



January 2022 First Quarter Newsletter



We have so many lovely stories and news bits for you that the first quarter news letter will need a second edition!

I hope everyone is staying warm during these very chilly winter days we've been experiencing recently.

Spring is coming! While we still have cold weather, it is nice to take some time to do some bee-reading and maybe work on hive equipment to get ready for spring splits and swarm season. It will be here before we know it!

Bee schools and conferences are coming too! Read on to get dates for conferences, webinars, and bee schools.

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## Save The Date!

**Michigan Beekeepers' Association Spring Conference 2022: In-Person and Virtual Programs**



## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Registration information for the conference's in-person and virtual programs will soon be posted on the [Michigan Beekeepers Association webpage](#) and through [Michigan State University Extension's "Pollinators & Pollination" newsletter digest](#).

*Michigan Beekeepers' Association Spring Conference: In-Person Program*

**Saturday, March 12th, all day**

**Location: Kellogg Center at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI**

Here is a sneak peak of some of the exciting sessions that are being planned:

- Paul Kelly, Apiarist, University of Guelph Honey Bee Research Centre: If you're not already a fan of the University of Guelph Honey Bee Research Centre YouTube channel, you should check it out!
- MSU's Meghan Milbrath will provide updates on European Foulbrood research.
- Hear about several experiences and perspectives on installing and maintaining pollinator habitat at the Pollinator Planting Panel session.
- Learn (or relearn!) the basics in the Beginning Beekeeper Track.
- Taking your beekeeping hobby to the next level by learning how to run a farm business
- There will be lots of vendors, so come ready to shop!
- And much, much more!

***Michigan Beekeepers' Association Spring Conference: Virtual Program***  
**Thursdays at 7pm on February 24th, March 3rd, and March 10th**

Online presenters will include Jennifer Barry, Dewey Caron, Adam & Lacey Ingrao, Emily Noordyke, Linda Tillman, & Jennifer Tsuruda.

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Elections held at MBA's October membership meeting resulted in a few new names. Here are the results. Much of this information can also be found on the MBA website:

[Officers – Michigan Beekeepers Association \(michiganbees.org\)](#)

District representatives serve as a connection between MBA and the

President: Rich Wieske  
[president@mba-bees.org](mailto:president@mba-bees.org)

Vice-President: AJ Menefee  
[vicepresident@mba-bees.org](mailto:vicepresident@mba-bees.org)

Past President: Chris Beck  
[pastpresident@mba-bees.org](mailto:pastpresident@mba-bees.org)

Treasurer: Claude Siders

beekeeping clubs in their district. The map below shows the district boundaries and the table shows the district reps and their contact info. Reach out to them if you have questions or ideas about beekeeping issues in your area.

District 1

Kyle LeRoux

leroux.kyle@yahoo.com

District 2

Dave Pearce

dpearce007@hotmail.com

District 3

Kerry Wysocki

kerryblair@comcast.net

District 4

Ray Browers

rgbrowsers@yahoo.com

District 5

Les Homan

lhoman@up.net

District 6

Rodney Bear

papabearbees@gmail.com

District 7

Dave Payant

payantdavid@gmail.com

District 8

Claude Siders

csiders1@gmail.com

treasurer@mba-bees.org

Secretary: Lauri LaBumbard

secretary@mba-bees.org

Communications - *Interim*

Jen Blackburn

communications@mba-bees.org

Member-at-Large:

Chuck Bauer

memberatlarge@mba-bees.org

Jen Blackburn has been kind enough to extend her time as communications officer, but only until the position can be permanently filled. See related article.



## Open Positions with the Michigan Beekeepers' Association

### *Member Communications Officer*

MBA is in need of a member communications officer. This position will serve on MBA's board of directors and lead the association's communications. Responsibilities include disseminating information about MBA activities on various social media outlets, contacting MBA membership via email and other designated channels, and fielding incoming contacts. This person will need to be (or become) fluent with mass emailing services (Constant Contact, Mail Chimp, etc.).

### *Newsletter Editor*

MBA is in need of a newsletter editor for its quarterly newsletter. The editor works with the member communications officer to create newsletters that inform Michigan beekeepers about relevant events, updates, and stories. Responsibilities include soliciting newsletter submissions, editing

submissions, formatting newsletters, and sending newsletters to members. This person will need to be (or become) fluent with mass emailing services (Constant Contact, Mail Chimp, etc.).

