



July ■ 2019

www.mostatebeekeepers.org

The Missouri State Beekeepers Association Brood

It's Time for the 2019 MSBA Awards Nominations!

Every year, the MSBA Awards Nominations committee sends out the request for nominations of MSBA members for the following awards. Beekeeper of the Year, Junior Beekeeper of the Year, Mentor of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement Award. We need your help to finding top notch beekeepers from across Missouri whose volunteerism benefits Missouri Beekeepers and promotes beekeeping to the public. Nominate beekeepers on our website. <https://mostatebeekeepers.org/award-nomination/>.

Nominations must identify the MSBA member or association making the nomination, the person being nominated and provide adequate information to demonstrate that the nominee meets the award criteria listed below. It is recommended that the description of qualifications be sufficiently extensive to permit an informed comparison against other nominees for the award. Winners will be announced, and the awards presented at the MSBA Fall Conference October 18th-19th at the Moberly Area Community College.

The MSBA Executive Committee will also consider other possible awards this year, such as the MSBA Volunteer of the Year and State Fair Volunteer of the Year. Decisions are made by the Awards Committee and awards will be presented at the Fall Conference.

We ask that you communicate this information to your local clubs and submit nominations. Nominations can be submitted at <https://mostatebeekeepers.org/award-nomination/>.

Nominations deadline is September 1st.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Kyle Day at benefits@mostatebeekeepers.org or (816) 654-5287 or Dan Lake at secretary@mostatebeekeepers.org.

Beekeeper of the Year

- Did the most to promote the art of beekeeping
- Promoted membership in MSBA
- Promoted the MSBA
- Publicized beekeeping and introduced the art of beekeeping to prospective future beekeepers.

Junior Beekeeper of the Year

- 18 years of age or younger
- Enthusiastic Beekeeper
- Promotes beekeeping
- Has been a beekeeper for at least 1 year (second year beekeeper)
- Good peer-group role model

Mentor of the Year

- Actively promoted beekeeping by teaching and guiding new beekeepers in the art of beekeeping
- Is an active MSBA member in good standing
- Nominated by a local association or MSBA member
- Not an MSBA Executive Committee member

Lifetime Achievement Award

- Active MSBA member who has given many years of service in promoting the art of beekeeping, promoting the MSBA, mentoring beginning beekeepers, assisting other beekeepers, and actively volunteering in support of MSBA activities.
- Nominated by Executive Committee, a local association or an MSBA member.

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From the President

Cory Stevens

Somehow August seems to be on our doorstep. It doesn't seem possible but the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia is only weeks away! It is being held August 8-18th. Erin Mullins and Wes Johnston have been working hard to set up MSBA's booth and staff it with volunteers. The fair is always a big event for MSBA and we are so glad to have Erin leading it! Be sure to stop by and check out the observation hive, honey contest, and say hi to all of our volunteers.

MSBA has a new newsletter editor! Please join me in welcoming Jeania Schmalhorst. Jeania is looking forward to hearing from you. Please help her make our newsletter great by sending any bee related articles, local club photos, recipes, and other creative ideas. The deadline for submitting content for the next edition is August 20th. Jeania can be reached at msbanewsletter@gmail.com. We are very glad she is volunteering to help us out. Welcome!

Gregg Hitchings, our local club liaison, is working on a speakers list. We get asked all the time for suggestions to speak at local clubs and events. To address this need, Gregg is compiling a list of speakers. If you would be interested to have your name on this list, please contact Gregg at msbagregg@gmail.com. I feel this list will be valuable to clubs looking to add content to their monthly meetings, as well as a "go to" for the general public to help find speakers for ag related venues.

MSBA is in its third year of our Youth Honey Ambassador program. It has already produced our own rock star Kyle Day and rising star Hannah Gebhardt, our current ambassador. These young bee ambassadors travel the state to speak and educate on behalf of our beloved honey bee. We are always looking ahead for new ambassadors. If you know of anyone who is interested, please have them contact Amy Giffen, our volunteer Ambassador Chair. You can email her at amygiffen@hotmail.com.

Missouri is full of great beekeepers. MSBA likes to recognize those exceptional beekeepers in our annual awards program.

If you know of someone who is serving the beekeeping community to make it a better place, let us know. A few examples of the awards are: Beekeeper of the Year, Junior Beekeeper of the Year, Mentor of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Nominations are due by September 1 so we can present them at our fall conference. Please send nominations to kyle.day@mostatebeekeepers.org, or Dan Lake secretary@mostatebeekeepers.org.

