

Beekeepers gather in Springfield for annual Spring Meeting

Eric Mussen entertains, informs on a variety of topics

Over 100 beekeepers showed up in Springfield the weekend of March 14-15. They were there to hobnob with their peers, to stock up on supplies from attending vendors and, of course, to learn from nationally known bee researcher Eric Mussen, Ph.D.

Dr. Mussen, Extension Apiculturist at the University of California, Davis, is an expert on pollination, honey production and Africanized bees.

Both personable and informative, Dr. Mussen used a dry wit and a wealth of knowledge to educate attendees on a variety of topics:

Nosema

Nosema apis likely came to America in the 1600s with European settlers, though it was first identified and named in 1911 and not studied extensively until the 1950s.

Spores of this tiny, unicellular fungus live on combs within the hive. They are swallowed by adult bees, germinate in the midgut and infect digestive cells in the gut wall. Once a spore has been mostly consumed by these cells, it bursts and releases more spores. This process takes

See page 3

The vanishing bee

by Robert B. Willson and D.E. Wheeler

Collier's, May 1, 1948

Ask any average man, even an average farmer, what he knows about bees, and he'll probably say that they're little bugs that make honey and beeswax and don't like to be annoyed. Maybe he'll know, vaguely, about the bees and the flowers. Well, it's time he learned a little more, especially if he is concerned with the production of food crops, for the fact is that these little stingers are among the most important of earth's inhabitants. They are the primary key to soil fertility and agricultural prosperity; upon them depends whether we shall continue to be the best-fed people in the world, with surpluses to divide among less fortunate countries.

With some assistance from other insects and birds, and even from slugs and snails, bees pollinate some fifty agricultural crops, including most of our familiar fruits and flowers as well as the clovers, the alfalfa and the other legume plants which provide forage and fodder for cattle and hogs.

Without bees a great many of the foods we take for granted and have every day, including beef and most of the pork, would gradually disappear from the American table. Our present system of agriculture, based on crop rotation, whereby once in every three or four years a crop of clover or alfalfa is grown to restore fertility and physical fitness to the soil, would be impossible. There would be few if any seeds.

And such a disaster is not inconceivable, for there is a serious shortage of bees in this country, both of the domesticated honeybees and of such wild species as bumblebees, mason bees and carpenter bees, the so-called soli-

See "Beekeeping of Yesteryear", page 4



Debra Rabinovich of Clayton carries the two packages of Minnesota Hygienics that signal her official start in beekeeping. Dozens of new beekeepers picked up a total of 80 packages at the Eastern Association's Package Bee Installation Demo on April 26 in Creve Coeur. This followed February's wildly successful beginner's workshop, attended by close to 150 neophytes. Many of these have gotten started with nucleus colonies procured via the club.

-- photo by Eugene Makovec

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>From the President</i>	2	<i>AHB Swarm Traps</i>	7
<i>Ken Norman</i>		<i>Upcoming Meetings</i>	7
<i>Beekeeping of Yesteryear</i>	4	<i>Local Club Information</i>	9
<i>Collier's Disappearing Bees, 1948</i>		<i>Honey Tradin' Post</i>	9
<i>Support our Vendors</i>	6	<i>Queen Chair Report</i>	11
<i>List of meeting donors</i>		<i>Directory of Officers</i>	11
<i>Beekeeper of the Year</i>	7	<i>Milton Wright, 1929-2008</i>	11
<i>Dean Sanders</i>			



From the President

by Ken Norman

The Deseret (UT) News reported Tuesday April 22, 2008: "Honeybee keepers in the Beehive State are experiencing heavy losses this spring, with bees in entire hives dying — jeopardizing crops that rely on bees for pollination, from almonds to cotton to strawberries."

They continue in the report that Utah is experiencing CCD, or Colony Collapse Disorder. This spring in Missouri we have just a few beekeepers that have experienced large losses but most have not had it nearly as bad as last spring, from what I gathered at the spring meeting in Springfield. Which is a good note to begin this year on.

The continued rain in southwest Missouri is bringing the swarm calls sooner. I had an opportunity to do a TV spot on Channels 10 and 27 here in Springfield, dealing with bee swarms and how the public can call the local associations to deal with swarms, and the need for beekeepers to be the first people to call in the case of bee problems.

