



February 2023 First Quarter Newsletter: Part 2

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Please note that depending on your email service, you may need to click a "view all" or "view entire message" link to see the entire newsletter.

More Editor's Musings

Becky Green, MBA newsletter editor

Once again I am thrilled to have so many submissions that the newsletter is spilling over to part 2. And who could have imagined that in the few weeks since I kicked off my cross-country skis and sat down to write my introduction to Part 1, it would suddenly feel like spring in SE Michigan! The maple sap is running here, a month earlier than usual, and the bees have had more than a few opportunities to get a jump on their spring house cleaning. We may yet have more winter ahead,



and crazy temperature yo-yos can be hard on the bees, so it is too soon to say all is well. But at least today, it was great to see honey bees flying! I can't help wonder what this weather means for the timing of swarm season. I might not have as much time to get that swarm removal list up to date as I thought!

Upcoming Events



Join the MSU Extension for a webinar on Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Vegetation Management and Sunflower Plots.

April 6, 2023 - 7 pm

Carla Ahlschwede will present on MDOT's vegetation management strategy to provide suitable habitat for wildlife, including pollinators. This webinar will answer some of your questions about how state land is managed and give an in-depth look at MDOT's sunflower program. [Learn more and register for the webinar.](#)

Other events of interest:

Beekeeping Around the World Webinar Series: Seven free live webinars to discover the unique experiences of beekeepers around the globe! Registration for each webinar is required.

- [Beekeeping Around the World: Apimondia](#): Apimondia is the International Organization of Beekeeping Associations. Discover why beekeeping is so popular all over the world!
 - March 2, 2023 at 12:00 pm eastern time
- [Beekeeping Around the World: The Canadian Prairies](#): Learn how bees are kept inside buildings during the long cold winters in the Canadian Prairies and how large amounts of honey are extracted in the spring.
 - March 9, 2023 at 12:00 pm eastern time
- [Beekeeping Around the World: East Africa](#): Learn about beekeeping in Kenya and the challenges they face, keeping bees in traditional log hives, and how beekeepers manage highly aggressive colonies.
 - March 16, 2023 at 12:00 pm eastern time
- [Beekeeping Around the World: Australia](#) Learn about the parasites that have reached Australia, how authorities are reacting, and how beekeepers are dealing with the pests.
 - March 23, 2023 at 4:00 pm eastern time
- [Beekeeping Around the World: China](#) China has developed a line of bees that produce royal jelly, which is used in cosmetics and medicine. Discover how royal jelly is made!
 - March 30, 2023 at 12:00 pm eastern time
- [Beekeeping Around the World: Argentina](#) Learn about drone congregation

areas for honey bees, where they form, and how European and African honey bees hybridize.

- April 6, 2023 at 12:00 pm eastern time
- Beekeeping Around the World: Switzerland Learn about managing bees in bee houses and how queen breeders mate their queens in remote parts of the Swiss Alps.
 - April 13, 2023 at 12:00 pm eastern time

Vice President's Corner

By John Dohner, MBA vice president



One of my goals in my role as VP for the Michigan Beekeepers Association is to help improve outreach with new services, projects and programs to support beekeepers and beekeeping in Michigan. The first step in that process is making sure that we have adequate funding to support programs. To this end, we have added a [Donate button](#) on our website, allowing you to donate directly to our efforts.

I have also been working closely with an ad hoc fundraising committee as they explore selling MBA-branded merchandise as part of our fund raising efforts. Our first offering will be a high quality MBA hat, which will be available for the first time at the spring conference. To be sure you get one, consider preordering with your conference registration. We also plan to have hats for sale at the registration table on March 11 for as long as supplies last. Our long-term goal is to have hats and other MBA merchandise available to order directly from the MBA website, but that is still a work in progress. Your support, whether through club participation in the tree sale, purchase of MBA merchandise or by direct donation is greatly appreciated and is integral to our ability to support you – the Michigan beekeeper.

Sunflowers: Coming to a road near you!

by Carla Ahlschwede, Michigan Department of Transportation



While the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) regularly plants flowers at rest areas and welcome centers, since 2016 MDOT has also been planting small sunflower plots along the roadsides as part of a larger [Pollinator Habitat Management Program](#). The goal of the program is to increase available habitat for pollinators and sensitive species. The sunflower program has been remarkably popular and has been very successful in

drawing public attention to the importance of pollinators and the need to preserve their habitats. To date, the sunflower program includes sites in Bay, Isabella, Kent, Midland, Saginaw and St. Clair counties.

