



Volume 131 - Issue 6

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NOVEMBER 2020

MISSOURI STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

THE BROOD

First Virtual Conference Success!

Bruce Snavelly *MSBA Event Program Chair*, brucesnavelly@hotmail.com

Our 2020 Fall Conference is in the MSBA record-book, having successfully completed our first virtual conference. Dr. Samuel Ramsey and Dr. Katie Lee gave us a full plate, 5-course meal of beekeeping instruction and information. I wish we could have interacted with them in a live-conference but I thought their virtual presentations were very resourceful, engaging, entertaining, and at times mind-blowing. I loved their detailed

conference, we will devote a few minutes just prior to our conference to give some how-to instructions on asking questions during Q & A, etc. I understand some people do not like virtual meetings, but I encourage you, if you haven't tried it, to give it a try. Some folks commented and said they wished we would continue to give this as an option in the future. If you missed commenting on our conference you may still send an email

to msbaconf@gmail.com and tell us what you liked as well as give us ideas for improving our virtual format.

We've decided our 2021 Spring Conference will be a virtual presentation as well because the Covid19 Pandemic doesn't look like it's going to be solved with a mass vaccine distribution in time. So **SAVE THE**

DATE: Saturday, March 13, 2021 and please join us! We are looking at the possibility of re-broadcasting the Spring Conference on Sunday, March 14 for those who are unable to join us on Saturday. The main difference will be our Sunday broadcast will not be live so attendees will not get to ask questions to speakers during the Q & A times.



presentation slides and Sammy's amazing varroa mite photographs.

For those of you who may have stepped into the challenge of Zoom technology for the first time to join our conference – Thank you! We had approximately 130 individuals join the Zoom meeting. I realize there were a few issues that attendees pointed out later, mainly having to do with operational functions of Zoom. At our next virtual

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Letter from our New President - Randy Ewart

(WAYLAND, MO) — Greetings fellow MSBA members and Missouri beekeepers! It is my humble privilege and indeed an honor to begin serving as President of the Missouri State Beekeeper Association (MSBA), and more specifically, the interests of our member beekeepers. Thank you so much for placing your confidence and trust in me during the recent Annual Membership Meeting, at which time the entire slate of Officers and Leadership were elected for the coming year and their respective terms of service.

Journey to Becoming President

To say that my path to becoming President has been a whirlwind experience is an understatement. Cory Stevens, then MSBA President, made contact with me in the Spring of 2019 and asked me to consider serving as MSBA's Vice-President to fill an un-expired vacant term. It was only after I agreed, and then learned the real commitment I had made – 2 years as Vice-President (actually slightly over 1½ years in my case), followed by 2 years as President, and then 2 years as Past President in a progressive and successive cycle. It was all a very succinct deal, as spelled out in our by-laws. Then began the process of “getting me up to speed” on various details and issues with which I needed to be aware, as well as appointed to the By-laws Committee and being tasked with chairing the Awards and the Nominating Committees consistent with the general duties and responsibilities of Vice-President. I think my email inbox had not experienced such a whirlwind influx of messages and documents (which yet continues to-date). It kind of reminded me of an old jingle I heard long ago – “*Mary had a little lamb; she should have been a sheep. She went and joined a Baptist Church, and died for lack of sleep!*” Well, that is all water under the bridge, now on to more important matters.

Michael Mollohan Selected and Nominated as New MSBA Vice-President

A key part of my duties as Vice-President was to select and nominate a new MSBA Vice-President, near the end of my term, with whom to serve with during my upcoming term as President. I had been informed of this task early in my “being informed” period. I was counseled to be “shopping for a VP” as I attended various MSBA conferences, meetings, and events – advice that served me well. I met and visited with numerous members along the way, and ultimately selected *Michael Mollohan, of Gladstone (MO)*, as my pick. Mike is well qualified, a natural leader, and is passionate both



about beekeeping and the MSBA. On a side note, he is a retired Air Traffic Controller. We look forward to serving with Mike, and seeing him develop ultimately into his pending role as MSBA President in October 2022. “Thank you, Mike, for agreeing to serve.”

MSBA 2020 Virtual Fall Conference

Our Association has just concluded its 2020 Virtual Fall Conference and Annual Membership Meeting, held on Saturday, October 10, 2020. This was MSBA's first experience with organizing, scheduling, and conducting one of its two yearly conferences as an online virtual conference – as opposed to traditional in-person conferences. The initial after-event comments and evaluation concluded that it was an outstanding and enormous success! Good job, MSBA!

A huge word of “thanks” and “kudos” go to Bruce Snaveley, Program Chair; Ray Shadows, West-Central Regional Director; Val Nichols, Southwest Regional Director; Jeania Schmalhorst, Communications & Marketing Chair; Charlotte Ekker-Wiggins, Partnership Liaison; Kyle Day, Secretary; Wes Johnston, Treasurer; Wanda Johnston, Membership Chair; Jeff Jungk, Web Administrator; Clayton Lee, Past President; Cory Stevens, President; and perhaps others I have unintentionally missed, who did a massive amount of work and pulled out all the stops to do the needed research, background setup, planning and coordinating, posting and sending notices, event hosting, and live behind-the-scenes support that all worked together seamlessly as a team to make the virtual conference successful and come off without major problems.

Annual Membership Meeting

The 2020 Annual Membership Meeting was held online in conjunction with the Virtual Fall Conference on October 10th. Two (2) items of business were presented to members.

1. A by-law amendment (Article 4, Section 5) regarding qualifications for President was recommended for approval to the members, to-wit: “*If the candidate for President (i.e., Vice-President) has not served on the board for a full two (2) years prior to being elected to, or assuming, the Office of President the board may grant a waiver to the qualification requirement with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board.*” The amendment was approved. President Cory Stevens gave a report that, at the Board's meeting on the prior Thursday evening, the Board had pre-approved the

waiver for Randy Ewart to serve as President, pending approval of the amendment by the Membership on Saturday.

2. The Nominating Committee presented a slate of Officers and Other Leadership for 2020-2021, with noted vacancies. All individuals listed on the slate were elected, and they were to immediately assume their duties and responsibilities. Officers and Other Leadership information will be updated on the web site as soon as possible.

MSBA 2020 Award Recipients

The 2020 MSBA Award recipients were also announced at the Annual Membership Meeting:

- Gregg Hitching, *Beekeeper of the Year* (Parkland Beekeepers Assoc.);
- Kari Ehlers, *Junior Beekeeper of the Year* (Midwestern Beekeepers Assoc.);
- David Draker, *Mentor of the Year* (Rolla Bee Club); and
- Wes and Wanda Johnston, *Lifetime Achievement* (Northland Beekeepers Assoc.).

Actual physical and in-person award presentations are to be made at a later date – hopefully at the recipients local club or association. Congratulations to all award recipients – good job, one and all!