Feedback from the public seems to be positive although I didn't know that Channel 21 (PBS) had done a show about the Africanized honeybee and brought out the "killer bee" label on honeybee swarms. So I have received calls like this: "I have thousands of bees near my rose bushes flying everywhere around the roses acting funny and I am afraid to go out because they may be killer bees, please help me now."

So as you can see by this quote, it will be good for all beekeepers to keep a positive spin on the need for bees and the fact that swarms are a natural process for honeybees to go through in their life cycle, and that beekeepers are the first line of defense in taking care of them.

Another training opportunity I was able to be involved in was teaching

a few classes on queen rearing at the Southern Missouri Beekeepers of Monett association. It would benefit all beekeepers in Missouri to move to another level of education in keeping bees. I know we teach a lot of beginner courses in beekeeping, but moving to that next level of queen rearing would help in saving the stock that does well here in Missouri.

I was grafting a stock of bees that had survived several years in the wild without treatment, and in that way was extending those genetics to another generation. I did the grafting on the 30-plus cells for the club and placed them in the cell builder, and then let the club members practice their grafting on the rest of the cells. It didn't take long for each member to accomplish the grafting without rolling the larvae; some had to cut some of the wax away to see the

graft, but all were able to accomplish the task. We used the Chinese grafting tool, and a 00 paintbrush was the easiest tool to use for the graft. I will be checking the cells today (April 26) to see how they are coming along, and will be placing them April 29. I have had several calls for queens, as there seems to be a shortage right now from the major queen producers or a lack of foresight from new beekeepers to get their orders in sooner. In fact, the above-mentioned cells, if they make it, have been sold already.



I notice a new Missouri author on different beekeeping aspects, Grant Gillard from Jackson, Missouri; I was able to read his e-book "Making plastic foundation work for you (and your bees)". It was very informative and I will try to use his thoughts to get my bees to work plastic better. He has another e-book, "Beekeeping with 25 hives", which I have just started and hope to finish. The preview of these books can be seen at <http://25hives.homestead.com> and <http://makingplasticframeswork.homestead.com>. I would like to see more Missouri beekeepers put forth their work and thoughts for all of us to learn from. We have a lot of outstanding beekeepers who can contribute a lot to the education of beekeepers here.

The executive board will be meeting at 9 a.m. on June 28, 2008 at Ryan's restaurant in Springfield, MO. The restaurant is located at 1950 E. Kearney, which is a block east of Glenstone.

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Meeting topics include Nosema, honeybee nutrition, GMOs

continued from page 1

from six to 10 days, and the host bee dies about two weeks from the initial ingestion.

Infected bees lose the ability to digest food, and live only 22-44 percent of the normal lifespan. (Queens, while rarely affected, will die about 30 days from infection.) Infected nurse bees cannot produce brood food, affecting the hive's brood production.

The most common symptom is dysentery, which is also the means by which the disease spreads. In winter, affected bees sometimes defecate in the hive, and spores are ingested by workers cleaning up the mess.

Nosema apis is strongest in the hive from March to May, then all but disappears until October or November. It can explain early queen supersedure or failure of a colony to build up in Spring.

Nosema ceranae is thought to have afflicted *Apis cerana*, the Asian honeybee, for many years, though it was first identified in 1996. It was found in European honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) in 2004, and is thought by many to play some role in Colony Collapse Disorder. Spores have been found in honeybee samples dating to 1995.

Nosema ceranae differs from *Nosema apis* in that its host succumbs in only about eight days, and nurse bees are more heavily affected.

Control of *Nosema* depends first and foremost on keeping bees healthy and fed a wide variety of pollens. Beyond that, there are methods of controlling *Nosema* spores:

Fumagillin is a tried and tested control. It can be applied in the Fall and/or Spring. While it does not affect spores in the hive, it can prevent growth of the organism in medicated bees. Fed in sugar syrup, this medicine reaches 98 percent of bees in 48 hours. But Fall application should be done once the hive has adequate stores for winter, as additional feeding can dilute the medication.

