

Missouri State Beekeepers Association



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Dear Beekeeping Friends:

The October meeting will be held in the ballroom of the Student Union Building of Lincoln University at Jefferson City, Missouri on Saturday, October 22, 1977. Mr. Charles Wills has prepared a very interesting program (See page 9).

The Executive Board will meet Friday night, October 21st, at the Best Western Motel across town on highway 54 south across the street from "Big Mac."

On the order of business at the regular meeting is: a) the annual election of officers. b) the proposed changes in the By-Laws as set out in the June Newsletter, namely,

1. All dues be sent directly to the treasurer.

 A copy of all correspondence by officers be sent to the secretary.

3. The number of board members be increased to include one from each local association.

4. The commercial beekeepers to have one board member.

The state president and secretary reside in the same general area.

We are especially proud to have the Reverend John B. Rollins open our meeting with the invocation. Reverend Rollins was the first president of the Central Beekeepers Association at Jefferson City. He also was the founder and first manager of the Baptist Press, as the July 29, 1977 issue of the Post Tribune of Jefferson City honored him with an excellent article pointing out his many accomplishments.

NOTICE

- 1. Those whose dues have not been paid will be dropped from the mailing list, if their dues have not been received by November.
- 2. If you move and do not send us your new address on a nine cent post card your Newsletter is returned with the address correction. It cost the Association twenty-five cents and you miss one letter.

Mary Lois Gasdosik of Valle Mines, Missouri 63087 called Mr. Garesche and said that a group of people in that area want to start a new local Beekeepers Association. The existing associations were too far away for them to attend the meetings. He invited her to attend the October meeting in Jefferson City where she should be able to get all the help that she needs.

By: Charles Wills, Vice President, Springfield, Missouri

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Ozark beekeepers will probably reap a light honey harvest from all the reports I have been getting. Most reports run from one to two shallow supers and some report no surplus at all. My colonies will average from 45 to 48 pounds per colony or maybe a little better as I left some surplus on for emergency feed remembering the dry weather last fall and no surplus at all from the asters.

I have observed that in this area that the only sources of surplus honey are clover, sumac and asters. There may be some areas where persimmons and penny royal will yield some surplus but even in these areas there will be some clover mixed in.

Our fall meeting will be honoring Joe Kibby as beekeeper of the year with Reverend Rollins giving a talk about Mr. Kibby and his work in both the state and their local association. We have all good speakers with different subjects to be presented so with the emblem contest, business and all the other activities it should be a busy and profitable day.

Anyone who has any Inventions, Innovations, or Ideas that you would like to share, bring these to the meeting, after all, this is what Beekeeper meetings are all about - everyone sharing his or her ideas with each other.

A reminder to those who are interested in entering the emblem contest, we don't have much time left so get your entries ready and we will have bulletin boards or tables for display. Those who may enter are state members or members of their family so get your entry ready. Who knows, you may be the winner of \$25.00.

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We have all heard the alarming stories of the African bees. Anyone who has tried to requeen a hive of laying workers should appreciate the following which appeared on page 339 of the August issue of Gleanings in Bee Culture.

Apis m. capensis (the Cape bee of South Africa) is believed to be a hybrid-perhaps between Apis m. scutillata in the North and also the European races. The most spectacular feature of this bee seems to lie in the fact that it produces what are reported by several authorities to be successful laying workers; that is, it lays eggs that develop into capable workers, also into viable queens.

In July, Mrs. Martin and I were in the farmer's market in Munich, Germany. One store was devoted exclusively to honey and honey products. Glasses of honey wines were sold and they had honies from all over the world. We will bring a jar of honey to the meeting to show how proud those people are of their product. Maybe we could take some lessons from them.

At the March meeting, Mr. Joseph Francka, State Entomologist, asked for more interest in honey and bee displays at the State Fair at Sedalia, Missouri. Below is a letter from the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

TO: Members of the Missouri Beekeepers Association

Gentlemen:

This letter is for the purpose of expressing our disappointment at the interest shown in the Apiculture section of this year's state fair, held August 19-28 in Sedalia. As many of you know, this section consists of 14 entrant classes, of which all or only selected classes may be entered at the beekeeper's discretion. In past years this section has been met with reasonable support in terms of the number of entrants. However, this year we failed to receive one entrant in the entire section. The Apiculture area was vacant, with the exception of the Honey Cookery entrants.

We do not know if there is a specific reason for this occurance, but we would certainly be pleased to hear any and all criticisms or suggestions concerning improvement of the section. We strongly feel that if similar interest is shown in the section next year at the 1978 fair, the section may have to be eliminated entirely. This would certainly be unfortunate, not only for the state beekeeping industry, but for the citizens of Missouri who attend the fair. According to our observations and many comments received, this section is one of the most interesting and enjoyable for most people attending the fair.

Therefore, we are requesting that each beekeeper independently write our office with any comment or suggestion that he may have concerning improvement of the section. Your comments may be sent to Mr. Joseph E. Francka, State Entomologist, Missouri Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65101; or myself, Jim A. Dotson, Apiculture Superintendent, 1402 Oak Ridge Dr., Oak Grove, MO 64075. In addition, both Mr. Francka and myself plan to attend the fall metiling of the Association held in Jefferson City in late October. Please make your feelings known by either writing our office or talking with us at this meeting. With your help we can make this section of the fair as interesting and impressive as it has been in past years.

