

**2020 Newsletter of
The Marion County Beekeepers Association
FOUNDED 1971**



Check out our newly designed,
user-friendly website:
mcbawv.com

President's Message

Hi fellow Beekeepers,

I am hoping that 2020 turns out to be a great year for you and the honeybees. The honeybees need our support to sustain pollination and food for everyone. We all need to get the message out and educate people on what they may do to help protect honeybees - as well as other pollinating insects and birds.

As Beekeepers, we should try to purchase locally raised queens, Nucs, and packages to help our local members. This should help our honeybee's genetics and raise honeybees adapted to our local climate.

It would be great to see more members volunteer in 2020 as mentors, educators and help host our meeting. I again want to thank all members, board members, officers, mentors, the beekeeping instructors and the education grant committees as well as the sponsors of snacks at our meetings, for all their help and hard work this past year. It truly is appreciated.

In closing, I hope all have a productive & healthy 2020 New Year. I hope to see you in our first meeting in January 2020.

Sincerely,
Chuck Cienawski,
President MCBA

2020 MARION COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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MCBA Committees

Phone. Contact Amy Kaiser or Debbie Abel if you have a change of phone number or email address.

Mentors Coordinator. Louisa Householder

Refreshments. See Debbie Abel to sign up at the January meeting.

Library. Andy Holcomb

Association of the Year Application. David Ferreebe

WVBA Executive Board: Louisa Householder, President; Chuck Cienawski, Vice President; Tom Kees is the Marion Co. Representative; Otto Kaiser, Alternate; Aretha Kees, WVBA photographer and historian; Nancy Postlethwait, Budget and Finance Chairwoman.

WVDA Apiarist: Shanda King (304-840-3236) sking@wvda.us

Association of the Year - Marion County has won this award many times due to our participation in activities and education events. If you give public presentations, be sure to contact David Ferreebe.

MCBA Library – We have several books and DVDs available on display at each of our regular meetings and may be signed out and returned at the next monthly meeting.

Judy Wilhelm Youth Scholarship - MCBA offers the Judy Wilhelm Youth Beekeeping Scholarship. Marion County students between 12 and 17 are invited to apply for the award. Information is available on mcbawv.com.

Hive Registration - WV beekeepers are required to register their hives with the WV Department of Agriculture within 10 days of the date that they are acquired. WV Code 19-13-4 states that "All apiary certificates of registration expire on June 30 of each year and must be renewed annually."

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: In case Marion County Schools are closed or have an early dismissal, MCBA will not meet on that evening.



The WV DMV has issued a new license plate to promote pollinator awareness. It is now available at local DMV offices or online at <https://transportation.wv.gov/DMV/DMVFormSearch/DMV-46-TR-wf.pdf>

Mentors List – Volunteers who have offered to help if you have questions or concerns.

Chuck Cienawski (Fairmont) 304-534-3196	Louisa Householder (Bridgeport) (304) 844-0236
Amy & Otto Kaiser (Barrackville) 304-368-0609	Lisa & Barry Knicely (Rivesville) 304-290-9983
Nancy Postlethwait (Meadowdale) 304-366-9938	Bob Sapp (Fairmont) 304-657-3584
Ron Southern (Farmington) 304-612-4714	Gerald Winter (White Hall) 304-534-2537
Andrew Holcomb (White Hall) 304-376-1490	David Ferrebee (Boothsville) 304-940-9786

Honeybee Expo and Beekeeping School, January 25th -- A one-day workshop at WVU's Parkersburg Campus by the Mid-Ohio Valley Beekeepers from 8:30 – 4:00. Registration is from 7:30-8:30 am. Early registration is \$20, \$25 at the door, \$8 for children 12 and under. Lunch is extra and only available to those who pre-register. For information and registration forms, visit <https://movba.org>. Several bee supply vendors will be there - a complete list can be found on the above website. If you contact these vendors, they will bring your order and save you the shipping charges.