Heating combs to 120 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours will kill *Nosema* spores. Careful, though -- 130 degrees melts beeswax.

Glacial Acetic Acid fumes can be used to sterilize combs.

Colony Collapse Disorder

We still don't have definitive answers, but here are some things Dr. Mussen discussed:

Some of the early culprits do not appear to be at fault, at least not by themselves.

Nosema ceranae and Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV) were both around before CCD. Australia has IAPV but not CCD, and no Varroa mites to date.

Some aspects of CCD suggest a contagious pathogen: The problem appears to spread out from a focal point; new colonies placed on recent dead-outs succumb in similar fashion; and combs can apparently be decontaminated via irradiation or glacial acetic acid fumigation.

Insecticides do not jump out as an obvious culprit either. Testing has

showed the presence of insecticides in the pollens and combs of both CCD and non-CCD colonies. Ditto for miticides. And Imidacloprid was hardly found in any samples, at any level.

Genetically Modified Organisms

There are three types of these currently used in crops:

Roundup Ready: These crops are impervious to the common Monsanto herbicide. Roundup Ready crops include soybeans, canola, alfalfa and cotton.

Bacillus thuringiensis: *Bt* is a naturally occurring bacterial disease of certain insects. It has long been used in insecticide sprays for such pests as European corn borers, alfalfa caterpillars and potato beetles, and has more recently been added to the genetic codes of crops to inhibit these pests.

Enzymes have been added to crops to attack the digestive systems of caterpillars. (These were specifically tested on honeybee adults and larvae before their use.)

According to Dr. Mussen, none of the genetically modified organisms currently used have been shown to cause harm to honeybees.

What do bees eat?

Pollen: Bees are attracted to pollens by taste, which is not necessarily indicative of nutrition. Alfalfa pollen, for example, is very nutritious but does not taste all that great, while dandelion pollen is just the opposite. Corn pollen, like most wind-borne pollens, tastes good but is low in protein; it does, however, contain a needed sterol, 24-methylcholesterol, which is also supplied by canola pollen.

Honeybees require the same 10 essential amino acids as humans.

Pollens contain proteins, lipids, vitamins, minerals, sterols and carbohydrates. Different pollens contain different mixtures of these, so bees need many types of pollen for proper nutrition. Spring fruit and nut trees provide the most reliable balance of pollen for bee nutrition.

Nectar: Good honey plants bloom long enough to provide plenty of nectar, and supply large per-flower quantities.

The sugar content of nectar goes up as the temperature warms and moisture evaporates. Bees may not work a crop early in the morning for that reason.

Nectar quantity per flower depends on soil moisture. Too little and it's non-existent; too much and it's too dilute.

Bees will store honeydew, but cannot overwinter on it. This substance is actually tree sap which has been digested by aphids and had its protein removed. Bees store it as honey, but since it hasn't gone through plant nectaries it contains long-chain carbohydrates, which are indigestible by honeybees.



Dr. Eric Mussen talks with meeting attendees during a break between sessions. Mussen repeatedly urged members to take advantage of his expertise, saying, "Your organization paid a lot of money to get me here."



Beekeeping of Yesterday

A look back at the literature of the last century

Continued from page 1

tary bees which will not live in man-made hives. The lack of wild bees is particularly serious, as it can only be made up, in a hurry, by an enormous increase in honeybee production.

Two years ago the Department of Agriculture initiated the first program for a considerable jump in the national bee population, calling upon the beekeeper, the legume seed grower, the orchardist and the farmer to cooperate in solving the problem. They were urged to develop more colonies, to keep the bees healthy, and to direct and control their work of pollination by the proper placement of mobile hives. Many sections of the country reported that more bees were at work than ever before, but in general the goals were not reached, largely because materials for building hives were scarce.

The number of bees required to maintain American agriculture at a high level of production is astronomical. There are some 500,000 beekeepers in the United States, and the Department of Agriculture has asked them, for 1948, to try to increase the number of colonies to 6,087,000.