Also, the MSBA Board of Directors unanimously voted to confer the honorary title of “*Past President Emeritus*” upon Clayton Lee. This honorary title is similar to MSBA’s Lifetime Achievement award, but is for a Past President who has well served the interests of MSBA and also tirelessly given his assistance to the President, Vice-President, and Other Officers and Leadership in an absolutely outstanding and self-sacrificing manner. As “*Past President Emeritus*,” Clayton is authorized and openly invited to attend and participate in all future MSBA Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Committee meetings at his discretion and desire. Additionally, as “*Past President Emeritus*,” from this point forward Clayton Lee will be considered as a *Senior Ambassador* of MSBA. He is further requested to share his wisdom and advice at such meetings, and to current Officers and Other Leadership. All our Officers, Leadership, and Members wish to thank and commend Clayton for all he has done on behalf of MSBA. Congratulations, Clayton!



Individuals Retiring and Vacancies

We extend a heartfelt thanks to Wes Johnston, Wanda Johnston, and Jeff Jungk for their years of service to MSBA, as Treasure, Membership Chair, and Web Site Administrator respectively. It was announced at the Annual Membership Meeting, held in conjunction with the 2020 Virtual Fall Conference, that these individuals had communicated to the Nominating Committee that they did not intend to seek re-election to serve an additional term in 2020-2021. They each have been great assets to MSBA, serving important leadership roles and as a part of the Board. Their retirement creates vacancies that will be filled by appointment in the coming weeks.

Goals as President

Our newsletter does not permit me the space here to fully elaborate on my vision and goals for MSBA going forward. However, I will share a few thoughts:

1. Communicate better – both internally (among the MSBA Leadership team), and also externally (to MSBA Members and the public);
2. Greater inclusion of beekeepers from across the entire State to be involved as leaders of MSBA, involving individuals from more local clubs;
3. Per the current by-laws, inclusion of an elected Representative from every local beekeeper club and association to attend and have input in all Board of Directors meetings;
4. Calendar and schedule regular Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings, monthly and bi-monthly respectively;
5. Renewed focus on MSBA’s purposes and objectives:
 - Education – a primary and major objective of MSBA. “*Education of future and established beekeepers, ... and those interested in honey bees (Apis mellifera)* – especially focusing on 2nd and 3rd year beekeepers, and beyond;”
 - Local Clubs -- encourage and support local beekeeping clubs and associations across the State, and assisting the formation of new groups;
 - Best Management Practices (BMPs) – recommend and encourage *BMPs, based on current scientific research and recognized recommendations*; and
6. Equal opportunities for all MSBA members, insofar as possible;

Current Actions

As President, I have appointed Michael Mollohan as MSBA's new representative to the Great Plains Master Beekeeping (GPMB) program, as a member of their Governing Advisory Board. Also, Gregg Hitchings was appointed as Alternate. Charlotte Ekker-Wiggins will attend if neither are available.

Also, since "education" is such a primary objective of MSBA, I have renamed the GPMB Task Force to reflect that objective focus, and appointed it as a committee. Its new name is, "*Education and GPMB Committee*." They will report to the Executive Committee, as previously tasked, and ultimately to the Board of Directors.

MSBA 2021 Spring Conference

MSBA's 2021 Spring Conference is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 2021. Regrettably, it appears that it will be necessary to plan for this conference to also be an "online virtual conference," rather than our preferred "in-person conference" format. Bruce has shared that he is working on final details in scheduling Kim Flottum, Editor of

"Bee Culture" magazine, as a key speaker. It will be similar to our recently held 2020 Virtual Fall Conference, but it may provide for some "break-out session" opportunities. Stay tuned for details.

Gregg Hitchings also advises that he is hopeful for an in-person MSBA 2021 Spring Field Day. However, if not possible, we may have to creatively consider how to do something virtually. Details to be announced at a later date.

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact me, at any time, with your input, ideas, or just to ask a question. My contact information follows below. In the meantime, to quote George Imirie Jr., (my posthumous mentor) "*be a bee- keeper, not just a bee-haver*." Your bees will thank you

Randy J. Ewart, President
Missouri State Beekeeper Association
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Email: rewart1beek@gmail.com

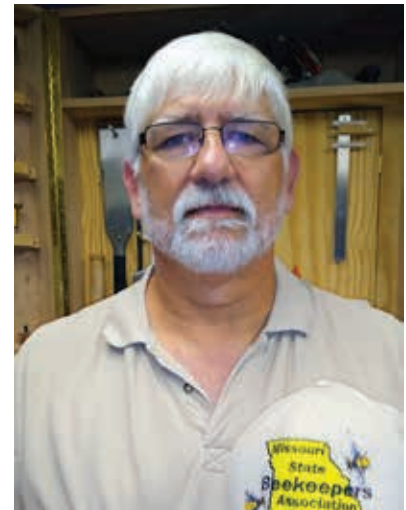
Meet Your New Vice-President

Mike Mollohan has mid-western roots growing up in Wichita, Kansas. Working his way through high school, he learned to love being outdoors working on the farm of a neighbor, spending summers harvesting, planting, haying and learning the ropes of farm life. After high school, realizing farming was out of reach for him, Mike went to work for Cessna Aircraft, but soon found factory life not his cup of tea. In 1976 the Air Force called his name and off to Basic and Technical Training he went and from there, into the world of "Air Traffic Control". He spent four years in the Air Force, then sidestepped directly into the Federal Aviation Administration, spending the next 28 years working in control towers and radar approach controls around the country. Mike retired from the Air Traffic Control field in 2008 after 32 years of Federal Service. After a couple more years working in Washington, D.C. as a consultant to the FAA on Organizational Improvement and Labor Issues, he retired permanently in 2011.

Mike's hobbies include traveling, woodworking, playing banjo/guitar, grandchildren, and for the last five years, keeping bees. Some of his larger woodworking projects have been 2 Cedar Strip Canoes, a Cedar Strip Sea Kayak, and numerous smaller

wood projects. After buying his first packages of bees in 2016, it has been a roller coaster ride of failures and successes in beekeeping. Now keeping between 25 and 30 colonies of bees in "Papa Mike's Apiary", Mike is committed to promoting education in Beekeeping and is currently studying and working towards his Master Beekeeping Certification. He is the Clay County, Missouri 4-H Beekeeping Advisor, belongs to Northland Beekeepers Club, and has been a member of MSBA since 2017.

Mike and his lovely wife Karen have known each other since high school and just celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary. They have two daughters, 8 grandchildren, one great granddaughter, and another great granddaughter on the way.



