

Missouri State Beekeepers Association
 P.O. Box 448 Oak Grove, MO 64075
www.mostatebeekeepers.org

July 2006

Eugene Makovec
 Editor

"Let the Fun Shine" at MO State Fair August 10-20

Missouri's State Fair runs this year in Sedalia from Thursday, August 10 through Sunday, August 20.

With the theme "Let the Fun Shine", the fair features a variety of musical acts, from James Taylor to George Jones. There will be the usual carnival rides and games, plus rodeos, tractor pulls, auto racing and equestrian competitions.

MSBA booth attendants needed

And of course, no state fair would be complete without agricultural exhibits, including the MSBA Honey Booth. Chairman Don Reinkemeyer and his dedicated group of volunteers expend a great deal of energy each year promoting honey and beekeeping to the public. We owe them a great deal of thanks for the service they provide.

But they could also use our help. If you have the time, consider making a trip to Sedalia for a couple of days. Spend some time manning our booth (four-hour time blocks requested), then walk the fairgrounds and take in all that our wonderful state has to offer. Please call Don (636-949-9515) to schedule a time slot or two.

Honey bids accepted through August 1

As always, our booth will be selling honey and related items to the public to pay our expenses. Missouri beekeepers wanting to supply such products are encouraged to submit bids to Monte Richardson by August 1. See pages 2-3 for information and a complete bid sheet.

Is your honey worthy of a blue ribbon?

While you're at it, why not enter some products for competition at the fair? Categories include everything from extracted and comb honey to blocks of beeswax and even observation hives. A complete list of categories and entry instructions is available at <http://www.mostatefair.com/PremiumGuide/agriculture.pdf>.

The application form is at <http://www.mostatefair.com/EntryForms/agricultureform.pdf>. Or, call the fair's Competitive Entry Department at 660-827-8116.

Good luck, and we'll see you at the fair!

Fall Meeting to be Oct. 27-28

Sharon Gibbons

Please join us for our fall meeting at The Lodge of Four Seasons at the Lake of the Ozarks. We have an exciting agenda planned and we hope that all of our Missouri State Beekeepers will attend. Remember, communication and learning are the keys to successful beekeeping.

The two-day meeting will be held at:

The Lodge of Four Seasons
 Horseshoe Bend Parkway
 P.O. Box 215
 Lake Ozark, MO 65049
 888-265-5500

The group room rate is \$77.00 for single or a double. Please mention MSBA to get the special rate. The block of rooms will be held for us until September 26, 2006. The hotel's regular room rate for 2006 is \$164. Make

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Are Swarms on Your Shopping List?

They don't get much easier than this. Thanks to an active swarm call program administered by Linda Hibbits of the Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association, member Eugene Makovec plucked this low-hanging fruit from the parking lot of the Lake Saint Louis Schnucks supermarket.

They aren't always this straightforward. But besides garnering a free colony for the beekeeper, swarm collecting provides a valuable service to the community — not to mention an unequalled educational opportunity.

— photo by Eugene Makovec



From the President Monte Richardson

Hello Everybody,

I hope this newsletter finds all of you healthy and prosperous. It's been a busy Spring here getting everything ready for the honey flow. Checking my bees I can smell the honey being evaporated.

Some hives are doing quite well, others aren't doing well at all. I can trace it back to queens. I knew going into the honey flow that I had some problems with a few hives. The queens were getting old or just weren't up to par but I just haven't had the time to replace the queen. It's a good reminder that nothing beats a healthy and prolific queen.

We are less than two months from the Missouri State Fair. I can't emphasize enough how much of a positive impact the Missouri State Beekeepers Association makes on fair goers. We have people that come visit our booth year after year. I have fielded several calls from beginning beekeepers that first got interested in beekeeping through exposure to the fair booth.

Our booth at the fair is also some people's primary source of honey for the year. People that would never be exposed to the virtues of honey try it for the first time at the Fair and become potential customers for your products. Others are long time honey users and come to the Fair to buy their honey for the year.

