



Missouri State Beekeepers Association  
PO Box 7514 Columbia, Missouri 65205

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

June 2016

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Editor

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## From the President by Valerie Duever

Hello Everyone.

Man, what a busy, busy, busy two months this has been. Everything is green and lush. Lots of plants are blooming so our girls have plenty to eat and store as excess. And the swarming ... don't get me started on the swarming. If I get one message a day, seems like I get three.

Swarms are not a bad thing, especially for the honey bees. This natural occurrence provides a break in the egg-laying/varroa mite cycle. It introduces a new queen to the area and allows you to increase the number of colonies in your bee yard, if you are prepared enough to catch or trap them when they swarm. And, the event itself is very cool to watch.

Tom Seeley has been promoting his new book, "Following the Wild Bees, The Craft and Science of bee Hunting", and I was able to catch part of his interview on our local NPR station last week. It was interesting, to say the least. It wasn't 30 minutes later that I received a phone call from a journalism student, wanting to discuss swarms, so we talked for about 20 minutes or so. At the end of the conversation, she requested to be contacted when a swarm took place, near her home, so she could come out and experience the sights and sounds. I kind of chuckled at that thought because if we knew when bees were going to swarm, we wouldn't be losing as many to the wilderness or to our neighbors!

This past couple of weeks have been one interview after another. You can certainly tell when it is "testing time" for these students. Some do a fantastic job. Some want you to do all the work, even requesting that you come up with the questions. Never a dull moment. Mike McMillen and I made a trip down to Jefferson City to present Representative Jay Houghton with a very nice plaque and a couple of bottles of local honey. If you remember, Representative Houghton is one of the folks that helped get our honey bill passed last year. I have been involved with a number of early discussions on how different groups can help the beekeepers of Missouri; from the Department of Conservation, to the Department of Agriculture, to a number of colleges and universities. Everyone wants to help in some way, shape and form.

We have some great information in this newsletter issue and even more information is available on our website: [www.mostatebeekeepers.org](http://www.mostatebeekeepers.org) so please check it out. We will be posting updates to a number of projects and events that are happening around the state that could help you be a better beekeeper.

As the weather warms up, start making plans to do regular mite checks. It is better to catch them sooner (2-3% infestation) rather than later. Unfortunately, as the honey bee population begins to drop over the summer, the varroa mite population begins to dramatically climb. Contact your local beekeeping club, or drop us an email if you need help with this process. Good luck with catching those swarms. Let's hope the honey crop this year is just as abundant as the honey bees have been over the past two months.

Thank you for being a member of the Missouri State Beekeepers Association.

Valerie





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## So you wanna be a beekeeper ...

### It's easier than ever to get started, but harder than ever to survive

by Eugene Makovec

"The bee population is declining," begins the description on the package, which contains a complete, pre-assembled beehive and sits on the shelf of my local Orsheln Farm & Home store.

Then comes the obligatory statement that a third of our food supply depends on their survival. But finally, the good news: Keeping bees is "simpler than you think!" Just add bees, and "only minimal management is required. The bees know what to do!"

Let's begin with the fact that the bee population is not, in fact, declining – a little detail that I seem to reiterate to someone about once a week on average. While feral colonies in this country were mostly wiped out in the late '80s/early '90s by tracheal and varroa mites and have yet to recover substantially, managed colonies have been rising in the United States for a decade or more, and for a half century worldwide – as reflected in ongoing surveys by the USDA and FAO. As for the food supply, the largest demand for pollination by far in this country is almonds, and this year's crop is expected to rise by about six percent.

That said, it is clear to anyone who has done this for awhile that it has gotten increasingly difficult to keep bee colonies alive from year to year. It's also clear that the primary culprit is the parasitic varroa mite, with its voracious appetite and attendant viruses. (Again, something I spend entirely too much time explaining to both the general public and – sadly – even some beekeepers.)

It's not cell phones. It's not GMOs. It's not neonics. It's not even global warming, as was lately suggested by one or another of the myriad interest groups who have in recent years glommed onto the phenomenon of "colony collapse" as a means of promoting their own varied agendas.