First Virtual Conference Success!...continued from front page

Here's a brief introduction to our Spring Conference speakers.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, March 13, 2021

Tina Sebestyen keeps bees in top bar, Langstroth, and long Langstroth hives. She learned beekeeping from wonderful mentors, "old guys", as well as through mentoring as founder of the Four Corners Beekeepers Assoc. She is vice president of the Colorado State Beekeepers Assoc. and is currently working to produce the Master Beekeeper Program for the state of Colorado. She writes for the American Bee Journal and Bee Culture magazines (along with some bee journals from abroad) from her farm in SW Colorado, and speaks about bees everywhere she gets the chance.



Tina's presentations:

All About the Queen: Ever wonder why the queen lays eggs in supersedure cells when she knows it will cause her demise? Why do some colonies go to laying workers so quickly? Why are some queens fat, and some thin? It matters, and she explores why, and how to get better developed queens. She will talk about when to replace a queen, and how to do it without loss, and so much more.

Fat Winter Bees: We've all heard about fat winter bees. In this talk she will explore what makes them different from short-lived summer bees. I'll talk about how we can influence the timing and numbers of fat winter bees, and how to keep them healthy.

Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Walsh is originally from Wisconsin, where she began beekeeping in high school and working part-time for a nation-wide beekeeping supply store. Liz went to Ripon College, where she earned her Bachelor's in Biology and English in 2014. She finished her Ph.D in 2019 at Texas A&M University after working in Dr. Juliana Rangel's laboratory, where her Ph.D studies centered around the effects of miticide exposure on honey bee queen health. Liz is currently a postdoctoral research



fellow at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, where she works on honey bee health and disease ecology in Steve Pernal's laboratory in Beaverlodge, Alberta.

Dr. Walsh's presentations:

IPM: History, Myths, and Practices: This is a talk for all levels of beekeepers that discusses integrated pest management in beekeeping. We clear up various misconceptions about IPM by talking about what it actually is (describing the IPM pyramid with examples, talking about creative solutions to pest infestations, and when it is appropriate to break out the pesticides).

Honey bee Queen Health is impacted by their rearing environment: This is a talk where she shares about her dissertation research, so she shares the results of her PhD work. She found that queens reared in miticide-laden environments had lower egg laying rates and different pheromones (in addition to other results, some which were expected and some which weren't).

Kim Flottum was Editor of *Bee Culture* Magazine for 33+ years. He started a second magazine called *Beekeeping Your First Three Years* about 6 years ago for the huge flush of new beekeepers answering the call of helping the bees. He's written 5 books, ranging from beginner to advanced, on topics such as producing varietal honey to actually how to do honey tasting with Marina Marchese. His last is *In Business With Bees*. He is past President of The Connecticut State Beekeepers Association, The Ohio State Beekeepers Association, and has served as Director, and Chairman of the Board of the Eastern Apiculture Society. Kim and his wife Kathy, who is Associate Editor and Graphic Design Specialist for *Bee Culture*, live in Northeast Ohio with their cats, chickens, ducks and gardens. After retiring at the end of 2019, Kim ramped up his Agricultural Podcast Production Company, called Growing Planet Media, so he hasn't slowed down a lot, but he does get to sleep in once an occasion.



continued on page 6

Vendor Door Prize Winners

DADANT

Smoker

Corinne Collins, Debra Maier, Wendy Borders

AP23 Winter Patties

Ericka Clark, Caleb Gunlock, Cynthia Dunnaway

Hats

David Draker, Jeff Jungk, Greg Holler, Ed Wohlford

MANN LAKE

\$25 Gift Card

Mark S. Brandt Jr.

CROOKED HILL BEEKEEPING

\$10 Gift Cards

Patrick Mullins, Neil Johnson, Mark Burr, Hannah Gebhardt

Virtual Conference...

continued from page 5

Kim's presentations:

Make Your Bees Pay Their Way: This is a talk on making bees pay their way, which is marketing for beekeepers.

Honey House Fundamentals: This talk covers planning and building a honey house, the equipment you have and will have to put in it, using that equipment, problems and solutions, and post-harvest use of the equipment, and the space in the honey house. It is a very thorough look at what ends up being probably the most important space a honey producer has, second only to the choice of bee yard.

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MSBA Membership

Membership dues are \$10 per individual. To sign up, or renew your membership, visit www.mostatebeekeepers.org; you may make payment either by PayPal or mailing a check with your first and last names, address, telephone number, and email address. We gladly accept batch memberships if given the information on a typewritten list and either a check from the local club's treasurer or secretary. Notices for

renewal are sent out the month preceding your membership expiration.

Thank you for supporting MSBA!

Wanda Johnston (Retiring)

MSBA Membership

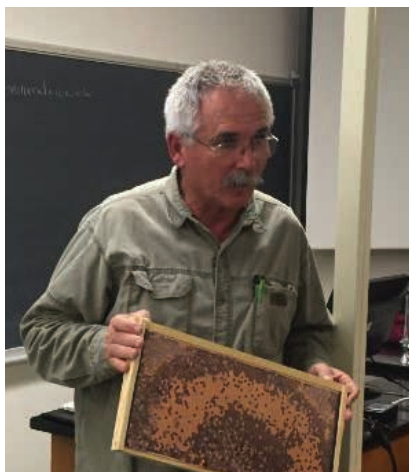
401 NW Hedy Avenue

Ferrelview, MO 64163

email: bees@kc.rr.com

MSBA 2020 Award Recipients

The 2020 MSBA Award recipients were announced at the Annual Membership meeting.



Gregg Hitching
Beekeeper of the Year
Parkland Beekeepers Association



Kari Ehlers
Junior Beekeeper of the Year
Midwestern Beekeepers Association



David Draker
Mentor of the Year
Rolla Bee Club



Wes and Wanda Johnston
Lifetime Achievement
Northland Beekeepers Association

Congratulations!

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Erin Mullins, *MSBA State Fair Coordinator*, emullins93@gmail.com

This year we awarded 2 individuals the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. They are Wes and Wanda Johnston from Ferrelview, Missouri. I got to know Wes and Wanda back in 2013 in Hamilton, Illinois at the Dadant Anniversary celebration. Wanda, at that time, had taken over as the Queen Chair and I was looking into applying for the position. I was lucky enough to serve 2 years with her as princess and queen. Wanda and Wes worked hard making sure my reign was successful and organized. They helped schedule events, drive me around the state, and cheered me on at speaking engagements. After Wanda retired as queen chair, she stepped in as Membership Chair and Wes joined the board as Treasurer. They are 2 of the most organized people I have ever met, and they helped the MSBA move from paper to computer and for that we will forever be grateful. Not only did they



help in their respective roles on the MSBA board, they saw a need to lend a hand at the Missouri State Fair. For the past 7 years they would help Dean Sanders, and now me, with the pre fair planning and would come and spend the 2 full weeks working the booth during the fair. I know Dean and I both appreciated all the hours and HARD work they put in helping us make the fair a success.

On behalf of the MSBA I want to thank you both for all the work you have put in over the years. This award is just a small token of our appreciation for dedicating your time to our organization. Congratulations!!