March 20th and 21st - WV Spring Conference will be held at the Randolph County Armory, hosted and sponsored by Barbour County Beekeepers Association, Highlands Apicultural Association and Upshur County Beekeepers Association. We will have more information on our website or look for registration forms in the WVBA Spring newsletter.

July 6-8 - HAS (Heartland Apicultural Society) 2020 Conference – University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, Indiana. There will be over 30 great speakers. For more info, go to www.heartlandbees.org or ask Tom Kees.

July 24th - PICNIC – FRIDAY. Beekeepers, family and friends are invited to spend a leisurely evening at East Marion Park Pavilion #1. The large pavilion across from the entrance to Wave Tek has been reserved starting at 4:30 p.m. MCBA will furnish meat for the grill as well as drinks, plates, cups, etc. for dinner around 6:00 p.m. - just bring your favorite covered dish. This is always a very informal, fun social event. Come spend an educational and entertaining evening with Wade.

August 3-7 – EAS (Eastern Apicultural Society) 2020 Conference in Orono, Maine. No further details available. If interested go to their website, easternapiculture.org.

October 2-3 - WVBA Annual State Meeting - Fairmont – to be held at the High-Tech Park in Whitehall. Meeting will be held on Friday afternoon and all-day Saturday. Consider entering one or all categories in the Show (Honey, Beeswax, Pollen, and Baking) – it's a lot of fun and a good learning experience! More info will be in the Fall Newsletter.

October 22nd – MCBA Annual Harvest Covered Dish Dinner – Eldora United Methodist Church. This is a very convenient location with a level parking lot and entry into the building. Ham, drink, and eating utensils will be provided. Plan to come out and share some good fellowship and great food.

Extracting Equipment for Rent—MCBA has extracting equipment for rent, including uncapping knife and tank. The cost is \$25 deposit with a \$15 refund when returned clean, within a 5-day period. A late fee may occur if returned late. Contact Chuck Cienawski (304) 534-3196.

Master Beekeeper Program. Steve Roth and Mark Lilly are co-chairmen for this program. This program has 3 levels: Apprentice, Certified and Master. While there are a few in our group on all three levels who are already participating, we would like to see more participation in the program. The testing is always done on the Friday morning before the Annual Meeting and the Friday evening before the Spring meeting if there is enough interest. For more information, ask one of our officers.

Magazines/Publications - The two best known national beekeeping magazines are Bee Culture and American Bee Journal. Annual rates are reasonable; (ABJ has a 25% discount for association members - ask Amy for the required form). Both Bee Culture and American Bee Journal have free computer bee news updates. You must register for these updates at their websites: info@beeculture.com (Catch the Buzz) and www.americanbeejournal.com for ABJ Extra. A 3rd source, "BEEkeeping: Your First Three Years" is a quarterly magazine published by Bee Culture, and only available where farming magazines are sold.

WV Market Bulletin - has a special section "Apiary Sales" for beekeepers. If you don't already get the WV Market Bulletin, you may request it by writing to: **The Market Bulletin**, WV Dept. of Agriculture, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., E., Charleston, WV 25305, OR you may receive it through email by contacting: marketbulletin@ag.state.wv.us

Sympathy: We extend our sympathy to all those who lost loved ones during last year. MCBA lost 4 members in 2019.

"Telling the Bees" – Obituaries - Submitted by Tom and Aretha Kees

David Lee Wilson, 66, of Fairmont, passed away January 20, 2019. David began beekeeping in 2018 after taking the Marion County Beekeepers Association's Beginning Beekeeping Classes with his sister, Terri Tennant. Terri said that David demonstrated real enthusiasm for working with his four hives. David had recently retired from Consol #22 Loveridge Mine after 34 years.

Thomas E. Lewis, 82, passed from this life on September 4, 2019. "Tommy", as he was known, worked as a home builder, WVDA bee inspector, and volunteer coach at East Fairmont High School. He played an important role in the reorganization of the WVBA. He was active with the Marion County Beekeepers Association around the same time. At one time he had 250 hives throughout the state. He enjoyed volunteer work in track, field and wrestling.