Another population that is expanding, and quite rapidly, is that of grant-writers. One species seeks tax money for "research" to "save the bees". This endowment is typically used to feed enormous quantities of some substance or other to captive pollinators, watch them die, and then trumpet dubious findings to the media – always prefaced with dire warnings of the danger that disappearing bees present to our food supply, and ending with the caveat, "More research is needed."

A different variant seeks money for beekeeper "training", and I put that word within quotes for a reason. From what I've seen offered, this education can encompass as little as four hours, often without benefit of a nearby association for meetings or mentoring – and even in some cases without an actual beekeeper in the role of instructor! Can the graduate of this course, who subsequently spends his time on Facebook inquiring about the difference between a queen and a drone, really be considered a beekeeper? Or is he one of those people whom George Imirie famously termed "bee havers"?

As the folks at the Bee Informed Partnership report (see facing page), small-time beekeepers with no plan in place for varroa control may well be skewing the annual colony loss numbers by doing harm not only to their own colonies but to those of others nearby.

And then you have this new breed of equipment vendors who market their wares at farm and hardware stores, which I'll admit is rather refreshing on the surface – beekeeping is becoming mainstream! (Valerie Duever addressed the pros and cons of this very well in April's *From the President* column in this newsletter.) After all, beekeeping is not a secret society, and about 40 years ago one could purchase this stuff through the Sears Roebuck catalog.

But this is not your grandfather's beekeeping. Our problems for the most part are much more challenging than before. It's nice that bees are now a bit more accessible, but let's face it: Putting bees in a box in the yard does not make one a beekeeper. And unless you live on an island, when your neglected bees swarm, they end up in the neighbor's tree, and possibly her attic. When they crash in the fall, your problems become the problems of every other beekeeper in a couple-mile radius. *You are your neighbor's beekeeper.*

I'm certainly not here to discourage anyone from keeping bees. I've done my share of teaching and mentoring over the past few years, and will continue to do so.

But if you're one of those who think you can "help save the bees" just by giving them a place to live and then leaving them alone, I say go for it.

Just please, don't do it in my neighborhood.



## Simpler Than You Think!

This hive is pre-assembled for easy set up and use. Everything you need to provide a home for bees is included in this box. Bees and other supplies must be purchased separately.

Once your hive is set up and bees are installed only minimal management is required.

**The bees know what to do!**





## Nation's Beekeepers Lost 44 Percent of Bees in 2015-16

### Summer losses rival winter losses for the second year running

May 10, 2016, The Bee Informed Team

Beekeepers across the United States lost 44 percent of their honey bee colonies during the year spanning April 2015 to April 2016, according to the latest preliminary results of an annual nationwide survey. Rates of both winter loss and summer loss—and consequently, total annual losses—worsened compared with last year. This marks the second consecutive survey year that summer loss rates rivaled winter loss rates.

The survey, which asks both commercial and small-scale beekeepers to track the health and survival rates of their honey bee colonies, is conducted each year by the Bee Informed Partnership in collaboration with the Apiary Inspectors of America, with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Survey results for this year and all previous years are publicly available on the Bee Informed website.

"We're now in the second year of high rates of summer loss, which is cause for serious concern," said Dennis vanEngelsdorp, an assistant professor of entomology at the University of Maryland and project director for the Bee Informed Partnership. "Some winter losses are normal and expected. But the fact that beekeepers are losing bees in the summer, when bees should be at their healthiest, is quite alarming."

Beekeepers who responded to the survey lost a total of 44.1 percent of their colonies over the course of the year. This marks an increase of 3.5 percent over the previous study year (2014-15), when loss rates were found to be 40.6 percent. Winter loss rates increased from 22.3 percent in the previous winter to 28.1 percent this past winter, while summer loss rates increased from 25.3 percent to 28.1 percent.

The researchers note that many factors are contributing to colony losses. A clear culprit is the varroa mite, a lethal parasite that can easily spread between colonies. Pesticides and malnutrition caused by changing land use patterns are also likely taking a toll, especially among commercial beekeepers.

