



Now that we are past winter and done counting our losses, we have entered into swarm season and are rebuilding our apiaries.

I find myself visiting the bees nearly every day to observe their activity level and see what beautiful colors of pollen they're bringing back to the hives. I'll stop at a patch of dandelions to watch foragers do their jobs and fill their pollen baskets.

After checking myself for ticks, I mentally prepare for what is coming and make sure I have everything that is needed to do splits, work on swarm prevention, and catch swarms at a moments notice.

During an inspection recently, I happened to observe this overwintered queen on the left inspecting cells and laying eggs. No queen cells in that hive yet, but she was building brood nicely.

Maybe you've already had your first swarm as we're seeing a lot of calls in a couple of our southern districts!

In any case, we have a lot of work to do, the bees included. I am grateful that warmer weather has arrived; the flowering trees and growing greenery spark a sense of renewal and a drive to be outside!

*Jen Blackburn, Communications Director, MBA*



## Michigan beekeepers can sign up to receive email alerts notifying before aerial pesticide applications

Beekeepers can subscribe to receive email notifications by visiting [MDARD's website](#) and clicking on the "Emergency Notification for Beekeepers" link - about halfway down the page. [Read the full press release HERE](#).

After entering a valid email address, subscribers will receive an email notification whenever an emergency pesticide application is required.

For more information on MDARD's Pesticide and Plant Pesticide Management Division, visit [Michigan.gov/MDARD](http://Michigan.gov/MDARD).

# Did you miss our Spring Conference?

You're in luck! The video sessions from our spring conference are now available to view. The sessions available are from the speakers that consented to have their session released. You can access the links at [MBA's website](#).



## Fall 2021 Conference October 16

Still virtual with back up plans, October is a long way away!

**Call for presentation:** if you have not given a presentation at an MBA conference please submit a proposal for your talk, by Aug. 15, we are looking for topics you are passionate about, or feel have not been covered in our conferences before.

Best topics or approach is How I've Done It. Thank you Larry Connor, that's how I learned. MSU extension has offered their help with organizing your presentation and suggest tips and tricks for making an effective presentation. If you've been bored or ever thought I could do that better, here's your chance!

## MBA Vice-President's Corner

by *Rich Wieske*

[vicepresident@mba-bees.org](mailto:vicepresident@mba-bees.org)



The focus will be overwintering with special guest Bill Hesbach, on Installation and Ventilation. Please check out [Two Bees and a podcast](#) episode #50, we all learned to ventilate, maybe its time to rethink this approach! Also a discussion led by Michael Connor, What is an invasive species. I know none of us have an opinion on this. We are also looking for updates on this summer's nuc programs that so many of you are working on.

P.S. thanks for the wonderful support and comments about the Spring Conference, Almost 600 people participated over our four day event. With a cooking demonstration, an A.J. Cook award, yoga for beekeepers. With an incredibly strong beginner's track, Nucs and Queen rearing and so much more. Also available to everyone, the Fall 2020 conference has been posted and available look under the video tab on our home web page

## District 1 News Kyle LeRoux

Berrien/Cass- Still meeting virtually and have formed a presentation committee to plan and schedule field days and monthly topics

Battle Creek- Interest in beekeeping has sparked an increase in membership interest, currently meeting socially distanced. The club is hoping to sponsor several webinars and educational talks on beekeeping in the area. Thanks to education and new mite strategies the club has a low overwinter loss count.



I made an event post for our local Kalamazoo Bee Club monthly meeting for May 12 , 7 p.m. Charlotte Hubbard had lined up Dave Elsen, President of Brown County Beekeepers of Wisconsin. Zoom presentation about Swarms on a Wednesday evening. Did a fun Title play off on Shakespeare. Attached Meghan Milbrath's link to her paper Swarms, the Biology and Control of Swarms in Northern States. Figured it's great timely review paper people should read this paper every year, it's that good.

Well the Northern States in India are eating it up.

At first, wow cool people 8,000 miles away are digging our event post. Lots of tree presentation politics going on there currently. Supreme court is ruling about no razing of mature trees in new construction developments and that's neat I guess Kashmir gets cold too. Where is Jammu? Then 37,000 views, wow that is amazing, 100,000 you're kidding me. All organic now above 214,000!

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## District 4 Ray Browers

**The Fremont Area Beekeepers and the Muskegon Area Beekeepers are having "In-person" meeting this summer and regular apiary visits. Muskegon meets on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM. This month their meeting was preceded by a smoker clinic at 4:30 PM. Fremont meets on the third Thursday of the month with apiary visits starting in May.**

**The Fremont Area Beekeepers held a beginners level class on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. They had 12 face to face students and 35 views. They focus was on Biology and Pests/diseases.**

**The Muskegon Area Beekeepers are working with Meghan Milbrath on the Northern Bee Network.**

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## District 6 Report

**by Rodney Bear, District Rep; papabearbees@gmail.com**

**Q2 report for District 6 - Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genessee, Gladwin, Huron, Iosco, Isabella, Lapeer, Midland, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Saginaw, Sanilac and Tuscola counties**

Most clubs in have started meeting via Zoom.

