

[Mid-State Beekeepers' Association](#)  
January 2023 Newsletter

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Photo Credit: Lizanne Melton's Swarm Trap



Our upcoming meeting is:  
*Tuesday, January 3rd from 6:30pm-8:30pm*

**\*Platt Springs United Methodist Church\***  
*3215 Platt Springs Road, West Cola 29170*

with Guest Speaker Duane Black  
*Topic: Building Replacement Frames + A Swarm Trap*



#### Speaker Bio

Duane Black started keeping Honey Bees in 1968 when an older gentleman who was getting on up in age asked him if he could help him get the honey off his hives. He had never had any experience with bees prior to that. He said he would help and when they were done the gentleman pointed to a hive and told him he could take it. He has kept bees on and off since, though in his prime working years his Father in Law did most of the management for that time. He lives in Gilbert and has been a

long time member of the MidState Bee Association. Many members have benefited from his willingness to mentor.

Recently his son Dusty, who never had much involvement with the bee's growing up in a bee keeping family, has become very "into" the bees and is assisting his father and will be taking over the operation.

Duane is very knowledgeable from the school of Experience.

### Secretary's Meeting Notes for December 6, 2022 (Christmas Dinner)

6:45pm - Welcome and Thank You for coming

6:46pm - Secretary's announcements

- Friendly reminder about renewing dues: \$10 for a single membership or \$15 for a family. IF YOU HAVE PAID YOUR DUES AND YOU CONTINUE TO RECEIVE REMINDERS, PLEASE CONTACT ME: secretary\_MSBA@hotmail.com. I will make the adjustment. IF YOU BECAME A MEMBER AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2022, please also contact me.
- Beginning Beekeeping Class - Registration is open until January 14, 2023.
- Bee Sales: The last day to purchase packages and queens is January 21st; the last day to order NUCs is January 31st. Please do not wait until the last minute to order! ETA for packages and queens is March 23rd. We always allow a 2-week notice for Mother Nature.
- David MacFawn will give an update at the January meeting on the Varroa mite symposium that was held in Charleston in October. THIS INFORMATION WILL CHANGE THE WAY WE TREAT FOR VARROA! Please plan to attend!
- T-shirts are still for sale for \$20. They will be available on our store, Wild Apricot, to purchase. You may prepay, email the secretary with your size (secretary\_MSBA@hotmail.com) and then pick up your shirt at the next member meeting.
- Treasurer's Update
  - Bank of America Balance for October 21st: \$39,405.67
    - Total Expenses for October: \$200
  - Bank of America Balance for November 30th: \$41,960,72
    - Total Expenses for November: \$791.35

7:50pm - Terrell Chastain prays for meal

8:20pm (Estimated) – Raffle

8:33pm - Dinner ends

**MSBA wants to extend a Thank You to the following people for donating to our December's Raffle:**

**Bruce Sorenson: Hand Made Observatory Hive + Pamela Robinson: Hand Made Winter Bee Hat + Fleming Mattox: Double Bucket Honey Strainer + Terrell Chastain: Bee Coffee Mug**







In lieu of a regular meeting, our club had a potluck style Christmas dinner. About 60 members & guests ate and fellowshiped together. Thank you for your delicious food and helping to clean up afterwards.

Thank  
you

Dear Members,

Thank you so much for celebrating with us at our club's Christmas dinner. It was such a delight to eat with all of you. We hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did.

Be blessed this holiday season and  
Happy New Year 2023!

Best,

*The MSBA Executive Committee*



## WELCOME ABOARD!

AMANDA LEEVAN HAS ACCEPTED  
A DIRECTOR'S POSITION ON THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!

Amanda keeps bees on her newly registered Agribusiness, Heartworks Farm, and is currently growing her apiary in Gilbert. She practices natural beekeeping and is working on a Certified Naturally grown certification in 2023. She just graduated as a Level II with Honors from the Clemson South Carolina New and Beginning Farmers

Program and plans to be a Level III in 2023. Her farming business relies on pollinators, especially honeybees. Amanda grows cut flowers, edible bouquets, herbs, saffron and vegetables. She makes natural and locally grown ingredients and creates health and beauty products from her honey, beeswax and goat milk from her own goats.

