

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

www.mostatebeekeepers.org

October 2012

Eugene Makovec
Editor
editor@mostatebeekeepers.org

Register now for Fall Conference! October 25-27 in Kansas City

The Missouri State Beekeepers Association will hold its annual Fall Conference on October 26-27 in Kansas City at the Holiday Inn/CoCo Key Water Resort. Special events will be held on October 25 for early arrivals. Hotel information is as follows:

Holiday Inn Kansas City SE,
CoCo Key Water Resort

9103 East 39th Street Kansas City, Missouri 64133
Phone 877-425-2746 or 816-737-0200

Single - \$69, Double - \$79, Triple - \$89, Quad - \$99

Rates include deluxe,
full breakfast buffet
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(Mention Missouri
Beekeepers for
these rates.)

Meeting details page 7



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From the President by Grant Gillard

October is a great month. If I'm on top of things, (which is often a BIG "if") my bees are ready for winter with treatments done and stores adequately tucked away. I know I'm headed into a welcomed time of respite, a seasonal sabbatical that helps me step away from the daily treks to the bee yards and gain a different perspective on why I'm so passionate about keeping bees. If I've done everything right, I hope to be bringing 250 hives into the winter.

I'm also grateful for the seasonal conclusion of the farmers' markets. Don't get me wrong, I fully enjoy the markets and they are my "bread and butter" for marketing honey, but they take a lot of time ... time I often need to be spending with my bees, time I need to be taking care of other business. I've often said my favorite day of the year is the opening day of the farmers' market.

And my second most favorite day is the last day of the farmers' market.

Once I get my bees settled in, my winters are usually spent planning for next year, as well as working on equipment and making sure I have all the frames and hive bodies to support those plans. Now is an excellent time to order equipment and supplies before the seasonal demand in the spring forces everything to be back-ordered. Now is an excellent time to contact the vendors attending our fall meeting in Kansas City. Many vendors will bring your supplies to the meeting and you'll save a ton of money on shipping. You also have the assurance you have what you need, when you need it.

There's more information about the fall meeting in this newsletter, as well as on our web site.

One of the things I'd hope to impress upon our members is to be sure and check the website to register on-line. We hope this is a convenience that will move us into the modern era. Of course, the old paper and snail-mail is still acceptable.

On the cover: "As I was mowing around the hives I could smell the ripening goldenrod nectar," said Scott Moser in a recent post on the MSBA's Facebook page. There may be as many as 100 varieties of goldenrod, genus *Solidago*, in the larger family Asteraceae, which also contains asters, daisies and sunflowers.

Goldenrod has found many uses over the years, many of them medicinal. ("Solidago" is Latin for "to make whole".) Native Americans chewed the leaves to soothe sore throats, and the roots for toothaches. Herbal practitioners prescribe it as a diuretic, a topical wound treatment, and a remedy for kidney stones and infections.

Goldenrod leaves consist of about seven percent natural rubber. Thomas Edison experimented with it for commercial rubber production, and a Model T given to him by Henry Ford contained tires made from the substance.

Goldenrod is also known as a valuable fall nectar crop. Its honey is often dark and has a strong smell as it ripens in the hive, but it provides much-needed stores for the colony preparing for winter.

A farmer baling hay in the field next to this patch shook his head in disgust when asked about it. "The stuff grows up everywhere like a weed," he said.

And for the beekeeper, that is just fine.

photo by Eugene Makovec

Also, please check the "MSBA Awards" tab on the web site. We want to honor beekeepers who are making a difference in the lives of other beekeepers. Don't be bashful. We want to encourage the mutual support that helps us perfect this craft of beekeeping.

The fall meeting will also mark the end of my reign as president, though technically I'm the president until December. We'll transition into the John Timmons era as we embrace the new year.

There are also many opportunities to serve on the state level. We are looking for a new program director to replace Pam Brown. Pam's done an excellent job on planning our annual meetings. Joyce Justice is resigning from the position of the queen chair. There's a vacancy in the central director's position. Your best bet is to contact John Timmons if you're interested.

