



Photo Credit: MSBA Secretary Jill Van Horn's first year of honey harvest (2020)



Our upcoming meeting will be
*Tuesday, June 7th, 6:30-8:30pm (end time is estimated due to the
President's presentation & members' questions & voting)*

3220 Platt Springs Road
West Columbia, SC 29170

June Speaker: James Craig
Topic: Cutouts / Relocations

Speaker Bio

I have a 44+ year background in health care..was a clinician/educator/medical equipment company owner...sold that in 2012, opened Striped Pig Distillery in Charleston, selling it in 2019.

I started beekeeping in 2013 without a class or a clue. I bought 4 colonies of bees and woodenware, then lost three of the four during the winter. I found and joined Charleston Beekeepers Association (CABA) in the spring of 2014, borrowed a book, found someone to

watch me inspect my hive, and passed the certified beekeeper level. I also joined the CABA swarm team and found I had an affinity for bee relocations, completing 60+ in the first year. In 2015, knowing everything there was to know about bees, I sat for the Journeyman exams at Clemson. I followed that with the Master exam in 2017 at Florence, SC. Somewhere along the way, I found I knew very little about bees...still don't. I've enjoyed wrangling honey bees from natural, residential and commercial structures since 2014, donating more than 500 colonies to area beekeepers and non-profits groups. I average more than 1 honey bee colony relocation each week during the year, beginning around the middle of February, and into November...last year for example was 74 relocations. I have learned much about the behavior of feral colonies doing these.



August 2nd Speaker: SCBA member Staci Siler // Topic: Reading Frames

All meeting announcements are emailed 2 weeks from the scheduled meeting date.

From the President . . .

If you were at the last meeting, you know that we voted on some big-ticket items. If you were not there, what happened and why.

As president, I am also part of the executive leadership committee for the Midstate Beekeepers Association. In addition to our monthly meeting, we meet to discuss

issues that are not primarily educational, such as: expenses, finance, opportunities and growth.

To say the last three years have not been unprecedented would be an understatement. Attendance at our meetings dropped to zero as we were forced to meet virtually. Over time, we have been allowed to meet in person and obtained a new venue. Attendance is about a third of what it was in past. The overall number of people involved in beekeeping has dropped as well.

Without members and new beekeepers, we will not have an association. The executive leadership has floated ideas of mugs and t-shirts to promote our organization. Our specific tax-exempt status does not allow us to “sell” these items, but they can be given away to members. Leadership thought these were good initial ideas to promote our club as the t-shirts could be given to new members and to members as they volunteered. We would need to get ideas from local artists on potential logos and submit these to the members for approval.

In the midst of this, our past president, Danny Cannon, approached me to sponsor the state meeting here in Columbia. Danny is now the president of the State Beekeepers Association and understands the issues of our club as well as all clubs within South Carolina. Leadership had talked about supporting the state meeting, and we were going to bring this up to members. However, I realized that there were only two meetings before the state meeting in July, and one of them was just days away. After a few emails and telephone calls, the executive leadership felt like Midstate should support the state meeting. This was a unanimous consensus. I agreed to present this to our members without notifying them via our newsletter or word or mouth (the monthly newsletter had been sent out already,) *it was considered that important.*

The reasons for supporting the state meeting are obvious: it is in Columbia, attendees will be primarily from here, supporting the State association supports us, having a presence in the meeting will let local people know that there is local beekeeping organization. The t-shirt idea will just add to our presence at the meeting. The drawback is that this will be a major expense (~\$8000 -- \$5000 State Conference + \$3000 t-shirts) and we will need to step up as an organization to pull this off.

I personally apologize to any members who felt this was hurried or out of line. This is a unique opportunity for our group and our entire leadership thought these were good ideas to pursue. *We will repeat the presentation at the next meeting for another

vote, just to make sure that the initial enthusiasm persists. Members will be able to ask questions.

Respectfully,

Fleming Mattox

[Index](#)

[Meeting Notes for April](#)

[Meeting Notes for May](#)

[2022 Summer Conference](#)

[Monthly Beekeeping Calendar for the Midlands](#)

[Congratulations to Lizanne Melton!](#)

[Extractor Rental](#)

[Things You Need to Know / Beekeeper's Checklist](#)

[Bees Over Dinner Returns!](#)

[More Information & Resources](#)

Secretary's Meeting Notes for April 5th

6:30pm - Fleming called meeting to order

6:31pm - Secretary's announcements

- NUC arrivals
- State Beekeeping Conference: July 21-23rd in Columbia

6:35pm - Treasurer's Update

- Balance \$49,422.34
- Total Expenses \$3986.35

6:40pm - Community Outreach Update

- Kevin Cullis to present at an elementary school the following week

6:43pm - Secretary announced the Club Librarians, Neal & Jeannine Taylor

6:45pm - In the News: Fleming announced that Brian Rish completed his Certified Beekeeping checklist with Larry Coble March 19th. Good job, Brian!

6:48pm – Fleming announced our speaker, Susan Jones

6:49pm- Director Lizanne Melton announced April's speaker, Susan Marie Jones // Topic: Using the natural inclinations of the honey bee colony to increase the colony size, split the colony, and raise a queen.