2020 Virtual Fall Conference Comments & Photos

"Great Session. Looking forward to the next session."

~ Phillip D.

*"Very enjoyable
& educational
presentation!"*

~ Pamela T.

*"Fantastic
presentation!."*

~ Tamra R.



*"Totally awesome! So glad
he [Dr. Ramsey] could
present at our conference!."*

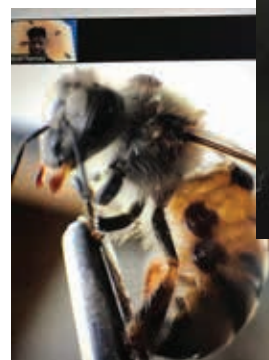
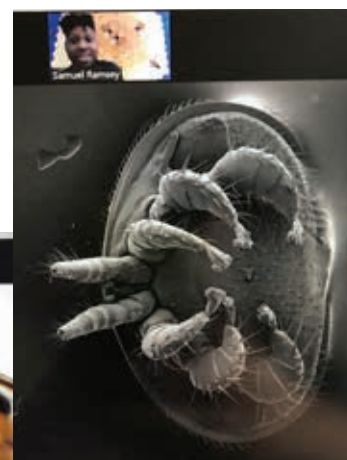
~ Cory S.

*"The pictures were
fantastic!."*

~ Hannah G.

*"Really great
presentations and
photos."*

~ Michael B.

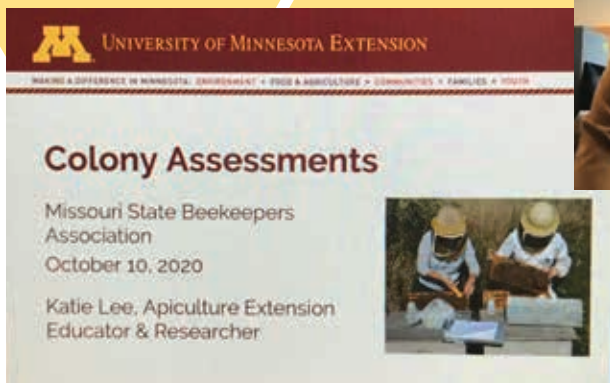


*"Terrific
presentaion
Samual!."*

~ Eric S.

*"You're a great
teacher! Thanks for
presenting to us!
Loved it!."*

~ Cynthia D.



2020 Virtual Fall Conference

Email Comments

"Thank you for putting together the meeting. I've heard Dr. Ramsey previously - always a pleasure to learn about his research."

~ Susan L.

"Conference Committee.

We would like to thank the committee for the great job putting together the virtual conference. We really enjoyed it, especially the presentations by Dr Katie Lee—very interesting helpful topics, excellent speaker and very good power point slides. Other speaker was good too. It was helpful to be able to take part w/o traveling and still learn a lot. Thanks again for the great conference."

~ Jess & Doris L.

"The conference was excellent! Both speakers were great and such a highlight to hear Dr. Ramsey in action. Thanks so much."

~ Gisela B.

"I actually loved the virtual - I was unable to attend all of it due to another activity I was involved with, but I was able to see quite a bit and listen while I was driving to town. Had it not been virtual, I would have missed the whole thing. This is the year for virtual conferences! I'm beginning to get used to them...."

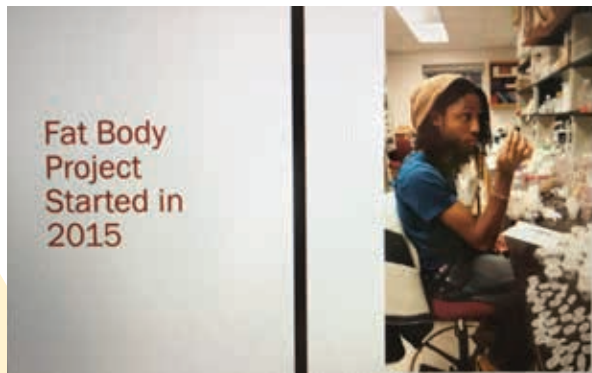
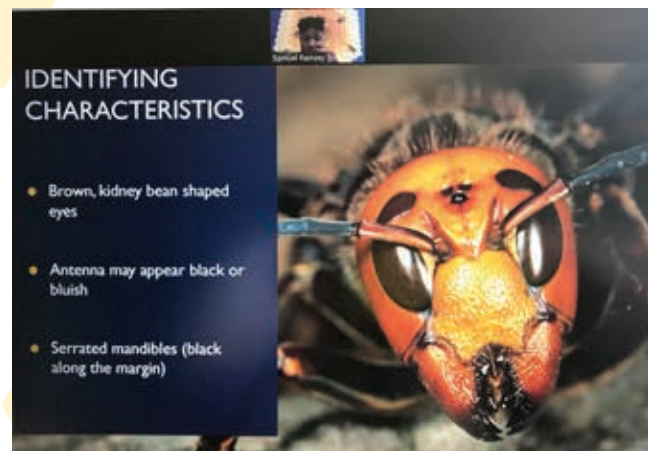
~ Frances G. Ed.D.

"Thank you program organizers for assembling the speaker lineup. Content was great and more factually informative than past MSBA conferences I have attended.

The Zoom delivery was excellent.

Thank you,"

~ Leon B.



"Dear Organizers, Thanks for forging ahead with the conference despite the challenges of holding an online event. It was great to have the opportunity to hear Drs. Ramsey and Lee. Unfortunately I had a commitment for the first part of the day which prevented me from attending until the afternoon sessions. I haven't heard

that any part of the conference will be made available to registered members after the fact but am eagerly hoping there might be a way to view the morning presentations now. Is that or will it be a possibility???