We also encourage you to remain active in your local association and to keep current on new developments in world of honeybee health, diseases, pesticides, and honey production. As we head into winter, there is no room for procrastination. Treat and feed, if necessary, in time to benefit the bees.

All the best,

Grant




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Domestication of honeybees associated with expanded genetic diversity

Study shows experience to be contrary to that of most domesticated animals

by Benjamin P. Oldroyd, *Molecular Ecology*

Volume 21, Issue 18, pages 4409–4411, September 2012 (first published online September 11, 2012)

ABSTRACT:

Humans have been keeping honey bees, *Apis mellifera*, in artificial hives for over 7000 years. Long enough, one might imagine, for some genetic changes to have occurred in domestic bees that would distinguish them from their wild ancestors. Indeed, some have argued that the recent mysterious and widespread losses of commercial bee colonies are due in part to inbreeding. In this issue of *Molecular Ecology*, Harpur et al. (2012) show that the domestication of honey bees, rather than reducing genetic variance in the population, has increased it. It seems that the commercial honey bees of Canada are a mongrel lot, with far more variability than their ancestors in Europe.

The domestic turkey is a different creature from its wild ancestors. It is much larger, and its growth rate is prodigious (Rose 1996). Famously, some breeds cannot even mate because of the male's large breast and must be artificially inseminated. So, too, most dog breeds are unrecognizable as the wolves from which we once bred them (Vilà et al. 1990; Wayne & vonHoldt 2012). This pattern of phenotypic change in which domesticated plants and animals differ strongly from their wild ancestors is common (Andersson & Georges 2004). Domestication is often

associated with a reduction in additive genetic variance, fixation of alleles associated with traits of economic importance, reduction in brain size, increased tameness, change in body size and conformation, and the development of breed-specific characteristics (Diamond 2002; Hall & Bradley 1995). Many breeds of domestic animals are incapable of living in the wild, and their recent wild ancestors are extinct. A case in point is the domestic silk worm, *Bombyx mori* (Yukuhiro et al. 2002).

The honey bee, in contrast, has never been properly domesticated (Oxley & Oldroyd 2010). Instead, we have learned to manage them—albeit in sophisticated ways—by providing them with hives that make it easier to rob them of their honey and wax (Crane 1999), or lug them around for pollination jobs. But in most respects, domestic bees remain largely unchanged from their wild cousins.

The lack of domestication of bees is a bit strange. Humans have husbanded bees in hives for at least 7000 years (Bloch et al. 2010)—far longer than turkeys have been domesticated. Reliable artificial insemination was invented in the 1940s (Laidlaw 1944), shortly after it was developed for other livestock (Foote 2002). There is a significant industry that breeds and propagates bees for sale to honey producers and pollinators (Delaney et al. 2009; Laidlaw & Page 1997). Yet despite these advances and some early attempts at stock certification (Witherell 1976), no specific breeds of bees have emerged that you could reliably distinguish from other bees. Thus, instead of referring to the breed they keep, beekeepers tend to describe their bees by subspecies, or perhaps the breeder they bought their stock from. If a beekeeper tells you 'I keep Italians', he or she means a yellow bee, probably from California, that has some ancestry in *Apis mellifera ligustica* from Italy.

In this issue, Harpur et al. (2012) delve deeply into the ancestry of the domestic honey bee and come up with fascinating and novel findings. Some previous studies of commercial honey bees have suggested that, as with other livestock, bee populations are characterized by low genetic diversity and that low diversity has arisen as a result of domestication (Schiff et al. 1994; Schiff & Sheppard 1996; Delaney et al. 2009; vanEngelsdorp & Meixner 2010; Jaffé et al. 2010; Meixner et al. 2010). Low genetic diversity is of particular concern for honey bees, because intracolony genetic diversity is essential to colony health (Seeley & Tarpay 2007) and fitness (Mattila & Seeley 2007; Oldroyd & Fewell 2007; Page 1980). Indeed, some authors have speculated that recent declines in honey bee populations in Europe and North America (vanEngelsdorp et al. 2009b; vanEngelsdorp & Meixner 2010) and the phenomenon of 'Colony Collapse Disorder' (CCD; vanEngelsdorp et al. 2009a) may be linked to declining genetic diversity (Oldroyd 2007; vanEngelsdorp & Meixner 2010).