Sincerely,

Jim A. Dotson Apiculture Superintendent Missouri Dept.of Agriculture

Mr. Francka is also a hobby beekeeper and member of our Association. He has worked to get the bee-law passed and used an attorney from his office to assist the beekeepers. He was on the local scene to answer questions when members of the Association were not available. Let's get behind him in his efforts for the State Fair and show that we appreciate what he is doing for us. It is my opinion that the Association should use its surplus funds to help put beekeepers in the top spot at the fair. You would be nicer to yourself than donating to some faraway cause. What do you think?

The following is a conclusion on Honey Promotion State Fair Style as it appeared in the American Bee Journal.

CONCLUSION

Many beekeepers are their own worst enemy when it comes to honey promotion. Industries such as egg, beef, pork and dairy have an ongoing promotion program. Too many beekeepers still expect George or the beekeeper up the road to worry about selling this year's crop of honey. Or, they may say "next year things will be better." Only through combined promotion efforts will the industry be able to sell its domestic production at a profit and cope with foreign imports. Honey promotion costs time and a little money, but also pays good dividends.

The time to start thinking (and doing) something about state fair promotion is now; not when the farmers are cutting grain. If everyone accepts a small portion of responsibility for the success of a project, association members can have a lot of fun, make money, and create a strong feeling of fellowship. "In Union There is Strength."

Leonard Hall, a columnist for the Saint Louis Globe Democrat newspaper, who resides at "Possum Trot" farm in the Ozarks had an article in the July 30-31 issue telling of a sad experience that he had in feeding his "Super-gentel Starlight' bees from Georgia."

He reached into this newly established colony to remove an empty jar of sugar syrup, without wearing a veil or eye protection. One bee stung him under his glasses causing his eye to swell shut, while others chased him clear back to the bouse. Fortunately, he recovered.

Let us benefit by his experience, no matter how gentle a strain of bees is supposed to be wear a veil or eye protection when going into the hive. A sting on the eye and you will be blind, so you have nothing to gain by being careless.

Many beekeepers feed their bees by placing an empty deep super over the inner cover. A screen is placed over the inner cover opening and a quart jar of sugar water placed on the screen. In that way the bees can be fed without being disturbed. If you have several hives the sugar water can be mixed by putting five pounds of sugar in a gallon jug then filling the jug with hot water and shake.

PT 110 is a new aerosol spray for killing diseased honey bees. A ten to fifteen second spray kills all the bees within thirty minutes. This product can only be used under the supervision of a state apiary inspector. The combs must be destroyed or rendered into beeswax in a boiling lye bath. Sprayed honey and comb cannot be utilized for animal or human consumption. Resmethrin is effective at temperatures above 25° F.

From the August 14, 1977 Springfield, Missouri Sunday News and Leader: "Also vetoed by the governor were bills calling for state regulation of beekeepers because it included a provision that all administrative rules and regulations issued by the state would expire within two years unless endorsed by the legislature.

Questions and Answers by: Joe Maher, Treasurer

DO WAX MOTHS BOTHER STORED COMBS DURING WINTER?

Most likely if there are no moth or moth larvae in the combs when you store them and we have had a freeze, you will not be bothered with wax moths destroying the comb; however, if you should store some combs or honey in the comb near a furnace where no freezing takes place, you may find a wax moth larvae in action in the early spring. It is best to fumigate the combs as late as possible before the freeze comes, then you will have no worries. Wax moths are most active during June, July, August, and September.

HOW DO YOU MELT WAX WHEN YOU DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH TO USE SOLAR MELTER?

Take a wash tub and fill about half full of water, use a double-boiler, using a lard can or sumething similar to hold the wax. Fill the lard can about 1/3 full of water. Place on the tub, put a fire under the tub, then start adding old comb and cappings as fast as they will melt down. After you have all the combs melted, skim off any foreign substance that may be floating on top, then take a dipper and dip the wax off the top and place in the containers or mold you have for that purpose. The slum-gum will be down in the water at the bottom and most of your wax will be very clean. Be very careful as wax will ignite easily when near fire.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF A COLONY HAS ENOUGH STORES FOR WINTER?

A two-story hive should have about 60 pounds of honey in it for safe amount of storage for winter. I lift the rear of the hive and if it feels heavy, then I forget it. If it feels light, then something must be done to prevent starvation. One can take a super from another colony and put on top for feed. If no honey is available that way, I try to feed by perforated jar caps through the hole in the inner cover. One can put sugar on top of the inner cover and they will take it down.

I DID NOT GET MY SUPERS OFF BEFORE THE FREEZE, HOW DO I GO ABOUT TAKING THEM OFF NOW?

If you had queen excluders on your colonies and the weather is cold, say 35 degrees, you can go into the yard, pry off the excluder and super and most likely there will not be a bee in the super. If you did not have excluders on you may find bees and the queen up in super. In that case, I would not take them off, reverse the super to the bottom of the colony in the spring and they will carry what honey is left up into the hive body where the brood is.

