

**2021 Newsletter of
The Marion County Beekeepers Association
FOUNDED 1971**



Check out our newly designed,
user-friendly website:
mcbawv.com and visit us on
Facebook at Marion County
Beekeepers

President's Message

Hello Beekeeping Family,

I hope that all our members and their families are well. The past year has been a challenge for all of us. Please be patient with our organization. The Marion County Beekeepers executive board members and I have been working to set up regular monthly meetings as well as bee school for 2021. As of now, we are planning to have our monthly meetings via Zoom for the months ahead. Bee school will be virtual as well. MCBA will publish a quarterly newsletter to keep you updated on changes as they may occur. At this time, I would like to thank all members and officers for their support until hopefully we can meet again in person.

Chuck Cienawski,
President MCBA

2021 MARION COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President

Chuck Cienawski (304) 534-3196 (ccienawski1017@aol.com)

Vice President

Louisa Householder (304) 844-0236 (theweezie@msn.com)

Secretary

Debbie Abel (304) 633-5647 (deb.abel53@yahoo.com)

Treasurer

Amy Kaiser (304) 368-0609 (ottoamy105@yahoo.com)

Chaplain

Otto Kaiser (304) 368-0609 (ottoamy105@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editor

Nancy Postlethwait (304) 366-9938 (lpostlethwait@aol.com)

Board of Directors

Tom Kees (304) 363-4782 (beesnbooks70@comcast.net)

Andy Holcomb (304) 376-1490 (aholcomb08@gmail.com)

David Ferreebe (304) 940-9786 (thearcher01@hotmail.com)

Dana Gray, Webmaster (304) 694-1968 (wvabeek@gmail.com)

MCBA Committees

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

Mentors Coordinator. Louisa Householder

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 State 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.

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.



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>

Bee School will be held remotely on February 2, 4, 9, 11 and the 25th at 6:30pm. The cost will be \$45. Late registration will be \$55. Students who attended the past two schools can attend for free. Registration forms are available online at mcbawv.com and can be payable through PayPal. Or you can contact Amy Kaiser by phone at (304) 368-0609 or email at ottoamy105@yahoo.com and request a form.

Registration Fee includes (non-refundable):

- ~Textbook and all class materials
- ~2021 Membership in both MCBA and WVBA
- ~Newsletters from both organizations
- ~Discount on American Bee Journal magazine
- ~Free registration to WVBA Conference Fall 2021

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.” Just go to wvbeekeepers.org and then click on documents. Then go down to the section that reads WV Immunity Law and Honeybee Best Practices and click on the shield below that to find the Immunity Law and Best Practices.

West Virginia was the first state to pass the Limits of Liability Law if beekeepers sign a voluntary agreement to follow the WVDA Best Management Practices.

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 Ferree (Boothsville) 304-940-9786 |

Library- Available to all MCBA members as a resource of information is the club library. MCBA has worked hard to expand the number of resources available to our club members and have approximately 70 different items that range from various Beekeeping Books to informative Beekeeping DVDs. A complete list of all materials available is on the mcbawv.com website, just click on the Library link. The size of the club’s library is quite impressive in comparison to resources available at local public libraries. To check out and/or return club library items contact Andy Holcomb (Facebook Messenger, Cell phone/text 304-376-1490, or by email aholcomb08@gmail.com). Resources have typically been available at each in-person meeting and will be available in the same manner once in-person meetings resume. Until then, individuals can check out/return items with Andy as needed. A list of these resources can be found on the Marion County Beekeepers Association Facebook page under the files folder. Additionally, lists can be emailed to anyone interested just by contacting Andy and requesting the list be emailed to them.

If any club member would like to donate materials to the library, please feel free to contact Andy. Or if you are aware of a newly published item or have an item you highly recommend as a valuable resource to our library, let Andy know. Any requests for additional items will be presented to the board for review.

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.

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. Go to WWW.beeculture.com and click on "Subscribe."

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 MCBA members who lost loved ones during last year.

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

Julia Ann Billie, 72, passed away July 18, 2020. "Julie" was a major support to her beekeeper husband, Michael, Jr., who took the MCBA Beginning Beekeeping Course in 1997. She sometimes attended meetings with him. A devout Catholic, she taught Sunday School for several years at St. Patrick Catholic Church. She served as director of Religious Education at St. Patrick's and at St. Anthony's.