Since the population of a colony may run as high as 80,000 insects, that many colonies would mean more than 400,000,000,000 bees buzzing about the countryside. Every state in the Union needs more bees; some should have as many as 12,000 additional colonies. The need is especially great where legume plants are grown; the department recommends a colony of bees for each acre of clover or alfalfa. For a real bumper crop of seed three colonies are required.

Our depleted meat supply

If the people of this country are to eat the meat they want and expect, our depleted herds of cattle must be built up to at least the 85,000,000 that filled our pasture and feed lots in 1945. That would be some 8,000,000 more than we had last year, when the per capita consumption of beef and other meats rose to an all-time high. To do this we must have more feed for the cattle, and for that we must have more legume plant seeds. At the moment, this seed production is so low that world requirements cannot be met in from five to ten years.

Agricultural experts are devoting much time and thought to stepping up seed production. The government is trying to do it with money. In 1947 Uncle Sam paid legume crop producers a bonus of \$3.50 an acre, with a limit of \$70 per farm. In 1948 there will be price supports for alfalfa, crimson clover and other legume crops.

These cash handouts will encourage farmers to plant more land in legume crops, but won't increase the yield of seeds per acre. Only more intensive pollination can do that. Scientists working on clover-seed production at Ohio State University recently completed a three-year experiment in which they used two fields of clover, one pollinated by great numbers of honeybees and the other allowed to grow with almost no insect pollination. The field worked by the bees produced 1,500 percent more seeds than the other. Dr. James I. Hambleton, head of the Division of Bee Culture of the Dept. of Agriculture, says:

Nickel candy bars containing honey and almonds have had a huge sale and consequently increased the use for honey.

"The decline in seed production is serious in those crops that require insect pollination. Utah at one time was our principal alfalfa-seed producing state. In its best year, 1925, Utah produced almost 25,000,000 pounds of alfalfa seed. This figure has dropped steadily until the current annual production is less than 4,000,000 pounds. Red clover and other legumes are in the same plight. A good stand of red clover in almost any locality carries enough blossoms to produce 10 or 11 bushels of seed per acre. But the average production for the country is only 0.9 of a bushel. Pollination is inadequate, to say the least, and the most immediate remedy is through the intelligent use of honeybees."

Dr. Hambleton and other experts are urging farmers and growers to follow the successful example set by many orchardists, who now insure bountiful crops by bringing in beekeepers during blossomtime. For this service, which gives orchards the fullest possible pollination, they pay four to eight dollars per hive. Since beehives can be moved about without injury or distress to the bees, this system could be used almost everywhere in the country.

Many large growers have begun to bring in bees when their fields are in bloom, and a few have gone the system one better by establishing apiaries of their own. In every instance where this has been done seed production has increased enormously. But the average farmer is always a little slow to adopt innovations.

It was less than 200 years ago that a German botanist, Joseph G. Kolreuter, who was engaged in hybridization experiments, discovered the priceless service rendered to flowering plants by pollinating insects. To the farmer this service has always been free, and he has accepted it as his natural due. It is still difficult to convince most farmers that for every dollar the beekeeper makes on honey the bees perform at least \$50 worth of service to agriculture.

The situation which could very easily result in beeless agriculture for the United States and thereby drastically lower our standards of living is not the fault of the bees. They are still the same industrious, prolific little creatures that they have always been. Man himself is to blame. With characteristic shortsightedness he and his boasted agricultural progress have upset one of nature's prime balances, and if we are to maintain our abundant way of life it must be restored. Up to some thirty years ago the balance between farm products and pollination by insects was undisturbed. Then came World War I and an increase in population, followed by an expanding national appetite and mounting exports of grain and animal products.

To supply the huge quantities of farm products needed, cultivation of large new tracts of land was necessary. Forests were cut down and the land plowed. Fence rows on farms that had sheltered wildlife were ripped out by the mile, and millions of acres of wood lots were cleared, leaving vast areas on which machines operated to plant and harvest crops beyond all precedent. Invention and "clean cultivation" were the new magic, destined to bring multiplied production. Nobody doubted that American energy and ingenuity could meet the pressure of a hungry and fast-growing population, and even provide surpluses.



