



BEE BUZZ

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

May membership Highlights

The May membership meeting was held June 6th , because the normal date fell on Memorial Day Weekend, at Kay Good's house. Thank you to Kay and her husband for hosting this event. The weather was great and the information flowed like nectar. Approximately 30 members were in attendance and 6 – 8 newbies were there too.

A brief business meeting took place followed by the hands on portion of our meeting.

There was good discussion with lots of questions about what bees are doing now and what should be done with swarms caught. Everyone was encouraged to feed, feed, feed until the their deeps were full or until the bees quit taking it, and to stop feeding once supers are added. It was explained when to add boxes.

Kay Good opened a hive and removed a super's worth of honey frames to extract. Attendees were encouraged to get hand-on and help. The bees were testy, of course, and ran a few people off that were not wearing bee attire. We were able to show capped and uncapped honey as each frame was pulled from the super and a few dedicated worker bees had to be brushed off. Jeff Keller explained about the humidity level of the honey and that a honey refractometer can be used to test it and determine that the humidity levels were acceptable to harvest without fermentation.

We demonstrated how to decap the frames of honey using a scraper as well as an electric heat knife. It was explained that nine-frame supers encourage the bees to draw out the comb further so that the decapping process is easier to perform with the knife. Everyone was given the opportunity to decap a frame or two and then to spin the extractor. They were amazed at the amount of honey that came off just two frames. The honey was then filtered through a double strainer to remove the cappings and then everyone was able to bottle a 2 oz. bear of honey to take with them to sample. Everyone loved being hands on and were surprised to see how light in color the honey was.

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Old Timer's Way

By Ken Schaefer

The HONEY is flowing



Working bees this time of year is a pleasure. For a bee, their world is one big smorgasbord. They hardly notice me interrupting their home. That could all change in the weeks ahead, especially if we have little rain. Their food sources dry out, the population peaks, plenty of old guard bees and a food pantry to protect. Right now I check to see if they are queen right, beetle traps are on, and an empty super on in case an unexpected nectar source should happen.

I both look forward to and hate extracting time. I love seeing containers of liquid gold, but hate sticky everything, including equipment, cappings and supers.

How do I safely store the valuable supers of comb? I was going to write how I handle cleaning and storage, but it would turn into a book. I would like to explain my methods at the next meeting. I would also like to hear your methods, as beekeepers are a pretty innovative group.

Ken Schaefer

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RESOURCES ABOUT HARVESTING HONEY

[A Complete Guide to Harvesting Honey and Beeswax for the First Time \(morningchores.com\)](https://morningchores.com/how-to-harvest-honey/) <https://morningchores.com/how-to-harvest-honey/>

David Burns Certified Master Beekeeper in Central Illinois

[Beekeeping Means Knowing When To Harvest The Honey - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpLT59_2_Oc) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpLT59_2_Oc

[Beekeeping | Harvesting & Bottling Honey | Ham Radio - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWBVxAmyt3o&t=1327s) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWBVxAmyt3o&t=1327s>

[Beekeeping Extracting Honey, How To Tell When The Nectar Flow Ends - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ol5Ba4K4QVk) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ol5Ba4K4QVk>

[Harvesting Honey | How to harvest honey from a beehive - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPqXg4mmsXk) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPqXg4mmsXk>

Meeting continued...

Tom Cairns then demonstrated how to mark queens. He removed some drones from a hive to practice marking on so as to not harm any queens in the process. He shared tips and tricks on how to find a queen and demonstrated how to carefully catch her. He then marked the drones using a marking tube and then released them unharmed into the hive. Everyone was given a queen marking tube as an attendance prize.

Tom and Kay also entered another hive that was originally thought to have a laying worker, to observe the multiple eggs laid in each cell. Upon inspection, Tom observed a queen running around and so we captured her and marked her. We are assuming the multiple egg laying was because she was a new queen. There weren't many worker bees present and so we placed the queen in a queen cage and added her to a queen less hive.



Above a group watches Tom Cairns mark a queen



Left Tom prepares to mark a queen

A Little Bee Humor

Q: What's the last thing to go through a bee's mind when it hits your windshield?

A: Its bum.

Q: Why did the bee go to the barbershop?

A: To get a buzz-cut.

Q: What did one bee say to the Queen bee?

A: Your so bee-tiful! Will you bee my wife

Q: Where do bees keep their money?

A: In a honey box!

source: <http://jokes4us.com/animaljokes/beejokes.html>



Okay new guy, It's simple. You only need to know two things to be successful here....
1. Right now is our busy season.
2. We only have one season.

From the President....

Good afternoon,

First off I would like to thank Kay Good for hosting our club meeting the 6th of June. Your place is beautiful and your bees are spicy, even Beth thinks so! It was so nice to see the new and not so new beekeepers.

While we're in the full swing of June remember to inspect twice for congestion, Queen rightness,, disease, mites and stores. I haven't seen as much swarming going on right now and haven't heard much of small hive beetle infestation. For those of you processing spring honey remember to continue to add more supers as necessary. Be sure to store unused supers in the freezer or with PDB (para dichloro benzene) to keep out the wax moths.