Please consider taking a day or two out of your busy schedule to help man the honey booth. It is our grassroots efforts that really make an impression on people. You can contact me at 660-826-4917, or Don Reinkemeyer at 636-949-9515, to volunteer for the booth. Our busiest time is naturally on the weekends but we also need lots of help during the week. And don't

worry if you think you are shy or can't talk to people. There are plenty of things that need to be done for all kinds of people. It's also an excellent opportunity to meet with other beekeepers from around the state.

The Executive Board will be meeting on June 24th, before this newsletter gets to you. We will be making plans for the Fair and also for the Fall Meeting. I'm sure there will be discussion about the Africanized Honey

Bee and its impact on the Missouri beekeeping industry. I encourage everybody to contact me or one of the Directors with any comments or concerns that you have. I would also encourage local association leaders to maintain contact with us as well. We want to know what is on your mind!

Be safe out there and as always, bee careful in this hot summer weather. On all but the shortest of trips to the bee yards I take a water jug with me, just in case. And let somebody know where you are going and when you should be back, just in case.

Monte Richardson



Missouri State Fair Bid Sheet

To be returned to Monte Richardson by August 1, 2006

On page 3 is a bid sheet for beekeepers wishing to supply honey and other apiculture-related items to be sold at the MSBA's state fair booth.

You may bid on one or as many items as desired. It is the winning bidder's responsibility to have items at, and picked up from, the fair grounds on the day and time specified by the fair manager. All winning bidders agree to take back any unsold items and present the MSBA Treasurer with a bill within 15 days of the close of the fair. The "Quantity Needed" is only an approximation; actual quantities needed may be more or less than what is specified on this bid sheet.

All honey must be produced in the State of Missouri and bottled at a location that has a current health inspection certificate. Preference will be given to bidders that are members of the Missouri State Beekeepers Association.

The MSBA Fair Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Bids may be emailed to richhoneyco@swbell.net or sent via USPS to Monte Richardson, 1405 S. Prospect Ave., Sedalia MO 65301 (postmarked by 08/01/06). Questions can be directed to Monte Richardson at 660-826-4917 (after 5:00 p.m.).



Solid Honey Wafer Offers Hands Off Solution For Beekeepers

A National Honey Board News Release

Next time you're considering adding a little honey to your tea, picture yourself reaching for a solid honey wafer. Amazingly, thanks to research sponsored by the National Honey Board (NHB), the ease and convenience of solid honey is now more than wishful thinking, it's reality.

Prompted by growing interest from food manufacturers in dried honey, the Board initiated a product concept program on behalf of the U.S. honey industry to optimize the utility of the various forms and styles of honey. Early in the project, due to honey's hygroscopic properties, the Board realized honey's sticky restraints. By removing a portion of the water content of honey (honey contains roughly 17% water), technologists solved the stickiness problem and created a new concept/product — solid honey. Launched with the tentative name "Simply Honey", the honey wafer has a single ingredient: pure honey (no additives or stabilizers). With dimensions approximating the size and thickness of a quarter, it dissolves quickly in hot liquid.

To monitor public response, the Honey Board introduced "Simply Honey" as a hot beverage sweetener at food trade shows during 2006, beginning with the World Tea Expo in Las Vegas (March), the Specialty Coffee Association of America conference in Charlotte, NC (April) and at the annual Food Marketing Institute show in Chicago (May). At these events, the board prospected for food manufacturers willing to implement the Honey Board's primary objective: moving the concept from ideation to the store shelves. The concept comes at no cost to the manufacturer; however, additional prod-

uct development, product identity, packaging and distribution would be the manufacturer's responsibility.