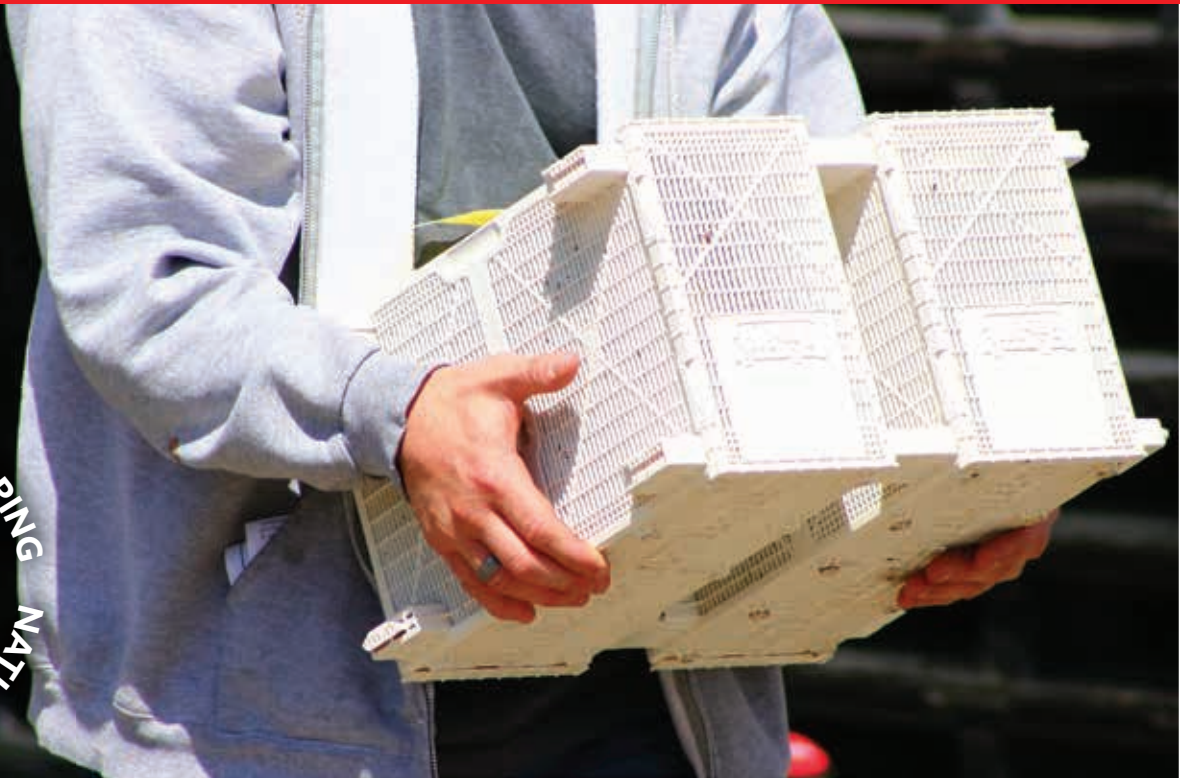
Thanks again. I'm glad to be a new member of MSBA"

~ Charity D-W, Dorsey, IL.

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Haven Hive: A Place of “Rescue” and Safety

Cathy Misko, *MSBA Legislative Liaison and Heartland Beekeeping Partnership,*
cathymisko@earthlink.net

I was introduced to the ecological art sculpture, “The Haven Hive”, in 2011. I chaperoned the MSBA 2011 Honey Queen, Lillian Misko to the 1st Haven Hive erected at 18th Broadway, Kansas City, MO. The dedication had nearly 300 people, celebrated with an outdoor feast for a king, and we were able to get up close and personal to “The Queen(s) and her Bees” via Miss Lillian’s Observation Hive. The artist, Jarrett Mellenbruch, a 3rd generation beekeeper had envisioned the art sculpture to help save the bees in a world of adversity (<http://DeepEcologyProject.com/>).

Fast forward, September 17, 2020, when Grant Gillard and I promoted Nation Honey Month by presenting Health Benefits of Honey, Cooking with Honey, and Honey Extraction at Powell Gardens (<https://powellgardens.org/>). After the program, I was escorted to where Powell claimed a swarm lit that week and built an open hive to their Haven Hive. Sure enough!

What was purposed to “save the bees”, the bees did not recognize; nor do they always “know what is best” as many people claim. The bees did not choose to enter the Haven Hive cavity but to build at record speed, their nest on the outside. The bees hung under the hive. I could see 5 newly built combs, however most of the bees, in festoon, were swaying in the breeze. It was obvious that the comb was new and not an overflow of a nest within the Haven Hive.

Game plan: Notify Powell Gardens that the colony is in need of rescue or it will certainly perish. I would need permission, a lift to reach the colony 16 feet up, and a gentle bee vacuum. I appealed on Facebook for any beeks that could help me with the vac. Jeffrey Maddox, Springfield, responded that he would make the 2 ½ hour trip as soon as possible. By the time all of our ducks were in a row, including after I returned from out of town, the October 5th Rescue was reserved. It was perfect! The garden would be closed; however we did not anticipate temperatures would dip down into the 30’s. I prayed nightly for those little bugs, that they would hang on until we could get to them. Supplies were gathered: 10 frame deep and medium boxes with bottom board, inner cover, and lid; 5

frame deep nuc box; EZ Nuc with brood combs; and extension pole with attachment, smoker, lighter, sharp hive tools, razor knife, scissors, water sprayer, painters tape, stapler, entrance screen, ratchet straps, empty deep and medium frames, thick rubber bands, wire, wood skewers, queen catcher and cage. Oh, extra bee suits were also thrown into the truck! Jeffrey (<https://www.afuturewithbees.com/>), does about 40 rescues a year and uses pre-wired frames which is new technique for me. I have always used rubber bands to secure combs. (I still arrived with a wrist bracelet of rubber bands, just in case!)

The faithful day was gorgeous. Upon arranging for the lift and a power source early in the morning with Powell’s team (Mark, Travis, and Troy), I witnessed bald-faced hornets, yellow jackets, and bumbles robbing the hive. A dead hornet laid on the ground so I was reassured of the girls’ strength but was concerned they would be agitated from all the robbing;

also unknown was attitude genetics or if the bees were hungry and grumpy. When Jeffrey arrived, it was time to don our harnesses. Mine was sleek, Jeffrey’s had a huge woven rope that resembled something Tarzan would use! My veil on, Jeffrey left his in the cart! A bobcat skid, mastered by Troy Young, Supervisor, Maintenance, the Powell Bobcat controller, lifted us with jerks of tilt, level, lift, tilt, level, lift; like a “Worlds of Fun” ride, right up to fingers’ touch of the bees. Exhilarating!

Using a razor knife and bare-hands supporting the comb, I had the privilege of the first cut. Jeffrey pressed an upright frame into this

Travis Freeman, Lead Horticulturist Core Gardins, beside an orchard ladder.



*MSBA 2011 Honey Queen
 Lillian Misko and Haven Hive Artist
 Jarrett Mellenbruch*



Haven Hive: ...continued

freed outside comb. I rested it against the top bar and like plucking a guitar string with my pinkie, I eased the bottom wire a smidge lower on the comb. Jeffrey proceeded to lay the frame down, tighten and thread wire, securing the comb. A final staple was shot, holding the end wire tight. Fantastic! The wire supported the tender comb in a way that rubber bands never would. I am a believer! What a gift for Jeffrey to volunteer his time, travel, frames, and show me such wiring skill!

The next comb was longer, full of capped brood and dancing bees with loaded pockets of orange, yellow and white pollen! Not much honey was noted. Jeff took a frame to measure and made a score mark to where the comb should be cut to fit into the deep. He then cut as I held the heavy comb stable on each side, and lightly so to not squish capped brood. We did this for eight whole frames. Bumbles visited the comb to rob; bees were so busy packing pollen and nectar, they seemed to not care!