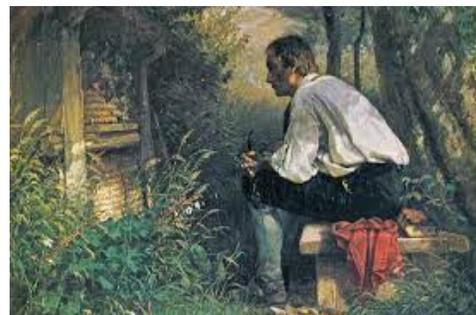
If you are interested or would like more information about either position, please send an email to [secretary@mba-bees.org](mailto:secretary@mba-bees.org)



**Please send your nominations for the oldest living beekeeper in Michigan to [president@mba-bees.org](mailto:president@mba-bees.org)**

**Deadline is March 1st.**

**Telling the bees** is a traditional custom of many European countries in which bees would be told of important events in their keeper's lives, such as births, marriages, or departures and returns in the household. If the custom was omitted or forgotten and the bees were not "put into mourning" then it was believed a penalty would be paid, such as the bees leaving their hive, stopping the production of honey, or dying.



We would like to memorialize those we have lost over the past two years. Please send names and dates for any beekeeper that has passed over the last two years to [president@mba-bees.org](mailto:president@mba-bees.org)



Request for Beekeepers to Teach Queen Rearing from Rodney Bear Following the MBA Survey to determine the interest level in Queen Rearing among the MBA / Michigan Bee Club members along those not affiliated with either, we are actively looking for individuals who have experience in raising queens using;

- Walk Away Splits (Introduction to Queen Rearing)
- OTS, Cloake Board, Double Screen Board (Intermediate Queen Rearing)
- Grafting, Snelgrove, Hole Punch (Advanced Queen Rearing)

For those of you that responded that you would be willing to teach, if you could kindly send an email to Rodney Bear at [papabearbees@gmail.com](mailto:papabearbees@gmail.com). Please include your name, a contact phone number, where you are located and the type of methods you are using to produce queens.

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## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

MSU Apiculture Update from Ana Heck

Happy New Year! Meghan Milbrath is back from a year of honey bee research in Sweden, and our team is making plans for the 2022 beekeeping season. For updates on our extension work, resources, and ways to stay connected, please check out our [Apiculture Extension update](#) and our [Managed Pollinator Protection Plan update](#).

The Milbrath Honey Bee Lab is hiring a research assistant for work with the Michigan Pollinator Initiative. Review the [Research Assistant I position description](#) for more information about the job and how to apply.



### Update from Charlotte Hubbard, President on bee-half of the Kalamazoo Bee Club

#### *Bee School!*

Online, February 12, and my-oh-my do we have some awesome speakers! They include Dr. Tom Seeley, on the bee colony as a honey factory. Seeley's research

(and methodology) are captivating; Dr. Meghan Milbrath (Michigan's own!), with a presentation on optimizing and protecting drawn comb. Consider it drawn gold – it is vital and resource-intensive, and Mike Connor, on supporting pollinators. (Plant plant plant – and what to plant.) We're filling

in this full day of programming with talks for newbees and other topics for all levels of beekeeping. The agenda and registration information will be up on our website soon (might already be by the time you get this). We're asking for a suggested donation of \$25 for this robust day of education. That money supports our programming for the rest of the year – and the club offers a substantial amount of free education (newsletter, Apiary Days, monthly meetings with great speakers, and more). [Register for Kalamazoo Bee School](#).

Regardless of whether you attend Bee School, we always appreciate your donations of any size on [Kalamazoo Bee Club's homepage](#). We're a 501(c)(3) organization so your contribution is tax deductible.

Thank you also to Brian Walters, a KBC member who will be speaking at our upcoming Bee School, for sharing some of his talents in an article below. Brian's an experienced beekeeper, and fun presenter.

January is a great time to reflect on beekeeping needs for the upcoming season. You may want to avoid the seasonal demand and obtain equipment now, grab a few books that will help you with the on-going challenges of beekeeping, or line-up a source for new colonies. Under the 'Resources' tab at [Kalamazoo Bee Club's homepage](#), you'll find vendor partners who pay for a listing, like Wicwas Press (a robust offering of bee and plant books), Beeline and Dadant (area suppliers of practically anything you need), and Lam's Honeybees and Beekeeping Supplies – among many others.

Fun fact: with the days now lengthening, queens are starting to lay more than just "maintenance" eggs. No, this doesn't mean to pile on the protein patties – you don't want them to brood up too early. I suspect the worst of Mother Nature's winter fury lies before us.