While commodity boards primarily focus on generic promotion programs, the National Honey Board proactively assists the industry by identifying opportunistic honey applications and consumer-friendly honey concepts. Since joining the NHB as Marketing Director, Bruce Wolk has spearheaded industry efforts to make honey more accessible to 21st century consumers. "Our goal is to keep honey top of mind when consumers reach for a sweetener. Market research and focus group feedback shows us that honey's natural appeal and unique flavor are no longer strong enough to influence that decision, whereas a form of honey that is easy to handle and store adds considerably to its attractiveness."

For more information on current and concept forms and styles of honey, contact Charlotte Jordan at (303) 776-2337 or charlotte@nhb.org. For more information about the National Honey Board and its marketing and promotion programs, visit www.honey.com.



The Honey Board, through its staff in Longmont, CO, conducts research, advertising and promotion programs to help maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets for honey. The Board's work, funded by an assessment of one cent per pound on domestic and imported honey, is designed to expand the awareness and use of honey by consumers, the foodservice industry and food manufacturers.

Fall Meeting to Feature Larry Conner, Marion Ellis

(Continued from page 1)

sure that you are quoted the \$77 rate. All rooms include irons, ironing boards, hair dryers and in-room coffee service. The hotel has both heated pools, outdoor pools, and an exercise facility.

We have not had a meeting at the Lodge of Four Seasons before. It is a premier resort at the Lake. It is smaller than Tan-Tar-A, but walking is minimal. I will include directions in the next newsletter.

Make this meeting a mini-vacation. The special rate includes Thursday night through Sunday. If you want to add more days, please let me know, and I will arrange the same rate.

The Friday morning Executive Board meeting will be at 9 am in a room to be announced later. The evening banquet will be in Sea Chase. The meeting is in the Marbella Ballroom. Our program will begin at 1 pm, with the banquet set for 6:00. Once again we will celebrate Halloween with a costume party. It was a huge success last year, with winners coming from Iowa and North Dakota.

Speakers for our meeting include Dr. Marion Ellis, who is an entomology professor at the University of Nebraska. He will speak on "Varroa Detection and Control Methods", "Making Mead", and "Everything to know about Bumblebees".

The other speaker is Dr. Larry Connor, who writes numerous articles in the bee journals, and owns Wicwas Press. He will talk on "Fall and Winter Management", "Drone Biology and Saturation", and "Survivor Stock—What is it and how can I use it?"

Please support our meetings by attending. It is more difficult and expensive to book speakers and hotels. We have a good meeting scheduled, but costs have gone up with the increase in fuel costs. We have increased minimums on the food contracts for the next two meetings. If you support our banquet and lunches, we will be able to meet the \$3000 food minimum required. If we can't meet the minimums, it has to come out of our treasury.

All other questions can be directed to Sharon Gibbons at sgibbs314@earthlink.net



MSBA Fall 2006 Meeting Registration Form



NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____
 PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Pre-Registration Fees: Registration must be received by October 10, 2006

Member – 2 day per person	\$20.00 _____
Member---1 day per person	\$15.00 _____
Member Family— 2 day	\$30.00 _____
Or Member family— 1 day	\$25.00 _____
Non-member – 2-day, per person	\$28.00 _____
Or Non-member – 1 day, per person	\$23.00 _____

Registrations made after October 10th:

Member -- 2-day, per person	\$25.00 _____
Or Member – 1 day, per person	\$20.00 _____
Non-member – 2-day, per person	\$35.00 _____
Or Non-member – 1 day, per person	\$30.00 _____

(No family discount on late registrations)

Friday Night Banquet & Entertainment: Filet Mignon, salad, vegetables, dessert

Adult - \$23.50 per person	(\$23.50 x _____)	= _____
Child - \$12.00/child under 12	(\$12.00 x _____)	= _____

Saturday Lunch

Adult - \$15.00/person	(\$15.00 x _____)	= _____
Child - \$7.50/child under 12	(\$ 7.50 x _____)	= _____

Membership 2006 Missouri State Beekeepers Assn. Individual: Renewal New \$10.00 _____

Membership 2006 Missouri State Beekeepers Assn. Family: Renewal New \$15.00 _____

