



Missouri State Beekeepers Association
PO Box 7514 Columbia, Missouri 65205
www.mostatebeekeepers.org

December 2015

Eugene Makovec
Editor
editor@mostatebeekeepers.org



Fall Conference brings 200+ to Columbia

Michael Bush lectures, entertains

The Missouri State Beekeepers Association drew about 225 members to its annual Fall Conference in Columbia on Friday and Saturday, October 16-17.

Held at the Hilton Garden Inn, the meeting featured **Michael Bush**, a leading proponent of natural beekeeping. Mr. Bush not only gave several lectures over the course of two days, but entertained us by playing guitar and singing folk tunes during our Friday evening banquet and in the hotel lobby afterwards.

Our Friday banquet also honored **Senator Jeanie Riddle**, who gave a short speech and accepted a plaque thanking her for sponsoring Senate Bill 500, which deregulated honey sales in our state this year. President Valerie Duever also presented awards to numerous other attendees, including:

- A beautiful framed copy of SB 500, signed by Senator Riddle and Governor Jay Nixon, given to **Eugene Makovec** for initiating and spearheading the effort to pass this legislation.

- “Beekeeper of the Year” plaques to the five members of our Legislative Committee - **Eugene Makovec, Mike McMillen, Charlotte Wiggins, Cathy Misko** and **Bruce Snavely** - all of whom testified at Senate and House agriculture committee hearings on the bill.



Michael Bush

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From the President by Valerie Duever

November 17, 2015

As I am sitting here, at 3:26 am, listening to the cold rain pound against the windows of my office, I start thinking about how much things have changed over the past 12 months. This time last year, I became the MSBA President. Me! Someone that is just a fairly well-educated, side-liner beekeeper with an extremely curious mind and the gift of gab. To say I was excited is an understatement. I am following in the footsteps of a number of beekeepers that have helped me in my education so I still feel extremely honored to volunteer in this capacity.

Being very tired and a little overwhelmed, I decided to read over some archived newsletters to see what subjects our other Presidents noted in their December letters. In the December 2010 edition, then-President, Scott Moser, talked about wrapping up his two-year service and how he would like to see more local associations to help beekeepers...locally. At that printing, we had 19 local clubs. Today, we have over 35. There you go, Scott.

Many of our other Presidents discussed the Fall Conference and I am compelled to do the same. I was very nervous with this conference because we have trimmed our get-togethers down to once a year so it had to be wonderful. Based on the exit surveys and the feedback I received talking with our 200+ attendees, it was pretty wonderful. So, okay, the temperature was an issue and the food is always too expensive (we're working on that for next year), but the speakers were very good. As always, I thoroughly enjoy talking with beekeepers from around the state.

I cannot say "Thank You" enough to everyone that volunteered to help make this such a success. I have tried to personally thank each and every one of you, but if I missed someone...here is a public THANK YOU!

Our Executive Committee meets face-to-face, four times a year. With discussions on serving our members, which events should we attend, what should we do for the next annual conference, how are we going to fill the vacancies on the Committee, etc., we tend to just touch base and put out fires. Sometimes, new ideas are presented for review and discussion. As an example, during our meeting in October 2015, we had debated the merits and voted to provide a letter of support for a Missouri pollinator program. There is a need for public outreach to folks that are interested in bees but don't want to become beekeepers, so you will be seeing more information on this program, as it becomes available.

In January, our Executive Committee is convening to discuss how we can be of better service to our members. With so many local associations and the internet offering basic information for budding beekeepers, the lines of "this is what the MSBA can provide" become very blurry. For example, we are doing research on non-profit/not-for-profit business classifications. There are a number of ways to start a local club and many considerations to discuss, especially when there is money involved. Keep an eye on our newsletters and webpage for more other projects in the works.

I, personally, think we need to provide more focus on educational opportunities for beekeepers that have been doing this for a couple of years. We do a great job showing folks how to get into beekeeping but staying with it after a few years...not so much. It sure would be interesting to find out why folks get out of beekeeping so those challenges can be addressed. We need long-term beekeepers.