Amanda grew up on a farm in East Tennessee in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains where they had fourteen beehives, and her grandfather, a Master beekeeper, managed eighty hives. She and her family were very involved in the local beekeeper's association. Amanda is excited to join Midstate's executive board!



We're looking for the best kind of people:

# VOLUNTEERS.

A few positions are available on our Executive Committee! If you are able and willing, please contact Jill: [secretary\\_MSBA@hotmail.com](mailto:secretary_MSBA@hotmail.com)

Come join our team!



## BEES OVER DINNER

BEES OVER DINNER IS A BEFORE MEETING FELLOWSHIP THAT MEETS TO TALK ABOUT BEES OVER THEIR DINNER PLATES. IT RETURNS THIS MONTH AT A NEW LOCATION CLOSE TO OUR CURRENT MEETING PLACE: *NICK'S GYRO'S AND SEAFOOD* LOCATED ON THE CORNER OF WATTLING RD. & HWY. 1. THE ADDRESS IS 3260 AUGUSTA RD., WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29170. IT'S "STRAIGHT FROM THE BEE YARD" CASUAL. ALL ARE WELCOME. COME AROUND 5:30PM FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK BEES WITH OTHERS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.



## Midlands Beekeeping Calendar

by Red Maple



As always, All beekeeping is local. Here's my offering for the beekeeping calendar for the South Carolina Midlands for the month of October:

Plan on checks once or twice this month but otherwise do not work unless necessary to prevent the triggering of robbing behavior. Try to not be too disruptive in order to allow them to get their house (brood box) in order for winter.

If you have not yet treated for varroa it's important that this is done before your winter bees are exposed to the smorgasbord of viruses that varroa transmits when it feeds. Also, it's not sufficient to just treat. You also need to have some idea that the treatment was effective in reducing the numbers of varroa in the colony.

To read the entire article, [click here](#).



Now Available! Please do not wait until the last day to order! ETA for Package and Queens is March 17th.  
Please give Mother Nature a 2-week window.

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## 2023 BEGINNING BEEKEEPING CLASS



Interested in beekeeping?  
Perhaps you just want to know what this hobby entails  
before jumping in feet first?

This course is a bargain at \$75 which includes  
2 full days of quality classroom instruction +  
a visit to a bee yard with hands-on instruction, snacks,  
study guide + the book 'First Lessons in Beekeeping'.  
Class dates: Saturdays, January 21st & Feb 18th + Bee  
Yard Day March 18th.

Classroom location: Platt Springs United Methodist  
Church: 3215 Platt Springs Rd, West Columbia.  
The bee yard is in off Hwy 1/Augusta Rd in Lexington.

*Experience has shown that the course is suited for  
ages 12 and up.*

Registration starts mid-October through  
the beginning of the year.

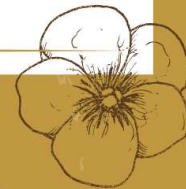
Registrants *must* be an MSBA member *and*  
prepay online prior to the first class.  
Annual Individual Membership: \$10. Family Membership: \$15.

*Questions? Contact our secretary:*  
secretary\_MSBA@hotmail.com

Visit our website for current news and announcements:  
**[www.scmidstatebeekeepers.org](http://www.scmidstatebeekeepers.org)**

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[WWW.SCMIDSTATEBEEKEEPERS.ORG](http://WWW.SCMIDSTATEBEEKEEPERS.ORG)



IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID FOR THE  
BEEKEEPING CLASS...