Queen fund donation **Donation** \$ _____

Meeting fund donation **Donation** \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: MO State Beekeepers Assn. . Send to Sharon Gibbons, 314 Quinnmoor Drive. Ballwin, MO 63011. *If you pre-register and then cannot attend, your registration fee will be considered a donation and no refunds will be made. If you pay for meals and we are able to sell them you will be refunded for those.*



The Empty Super ... Diary of a Hopeful Hobbyist by Eugene Makovec

My plate is half empty

I got a call from Linda Hibbits, swarm coordinator for Eastern Missouri. It was late May, and I'd already collected three swarms for the season, a lot for me. I'd combined two to make a new colony, and used the other to bolster a weak hive. I now had five colonies and enough equipment to house four. A couple of brood boxes were old homemade ones my dad had given me over ten years ago when I started. They'd worked fine with his homemade frames, but the new ones were a little small and wanted to slip down on one end. Not to mention, they were just old — one of them was now held together with duct tape.

In short, I love catching swarms, but I'd probably want a pretty good reason to go after one now.

And by most standards, this was not a good one. It was well after six in the evening, and I was just about to sit down for supper. The swarm was in O'Fallon, every bit of 30 miles from home. But Linda said there was no one else available between here and there. The caller had told her the swarm was on the ground, and was "about the size of two dinner plates", whatever that meant. I hated to see bees go to waste, and these at least sounded easy to collect, so I took down the phone number.

The lady who answered was named Angie. Yes, the bees were on the ground, and they'd been there over two weeks. "Two weeks?" I asked.

"At least," she said. "A big pile of them, about the size of two dinner plates."

"You mean like two plates stacked on each other?" I asked.

"No, like side by side. There are tons of bees."

I began to take an interest, but all this talk about dinner plates reminded me that I still hadn't eaten anything. It was getting late anyway. I was busy the following evening, but I figured if they'd been there for two weeks already, they probably weren't going anywhere tomorrow.

"They're right by the house," she added. "They attacked the dog, and they're bothering the kids, and I'm ready for them to leave."

This awoke my humanitarian side, which is seldom a good thing. I figured if I skipped the leisurely dinner I had planned and gathered a few swarm-catching necessities, I could be there and get them packed up before the sun went down. I took down the directions, informed my skeptical spouse of this latest apicultural opportunity, and grabbed an apple for the road.

The directions led me through downtown O'Fallon, down a side road and right into the boondocks. Suddenly the lots were huge and heavily wooded. Angie, her husband and two kids were all in the yard when I arrived. (Apparently they had had *their* dinner.) They had a decent-sized house and a humongous yard (four acres, as I later learned, which threw some light on her curious definition of "right by the house").

"Thanks for coming," Angie said as I got out of the car. "My

husband can show you where the bees are."

I followed the husband around back, accompanied by a large, barking dog, who was soon corralled and put into the screened-in back porch. We passed the house, headed across the back yard and started down a narrow path into a wooded area. Finally, a good 20 yards from the house, he stopped and pointed. "There they are."

I looked down at the ground, and my heart sank at the sight of a very small cluster of bees, maybe about the size of a salad plate. Then my jaw dropped as I noticed, three feet to one side, a mass of dead bees as big as a turkey platter. "What are those?" I asked after a moment.

"Oh, um, I dumped gas on them," he replied with an embarrassed tone.

I tried to think of something nice to say. I felt like I'd arrived at the all-you-can-eat buffet behind the Buffalo Bills' offensive line. "How long ago was that?"

"Maybe about a week ago." That might explain why the bees were still here after two weeks. The survivors were the lucky ones who were out scouting, or at least airborne, while my friend here was showering the rest with his high-octane persuasion. "I didn't know it would kill them," he explained further. "I was just trying to get them to leave."

That didn't help any. Following another awkward silence, I said, "Boy, if I'd known that, I wouldn't have driven all this way. But since I'm here, I might as well take what I can home."