The other thing I tend to do, when I can't sleep, is to research stuff. This morning, it was "who does research on honeybees and what are they studying". Amazing what folks are trying to answer. Even more amazing are the articles on issues I thought were new, but the research is now 5 years old. I plan on sharing some of the more interesting information in the Waggle Data Dance, so watch for that as well.

See, that is the really cool thing about beekeeping; you will never learn everything there is to know about honeybees.

Stay warm and Happy Holidays to everyone.

Thank you for being a member of the MO State Beekeepers Association.

Valerie



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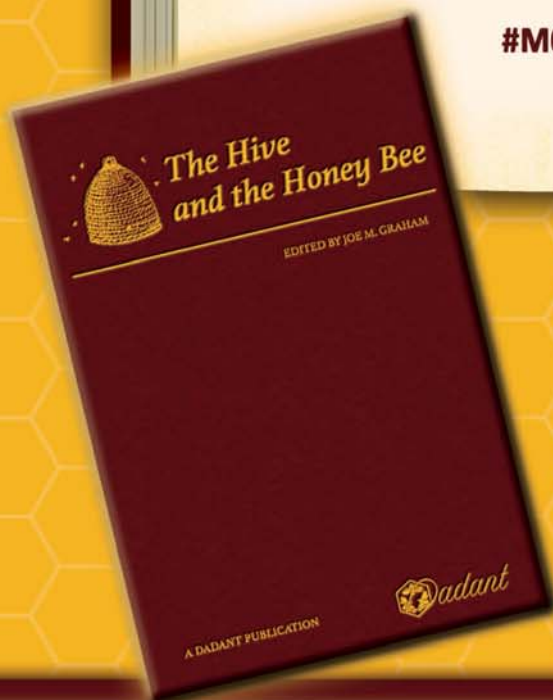
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MSBA doles out a bevy of awards at Fall Conference

continued from page 1

- “Lifetime Service” awards - to **Dolores Vivian**, for her many years as Auxiliary Chairperson; and **Ron Vivian**, for decades of service as Treasurer and then Membership Chair.
- “Volunteer Extraordinaire” awards - to **John Timmons** for building and maintaining our MSBA website over the past several years, and serving as Vice President, President and now Past President; and **Eugene Makovec** for 10 years as Newsletter Editor.
- A “Honey Queen” award to outgoing 2015 Missouri Honey Queen **Erin Mullins**.
- A “Queen Chairperson” award to **Wanda Johnston**, who is leaving that position this year.
- “Dedicated Volunteer” awards to **Dean Sanders**, **Wanda Johnston** and **Wes Johnston** for their stellar work on the State Fair booth over the past several years.



Scott Jackson



Valerie Duever and Gregg Hitehings explain mite testing procedures.

Mr. Bush gave several presentations on his natural beekeeping methods. Here are some of the points he shared:

- Mite treatments kill much more than varroa. There are many kinds of mites in a hive, many of them good, and “treatment” kills them all.
- Such treatments also breed weak bees, along with strong parasites.
- Chemical treatments interfere with the natural communication of the hive, thus compromising the colony’s ability to take care of itself.
- The common IPM practice of removing drone comb with varroa is “a great way to breed for varroa that prefer workers”.
- Honey is a healthier food than sugar syrup. Honey has a pH of 3.2-4.5, compared with 6 for sugar syrup. (In response to a question, Michael could not say what the pH is in nectar, or in sugar syrup that has reduced in moisture content and capped for storage.)

- Too much ventilation interferes with the colony’s ability to manage hive temperature in summer or winter.
- Pollen substitute patties get bees out of sync with their environment. “They really should relabel them as ‘small hive beetle food.’”
- Annual requeening just keeps bees from selecting for good queens on their own.

We also heard from numerous other speakers, on a variety of topics:

Gregg Hitehings gave an entertaining demonstration and comparison of the “sugar shake” and “alcohol wash” methods of sampling for varroa.

Marty Comstock detailed the true costs of keeping bees.