7:00pm – Susan gives her presentation on Splits

Estimated 7:45pm – Presentation is finished, Q&A time. Intermission 10 minutes + Raffle

I want to give the following members a **THANK YOU** shout out for donating raffle prizes:

*Rebecca Logan: Homemade Ceramic Bowls

*Bruce & Joan Sorenson: Homemade Bee Stakes

If I missed anyone who donated at this meeting, please email me at:
secretary_MSBA@hotmail.com

Best,
Jill

Secretary's Meeting Notes for May 3rd

6:30pm - Fleming called meeting to order

6:31pm - Secretary's announcements

- State Beekeeping Conference: July 21-23rd in Columbia

6:35pm - Treasurer's Update

- Balance \$49,491.31
- Total Expenses \$280.82

6:40pm - Community Outreach Update - N/A

6:40pm - Secretary announced the Club Librarians, Neal & Jeannine Taylor + Bottled Water and Snack Table

6:43pm - Director Susan Owen introduces speaker, Nancy Simpson. Nancy gives presentation // Topic: Prepare Your Hive Products: Tips and Tricks from a Honey Judge

7:30pm – Presentation is finished, Q&A time. Intermission 10 minutes + Raffle

7:40pm - Fleming gives presentation regarding MSBA participation with SCBA

Conference, presents idea on top tier donation + tshirts. Secretary presents logos.

I want to give the following members a **THANK YOU** shout out for donating raffle prizes:

*Evan Thayer: Homemade Swarm Trap Lemongrass Rings

*Bill Couch for the willingness to mentor Bruce & Joan Sorenson for a one-on-one mentoring session

*Bruce & Joan Sorenson: Homemade (by Joan's sister) Bee Ribbon Bows

If I missed anyone who donated at this meeting, please email me at:
secretary_MSBA@hotmail.com

Best,
Jill

SCBA Summer Conference - In Columbia This Year!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! This will be a **HUGE** event for our community and for Midstate Beekeepers Association!

Thursday will be a day for kids + public. There will be several vendors + knowledgeable speakers at the conference on Friday & Saturday. Invite your friends, neighbors and family! New beekeepers are strongly encouraged to attend.

Volunteers are needed at the SCBA Summer Conference July 21-23 in Columbia SC. Our Mid-State Beekeepers Association has been asked to lead the 'Introduction to

Beekeeping' Class as well as staff the 'Meet and Greet' Table at check in. We need volunteers to fill the following:

1. Staff the 'Meet and Greet' table (shifts available Thursday, Friday and Saturday)
2. Lead an hour 'Introduction to Beekeeping' presentation/class. This is a great opportunity to work with a friend and tag team the presentation as well as earn service credits for the Master Beekeeper Program. 4 teams needed. (Thursday)

Contact Anne Runge at runge@bellsouth.net to volunteer.

Additional volunteer opportunities include:

1. Youth Program Coordinator to lead the Bee Cause Program Curriculum (provided) for 7-12 year olds (Thursday)
2. Youth Program Coordinator for 13-17 year olds (Thursday)
3. Registration Coordinator and helpers
4. Audio Visual help
5. Bee Bash Coordinator – Coordinate Friday evening social event

Contact president@scstatebeekeepers.com to volunteer or for more info for these opportunities.

We look forward to a fun and informative conference!

Midlands Beekeeping Calendar for June

by Red Maple



All beekeeping is local. These chores are for the Midlands of South Carolina. During early June the nectar flow ends with only a few location exceptions. Robbing becomes a concern as nectar becomes scarce. You will notice the bees wash boarding on the front of the hive and around entrances. It's as though they don't have anything to do other than wait at the entrance rocking back and forth. Populations are very large now and consume a great deal of food. Good weather and long days are ideal for foraging – if only there was nectar available. The early rising beekeeper may note that the bees fly with more enthusiasm during the morning hours. But as the heat increases and the nectar dries up fewer bees forage as the day progresses.

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

<http://sassafra-beefarm.wordpress.com/2022/05/23/midlands-beekeeping-calendar-for-june-2/>



Lizanne Melton is officially an SCBA Journeyman Beekeeper!

An excerpt from member Larry Coble's email, *'You have worked so hard and been very successful with your beekeeping. I remember I first met you about 8 or 9 years ago at a Clemson SCBA conference and I remembered you from an earlier conference. I asked how your bees were doing and you said you were still studying before you made the jump. Wow, I thought to myself, that's preparation! I think we can say now, with some certainty, that you got it right! Now you're a Journeyman! Yippee!'*

Great job, Lizanne!

MSBA Extractor Rental

Harvesting Honey?

Mid-State Beekeepers Association has a powered extractor for use by members.

Rental is \$5 per day with a two-day minimum. A \$50 refundable cleaning and damage deposit is required on pickup. The additional honey this powered unit will extract from the comb more than pays its rental fee. A heated capping knife, and strainers are also available with the extractor if needed.

Members will need to obtain their own food grade buckets. We can direct you to these locally or you may be able to get them at local bakeries, food service establishments, etc. *The quartermaster for the MSBA extractor is Jeannine and Neal Taylor-To reserve the extractor, you may click here to email them directly: nealtaylor@gmail.com*

Things You Need 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.*

More Information & Resources

Since we started the Facebook Discussion Group, we've always maintained that members won't miss anything if they can't or don't want to join Facebook. That's still true. Facebook isn't our primary means of communicating with our membership. But 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.



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Our address is:
Mid-State Beekeepers Association
West Columbia, SC
<https://www.scmidstatebeekeepers.org/>

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