Harpur et al. (2012) argue against this view, showing that unlike



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Missouri State Beekeepers Association

Fall, 2012 Conference Registration
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Badge Name(s): _____
(As you want printed on your name badge)

Address: _____

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Local Association Name: _____

Pre-Registration Fees (Registration must be postmarked or submitted by **September 30th**)

Individual Member: \$ 40.00 X _____ = _____

Family Member: (only one per registration)..... \$ 50.00 _____

Non-Member (per person):..... \$ 75.00 X _____ = _____

Registrations made after September 30th

Individual Member: \$ 55.00 X _____ = _____

Family Member: (only one per registration)..... \$ 65.00 _____

Non-Member (per person):..... \$ 75.00 X _____ = _____

Conference Meals & Wine Social (You must complete the form on the 2nd page of this registration)

Enter Amount from "Conference Meals & Wine Social" on Page 2: _____

Membership Dues & Donations

MSBA Membership Dues - Individual: (Circle One) --> New / Renewal \$ 15.00 = _____

MSBA Membership Dues - Family:..... (Circle One) --> New / Renewal \$ 20.00 = _____

Honey Queen Fund Donation: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: _____

(Please also complete meal schedule on next page)

Please make checks payable to: **MO State Beekeepers Association**.

Mail registration form and check to: **Nancy Gillard, 3721 North High Street, Jackson, MO 63755.**

NOTE: Checks will not be deposited until after the conference. No receipt will be mailed.

Conference Meals & Wine Social

Thursday Evening Wine Social

Registered for Conference: FREE X _____
Non-Registered \$ 5.00 X _____ = _____

Friday Lunch – Kansas City BBQ Buffet

Beef Brisket & Chicken (per person): \$ 8.00 X _____ = _____
Vegetarian Meal (per person): \$ 8.00 X _____ = _____
Child (12 & under): \$ 5.00 X _____ = _____

Friday Evening Banquet

Chicken Picatta (per person): \$ 18.00 X _____ = _____
Vegetarian Meal (per person): \$ 18.00 X _____ = _____
Child (12 & under): \$ 12.00 X _____ = _____

Saturday Lunch

Southwestern Buffet (per person): \$ 8.00 X _____ = _____
Vegetarian Meal (per person): \$ 8.00 X _____ = _____
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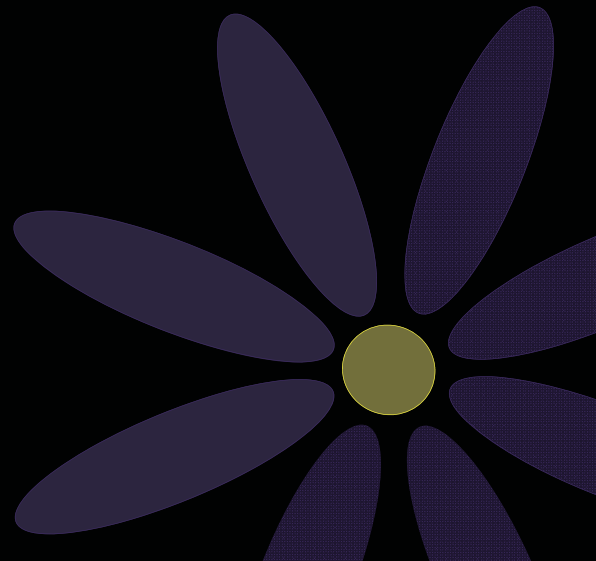
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*See ad in this issue

Join us for Fall Conference October 25-27 in Kansas City

continued from page 1

Our speakers will include:

Orley R. "Chip" Taylor, Jr., PhD - Professor, Insect Ecology, University of Kansas.

"My research efforts have included studies of reproductive isolating mechanisms in sulfur butterflies, reproductive and life history patterns in plants, comparative biology of European and Neotropical African honey bees and migratory behavior of monarch butterflies. Work in progress utilizes genetic markers to quantify the interactions between invading Neotropical African bees and resident European bees in North America. These investigations should clarify why, even after 40 years of hybridization, Neotropical African bees have retained their genetic integrity. Monarch Watch [www.MonarchWatch.org], an outreach program I initiated in 1992, now occupies much of my time."

