

Missouri State Beekeepers Association  
P.O. Box 448 Oak Grove, MO 64075  
[www.mostatebeekeepers.org](http://www.mostatebeekeepers.org)

December 2010

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## Beekeepers meet in Cape for lessons in queen-rearing, colony management

### Lillian-Grace Misko named 2011 Honey Queen; Grant Gillard takes over as President



*Lillian-Grace Misko, 2010 Missouri Honey Princess, prepares to receive her new commission as 2011 Honey Queen from Queen Chair Joyce Justice and outgoing President Scott Moser.*

by Eugene Makovec

Two thousand eleven may be the year I finally raise some queens of my own.

I hadn't given it much thought until a year or two ago. Even then, while I heard talk of small-scale, backyard queen-breeders, the whole thing seemed a bit beyond my capabilities, not to mention my time constraints.

But that opinion changed the third weekend of October. About 120 MSBA members gathered in Cape Girardeau's Plaza Conference Center to fraternize and learn more about bees and beekeeping. And queen-rearing loomed large on the agenda, with three separate speakers sharing their experiences. Two of those speakers, Michael Palmer and David Burns, came with nationally-recognized pedigrees. But our own **Cory Stevens**, in just his fourth year as a beekeeper, told of his success this year grafting 100 queens -- selling most of them as cells. If this young upstart can do it, I thought, why can't I?



*Cory Stevens*

Cory believes in the importance of good stock, and said there's no better way to "cut to the chase" than to purchase artificially inseminated breeder queens, selected for the qualities you want in your bees. He described in some detail his method of creating "cell builder" colonies, often three deep, wherein the queen is confined to the bottom box with sealed brood and honey, while young brood and pollen are placed up top to attract the nurse bees. This scenario

creates a "queenless" environment sufficient for the raising of queens.

One thing that stood out toward the end of this lecture was the mention of queen cell "candling". Just as chicken egg producers shine a light through their product to check quality, Cory said he candles queen cells before placement or sale, as it is not unheard of for workers to seal a cell with no queen inside!

**David Burns** also extolled the virtues of raising one's own queens, in order to eliminate shipping stress, control the characteristics of your own colonies, and possibly earn a little extra income.

David threw out several interesting facts about queen mating:

- A queen must mate within 20 days or she will lose the urge and become a drone layer.
- She flies about a mile from the hive to mate.
- The average mating flight is about 13 minutes!
- She typically stores about 5-7 million spermatozoa. If it's fewer than three million, she will likely not survive past one season.

David also spoke about the various pheromones honeybees use in their day-to-day lives. Among other things, he described how Varroa Sensitive Hygienic (VSH) bees use pheromones to sniff out mites inside sealed brood cells. He showed a short video clip of VSH bees opening a varroa-infested cell and pulling out a pupa. In a disturbing segment, the foundress mite climbs out of the cell and up a worker's leg (she reacts much as we would to a giant spider), eludes her and scrambles to a hiding place behind her head. The audience gave a collective shudder at the sight.



*David Burns*

**Michael Palmer** began raising queens in Virginia 20 years ago.

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## From the President

by Scott Moser

The past two years as President of the Missouri State Beekeepers Association have seemed to fly by! Several years ago I was asked to serve as Secretary, and at the time, I didn't think anything about becoming President, but as is often the case, one is called upon to serve a higher purpose.

When I came into the office, I felt like I had some big shoes to fill. The past two Presidents had done so much to expand the MSBA, its programs and its reach throughout the state that I sometimes wondered if I could continue the groundwork that had been begun.

One of my goals was to increase the number of local associations in the state. When plotted on a map, it became quickly clear that the northern part of the state was rather devoid of locals. I feel that the local is the first greatest help to beginning beekeepers, because they can network with other beekeepers in their own geographical location. I am always amazed at how keeping bees varies in different areas of the state, and local beekeepers need to work with those in their areas more closely to take advantage of these differences.

During my tenure, there were several local associations established and re-established in Missouri. The lack of locals in the north central part of the state is still a problem though. It is my hope that that will be alleviated in the future.

Another thing that I have been a fan of is the idea of "paying it forward" -- helping someone else do something as a re-

payment for someone helping you out at some point. One thing I always have asked of the local associations is to go out and help another local become established. It can be in your same county or an adjoining county if you choose. There are so many beekeepers out there who have to drive an hour or more to get to a local meeting, when if someone would take the initiative they could have an association in their own town.

As I leave office, my challenge to you is to "pay it forward" by helping establish a new local, offering

a beginners' class, mentoring a new beekeeper, or even helping out at the Missouri State Fair. Every little bit helps to make someone else's life a little less difficult and stressful.

