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## Missouri State Beekeepers Association

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VOLUME 14

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER - 1976

NUMBER 3

DEAR BEEKEEPING FRIENDS:

The Missouri State Beekeepers' Association will meet for the annual fall meeting at the Sheraton Motor Inn, 3333 S. Glenstone, Springfield, Mo., Saturday, October 16, 1976, beginning at 8:30 A. M. There will be a registration fee of \$1.00 for each adult.

To reach the destination, go south on Highway # 65 to the most southern part of Springfield where you can see the Sheraton on the side street. The exit to this motel is at the same exit where a large Ford agency is located. If you miss that exit, you will have to turn around and return to the exit.

There will be many door prizes and those registering will have a chance to recover their registration fee in the many door prizes that will be given away from the registration list.

In the program Dr. Eric Erickson is listed as talking on soy beans, which he will touch on, but his main subject will be on "Bee Behaviour" and many other aspects of the bee. Dr. Erickson is a very good speaker and you will surely want to get the message he will deliver. Dr. H. Shimanuki, Agriculture Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland has been invited to attend this meeting, but as of now, confirmation has not been received. If Dr. Shimanuki does arrive, he will be able to give us the latest on bee diseases as that is his speciality.

The executive board of the association will meet the night before at the Sheraton. Contact Don Taylor or myself, registered at the motel, for the location of this meeting.

The "Committee On Bee Laws" met in Columbia September 18th and finalized the proposed bee laws which will be presented to the association at this meeting, hoping to get approval to present them to the legislature for passage in the next session. A printed copy will be presented you at the meeting so you may look them over before the discussion.

We will have an election of officers for the coming year, Mr. James Martin, 2nd Vice-President (Nominations) will present a slate to the group. Nominations then will be accepted from the floor before the election.

We hope to have the president or a representative from each of the local associations present at this meeting and to introduce the other officers present and give an account of their activities for the year. We have 10 local associations over the state and hope to assist in forming more.

We have a report that James Martin, 2nd Vice President has had surgery recently and is making slow progress. We hope for a speedy recovery for Mr. Martin.

Our 1st Vice President, Don Taylor was in the hospital recently, believed to have had a gall bladder attack, but he did not have to have surgery, is getting along O. K. at this writing.

We sure have nothing to brag about on our spring crop over Missouri. In some locations the crop was about 30-40 percent of the average while in other sections where some rain fell, the crop could measure up to 50-60 percent above average. In all, our spring crop was very discouraging. If the rains don't start soon, there will be no fall crop at all as the ground is as dry as powder and the nectar blooming plants look as if they have been scalded. If we do not get a fall crop, the bees could come up very short on stores and will have to be fed this winter in order to survive. Do not rob your bees too short if you are taking off honey.

Color of honey is considerable darker this year which was gathered in the spring, this possibly caused by the lack of moisture and the slow nectar flow. One will find honey gathered in a dry season is usually very low in moisture content and is much darker. Honey gathered in a wet condition with a fast nectar flow will be much higher in moisture content and will also be much lighter in color.

Those of you who have supers on and not much honey coming in can leave the super on until frost, wait for a cool evening, go into the bee yard, take a hive tool and pry off the super and queen excluder, taking it into the storage room. There will be no bees in that super and there will be no trouble in removing the super and no trouble with bees in the super. If you do take the supers off before frost time, one should fumigate them in order to keep the wax moth out. The wax moth can destroy a set of combs within a week if allowed to attack them. NEVER leave supers on during the winter as it causes the bees too much effort to keep that extra space warm. If the super does have some scattered honey in it, remove the super and extract what honey you can get from it and feed back to the bees when needed.

If you have some hives that are light, it might be best to unite two light colonies and save one of them rather than allowing both to perish. By getting the force of bees from two light colonies united and giving them some food, they can usually be pulled through the winter and come out a strong colony in the spring. If you know which is the younger queen, place her in the top hive body, using the newspaper plan for uniting them, just lift the lid off the other colony, place one sheet of newspaper over that colony, then take bottom board off the hive with queen you want on top, place that hive on the newspaper. The bees will gnaw out the paper and within a short time they will be united. The queen which is placed on top will be the one that survives, the other queen will be done away with. Always punch a small hole the size of a lead pencil in the paper.

While the rains have not come yet, this is a good time to paint the hives with the bees in them. Just go to the bee yard some sunny warm day and not too many bees flying, just lift the telescoping cover, paint around the upper part of the hive body, place the cover back on, then paint the cover, hive bodies and bottom board, even the landing board. Very few bees will come out while painting and they are not usually too rough on one when painting. Of course you should wear a veil. Use latex paint as it allows the moisture to escape through the wood when drawn by the sun and will not blister as oil paints do.