Dr. Taylor's meeting lectures will include: *Biology of Swarms, and Saga of the African Bees.*

Gary Ross - retired US Navy Officer and retired Kansas State Bee Inspector, former Missouri State Fair Honey Judge.

Meeting lectures to include: *The Big Five Diseases and Pests* (American Foulbrood, European Foulbrood, Nosema, Varroa Mites and Small Hive Beetle). *Preparing Honey for Competition.*

Ron Fessenden, MD, PhD, retired medical doctor and author of *The Honey Revolution: Restoring the Health of Future Generations.*

Break-out Sessions

Bernie Andrews - How to Make Comb Honey

Dadant - How to Make Creamed Honey

Michael Godfrey - How to Make Honey Beer

Jan Amos - Making Divisions

Chip Taylor - Monarch Butterflies

Bob Owen - Feral Bee Trapouts

Fred Meder - Widgets & Gadgets - Neat Things in the Beekeeper's Toolbox

Art & Vera Gelder - Agri-Tourism

Yvonne Von Der Ahe - Products From the Hive

Gary Ross - Bring your honey sample, and Gary will "test" it.

Registration is available online, and on pages 4-5 of this newsletter.

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Genetic diversity increased with “domestication” of honeybees

continued from page 3

other livestock breeding, honey bee breeding seems to have increased rather than decreased genetic diversity in commercial strains. Commercial honey bees are genetically diverse because, rather than breeding for breed-specific characteristics within a defined population, bee breeding is often characterized by bringing in new genetic material from diverse sources.

Most commercial honey bees are derived from Europe. The honey bees of Europe arose from two independent migration events from source populations in Africa (Whitfield et al. 2006). Each migration event occurred during a period of relatively mild climate that followed a period of glaciation (Ruttner 1988). The result of these two colonizations is that there are two major lineages of honey bee in Europe: the M and the C (Franck et al. 1998; Garnery et al. 1992; Whitfield et al. 2006). The honey bees of Western Europe (lineage M) are (or at least were) dark and include the subspecies *A. m. mellifera* (Ruttner 1988). The honey bees of eastern Europe (lineage C) are variable in colour and behaviour and adapted to various climatic zones and are classified in several subspecies including *A. m. carnica* (dark) and *A.m. ligustica* (yellow) (Ruttner 1988).

Harpur et al. (2012) show that the migrant honey bee populations established in Canada are mixtures of most of the subspecies of Europe and that, at a population level, commercial honey bee populations are more diverse than the European populations from which they are derived. No doubt the same is true for the *A. mellifera* populations that have been established in New Zealand and Australia (Chapman et al. 2008; Oxley & Oldroyd 2009). European populations are less diverse than

African populations; no doubt the result of ancient population bottlenecks associated with the migration events. But the migratory activities of commercial beekeepers are stirring the bee population of Europe and starting to homogenize it—to the chagrin of some (De la Rúa et al. 2009).

Harpur et al. (2012) argue that low genetic diversity cannot be the cause of recent declines in honey bee populations, or the unusually high levels of colony losses attributed to CCD. But does genetic diversity at a population scale equate with genetic diversity at an enterprise scale or a colony scale? In theory, the bee population of North America could be like the dog population: diverse over all, but characterized by subpopulations (breeds) that are inbred. Certainly, there is the potential for this. Large commercial queen producers can (and often do) raise thousands of queens from a single breeder queen (Fig. 1). The offspring queens are usually mated within a few kilometres of where they were raised to a selected population of drones. Typically, therefore, all the queens in a commercial apiary are sisters, and all the workers are cousins. However, Harpur et al. (2012) show low FIS and genetic admixture for the managed Canadian and French populations they studied. It therefore seems to me that reduced genetic diversity is unlikely to be contributing to CCD (or if CCD exists at all—but that is another story).

