



THE WAGGLE



President's Message

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I ordered this clean wood box
Square as a chair and almost too heavy to lift
I would say it was the coffin of a midget
Or a square baby
Were there not such a din in it.

The box is locked, it is dangerous
I have to live with it overnight
And I can't keep away from it...

How can I let them out?
It is the noise that appalls me most of all,
The unintelligible syllables.

It is like a Roman mob,
Small, taken one by one, but by god, together!

"The Arrival of the Bee Box," Sylvia Plath,
1962

It won't be long before our boxes arrive! Until then we will be busy inside, together at our February and March events. Join us by acting quickly if you have put off registering until now. Our Beekeepers Banquet, featuring valuable beekeeping door prizes (you can't win if you don't play), and our Fifth Annual Work-

shop will be opportunities to have fun and take your beekeeping to the next level in the company of beekeepers from throughout the region.

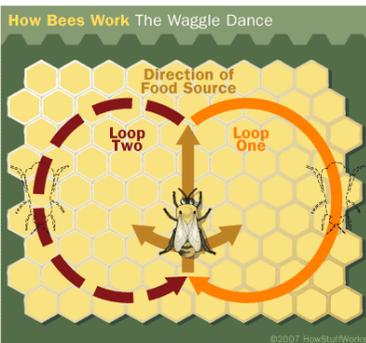
Everyone involved with the planning has done a terrific job. The best line so far belongs to Erin Forbes, one of our workshop faculty. During her appearance with Phil Minden and Julie Birkenmaier on KDHX, Jean Ponzi (See information below) asked Erin about stings. She replied that honeybees are the "golden retrievers of the bee family," and then added that "the passion and excitement of the beekeepers is the best thing that has ever happened to the bees."

Erin's optimistic spirit is so like the qualities of bees and their community in the hive that has offered a source of inspiration since antiquity! We and our bees face many challenges, but we have spring and summer ahead of us, rich in beekeeping events and opportunities.

Bob

KDHX Playlist Info: Earthworms (Talk) with Jean Ponzi on Mon Jan 23rd 2012 7.00pm-8.00pm
<http://kdhx.org/spinitron/playlist.php?station=kdhx&ptype=d&month=Jan&year=2012&playlist=6469>

Erin MacGregor Forbes - Overland Apiaries, Portland Maine "Julie Birkenmaier and Phil Minden - City of St. Louis Beekeepers" from Eastern MO Beekeepers - Annual Beginning/Advanced Workshop Feb 11 (www.easternmobeekkeepers.com www.overlandhoney.com) —Interested in keeping BEES? Check out Eastern Mo Beekeepers training - monthly programs - Mardi Gras Banquet on Feb 10 - Backyard Beekeepers are KEY to supporting pollinator populations!



Membership Renewal

Is it time for you to renew? Due to a glitch on the website, reminder emails did not go out to all with a January renewal date. Individual and Family memberships are available on line, and don't forget to "Edit your Details" including address and phone number. There's nothing like trying to PAF (Phone a Friend) for advice and encouragement only to discover that the information is not there! We hope to publish a Member Directory this year. If needed, paper renewal forms are available at each meeting. Please see Loren.

St. Louis Regional Beekeepers' Banquet

Are you planning on attending the Beekeepers' Mardi Gras? We will be gathering on **Friday, February 10th, 6:00 - 9:00 pm**, for good food, music, and fellowship at Maritz, Fenton, MO! Jennifer Berry will present the after dinner remarks. Reservations must be made by **February 4th** on the EMBA website! Cost is \$30 per person if attending the EMBA Workshop, \$35 if not.

Some very special DOOR PRIZES have been planned and include a Complete Hive Kit, a Refractometer, a Nuc Box, a Nucleus Colony, and other items.

Our vendors will be Dadant & Sons, Inc., Hamilton, Illinois and Isabees, St. Louis, Missouri dealer for the Walter T. Kelley Company, Clarksville, Kentucky, and club members with their products of the hive

The New Orleans Style Menu will include:

Mixed Field Greens Served with Citrus Vinaigrette
Cajun Roasted Breast of Chicken Served with Chipotle Peach Chutney
Red Beans & Rice with Kielbasa Sausage
Dirty Rice
Winter Vegetable Medley
Jalapeno Corn Muffins with Butter & Honey
Warm Bread Pudding with Bourbon Sauce
Ice Tea & Coffee

Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks available at the Cash Bar.
If additional information is needed, please call 636-744-1312.