Saginaw Valley Beekeepers Association is meeting via Zoom on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. You can contact them at [SVBASec@gmail.com](mailto:SVBASec@gmail.com)

Seven Ponds Beekeepers Club is meeting via Zoom on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. You can contact them by email [7pondsbeeclub@gmail.com](mailto:7pondsbeeclub@gmail.com)

**Mid-Michigan Beekeeper Club is meeting via Zoom on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 PM. You can contact them at [midmichiganbeesec@gmail.com](mailto:midmichiganbeesec@gmail.com)**

**Sunrise Side Beekeepers is meeting in person (if COVID restrictions allow ) and a simulcast Zoom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7 PM. You can contact them at [papabearbees@gmail.com](mailto:papabearbees@gmail.com)**

For up to date meeting information please use the URL <https://www.michiganbees.org/michigan-bee-clubs/> to contact the club directly.

In the Northern reaches of District 6, colony loss appears to be higher than normal with a lot of beekeepers reporting complete losses. These losses are being discovered late in the Spring making it challenging to find replacement Nuc's and or Packages.

For those hives that have made it through the winter, HOORAY! Now it's time to think about swarming or better stated, swarm prevention. Bees in the trees are cool, unless they are yours. Beekeepers should be keeping a close eye on the size of the colonies and how much room the Queen has available to lay eggs. Here in Northern Michigan our swarm season starts right around the time dandelions bloom, mid to late May depending on the weather.

Splitting a hive is one of many techniques that can be used not only to deter swarming, but also can be used for mite control, it's a 2'fer! With cool nights still expected until the end of May, large 50/50 walk away split would be advised over a 2 or 3 frame split to prevent any brood chilling that could occur with a random cooler night.

Finally, and probably the most important Springtime activity is, checking your hives for the dreaded Varroa mite. The sooner you have them under control the better off in the long run you and your colonies health.

## Michigan State University Apiculture Extension Update

By Ana Heck

**MICHIGAN STATE** | Extension  
**UNIVERSITY**

### Upcoming Webinars:

Please register for our upcoming webinars!

- Michigan Beekeeping Webinars ([Zoom registration](#))
  - [Monday, May 24th at 7:00pm Eastern](#)
  - [Monday, June 14th at 7:00pm Eastern](#)
  - [Monday, July 12th at 7:00pm Eastern](#)
  - [Monday, August 16th at 7:00pm Eastern](#)
  - [Monday, September 13th at 7:00pm Eastern](#)
- [Native bees of Michigan: How to identify and support native pollinators with Dr. Rebecca Tonietto](#): Thursday, June 17th, 7:00pm Eastern

To receive updates about upcoming webinars, sign up for [MSU's Pollinators and Pollination Event's Newsletter](#). Visit our [webinar page](#) for information on Michigan State University Apiculture webinars and view/share our [webinar events on Facebook](#).

### Bee Informed Partnership's Loss & Management Survey:

Please take the [Bee Informed Partnership's Loss & Management Survey](#) to help researchers track and understand colony survival and losses.



### Mite-A-Thon:

[North American Mite-A-Thon](#) will be held this year May 1<sup>st</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. Get ready to check your colonies for mites and report your levels to [MiteCheck](#).

### MSU Bee Blog:

For updates on what we are doing in our MSU bee yards and suggested resources, please follow our [MSU Bee Blog](#).

# Phenology:

As many beekeepers have noticed, spring arrived earlier than normal! This cool [phenology website](#) allows you to enter your zipcode and see how many days ahead of average your area is.

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## Connecting with the MSU Apiculture Team

**eXtension Ask an Expert:** Do you have beekeeping or gardening questions? The MSU Apiculture Team is asking that you submit these questions through [eXtension Ask an Expert](#) because it allows them to better track questions answered and direct your question to the right person to respond.

**Facebook pages:**

- [Michigan State University Beekeeping \(@MSUHoneyBees\)](#)
- [Michigan Pollinator Initiative \(@MichiganPollinatorInitiative\)](#)
- [Heroes to Hives \(@HeroesToHives\)](#)

**Newsletter:** To receive notifications of upcoming webinars for beekeepers and other MSU Extension events, please [sign up for our newsletter](#) and be sure to select “Pollinators & Pollination”.

**MSU Bee Blog:** Subscribe to the [MSU Bee Blog](#) to receive occasional updates about MSU Extension Apiaries and related programs.

## Fundraising Campaigns

**Beekeeping Education & Support Fund:** MSU has a new crowd funding campaign to support its education and outreach work for Michigan small-scale beekeepers. While our team’s salaries are covered through funds from MSU, grants, and/or endowments, we often don’t have funds to run programs unless we receive a grant. Donations provide us with flexibility to promptly respond to opportunities and needs, and they may go toward printing materials, traveling to talk to beekeeping groups (once MSU’s travel restrictions are relaxed), and managing teaching colonies. To learn more or make a gift to support our work, please visit the [Beekeeping Education and Support Fund](#)

STAY CONNECTED