Striking a blow for colony-level diversity is the honey bee's extraordinary mating system. Queens mate on the wing, well away from their colony, with about 20 males drawn from a population sourced from every colony in a 3 to 4 km radius (Baudry et al. 1998). This means that feral colonies and the neighbour's colonies all contribute to the potential pool of mates.

Finally, it is interesting to consider whether the process of domestication of the honey bee is really all that different to the domestication of other species. Recent genomic studies have revealed that many of our livestock breeds are derived from multiple domestication events and show remarkable phylogenetic complexity (Bruford et al. 2003; Andersson & Georges 2004; Vilà et al. 2005). Loss of diversity seems recent and may be a direct consequence of modern reproductive technologies and breeding. Maybe beekeepers just have not gone down that road yet.

To access the above article with active links to reference material, see <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-294X.2012.05641.x/full>

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Missouri State Beekeepers Association

Fall Conference

October 25 - 27, 2012

Holiday Inn SE, Kansas City, Missouri

[NOTE: This agenda is subject to change]

Thursday - October 25

- 2:00 PM Vendor Set Up
- 7:00 PM Hospitality Room Opens
7C's Sponsored Wine Social
- 8:00 PM Movie - The Secret Life of Bees
Executive Board Meeting

Friday - October 26

- 6:30 AM Breakfast Buffet Begins (Serving Until 11:00 AM)
- 8:00 AM Beekeepers Meet with Regional Directors (Central, Southwest, Northwest)
Hospitality Room Opens
- 8:30 AM Contest Room Opens (Cooking with Honey & Beeswax Art)
- 9:00 AM Welcome - Announcements - Door Prize Drawing - Grant Gillard - Grand
- 9:20 AM Invocation - Don Buford
- 9:30 AM Biology of Swarms - Dr. Chip Taylor
- 10:00 AM CoCo Water Park Opens (Special Beekeeper Rate of \$10)
- 10:20 AM Break - Visit with Vendors
- 10:30 AM Contest Judging
- 11:00 AM Silent Queen Auction Begins - Everyone is Asked to Bring Donations
- 11:10 AM Preparing Honey for Competition - Gary Ross
- 12:00 PM Lunch - KC BBQ Buffet - Ticket Required
Peoples Choice Judging for Contests (Hospitality Room)
- 1:00 PM Breakout Sessions:
- Making Splits - Jann Amos
 - If You Didn't Enter the State Fair, Bring Your Honey to be Tested - Gary Ross
 - Monarch Butterflies - Dr. Chip Taylor
 - Making Natural Soap From Scratch - Yvonne Von der Ahe
- 2:00 PM Door Prize Drawing
- 2:05 PM Saga of the African Bees - Dr. Chip Taylor
- 2:55 PM Break – Visit Vendors

(continued next page)

Missouri State Beekeepers Association

Fall Conference

(continued from previous page)

- 3:20 PM Breakout Sessions:
- Q&A - Dr. Chip Taylor
 - How to Judge Honey - Gary Ross
 - Making Lotion Bars, Lip Balms & Salves - Yvonne Von der Ahe
 - Marketing Honey & Hive Products - Valerie Duever
- 4:15 PM People's Choice Judging Ends
Why & How to Send Samples to the National Bee Lab at Beltsville, MD - Collin Wamsley
- 5:05 PM Utilizing Cells and Mating Cells - Cory Stevens
- 6:00 PM Queen Banquet and Auction - Contest Awards - Chicken Picatta - Ticket Required
- 9:00 PM Queen Reception