One of my favorite things about being President was getting out and meeting all the wonderful members that we have out there. There are a lot of interesting, friendly and great members out there. There are a lot of new, up and coming members as well. I have been very impressed with many of them, and am looking forward to working more with them in the coming years. Corey Stevens has really captured my attention with the queen rearing that he and his wife are working on. I have a feeling we will hear more and more about him in the coming years. Yvonne Von Der Ahe spoke at the Fall Meeting and discussed all of the areas that she has branched out into in such a short time.

I also want to thank all of my old friends who have offered support, guidance and a kind word or two the past couple of years. I always looked forward to visiting with Brenda and Larry, Gabe, Art and Vera, Brian Norris and many others. As former President, I hope to spend more time visiting and less time worrying about other things. In closing, I want to thank all of those who have helped me out the past few years. I have enjoyed serving as President and working with you, and I know that Grant and the rest of the Executive Board will do a wonderful job with the Association. Take care, Happy Holidays, and happy beekeeping!

Scott Moser



## Wanted: Mentoring stories

The MSBA Executive Board has decided to recognize some of the many mentors who pitch in each year to help beginning beekeepers figure things out. To that end, we are seeking nominations from our membership for our **2010 Mentor of the Year Awards**.

If you have been the beneficiary this year of an extraordinary mentoring effort, please tell us your story. Contact Vice President Grant Gillard with the details. (Grant's contact information appears on page 15.)

The awards will be announced in early 2011.

### Bee Culture

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## Scientists and soldiers solve mystery of Colony Collapse Disorder

### ... or at least narrow down the suspects

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/07/science/07bees.html?\\_r=3&ref=science](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/07/science/07bees.html?_r=3&ref=science)

Denver, October 7, 2010 — It has been one of the great murder mysteries of the garden: what is killing off the honeybees?

Since 2006, 20 to 40 percent of the bee colonies in the United States alone have suffered “colony collapse.” Suspected culprits ranged from pesticides to genetically modified food.

Now, a unique partnership — of military scientists and entomologists — appears to have achieved a major breakthrough: identifying a new suspect, or two.

A fungus tag-teaming with a virus have apparently interacted to cause the problem, according to a paper by Army scientists in Maryland and bee experts in Montana in the online science journal PLoS One.

Exactly how that combination kills bees remains uncertain, the scientists said — a subject for the next round of research. But there are solid clues: both the virus and the fungus proliferate in cool, damp weather, and both do their dirty work in the bee gut, suggesting that insect nutrition is somehow compromised.

Liaisons between the military and academia are nothing new, of course. World War II, perhaps the most profound example, ended in an atomic strike on Japan in 1945 largely on the shoulders of scientist-soldiers in the Manhattan Project. And a group of scientists led by Jerry Bromenshenk of the University of Montana in Missoula has researched bee-related applications for the military in the past — developing, for example, a way to use bees in detecting land mines.

But researchers on both sides say that CCD may be the first time that the defense machinery of the post-September 11 Homeland Security Department and academia have teamed up to address a problem that both sides say they might never have solved on their own.

“Together we could look at things nobody else was looking at,” said Colin Henderson, an associate professor at the University of Montana’s College of Technology and a member of Dr. Bromenshenk’s “Bee Alert” team.

Human nature and bee nature were interconnected in how the puzzle pieces came together. Two brothers helped foster communication across disciplines. A chance meeting and a saved business card proved pivotal. Even learning how to mash dead bees for analysis — a skill not taught at West Point — became a factor.

One perverse twist of colony collapse that has compounded the difficulty of solving it is that the bees do not just die — they fly off in every direction from the hive, then die alone and dispersed. That makes large numbers of bee autopsies — and yes, entomologists actually do those — problematic.

Dr. Bromenshenk’s team at the University of Montana and Montana State University in Bozeman, working with the Army’s Edgewood Chemical Biological Center northeast of Baltimore, said in their jointly written paper that the virus-fungus one-two punch was found in every killed colony the group studied. Neither agent alone seems able to devastate; together, it seems, they are 100 percent fatal.

“It’s chicken and egg in a sense; we don’t know which came first,” Dr. Bromenshenk said of the virus-fungus combo. Nor is it clear, he added, whether one malady weakens the bees enough to be finished off by the second, or if they somehow compound the other’s destructive power. “They’re co-factors, that’s all we can say at the moment,” he said. “They’re both present in all these collapsed colonies.”

Research at the University of California, San Francisco, had already identified the fungus as part of the problem. And several RNA-based viruses had been detected as well. But the Army/Montana team, using a new software system developed by the military for analyzing proteins, uncovered a new DNA-based virus, **invertebrate iridescent virus**, and established a linkage to the fungus *Nosema ceranae*.