In 2023, MDOT plans to have approximately 20 acres enrolled in the program. Plots are treated with a nonselective herbicide and then mowed and raked.

Seeds are then planted in May or June using a no-till drill and the plots are fertilized. The annual varieties currently being used bloom roughly 60 days after planting. For future plots, MDOT is exploring perennial sunflower varieties, as well as perennial mixed-prairie plantings. Learn more at this [link](#) or attend the [MSU Extension webinar](#) on April 6, 2023 at 7 pm.



Bee Club Buzz

A place to introduce your club and share stories about club activities

Bay de Noc Beekeeping Club

By Jessica LaMarch

On January 28, 2023, the Bay de Noc Beekeeping Club located in Escanaba held its mostly annual (darn COVID) Beekeeping 101 event at Bay College. The three-hour-long session on the basics of keeping bees was attended by around 50 people, some travelling as much as four hours to attend. The club members feel strongly about providing this kind of service to everyone – those just interested in edification and those who would like to start their beekeeping adventure.



Tom Nebel, Bee Club elder and former UP Beekeeper of the Year, 2018.



Jessica LaMarch, president of the Bay de Noc Beekeeping Club and proud keeper of Warre hives.

Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers Association

By Rich Wieske

SEMBA's Beginning Bee School (SBBS) kicked off the 2023 season on February 19th with sixty students, and a staff of sixteen mentors to guide new beekeepers

in the do's-and-don'ts of successful beekeeping. The program, inspired by Larry Connor, features a hands-on approach. Dewey Caron's *Honey Bee Biology* is the prime text book. Practical videos of Paul Kelly/Guelph University, and articles by Meghan Milbrath form the backbone of this immersive experience. The first class was virtual. The remainder of the classes will take place in the apiaries maintained at MSU Extension's Tollgate Farm in Novi and Bowers Farm School in Bloomfield. Students begin their beekeeping journey at the farms in February, and bring home their own hives in August.

SBBS offers its students locally raised nucs and queens. For the past three years, the staff has been able to supply over 100 nucs annually from their own hives. There is a friendly competition to see which staff member is able to overwinter the highest ratio of hives.

There are plans to enhance the bee yards in the coming year, by making them wheelchair accessible.



My Travels to Hive Life 2023...

By Matt Pohl

Holland Area Beekeepers Association, POHLCAT's Miss BEE-Haven LLC



The beginnings of this trip all started midsummer 2022. I follow Kamon Reynolds on YouTube and Hive Life is his brainchild. The dates for Hive Life (weekend after the 1st of January) fit in with time I knew I would be on break from work so I talked my wife and daughter into making it a family trip...although they went exploring while I attended the conference.

There was a list of speakers from the who's who of YouTube videos but ALL experts in the field. The speaker list included: Bob Binnie, Frederick Dunn, Paul Kelly, Richard Noel, David Peck, Kamon Reynolds, Landi Simone, Etienne Tardiff, Chris Werner, Randy McCaffrey (Dirt Rooster), Jeff Horchoff (Mr. Ed), David Burns, Kent Williams.

I attended presentations on all kinds of stuff, delayed oxalic acid, toxicity of old comb and many others. I especially enjoyed meeting other Michigan beekeepers who had also traveled to the meeting. I made news friends from Michigan and found some possible future collaborators.

The Honey Show was new to me and free to enter, so I thought why not. After ordering the required glass bottles months in advance I realized two days before we left I had the wrong tops....Don Lam Bees to the rescue and after a quick visit

I had the correct caps!

When checking in my honey, I watched people polishing their bottles and putting special caps on. I was perplexed but I thought “Ok these people know what they are doing”. But they kind of looked at me side eyed when I untucked my shirt and started wiping my bottles. They all wore gloves too, not me – I was a rebel! Then, when I tilted my bottle to put a sticker on it, the check-in table all let out a collective gasp. What I didn’t know was the judges mark points off if there is honey on the inside of the lid...LOL. Well, I lost all of those points! I entered dark honey, light honey, infused honey and beekeeping antiques. And I learned a TON about showing honey that I can put to use next year!



When judging was completed I checked out the entries and came across my honey with a ribbon on it....I won 3rd place! The judge was there and she laughed at me, saying “You know if you maybe cleaned your bottles and didn’t get honey on the caps you could have been 1st.” I laughed out loud and explained I was a first timer. She giggled and said “Yep we can always tell...but your honey is AWESOME,”

Even before the meeting, the vendors started offering presales at a discounted rate. Needless to say I preordered a LOT of stuff. Then once at the meeting, every time I walked through the vendor hall I found another deal! In the end, I came home with a truck full of new equipment and supplies, as well as new friends, new networking contacts throughout the US, about 30 bottles of honey from other beekeepers that we traded for and a lot of memories.