As he headed back to the house, I retrieved some things from the car. I put down a medium super with a couple of drawn frames, a lid and bottom board. I pushed it right up to the bees and they started moving in, just like ants into a picnic basket. A great big basket, filled with country fried chicken, potato salad and corn on the cob. And strawberry shortcake with whipped cream. Man, was I hungry!

As I waited, Angie came out with the kids, a girl and a boy, maybe 12 and 10. "My husband feels bad," she said. "He didn't tell me he dumped gas on them." She looked at the small pile of bees that was left. "I'm sorry you wasted a trip out here."

I was a little aggravated, but I decided to make the best of the situation. "It's not your fault," I told her. I gave the three of them a short primer on honeybee biology and swarming, and asked a few questions myself. It turns out the bees had started in a tree, then dropped to the ground after a couple of days. (Was the queen injured?) The dog was a little too curious and got stung as a result.

The light was going quickly now, so I brushed a few of the stragglers out of the grass as best I could and closed it up.

By the time I got home it was too late to eat a good dinner, at least not if I wanted to sleep. I settled for a snack and a beer, and a well-deserved "told you so" from my wife, and went to bed.

I tried to think of something nice to say. I felt like I'd arrived at the all-you-can-eat buffet behind the Buffalo Bills' offensive line.



9-14 SEPTEMBER 2007 MELBOURNE EXHIBITION & CONVENTION CENTRE

APIMONDIA 2007

MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA
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Beekeeping Down Under!

The Call for Abstracts has been posted on the Apimondia website which is www.apimondia2007.com. Go to the website then click on the "Call for Abstracts" in the menu on the left hand side.

We would encourage bee researchers and beekeepers from all around the world to consider submitting an abstract with a view to presenting a paper at Apimondia 2007. We will be looking for papers on various topics. Please note the dates for acceptance of the abstracts and also the deadline for registration by presenters.

It may seem a long way off but for those coming to Australia from overseas please visit the website and look at the Travel Information. You will need to obtain a visa to come to Australia and, except for New Zealand residents, this visa **must** be obtained before leaving home. Secure your visa early to avoid any delays.

We are pleased to announce that His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia has agreed to be the Patron for Apimondia 2007. To learn more about His Excellency and the role of the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia go to www.gg.gov.au

Trevor Weatherhead (Organising Committee) queenbee@gil.com.au

Almond Crop up Eleven Percent over 2005

Thanks in part to the efforts of itinerant beekeepers from around the country, California's 2006 almond production is forecast to exceed one billion pounds, an increase of about 11 percent over last year. That prediction is based on a USDA telephone survey of producers representing a quarter of the state's almond acreage. Way to go, pollinators!

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Apiguard has a Section 3 general registration in the United States. Check with your nearest Dadant branch for updates on Apiguard registration in your state. We will also post state registrations on our website: www.dadant.com



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Apiguard Approved for use in MO

The following is excerpted from a May 19 news release by Vita Ltd:

Beekeepers in Missouri now have a powerful treatment to use in the fight against varroa. Apiguard, the easily applied, near-natural, anti-varroa treatment, has been approved for use by the authorities in Missouri following its registration with the USA Environmental Protection Agency late last year.

Max Watkins of Vita (Europe) Ltd explained: "Apiguard is proving highly successful in the fight against varroa in a variety of climatic conditions across the world. The product's active ingredient is thymol, a naturally occurring substance derived from Thyme. We have developed Apiguard as a slow-release gel which is very easy to apply and is highly effective in killing varroa mites. It is entirely safe for users, consumers and bees and leaves no harmful residues."

A small dosing tray of Apiguard is placed on top of the brood frames in the hive and replaced with a second dosing tray when its contents have evaporated (usually after 10 to 14 days). The bees' normal social and cleaning behaviour disperses the treatment throughout the colony. Apiguard is normally best used towards the end of the season whilst temperatures are still high enough to maintain colony activity.

