

APRIL 2015



# St. Clair Beekeepers Association

## *Bee Buzz*

---

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Clair Beekeepers Association

### Special points of interest:

- ◆ Swarming time
- ◆ Next meeting is Sunday May 24th at 2 pm
- ◆

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

**Friday, April 24 beginning at 7:30 pm**

The meeting will be held at the  
St. Clair County Farm Bureau Building  
1478 Illinois Route 15, Belleville, IL

Bring your beekeeping questions and a snack to enjoy. Anything made with honey is always welcome

---

### Spring has Sprung!

The weather is finally staying a bit on the warmer side. We still will have a few cool nights here and there. Hopefully you've had your bees make it through the winter and your queens are starting to ramp up their egg laying. Swarm season is here. We've had reports of several hives swarming already! Do your best to keep the hives in your yards from swarming by giving the bees some room to expand. It's a tough balance now with hive beetles, you don't want to have too much territory for the bees to cover, but you want to give them room to expand and grow. Make sure you have good mated queens in your hives. If you find some supercedure cells, or swarm cells in your hives, you may need to cut them out to try and slow down a hive that wants to swarm. If the bees have their mind set on swarming, it's near impossible to stop them. Creating a nuc, splitting your hives and moving the split hive with the queen may give them enough of a change and 'fee' that they've swarmed. Watch the weather, it is still early and although you may see some drones in your hives, it's no guarantee that a newly emerged queen is going to be well mated, especially with our fickle weather. If she doesn't have warm enough temperatures, or if it's raining or too windy, she won't go out for her mating flights. Poorly mated queens or ones that cannot mate at all will be drone layers. Watch your capped brood to make sure you have a good laying queen.

Soon the Black Locust trees will be bursting with flowers and the honey flow will kick off in our area. Make sure you have healthy bees to replenish their dwindled food supplies and begin to work on gathering surplus honey.



There is no President's letter this month. He was busy traveling.

He was able to send a photo of an interesting water tower seen during his trip.

If only that were full of honey...

Photo on the right is a bee on Plum Tree blossoms sent by Bonnie Greer. The bees were all over the tree. I hope she has a great plum harvest this year!



Don't forget to submit your news, articles, funny stories or other great info to share with the club. Email me at [katken7@yahoo.com](mailto:katken7@yahoo.com)

## E-Scrip keeps moving along



Every month we are seeing the numbers going higher and higher. Thanks to everyone who has signed up with E-Scrip with us. For those of you who have not, it's really easy. Check with the cashier at the checkout at your local Schnucks and they will give you a card and the directions on how to register. Then use it at the checkout the next time you shop. Schnucks scans the card and a percentage of your purchase goes to the SCBA.

You can also do this via online shopping. There is a convenient link on the web site : [Stclairbees.com](http://Stclairbees.com)

On the bottom right of the table of contents is the E-Scrip logo to click on.

St Clair Beekeepers Association should show in the box on the left. Click the center of the radio button on the right to make it black in the middle and click the Next button.

Choose Shop Now and you're on your way with online shopping for auto, travel, household, shoes, Amazon, Macy's Walmart, etc. SCBA gets a percentage of those purchases at no extra cost to you!

### SCBA Officers 2015

President	Bill Mattatall	Director 1st year	Susan Bailey
Vice President	Kevin Wilke	Director 2nd year	Ken Schaefer
Secretary/Treasurer	Vickie Piel	Director 3rd year	Ken Kloepper
Public Information	Katrina Kloepper	Librarian	Anita Castagna

My apologies for the short newsletter. I have been out of town. Send in some articles for next month, Okay? - Katrina