NOTE: If you see a red check mark on your name plate on the letter, that indicates that you are delinquent in your dues and that your name will be dropped from the mailing list after this issue unless I hear from you before the next letter goes out. In case my record is not correct and you have paid your dues, please notify me at once. 9410 Eastern, K.C. Mo. 64138.

PLEASANT HILL TIMES (Mo.) June 3rd, 1976. R. B. Grimes stopped by The Times office after reading our recent "To Bee or Not To Bee" photofeature. While walking through the Pleasant Hill Cemetery one day, Grimes told us he happened upon the tombstone of William McKitterick, who was born in 1818 and died in 1890, in the south center portion of the cemetery. Apiarians will be interested to know that McKitterick is credited with being the first man in the world to hive bees. On his tombstone is the following inscription; "The first man in the known world who in 1871 commanded and induced swarming bees to enter the hive by retaining the queen."

From Bob Boxley, 208 N. Williams, Columbia, Mo., 65201: Following are excerpts taken from a diary of Granville Boxley, Fidelity Junction, Mo., 1848 - 1927. (This junction is east of Joplin and south of Carthage)

June 20, 1878 Morse paid for queen bee, bought on 10th, \$2.00  
July 4, 1878 Nothing doing at Joplin, I shall stay home to attend my bees, they are likely to swarm.  
July 9, 1878 McGehee worked all day on bee hives. 6 swarms came out, 2 went back.  
July 10, 1878 One swarm came out about 7:00 A.M.. Phil Hurley helped me on bee hives.  
July 12, 1878 Began extracting honey  
July 13, 1878 Hurley helped me extract all day  
July 15, 1878 Phil Hurley helped extract one half day  
July 26, 1878 Sold 12 lbs. honey to E. Gales, to be paid soon  
July 29th, 1878 Observed eclipse of sun, first eclipse I ever saw, lasted about 1½ hours, about 7/8 of sun obscured, ended 5:00 P.M.  
August 7, 1878 Began peddling honey. Sold \$2.10 worth  
Sept. 3, 1878 Hived bees from bee tree cut by M. Hathcock, he gave the bees to me.  
Sept. 4, 1878 Went to Joplin with Doc Hurley, took bees with me. Nearly all dead when I got home.  
Sept. 14, 1878 Bill Howard paid \$1.55, leaving \$3.00 due - 3 queens.  
Jan 16, 1879 Sun is quite warm, but freezing in shade, bees flying freely.  
March 7, 1879 Bees coming in with pollen, the first I've seen this season.  
April 21, 1879 Rod Doc Hurleys horse all day, trying to sell some bees and 2 gallon honey, but it is no go, there is no money to buy. Money tight, future of bees and honey dim.  
May 1, 1879 Sold 1 stand of bees to Lilly Bridge for \$5.00 cash money.  
May 5, 1879 Sent \$1.00 for bee smoker, sold 2 stands to Morgan for \$10.00, \$5.00 cash and balance to be paid soon.  
May 27, 1879 Morgan paid \$5.00 balance due on bee stand.  
June 16, 1879 Bill Howard paid \$3.00 balance due on bees (9/14/78)  
June 18, 1879 Horsemint is in bloom, but is so very dry that it yields no honey.  
Aug. 15, 1879 M. D. Morse, Joplin, Mo., gives me \$1.00 to get a queen bee when I get to K. C. Mo., to be sent by Adams Express.  
August 31, 1879 Paid \$1.00 to Hayhurst for Morse queen bee.  
Nov. 7, 1879 Traded 10 stands of bees to Bannister for cow and calf. Brought cow and calf home, Bannister took bees home, terribly dusty.

(Thought this might be of interest to know how the beekeeper had to do about the time my father was born (1881). They evidently had hardships too.



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

### WHY OPERATE IN A TWO-HIVE BODY?

The theory is the same as one who puts a little savings in the savings & loan for a cold winter reserve. In the upper hive body one has about 60 lbs. of honey for feed and in the lower hive body there is usually about 20-30 lbs. of honey and the bees, pollen, etc., going into the winter. It takes about 60 lbs. of honey for a colony to go through a severe winter, sometimes a little more, but to rest assured that the bees will not run out of stores and cause the queen to reduce her egg laying right at the time she is supposed to start egg laying in full force, that amount of honey is needed. The thing about it is that if the honey is not needed, it will not be used, the bees will fill up faster in the spring and get up into the super more readily to store the honey for your consumption. If a colony was in a single hive body, they could not possibly store enough honey and have the space for the bees in order to get through the winter.