Beekeeping of Yesteryear continued from previous page

Farmers defeat their own ends

But pollination, the foundation of our best and most-liked foods, was either forgotten or taken for granted. It had always happened as surely as the sun had always risen; therefore it would continue to happen. So the farmer doubled, tripled and quadrupled his planting, and at the same time continued to destroy the basic means of a full crop return.

The new "clean cultivation" wiped out the nesting places of the wild bees and the other insect pollinators; they were made homeless and left to die, which they did by the millions. The work of destruction was further carried on by forest and brush fires, many of them man-set to clear land for planting, and by the nationwide construction of automobile roads and residential developments.

Within the past few years, the pollinators have had to fight against a new enemy. Countless billions of honeybees, wild bees and other insects which helped in the task of pollination have murdered by the wholesale and careless use of powerful insecticides. These poisonous dusts and sprays, often scattered from airplanes over wide areas, kill the good as well as the bad insects. The Dept. of Agriculture reports that in 1947 DDT and 2-4-D, both of them certain death to bees, were more widely used than ever before.

It becomes increasingly apparent that these lethal sweeps in our fields and orchards will have to be controlled and regulated if the beekeeper and the seed-grower are to succeed in their efforts to increase bee population and legume crop production. Several states have already taken action to control the use of poisons but federal action may eventually be necessary. It doesn't make much sense for scientists of the Bee Culture Laboratory at Beltsville, MD, to work on diseases of the bee while wholesale poisoning of the insects is going on at the same time.

With its wild assistant pollinators dwindling almost to the vanishing point, the country is now dependent upon the honeybee for about 85 percent of the necessary pollination. And only the honeybee would have a chance to succeed at such a gigantic task, for no other insect pollinator lends itself to the manipulation of man, multiplies so prodigiously, is so well organized and industrious, and lays up such quantities of honey that it can be kept for profit.

The bumblebee, next best pollinator, is a happy-go-lucky insect who will have nothing to do with man and his hives and lays up a paltry quantity of honey. A bumblebee queen is considered prolific if she has a few hundred descendents at the end of the season, whereas a queen honeybee, busily laying her quota of some 3,500 eggs a day over a period of weeks, may have a hundred thousand.

Fortunately for man, of all the flower-visiting insects the honeybee is best equipped to preside at the "marriage of the flowers". Her body and legs are covered with hairs, some stiff, some featherlike, to which the pollen clings. It has been estimated that a honeybee's body can carry 100,000 grains of pollen. She has special "pollen baskets" on her hind legs, and her primary task is to fill these for home use, but a lot of the pollen is distributed as the bee buzzes among the flowers.

Like the bumblebee (and no other insect) she confines herself to a single species of blossom on a trip, thus bringing about a maximum of

pollination. Also, this is the reason why it is possible for a beekeeper to produce different kinds of honey: clover, orange, buckwheat, etc. To gather a pound of pollen, the bees from one hive must visit more than 8,000,000 flowers, and may gather as much as 65 pounds in a single season. The life span of a bee is about six weeks. At the end of that time she has literally worked herself to death.

The first honeybees to gather pollen and nectar from American flowers were brought to this country by English colonists who settled in New England in the early years of the 17th century, probably in the 1630s. These were German black bees, which were supplanted, about the middle of the 19th century, by Italian bees, the cleanest, the most industrious and the gentlest of all honey makers.

To the Indians of the Northwest the honeybee was known as "the white man's fly"; they believed that the bees led the pioneers on their conquest of the West. What happened was that swarms of honeybees escaped into the great forests that covered most of the eastern seaboard, and there lived wild until lured into hives again by the advancing white man. By 1800 they had been seen well beyond the Mississippi, and the settlers were not far behind.

**Isle of Wight disease
... broke out in the Isle
of Wight in 1906, and
ever since then has
been destroying honey-
bees in Europe.**

Aboriginal beekeeping methods

Before honeybees were brought here the necessary pollination was taken care of by native wild bees and other insects, which were numerous enough to insure good crops of beans and the few other vegetables used by the Indians. The wind pollinated the corn, the red man's grain staple, and there was no need of bees for his meat, for which he depended upon buffalo, deer, bear, small game and birds. He ate the honey of the wild bees whenever he found it, but there was never a great deal. A few tribes, mostly in the Southwest, succeeded in hiving a few varieties of bees in hollow logs with clay-plugged ends. Hives of this sort can still be found in Mexico, where the Indians keep a species of stingless wild bee for a dribble of honey.