Saturday - October 27

- 6:30 AM Breakfast Buffet Begins (Serving Until 10:30 AM)
- 8:00 AM Hospitality Room Opens
Beekeepers Meet with Regional Directors (Northeast, Southeast)
- 9:00 AM Welcome - Announcements - Grant Gillard
- 9:20 AM Patriotic Presentation - Queen
- 9:35 AM Door Prize Drawing - Queen
- 9:40 AM Queen Report
- 9:45 AM The Revolutionary Impact of Honey on Human Health - Dr. Ronald Fessenden
- 10:00 AM CoCo Water Park Opens (Special Beekeeper Rate of \$10)
- 10:35 AM Break - Visit with Vendors
- 11:05 AM Door Prize Drawing - Queen
- 11:10 AM Chemical Free Beekeeping - James Zitting
- 12:00 PM Lunch - SW Buffet - Ticket Required
- 1:00 PM Breakout Sessions:
- Q&A - Dr. Ronald Fessenden (Book Signing)
 - How to Make Comb Honey - Bernie Andrews
 - Top Bar Beekeeping - James Zitting
- 2:00 PM Break - Last Opportunity to Visit Vendors and to Bid on Silent Auction
- 2:30 PM Breakout Sessions:
- Feral Bee Trap Outs - Bob Owen
 - Cleaning Beeswax - Jim Fisher
 - (Presentation to be Announced) - Art & Vera Gelder
- 3:30 PM Business Meeting and Drawings



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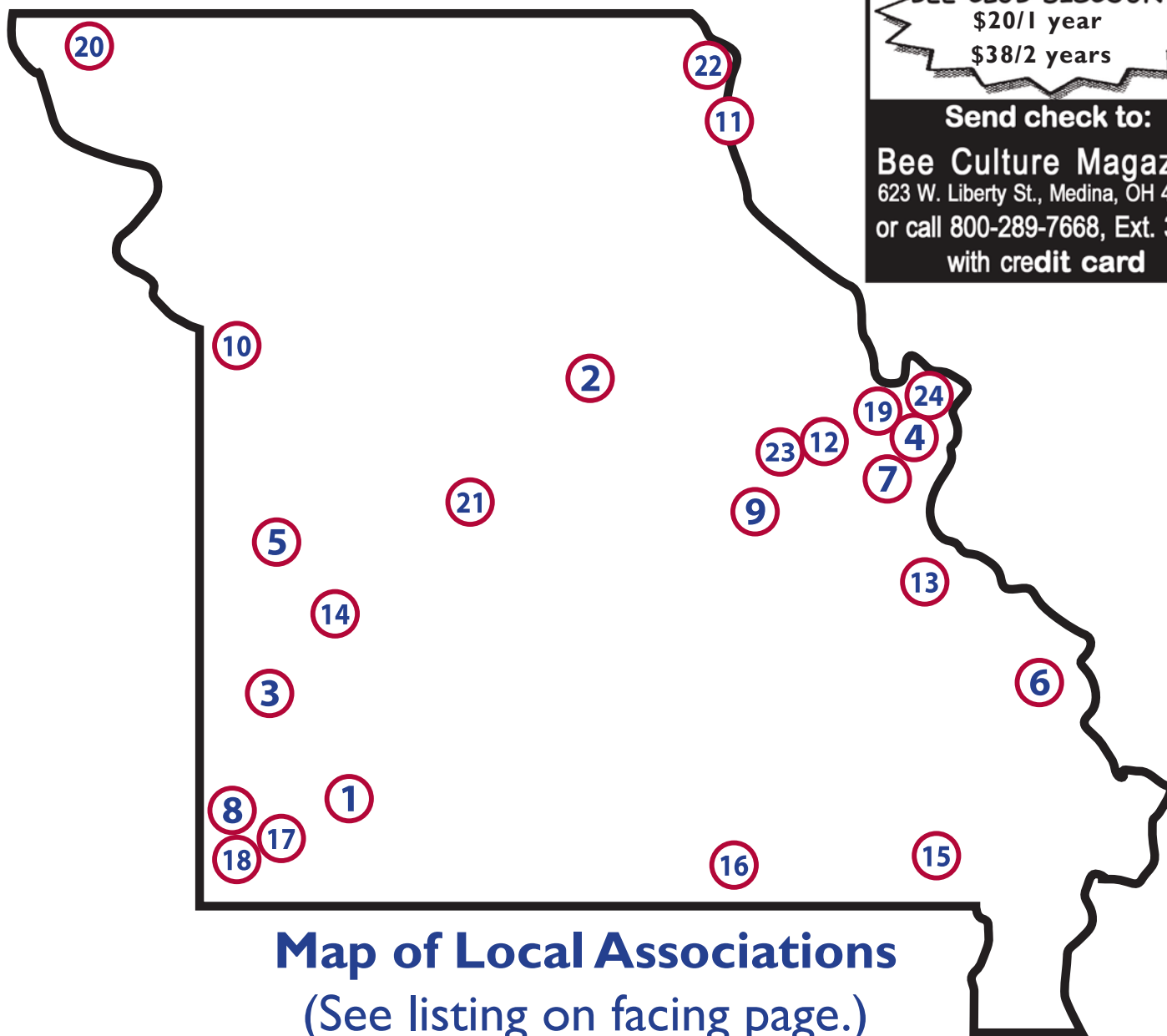
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Map of Local Associations
(See listing on facing page.)