Becky Erickson discussed methods of providing diverse food sources for bees. “Honeybees that encounter a high diversity of wild flowers and other insects will be healthier than those kept in a ‘clean’ bubble.”

Nathan Fox talked about how to set up an apiary on a college campus.

Scott Jackson told us about the “Sentinel Hive” project undertaken this year by Eastern Missouri Beekeepers, in conjunction with the Bee Informed Partnership. That program tracks a group of eight colonies, and monitors varroa and nosema levels, hive weight, pollen variety and overall health.

Recent upgrades for next year will provide real-time remote

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Becky Erickson



Eugene Makovec



2015 Beekeepers of the Year: This year's award went to the MSBA Legislative Committee, who testified to House and Senate Agriculture Committees on behalf of Senate Bill 500. From left: Eugene Makovec, Charlotte Ekker Wiggins, Bruce Snavelly and Cathy Misko. Not pictured: Mike McMillen.



Arts and Crafts Contest winners: From left, Bonnie Potter, Rosaline Baumann, Corinne Collins, Julie Evans, Kathleen Hartman and Stormie Burr.



State Senator Jeanie Riddle (below left) poses for a photo with outgoing 2015 Missouri Honey Queen Erin Mullins. Senator Riddle was on hand at Friday evening's banquet to accept a plaque in honor of her sponsorship of Senate Bill 500 deregulating honey sales in our state.

Anastasia Becker (below right), of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, talks to a conference attendee about Driftwatch, a multi-state program that helps beekeepers to alert pesticide applicators to the locations of their beehives so as to avoid spray drift.



Bonnie Potter (center photo) holds down the registration table throughout the conference, along with husband Dennis Potter (not shown).
Corinne Collins (above), of Corinne's Honey Farm, talks about her honey and other products.

MSBA Northeastern Director Danny Lake (above right), along with his wife Karen Lake, sell official Missouri State Beekeepers hats, shirts and umbrellas.
At left, Dadant representative Gabe Dadant talks with an attendee.



Meeting of Merchants:

Vendors representing five different companies (upper center) gather on and around the surprisingly comfortable beehive furniture made by Isabees. They are, from left: Bill George, Crooked Hill Beekeeping; Gabe Dadant, Dadant & Sons; Bernie Andrew, Andrew Honey Farm; Scott Klein, Isabees; and Phil Ebert, Ebert Honey Company. (See back page for another view of this furniture.) All photos these two pages by Eugene Makovec

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The MSBA is Seeking a New Webmaster!

The current MSBA webmaster will be resigning from that position later this year to pursue other adventures. We are seeking an interested member that either has the necessary skills, or would be interested in advancing their current skills. If you have some basic web skills and would be interested in discussing the new MSBA webmaster position, please send an email with your contact information to webmaster@mostatebeekeepers.org.

Although maintaining the MSBA website doesn't require a degree in rocket science, here are some skills that you will need:

- A basic understanding of the Wordpress web platform, including adding and editing pages, manipulating images and formatting text.
- Some basic image manipulation skills, including the use of Photoshop, Photoshop Elements, or similar applications.
- An understanding of Wordpress plugins, widgets, forms and menus.

If you have some basic web skills, this is a great opportunity to take them to the next level, working with an established website and a great organization.

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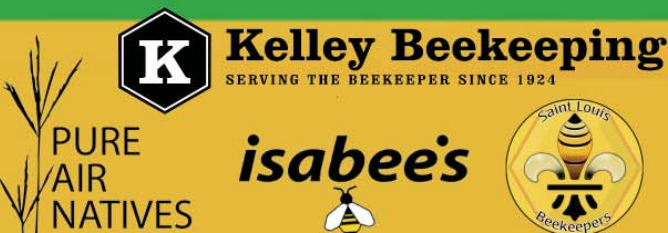


Saturday, February 27th
Shoenberg Theater
Missouri Botanical Garden

Spend an afternoon with Dr. Tom Seeley, a world authority on honey bees on Saturday, February 27th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dr. Seeley will present on several fascinating topics, including research for a new book in the works titled "Following The Wild Bees".

