. of Neosho**  
1st Tuesday of month, Neosho High School FFA Bldg  
President Roger Ross 417-472-3504
- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**NOTE:** If you belong to a local association, please pay your state dues through your local club.

**State Association Dues** (Check only one box)

Adult Membership \$15.00 ☐ 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:

<b>AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL</b>		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
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## Honey Queen report by Megan Allen

Greetings to all fellow Beekeepers. The past couple of months have gone by slow...and also extremely fast. Here are the highlights: I attended my senior prom, made a trip to Hermann to attend an opening of the old flour mill that had been rehabilitated, played chauffeur for my mom who had shoulder surgery, and finally, finally my beautiful bees arrived. I also graduated from High School, and I currently have a living educational exhibit in a tree in my front yard. As most of you know, the bees are out and buzzing about, doing what they do best -- making delicious honey. Wow! What a wonderful couple of months ... I hope everyone else's has been as interesting and wonderful.

Ok, since I just skimmed the highlights, I'd better report to you in a little more detail. In April I traveled to the town of Hermann, Missouri, where I attended the grand reopening of Hermann's Old Flour Mill. The day couldn't have been more beautiful for such a wonderful event, and what a great restoration of a wonderful piece of history. Many people were in attendance at the event including Hermann's mayor who later came and introduced himself and seemed to be amazed by an observation hive full of bees provided by Hermann Hills Apiaries to help me educate

*continued on page 10*



## Directory of Officers

- President: Grant Gillard** 573-243-6568  
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- State Entomologist: Collin Wamsley** 573-751-5505  
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- Associate Professor of Entomology: Richard Houseman**  
HousemanR@missouri.edu 573-882-7181  
1-87 Agricultural Building, University of Missouri-  
Columbia, Columbia MO 65211

# Missouri State Beekeepers Association

P.O. Box 448 Oak Grove, MO 64075

[www.mostatebeekeepers.org](http://www.mostatebeekeepers.org)



**Another view:** I think what I find most interesting about the torch lily is that, while the bright orange florets are presumably to attract pollinators (and perhaps gardeners), it is only after they fade that their nectaries open and produce their payoff.

Unlike some pollinators, honeybees are attracted more to scent than to bright colors, and their perception of ultraviolet light makes pale yellows and whites appear much more interesting than they do to humans.

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](mailto:editor@mostatebeekeepers.org) with “email newsletter” in the subject line. I’ll reply with confirmation, and add you to my list.

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