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A field day with local bees

PHOTOS BY JOEL GREEN
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Bees crawl around the top of the frames where they build their hive Sunday at a Boone Regional Beekeeping member residence in Columbia. George Frees loosened up a frame for removal while attendees used smokers to pacify the bees for safer access to their hive.

JOEL GREEN/MISSOURIAN

The Boone Regional Beekeeping Association hosted a field day Sunday at a member's residence in Columbia. Carl Korschgen, an experienced Columbia beekeeper, hosted the event on his property. The event began and ended with discussions and Q&A's in the barn, with an outdoor demonstration using actual bee hives in between. Korschgen talked about the purchase of hive materials and beekeeping equipment as well as proper care of an established hive.

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From left, Josh Igleheart and Tom Coudron demonstrate how to catch bee swarms Sunday at a Boone Regional Beekeeping Association member's barn in Columbia. This type of swarm trap can be tethered to a tree to catch bee swarms searching for a new hive location.

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George Frees lights a bee smoker Sunday outside a Boone Regional Beekeeping member's barn in Columbia. Frees later helped teach new beekeepers techniques for maintaining hives.

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Bee smokers sit outside a barn Sunday at a Boone Regional Beekeeping member workshop in Columbia. Smoke from these devices was used to calm bees and safely access their hives.

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Jeff McCully, brand new to beekeeping, wielded a smoker during a hive demonstration. "There's a lot of good information being put out here," said McCully. The event was well-attended, nearly filling up Korschgen's barn. Korschgen, who has worked with bee hives for over a decade, first got involved with the organization in 2009. He has since shifted to an educational role for new beekeepers. "It's addictive," he said.



George Frees discusses his techniques working with hives Sunday at a Boone Regional Beekeeping member's residence in Columbia. Frees, a University of Missouri freshman studying biology, said that he began learning about beekeeping at eight years old.

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Columbia beekeeper Carl Korschgen talks to inexperienced beekeepers about how he takes care of his hives Sunday at his residence in Columbia. Korschgen farms honey from his bees, which can be found at Helmi's Gardens and Pierson General Store.

JOEL GREEN/MISSOURIAN

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