The last comb was attached longitudinally in two sections to the 16-foot pole...as I released them, I said, "Ok girls, you do not need to pole dance any more"! Light smoke was handy but not used on the bees until now. We had not spotted the queen and figured she had raced behind the comb...we stretched to look but decided to try and chase her out with the smoke. Nope! We pressed a frame of brood comb against the residual bees on the Haven Hive and Miss Royalty came running! Picking the queen up by her wing "handles" Jeff placed her into a

queen clip assuring safe travels.

The 3-week colony filled 8 frames of a 10 frame deep. No disease noted, no varroa on capped brood, bee pupae was young and before purple eye stage. Really docile bees. Out of 3.5 hours of gently handling them, no stings, or sounds of agitation. We closed them up, tape seams, and ratcheted the hive. Troy received

the honor of pulling the hive off the platform.

Jeffrey and I were lifted back up to ratchet a light weight EZ Nuc to the Haven Hive to gather left behind bees until morning. We attempted to smoke and scrape comb off the Haven Hive bottom platform so field bees would choose our nuc instead of their past comb. We even scooped "bare" handfuls of returning bees onto the EZ Nuc porch as added encouragement. Hived-bees were transported to my apiary to be babied for the winter. Entrance reducer was inserted and a top feeder of 1:1 syrup added to help encourage the queen to lay, young bees to build comb, and to reattach the cut comb to their new frames.

Next morning, before dawn, I returned to collect remaining field bees. Again, I donned the harness and giggled with glee as the bobcat jiggled me back up to the hive through the magical glow of Christmas lights. A 32-ounce cup sized tight cluster was draped outside from the original comb imprint. Bees' pollen pockets were loaded. I scooped them into an ice cream bucket, covered with a veil, and secured all with my rubber bands! Next, I released the nuc, praying that bees took refuge inside. YES! A tight cluster covered the whole deep brood frame. I estimated about 3 pounds of field bees were recovered. Well worth the effort! I was rewarded with a symphony of the birds' morning serenade welcoming the breathtaking glorious light of a new sunrise! After 3 days of feeding, the girls attached their comb to the frames. Next, they will receive a medium of brood comb with stores followed by a super of honey to get them through the winter. Now, "Do the bees know best?" Maybe they did in this case! Perhaps they knew that a team would rally and provide their essential rescue! Long live the queen!



Open air comb under the Haven Hive



*First Comb!
Jeff Maddox and Cathy Misko*



Beautiful Queen Bee!

Missouri Heroes to Hives Beekeeping Registration Starts November 1, 2020

Charlotte Ekker Wiggins, *MSBA Partnership Liaison, msbacharlotte@gmail.com*

Enrollment for the free 2021 Missouri Heroes to Hives beginning beekeeping program opens Nov. 1, 2020. Registration continues through March 15, 2021. The program is open to military veterans and their families 18 years of age and older. Register at www.heroestohives.com.

Online classes begin in late March. For more details on the program and how to register:

https://youtu.be/D_OFNqtBGmg

With the launch of this program, Missouri becomes the first state chapter of the Heroes to Hives program. According to Missouri AgrAbility State Director Karen Funkenbusch, the program supports veterans to learn beekeeping.

Army veteran Adam Ingrao, an agricultural entomologist at Michigan State University Extension, and his wife began Heroes to Hives. It promotes the financial and personal wellness of veterans through training and community building.

Since Heroes to Hives began in 2015, more than 900 military veterans and their dependents completed the program. They manage more than 4,000 beehives in the United States.

Travis Harper, MU Extension agronomist and beekeeper, will teach the hands-on Missouri portion of the program. Harper has been a beekeeper for more than 30 years. He and retired MU Extension horticulturist James Quinn began the Missouri Master Pollinator Steward program through MU Extension.

Harper said student veterans will gain beekeeping knowledge and learn the important role of pollinators in agriculture. They will learn to protect honeybees through small-scale sustainable beekeeping operations.

Michigan State University Extension educators will teach the 9-month online program. The course includes self-paced sessions from March to November. After students complete the classroom portion, MU Extension educators give hands-on training at an established apiary at University of Central Missouri's research farm.

Students will learn about hive handling and inspection, pest and disease management and ergonomics during monthly



sessions. "Veterans will leave the Heroes to Hives program with knowledge as well as personal and professional relationships that open up new opportunities," Harper said.

Funkenbusch, who heads Missouri's Beginning Farmers and Ranchers program, says Missouri is home to about 442,579 veterans making the transition from military life to civilian life. Their challenges include anxiety, depression, service-related health issues and disabilities, and finding career opportunities that are personally rewarding.

"These challenges are exacerbated by the loss of the camaraderie and support inherent in military units. Transitioning vets often feel a sense of isolation and loss," said Funkenbusch. "Heroes to Hives offers veterans a chance to reconnect with their brothers and sisters in arms with a common mission of protecting the most important managed pollinator on the planet."

Heroes to Hives Missouri receives support from the MU Extension, USDA-NIFA, Missouri AgrAbility and Missouri Beginning Farmers and Ranchers project.



University of Missouri Extension agronomist and long-time beekeeper Travis Harper will teach the hands-on portion of the Heroes to Hives Missouri program. The program helps veterans learn how to do beekeeping. (Photo by Tevin Uthlaut)

How to Meet Online

Charlotte Ekker Wiggins, *Co-Founder Rolla Bee Club*, msbacharlotte@gmail.com

Some bee clubs continue to struggle with how to resume meeting safely in person. Frankly meeting online can seem daunting but it's not that difficult. If you already have an organized bee club, you will continue to do the same things you've always done except organize, and deliver, the information online.

As much as we may miss seeing each other in a group setting, the online meetings are actually easier to run. Everyone is working from their respective offices and homes instead of spending hours setting up meeting rooms. The pre-meeting organizing sessions can also be easily held online, providing an opportunity to "train" club volunteers on how different online platforms operate.

By this point in COVID 19, most of us have heard of Zoom, the online meeting platform used by many to connect. There are a few others you can try, depending on how many club members you have and your club budget:

- FreeConferenceCall.com. Donation-based, focused on serving students and non-profits, they include suggested donation amounts.
- GotoMeeting.com \$12/month for 150 participants.
- Skype.com. Free meetings up to 50 participants; recordings that last 30 days.
- Zoom.com Free for 40-minute meetings; \$150/yr for up to 100 participants. You will need to download the application to be able to use the meeting functions. They also have a mobile phone application.

Choose Your Meeting Platform



Put those beekeeping books to good use to hold your laptop computer at eye level for online meetings. (Photos by Charlotte Ekker Wiggins)

Running an online meeting requires pre-meeting planning and practice. If you've never run an online meeting, plan for 1-2 practice sessions so everyone becomes familiar with all of the available functions. Knowing where the mute button is and how to bring someone into the meeting are important for everyone to have a good experience.