Apiguard is an ideal component of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program which is essential to control the development of mites that inevitably become resistant to any single treatment regime.

Full details can be found at www.vita-europe.com/faq.htm

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Much miscellaneous — Contact Jim Hahn:
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14275 Hwy T, Festus, MO 63028

Local Club Meeting Information

Jefferson County Beekeepers Association
2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Jefferson County
Extension Center, Hwy B & 21, Hillsboro
Contact Scott Moser (636) 285-7295

Midwestern Beekeepers Association
Third Wednesday of each month 7:00 p.m.
YMCA, 10301 E. 350 Hwy, Raytown
Contact President Bob Justice, 816-358-3893

Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association
1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., Kirkwood
Community Center, 111 Geyer Rd, Kirkwood
Contact President Steve Harris, 636-946-5520

Beekeeper's Association of the Ozarks
4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
The Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell, Springfield
www.ozarkbees.org

South Central Missouri Beekeepers Association
Contact President May Schmitt
417-256-9447

Missouri Valley Beekeepers Association
3rd Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Scenic Regional Library, Union
Contact Rodney Angell 573-764-2922
Or bee143@fidnet.com

Boone Regional Beekeepers Association
3rd Sunday of every odd months, 1:00 p.m., University
Outreach & Extension Office, Rt. UU, Columbia
Contact: Art Gelder 573-474-8837

Jackson Area Beekeepers
4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
First Pres. Church of Jackson, 206 E. Washington
Contact: Grant Gillard 573-243-6568
Or gillard5@charter.net

Is your club missing? Contact Eugene at
editor@mostatebeekeepersassociation.org



MSBA Membership Application

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

*Check here to receive your newsletter via email.


NOTE: If you belong to a local association, please pay your state dues through your local club.

State Association Dues (Check only one box)

Adult Membership \$10.00
 Family Membership \$15.00
 Student Membership \$5.00

Amount Enclosed \$ _____
 Make check payable to: Missouri State Beekeepers Association
 Mail to: P.O. Box 448 Oak Grove, MO 64075

Magazine Discounts: Discounts are available for MSBA members to two beekeeping magazines. You may use the following forms and mail them yourself to the publishers as shown below:



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Return white copy to: Bee Culture, Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 706, Medina, OH 44258
 Please discard any other forms. Use only this form. Prices subject to change without notice.



Honey Queen Report

Sarah Jackson



Dear Beekeepers,

It has been a quiet spring for your "Queen Bee", as far as my appearances go. I am really looking forward to summer and hopefully more events as Missouri Honey Queen.

The only event I have attended since the last time I wrote was last month when I traveled to Ellisville, Missouri, in the St. Louis area, to speak at an elementary school. I spoke to first and third graders, and they were a delightful bunch — so full of questions and awe at how bees go about their work. I really enjoyed talking to the little ones — their reactions and questions to and about my facts and information are always amusing and fun.

This month, I am anticipating attending a weekend festival down in West Plains, Missouri, where I may be giving some kind of presentation. Details are yet to be finalized about that little excursion, but I think it will be a great experience.

I am also starting to put together my scrapbook for you all to see at the fall meeting. It is still very much in the planning stages, and I am hoping it will go together quickly. What a fun project I have ahead of me!

Also, I have an exciting announcement to make. I have decided to proudly represent Missouri this January at the National Honey Queen Contest in Fort Worth, Texas. I think it is an experience and opportunity that I have been blessed with; therefore, I am not going to pass it up. I will definitely need everyone's help to get ready and be as prepared as possible to represent everyone to the best of my ability, but I am embracing the hard work it will take to get ready for the contest.

In the meantime, to get in some good practice for the National contest, I will also be representing the Missouri Beekeepers Association at the Missouri State Fair Queen Contest in August. The contest will be held on August 10 and 11, with the talent competition at 2:00 on the 10th and the Evening Gown competition on the 11th at 2:00. I would greatly appreciate everyone's support as I give my speech (my talent—what I do best—talking!) and at the evening wear competition. I also am looking forward to working in the beekeepers' booth in the Agriculture building at the State Fair as well. I hope to see everyone there!