“Our mission is to have detection capability to protect the people in the field from anything biological,” said Charles H. Wick, a microbiologist at Edgewood. Bees, Dr. Wick said, proved to be a perfect opportunity to see what the Army’s analytic software tool could do. “We brought it to bear on this bee question, which is how we field-tested it,” he said.

The Army software system — an advance itself in the growing field of protein research, or proteomics — is designed to test and identify biological agents in circumstances where commanders might have no idea what sort of threat they face. The system searches out the unique proteins in a sample, then identifies a virus or other microscopic life form based on the proteins it is known to contain. The power of that idea in military or bee defense is immense, researchers say, in that it allows them to use what they already know to find something they did not even know they were looking for.

But it took a family connection — through David Wick, Charles’s brother — to really connect the dots. When colony collapse became news a few years ago, Mr. Wick, a tech entrepreneur who moved to Montana in the 1990s for the outdoor lifestyle, saw a television interview with Dr. Bromenshenk about bees.

Mr. Wick knew of his brother’s work in Maryland, and remembered meeting Dr. Bromenshenk at a business conference. A retained business card and a telephone call put the Army and the Bee Alert team buzzing around the same blossom.

The first steps were awkward, partly because the Army lab was not used to testing bees, or more specifically, to extracting bee proteins. “I’m guessing it was January 2007, a meeting in Bethesda, we got a bag of bees and just started smashing them on the desk,” Charles Wick said. “It was very complicated.”

The process eventually was refined. A mortar and pestle worked better than the desktop, and a coffee grinder worked best of all for making good bee paste.

Scientists in the project emphasize that their conclusions are not the final word. The pattern, they say, seems clear, but more research is needed to determine, for example, how further outbreaks might be prevented, and how much environmental factors like heat, cold or drought might play a role.

They said that combination attacks in nature, like the virus and fungus involved in bee deaths, are quite common, and that one answer in protecting bees might be to focus on the fungus — controllable with antifungal agents — especially when the virus is detected.

Still unsolved is what makes the bees fly off into the wild yonder at the point of death. One theory, Dr. Bromenshenk said, is that the viral-fungal combination disrupts memory or navigating skills and the bees simply get lost. Another possibility, he said, is a kind of insect insanity. In any event, the university’s bee operation itself proved vulnerable just last year, when nearly every bee disappeared over the course of the winter.





## 2010 Fall Meeting wrap-up

*continued from page 1*

When he started keeping bees and providing pollination services, he says he realized, "My paycheck for pollination went to buy bees and queens." And since the quality of those queens was not the greatest, he decided to try it himself.



*Michael Palmer*

Michael noted that we typically coax our bees into raising queens by creating a queenless situation. But he reminded us that the best queens (in both quantity and conditions) are created under the swarm impulse. That being said, he asked, why not combine the two impulses? This is done by dividing the colony, with the queen and sealed brood below an

excluder, and unsealed brood, honey and pollen above. Over the next few days the bees will build swarm cells downstairs and emergency cells upstairs. He cuts all of these out, shakes as many nurse bees as possible from the queenright section into a newly-created cell builder colony, and adds a grafting frame. The key, he said, is to have "tons" of nurse bees in a hopelessly queenless hive with **no larvae**, then feed, feed, feed; the best queens are raised on a heavy honey flow. He went on to describe the detailed calendar he uses for this process.

Palmer also gave a talk entitled "Sustainability in the Apiary", in which he extolled the many virtues of the nucleus colony. The nuc, he said, is the "foundation of successful beekeeping". Overwintering a nuc can provide you with a starter colony (or a replacement queen) a month before you can buy either from down south. If a hive goes queenless, he said, you can just drop in a nuc and they will readily accept it. (He cited Brother Adam's belief that it's not the "new queen smell" that causes queen rejection, but the fact that she's not yet laying.)



*Grant Gillard*

What do you do with an unproductive summer colony? According to Palmer, you have two choices: You can requeen them for next year, getting one hive from one hive. Or, sacrifice the bees and brood by converting them to four nucs. This way you get four hives from one hive, or if it's early enough you can split them again, getting eight hives

from one hive!

Even if you have mite problems, he said, you can send nucs into winter and get one good year of production before they crash.

Most importantly, said Palmer, nucs can help to put you in control again. Beekeeping was fun before mites, he said.



*Yvonne Von Der Ahe*

"Self-sufficiency makes it fun again."

Other speakers of interest included **Nathan Zenser**, on Missouri-native (and honeybee-approved) plants; **Suzanne Stiegemeier**, "My first two years of beekeeping", **Yvonne Von Der Ahe** on the many marketable products of the hive; **John Timmons**, online marketing; and **Grant Gillard**, comb honey production.