Joe Coe, 101, of Fairmont, passed away October 6, 2019, after spending a short time at the Morgantown Health and Rehabilitation in Morgantown after a fall. A World War II veteran, Joe worked as a watch repairman for 27 years at Lipson's Jeweler's. He retired from Ray's Jewelers after 15 years there. He was fascinated with honeybees and, with the encouragement of a neighbor, began keeping bees when he was around 35. He was a regular attendee at local bee meetings as long as his health permitted. An accomplished "fiddler" and violin maker, he won around 80 trophies and awards.

Alberta J. Walker, 91, passed on October 27, 2019. Formerly of Pleasant Valley, she and her husband, Stanley "Bill," were active members of the Marion County Beekeepers Association for years. Supportive of Bill's beekeeping efforts, she attended MCBA picnics and the annual harvest dinners. Bill passed away at age 90 in March 2016.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We all want to wish Wade Stiltner a happy retirement. He has been a good friend to us and will be missed. He still plans to be involved with beekeeping and occasionally speak at various events around the state. He has agreed to speak at our picnic in July. Come out and enjoy an evening with Wade. I'm sure it will prove to be interesting.

Some of you may have had your bees inspected by Shanda King last year. She has been appointed WVDA Apiarist to replace Wade. We are hoping the state will provide her with at least 2 part time inspectors. You can contact her at sking@wvda.us or 304-840-3236.

Included in this newsletter you will find the WV Beekeepers Liability Law and Best Management Practices. Read it over and if you have questions, we can address them at our regular meeting.

This summer was hard on our bees and the weather is expected to cause above average losses over the winter. Bee loss for winter 2018-2019 was estimated to be nearly 40%. This is not just a problem for honeybees, but all pollinators. I read an article suggesting that if all farms, large or small, would plant a wildflower border around fences and gardens, there would be an 8-fold increase in all pollinators. That would be a beautiful addition to any property.

Nancy

***** MCBA 2020 Program Schedule *****

January 23, Thursday 6-8 PM Eldora United Methodist Church	Annual dues and registration at 6:00 followed by a meeting at 7:00 with information on nucs, packages, and queens. Andy Holcomb will discuss Irradiation for sterilization and review library contents. Sign up for mentors and refreshments. Please fill out and bring the enclosed registration form and have correct payment.	
Feb. 27 - Thursday, 7-9 PM Eldora United Methodist Church	Rendering Wax	Steve Howe "Howe Sweet It Is"
March 26 - Thursday, 7-9 PM Eldora United Methodist Church	Nectar Flow, Making Nucs	Tom Kees Otto & Amy Kaiser
April 23 - Thursday, 7-9 PM Eldora United Methodist Church	Spring Management	Shanda King WVDA Apiarist
May 28 – Thursday, 7-9 PM Eldora United Methodist Church	OTS, On The Spot Queen Production	Phyllis Varian WV Wilderness Apiaries
June 13 – Saturday 10-1? David Ferrebee's Bee Yard	Field Day Lunch will be provided by David & Judy	Shanda King WVDA Apiarist
July 24– Friday, 4:30-9 PM East Marion Pavilion	Picnic with special guest speaker More details on page 2	Wade Stiltner Retired WV Apiarist
August 27 – Thursday, 7-9 PM Eldora United Methodist Church	WV Regulations for Selling Honey Products	WV Extension Service, Small Farm Center Representative
Sept 24 – Thursday, 7-9 PM Eldora United Methodist Church	Winterizing your hives	Open Panel Discussion
Oct. 22 - Thursday, 6:00 Eldora United Methodist Church	Harvest Covered Dish Dinner Meat, drinks and dinnerware provided.	More details on page 2. Directions at bottom of page.

Beginner Beekeeping Short Course will be offered in November. More details will be available at monthly meetings.

Directions:

Eldora United Methodist Church – Rt 73 South of Mall – past Industrial Park road – round the sharp turn and next left. Signs are visible from the road.