Fifth Annual Beekeeping Workshop



Grant Gillard, President of the Missouri State Beekeepers Association and President of the Jackson Area Beekeepers.



Erin Forbes, President of the Maine State Beekeepers Association, and an EAS Certified Master Beekeeper



Jennifer Berry, Apicultural Research Coordinator and Lab Manager, University of Georgia

Have you signed up for the workshop? EMBA will offer courses of instruction for beginners and experienced beekeepers on Saturday, February 11, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Maritz in Fenton, Missouri. Tuition cost is \$90 per person. **Registration closes February 4th on the EMBA website.**

The Beginners Beekeeping course is intended for persons with no prior beekeeping experience. The class will cover all aspects of basic beekeeping to prepare students to start beekeeping in April, 2012. The Experienced Beekeepers' course will be tailored towards intermediate and expert level beekeepers, and will place special emphasis on spring management, nucleus colonies, queen rearing, mite control, and successful overwintering. More information is available by calling 314-894-8737.

Recipe of the Month: Butternut Squash Soup



Ingredients:

2 Tablespoons butter
 1 onion, chopped
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 3 carrots, diced
 2 celery stalks, diced
 1 potato, peeled and diced
 1 butternut squash, peeled, seeded and diced
 3 cans (14.5 oz. each) chicken broth
 1/2 cup honey
 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme leaves, crushed
 Salt and pepper, to taste

Preparation:

In large pot, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in onions and garlic. Cook and stir until lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Stir in carrots, celery, potatoes, squash, chicken broth, honey and thyme. Bring mixture to boil; reduce heat and simmer 30 to 45 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Remove from heat and cool slightly. Transfer mixture to blender or food processor; process until smooth. Return pureed soup to pot. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Heat until hot and serve. *Makes 6 servings*

National Honey Board

EMBA Calendar

Friday, February 10th – St. Louis Regional Beekeepers’ Banquet at Maritz, Fenton, MO. See EMBA website for more information.

Saturday, February 11th – 5th Annual EMBA Workshop at Maritz, Fenton, MO. See EMBA website for more information.

Monday, February 13th through Monday, March 5th - Phone orders for STL Beginner’s Hive Kits available from either Dadant or Kelley. See Workshop Program Booklet for additional information.

Wednesday, February 22nd - Beginner’s Orientation Meeting at Maritz, Fenton, MO, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Thursday, February 23rd through Saturday, March 10th - Order placement available on EMBA website for Queens and Nucs.

February 24, 25, & 26, 2012 – Three Rivers Beekeepers and the University of Missouri Extension Center for St. Charles County Beginner Beekeeping Class. Register online at www.ThreeRiversBeekeepers.com or call the Extension Center at 636-970-3000.

Friday - Saturday, March 9-10th – Missouri State Beekeepers Spring Meeting, St. Louis, MO. Speakers to include: Dr. Greg J. Hunt, Dr. May Berenbaum, and Jerry Hayes. Contests to be held include: Cooking with Honey, Bread, Brownies/Blondes, Jam/Jelly, Cheese-cake, Mead, and Beeswax Art.

Wednesday, March 14th - EMBA Meeting at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, 6:15 - 9:00 pm. “Spring Management and First Year Nuc Care”

Saturday, March 24th - Hive Assembly Workshop at Maritz, Fenton, MO.

Saturday, April 7th (Tentative Date) - Queen Delivery and Making Divides at the EMBA Apiary, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center near Olive Blvd. and North Warson Rd.

Wednesday, April 11th - EMBA Meeting at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, 6:15 - 9:00 pm.

Sunday, April 22nd - EMBA Booth at Earth Day Festival, Forest Park, Muncy Grounds. Volunteers will be needed.

Saturday, April 28th (Tentative Date) - Nuc Delivery at Maritz, Fenton, MO

Thursday - Saturday, July 12-14th – Heartland Apiculture Society Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO

Bee on the lookout for EMBA survey of your 2011 Bee Keeping Season!

EMBA will again conduct a survey of our members in mid to late February. The purposes of the survey will be to a) understand better the practices of our members, and b) to see if there are any associations between basic practices and important outcomes. For instance, we hope to understand rates of colony mortality, average honey production per hive, and if any of our basic practices are related to these outcomes.