At Friday night's Queen Banquet, after **Pam Brown** introduced 2010 Queen Princess **Lillian-Grace Misko** as 2011 Honey Queen, **Ian Brown** gave a fascinating presentation about beekeeping in Uzbekistan. Ian and Pam traveled to that country for three weeks in 2001 as part

of the Rockefeller Foundation's Farmer-to-Farmer Program.

At Saturday's semi-annual business meeting, there were a couple of changes made to the Executive Board. Grant Gillard will take over as President in 2011, as Scott

Moser's two-year term runs out. John Timmons will take over as Vice President.



*John Timmons*

### Photos next page

*(clockwise from top left):*

*Jane Sueme of Isabees chats with John Hutchins during Friday's fellowship hour; Glenn Smith, Jane Daniels and Steve Moeller; Sharon Gibbons discusses her display of bee equipment and novelties with Ted Jansen; attendees gather around a display of hive equipment; Glenn Smith and Dave Kayser; Ian and Pam Brown show off traditional Uzbek dress.*



*Nathan Zenser*









### UPCOMING STATE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Our next few semi-annual meetings are in the final planning stages. Here are some updates:

**March 11 & 12, 2011**, with special events March 10 & 13, Lodge of the Ozarks, **Branson**. Special speakers include Dr. Don Steinkraus (Univ. of Arkansas), Dennis vanEngelsdorp (Univ. of Pennsylvania.), and Reyah Carlson (Vermont). Contests to be held: Cooking with Honey (quick bread, cookies, BBQ sauce, scones) Art (paint, ink, pencil, watercolor).

**October 28 & 29, 2011**, with special events on Oct. 27, Country Club Hotel, **Lake of the Ozarks**. Special speakers include Dr. Marla Spivak (Univ. of Minnesota), Ed Levi (Arkansas), and C. Marina Marchese (Connecticut). Contests to be held: Cooking with honey (wheat bread, cake, wings), Soap, Needlework.

### North American Beekeeping Conference

This will be a joint convention between the American Honey Producers Association and the American Beekeeping Federation, in Galveston, Texas at the San Luis Resort, January 3-9, 2011.

Contact AHPA Executive Secretary Jerry Brown at [brownhoneyfarms@hotmail.com](mailto:brownhoneyfarms@hotmail.com) with questions, or learn more at [www.americanhoneyproducers.org](http://www.americanhoneyproducers.org) or [www.abfnet.org](http://www.abfnet.org). Log on to [www.sanluisresort.com/media/docs/meetingfacility.pdf](http://www.sanluisresort.com/media/docs/meetingfacility.pdf) for full Convention Center details.

Now would be a good time to join one of these national organizations, as the cost of membership will be subtracted from the price of the conference. Remember to make your reservations SOON as this conference is expected to fill up quickly.



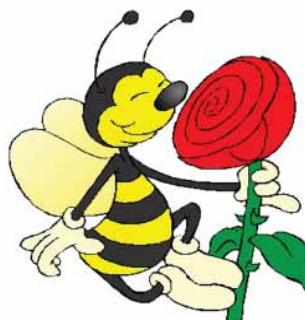
### Queens & Bees

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# Missouri State Beekeepers Association Spring 2011 Branson Meeting Registration Form

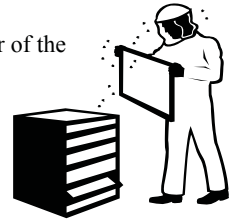
List all attendees' names as you want them printed on the name tags, including any pertinent information such as Beekeeper of the Year (list year), name of honey business, etc.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## **PRE-REGISTRATION** (must be received by February 28, 2011)

MEMBER	\$25 X _____ = _____
MEMBER FAMILY (must have paid 2011 dues as a family)	\$35 _____
NON-MEMBER	\$35 X _____ = _____
SATURDAY ONLY MEMBER	\$15 X _____ = _____
SATURDAY ONLY FAMILY (must have paid 2011 dues as a family)	\$25 _____
SATURDAY ONLY NON-MEMBER	\$20 X _____ = _____

## **LATE PRE-REGISTRATION**

MEMBER	\$28 X _____ = _____
NON-MEMBER	\$38 X _____ = _____
SATURDAY ONLY MEMBER	\$18 X _____ = _____
SATURDAY ONLY NON-MEMBER	\$25 X _____ = _____

## **FRIDAY NIGHT QUEEN BANQUET**

Roast of Pork Loin	\$21 X _____ = _____
Fried Catfish	\$21 X _____ = _____

## **SATURDAY LUNCH – Beef Brisket**

\$12 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

## **MSBA – 2011 MEMBERSHIP**

Individual	Renewal	New	\$15.00	_____
Family	Renewal	New	\$20.00	_____

## **Queen Fund Donation**

## **Meeting Fund Donation**

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Missouri State Beekeepers Assn. Send to: Cathy Hogan, PO Box 281, Boss, MO 65440-0281. If you pre-register and then cannot attend, your registration fee will be considered a donation and no refund will be made. If you pay for meals and we are able to sell them, you will be refunded for those. Please note – no receipts will be sent. Checks will be deposited after the meeting.