On a personal note ...For many, this is a time of making resolutions and intentions, reviewing and renewing. Due to the unexpected loss of my husband last year, the holiday season was particularly difficult for me; I struggled to not let memories and seasonal reflections take me down. (I didn't succeed at that.)

One of the things that has helped me look forward was (surprisingly) posted on the club's Facebook page, by club VP Todd Smith (who does an amazing job of putting up ever-changing relevant content).

If you missed it, here's a synopsis. In a brilliant cartoon panel by graphic philosopher Jose Maria Nsieto, two characters are chatting: "Aren't you terrified of what 2022 could be like? Everything is so messed up ..." comments the first.

"I think it will bring flowers," the second one replies.

"YES? WHY?" asks the first, both excitedly and desperately.

"Because I'm planting flowers," the second one responds.

I'm also planting flowers – natives when the season comes, to ensure our pollinators have sustenance, and emotional seeds to help me look forward and grow (and maybe even some day blossom) as I continue to navigate without the love of my life.

I hope you plant flowers as well.

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## District 1 Report by Kyle LeRoux

Berrien/Cass Bee Club is looking into a website.

Kyle LeRoux is acting as the president, secretary, point person, and instructor of the Battle Creek Bee Club.

Please see the announcement in this newsletter about the upcoming, virtual Kalamazoo Bee School.

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## District 6 Report by Rodney Bear

Saginaw Valley Beekeepers Association is still meeting in person on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at The Valley Church:

3770 North Center Rd

Saginaw, MI 48603

Doors open at 6:30 for Open Discussions, 7PM meeting will be called to order

Seven Ponds – No report

Mid-Michigan Beekeepers Club is still meeting in person on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at

The Forest Township Hall in Otisville

Doors open at 6:30, Meeting called to order @ 7PM

Sunrise Side Beekeepers Club meetings will start again in March/April

Meetings will be held at Eagles Pointe

415 East Main Street

Hale, MI 48739

Meetings are held from 6:30 to 8PM

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## District 8 Report by Claude Siders

### 1. *UP Beekeeper of the Year*

Nancy Osterberg, secretary and treasurer for the Northwoods Beekeepers, was named Region 7 Beekeeper of the Year for 2020. Nancy, a long time beekeeper, was one of the charter members of the Northwoods Beekeepers and is the binding force in the club. Her energy and leadership have helped the club through its startup years and more recently through a pandemic to keep club members informed and engaged.

Nancy, a resident of the Aurora, Wisconsin area, currently lives on the family farm. It speaks to her character and enthusiasm that she is a Wisconsin resident but leads a group of beekeepers from both sides of the state border.

Nancy is always there to lend a hand to a beginner or seasoned beekeeper. She volunteers time at many educational events including displays at the local fairs. Most recently she joined Bernie Driggs of Sagola to travel to Iron River, Michigan to help a startup club.

Beekeeping in the southern part of the Upper Peninsula has been expanded through Nancy's actions and caring for the furtherance of beekeeping. From all those in the Northwoods Beekeepers Club, we are glad you are there for us.

#### 1. Beginner Beekeeper Class in the UP

Northwoods Beekeepers for over the past eight years has offered a free Beginning Beekeeping workshop in one form or another. We are happy to announce that this year's workshop will be once again in person.

If you have been thinking of joining this fascinating hobby, or have been keeping bees for a few years with little or no success, this free program is for you!

Keeping bees in the "Northwoods" is different from keeping bees in the south or even the southern regions of Michigan and Wisconsin. Northwoods Beekeepers experts will not only walk you through the first year of keeping bees, but guide you in buying the right equipment, installing your first bees, and give you valuable tips (does & don'ts) for successful beekeeping in a cold climate.

This free 3 hour workshop has been tailored to help new beekeepers through their first year of beekeeping.

Where: Crossroads Church- 130 O Dill Dr, Norway, MI 49870

Time: 1:00-4:00 Central

When: Saturday, February 19th, 2022

If interested, please contact Bernie Driggs at 906-542-3235 or email at [sagola40@gmail.com](mailto:sagola40@gmail.com)

#### 1. New Startup Beekeeper Club in Western UP

Area beekeepers in the Iron River area have been talking with Bernie Driggs, a member of the Northwoods Beekeepers, seeking information on how to start a local beekeeping club. Bernie and Nancy Osterberg, both of the Northwoods Beekeepers, met with the local group on Monday January 8th at the Iron River Public Library.

There were 14 potential bee club members, both new and experienced, who were enthusiastic about starting a new club in the Iron River area. Bernie and Nancy will be assisting them along the way to get them up and running.

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[Visit our Website](#)

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

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