Registration is \$22.00 in advance. For more information and tickets, please visit www.beespeakstl.com.



Honey Festival delights with mead events, honey tasting

BeeSpeakSTL and St. Louis Beekeepers plan annual event
by Scott Klein

St. Louis hosted the first annual Honey Festival this past September 26th along with Missouri's first mead judging competition. This inaugural event, held along with BeeSpeakSTL and the Saint Louis Beekeepers Club, welcomed Dr. Patrick McGovern, author of "Uncorking the Past", who is credited with finding evidence of the oldest fermented beverage made with honey and rice, 9000 years ago.

Also presenting was Ken Schramm, author of "The Compleat Meadmaker", regarded as the most comprehensive book on the art and practice of making alcoholic beverages with honey. Ken served as head judge for the BJPC sanctioned Honey Festival & Design2Brew mead competition which consisted of 13 small-batch (non-commercial) entries in four categories, Traditional Mead, Fruit Mead (cyser, melomel), Spiced Mead (methglyn) and Specialty Mead (historical mead, braggot). Competition results are posted at HoneyFestival.org.

The distinguished speakers presented at Maritz in Fenton on Saturday, along with the Saint Louis Beekeepers honey tasting and People's Choice award for the most popular local honey from the year's harvest. Mary Tevlin won the \$100.00 cash prize for her Vinita Park honey. There were local vendors, a beekeeping booth with an observation hive and John Pashia's extensive historical smoker display. Additional vendors included Dave Lakebrink's flavored creamed honey, Bee Naturals, Von Der Ahe Honey Farm, Shapfield Farms and Corinne's Honey Farm, among others. A festive evening reception was held at the Thomas Sappington House Museum park in Crestwood. Attendees were able to meet and speak directly with the day's presenters, and sample a selection of Ken's own nationally awarded Schramm's Meads, along with Chateau Jiahu, a recreation of the 9,000 year old honey beverage.

The festival was open to the public, and many non-beekeepers were able to sample the local and single source honeys compliments of Saint Louis Beekeepers, enjoy blues music, food, and a local honey beverage creation by Earthbound Beer.



Ken Schramm, left, and Dr. Patrick McGovern pose for a photo at the Honey Festival. Mr. Schramm discussed his experiences running a family mead business. Dr. McGovern, known as the "Indiana Jones of Ancient Ales, Wines and Extreme Beverages", talked about discoveries of historic brews.