**Missouri State Beekeepers Spring 2011 Meeting**

March 11 and 12, 2011

Special Events March 10 and 13, 2011

Please join us for our Spring Meeting at the Lodge of the Ozarks in Branson, MO. We have an exciting agenda planned, with special events the day before and the day following. Remember, communication and learning are the keys to successful beekeeping. Being with other beekeepers is a great time for sharing ideas and just plain old fellowship.

We are offering lodging at the rate of \$70.00 per night, suites included. You will need to call before March 1 and ask for the specified group block in order to receive this negotiated rate; the earlier you book, the better room/suite you will get. This rate includes a breakfast buffet and parking. We will be within walking distance of several shows. For more information:

<http://www.lodgeoftheozarks.com/> Lodge of the Ozarks 3431 W. Hwy. 76 Branson, MO 65616 417-334-7535 800-213-2584

Branson, MO, nestled in the lakeside beauty of the Ozark Mountains, is America's affordable, wholesome family entertainment capital that emphasizes fun, comfort and the feeling of being right at home. Featuring an array of live theaters and attraction venues and active recreational pursuits, the community embodies essential American values such as patriotism, faith, courage and generosity of spirit in a warm inviting atmosphere that is truly genuine and heartfelt. <http://www.explorebranson.com/>

We are negotiating special prices for the shows and attractions, just for the beekeepers.

**Our special guest speakers will be:**

**Dr. Don Steinkraus:** Professor – Biological Control with microbial pathogens, Department of Entomology - University of Arkansas. Expertise and instrumentation: Epizootiology, IPM and biological control with insect pathogens, apiculture, scientific photography, insect anatomy.

**Education:**

- B.A. Anthropology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 1975
- M.S. Mycology, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 1979
- Ph.D. Insect Pathology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 1987



**Dennis van Engelsdorp:** Bee Expert – Popular speaker at American and European bee meetings, regarding colony losses and standardizing data collection and presentation standards. Studying colony collapse disorder -- the alarming, worldwide disappearance of worker bees and Western honey bees, bee disease epidemiology, and the internal anatomy of the honey bee. Honeybee Researcher – Penn State

**Education:**

- B.S. Agriculture, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario 1992
- M.S. Environmental Biology, Univ. of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario 1995
- Doctorial Candidate, University of Pennsylvania 2011



**Reyah Carlson:** Practitioner of Apitherapy – Has been stung by bees more than 25,000 times. On purpose. She was a featured speaker at the 2010 North American Beekeepers Conference held in Orlando. Reyah operates out of her home, drives to some of her clients' homes throughout Vermont and has used the therapy on herself with positive results. She has given stings to nearly 3000 people and has traveled the world to spread the word about bee venom therapy. She has appeared in National Geographic and on the Discovery Channel.



(continued next page)





## Missouri State Beekeepers Spring 2011 Meeting

(continued from previous page)

**Contests:** All entries to be submitted March 11, 2011. Entries are open to the public; however, only MSBA members in attendance can be declared winners. There will be two sets of winners. The first set of winners (1st, 2nd and 3rd) will be selected by a judge; the second set will be People's Choice, with each pre-registered attendee allowed one vote. The owners of all entries will be required to sign an attached index card giving MSBA permission to use their entry in the newsletter, website, calendar and cookbook.

### 1. Cooking With Honey – judged by the Chef of the Rafters Restaurant

Entries are to be in the Board Room by 11:30AM. Honey is to be the principal sweetener. Commercial mixes may not be used, no other ingredient restrictions. Please type or print the recipe on a 3 x 5 card with your name on the back, it will be kept to possibly be included in the MSBA newsletter, website, calendar and cookbook. Put your name on the back of the recipe card. Bread or cookies should not need refrigeration. Entries become property of MSBA and will be served at break time in the Hospitality Room. The categories are:

- Quick Bread - 2
- Cookies - 24
- B-B-Q Sauce - 1 quart
- Scones - 24

Entries could be judged on: Presentation, Best use of honey, Amount of honey used (compared to other entries in category), Taste/Flavor, Texture, Crumb/Tenderness, Color, and Consistency.

### 2. Artwork - Paint, ink, pencil, or watercolor

All entries must portray some aspect of bees and/or beekeeping. A 3" x 5" white card on which a brief description of the craft is typed/printed must accompany each entry, including name, address, e-mail. Utmost care will be taken in handling all entries, but MSBA is not responsible for loss or damage. Entrants desiring to insure their work must do so at their own discretion.