A recent study, published online in the journal *Apidologie* on April 20, 2016, provided the first multi-year assessment of honey bee parasites and disease in both commercial and backyard beekeeping operations. Among other findings (summarized in a recent University of Maryland press release), that study found that the varroa mite is far more abundant than previous estimates indicate and is closely linked to several damaging viruses. Varroa is a particularly challenging problem

among backyard beekeepers (defined as those who manage fewer than 50 colonies).

"Many backyard beekeepers don't have any varroa control strategies in place. We think this results in colonies collapsing and spreading mites to neighboring colonies that are otherwise well-managed for mites," said Nathalie Steinhauer, a graduate student in the UMD Department of Entomology who leads the data collection efforts for the annual survey. "We are seeing more evidence to suggest that good beekeepers who take the right steps to control mites are losing colonies in this way, through no fault of their own."

This is the tenth year of the winter loss survey, and the sixth year to include summer and annual losses in addition to winter loss data. More than 5,700 beekeepers from 48 states responded to this year's survey. All told, these beekeepers are responsible for about 15 percent of the nation's estimated 2.66 million managed honey bee colonies.

The survey is part of a larger research effort to understand why honey bee colonies are in such poor health, and what can be done to manage the situation. Some crops, such as almonds, depend entirely on honey bees for pollination. Estimates of the total economic value of honey bee pollination services range between \$10 billion and \$15 billion annually.

"The high rate of loss over the entire year means that beekeepers are working overtime to constantly replace their losses," said Jeffery Pettis, a senior entomologist at the USDA and a co-coordinator of the survey. "These losses cost the beekeeper time and money. More importantly, the industry needs these bees to meet the growing demand for pollination services. We urgently need solutions to slow the rate of both winter and summer colony losses."

*The Bee Informed Partnership is a collaboration of efforts across the country from some of the leading research labs and universities in agriculture and science to better understand honey bee declines in the United States. Supported by the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, we're working with beekeepers to better understand how we can keep healthier bees. The key to our success is the true partnership we maintain across a wide range of disciplines including traditional honey bee science, economics, statistics, and medical research that makes all these tools available to this important research. And just as important as the tools are the people. We not only have the leading researchers in the honey bee industry, we also have advisory boards from the commercial beekeeping industries, almond and other commercial growers, as well as naturalists and conservationists from across the country.*

**"Many backyard beekeepers don't have any varroa control strategies in place. We think this results in colonies collapsing and spreading mites to neighboring colonies that are otherwise well-managed for mites."**





## Around the state ...

In addition to the usual late-winter workshops, our local clubs have a lot of interesting things going on:

**Green Hills Club** recently gave presentations to Braymer FFA and grades 5 through 8, and at the Breckenridge Elementary on the Life of the Honeybee.

**North Central Missouri Beekeepers Association** held an Advanced Beekeeping Class on June 1st at Macon Career Center.

**Southwest Missouri Beekeepers Association** of Neosho recently added 10 new members. They meet at the Neosho High School FFA Building on the first Tuesday of each month with Thelma Ross leading their group.

**Southern Missouri Beekeepers of Monett** hosted Dr. Leo Sharashkin during their May meeting. They have a unique meeting format with a pot-luck meal every month. They currently have approximately 80 members and they meet at The United Methodist Church, Hwy 37, in Monett. John Schmidt

leads this club along with other officers. During the month of July they're meeting at a local park and enjoying a picnic meal together. They give out information on a Facebook Page called K & B Honeybees.

**Wright County Beekeepers Association**, which meets in Hartville at the Laclede Electric Building on the 2nd Thursday of each month, has been asked to give presentations for the Wright County Library during their summer program for children. They will give these talks on July 6, 10:00 am at the Hartville Community Building; July 6, 1:00 pm at the Mountain Grove Library; and July 13, 10:00 am at the Mansfield Library. More information is on their Facebook Page called Wright County Beekeepers.