Local Beekeeping Associations in Missouri

- 1 Beekeepers Association of the Ozarks**
4th Tuesday of each month, 6-9 p.m.
CH Chub O'Reilly Cancer Center, 2055 South Fremont,
Springfield MO 65804
Jeffrey Maddox, President maddox65804@yahoo.com
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
- 4 Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association**
2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., location
changes. Bob Sears, President 314-479-9517
www.easternmobeekeepers.com
- 5 Golden Valley Beekeepers**
2nd Monday of each month, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Golden Corral, Clinton MO. Tom McCormick, President
tomm@goldenvalleybeekeepers.com
www.goldenvalleybeekeepers.com
- 6 Jackson Area Beekeepers**
4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
First Presb. of Jackson, 206 E. Washington
Contact Grant Gillard, gillard5@charter.net, 573-243-6568
- 7 Jefferson County Beekeepers Association**
2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Hwy B & 21
Jefferson County Extension Center, Hillsboro
Contact Marvin Hook 636-274-1759
- 8 Joplin Area Beekeepers Association**
Last Tue. of each month, 7 pm, SM Bank Community
Building (7th and Duquesne Rd), Joplin
Contact Dale Foley 417-850-0285
- 9 Mid Missouri Beekeepers**
3rd Sunday, 2 pm, Old Train Depot, St. James.
Contact Don Moore, dlmoore2@centurytel.net
573-265-8706
- 10 Midwestern Beekeepers Association**
Most meetings: Fellowship Hall at Graceway, 5460 Blue
Ridge Cutoff, Kansas City, MO 64133
Visit midwesternbeekeepers.org for calendar
Pres. Cathy Misko, 660-656-3485 cathymisko@earthlink.net
- 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, 7pm, Union, location varies
President Calvin Brandt cvbrandt@landolakes.com
- 13 Parkland Beekeepers**
3rd Tuesday of month, 7pm, North College Center,
Mineral Area College, Park Hills. Pres. Gregg Hitchings
573-880-2899 PBA_President@mineralarea.edu
- 14 Pomme de Terre Beekeepers**
2nd Thursday 7 pm, Missouri Extension Office, Hermitage
Contact Rebekah Huddleston Rebekah_421@yahoo.com
- 15 SEMO Honey Producers**
2nd Thursday of month, Church of Christ, Poplar Bluff
Contact Cory Stevens 573-225-6935
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
Kevin Young, President 417-847-5464
- 18 Southwest Missouri Beekeepers Assn. of Neosho**
1st Tuesday of month, Neosho High School FFA Bldg
Contact Thelma Ross 417-472-3504
rtross@jscomm.net
- 19 Three Rivers Beekeepers**
3rd Monday, 7pm, University of Missouri Extension,
260 Brown Rd, St. Peters, info@threeriversbeekeepers.com
President Eugene Makovec 314-703-7650
- 20 Northwest Missouri Bee Busters**
2nd Monday of month, location varies
nwmobeebusters.blogspot.com
beebusters2012@gmail.com
Gerald Auffert, President 660-944-2535
- 21 Lake of the Ozarks Beekeepers**
3rd Saturday of month, 1:00 p.m.
Square Deals Ice Cream Shop, Versailles
Contact Garrett Blackwell 573-374-7402
- 22 Northeast Missouri Beekeepers Association**
1st Friday of month, 7 pm, Clark County Courthouse,
Lower level, Kahoka (location may vary)
(3 miles south of Wayland) Contact Randy Ewart
573-248-5561 rewart@centurytel.net
- 23 Gasconade Region Beekeepers**
2nd Tuesday 7:00, First State Comm. Bank, Owensville
Pres. Chris Bilbrey 573-692-0698 twaaace01@fidnet.com
gasconaderegionbeekeepers@hotmail.com
- 24 St. Louis Beekeepers**
4th Tuesday 6:30, Schlafly Bottleworks
contact@saintlouisbeekeepers.com
www.saintlouisbeekeepers.com
- 25 Western Missouri Beekeepers**
2nd Tuesday 6:30, Moor-View Community Room, Nevada
Caroline Phillips, President 417-321-3587
bcphillips81@gmail.com
- 26 Meramec Valley Beekeepers**
First Sunday 2 pm, Peace Lutheran Church in Sullivan
Contact Sam Elia 573-732-5597 samnora1@gmail.com, or
Laurie Rose at laurierose1219@yahoo.com
- 27 Quad County Beekeepers**
1st Tuesday, 7:00 pm, Missouri Extension Office, Troy
President Eric Reid
quadcountybeekeepers.com
- 28 North Central MO Beekeepers Association**
1st Monday, Area Career Center, Macon, 7:00 pm
Contact Bill George (660) 646-3354, www.ncmobees.org
- 29 Bees Alive**
(Springfield area) www.beesaliveclub.com
1st Thursday, 7pm, Empire Bank, Highlandville
Dan Barton, dannyohboy@hotmail.com
- 30 Wright County Beekeepers**
2nd Thursday, Laclede Electric building, Hartville, 7 pm
Rick Bledsoe, Contact 417-741-7466
wrightcountybeekeepers@gmail.com

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Local Beekeeping Associations in Missouri

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31 Rolla Bee Club

4th Sunday 2pm, Brownwood Estates Clubhouse, 1341 California, Rolla
Contact David Draker (573) 578-0561
rollabees@gmail.com www.rollabeeclub.com

32 Swarm Chasers

% MO Dept. of Conservation,
701 McCarthy Dr., St. Joseph
Contact Jason Seetin
swarmchasers@gmail.com

33 EZ Beekeeping

3rd Sunday, 2 pm, Peace Lutheran Church in Sullivan
No dues, focus on Horizontal Hives. Contact Jim Roe
636-357-7658 or email jim.roe@asemonline.org. This group has an open group on Yahoo to exchange information. (Yahoo account needed.)