My goal was to pay cash for this trip by selling honey and bee stuff. I met my goal of paying for the entire trip by selling my old equipment, my surplus honey and as much of my bottled honey as I could...it even covered the family’s spending spree in Gatlinburg!

I highly recommend going next year. Hive Life 2024 is scheduled for January 4-7 in Sevierville, Tennessee. But they do limit tickets to 2000, so don’t wait too long to decide. And don’t hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. The best way to keep up with dates and times is with the [Hive Life Conference Facebook page](#). And if you have a child who is interested in beekeeping, there is a sponsorship program that can be found on [The Hive Life Conference website](#).



Overwintered nucs: Learning on the go

By David Rex, Bee Rex Apiary



A few years ago, we realized that learning to overwinter nucleus colonies (nucs) was something we needed to master; both to help replace winter losses and to support the needs of local beekeepers who wanted to purchase local overwintered nucs instead of nucs or bees from the south. But how to do this?

After listening to a presentation by Mike Palmer of Vermont, I purchased two dozen nuc boxes that were two 4-frame nucs within a

10-frame box. On top of these we put a 4-frame box, allowing you to expand each colony to 3 or 4 boxes high. In the winter, the bees build their cluster against the common wall of the box, essentially creating one larger cluster that spans two colonies. These colonies are easy to work. Finding the queen is much easier in a 12- or 16-frame hive than the larger 20- or 30-frame colonies of our production hives. Our first winter, we had 12 nucs in 6 of what I call double-nuc boxes. Only half made it through. They just weren't large enough going into winter.

I spent a lot of time reading about various ways to create mating nucs and how long the queen should be left to lay before being pulled from the hive. Many commercial breeders only leave the queen in the mating nuc long enough to confirm that she has been mated and is laying. Others talked about the advantage of letting the queen lay for a full 3–4 weeks before removing her. There is some data to suggest that this allows her to develop more fully and, in the end, develop into a better queen – an important factor for us, if we were going to get our nucs strong enough to survive the winter.. Based on this, we decided to mate our queens in the 4-frame nucs on full-size frames. This provides lots of room for the colony to grow and for the queen to lay without needing to disturb the nuc.

The other big question was how the double-nuc configuration affected their ability to get through our Michigan winters. After reading several articles about insulation, and how the thermal dynamics of our hives compare to trees, I decided to run a test. I fully insulated 7 double nucs last winter and removed the upper entrance, something I was taught I should never do. The rest were wrapped in tar paper with an upper entrance, similar to how we treat our production hives. For all our hives, we add a spacer on top that allows us to add sugar bricks as a safety for winter feeding.

Interestingly, we didn't see a lot of difference in survival based on insulation. It was more driven by having enough healthy bees to create a strong cluster. What we did see, however, was that come early April the insulated nucs had 50% more bees and brood than the uninsulated nucs. Was this repeatable? Hopefully yes, as last year we purchased 50 polystyrene nucs with 6-frame over 6-frame configurations. Not quite the same as 4 over 4 over 4, but similar. We also noticed that the poly nucs built up much faster over the summer. Was this because there was less temperature stress during our warmer summer months? We need another summer to validate these results and make sure this wasn't a fluke.

The other obstacle we're managing is how to have enough brood to support raising 50 to 100 queens using full-frame nucs. That's 100 to 200 frames of brood if we start with a strong nuc for a new queen. I also believe that we need to raise

the queens when they naturally would be raised by a colony – swarm season. If we can complete all grafting by mid-June, this is prime swarm season and should allow lots of time for the nuc to build up to a strong 12-frame nuc for winter. However, we only have 30 days to raise that 100 to 200 frames of brood. How to do that?

What we've decided is to use the 4-frame nucs. We call them our brood factory—thanks for the name Mike Palmer! They overwinter each year, and come mid-May we start pulling brood to support queen rearing. We often pull 1 to 2 frames of brood from each nuc each week, providing the brood frames needed for our mating nucs. Once we're done grafting, we let these colonies build back up; sometimes collecting honey, but always being very strong and ready for winter.

This year, we plan on having 30 colonies for raising brood. We'll graft from 3 of our best queens and, if all goes to plan, raise over 100 queens. Most will be used to create overwintered nucs, some for fall splits of our production colonies, and the balance to make sure that we have strong queens in our brood factories going into winter. As they say, let's see how this year really goes....



