

AUGUST 2015



St. Clair Beekeepers Association

Bee Buzz

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Clair Beekeepers Association

Special points of interest:

- Return your library items
- Next meeting we go back indoors in Edwardsville
- Recipes with honey next month, send in your favorites

Our Next Monthly SCBA Meeting Is...

Sunday, August 30th at 2:00 pm

The meeting will be held at the home of:

President Bill Mattatall

1496 Black Lane

Caseyville, IL 62232

Bill's phone is 618-910-3149

Bring a side dish or dessert to share. The club is supplying the meat

If you are planning on having a look at Bill's bees, bring your suit, Bill's bees are protective of their honey stores, especially this time of year

What is happening in your Apiary?

Many members have already completed their extracting for the year. The grasses are mostly dormant and it's hot and sticky. Whoever coined the phrase "busy as a bee" was not looking at the hives this time of year. Lack of water, and too much sun has made the nectar scarce. The spring honeyflow is but a memory. There are a few flowers and some pollen out there, but it's not enough to keep the hive buzzing during the dearth of summer. Any honey that is up in the supers now is going down into the brood chambers to feed the young and workers. Bees are bearding out the front and tops of the hives.

You should be checking your hives. Don't let them starve! You may have to feed them, especially if you took too much of their stores. The queen is cutting back on her laying, this can really confuse some of the newer beekeepers. Is the queen failing? The frames that had brood wall to wall are now mostly empty. The queen knows there is nothing to gather, so she has to cut back on the number of mouths to feed. Make sure you do have a queen. Are there any eggs at all? Young larvae? How many eggs are in each cell? Multiples are signs of laying workers. Have you done a mite check? This is the time they are really building in numbers and they can take the hive down before fall is over.

And don't forget the beekeeper! Stay hydrated and don't overdo it out in the heat of the day!



There is no President's letter this month. Hopefully we will have one for September.

Bee Meeting at Ken Schaeffers

We had a great time at the end of July. We were all surprised the weather held out and it was not miserably hot.



Ken had a frame grabber that made it really easy to pull them out carefully without damaging the adjoining frames.

He is careful to put the combs back in the same places they were. Comb can be drawn out unevenly with high and low points. Match them up across from each other to maintain bee space and not make the bees rework the frames to recreate the bee space. You also don't want to split the brood up too much, especially if you notice your hive has swarmed and you may not have enough bees to keep them warm.

We moved through the frames, saw many signs that queens were active, eggs, larvae of all stages. The bees were really healthy and getting some nice capped honey ready for harvest.



State Bee Inspector, Eleanor Schumacher was there and did an inspection of the apiary. She checked for the general health in the hives and if there was any sign of disease in the bees. Happily they all passed her in depth inspection. She also completed a hive beetle count via powdered sugar shake on the hives.



Gathering young bees, newly hatched, shaking them into a container than keeping them from flying away before you can measure them and put them in a mason jar can be a challenge, but you can see she has them in the jar and is shaking them up to help get the powdered sugar all over the bees and loosen the mites grip. She then shook the bees over a white surface to see how many mites were dislodged. Ken's bees are Illinois survivor stock and really kept the numbers pretty low

The now unhappy ghost-like powdered covered bees were returned to the front of the hive to go back in and to work.

Before you do any mite test, always make sure the queen is NOT in your test sample. She could be hurt or killed, especially if you use an alcohol wash.



Feed, Feed, Feed the Bees!

There are many ways you can go about feeding your bees. When the weather is warm, sugar syrup is the way to go. Some mix 50% sugar and 50% water, others like more sugar, some go for more water. Whatever you use, make sure that it is in a container located inside the hive. Like sharks in bloodied waters, they will be everywhere, pouring out of the hives to get to the food. If you fed a small weak nuc, and it's sitting next to a couple other full strength hives, this may mean disaster for the little nuc. Sometimes just having syrup near the hives as you are trying to feed them cause them to start robbing. When food is scarce larger hives will try to overpower the guards of the weaker hives. Bees from all around will then go in and steal the fresh food, as well as any other food they can find. Fighting ensues, and casualties will be on both sides. The combs will get torn up, the robbers are not careful as they are coming in to steal whatever they can get. Use your entrance reducers to make it difficult for the robbers to get in. You may have to close up some of the ventilation (propped up top covers or extra holes in the top of hives) when you notice robbing.



Don't forget to hand them your E-Scrip card before you hit the checkout at Schnucks. They even take it when you go through the self checkout. Lose your card? You can grab another one and ADD it to your cards.

Just register it online by signing into their website (www.escrip.com). Go to my eScrip and sign in. Then go to cards and add another card. Now when we find an awesome sale on sugar at Schnucks the club will get credit! Online shopping? We get credit from Amazon, Macys, JC Penney, Home Depot, Target and more! Need help? Contact Vickie at 618-978-4369

St. Clair Beekeepers Association

Officers 2015

President	Bill Mattatall
Vice President	Kevin Wilke
Secretary/Treasurer	Vickie Piel
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Director 1st Year	Susan Bailey
Director 2nd Year	Ken Schaefer
Director 3rd Year	Ken Kloepper
Librarian	Anita Castagna
Web Page	Barbara Beal
Program Chair	Charity Davis-Woodard

Requests for submissions– Send or I tell Bad Jokes

What is black and yellow and flies at 30,000 feet?

A btt on an airplane

Why did the bee go to the dermatologist?

It had the hives

What do you call a bee that eats too much?

Chub-bee

Why do bees have sticky hair?

Because they use honey combs

Quick! Send in articles, news, photos, cartoons, your kids drawings before I tell another joke!