34 Mark Twain Beekeepers

3rd Monday, 6-8 p.m. No dues. February meeting at Gregg Tivnan's workshop near Bunker; call for other months. Contacts: Terry Phelps 573-729-3333
Gregg Tivnan (573) 689-2254 or greggtivnan@yahoo.com

35 West Central Beekeeping Association

Second Wednesday, 6:30 pm
State Fair Community College, Potter-Ewing Ag Ctr, Sedalia
Contact Mike Conroy (573) 301-1394
conroythegeek@gmail.com

36 West Plains Bee Group

3rd Thursday, 6:00 pm Hirsch Feed & Farm Supply, 789 Worley Dr., West Plains
Call Carl Fry 417-247-0708 or Dan Cropper 417-372-2602

37 Caldwell County Beekeepers

4th Monday, 7pm, American Legion Hall in Braymer
J.R. Hess. 660-233-9577 or jrhess11@gmail.com

38 Dexter Bee Club

1st Tuesday, 7pm, Scott Laden's house in Dexter
Contact Dorothy at djhooten@yahoo.com, or Cory Stevens at corystevens00@yahoo.com

See our interactive club map on the website at: <http://batchgeo.com/map/e64a9d35b439c5309794fbae8516f333>

Help wanted:

Newsletter Editor, Missouri State Beekeepers Association

The end of 2015 will mark 10 years, and 60 issues, since I took over as Editor of this newsletter. It's been a most enjoyable and fulfilling gig, but it's time to step down. I simply do not have time for all the projects I've taken on in recent years, and since my boss still expects me to show up most days at my real job, I have to give up some things.

Description and duties:

- Produce six issues per year, about 12-16 pages
- Coordinate advertising
- Coordinate articles
- Attend Executive Board meetings as a voting member
- Attend and document annual Membership Conferences
- Create PDF for electronic posting/emailing
- Print and mail hard copies (currently about 50) via USPS

Candidate should possess:

- Attention to detail
- Basic computer, design and photography skills
- Competent spelling, grammar and proofreading skills
- Passion for and knowledge of beekeeping a plus!

I designed the current format from scratch when I started. You can follow it or use your own. I use InDesign, but that is also your choice. I will be happy to work with you during the changeover.

For information call Eugene Makovec at 314-703-7650, or email editor@mostatebeekeepers.org

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Fall Conference wrap-up

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readings (at 15-minute intervals) of hive weight and internal temperature, for tracking of honey storage and brood-rearing periods.

Jim Duever and **Andy Seckinger** gave a run-down on common pesticide classes used by homeowners and in agriculture. Among the points made:

- All pesticides work by disrupting the electrical channels of the pest. Different types operate via different methods, which is why we should rotate products to keep target insects from building resistance.
- You should not buy a product just because your pest is shown on the label, or because it says "organic". (Organic does not mean safe.) Always read the label!
- Pesticide modes of action include: Contact, Systemic (moving within plant tissue), Insect Growth Regulators, and Feeding Inhibitors (repellents).
- Neonicotinoids come in Systemic and Contact forms, with contact types used primarily for emergency rescue. Systemic "neonics" were developed to replace numerous contact insecticides, which tend to be more dangerous to non-target species.
- While systemics may eventually transfer to flower parts, the concentrations there are insignificant. (Thrips that feed on flower parts are not affected by systemic neonics.)



Andy Seckinger



Cooking Contest winners: From left, Mary Bemboom, Yvonne Von Der Ahe, Corinne Collins and Rosaline Baumann.

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Beehive-based furniture made by Scott Klein of Isabees was a popular resting spot for visitors and vendors alike. Here Scott has a chance to chat with Danny Lake (foreground) while the conference is in session. The chairs, desks and coffee tables have made appearances at other recent events, but as of this writing they have not been offered for sale.

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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