MSBA is ironing out the remaining details for our Fall conference, which is being held in Moberly, MO on Oct 18-19th. Bruce Snavelly, our program chair, has a great line up of speakers coming to see us. As usual, the conference will have great content, great food, and great company. We have multiple main speakers, as well as informative breakout sessions. One in particular, instructed by Charlotte Wiggins, is aimed at helping new bee clubs lay a solid foundation. Charlotte has much relevant experience with club structure, and is highly involved in her local Rolla Bee Club. Her presentation will undoubtedly help with our goal of connecting and supporting local clubs.

This conference, we are also going to have a social hour with appetizers before the banquet. You can network with other beekeepers around the state and see how their year has gone.

For the young and young at heart, Bruce has talked with a local bowling alley to see if they would accommodate a bunch of beekeepers looking to have some fun and hang out after the banquet. The bowling alley has a bar if you would like to have a drink while "bowling with beekeepers." I'm looking forward to the conference as they're always a good time and very informative.

I hope you can join us in Moberly. See you there!

Cory



MSBA Membership

Membership dues remain at \$10 per individual. You may renew your membership by going to the MSBA website and utilizing PayPal or mail your check to me with your first and last names, address, telephone number, and email address. I gladly accept batch memberships if given the information on a typewritten list and either a check from the local club's treasurer or secretary.

With the change of the website some folks have renewed well in advance of their membership expiration. You should now receive notice the month preceding your membership expiration. While the website is going through growth spurts please contact me if you have questions regarding your membership. Some of you have paid until 2019! Thank you for supporting MSBA!

Wanda Johnston
MSBA Membership
401 NW Heady Avenue
Ferrelview, MO 64163
mail to: bees@kc.rr.com

Fall Conference Includes Tips on Running a Bee Club

By Charlotte Ekker Wiggins, Rolla Bee Club founder, rollabees@gmail.com

One of MSBA's Fall Conference break out sessions October 18-19, 2019 in Moberly, Missouri will focus on tips on how to run a bee club. The tips will be based on the twelve educational non-profits I have started since 1979 including Rolla Bee Club, which this year celebrates 5 years.

Rolla Bee Club is a non-profit, educational volunteer club launched February 2014 after beginning beekeeping class students asked to have a bee club in the Rolla area.

Since then, more than 350 people have attended basic and second year beekeeping classes as well as visited nearby apiaries for hands on experience.

We understand beginners are "scared to death" of opening hives for the first time so we help them with their first inspections and in developing good techniques as they keep their first colonies. Students get to call themselves beekeepers once they have assisted a colony through its first winter.

In between monthly club meetings January-November, club attendees can share information on Rolla Bee Club's Facebook page, directly text coaches and mentors, and get updated calendars through the club's newsletter.

The club also hosts a popular honey tasting contest in October with attendees voting on prizes for the entries.



David Draker, left, helped to found the Rolla Bee Club and is a regular coach and mentor to beginning beekeepers.



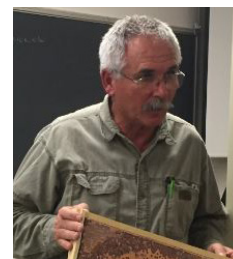
Tom Miller, right, holds regular demonstrations at bee club meetings, this one focused on how to start a smoker (in case you couldn't tell from all of the smoke!)



Charlotte Ekker Wiggins, left, is the founder and one of several coaches who gets beginning beekeepers started at fall and winter Rolla Bee Club classes.

A Bee Speaker's List?

By Gregg Hitchings, MSBA Local Club Liaison, MSBAgregg@gmail.com



Part of the Missouri State Beekeeper Association's purpose, as stated in its bylaws, is "to encourage and support existing regional beekeeping associations in Missouri". The number of bee clubs meeting on a regular basis around this state has increased dramatically the last dozen or so years, now numbering about forty-six. MSBA is always interested in finding ways to assist these groups serving beekeepers on a local level.

During the past ten months MSBA has engaged club officers and interested club members at small group sessions at its two annual state beekeeping conferences. A common theme and the most mentioned need at these meetings was a resource for clubs to use in obtaining quality speakers and presentations appropriate for their monthly club meetings.

We know there is a very large number of topics of interest to Missouri beekeepers. We also know there are a great many knowledgeable beekeepers who have a knack for putting together and delivering great presentations. There are roughly forty bee meetings a month in Missouri. That's almost 500 per year. Somewhere in that mix are outstanding presentations that would have value far beyond the single venue of one bee club.