**Busy Bee Club** in Stockton reports new beekeepers have joined their club this Spring. Led by Neil Brunner, they have about 15 – 20 participants who meet each month in an

*continued next page*



Cory Stevens uncaps a queen cell to show the almost fully-developed queen to attendees of his Queen Rearing Workshop in St. Peters. Three Rivers Beekeepers was the first club in the state to host Cory's workshop, and it has become an annual event at clubs around the state.

photo by Eugene Makovec



## Around the state ...

*continued from previous page*

informal meeting to discuss their beekeeping challenges, answer questions and help out new beekeepers

**Golden Valley Beekeepers Association** meets at the Golden Corral Restaurant on the 2nd Monday evening of each month. They recently had Terry Stormont speak in their May meeting on Queen Issues in a colony.

For more info see their website <http://goldenvalleymeekeepers.com/Meetings.html>

**West Central Beekeepers** in Sedalia MO is the newest beekeeping club in the Southwest Missouri region, meeting at State Fair Community College on the 2nd Wednesday evening of each month. Mike Conroy leads this group and has also accepted the position of Webmaster for Missouri State Beekeepers Association. In their May meeting, Cathy Hemme of the Farm Service Agency in Sedalia informed the club about various new programs available to beekeepers, including honey crop and colony insurance, the availability of microloans to support local small farming operations, and other programs of interest. They have approximately 45 members.

**Bees Alive** Club in Nixa is presenting their First Annual Bee Day Workshop on Saturday, June 25th. Registration begins at 7am at the Christian County Elks Lodge, 2400 N 18th St., Ozark, MO 65721. There are over 12 speakers to present seminars covering topics like beekeeping basics, organic gardening, natural beekeeping, advanced beekeeping topics, live Q&A Panel, even using all the products from the hive. Dr Leo Sharashkin is the keynote speaker will be presenting a great seminar of horizontal hives and natural beekeeping. You can visit their Facebook Event Page for more info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1164519003560285/> or their website: [www.beesaliveclub.org](http://www.beesaliveclub.org)

**Beekeeping Association of the Ozarks** in Springfield recently hosted approximately 50 new beekeepers in their annual series of classes for beginning beekeepers. May 21 they will host their 3rd Annual Queen Workshop with keynote speaker Cory Stevens at MSU's Darr Agriculture Center in Springfield. BAO conducts Field Day experiences each month. For more info see their website [www.ozarksbeekeepers.org](http://www.ozarksbeekeepers.org) or visit their Facebook pages Ozarks Beekeepers or Beekeepers Association of the Ozarks.

We would like to welcome a new club to the Southeast Region. The **Dexter Bee Club** has been in existence for less than a year and is doing quite well. At one of the latest gatherings at "Scott Laden's Place", over seventy were in attendance to enjoy a fish fry and fine beekeeper camaraderie. Reports like

that make us all want to put "Dexter Bee Club, 6:00 pm" on the 1st Tuesday of each month on our calendars. Cory Stevens is the contact person at (573) 225-6935.

The **SEMO Honey Producers** are going through some changes. Currently they are looking for a new meeting facility in the Poplar Bluff area. They do plan to continue meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. New meeting location and contact person will be announced soon.

The **Parkland Beekeepers Association** continues to grow. In order to better serve both the beginning beekeepers and more advanced beekeepers of the group, beginners in the mentoring program are attending a meeting for themselves the 1st Tuesday of each month. The "newbees" can discuss pertinent and timely "beginning" issues with experienced beekeepers while having access to five hives maintained on the campus of Mineral Area College. This hands on experience is considered valuable for those just learning the ins and outs of hive inspections and management techniques. The regular monthly meeting, often dealing with more advanced beekeeping topics and open to all members, continues to be held the 3rd Tuesday.

### Announcing ...

## The Heartland Beekeeping Partnership

Heartland Beekeeping Partnership was recently founded by Bruce Bird (Sedalia) and Cathy Misko (Centerview) who both share a passion for education and investing in others.

Bruce is a very knowledgeable and seasoned beekeeper, Past President of West Central Beekeepers Association, and State Fair College beekeeping instructor. Cathy is Immediate Past President of Midwestern Beekeepers Association, and a beekeeper of 27 years who thrives on community outreach.

Acknowledging the "Beekeeping Revolution," the Heartland Beekeeping Partnership (or "HBeeP") has been established for the purpose of bringing advanced workshops, professional speakers and noteworthy topics bi-annually to western and central Missouri beekeepers, regional clubs and associations. HBeeP's initial inspiration was gleaned from the respected BeeSpeakSTL organization, co-founded by John Timmons and Jane Sueme.