Local Beekeepers Associations

- 1 Beekeepers Association of the Ozarks**
4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Darr Ag Center, 2401 S. Kansas Expwy, Springfield
www.ozarksbeekeepers.org
- 2 Boone Regional Beekeepers Association**
3rd Sunday of month, 3:00 p.m., Columbia Insurance Group, 2102 Whitegate Dr. (back door), Columbia
President Jim Duever 573-254-3373
www.boonebees.org
- 3 Busy Bee Club**
4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Cedar County Health Center, Owens Mill Road, Stockton
Neal Lee 417-276-3090, Neil Brunner 314-276-4252
grnthumb@alltel.net
- 4 Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association**
2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Powder Valley Nature Center 11715 Craigwold Rd., Kirkwood
Bob Sears, President 314-479-9517
www.easternmobeekeepers.com
- 5 Golden Valley Beekeepers**
2nd Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m. (but varies)
Henry County Courthouse, Clinton MO
Contact Kathy Murphy 660-678-5171
murftk@copper.net
- 6 Jackson Area Beekeepers**
4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
First Pres. of Jackson, 206 E. Washington
Contact Grant Gillard 573-243-6568
gillard5@charter.net
- 7 Jefferson County Beekeepers Association**
2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Hwy B & 21
Jefferson County Extension Center, Hillsboro
Contact Scott Moser 636-285-7295
- 8 Joplin Area Beekeepers Association**
Last Tue. of each month, 7 pm, SM Bank Community Building (7th and Duquesne Rd), Joplin
Steve Davis, President 620-202-0232
- 9 Mid Missouri Beekeepers**
3rd Sunday of each month, 2 pm, Old Train Depot, St. James. Steven Todd, President 573-885-6650
steventdd447@gmail.com
- 10 Midwestern Beekeepers Association**
Nov-March, 2nd Sunday of each month, 2:30 p.m.
April-Oct, 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. (Schedule varies; please call first to confirm.)
Bass Pro Shop, Independence, Conservation Room
Andy Nowachek, President 913-438-5397
- 11 Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association**
Last Tuesday of Month in Quincy, IL
Contact Bernie Andrew 217-938-4975
- 12 Missouri Valley Beekeepers Association**
3rd Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Location varies, contact below if unsure
President Calvin Brandt cvbrandt@landolakes.com
- 13 Parkland Beekeepers**
3rd Tuesday of month, 7pm, Ozark Federal Savings
President Jim Johnson 573-330-6498 or 573-330-6499
- 14 Pomme de Terre Beekeepers**
2nd Thursday of each month, 7 pm
Missouri Extension Office, Hermitage
Contact Bessi Shryer 417-745-2527
- 15 SEMO Honey Producers**
2nd Thursday of month, Church of Christ, Poplar Bluff
Contact Ernie Wells 573-429-0222
wells.ernie@gmail.com
- 16 South Central Missouri Beekeepers Association**
1st Friday of month, Howell Electric Coop, West Plains
Monty Wiens, President 417 257-3994
- 17 Southern MO Beekeepers of Monett "MOBees"**
3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
United Methodist Church, Hwy 37 NW of Monett
Leon Riggs, President 417-235-5053
- 18 Southwest Missouri Beekeepers Assn. of Neosho**
1st Tuesday of month, Neosho High School FFA Bldg
President Roger Ross 417-472-3504
- 19 Three Rivers Beekeepers**
3rd Monday of month, University of Missouri Extension, 260 Brown Road, St. Peters, Missouri, 7:00 p.m.
For info: 2952 Greenleaf Drive, St. Charles, MO 63303
info@threeriversbeekeepers.com
- 20 Northwest Missouri Bee Busters**
1st Monday of odd months, 7:00 p.m.
511 4th Street, Conception Junction, MO 64434
Gerald Auffert, President 660-944-2535
- 21 Lake of the Ozarks Beekeepers**
3rd Saturday of month, 1:00 p.m.
UMC Extension Office, 100 E. Newton, Versailles MO
Contact Russell Kasnick 573-372-3122
- 22 Northeast Missouri Beekeepers Association**
1st Friday of month, 6:30 pm Running Fox Elementary (3 miles south of Wayland) Acting President
Randy Ewart 573-248-5561 rewart@centurytel.net
- 23 Gasconade Region Bee Keepers**
2nd Tuesday 7:00, First State Comm. Bank, Owensville
President Rodney Angell 573-259-5811
2224 Nowack, Rosebud MO bee143@fidnet.com
- 24 St. Louis Beekeepers**
4th Tuesday 6:30, Schlafly Bottleworks (starting Sept.)
contact@saintlouisbeekeepers.com
www.saintlouisbeekeepers.com