So here's the deal. MSBA is exploring the concept of, for lack of a better term, a "Speaker's List" to make available to Missouri bee club officers and program directors for their use in obtaining presentations for their local bee clubs. This could consist of topics and bios of speaker's willing to travel to make presentations free or for a fee, as well as the speaker's contact information. Complete details have not been worked out and no doubt this will be an evolutionary process. Perhaps the first step is to identify the potential willing presenters to see if this effort is practical.

Please discuss this at your next bee club meeting. I would be very interested in hearing the comments, ideas and suggestions coming out of these discussions. I also would like to hear from any speaker's willing to appear on this list. If you know of someone you would like to see on the list please send me their contact information and I'll open the dialog with them to discuss possibilities.

My email address for this project is MSBAgregg@gmail.com or if you would prefer a phone call, text a short message with a suggested time to call to 573/880-2899.

From the Editor

I would like to introduce myself; my name is Jeania Schmalhorst and I am the new editor of the MSBA newsletter. My official title is Communications and Marketing Chair whose duties include editing the newsletter.

Being a third generation beekeeper, along with several family members, makes me feel at ease being around honey bees, "the girls" as I call them :) I currently keep three hives, two which are nucs from this spring, and an older hive that is five years old, my trouble hive that keeps making it through, despite any meddling on my part.

In looking towards future newsletters, I would like to see more articles from you, the members of MSBA. Short stories of your adventures in beekeeping, what is working in your apiary/bee yards, the lessons learned

or any swarm stories would all be appreciated.

Do you have any questions that you would like answered? How about some monthly tips or a beekeeping calendar? Do you have an idea that you would like to see in the newsletter? Then send them my way.

The next issue will be in September, deadline for submissions will be August 20th. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at jeania@doublessfarm.com or at MSBAnewsletter@gmail.com



To submit an article, recipe, questions or if you have a suggestion, email them to MSBAnewsletter@gmail.com.

MSBA is looking for the next Missouri Honey Youth Ambassador!

By Amy Giffen, MSBA Queen/Ambassador Chair, amygiffen@hotmail.com

The Missouri Honey Youth Ambassador shall act as an official spokesperson for the Missouri State Beekeepers Association, a non-profit organization serving Missouri beekeepers, farmers, gardeners, and consumers for over a century. The Missouri Honey Youth Ambassador is a year-round public relations, promotion, and advertising representative of the Missouri honey and beekeeping industry whether the ambassador is a single hive hobbyist, commercial producer or pollinator. The Ambassador will promote the beekeeping industry, honey, honey bee products, the importance of honey bee pollination, and of course educate the public about the fascinating facts of our State Insect: The honey bee.

While the Missouri State Beekeepers Association benefits through the various activities of the Honey Youth Ambassador Program, the Youth Ambassador may appreciate the following:

- \$500 scholarship.
- Opportunity to increase the scholarship through participation in sanctioned events.
- Expand knowledge about bees and bee products.
- Improve writing skills through submissions for the newsletter and news releases.
- Spokesperson for a non-profit organization based in agricultural industry.
- Potential to develop lasting personal and professional relationships.
- Develop poise and confidence through public speaking and appearances.
- Travel with compensation to sanctioned events.
- Opportunity to advance to American Honey Youth Ambassador Program through the American Beekeeping Federation.
- Become part of the history of Missouri State Beekeepers Association.

WHO MAY COMPETE?

Any young man or woman who has reached their 18th birthday by January 1 (of representation year) and not passed their 24th birthday by

January 1 (of representation year) and who is properly sponsored may apply. Promotion is the goal of the Youth Ambassador program and if a candidate qualifies, they may compete more than once. The Missouri Honey Junior Ambassador shall abide by the same rules. If for any reason the Missouri Honey Youth Ambassador is unable to complete their reign as Youth Ambassador, The Missouri Honey Junior Ambassador may, if desired, be promoted to the Honey Youth Ambassador Position. The Missouri Honey Junior Ambassador may compete to become the Missouri Honey Youth Ambassador the following year with the same guidelines as the Youth Ambassador.



2018-2019 Missouri Honey Youth Ambassador Hannah Gebhardt.



For more information or an application, please contact Amy Giffen, PO Box 541, Marshall, MO 65340 or amygiffen@hotmail.com.