HBeeP looks forward to collaboration with regional clubs and beekeepers via input of topics to insure beekeeping enrichment, therefore making Heartland Beekeeping Partnership a true partnership.

No membership is required. However, communication of ideas to help meet continuing educational needs while respecting State Conference schedules is encouraged.

HBeeP's first launch is a Queen Rearing Advanced Workshop instructed by Certified Master Beekeeper and VSH Queen Breeder Cory Stevens July 9th, 2016 @ Powell Gardens, Kingsville MO.

For more info contact [cathymisko@earthlink.net](mailto:cathymisko@earthlink.net) or [bird1@mac.com](mailto:bird1@mac.com)





## Join us at the Missouri State Fair in August!

### Volunteers needed in our Honey Booth August 11-21

With the slogan, “See What Crops Up”, the Missouri State Fair runs this year from August 11-21 in Sedalia. The 400-acre fairgrounds will present premier livestock shows and competitive exhibits, and first-class 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 3 Doors Down, Steppenwolf, Molly Hatchet and many others; rural lifestyle experiences; hands-on science, technology and innovation; family-friendly amenities for everyone from infants to mature adults; and other action-packed activities. And did we mention corn dogs? 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: \$10; age 60+, \$7; 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:

Please consider volunteering at our MSBA Booth this year. The booth is in the air-conditioned Ag Building on the southeast side of the fairgrounds. (A fairgrounds map is available at <http://www.mostatefair.com/plan/hours-map-directions/>.) If you sign up to help (four hours minimum), your FREE admission ticket can be picked up at the information shed (formerly the red caboose) located on Hwy 65 (outside the fairgrounds), just North of Gate #11. Go onto the fairgrounds at this entrance and park your vehicle.

We need five to six people in the booth each day, from 9am to 9pm. As always, we encourage local clubs to sign up to run the booth for a day, sporting their own club logo apparel if desired.

Call Dean Sanders (816-456-4683) or Wanda Johnston (816-392-4960) and sign up for as many hours/days as you can. Arrangement for overnight accommodations nearby is available for you to reserve dates of your choice.

Jobs in the booth include answering questions at our observation hive, selling honey, ice cream, honey sticks and other honey related by-products, plus educating the public about honeybees. If you’ve never worked at or been to the Fair, try it for a day. You get to meet and work with other beekeepers, and Dean and Wanda or other experienced workers will be there to help answer any of your questions. See you at the Fair!

#### 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. The list of products to enter includes cut comb, bulk comb, light and dark extracted honey, sealed honey frames, candied (creamed) honey, beeswax blocks, art and candles, and “the queen & her bees” (observation hive). 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. The Score Sheet for judging items and more specific guidelines plus an entry form can be found on the State Fair web site at <http://www.mostatefair.com/competitions/how-to-enter-premium-guide/>. Under “Agriculture and Home Economics” you will find “Agriculture Rules and Classes” (with Apiculture beginning on page 2) and the “Agriculture Entry Blank”. 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.







## **SAVE THE DATE!**

Mark your calendars for the annual

# **MSBA Fall Conference**

**October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Join your fellow beekeepers at one of Missouri's favorite vacation destinations!

Scheduled speakers will be:

- **Randy Oliver** with Scientific Beekeeping,
- **Mel Disselkoen**, EAS Master Beekeeper and Raiser of Queens,
- And a number of local experts who will be discussing your favorite honeybee subjects.

A few of the topics will be:

- Philosophy and Future of Beekeeping
- Reading the Comb (5 Causes of Hive Failure)
- Honeybee Pest and Disease Identification
- Breeding for Mite Management
- ... and much more.

This is your chance to show your skill at **Cooking and Bee Art**. Entry form will soon be available online. There are three categories:

- Bee art (Jewelry, wax, needlework and miscellaneous art)
- Cookies and bread
- Open food.

Come visit your favorite vendors and see what is new in bee supplies. Place orders early and pick them up at the Conference.

There will be local associations to talk to about what is going on in their parts of the state.