PLEASE GO TO: <https://msb3sa.wildapricot.org/>

*Under the top right tab, 'MSBA Web Store Items', you will see the class listed. Click on the class and next to 'Quantity', put the # of people you are paying for to take the class. Each attendee is \$75. Click 'Add to Cart.' The proceed to check out. You should receive a receipt for your "order".*

*Registration and Paying for the Class are different actions!*

*There is no link in the graphic. If you have questions, please click here:*  
[secretary\\_MSBA@hotmail.com](mailto:secretary_MSBA@hotmail.com).

*There are no refunds for the class. If you miss a day, we can send you the power point slides for reference and you may ask the instructor about any questions you may have.*

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## **Master Beekeeper Program**

Check the SC Master Beekeeper Program website for a certified course near you. Many courses occur during the winter season: <https://scstatebeekeepers.com/master-beekeeper-program/>

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### **Beekeeper's Checklist + Things to Know**

#### **Extraction Services:**

MSBA Member, **Danny Cannon**, located at **1437 Jessamine Rd in Lexington** will extract honey for beekeepers for \$5 per box with a \$20 minimum. **Call Danny to schedule a time to bring your boxes to be extracted. 803.600.4576.**

*A checklist for every Beekeeper... especially new beekeepers!*

- Local Beekeeping Stores:

\*Blythewood Bee Company: 227 Mclean Rd, Blythewood, SC 29016 // 803.754.7577

\*Johnson's Bees and Supplies: 744 Tinker Creek Road, Williston, SC 29853 // 803. 645.6725

- A 2 gallon feed pail/bucket - We need to start feeding sugar syrup: \$8-\$10 + shipping (Betterbee has them). We recommend buying 2 buckets. This is a better solution than internal frame feeders or boardman feeders that fit into the hive entrance, especially in the winter.
- A metal smoker box - about \$35 + shipping. This is to put your lighted smoker in after use. You also need to get a cork (Lowe's or Home Depot in their hardware drawers) or rag to plug the smoker so you will have charred pine straw that is easy to light (W.T. Kelley makes them)
- Folding veils (easy to store) with the long strings and helmets - \$25 for a veil +\$15 for the helmet. (Dadant carries them). Long sleeve bee gloves (Buck o has them for about \$12 a pair) of the correct size
- Buy a canvas/cloth large laundry bag (Wal Mart or Amazon) to put pine straw that has been mowed/run over to make soft for your smoker fuel. This should be stored in a very dry place so it lights easily.
- A 2" or 3" paint brush and a double boiler/crock pot to melt beeswax and coat the frames after scraping dead bees out. *Note: Beeswax is very flammable! We recommend 2/3 pound of wax for 8 medium frames.* You probably have deep & medium frames - about \$8/pound at Dadant.
- Use high quality paint your hive(s). **Paint only the outside** and leave the inside for the bees to coat with propolis.
- Make sure everyone wears light colored clothing. **No dark fuzzy clothing!** Blue jeans are ok. Long sleeve shirts. Do we have veils and gloves for everyone? \*If an experienced beekeeper wears blue jeans and a tan/light long sleeve shirt with a collar, white socks with covered toe shoes/boots, you will only need the veils/gloves. This is cheaper than the bee suits with attached veils. *New beekeepers are encouraged to buy the jacket with veil until they feel comfortable enough to not need it.*

Facebook isn't our primary means of communicating with our members; however, if you want more bee talk and friendly advice from over one-thousand of your peers, it's available as another option to gather Midland's beekeeping information.


### **Facebook Discussion Groups:**

[SC Mid-State Beekeepers](#): For general Midlands beekeeping discussion.

[SC Mid-State Beekeeping Buy, Sell, Trade](#): Midlands For Sale Beekeeping items,

**including bees, queens, woodenware, nucs. etc.**

**[SC Mid-State Beekeepers Public Announcements Page: General Announcements to the Public Page.](#)**

 Visit us on Facebook

 On the Web: [Mid-State Beekeepers](#)

 Email Us

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**Our address is:**

Mid-State Beekeepers Association  
West Columbia, SC

<https://www.scmidstatebeekeepers.org/>

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