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I HAVE A FEW COLONIES OF BEES, NOT ABLE TO TILT THE UPPER HIVE BODY TO LOOK FOR QUEEN CELLS. WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

In this case I would put a hinge on the back of the two hive bodies, the type hinge that has bolt that can be removed. Then I would take a long tool such as a spring leaf from an auto and pry the two hive bodies apart and block up with a triangle piece of board while inspecting. If I had supers on, I would nail a small slat across each part of the super to keep them from slipping off.

I FIND SCRATCHES ON FRONT OF MY HIVES AND A CHEWED SUBSTANCE IN FRONT OF THE HIVES. CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT IT IS?

Have you heard of a raccoon? The "coon" comes up to the front of the hive; scratches on front until the bees come out to see what is going on; then the "coon" gathers them up and chews them until they have a mouthful; then they spit out the remains. They can destroy a colony in this manner. If I find one that is being attacked, I close up the bottom entrance with an entrance cleat, making sure the bees have an upper entrance. Bees do not need too large an entrance during winter months.

IN LATE FALL I FOUND I HAD SUPERS OVER EXCLUDERS THAT HAD A SCATTERING OF UNCAPPED HONEY AND BEES IN THEM THAT WERE VERY DIFFICULT TO REMOVE. WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

In this case I sould go into the bee yard, remove the super and excluder, put the inner cover on top of the brood nest, then put the super on top of the inner cover and then cover and leave for a few days. If the temperature is around 35 to 40 degrees the bees will have gone down out of the super and into the cluster. Then you can remove them without interference. One can use this as feed for a weak colony or just set out in the open away from your bee yard about 100 feet and on warm days the bees will carry the uncapped honey back into their brood nests.

HOW CAN I UNITE TWO WEAK COLONIES?

Use the newspaper plan by opening the strong hive and placing a newspaper over the frames. Then take bottom board off the weaker colony and place on top of the newspaper, punching one or two holes with pencil to give the bees a start in eating out the newspaper. Another method is using vanilla extract. Spray the strong colony very good with extract, then go to the weaker colony and spray them. Then place the weaker one on top of the strong one. The extract destroys the colony oder, eliminating a fight.

TELL ME AN EASY WAY TO INTRODUCE A QUEEN IN A HURRY!

Remove the old queen; remove two or three frames of brood; spray all of the balance of the hive with vanilla extract and then spray the new queen in the cage. Put her on a comb of brood, then spray that comb and the others that have been taken out. Place it back in the hive and leave for a few days before inspecting. This method is almost fool proof.

I HEAR A LOT ABOUT A TOP ENTRANCE. WHAT IS THE NEED FOR THIS?

A top entrance such as a 5/8 inch auger hole in the top hand hold or above the hand hold will allow any moisture that is in the hive to escape and also allows the bees an outlet in case of a deep snow or ice in the entrance of the hive.

WHERE DO BEES GET AMERICAN FOULBROOD?

They get the disease from robbing out infected, weakened colonies. The disease is usually in the honey they obtain from the robbed colony. The disease does not or will not affect the human being, but will carry over to the robbing colony and cause the young bee to die in the larvae stage, therefore no new bees are produced. The colony declines and then another colony will rob out that one, consequently all bees in the neighborhood will be dead. About July 15th, this year I took off the honey from my bees, then checked them for disease, found none. I had treated them with sulfathiozole in the spring and was sure they were all O.K. About the first of September the white aster began to produce, I decided to put on some supers and get some fall honey for feeding purposes. I lifted the rear of each hive to determine which were very heavy so wish I might expect them to gather a full crop. While I was checking for weight, I came to one colony which was very light, I opposed that have to see what was weeng and found that they had American Foulbacod, and had dwindled to the extent that they had not gathered any fall honey at all, but were not dwindled enough that another colony could have robbed them. I immediately removed that hive from the yard. That colony a mean colony and very aggressive and evidently overcame a weaker colony somewhere in the neighborhood and robbed them of all their honey, bringing home the disease.

"JOE KIBBY DAY"

8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00	Called to order by President Invocation by Rev. Rollins
9:00-9:15	President's message
9:15-9:45	Life of Joe Kibby Rev. Rollins, Jefferson City, Mo.
9:45-10:00	Introduction of State Officers
10:00-10:30	David Ramsey-Supervisor, Bureau of Pesticide Control (Pesticides and Honeybees)
10:30-10:45	Questions and Answers
10:45-11:15	Coffee Break
11:15-11:45	Dr. Ernest Lorenc, Springfield, Mo. "The Tub Hive or How to Pamper a Slipped Disc"
11:45-1:00	Lunch
1:00-1:45	Glen Stanley (State Apiarist Iowa) (The Stanley's Extracting Operation)
1:45-2:00	Questions and Answers
2:00-2:15	Jim Martin (Editor Quarterly Newsletter)
2:15-2:30	Announcing Winners of Emblem Contest and Presentation of Prizes
2:30-3:15	Business Session
3:15-4:00	Door Prizes and Adjournment

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