

Greetings SCBA Members!

Hope everyone is staying cool and safe at this mid-point of the summer. It's easy enough for us to step inside an air-conditioned building, but as everyone is witnessing, honey bees have to step **outside** their homes in order to try to maintain a safe inside temperature for brood rearing and general hive maintenance. We call this "bearding" and it allows the colony to stay together as a unit but does interrupt some of the activities they would normally be doing inside the hive. That's okay – maybe they need a vacation anyway! Fortunately these super hot and humid days don't last forever and soon the bees will be able to get back to their routines.

In the meantime, take advantage of this opportunity to observe your bees as they festoon and generally hang about on the external surfaces of the hive. You may see some behaviors that you don't have time to fully observe during an inspection when you are trying to get the hive closed back up as soon as possible. Although for the most part bearding bees appear to be calm and quiet (as if they are trying hard not to build up a sweat!) you might see some trophylaxis, dance language behavior, and wash-boarding. During the long cold months of winter when you are longing to be in touch with your bees you'll be glad to have the memories of your close encounters with your lazy-hazy summertime hive!

We are busy making plans for our second SCBA Safe Outdoor Meeting of the summer! Our gathering in June was small but very successful in the ways that only getting together in person can be: plenty of opportunity to ask questions and have a direct exchange of information; the chance to participate in the inspection of hives and discuss topics of current importance such as mite testing and treatments; and the camaraderie that comes with personal dialogue as opposed to "virtual" communication on Facebook, etc. At the July meeting we will continue to discuss late-summer varroa mite treatments; how to deal with honey supers still on the hives; preparing hives for winter; and more. We want you to know we will take the necessary precautions of mask-wearing and safe-distancing to maintain a safe environment for everyone. Bring a lawn chair, any food and beverages you may want for yourself, your protective bee clothing to observe or help with inspections, and any questions and comments you would like to share with the group. We will spread out but still bee together, kind of like a loose bee beard! LOL!

WHAT: St. Clair Beekeepers Association Outdoor Meeting

WHEN: Sunday, July 26, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: O'Fallon IL Garden Club, 549 E. State Street, O'Fallon IL 62269

<http://www.ofallongardenclub.com>

If you've never been to the community garden in O'Fallon you are in for a wonderful experience! This all-volunteer group really knows how to grow beautiful vegetables and flowers, and supports the community in many different ways. The hives located inside the garden play their role in keeping the flowers blooming and the plants thriving, and get plenty of delicious nectar and pollen in return!

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE MEETING PLEASE CHECK THE CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE OR CALL (618) 977-5545. BAD WEATHER IS ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY THIS TIME OF YEAR!