Come see if the Flow Hive worked, as we will have Missouri beekeepers talk about their experiences with this highly talked about item.

Don't forget to register for the **Awards Dinner and Auction** on Friday night. This is always one of the highlights of the Fall Conference. If you have not been to the Awards Dinner and Auction, this will be your chance.

Online registration should be available in July.

The Conference will be held at the Lodge of The Four Seasons. Rooms can be booked any time directly with the Lodge. They need to be reserved prior to September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Call toll-free at 888-265-5500 and let them know you are with the MO State Beekeepers Association.

# Local Beekeeping Associations in Missouri

- 1 Beekeepers Association of the Ozarks**  
4th Tuesday of each month, 6-9 p.m.  
Seminole Baptist Church, 4221 S. National Ave.  
Springfield MO 65810  
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 meeting calendar  
President Bob Williams, [thebeltonbee@gmail.com](mailto:thebeltonbee@gmail.com)
- 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. Ray Politte  
573-631-8236 [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, 6:30pm  
Location and contact info to be announced
- 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  
John Schmidt, President 417-830-9141
- 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. Rodney Angell (573) 259-5811 [bee143@fidnet.com](mailto:bee143@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 [samnoral@gmail.com](mailto:samnoral@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  
President Eric Reid  
[quadcountybeekeepers.com](http://quadcountybeekeepers.com)
- 28 North Central MO Beekeepers Association**  
1st Monday, Macon High School, Macon, 7:00 pm  
Contact Bill George (660) 214-0132  
[georges@chbeekeeping.com](mailto:georges@chbeekeeping.com) [www.ncmobees.org](http://www.ncmobees.org)
- 29 Bees Alive**  
(Springfield area) [www.beesaliveclub.org](http://www.beesaliveclub.org)  
1st Thursday, 7-9pm, Central Bank of the Ozarks, 502 W. Mt. Vernon St., Nixa MO 65714  
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 Jason Seetin  
[swarmchasers@gmail.com](mailto:swarmchasers@gmail.com)

## 33 Northland Beekeepers

3rd Tuesday at 7pm, Smithville Library-Highway 169  
Contact: Clayton Lee at [leeland55@gmail.com](mailto:leeland55@gmail.com) or  
573-864-5172

## 34 Mark Twain Beekeepers (Dent County)

3rd Monday, 6-8 p.m. No dues. Contact for meeting locations. Contacts: Terry Phelps 573-729-3333  
Gregg Tivnan (573) 689-2254 or [greggtivnan@yahoo.com](mailto:greggtivnan@yahoo.com)

## 35 West Central Beekeeping Association

Second Wednesday, 6:30 pm  
State Fair Community College, Potter-Ewing Ag Ctr, Sedalia

Contact Mike Conroy (573) 301-1394  
[hunnyhillfarms@gmail.com](mailto:hunnyhillfarms@gmail.com)

## 36 West Plains Bee Group

3rd Thursday, 6pm Hirsch Feed & Farm Supply,  
789 Worley Dr., West Plains  
Call Carl Fry 417-247-0708 or Dan Cropper 417-372-2602

## 37 Greenhills Bee Club

4th Monday, 7pm, American Legion Hall in Braymer  
J.R. Hess. 660-233-9577 or [jrhess11@gmail.com](mailto:jrhess11@gmail.com)

## 38 Dexter Bee Club

1st Tuesday, 6pm, Scott Laden's house  
9265 County Road 627, Dexter  
Contact Cory Stevens at [corystevens00@yahoo.com](mailto:corystevens00@yahoo.com)  
or 573-225-6935

See our interactive club map on the website at: <http://batchgeo.com/map/e64a9d35b439c5309794fbae8516f333>

## Confessions of a beginning beekeeper - 20 years later (Part 3 of 3)

by Eugene Makovec

*Continued from April*

**July 15, 1996 - Well, I goofed again!** The queen cells I destroyed were laying crossways on the comb, and Marshall Creech told me those were not swarm cells, but supersedure cells - a sign that maybe the queen is not okay. (Apparently swarm cells are located along the bottom of frames, hanging down.) So today, when I checked, my fears were confirmed - no eggs, no larvae, no new bees digging out.