East Marion Park – Just off the Gateway – Or from I-79 exit 136. Large pavilion just across from the entry to Wave-Tek pool.

David Ferrebee's – 161 Volunteer Lane in Boothsville – From Rt 73S at Middletown Mall, go about 3 miles and turn left onto Dean Drive. You'll see 7 mailboxes on the left, turn right onto Volunteer Lane, go about 1/2 mile.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST:

January 25, Saturday – all day	Honeybee Expo – Parkersburg	Information on page 2.
March 20-21 – Friday & Saturday	WVBA Spring Conference in Elkins, WV by Barbour County Beekeepers Association, Highlands Apicultural Association and Upshur County Beekeepers Association.	
July 6-8	HAS Conference	More information on page 2
August 3-7	EAS Conference	More information on page 2
October 2-3 High Tech Park - Whitehall	WVBA Annual Conference. Complete Program will be in the WVBA Fall Newsletter	More Information on page 2.

2020
Marion County Beekeepers Association (MCBA)
Membership Form

Marion County & State Dues --- \$15 per calendar year (Jan.1-Dec.31)

Includes Membership in both the Marion County and the WV Beekeepers Associations, two WVBA newsletters and one MCBA newsletter and a subscription discount for American Bee Journal magazine.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND INCLUDE ALL INFORMATION

Name(s) to appear on membership card (may include immediate family names, if desired)

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Best Contact Phone Number(s) _____

E-mail Address _____

Number of years as a Beekeeper _____ Present Number of Hives _____

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**West Virginia State Law requires beekeepers to register their hives annually with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. This helps to maintain information on the beekeeping industry in the state. Failure to register your hives will prevent you from being considered for any aid that might become available. All apiary certificates of registration expire on June 30 of each year.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to register my hive(s) and will mail the application to the WVDA.

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I am willing to have my information included in a directory of MCBA members that will be made available to MCBA club members to improve communication and information sharing.

YES NO (circle one)

Please return this form:

(at your next monthly club meeting or via US Mail) to:

Amy Kaiser

734 Monumental Road

Fairmont, WV 26554

Make checks payable to MCBA

NUC Colonies

The following **MCBA Members** are planning to sell local nucs:

Charlie Chipps

Call for price and availability (304) 612-5478

Andy Holcomb

Call for price and availability (304) 376-1490

Bob Sapp

Call for price and availability (304) 657-3584

Other providers from whom we are preparing to order:

WV Wilderness Apiaries in Dryfork, WV

Louisa Householder has reserved a limited number of 5-frame deep nucs on a first-come basis through Phyllis and Rick Varian, owners of WV Wilderness Apiaries. Price of \$185 includes the jester box for transport. Louisa will pick up the nucs, which should be ready in May or earlier. Delivery location to be determined. To order, call Louisa at 304-844-0236. She will be taking payment (payable to Louisa) in full at the January 23rd meeting or you can mail her a check before then.

Your nuc is **not** reserved until payment in full is received. (non-refundable)

Order early before they sell out.

Wade Stiltner, Ft. Gay, WV

Amy and Otto Kaiser have reserved a limited number of 4-frame deep nucs on a first-come basis through Wade Stiltner. Price is \$170 and nucs should be ready in May or earlier. You must provide the Kaisers with a prepared single-deep hive with 6 frames of comb/foundation (4 frames if you run 8-frame hives). The Kaisers will transport the nucs to their home for pickup. Instructions for preparing your hive to receive and transport the nuc frames will be provided to those who order. To order, call Amy at 304-368-0609. She will be taking payment (payable to Amy) in full at the January 23rd meeting or you can mail her a check before then.

Your nuc is **not** reserved until payment in full is received. (non-refundable)

Order early before they sell out.