Our plan is to make a simple electronic survey available through a link on email or our website, and have a 2-3 week window to complete the survey. We will ask all members who kept bees during the 2011 season to respond. So – keep your eyes open for the survey, complete it quickly, and help us to pursue our EMBA mission to: “broaden the knowledge of beekeeping among its members and to foster the best practices and techniques in apiary management”.

Michael Mueller

Beekeeping For Pleasure and Profit By Miranda Duschack

Beekeeping, once a common practice on farms, is again gaining in popularity. People across Missouri are trying their hand at keeping bees for pleasure and profit. Managed honeybees can benefit any farm or garden. The bees' pollination services will increase fruit set on cucurbits, strawberries, cherries and apples. Your honey harvest is a tasty, nutritious and profitable reward for successful management. Healthy hives will need to be divided annually to prevent swarming, so your stock will multiply naturally. Beekeeping can be highly satisfying, but because of its potential risks it takes thoughtful discernment before you begin. Consider the following:

- Are you or a family member allergic to honey bee venom? What is the severity of the allergy?
- Do you have a safe, private location for the beehives?
- Are you or a nearby neighbor spraying any pesticides that will kill the honeybees?
- Do you have the time to learn this skill?



Miranda Duschack with packaged bees

On average, 30 percent of non-treated colonies die each year. What is your philosophy regarding treatments for mites and infections? Honey sales are an easy way to profit financially from beekeeping. A well managed colony contains about 50,000 bees at its peak during late spring. The colony requires about 60 pounds of stored honey to survive the winter without supplemental feeding, but will store double or more than that poundage. Your honey harvest is this surplus. The average single colony honey harvest in Missouri is 60 pounds, although many beekeepers have reported 100-200 pound harvests per hive. The colony creates honey during nectar flows, when trees, shrubs and flowers are in bloom. Management increases during this time as beekeepers add empty bee boxes, called supers, for bees to fill. The spring nectar flow lasts from late April to Memorial Day at the end of May, with the summer flow lasting until late June or July, when clover normally stops blooming. It is during these lows that the beekeeper harvests the bees' excess honey. The going rate for bottled, extracted honey on the direct market is \$6.00-\$8.00 per pound. Cut comb sells for upwards of \$10 for a 4-inch by 4-inch square.

The beginning beekeeper starts with two colonies.

That way, if one is strong and the other weak, bees can be moved to shore up the failing population. At the start of April the beginner installs a package of bees into a brand new standard 10-frame hive of Langstroth design. Used equipment can harbor disease and chemical residues that may damage the colony and should be avoided. To ensure an early delivery date, the packaged bees and equipment must be ordered from retailers by the end of January. Assemble and paint the new hives by mid-March, so they are ready for the April installation. Pre-packed colonies come with about 3,000 bees and one queen. Over the course of the first spring and summer, the package of bees will become a colony and the population will grow into tens of thousands bees.

Packages, unlike nucleus colonies, grow slower, giving the beginner the opportunity to witness development. Beginners are usually enthralled while observing the growth and social behaviors of the colony, and become 'hooked' on beekeeping. The initial investment for two new hives with supers and foundation, protective equipment such as suit, smoker, gloves as well as hive tool and the packaged bees, is around \$700.

During the first year a colony started from package bees will build out wax comb on the foundation, grow in population and store honey for colony survival. Supplemental feeding will be required to assist in faster growth and at times when nectar is scarce, in order to prevent starvation. The goal for the first year is for the colony to build out the hive with comb, store honey for the winter and survive until spring. Do not expect to harvest honey the first year, but be prepared for second year harvests.

Local beekeepers' associations are an excellent resource for beginning beekeepers. Club members are eager to share their knowledge with a novice. Timely and informational presentations guide the audience through important topics relevant to the season, such as 'swarming' and 'fall inspections'. Meetings are a fine place to find helpful printed material, high quality bees, equipment and possibly even a mentor. Some clubs have portable extractors to loan or host extraction events for those without the equipment. Association membership fees are nominal and well worth the investment.

Innovative Small Farmers' Outreach Program (ISFOP): East Central Region, Volume 2 Issue 4, January—March 2012, www.lincolnu.edu,

Local Nuc's for Sale



Local over wintered NUCS for sale about May 10 2012 , WEATHER PERMITTING.

PRICE \$115.00 per Nuc. No frame exchange. A \$20.00 deposit is required on all orders.

NUCS to be picked up at my home in Dittmer, MO. Contact Bob Graham at 636-274-4609

Pollinating Bees Can Now Suppress Crop Pests by Peter Kevan



Grey mould on strawberries.