Rapping with the Reps

Throughout the year we will help you get better acquainted with your district representatives!

In this edition: Districts 1, 4 and 7

MBA's district representatives help provide a link between the MBA and beekeepers and beekeeping clubs in their areas. If you represent a club, are a beekeeper, or a "wanna-bee" and are looking for information about the MBA, or wish to contact the MBA, your District Representative is a great place to start!

Jan Lawson – District 1

Compiled by Lisa Stinson

Serving Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties.

The basics

- Where he calls home: Battle Creek
- Who he calls family: wife, Mary Jo; four grown children and six grandchildren.
- TBD: Whether or not Mary Jo knew Jan was a beekeeper before she said, "I do."
- As if bees aren't enough work: A retired science teacher, Jan replaced time spent teaching with hard-core gardening; this includes helping to manage a

small fruit orchard and growing and saving seeds from about 30 varieties of tomatoes and beans.

The bees by the numbers

- Years keeping bees: 55
- Colonies: 10 – 15
- Yards: 3

The good, the bad and the determined

- Triumph – Biggest Beekeeping Success – “I’m most proud of the people I’ve mentored over the years. I have friends and relatives that I’ve mentored and many of them still keep bees.”
- Defeat – It’s not so much a failure as a nonsuccess– “Back in the winter of 2012 – 2013, I was trying to overwinter nucleus hives, so I converted some 10 frame deeps to hold 2 nucleus hives, side by side. I was real excited in February because all 12 were alive. Yes, I know it was way too early to be excited but I couldn’t help myself, even though I knew better. Who knew that would be the worst winter in decades and I lost all 12 nucs.”
- Ambition – 2023 Beekeeping Goals – “Keeping a small bunch of queens from overwintered stock available during the whole season and to do a better job of taking pictures of all aspects of beekeeping. I would also like to find the cypress tree my Grandpa, with a sweet tooth, climbed in the 1950s to rob the honey.”

In greater bee-tail

It didn’t take much to get Jan involved in beekeeping, “I started in my early teens, after my dad dabbled with bees in the 1960s.” In the process, Jan discovered that some of his descendants may have also kept bees. And let’s not forget the aforementioned Grandpa, with a sweet tooth, robbing honey from a hive in a cypress tree. While those family details might be a bit hazy, it is with fondness and clarity that Jan remembers his early years of keeping bees, “The 60s through the early 80s were ‘The good old days.’ I didn’t know much, but still managed to have large honey crops and good winter survival.” What he didn’t know he learned through tried-and-true periodicals, “I steadily built my knowledge base by reading the *American Bee Journal* and *Gleanings in Bee Culture*.”

Also absent from Jan’s early beekeeping years was the camaraderie among beekeepers. Undeterred, Jan found a way to establish those kinships, “I didn’t know many other beekeepers until I got a few of my friends started and surprisingly, they are still my friends and many are still beekeeping.” Proving once again that beekeeping is better with friends.

“You have to take the bad with the good” is apt wisdom for beekeepers. Without hesitation, Jan speaks to both, “I enjoy most aspects of beekeeping but cut back from about 50 colonies one summer day when it was so hot that I was drenched with sweat and it was stinging my eyes. I decided that after about 50 years of beekeeping, it was starting to feel like work. Right then and there I pledged to cut back on the number of colonies and focus on experimentation and fun.” With fewer hives, Jan is sweating less and smiling more, “The most enjoyable aspect of beekeeping is learning about this amazing insect. I feel like there is so much to learn that I’ll never even scratch the surface in my lifetime.”

The rap on the rep

Jan became the District 1 Rep in October 2022 and is well suited to serving as both a link and a resource for clubs and beekeepers in his area. “I enjoy the explosion of bee clubs across the country and especially here in Michigan. I like being around other beekeepers and talking to them.” He is working to forge strong relationships with clubs in his district, paying particular attention to

strengthening the smaller ones. Whenever possible, he is connecting with beekeepers who aren't actively involved in a club. Additionally, due to varroa's far-reaching effects, Jan is committed to educating beekeepers about the importance of responsible beekeeping. If you're looking for him, you can usually find him in his garden, a bee yard somewhere, or occasionally the Dadant store in Albion; all the while kibitzing with beekeepers.

Heather Boerema – District 4

Compiled by Lisa Stinson

Serving Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola and Ottawa counties.