## *There will be a Buzz in Branson March 2011*

As you already know, we have an upcoming semi-annual meeting planned for the spring. Because we will be in a great travel area, I am planning additional events for beekeepers and their families/friends to enjoy at a discount rate before and after the meeting. Please let me know what shows/venues you are interested in attending, so I can negotiate cost. We have to have a minimum attendance to get the cheaper rates. By completing this form, you are not making definite reservations, just submitting your interest. Please respond ASAP (circle your interest and send it to me or e-mail your choices). ASAP – Pam Brown

SIX - Andy Williams - Butterfly House - Ride the Ducks - Jim Stafford - Baldknobbers - Sunday Champagne Breakfast at Big Cedar – Sunday Brunch at College of the Ozarks – Haygoods – Kirby Van Burch – Yakov - Shoji - Acrobats of China - Hughes Brothers – Branson Country USA Late Show (11PM) – Dixie Stampede - Mickey Gilley - Motown Downtown - Titanic - Showboat Branson Belle - Wax Museum - Ripley's Believe It or Not – Thorncrown Chapel - other

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Pam Brown  
1407 Sneak Road  
Foristell, MO 63348-2102  
[femmeosage1@aol.com](mailto:femmeosage1@aol.com)

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_



## *Honeybee Democracy* is a lesson in good government

by Eugene Makovec

Of all the joys that I have found in beekeeping, easily the greatest is the hiving of a swarm. Not only is this a most fascinating phenomenon – with each humming ball of bees its own unique permutation – but in an urban environment it is also the ultimate teachable moment. Typically as a result of a homeowner's call, I show up at the swarm scene, a group of onlookers gathers 'round, and we talk about bees.

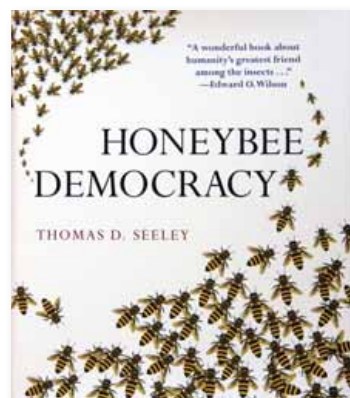
In 2006 it was my good fortune to hear Tom Seeley talk about bees at a joint meeting of the Missouri State Beekeepers and Kansas Honey Producers. His primary subject was honeybee swarm communication. Seeley described in great detail how a few hundred scout bees go about the work of finding a new home, while the remainder of the swarm of some ten thousand hangs patiently, practically motionless, and largely disinterested for hours or even days.

As it turns out, that lecture only scratched the surface. Dr. Seeley has just released a book, *Honeybee Democracy*, in which he delves into all facets of the honeybee swarm phenomenon, from pre-swarm preparations to gathering outside the hive entrance, to bivouacking on a nearby tree branch, to dispatching the above-mentioned house-hunters in search of suitable shelter.

The phrase "honeybee democracy" refers to the process by which the various scout bees lobby each other on behalf of their proposed nesting sites, until the group eventually reaches a decision, almost always unanimous, after which these same scouts proceed to rouse the masses and lead them to their new home.

The honeybee may be the most scrutinized insect on the planet, and this glimpse into just one facet of its behavior is a good illustration of why. A biology professor at Cornell University, the author is describing the subject of his life's work, which he says "is proving ever more extraordinary". And lest we underestimate the importance of the house-hunting process, Dr. Seeley points out that, in nature, fewer than 25 percent of swarms will survive the upcoming winter.

I recently embarked on a house-hunting venture of my own. My criteria, like those of the bees, included cavity size, accessibility and security. But my selection method more closely resembled dictatorship than democracy.



### "Honeybee Democracy"

by Thomas D. Seeley  
Princeton University Press  
273 pages, \$29.95

Come to think of it, the swarm's decision-making process could perhaps more accurately be described as oligarchy, given that fewer than five percent of the population is involved. (Despite the presence of an all-important Queen, it is certainly no monarchy.) But as we follow the selfless interactions of the individual scout bees, it quickly becomes clear that these representatives have the entire colony's best interests at heart.



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### Note from the Queen Chair by Joyce D. Justice

Our Princess, Lillian-Grace Misko, applied to be our Missouri Honey Queen for 2011. She was so outstanding in 2010, I feel she will represent the Missouri honey industry even better in 2011 after a year's experience. She gave an interesting presentation on her travels throughout the state at the Friday evening banquet. She had a good variety of events, from workshops, Music Festival, West Plains, Powell Gardens (bug day), Nature Center in St. Joseph, 7C'S Winery Festival in Walnut Grove, Fair in Springfield, Missouri State Fair in Sedalia and others. She traveled over 3,000 miles during the year.