Queens

MCBA has reserved up to 50 queens from Bordelon Apiaries in Louisiana. This is the same provider we have used for the past 2 years and we have been satisfied with the quality. They are unmarked Italian queens with Minnesota hygienic behavior, which means the workers remove developing brood that is having problems. Price is \$25 and their estimated ship date is May 4th. (This is a little later than usual, but they had to give priority to two larger orders of 2,000 queens each.) The good news is they are giving us until the end of March to give them a final count. To order, call Amy Kaiser at (304) 368-0609. She will be taking payment (payable to MCBA) in full at the January, February, and March meetings or you can mail her a check before then.

Your queen is **not** reserved until payment in full is received. (non-refundable)

Order early before they sell out.

West Virginia Immunity Law & Honey Bee Best Management Practices

§ WV CODE—CHAPTER-19– AGRICULTURE 19-13-4 (c)

(3) Operates the apiary in a reasonable manner and in conformance with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture’s written best management practices provided by rule, is not liable for any personal injury or property damage that occurs in connection with the keeping and maintaining of bees, bee equipment, queen breeding equipment apiaries and appliances.
The limitation of liability established by this section does not apply to intentional tortious conduct or acts or omissions constituting gross negligence.

TITLE 61— LEGISLATIVE RULE WV DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SERIES 2—WEST VIRGINIA APIARY LAW

4.2. West Virginia Honey Bee Best Management Practices (HBBMP):

4.2.a. West Virginia Beekeepers shall post a honey bee caution sign in or near apiary

4.2.b. West Virginia Beekeepers shall limit the number of hives in relation to property lot size in accordance with the following

4.2.b.1. less than 1/2 acre— 4 colonies (1/2 acre=21,780 sq. ft., roughly 100ft. X 218ft)

4.2.b.2. more than 1/2 acre, less than 1 acre—6 colonies (1 Acre= 43,560 sq. ft., roughly 150ft. X 290ft.)

4.2.b.3. 1 acre or more— 8 colonies (1 acre = 43,560 sq. ft., roughly 150ft. X 290ft.)

4.2.c. Regardless of lot size: If all hives are situated at least 200 feet in any direction from all property lines of the lot on which the apiary is situated, or as long as all adjoining property that falls within a 200-foot radius of any hive is undeveloped property, there are no limit on the number of hives

4.2.d. WEST VIRGINIA BEEKEEPERS:

4.2.d.1. Shall have hive entrances face away from neighboring property & in such a direction that bees fly across the beekeeper’s property a sufficient distance to gain a height of 6 feet. If bordering property is within a distance of 50 feet, the beekeeper shall use barriers (hedges, shrubs, or fencing 6 feet high) to redirect the bees’ flight pathway & establish flight pathways above head height;

4.2.d.2. Shall maintain a water source near the colonies at a distance less than the nearest unnatural water supply;

4.2.d.3. Shall not keep an apiary within 50 feet of an established animal that is tethered, kenneled or otherwise prevented from escaping a stinging incident;

4.2.d.4. Should avoid opening colonies for inspection or manipulation when neighbors are present or in the immediate vicinity;

4.2.d.5. Should avoid purchasing queens & honey bees from areas that are documented as having been designated as an established Africanized Honey Bee (AHB) zone;

4.2.d.6. Shall manage all colonies to minimize swarming;

4.2.d.7 Shall replace queens in colonies exhibiting defensive behavior that may be injurious to the general public or domesticated animals as determined by Department’s apiary staff;

4.2.e. A collection site for holding colonies prior to shipment, or a staging area, shall have undeveloped property surrounded by a natural barrier & shall be marked with a honey bee caution sign

4.2.f. Anyone transporting colonies shall secure the load & screen entrances or place a net over the colonies to prevent bees form escaping.

4.2.g. West Virginia Beekeepers shall properly discard all pesticides & other control agents after use according to label directions.

4.2.h. Honey bees used for public demonstrations, entertainment or educational purposed shall be enclosed so as to avoid the release of honey bees to the public.

4.2.i. In the event that Africanized Honey Bee (AHB) infestation is determined to be established in West Virginia by the Department, additional rules promulgated by the commissioner of Agriculture will be followed