

September 2015



# St. Clair Beekeepers Association

## *Bee Buzz*

---

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Clair Beekeepers Association

### Special points of interest:

- Next Meeting October 23rd in Belleville
- Return Library items
- Still MIA: demo box and Optima projector

### Our Next Monthly SCBA Meeting Is...

**Friday September 25th 7:30 PM**

The meeting will be held at the

**Madison County Farm Bureau**

**900 Hillsboro**

**Edwardsville, IL**

Please bring a snack to share after the meeting

---

### Cooler Weather will be here before You Know It!

There is less brood, less bees. More and more robbing. The summer is winding down and we've had a few cooler nights. How are your bees? Are they still queenright? Do they have enough food stored up to get through the winter? The bees know the weather better than any of us. The drone population isn't what it was just a few weeks ago. You may have put an entrance reducer in to prevent robbing when you put some sugar syrup on the hives. It's a difficult challenge, feed the bees and risk robbing? Or wait and maybe they may starve? Smaller colonies are certainly at risk for being robbed if you have a huge colony close to them and they smell that food.

Have you knocked the varroa population down in the hive? They don't call them Varroa Destructor for nothing, they not only suck the life out of your bees (literally) they also spread disease. The hive is going to lose so many workers and the small amount of brood they will be able to get to adulthood in the winter will have a hard enough time surviving without a full blown varroa infestation. Get your treatments in, especially now that you've taken off your honey. Moth-proof your supers and store your equipment safely and well closed preventing mice, moths and others from damaging those honey supers.

Combine smaller weak colonies that do not appear to have enough bees or honey to survive winter. Check your stands, settling can cause hives to tilt backwards, holding moisture in them.



## No Presidents letter to the membership

Anita Castagna, Club Librarian has this reminder:

# RETURN YOUR ITEMS TO THE LIBRARY

I know there are a few items I would like to check out, however someone else has borrowed them before I had a chance to. Not everyone is a very fast reader, but we do need to have the items returned so that others have an opportunity to peruse the pages and read about the amazing bees.  
Phone calls will be going out to members soon.

You can email her at [anita@charter.net](mailto:anita@charter.net)

Let's all work together to make this library work and be a great resource for us all

---

## Illinois State Fair, 2015

Tom Simpson gets the credit for taking these photos of entries and items found at the Fair. Besides selling honey icecream, members from bee clubs all over Illinois were allowed to sell their honey. They also helped educate the public about bees. Sitting in an air conditioned building talking about bees all day? Priceless.



Combs ready to extract  
Various wax displays  
Honey of different colors and  
Quantities, comb honey, creamed  
Ross Rounds, so much to see!







*Teamwork*

Not only can clubs enter, but also individuals. Check out the State Fair Website at :

<http://www.illinois.gov/statefair/info/Pages/Default.aspx>

Just over 320 days to prepare for next year!



## St. Clair Beekeepers Association

### Officers 2015

President	Bill Mattatall
Vice President	Kevin Wilke
Secretary/Treasurer	Vickie Piel
Public Information Officer	Katrina Kloepper
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

What do bees do in the winter? They snuggle with their honey.

Roses are Red  
Violets are blue  
Both are delicious  
Now I want honey

What goes zzub zzub?

A bee flying backwards

Why do bees have sticky hair?

Because they use honey combs