### WHY NOT USE A HIVE BODY AND SUPER FOR WINTER STORES?

If one had that condition, 20-30 lbs in the lower hive body, 30 lbs in a medium super, that would only be the 60 lbs that we are talking about for the bees to winter on. If one used a special super, that would only add another 10 lbs of honey, making 70 lbs. to winter on. A hive body would cost very little more than a special super, would be interchangeable with the lower hive body in case of that need and in the spring one could reverse the two hive bodies without ado, therefore why try to winter in anything other than the two hive bodies. An extra 10 or 15 lbs of honey available to the bees at the right time in the spring is a very good investment. When one goes into the colony in early spring, they may find some brood in both the upper and lower hive body, then with the two-hivebody system, one can take the brood from both the upper and lower hive body and unite in the lower, giving the queen a better pattern to work with, having all the brood in the lower, she can maintain that until necessary, then she can move up into the upper hive body and begin laying there. The queen will go up voluntarily, but has to be crowded down into a lower chamber by having all the cells filled with honey in the upper hive body.

### IS IT BEST TO TRY AND GET COMB HONEY FROM A TWO-HIVE BODY OPERATION?

If I wanted comb honey production, I would segregate all the brood from the two hivebody system, put the combs of honey in the other hive body, take to storage, fumigate it and save for a later date. I would then crowd all that brood into one hive body, possibly replace the queen, then work with a queen excluder and supers for the comb honey. This method can also be used with early swarms crowded into a single hive body, excluder and supers. I have produced three supers of comb honey with this method, usually only two supers, but that is a good return for the effort. After the comb honey production is over, about July 1st, I remove the honey and excluder and put that second hive body back on that colony, then put an extra super on top of that in case there is a fall flow and the bees need the room. In this case the bees have given me a good supply of comb honey, have enough to take them through the winter and possibly will get a super of fall honey from them.

### WHAT DO YOU DO WITH PARTLY FILLED SUPERS OF FALL HONEY?

That honey makes very good spring feed if you do not care to extract it. Most likely that honey is dark and strong, not much demand for in market, therefore, I store it, when spring comes, in order to get it out of the super and to the bees, I raise the hive body from the bottom board and insert the super between them. The bees will not allow the honey to remain below the brood next, will carry it upwards, clearing the super. If placed on top of brood nest, bees will only use what is needed, when the nectar flow starts, they will store the new honey on top of the old, causing a mixture of dark and light honey.

IS IT PRACTICAL TO EXTRACT SOME OF THE LIGHT HONEY FROM THE BROOD CHAMBER? If one was sure that the fall crop was going to be sufficient to get those frames filled again, it would be O. K., but one is taking a chance that they will not be refilled. It is a great temptation, and many beekeepers do it, but I would refrain from it, if possible.

WHEN SHOULD SULFATHIOZOLE BE FED TO BEES?

One should mix 1/4 teaspoonful Sodium Sulfathiozole to a gallon of syrup, (half sugar and half water) and feed the bees once or twice after the supers are removed in the fall and again in the spring before the supers are put on. Never feed when supers are on for fear they might store some in the super. It will not affect most people, but one person in a thousand might be allergic to the drug and if the Pure Food & Drug Administration found it in the honey, they would condemn it for public use. The best way to feed is to place syrup in jar, perforate the lid and place jar (inverted) over the hole in the inner cover, place an empty hive body on top of the inner cover to surround the jar, to keep down robbing, then the cover. Due to the sugar in the water, this mixture will not freeze in the winter.

WHAT DIRECTIONS SHOULD THE HIVE FACE?

So far as possible, the hives should all face the south. If that is not possible, then face them to the east. Never face a hive to the west or north in this area as the west, northwest winds will sweep right into the front of the hive. When facing south the bees get a benefit from the sun. During the winter the sun is low on the horizon, it can shoot right into the entrance, thus giving the bees an earlier flight than if they were facing the east or west. Another important reason to face the south is that the bees are usually found near the front of the hive, can get fresh air and when the sunlight warms the front of the hive, they can take a cleansing flight and return. If too cold, they will crawl out on the warm front and discharge their feces. Hives should be lower at the front to allow moisture to drain that may have blown into the front of the hive.

DO BEES DAMAGE FRUIT?

One can often see bees working grapes, peaches, apples and other fruit, but it is believed that the bee, having no bite, can puncture the skin of a fruit, but if some other animal or insect does break the skin, the bees will readily take over. The amount of sugar in that fruit will determine the effort the bees will make in working that fruit.

HOW DO YOU KEEP HONEY FROM CRYSTALLIZING?

Any honey will, if exposed to the open air, will crystallize, some honeys more readily than others, according to the type of sugars they contain. To kill the crystals and the yeast in honey that causes it to ferment, warm it to 160 degrees, then cool and bottle while hot as possible and seal. This will keep the honey from picking up the crystals and the yeast from the air, eliminating both fermentation and crystallization. Honey with a high moisture content and open to the air will pick up yeast and after bottled, will ferment, ooze from under the cap and run down the side of the jar. I know as I had 144 quarts of honey to ferment when I first started keeping bees.