William Franklin Kyer, 74, passed away September 2, 2020. Frank took the MCBA Beginning Beekeeping Course in 1997. Frank was very outgoing and enjoyed talking bees with his beekeeping friends. He was the owner and operator of The Preferred Benefits of West Virginia Insurance Company.

Karel Polanka, 89, passed away December 14, 2020. In 1968, Karel and his beloved wife Marta came from communist-controlled Czechoslovakia to our country where they made their home in WV. They became naturalized citizens in 1975. Karel found work as a machinist at Bradshaw Industries in Fairmont and later at Swanson's.

Having first kept honeybees in Czechoslovakia, he and Marta continued their love of beekeeping here. Seventeen hives was the most that they had at any time. At one point they regularly attended meetings held by the Marion County Beekeepers Association, Monongalia County Beekeepers Association and WVBA. In 2012 they were given the WV Beekeeper of the Year award. Although remaining depressed after Marta's death in April 2017, he continued to care for his bees.

Ann Harman, 89, passed away May 1, 2020. Ann was a featured speaker twice at WVBA Fall Conferences as well as once for Marion County Beekeepers Association. Ann grew up in the Washington, DC area, and began work as a research chemist. Later teaching science, she became interested in beekeeping and became one of the first Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) certified master beekeepers in 1981. She had fifty-some hives for honey production. Ann wrote a column for *Bee Culture* for 40 years, volunteered teaching beekeeping in 29 countries and was a dedicated Honey show judge. She was an officer in local, state, and national beekeeping organizations. Ann was an encyclopedic source of information, never too busy to help any beekeeper with a question.

***** MCBA First Quarter 2021 Program Schedule ****
Zoom Meetings

All meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. Dates and topics will be as follows:

- January 28: Introduction to Zoom and how to conduct business using this format.
Where to purchase nucs and queens. A list of local providers will be given at that time.
How to pay dues.
Dana will explain using a PayPal account for membership and Bee School payments.
Beetle Blasters and Formic Pro are available for purchase.
- February 25: Spring Issues with Shanda King, WVDA State Apiarist
- March 25: Andy Holcomb will present "Using Queen Cells as a Resource" covering topics from use of traditional equipment for making splits to replacing failing queens.

West Virginia Beekeepers Association News from President Louisa Householder

MCBA is an affiliated club of the WV Beekeepers Association. When you pay your \$15 club dues, a portion of those dues (\$6) pays for your membership to the state association. The WVBA board will be meeting virtually on February 6th. If you have any comments, suggestions or concerns that you would like to offer the state association, contact our association representative Tom Kees. WVBA is offering a virtual speaker series using the Zoom platform. This first presentation will be Queen Rearing with Jason Bragg on January 26th at 7:00 PM. The link to the presentation is below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81839664101?pwd=aUpxcXE1cHpucjZhMmFHdFMra3Y5dz09>

Meeting ID: 818 3966 4101

Passcode: 031983

Dial in by phone option:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Check out our WV Beekeepers website www.wvbeekeepers.org and visit us on FB

Editor's Note: As I write this newsletter and see that it is 2021, I realize that this is our 50th Anniversary. In 1971, Dayton Michael and Otis Shaver organized the Marion County Beekeepers Association. Dayton was the WVU Extension agent at that time in Marion County. Otis Shaver was an enthusiastic new beekeeper who recognized the benefit of forming a group with a common interest. Only two years before, in 1969, the West Virginia Beekeepers Association was reorganized. Originally chartered in 1917, the state group was revived in 1969 with the help of then State Bee Inspector Earl Cochran. With this, we are one of the oldest local beekeeping groups in the state, and maybe the oldest.

Unfortunately, we cannot at this time plan any kind of celebration. Perhaps if we are able to have our Fall Harvest Dinner, we can cover some of the memories of events over the years.

As with all of you, I am hoping things get back to normal by the end of this year, but our health and safety have to be our main concerns.

As mentioned in the Obituary section, the death of Karel Polanka was hard for me. Lloyd and I were close to him and Marta. We enjoyed visiting with them at their home and hearing stories about his beekeeping experience. We always felt welcome and loved by them. They are both missed terribly but I know they are together in a beautiful place.

Best wishes for you, your families and our bees in the new year.

Nancy

DUES. We are now offering an alternate method to pay membership dues. If you would like to pay by using PayPal, check it out on our website. Click on the Membership link and follow the instructions there. If you prefer to pay by check, fill out the form below and mail it to Amy.

**2021
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 _____
~~~~~

**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.  
~~~~~

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