A beeless agriculture in the U.S. may seem unthinkable, but experts are worried by the threatened extinction of wild bees and other pollinating insects. They are also fearful of the terrible plague known as Isle of Wight disease, which broke out in the Isle of Wight in 1906, and ever since then has been destroying honeybees in Europe.

And suppose we do not succeed in building up our colonies to the point where there are enough bees to handle the big job of pollination? What would happen? What would we have to eat in the United States? Well, the bill of fare would be sadly limited. We'd have wheat and corn and other grains that are pollinated by the wind, a few vegetables like spinach and potatoes, fish, and some mutton and lamb. Bees are needed to pollinate grass for sheep. But there would be almost no fruit.

Briefly, the American menu would be something like that of China, where the food is that of a beeless agriculture – and which gets along on fish, rice and mullet, with pork or fowl or a bowl of soybeans for a feast. Compared with what we have now, it would be a dull diet, lacking variety and zest, and containing a minimum of the proteins, fats, carbohydrates and vitamins that help make an active, progressive people.



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Catching Africanized swarms



State Entomologist Collin Wamsley displays a trap designed to catch Africanized Honey Bee swarms. The trap is available through the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Wamsley can be contacted at collin.wamsley@mda.mo.gov.

Upcoming meetings

Fall 2008

Date: Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2008

Location: Lake Ozark, Lodge of the Four Seasons

Speakers: Marion Ellis, Professor and Extension Apiculture Specialist, Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska

Spring 2009

Joint Meeting with Kansas Honey Producers

Date: March 6-7, 2009

Location: Overland Park, KS, Marriott

Speakers: Clarence Kollison, Extension Service Entomologist and head of Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University; Jennifer Berry, Apicultural Research Coordinator and Lab Manager, University of Georgia.

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Dean Sanders named 2007 Beekeeper of the Year

State fair volunteerism cited

by Scott Moser

The 2007 Beekeeper of the Year award goes to Dean Sanders.

The announcement was made by Vice President Scott Moser at the Annual Beekeeper of the Year Banquet on March 14.

Dean was recognized for his hard work and dedication to the Missouri State Beekeepers Association booth at the Missouri State Fair. Dean has worked for several years at the State Fair, but after the passing of Don Reinkemeyer, Dean found himself totally in charge of the booth.

Dean did an outstanding job with the fair last year considering the adversities he faced. Hot weather, poor attendance, a shortage of help, and freezer problems were just some of the obstacles he had to overcome. He spent countless hours at the booth, selling products and discussing bees. In his characteristic fashion, Dean took all of the problems in stride, and still managed to have a wonderful presence at the State Fair. Throughout the fair, he kept a positive and upbeat mood, despite the problems that arose. For his dedication to the Missouri State Fair, and his work with the Missouri State Beekeepers, Dean earned the honor 2007 Beekeeper of the Year.



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*Wide Variety of Sizes
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Dadant coveralls are snow-white, polyester-cotton blend. Snow-white because white is less annoying to bees than darker colors and they are less apt to sting. Full front zipper for easy on and off. Sturdy construction - all points of stress are bartacked for extra reinforcement. Six roomy pockets hold the tools you need. Side openings allow easy access to trouser pockets. When ordering, state chest size by item number. Wt. 4 lbs. per pair.

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M01065 Medium (40-42).....	per pair
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M01121 X-Large (48-50).....	per pair
M01122 XX-Large(52-54).....	\$42.⁹⁵
	per pair

Dadant Zipper Veil Hooded Suit



**A Great
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Zipper Veil Hooded Suit Note sizes are based upon chest sizes.
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www.dadant.com



Local club information

Beekeepers Association of the Ozarks

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

Boone Regional Beekeepers Association

3rd Sunday of odd months, 1:00 p.m., Columbia Insurance Group, 2102 Whitegate Dr. (back door), Columbia
Contact Art Gelder 573-474-8837

Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association

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

Gasconade County Beekeepers Association

2nd Sunday of month, 7pm, Progressive Bank of Owensville
Contact Rodney Angell 573-764-2922
beel43@fidnet.com

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

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

Joplin Area Beekeepers Association

Last Tue. of each month, 7 pm, SM Bank Community Building (7th and Duquesne Rd), Joplin
Contact Gene Foley 417-624-6831

Mid Missouri Beekeepers

3rd Sunday of each month, Bank of Salem, Salem
Contact Don Moore 573-265-8706

Midwestern Beekeepers Association

3rd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
YMCA, 10301 E. 350 Hwy, Raytown
Cecil Sweeney, President 913-856-8356

Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association

Last Tuesday of Month in Quincy, IL
Contact Debi Bridgman 573-439-5228

Missouri Valley Beekeepers Association

3rd Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Scenic Regional Library, Union
Contact Rodney Angell 573-764-2922
beel43@fidnet.com

Parkland Beekeepers

3rd Tuesday of each month, 108 Harrison, Farmington
Contact Gene Wood 573-431-1436

South Central Missouri Beekeepers Association

Steve Teeple, President 417-261-2210

Southern Missouri Beekeepers of Monett ("MOBees")

3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Monett High School VO-AG Building
Robert Sperandio, President 417-235-6959

Southwest Beekeepers Association

1st Tuesday of each month
Neosho High School FFA Building
Contact Herb Spencer 417-472-7743

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Walter Els
573-486-5612
welsbees@gmail.com

Selling bees, etc.
Pam Wright
417-257-1770
Bees and woodenware

Want to be included? Send an email to Eugene at editor@mostatebeekeepers.org with "Trading Post" in the subject line. Or call 314-965-4631.



The world's most confused honeybee

**MSBA Membership Application**

Name _____
Spouse's Name _____
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City/State/Zip _____
Phone Number _____ Email* _____

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Honey Chair report

by Joyce Justice

Thank you for bringing items for our Auction on Friday night. We made \$235.00. That was great. Our silent auction table did well and we had fun items. The Pussy Willow plant got the most attention, I think. Thanks for remembering.

Our queen has taken an office in an organization that is going to require too much of her time and will be unable to complete her year as our Honey Queen. Please get your completed applications in early and see if we can replace her by the state fair or even earlier. Let me know if this is what you feel is best, or if we should wait till fall and do without a queen this summer. Please let me know. We want to give all the applicants a fair chance.



Queen Chair Joyce Justice and auctioneer Jerry Winckler inspect a bottle of wine donated by Dwight Crevelt of 7C's Winery. A variety of items were auctioned during the Friday night banquet to benefit the Queen Program.

Milton Wright

April 19, 1929 to February 17, 2008

Milton Wright died on February 17 at the age of 78. He began keeping bees about 1980 with a few hives on the farm where his father lived near West Plains, MO. He put some colonies on the roof of his house in Chicago. They made so much honey that the roof began to sink down. He brought them to Missouri.

He had the dubious distinction of being the first beekeeper in Missouri to identify varroa mites in his colonies in 1989. The State Entomologist came from Jefferson City and said that the bees should all be killed so that the mites would not spread. We know how successful that was.

When he retired, he came to the farm to keep bees and sell honey full time. He built a honey house on the farm.

He loved to work with bees, read the bee magazines, and attend beekeeper meetings. He was a member of South Central Missouri Beekeepers Association, Missouri State Beekeepers Association, American Beekeeping Federation and American Honey Producers Association.

-- Pam Wright

Directory of Officers

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president@mostatebeekeepers.org

Vice President: Scott Moser 636-285-7295

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vicepresident@mostatebeekeepers.org

Secretary: OPEN

(Volunteers welcome!)

secretary@mostatebeekeepers.org

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treasurer@mostatebeekeepers.org

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State Fair Chairman: Dean Sanders cell 816-456-4683

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Assist. Prof. Entomology/Extension Spec.:

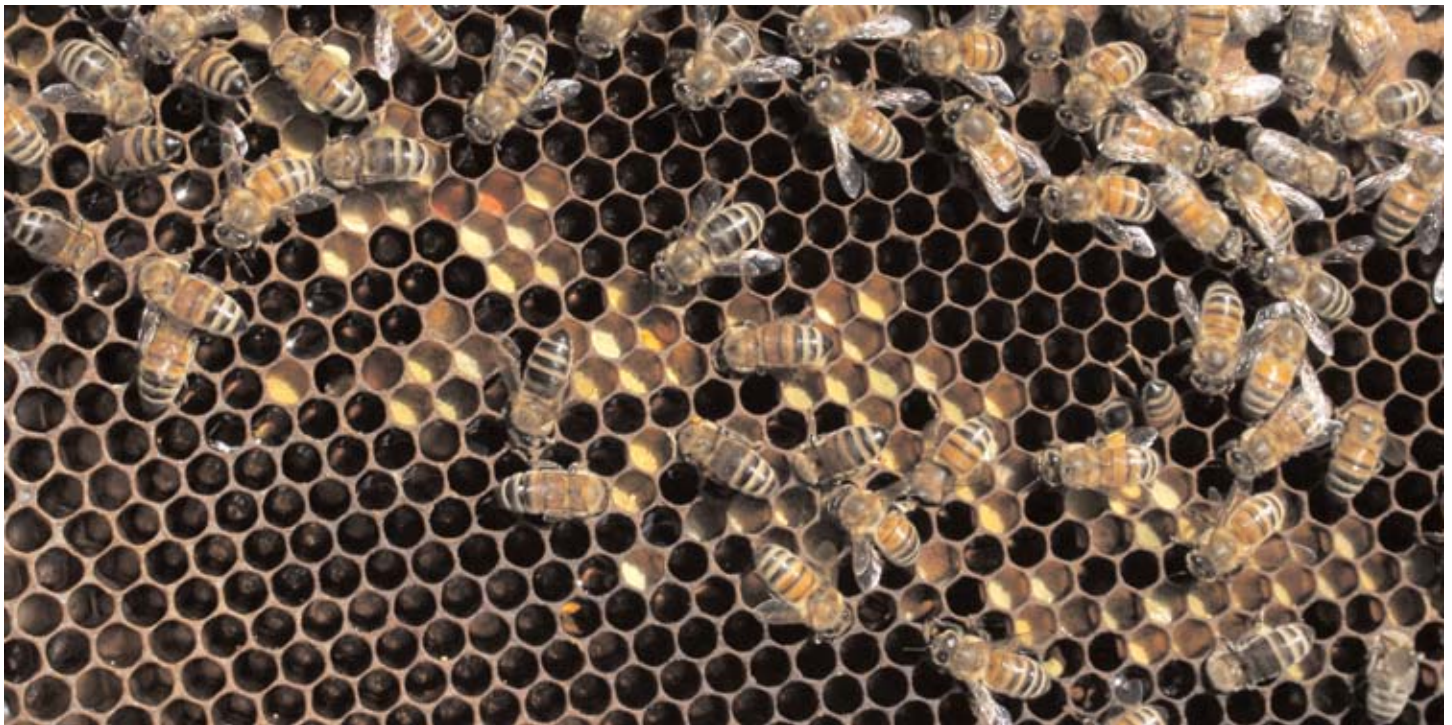
Dr. Richard Houseman

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



Like amber waves of grain, this swath of pollen is typical of Missouri's April bounty. Spring pollens, particularly from fruit and nut trees, provide the best balance of nutrients for healthy honeybees. These include proteins, lipids, vitamins, minerals, sterols and carbohydrates, according to Dr. Eric Mussen, Extension Apiculturist at the University of California, Davis. Dr Mussen spoke at the MSBA's annual Spring Meeting in March.

-- photo by Eugene Makovec

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

The email edition is in color, and contains hyperlinks and bonus back-page material, while the print version is in black-and-white. If you are a member currently receiving the printed newsletter and you wish to upgrade, just send an email to editor@mostatebeekeepers.org with "email newsletter" in the subject line. I'll reply with confirmation, and add you to my list.

Advertising rates are as follows:	Business card size	\$15.00	Half page	\$50.00
	Quarter page	\$35.00	Full page	\$100.00

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

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