

BIO

Grant F. C. Gillard

Grant F. C. Gillard is an ordained Presbyterian pastor, presently living in Jackson, MO. He began keeping bees on the family farm in Glenville, MN, after graduating from Iowa State University with a degree in Agriculture in 1981. While active in his local church, his local congregation convinced Grant he'd make a better pastor than farmer.

He graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA, with a Master's of Divinity degree in 1987. He later obtained a Doctor of Ministry degree from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, MO, in 2000.

Since moving to Missouri in 1993, he combines his passion for beekeeping with his pastoral duties at the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, MO. Grant currently operates around 200 hives and produces honey for local sales in southeast Missouri. He also produces nucs, loves to catch feral swarms and has published several books on the topics of beekeeping.

He teaches beginning beekeeping courses at the Cape Girardeau Career and Technology Center and facilitates the Jackson Area Beekeepers Association. He has published several books on beekeeping and has assisted several other local authors publish their works. He dreams of recapturing the competitive skills of his youth in trapshooting.

He is past-president of the Missouri State Beekeepers Association and is a frequent regional and national conference speaker. He received the Missouri State Beekeeper of the Year Award in 2012.

Grant is married with three grown children living in Kansas City, MO, and Phoenix, AZ. His wife, Nancy, also an ordained pastor, has taken an increasing role in selling honey at the farmer's markets.