The basics

- Where she calls home: Dorr
- Who she calls family: husband, Wayne; four children at various stages of inching Heather and Wayne toward the empty nest chapter of their life.
- As if bees aren't enough work: Full-time ER Nurse at Trinity Health.

The bees by the numbers

- Years keeping bees: 10
- Colonies: 80 – 150, depending on the season.
- Yards: 8

The good, the bad and the determined

- Triumph – Biggest Beekeeping Success - “Being able to overwinter my bees successfully from year to year and make truly local nucs available to beekeepers around me.”
- Defeat – It's not so much a failure as a nonsuccess. – “There are times in the spring when I've been so exhausted splitting hives that I forget to replace a frame, or two or three, and by the time I check the bees again, they've made a beautiful mess where the frames should have been. Other times in the fall I didn't get back in the hives to check mite counts after treatment to see if it was effective and sometimes suffer losses because of it.”
- Ambition – 2023 Beekeeping Goals – “I'd like to get better at producing comb honey. I'd also love to have at least one of my hives be decorative :-). Mine are all just basic white deeps and I always admire those who put creativity into making the outsides of their hives a beautiful work of art!”

In greater bee-tail

Despite being an avid gardener who enjoys watching honey bees work her veggies and flowers, that was not Heather's initial inspiration for becoming a beekeeper. On the contrary, it was during the doldrums of February, “As I looked out at the frozen terrain and falling snow, something ‘just clicked’ in my head and I decided I wanted bees. I also bought my honey from a local beekeeper and thought it would be fun to produce my own honey.”

From that point, Heather set herself up for success. “I started researching bees, and went to the MBA spring conference that year. That is where I listened to Mel Disselkoen speak for the first time and was very excited to try his method of On the Spot Queen Rearing. Mel agreed to mentor me and helped me split my first hive that summer. He allowed me to work bees in his yards with him. So, I learned a great deal in a short amount of time.”

Under Mel's generous tutelage, Heather's know-how increased and with it, her hive count. She now has bee yards situated within a 525-square-mile-swath from

Grandville to Hopkins, easily earning her the description, “travelling beekeeper.” Her truck is packed with every conceivable piece of equipment she might need as she works her yards.

Mobile beekeeping affords Heather the time to contemplate the ups and downs of beekeeping, “My favorite thing about keeping bees is there are too many things!!! But, I will stick with three: 1) Seeing newly mated queens going crazy, laying! There’s nothing like a brand new frame of eggs and young larvae! 2) A strong flow where the bees are drawing out beautiful new white comb and packing in the nectar. 3) Observing the bees bringing in a rainbow of pollen.” Week in and week out, she’s out there, persevering even in minimally gratifying duties of managing her colonies, “My least favorite thing is doing mite counts and treating for mites. However, these are things I have to do or I would not be able to enjoy seeing my bees coming out of winter healthy and ready to go in the spring.” Not in spite of the ups and downs of beekeeping, but because of them, Heather is enthusiastic about adding District Rep to her apiarist commitments.

The rap on the rep

The absence of interaction with other beekeepers during the COVID shut down, is what led Heather to accept the District Rep position in November 2022. Now, with the spring conference around the corner and the peak 2023 bee season on the horizon, she is eager to bridge the gap between MBA and the clubs in her region. “Looking forward to connecting with the beekeepers in the clubs in my district and fostering communication between the clubs and MBA. I want the clubs to feel supported by MBA and will be looking for ways to make this happen.”

Dave Payant – District 7

Edited and embellished by Lauri LaBumbard

Serving Alger, Delta, Marquette and Menominee Counties



Dave Payant and his wife Sue have been beekeeping for roughly 15 years and are active members of the Superior Beekeeping Club. Asked about how he got into beekeeping, it turns out Dave spent a lot of his youth looking at bugs. “My mother was a zoologist and she was very interested in nature so when I was a child we tipped over every rock we could find to look for bugs.” What a great childhood! “I had never had

any exposure to honey bees before I started” says Dave, “But bugs are endlessly fascinating, so when my wife said we should try keeping bees I jumped on it.” (You should see Dave’s T-shirt collection. Possibly a different bug for every day of the month.)

The Payants started with two hives of Russians from upstate New York. They got 12 gallons of honey the first year and they were hooked. (Note: Dave and Sue always get tons of honey. It’s possible that they sing to their bees.... It’s more likely that – yes – they are excellent beekeepers!)