The busy bee just got more efficient by being tasked with biocontrol of plant pests. The proven method relies on dispensers that fit onto bumblebee boxes or honeybee hives. When the bees leave to pollinate, they brush by the dispensers, picking up biological agents that are left on the flowers. The one-way system prevents the agents from entering the bee hives on the return home with pollen or nectar. Various beneficial agents have proven effective in economic suppression of a number of crop pests on various crops.



Grey mould on raspberries

Strawberries and raspberries were early targets for this innovative research. Dispensers carrying beneficial fungi were set into the entrances of honeybee hives. The bees delivered the fungi to the flowers while pollinating them. The beneficial fungi took up residence in the flowers, but remained more or less inactive until the pollinated flowers produced ripening fruit. The result was the suppression of grey mould to such an extent that the shelf-life of the fruits was extended by about a week. Great for fresh markets, stores, and shipping! The effectiveness and cost was the same as the application of chemical fungicides.

More recently, the same idea has been applied in greenhouses where bumblebees are state-of-the-art pollinators of tomatoes, peppers and eggplant. The bee vector technology is now being used to suppress grey mould and several insect pests such as tarnished plant bugs, western flower thrips, white flies, peach aphids and cabbage looper. Other crops that have been tested include blueberries and sunflowers.

For sunflowers, tests from 2011 indicate that yields were boosted by more than 20 per cent, that banded sunflower moth was suppressed to below economic loss levels, and that the incidence of sclerotinia head rot was suppressed.

For lowbush blueberries in Maritime Canada, the incidence of grey mould and mummy berry was suppressed in tests completed in 2010 and 2011. The same technology can be applied to highbush blueberries.

Greenhouse growers now have access to commercial production of these biological agents for suppression of grey mould and insect pests, except cabbage looper. For sunflowers, strawberries and raspberries commercial availability is assured for the 2012 season for suppression of both fungal disease and some insect pest suppression. For blueberries, lowbush and highbush, some further testing is needed but interested growers can contribute as collaborator-growers.

At present the technology is tailored to bumblebee pollination. By 2013, it will become applicable to honeybees and their management. More crops are being added to the list to receive the quadruple benefits of better pollination, bigger and better crops, and protection from pests and diseases. These include apples and pears, canola, other small and tender fruits, and so on.

Costs are generally competitive with those for conventional, chemical, treatments but vary depending on various grower's practices, investments into pollination, crop blooming times, and other factors. At present, use of the technology is tailored to individual grower's needs.

The research and development have been a joint effort of scientists at the University of Guelph, Agriculture & AgriFood Canada, and partners in the Canadian Pollination Initiative (NSERCCANPOLIN). Growers interested in trying the technology for themselves, through buy-in or pre-commercialized testing can contact the scientific team at beevectoring@gmail.com. A web-page should be operational soon.

Peter Kevan is the scientific director of the Canadian Pollination Initiative (NSERC-CANPOLIN) www.uoguelph.ca/

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Hanh with Joy Stinger

Our January Guest Speaker Hanh Duc Pham, Director, Bee Research and Development Centre, Hanoi, Vietnam; gave an excellent presentation on pollinators and the importance of the honey bee to crop pollination and its economic value. He also addressed the various species of honey bees and beekeeping in Vietnam.

In addition he discussed the rapid growth of the Vietnamese economy. Change came in the mid-1980s, when Vietnam instituted reforms called *doi moi* that opened up the economy to foreign investment and introduced some forms of capitalism. Today, Vietnam's economy is the one of the fastest-growing in Asia.



Biker with bamboo fish traps

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Mission Statement

"To promote beekeeping generally; to broaden the knowledge of beekeeping among its members; and to foster the best practices and techniques in apiary management."

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of January 24, 2012

Checking Account Balance: \$22,466.36

Certificate of Deposit: \$1,682.10



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Find the EMBA Stl on and become a fan. Help spread the word about our club!

Articles and Pictures Sought for The Waggle

The Waggle Needs You! Please email short articles and/or pictures to info@easternmobeekkeepers.com. The editor reserves the right to use or keep material for a later issue. We are always on the lookout for interesting facts, figures and stories about honey bees and the art/science of keeping them. If you would like to be published in The Waggle, send your article!

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association will be on February 1st at 7:00 pm in the Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center (11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122)
Enter from side doors to the left.



Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association

Founded in 1939