

Marshall Beekeepers Association

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Beetle Mania

That pesky critter from Africa

With the advent of faster and easier transportation the ability to ship goods around the world has become much easier. Not only can goods be shipped, but various non-native species can inadvertently find themselves in countries far from home. Sadly, this is the case with the small hive beetle.

Introduced into the United States sometime in the 90s, this minor pest in Africa has become a growing problem in the U.S. During the months of July and August the Marshall Beekeepers Association (MBA) held meetings to discuss the history and approved methods of controlling this ever growing problem.

During our August meeting Rebecca Searcy shared her story about losing a relatively strong hive to the small hive beetle. Mr. Beasley and Mr. Brantley shared ideas on controlling the pest using screened bottom boards and beetle traps. There was even discussion on using tar paper in front of your hives to deny access to the soil by the beetle larva. See *Beetle Mania* page 2

Educating the Public

Smoker fuels that actually smoke

Continuing with the goal of educating the public the MBA recently conducted a class on various smoker fuels. Among those discussed were cotton fiber, pine straw, punk wood, and sweet gum balls. After careful research members learned that punk wood worked best. Light weight and very porous punk wood (see photo below) is similar to balsa wood and has a low flash point or ignition temperature. Once lit punk wood will produce great quantities of smoke, which is relatively cool to the touch.

In another lesson Mr. Beasley used technology to showcase a video series on how to remove bees from a tree. Developed by Bob Mansinger part one of the series highlighted the importance of cutting the tree in half with care using a chainsaw. Part two will showcase the steps required in removing the comb from the tree, and placing it into frames.

Punk Wood



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Beetle Mania

Whatever the solution may be, the MBA advised everyone in attendance to use only approved methods of control. Substances like boric acid can not only kill the beetles, but your bees as well. Additionally, if this substance finds its way into your honey you can no longer sell it to the public.

Out In Force

Liquor Store Honey

Located east of Marshall on old Hwy 80 near Scottsville sits a liquor store that has been around for over thirty years. In the walls of this old building was a very large beehive that by all estimates had been there for over ten years. Seeing an opportunity for the Marshall Beekeepers Association (MBA), Mr. Brantley made a deal with the owner to remove the bees for a \$200.00 donation to the (MBA).

After discussing the mission with club members it was decided to use this opportunity to teach others the art of removing bees from a wall cavity.

Aided by several club members the exterior wall coverings were quickly removed, revealing well defined brood patterns (See Photo) and lots of honey. This honey was later split between the bees and several club members. The bees, about 30,000 strong were given to a beginning beekeeper within the MBA.

Overall the mission was a huge success which left the owner and the MBA very happy.



Members of the MBA check out the brood pattern



Sweeping the bees into a hive body from the liquor store

MARSHALL BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION RECEIVES \$500.00 DONATION

Recently the MBA received a very generous donation in the amount of \$500.00 thanks in part to the efforts of Mr. Bob Mansinger of Hallsville. With this donation the MBA has well over a \$1000.00 in its treasury. Our hats go off to Mr. Mansinger for a job well done.

Six Months and Counting

There's an old saying that goes like this "Time really flies when you're having fun". Believe it or not the Marshall Beekeepers Association has been in existence for six months. In that time the MBA has established dues, elected officers, educated the public, removed bees from various locations, and our membership continues to grow. Although no one can predict the future, it's looking like the MBA will be an exciting place to be.

Upcoming Events

1. **An old foe revisited:** Learn what it takes to keep the wax moths at bay.
2. **Plants that matter:** Learn what plants make the best forage for honeybees
3. **Swarm Traps:** Learn how to build and place a swarm trap increasing your chances of catching free bees.
4. **Field Trip:** See a handmade extractor and explore the intricacies of a modern beehive.