New Guidelines

from the Honey Bee Health Coalition on Dealing with the Foulbroods

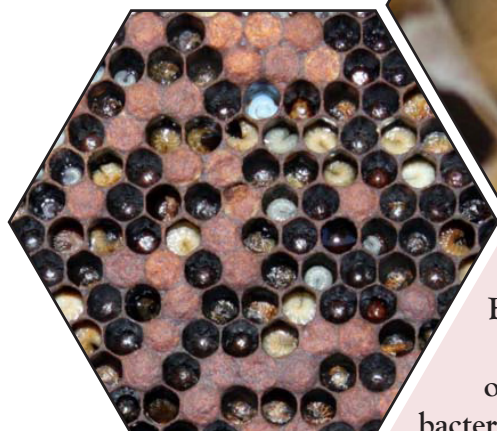
By Gregg Hitchings, MSBA Local Club Liaison, MSBAgregg@gmail.com

Since first found in Missouri in 1989, the varroa mite has essentially sucked all the air out of the room in regards to conversations about honey bee colony health. Having kept bees since it was “easy”, these past three decades of keeping bees alive in the age of varroa have provided lots of frustration, mistakes and anguish. I was tempted to quit several times but kept plodding along, sustained simply because of a love for the bees. Thankfully, and a lot of credit is due a whole bunch of bee people, researchers and organizations, we’re at a point where I see a new optimism regarding a future beyond the varroa scourge. Following advice from the Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC) regarding mites, it is possible to not only keep colonies alive, it’s actually possible to see hives thrive!

Now we are at a different place where some of our attention needs to go to other bee health issues which for some time have been left out of the discussions. European Foulbrood (EFB) is a problem in Missouri. How much? It’s hard to say. In Missouri, unlike in many other areas, EFB and its even more villainous cousin, American Foulbrood (AFB) are not reportable diseases. A finding of either foulbrood in an apiary in this state does not require notification to the Department of Agriculture so we don’t have those possible figures to work with. Beekeepers can now test diseased brood using inexpensive diagnostic kits and keep the results to themselves. This makes determining how widespread EFB is in Missouri difficult.

Again, how much of a problem? I don’t know, but I can tell you I haven’t heard of a confirmed case of AFB in Missouri for many years. EFB is a much different story however. People generally don’t want to talk about it, but hints of a problem are there. Look for a Foulbrood Test Kit at the farm and home stores which had them on the shelf earlier in the year. Many are sold out. I know of beekeepers who have recently placed orders with bee supply companies who learned the kits were on back order. Last year at MSBA’s fall conference in Cape Girardeau I presented a program on EFB in a break-out session. Feedback from that presentation (a few brave souls later shared their experiences) indicated EFB is not confined to just one or two regions in Missouri.

Recommendations for dealing with the brood diseases are evolving. The Honey Bee Health Coalition has recently issued new information to assist beekeepers and veterinarians in understanding and responding to AFB and EFB infections. You’ll find it on the Resources page of the Missouri State Beekeeper’s website. In the Honey Bee Diseases category you’ll find the new recommendations HBHC has provided in Identifying and Mitigating Foulbrood.



(EFB)
European Foul Brood
is a bacterial disease
of brood caused by the
bacterium *Melissococcus pluton*.

EFB is commonly
seen in the spring and
early summer and is more
of a concern in weak hives
with low numbers of nurse
bees or limited food
resources.

Meet Charlotte Ekker Wiggins

MSBA Partnership Liaison, Msbacharlotte@gmail.com

How long have you been associated with MSBA?

A. I started out as MSBA Secretary in 2012. Currently I am MSBA's first Missourians for Monarchs Collaborative partnership liaison, working with more than 100 partners to bring more pollinator forage to Missouri.



Charlotte Ekker Wiggins at Bluebird Gardens, her one-acre limestone hillside garden and apiary in Rolla, Mo.

What prompted you to keep bees?

A. As a gardener I thought adding bees to my garden would be a natural progression. I didn't know at the time that my family on my father's side were beekeepers going back to their days in Hungary. Maybe it's genetic but I can't imagine my garden without bees!

How long have you been keeping bees?

A. I started with two colonies in 2010. Today I have 12 colonies not counting a handful of nucs and native bee houses.

What did you find challenging about keeping bees when you started?

A. I remember quite vividly that first time I had to open up my hives all by myself, describing it as being "scared to death" doesn't quite do it justice. It's what prompted me to agree to start a local bee club to help other beekeepers have a better introduction to beekeeping than I did.