I sincerely hope your summer is fantastic!

God Bless,

Sarah

DRAPER'S SUPER BEE

914 S. Street

Auburn, NE 68305

Ph. (402) 274-3725 Fax: (402) 274-3128

Free delivery at the Missouri State Beekeepers Fall meeting

Directory of Officers

President: Monte Richardson 660-826-4917
1405 S. Prospect Ave., Sedalia MO 65301
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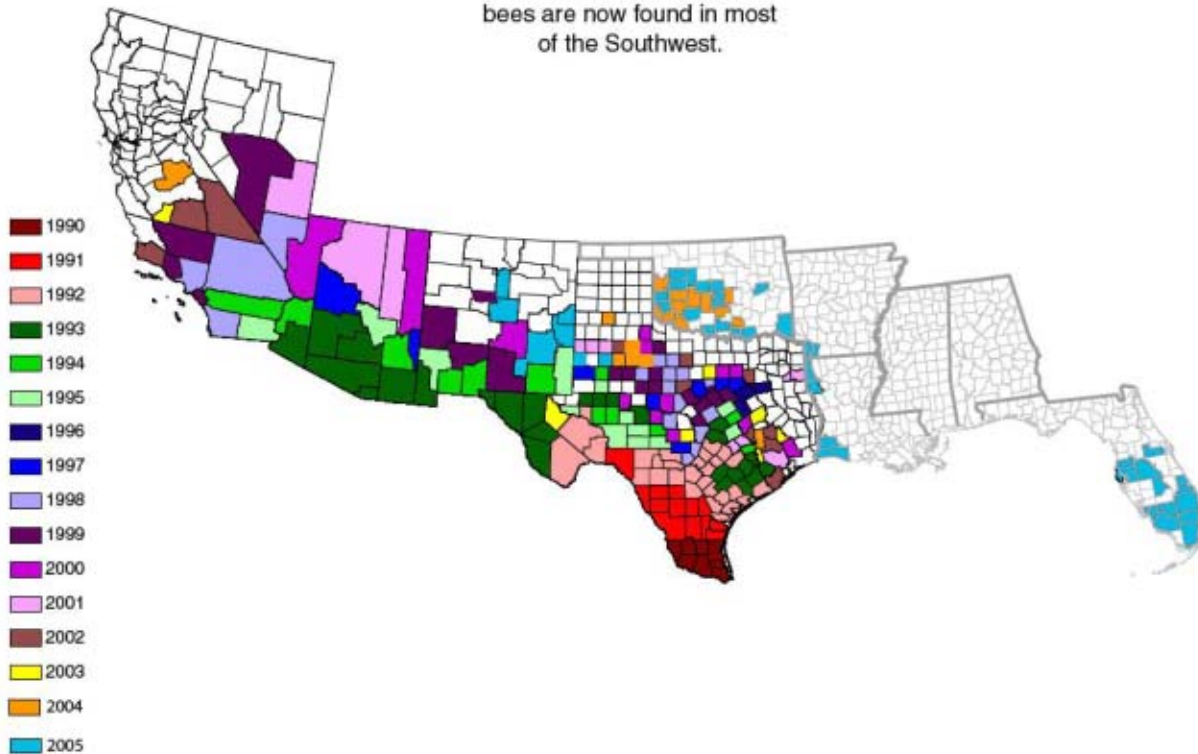
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Where are Africanized honey bees now?

First found in southern Texas
in 1990, Africanized honey
bees are now found in most
of the Southwest.



This newsletter is published six times per year, on the first of each odd month. Submissions are due three weeks prior to publication.

The email edition is in color, contains hyperlinks and an extra photo or two, 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@mostatebeekeepersassociation.org with "email newsletter" in the subject line. I'll reply with confirmation, and add you to my list.

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