We are pleased that Lillian-Grace has agreed to be our Missouri Honey Queen for 2011. Plan to have her attend your events, as she will give them that extra special touch. The children always want their pictures taken with the Queen.

Our silent auction tables were loaded at the Fall Meeting. We had some really nice donations. One of the big bears will probably find its way to the Missouri State Fair. We received a total of \$561.00 from the auction. Thank you for remembering to bring items. It's fun, plus helps pay Lillian's expenses.

I especially want to thank all of the ladies who met and gave input on rewriting the rules for our Queen program.

Thank you,  
Joyce D. Justice

A big THANK YOU to the following vendors who supplied items for the silent auction:

- **Acres, USA** (The Voice of Eco-Agriculture), P.O. Box 91299, Austin, Texas
- **Fisher Bee Supplies**, 4005 NE 132nd St., Smithville, MO 64089
- **7C'S Winery**, 502 East 560th Road, Walnut Grove, MO 65770

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## Local Beekeepers Associations

### 1 Beekeepers Association of the Ozarks

4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
The Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell, Springfield  
[www.ozarksbeekeepers.org](http://www.ozarksbeekeepers.org)

### 2 Boone Regional Beekeepers Association

3rd Sunday of month, 1:00 p.m., Columbia Insurance Group, 2102 Whitegate Dr. (back door), Columbia  
Contact Art Gelder 573-474-8837  
<http://beekeeper.missouri.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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
Contact Gene Foley 417-624-6831

### 9 Mid Missouri Beekeepers

3rd Sunday of each month, 2 pm, St. James Tourist Ctr.  
Contact Don Moore 573-265-8706

### 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  
Cecil Sweeney, President 913-856-8356

### 11 Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association

Last Tuesday of month in Quincy, IL  
Contact Debi Bridgman 573-439-5228

### 12 Missouri Valley Beekeepers Association

3rd Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Scenic Regional Library, Union  
Contact Rodney Angell 573-764-2922  
[bee143@fidnet.com](mailto:bee143@fidnet.com)

### 13 Parkland Beekeepers

3rd Tuesday of each month, 108 Harrison, Farmington  
Contact Gene Wood 573-431-1436

### 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, Poplar Bluff Extension Office  
Contact Ernie Wells 573-429-0222  
[wells.ernie@gmail.com](mailto: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

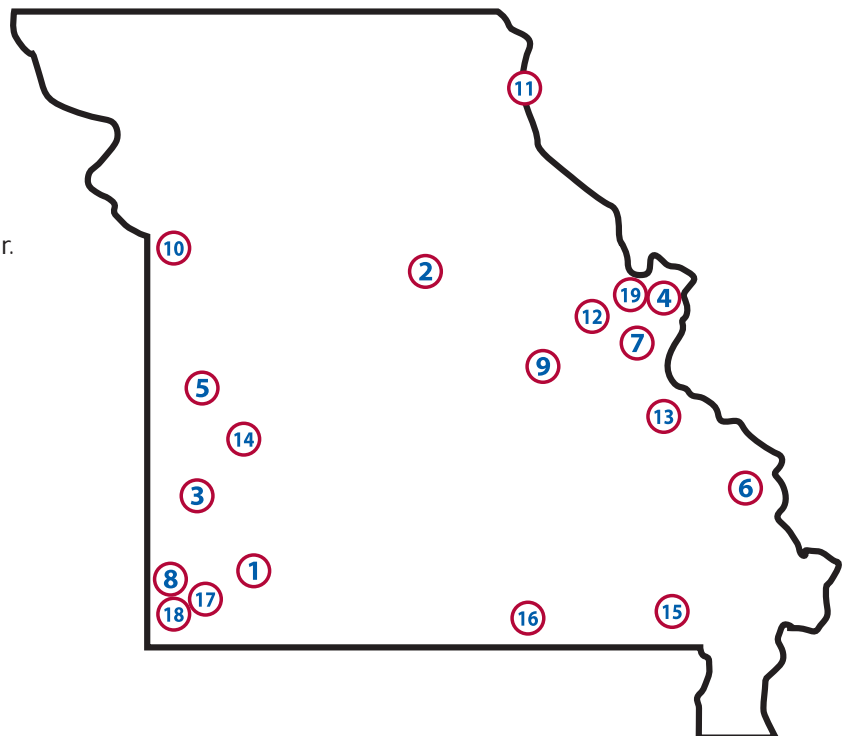
### 18 Southwest Missouri Beekeepers Association

1st Tuesday of month, Neosho High School FFA Building  
Contact Glenn W. Smith 417-548-2255

### 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](mailto:info@threeriversbeekeepers.com)

*Can't find a local near you? Contact our President or Vice President for assistance starting a new one!*



**MSBA Membership Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

My local association is \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \$15.00 ☐**Amount Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_Family Membership \$20.00 ☐

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## Honey Princess Report by Lillian-Grace Misko

Greetings everyone,

I thank each and every one of you for supporting me as Honey Princess 2010, clocking in over 3000 miles across the state of Missouri. This past year has given me wonderful experience broadening my public relations skills and knowledge of the beekeeping world while promoting honey, bees, beekeepers and the Missouri State Beekeepers Association.