Download the meeting application you decide to use. All of the listed applications have orientation videos giving you an overview of their platform and what buttons to push where.

Most applications also have several ways to join them. If you don't have the application downloaded, you may need a password to join in.

Get Ready to Meet

- Set up the computer camera so that it is straight on or a little higher than where you are when you're sitting. You want to be talking to people, not down or up at them.
- Use natural lighting when possible. When meeting evenings, use lights in front and around your face, not to the side or behind you or you will become a shadow.
- Check the visual and audio backgrounds to make sure it is not too busy or distracting. Turn off any machines; dehumidifiers and such during your meeting, your microphone will amplify the sound they make. You may not realize it but participants may not be able to hear you or may be highly distracted.

Practice Meeting Online

If you haven't managed an online meeting before, have a dress rehearsal with meeting assistants so you all are familiar with how the service works.

It's helpful to have several people focused on particular aspects of running an online meeting;

1. Help with meeting log-in
2. Tech support during the meeting
3. Chat room monitoring
4. Timekeeper
5. Plus who will be moderating and who will be making presentations and on what topics.

Prepare for Your Online Meeting

To have an effective online meeting it helps to be organized and share information with participants prior to the meeting.

How to Meet Online ...continued

- Share an agenda a week prior to the meeting with background information so everyone knows what to expect and what roles they play.
- Keep online business meetings to a maximum of an hour if at all possible.
- Take a 10-minute break if going longer.
- Allow for an informal conversational time for participants to share and ask questions.

You're Now Meeting Online

Whoever is running the meeting should be focused on this particular meeting. Turn off all computer notifications and close all other computer programs. This will improve bandwidth and ensure the smoothest audio and video transmissions. Your cat crashing the meeting is a different story.

To open the call, ask everyone to use the chat box to say hello. It is a good way to get people focused and comfortable with technology.

Request that all board members use and turn on their video camera (if they have one), so everyone can be seen and heard during the meeting.

If people sound wonky, have them turn off their video and just use audio.

Let participants know that the board chair will recognize them before speaking to avoid everyone talking at once.

Ask everyone to use their mute button when they're not speaking to silence background noises from kids, pets and others working at home.

Consider using the chat box, poll and quiz functions to enhance the efficiency of your meeting:

Use the chat box to ask for a motion, second and other brief responses.

Use a poll for yes/no questions and asking for feedback on proposed actions.

Allow extra time for questions throughout the meeting. People may need more time to process the information being shared, and it will take longer to hear and respond to questions.

Finally, provide a written record of the meeting in addition to post-meeting access to a meeting recording for those who missed the meeting.



*David Draker, Rolla Bee Club,
talking to bee club members via a Zoom meeting.*

Charlotte Ekker Wiggins has a master's degree in management from Webster University and is the 2014 co-founder of an educational non-profit Missouri bee club.



Congratulations David!

"I snuck over to David Draker's house after the announcement that he got MSBA's Mentor of the Year to give him a bottle of wine from one of our students; a spring gift after we got the student's apiary back up and running." ~ Charlotte Ekker Wiggins

Great Plains Master Beekeeping in Missouri-Update

Gregg Hitchings, *MSBA Master Beekeeper Liaison to GPMB*, gregghitchings@gmail.com

Yes, Covid 19 has slowed advancement of the Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program (GPMB) in Missouri but activities certainly have not ground to a halt. The MSBA committee assigned to oversee this program has been meeting regularly in 2020 through Zoom. Serving on this committee are Mike Mollohan, Charlotte Wiggins, Tamra Reall and myself. Advisors to the committee are Randy Ewart, MSBA President, and Clayton Lee and Cory Stevens, both MSBA past presidents. Mike Mollohan is also serving as MSBA's representative on the GPMB Governing Committee.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) has tested and approved MSBA's Cory Stevens and myself, Gregg Hitchings, as Great Plains "Provisional" Master Beekeepers. Cory previously attained status as a certified master beekeeper through the Eastern Apiculture Society and I obtained mine through the University of Florida's master beekeeping program. Our provisional status in the master level of the GPMB program allows us to instruct, administer written "test-out" quizzes and proctor in-hive examinations of qualified experienced beekeepers who wish to help with the GPMB program at the journeyman level.

A charter instructor cadre is needed to carry this program to every corner of Missouri. That's the immediate focus of our committee and the reason Cory and I traveled

to Nebraska for UNL examinations. Our intent is to hit the ground running, as soon as Covid allows it, with the recruitment and selection of these instructors. Check out the next MSBA newsletter, we should be able to share more information then.



Sheldon Brummel, Great Plains Master Beekeeping Project Coordinator, seated and taking notes, tests MSBA's Cory Stevens' knowledge and skill level in advanced honey bee management.



*Photo by MSBA Member:
Mike Wagner*

MSBA Swarm List • MSBA Honey Locator • MSBA Speaker List • Bi-Monthly Newsletter
Discounted subscription to American Bee Journal magazine • Discounts to MSBA Conferences
Educational Resources • Tracking Missouri Legislative Issues
Partnerships Missourians for Monarchs (150 agencies)
Partnered with University of Nebraska; Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program
Education Booth at Missouri State Fair • Support and assist local clubs through Regional Directors
Spring and Fall Conferences and an Annual Field Day • Supports Heartland Apiculture Society
Support Researchers; Randy Oliver and Samuel Ramsey
MSBA Membership in the American Beekeeping Federation and the Honey Producer Association

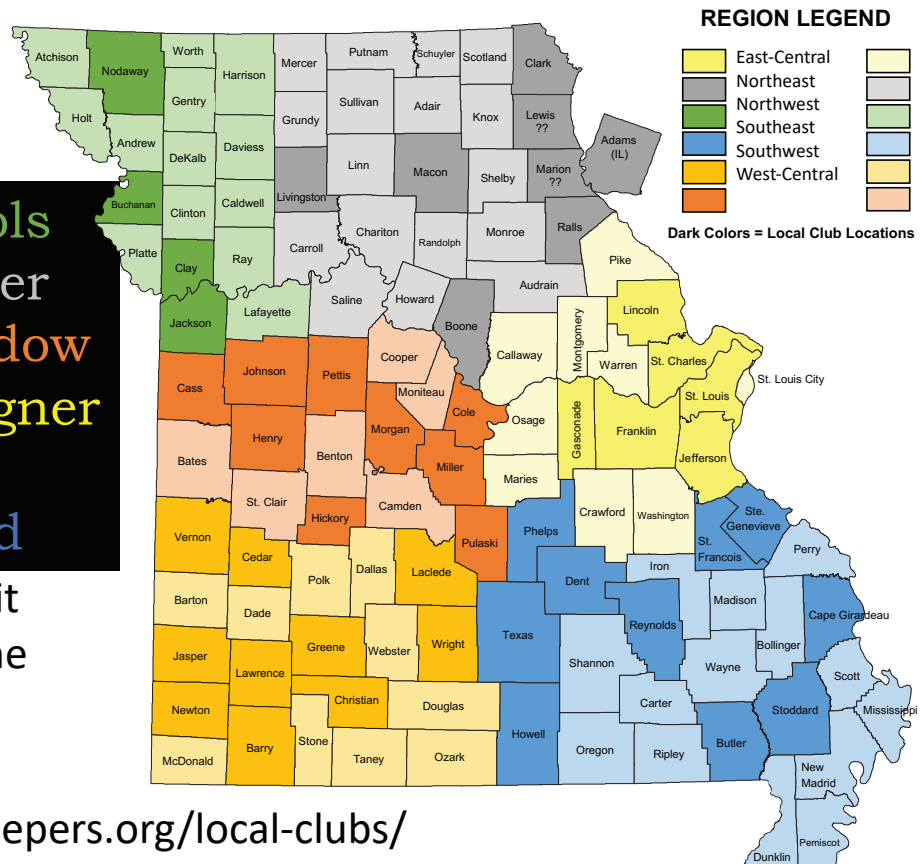
MSBA is building a list of speakers for local clubs and other public associations to utilize.