HOW DO YOU GET BEES FROM SUPERS?

I use a fume board and Bee-Go, place the fume board with the chemical on top of hive, leave about 5 minutes, then remove the super with few if any bees in it. Bee-Go can be purchased from any Bee Supply house or can be ordered from Cloverland Products, Pearl City, Illinois, 61602. A pint cost about \$3.00 and a tablespoonful will run the bees out of the supers on one hive. To make board, make frame size of the hive, cover with cotton cloth, then cover that with piece of metal. Heat from sun will cause the fumes to go down over the bees, causing them to move down into hive body.

The first page with the program and the sketch of a wax melter was provided by Don Taylor, 1st Vice president. Pages 6 & 7 of this letter composed and stencils cut by President and Mrs. Jay Tohtz. I appreciate the help they gave me in preparing this letter.

#### President's Corner:

This year has been busy for many beekeepers. We started off with an early spring build-up, went into swarming season with most of the hives boiling over with bees, had a record number of swarm calls and had to really do some fancy work with our established hives to keep them from swarming. Then the bottom fell out, the early summer honey flow didn't materialize in many parts of the state and the bees had to be fed. The main summer flow in the western part of the state never came with high temperatures and no rain. Things were a little better in the Springfield area. The St. Louis area had its problems too. No early summer flow and a spotty main flow.

When we were at the Tri-State meeting in Hamilton, Illinois and talked to the beekeepers there we found much of the same situation in Illinois and parts of Iowa. It seems to have been a good year to make an increase, but not the best for a honey crop. To those who have gotten a nice flow and a good crop we wish you every success. To the rest of us we can watch our bees work on the fall flowers and dream about next year.

In February of this year some of us appeared at the Missouri State Senate Hearings in Jefferson City to discuss our "bee laws" (Bill #763). Some beekeepers are for such a law, some are very much against it. At the fall meeting of 1974 in Jefferson City - the beekeepers voted and approved a proposed bee law bill for the state of Missouri.

At our spring meeting in Columbia this year we were asked to make necessary changes and present the changes at the fall meeting for confirmation. We are doing all we can to make the context and wording of the "law" so that it will fulfill the needs of both the hobbyist and the commercial beekeepers of the state of Missouri.

The Federal Trade Commission hearings in Kansas City found some of Missouri's beekeepers present. Several stated our position on the import tariff. Those of us that were there realized the seriousness of the imported honey problem better after hearing the testimony of beekeepers from Minnesota to Texas to Colorado to Nebraska.

This year we have heard of several cases where communities have tried to pass ordinances against beekeeping. One community has done so. The community that passed this ordinance did so trying to think of the residents and their welfare. We believe they put together a law which cannot be enforced and which discriminates against all beekeepers.



We believe that they can ban bees from the city limits on paper and even force the beekeepers to move their hives out of the city, but it will not keep bees out of the city because as one judge stated in a similar court hearing, "the flight of bees is controlled by God, not man". By the fall meeting we should have the court's decision, as the beekeepers involved have hired a lawyer and we are going to court to try to change the city's decision.

When we were in Florida, a week ago on vacation, we read where a man who is 84 years old and a beekeeper had some hives poisoned. It seemed that one or two of his neighbors did not like him keeping bees and complained to the city about it. The city, however, realized the good that bees do and after talking to the man decided to take no action against him. Three days later the two hives nearest the fence were dead. It was found to be poison. This man has been keeping bees for 70 years and at one time produced 30-50 tons of honey per year. Now he only keeps 7 hives. He is more heart-broken about the loss of his bees than he is angry with his neighbors.

Also, while we were in Florida it was proven that a commercial beekeeper lost 200 hives to deliberate poisoning while the bees were on stands near Brooksville in an orange grove. The beekeeper set them out early in the week and found them dead at the end of the same week. He said that he felt that someone who knows something about bees sprayed his hives at the entrances at night. The police are calling it vandalism and are investigating it. This is the third time a beekeeper has lost a number of hives in that area this year. We hope the police can find the person or persons responsible and bring them to justice.

Missouri beekeepers are a great group of people. They work hard and take their beekeeping seriously. We are asking each and everyone of you to support your state organization and take an active part. Missouri has for years been looked over as a honey producing state. With your help we can become recognized and take our rightful place.

As the year comes to a close, I wish to personally thank the many people who have helped so much to make this year a success. It has been a pleasure, but mostly an honor, to serve as your president.

May God grant each and everyone his blessing in the year to come.

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