See state map on facing page for approximate geographic locations.

**MSBA Membership Application**

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____
 My local association is _____
 Address _____
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 Student Membership \$5.00 ☐ Mail to: P.O. Box 448 Oak Grove, MO 64075

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Honey Queen report by Megan Allen

Greetings fellow beekeepers,

My goodness! Summer is gone and Fall is here! Our area finally received some much needed rain. We are still way below normal, but things have greened up a bit at least. My bees have been busy and have had to work extra hard this year as I am sure anyone who has experienced the drought this year understands, because I am sure all the bees have had the same issues. I started nursing school in August, and during my break in October I plan to take my supers of honey off and try my hand at extracting.

In August I attended the Missouri State Fair and helped out at the Honey Booth. It was a wonderful experience that I plan to repeat next year. All the volunteers at the booth were wonderful and I have to give special thanks to Dean, Steve and Bob for helping me go from rookie to hopefully seasoned volunteer. I was amazed at the number of entries in the different categories and definitely learned some new things. I plan to try entering some of the categories next year myself. Everyone should be very proud of the display and the enormous attention it draws from the crowds. Also, if you go to the State Fair next year, be sure and try out the Honey Ice Cream; peach was my favorite!

At the beginning of September, I again made the trek to Hermann and attended the Hermann Country Fair. If you have never attended this event it is well worth it. They have people come in and create a living farm. It was wonderful to see Walter Els and his wife again and to help out at their honey booth. It was a beautiful weekend and we were blessed with wonderful weather. His observation hive had a queen that was busy laying brood and we could actually see the larvae before it was capped. The kids were in awe of the bees and the adults asked lots of really good questions and seemed very interested in the life cycle of the honey bee and also how the honey was extracted. One lady actually recognized me from the State Fair booth. Later, after the event closed for the evening, my mom and I ate at a local restaurant and we were again inundated with people asking about honey bees and what my duties were as the Missouri State Honey Queen. When I explained to them about the program, they thought it was really neat that the State Beekeepers Association loaned me out around the state for different events, to talk about the Honey Bee.

Hopefully everyone is ready for the State meeting in October since it is just around the corner. It is to be held in Kansas City this year, which is just down the road for me. I look forward to seeing everyone at the fall meeting!

Megan Allen

2012 Missouri State Honey Queen



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HousemanR@missouri.edu 573-882-7181
1-87 Agricultural Building, University of Missouri-
Columbia, Columbia MO 65211

Missouri State Beekeepers Association

P.O. Box 448 Oak Grove, MO 64075

www.mostatebeekeepers.org



Honeybees work one of many varieties of goldenrod (genus Solidago) in a field in Foley, Missouri. Like many honey plants, goldenrod is considered a weed by most who see it in bloom along the state's roads and fencerows.

photo by Eugene Makovec

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

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

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