In looking at my calendar, I decided I'd probably killed the queen when I dropped that homemade honeycomb out on the ground. When I'd gone back after two weeks there were young bees climbing out, but supersedure cells to replace the queen. But after two more weeks, no larvae, since I'd destroyed the supersedure cells.

I called Creech and he ordered me a queen, to be delivered by Friday - \$10.00 including Express Mail shipping - obviously, he's just helping me out - no profit for him here.

**7-20 (Saturday) - Queen came Friday** - I went out with Ray - he bought a veil and I lent him Dad's old gloves - and installed her.

**7-23 (Tuesday) - Ray took out the queen box**, since I was at Trout Lodge. He said she'd been released okay.

**8-3 (Saturday) - Good news** - Tons of larvae and some more honey in upper brood chamber. Ray and I saw eggs in cells, and larvae in cells - and here's the puzzling part - baby bees cutting out of cells. How can this be, when the new queen's only been in for two weeks? Supposedly it takes

three weeks to raise a bee!

I took pictures and Joey and Sammy each got to don Ray's veil and gloves and come up close. Joey got to watch bees climbing out of brood cells. Oh, and Ray got stung twice on the shoulder - that'll teach him to wear a tank top with just a veil and gloves.

[The wife] seems to have taken slight interest now. Having told me I should have just "let nature take its course," she says that obviously I missed one queen cell - this is quite possible since I couldn't check the homemade construction.

But this is still puzzling - If I missed a queen cell, a new queen should have come out 20 days from the old one's death [actually more like 11-12, knowing what I know now]. Twenty days from June 14 would be July 4. Why no signs of eggs or larvae on July 15 - 11 days later? How long does it take a new queen, from the time she cuts out of her cell, to when she starts laying eggs in earnest? The instructions for my mail-order queen said to check for eggs or brood after eight days. But then she came already mated and at least a few days old. Also - it's very possible that I wouldn't have seen eggs on July 15 - I was just upset that there were no larvae or bees digging out like the previous time, and I didn't even consider that there might be a new queen beginning work, or I might have looked more closely for eggs.

**8-16 - Everything seems to be fine now.** The bees seem to be busier and more numerous than ever. When I took the lid off, it was wall-to-wall bees below. There's

*continued on page 13*



## MSBA Membership Application

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## A beginner's confessions

*continued from page 11*

still no sign of honey in the super - just the usual couple of caretaker bees on each frame up there.

Ray was laid up with a bum knee and couldn't help me today.

**9-1 - Today the whole family went to Ray's**, along with Libby and Dan, for Bees and Barbeque! We went fishing - I caught a huge large-mouth bass - the first REAL fish I've ever caught - with a worm, five feet from the dock! Ray's got a pony now, so the kids got to ride it. Bonnie caught four fish and Tony caught two!

Again, the bees were extremely busy and populous, and I put on a little seminar of sorts for our visitors - it was fun.

Unfortunately, it is now clear that I won't be getting honey this year. I probably even need to feed my bees to get them through the winter.

**1-23-97 - It was 50 degrees and sunny today**, so I checked on the bees. They're doing fine! This is a relief since we just got through an extended cold spell - about a week without getting above freezing, and several nights below zero. But I guess if they can survive in Wisconsin, I should have nothing to worry about in Missouri.

There were a lot of dead bees out front - I think they had just carried them out when the weather warmed up. There were also a lot of young bees inside - a good sign. My best estimate is twenty to thirty thousand bees inside - two hive boxes both with large concentrations of bees about one-third to halfway across.

Oh, and there was a mouse nest in the bottom, but no mouse - just lots of hay and stuff, and one frame had a four-inch hole chewed in the wax at the bottom. There were also a bunch of acorn shells strewn around the bottom of the hive. The top box was pretty heavy - 20 pounds or so. Apparently they have food left for awhile.

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



***It's blackberry season!*** Okay, that comes later for humans, and involves buckets, bug spray and maybe calamine lotion. But for now, the bees are bringing in little buckets of nectar, which they will hopefully turn into big buckets of honey for the landlord!

front and back cover photos 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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