To find a speakers visit: mostatebeekeepers.org/speakers/

Northwest- Roger Nichols
Northeast- Bob Brammer
West-Central- Ray Shadow
East-Central- Mike Wagner
Southwest- Val Nichols
Southeast- Jeff Mayfield

Where is my Local Club?

Local Club Finder- mostatebeekeepers.org/local-clubs/



Save the Date to Volunteer at the 2021

State Fair

August 12th – 22nd

Free Admission

Ticket for all Volunteers



Teach at the observation hive

Interact with Kids



More information coming soon!



Answer Questions
Meet other MO Beekeepers



Want to get the word out about your local honey?

The **Missouri State Beekeepers Association** can now help you do just that!

The **MSBA** has created a list, and a map, where **MSBA members** can post honey and honey products for sale to help people in your area find your 'local honey' via the MSBA website (www.mostatebeekeepers.org).

If you would like to get on the **Local Honey** list go to <http://www.mostatebeekeepers.org/local-honey-form/> and fill out the form to apply. Once your form is submitted, we will verify your membership and add you to the list and map. We will be sharing the link to the local honey map on social media and other outlets and suggest all members do the same so we all can help bring local honey to the public!

You will be asked multiple questions and will need to 'educate' your customers. Please be patient and understanding at the same time and remember you are representing your association when working with the public. Just think back to the time when you were a new 'bee'.

If you have any questions, please contact **Kyle Day** at westcentraldir@mostatebeekeepers.org

MSBA Benefits Committee Just another great benefit for the members of the MSBA

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WANTED: BEEKEEPING RELATED PHOTOS FOR USE IN MSBA'S MARKETING MATERIAL

Do you have a great photo of your beehives, equipment or apiary? As an active member of the Missouri State Beekeepers Association you can submit your photos (with full credit given) for use in any communications/marketing material. List of shots wanted are listed below, but not limited. Photos will be used in the Newsletter, Event Flyer's, Email Campaigns, Facebook Announcements, etc. When submitting photos please, provide your name and location (city, town, or county) to make sure credit is given properly. To submit photos, or for more information, email MSBAnewsletter@gmail.com

Queen Spotting
Honey Bee Closeup
Beekeeping Equipment
Beehives
Bee Yard
Bee on Flower
Snow on Bee Hives
Bee in Flight



Varroa Mite
Small Hive Beetles
Honeycomb
Honey Jars
Extracting Processes
Keeper looking into hives
Any other shots of interest



*Photos should be of good quality, not blurry/fuzzy, no less than 150 dpi (for best printing quality use 300 dpi).
MSBA reserves the right to reject photos not of printable quality or if subject matter is not appropriate or beekeeping related.*



Photo by MSBA Member:
Katherine Couturier
Columbia, Missouri

History Tidbit

Clayton Lee, *MSBA Past President Emeritus*

The Higginsville Smoker

As I mentioned earlier this year, R. B. Leahy was the first President of Missouri State Beekeepers Association. He started his Leahy Mfg. Company in Higginsville, Missouri with the intention of building "box-hives."

He was successful, but he also developed his own smoker (see photo). The first mention of the Higginsville Smoker in the *Progressive Beekeeper* magazine seems to be January 1895. I find several testimonials from satisfied customers, so it must have been a good one.

Most information and photo taken from: *The Progressive Beekeeper*, February 1, 1898, Page 59



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Advertising Opportunity

The Missouri State Beekeepers Association wants to give our members the best information and resources available for their beekeeping operations. This includes access to equipment and supplies. Starting in January 2020 you will be able to advertise in the MSBA Newsletter and reach members all across the state. With four ad sizes and very reasonable rates this will fit anyone's advertising budget.

Sizes and rates available

Full page..... (8.5" x 10")	\$100
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Quarter page(4.25" x 5")	\$35
Thumbnail(2.5" square)	\$20

Artwork specifications

Full color - 300 dpi
Saved as Print Quality/High Resolution
Outlined fonts and embedded images.

File formats acceptable;

PDF, PNG, JPG, TIFF, Adobe CC

Advertising that is not beekeeping related will not be allowed. Publication dates are within the first 15 days of issue month. Ads must be paid for before the issue month. Listed prices are per issue. Receive a 15% discount on half page or full page ad size when you pre-pay for all 6 issues. There are 6 issues per year; January, March, May, July, September, and November. A contract is available, if needed.

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\$20.00

For more information please contact the Newsletter Editor at MSBAnewsletter@gmail.com or send a message through our website to the Communication & Marketing Chair at <http://mostatebeekeepers.org/executive-committee/>

As an added Benefit your ad will also be posted on the website.

Know Your Board

The Missouri State Beekeepers Association is managed by an all-volunteer force of passionate beekeepers from across the state. Their diverse experiences and knowledge are evident when they work together as a team. Their goal is to bring the latest, scientifically-based best management practices and related issues to the MSBA membership.

To contact a committee/board member go to mostatebeekeepers.org/executive-committee/

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MSBA Legislative Liaison and Heartland Beekeeping Partnership	Cathy Misko
Education and Great Plains Master Beekeeping Committee	Randy Ewart Gregg Hitching Charlotte Ekker Wiggins Tamra Reall
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Executive Committee and Board members (left to right) (Seated) Mike Wagner, (Standing L-R) Wes Johnson, Amy Giffen, Kyle Day, Jeania Schmalhorst, Randy Ewart, Erin Mullins, Cory Stevens, Maxwell Helm, Jeff Mayfield, Roger Nichols, and Clayton Lee (not present) Cathy Misko, Charlotte Ekker Wiggins, Bob Brammer, Wanda Johnston and Gregg Hitchings