Why did you do a TEDx talk April 2019 at Missouri S&T?

A. In 2015, MSBA was dealing with a record increase in beginning beekeeping classes but only 10% of students were actually keeping bees. To try to capture the remaining 90%, MSBA supported the concept of developing a program to help non-beekeepers understand the importance of pollinators. I was one of the 11 contributing writers of Missouri's Master Pollinator Steward Program, which officially launched spring of 2019. Local bee clubs can help sponsor the program and get reimbursed to finance their activities. More here: <http://extension.missouri.edu/pollinator>

My talk was a short version of why bugs matter, what we all can do to maintain our food supply and contribute to a healthier world.

What has the response been to your TEDx talk; what does success look like to you?

A. People are coming up to me describing how they are planting more flowers and less turf grass, and that's a step in the right direction. They struggle a bit with being kind to paper wasps but they are open to the idea of not using pesticides. Success for me would be to see more native trees, shrubs and flowers in the ground and less turf grass, which has no value to our interdependent ecosystems.

What is next for you with MSBA?

A. A day at the state fair in August, sharing tips on how to establish and run a bee club at our fall conference in October and, in between, you can find me welcoming MSBA Facebook group members.

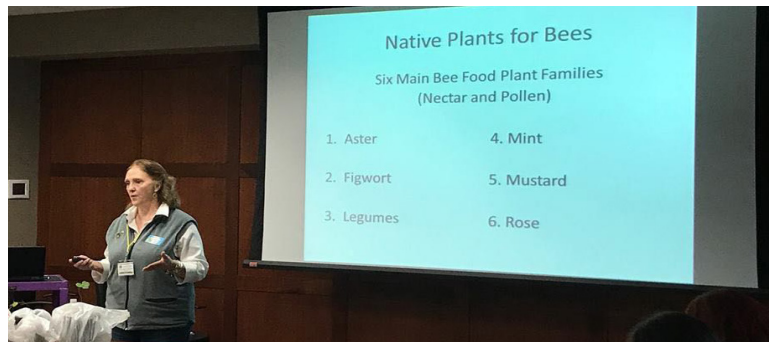
What advice would you give someone else thinking of getting involved with MSBA?

A. Don't wait to be asked; contact your regional director, find something you like to do and pitch in. This is a longstanding volunteer association that counts on beekeeper contributions, what do you have to offer?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUUTYdMrBIM&fbclid=IwAR3Mw1H1OqLE5OcHFfrJ5VOwsPrwbRsofbc7eG5jUxoVJHfyW_9QtL4_mt4



Charlotte Ekker Wiggins April 11, 2019 kicking off TEDx Missouri S&T at Leach Theatre, Rolla with an almost full house. Charlotte was one of 9 speakers out of 76 applicants lecturing on the theme "overlooked." (Photo courtesy Missouri S&T)



Charlotte Ekker Wiggins has been an MSBA conference lecturer for several years on how to plant for pollinators. (Photo by Gregg Hitchings)

MSBA History Tidbit

By Clayton Lee, MSBA Past President

Third Semi-Annual Convention – Mexico, MO

October 22-23, 1890

The convention was called to order at 2 pm by President, R. B. Leahy. As typical for a meeting, the minutes from the last meeting were read, new members were introduced, and Leahy gave an annual address. In his address, he referred to a failed attempt three years earlier to organize the Missouri State Beekeepers Association. Now with a focus on fighting adulterated honey, the association was going well.

During the convention, there were lengthy discussions on:

- Patenting of bee fixtures
- Was it more profitable to produce comb or extracted honey?
- Relative merits of the race of bees
- Methods to stop robbing
- Do flowers furnish the same amount of nectar each year
- Use of queen excluders



A report talked about the poor year for the honey crop. Based on 142 beekeepers, the average pounds of honey per colony was 29.95. A reference was also made to “Modern France hives” as being better for the bees.

Really interesting (and familiar sounding) discussions points. I grabbed this information from the 22nd Annual Report of the State Board of Agriculture of the State of Missouri for the years 1889-90. Below is a link that should take you there. The information for this meeting starts on page 636 and ends on 645.