I am happy to announce that I was crowned Honey Queen 2011 at the MSBA Fall Meeting this past October. I would also like to thank all those who attended the meeting down at the "Cape". It was a fantastic time of beekeepers gathering for their common interest. The Queen's dinner was such a delightful and "delicious" time! I was given a generous scholarship and had the privilege of giving a PowerPoint presentation of my past year's journey as Honey Princess. This coming December I will have the opportunity to share my presentation at the Midwestern Beekeepers December meeting/Christmas dinner.

Recently, I have been experimenting with recipes to include in my next year's brochure! I am quite excited to share the recipes I have come up with. One particular recipe I will be including is "Little Mountains"—scrumptiously puffy oatmeal chocolate-chip cookies.

Continuing to represent the MSBA is a privilege and honor. I look forward to the unfolding of another year's journey! Thanks to Ron Vivian, I will have my own observation hive to travel and personalize—what a blessing for him to have donated it!

Thank you all again for your support!

With much care,

Lillian-Grace Misko, Honey Princess 2010

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Columbia, Columbia, MO 65211

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**A BEE STORY FROM AFRICA**

**A Missouri Beekeeper Answers the Call For a "Knight in Shining Armor"**



by GENE FOLEY

*They were desperately seeking their "Knight in Shining Armor" to come to Uganda.*

**From Missouri to Uganda to ABI: Check out this month's "A Bee Story From Africa" in the American Bee Journal. It's an account, by Gene Foley of Joplin Area Beekeepers, of his recent trip to teach some basic skills to beekeepers in that country.**

The CBS Evening News with Katie Couric and Steve Hartman, does the feature on America, "Everyone Has a Story" and Paul Harvey did his, "Rest of the Story". Since we all have a story, let me tell mine. It started with the April issue of *American Bee Journal* in the "Letters to the Editor". It was a request for the need of a qualified and experienced beekeeper, one who would take on the challenge in the Rwenzori Mountains of Uganda. Edwin Harrison is the Business Advisor for the LIDFED, Liberty Development Foundation. He is not a beekeeper, but he knows how to ask for help in beekeeping for the people in the Village of Nakazinga and Mahago, which are in the Rwenzori Mountains. Magda, his partner, is working with the college. She has a fundraiser to help build a small college made of mud bricks, which she is doing okay with, but fund-raising is slow. I made a donation to help some, any takers?

and Dadant & Sons, Inc. has a nice gift to our club for us. I replied on my application, and "When can you come?" "Not I replied. It was April and the queen, make splits, move bees, supers. This was not the time for to Uganda. With several e-mails forth through the Internet, plans had begun to arise. Questions: What was I to expect? How do I What foods do they eat and what language translation? What kind of do they have? What do they need and I knew I was stepping back in time village area, but needed to get an idea how far back. I did not have in mind to change their ways, but to explain to them that may or may not work, as well as explaining the differences between the bees. I wanted to discuss how they live and the duties that bees have in their hives. This was information that these beekeepers did not



(l) "A Knight" in a white bee suit—Gene and the four advanced beekeepers, Livingston, Simion, Besinna and Sele. (r) Edwin, Gene & Magda at a crater lake in The Queen Elizabeth National Park.

December 2010

1177

## RENEW NOW:

*Don't forget -- if you have not already done so, please send in your dues for 2011, either directly (to the address above) or via your local club. The membership application is on page 14 of this newsletter.*

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](mailto:editor@mostatebeekeepers.org) with "email newsletter" in the subject line. I'll reply with confirmation, and add you to my list.

### Advertising rates are as follows:

Business card size	\$15.00	Half page	\$50.00
Quarter page	\$35.00	Full page	\$100.00

**Classified Ads:** Advertise one to three beekeeping-related items in a one-line ad at no charge. This service is for non-commercial MSBA members only, and is limited to one ad per item per calendar year.

**Honey Trading Post:** This is a free service to members wishing to buy or sell honey on a wholesale basis. Just email or call the editor with contact information and whether you are buying or selling. Pricing is between the interested parties.