Interestingly, Sue keeps her bees in their backyard, on the edge of the city of Marquette. Dave keeps his bees at his camp, which is far (very far) from any paved road. They both get lots of honey! “Every year we seemed to have more and more hives so now we have around 30 hives and this year we got 600 pounds (that’s 60 gallons!) of honey.”

Dave's favorite bees are northern grown. "I don't care about the variety. I am dubious about whether there are true varieties of bees since it is very hard to control what drones the queens mate with." Dave continues, "That said, my own queens and queens from northern apiaries are my favorites. They are better able to deal with our winters."

I asked Dave about his best and worst beekeeping experiences. "The coolest thing I experienced with my bees," he says, "is I heard a queen piping. Piping is when the virgin queen rubs her wings to make a high-pitched squeak. It happened when I was looking for a queen and heard this squeaking. At first I thought it was a bird, but then I saw the virgin queen. Queens pipe when they want to locate another queen in the hive. Of course, this is a challenge and the queens, having found each other, will fight to the death. It's all about Darwin and who will pass on their genes." (Pretty sure Dave has a Darwin T-shirt, too...)

Dave's worst experience happened a number of years ago. "I had about 5 to 10 hives and it got real warm in March and the bees were flying. A couple of days later it went down to 30 below and for two days after that it was 20 below. I lost almost all my hives. Very sad."

How about learning experiences? This one is probably common to many of us! "My biggest discovery was about eight years ago when roughly half of my hives died. Joel Lantz (Marquette County's most experienced beekeeper) called me and offered to do a postmortem. He had just read an article by Meghan Milbrath about how to identify hives killed by varroa mites." (Wonder if it was an earlier version of this [article](#)?) "Joel and I examined my hives and determined they were killed by mites. I adopted a very anti-mite policy and haven't had much trouble since." Dave has had several years with 80% – 90% survival.



Dave is always trying new things with his bees. He raises his own queens. (Nicot box method and grafting.) He makes splits every spring with great success. (Note his earlier comment: "Every year we seemed to have more and more hives!") Dave is very generous with sharing his knowledge, teaching courses on splits, advanced beekeeping, queen rearing, mite management methods, and more. The Superior

Beekeeping Club can always count on him as an instructor.

Sue is no less active. She does presentations on beekeeping and pollinators to young and old, alike; school groups, women's clubs and a local community garden. She is also secretary of the Superior Beekeeping Club.

"Susan and I collect swarms under the name Bee Busters. This is a big adrenaline rush. We even cut a hive out of a wall in a building. We found the hive using a stethoscope and cut through the drywall to find the bees. The comb and queen were removed and put into a new hive." You can read about Bee Busters in action [here](#).

News from MSU

- [Apiculture Extension update from Michigan State University Extension](#)
- [Managed Pollinator Protection Plan update from Michigan State University Extension](#)
- [The Micro Farm Program: A USDA crop insurance program that can benefit](#)

beekeepers

- Generally accepted agricultural and management practices (GAAMPs) for honey bees
- A refuge for pollinators: A case study of establishing large-scale pollinator habitat on marginal farmland using federal funds
- Heroes to Hives online program moves to Michigan Food & Farming Systems for the 2023 beekeeping season
- New edition of Tools for Varroa Management from the Honey Bee Health Coalition & Guide on American and European foulbrood from the Honey Bee Health Coalition
- Needs assessment of Michigan small-scale beekeepers

Stay connected to MSU

- Michigan Pollinator Initiative website
- MSU Extension Pollinators & Pollination events
- Sign up for MSU Extension's "Pollinators & Pollination" news digest
- Michigan State University Beekeeping YouTube channel
- MSU Honey Bees Facebook page
- Michigan Pollinator Initiative Facebook page
- Pollinator Champions online course
- Beekeeping questions: Ask Extension form

[Visit our website](#)

Call for Submissions

Do you have an interesting beekeeping story or picture to share?
Would you like to introduce your club or share some club news?
Have you read an amazing bee book that you would like to tell us about?

If so, we would love to have the opportunity to put it in the MBA newsletter. The newsletter is published quarterly and the submission deadline for the next newsletter is **May 8, 2023**.

Email submissions to: newslettereditor@mba-bees.org
Please include your name, address, best contact phone number and preferred email address with your submission.

Editor's note: I reserve the right to edit all submissions as needed, including editing for content, grammar, length, etc. Although I will try to include all appropriate submissions, some may need to be declined or publication delayed in the event there is an abundance of submissions. Submissions received after the posted deadline will be considered for the next newsletter.



Michigan Beekeepers Association | W2561 State Highway M69, Foster City, MI 49834-9713

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