[https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.\\$b646982&view=1up&seq=13](https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.$b646982&view=1up&seq=13)



2019 Fall Conference October 18th and 19th

Keynote Speakers



Dr. Krispn Given



Peter Borst



101 N. College Avenue
Moberly, MO 65270

More info at mostatebeekeepers.org



Honey Lime Fruit Salad

Submitted by Charlotte Ekker Wiggins
from National Honey Board at Honey.com

Ingredients:

4 cups sliced strawberries
3 peeled and sliced kiwis
1 cup green grapes
1/4 cup honey
1 juiced lime

Directions:

In a large bowl, combine the strawberries, kiwi and grapes. In a small bowl, stir together the honey and lime juice. Pour the honey-lime mixture onto the fruit and stir well.
Serves 2.

Can't Stop Party Mix

Submitted by Cathy Misko

Mix together in large greased wok/large bowl:

4 cups rice chex cereal
4 cups corn chex cereal
1-1/2 cups mini pretzel sticks
1-1/2 cups favorite small snack whole grain crackers
1 cup pecan halves
1 cup raw whole almonds (*mix in any left over nuts especially Sunflower, pumpkin, pine*)

Blend:

2/3 cup hot melted butter
1/2 cup honey

Pour over cereal. Mix until evenly coated. Pour into parchment lined large roasting pan. Bake 15 mins @ 350° stirring every 5 mins. Cool. Should not be sticky when cooled. If it is then bake some more. Store in plastic bag.

Optional: Clean out leftover snack/cereals/nuts/crackers/chips, just use 13 cup dry to liquid.

Honey Pumpkin Cake

Submitted by Clayton Lee

(Source: Don Taylor, Herculanum – former MSBA Program Chairman. Can be found in the June 1978 MSBA Newsletter, page 6)

Cake

Ingredients:

1 package Duncan Hines Spice Cake Mix
1/2 cup honey
1 can (1 pound) pumpkin
1/3 cup oil (Crisco)
3 eggs
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon cloves
1/2 teaspoon ginger
1/2 cup chopped pecans

Blend at low speed until completely moistened, about 2 minutes. Beat 2 minutes at medium speed. Pour into an oiled and floured Bundt pan. Bake at 350° for 40-50 minutes, until center springs back when touched lightly.

Frosting

Ingredients:

1 box powdered sugar
1/2 stick margarine
4 ounces cream cheese
2 tablespoons of honey
3 drops vanilla extract

Blend until creamy spreading consistency and put over the crown of Bundt cake. Place a pecan or walnut half on each section for decoration if desired.

*Do you have any recipes that has honey as an ingredient? Would you mind sharing that goodness with other beekeepers across the state.
Submit recipes to MSBAnewsletter@gmail.com*

All MSBA Information You Need Is Available By Visiting Our Website

Missouri Beekeepers Association Executive Directors

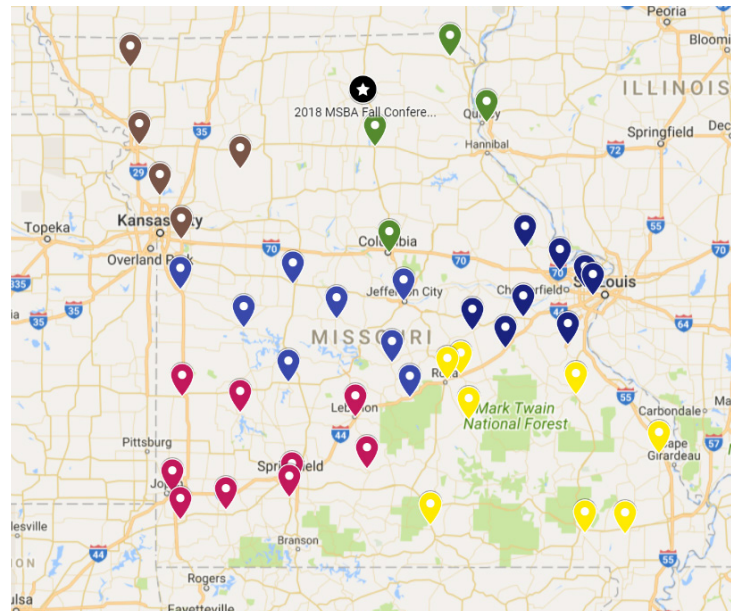
Find The Current List of Directors and Contact Information By Visiting Our Website

mostatebeekeepers.org/executive-committee

Looking for a Local Club?

If you're a new beekeeper a local club will be invaluable to you.

If you're a seasoned veteran you'll be invaluable to a local club.



Find Your Local Club By Visiting
mostatebeekeepers.org/local-clubs