Concerning ZOOM meetings, we have decided to suspend ZOOMing the meetings while we reevaluate the process and benefits. The attendance has not been well and I was hoping that people at home would take advantage of this opportunity to participate in the club when not able to attend in person. Maybe if there is more demand we will reconsider it.

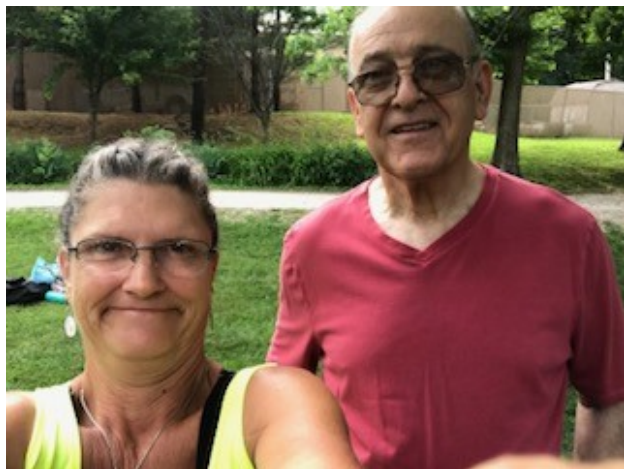
Is everybody planting pollinating mix seeds for bees this year? I know I am, There are several in our club that have planted many acres. We would like to hear from you on how well this works for your bees. Did anybody take home seeds or plants from the last meeting, if so congratulations and let us know how everything grows! We will be bringing deeds again to the next meeting, so if you have some please bring to share.

One last thing, try to remember to keep a water source out for your bees, it's hot, and they're thirsty. They will try to get into your neighbors pool or even your hot tub.

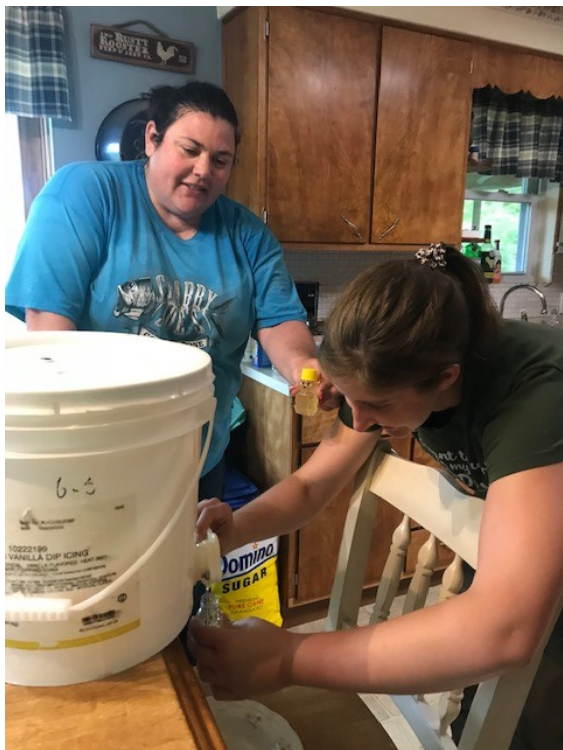
Everybody stay cool and see you Sunday, June 27th.

Thank you, your president

Julie McKinney



Julie takes time out for selfie with Roy Rhew



Kay looks on as a member fills a bottle with fresh honey.



Tom and Gay Simpson (center) catchup with some other old timers. Is that a NUC or a cooler in disguise??

Around the Bee Yard

- Check for mites and other disease
- Install small hive beetle traps
- Add drawn supers for honey flow
- Continue to monitor for congestion, queen rightness, and queen cells
- Harvest honey
- Provide plenty of water the workers are hard at it in this hot weather
- Think about nominees for Beekeeper and New Beekeeper of the Year awards
- Attend SCBA Membership Meeting June 27th

Nominations for Beekeeper and New Beekeeper of the Year

Each year the St. Clair Beekeepers Association presents two awards - Beekeeper of the Year and New Beekeeper of the year.

Qualification for New Beekeeper of the Year

This award is presented to an individual who has contributed in a substantial and positive way to beekeeping; a person who sets high standards and who is looked upon as a resource of beekeeping knowledge.

- Must have kept honeybees for at least 1 year and an active participant of the SCBA for the same time.
- Have worked with a mentor.
- Currently has a minimum of two hives
- Regularly attend club meetings and events
- Must have a good working knowledge of all aspects of beekeeping including bee biology, diseases, mites, State laws, Integrated Pest management, etc.
- Show a willingness to learn and ask questions

Qualification for Beekeeper of the Year

This award is presented to an individual who has contributed in a substantial and positive way to beekeeping; a person who sets high standards and who is looked upon as a resource of beekeeping knowledge.

- Must have kept honeybees for at least 5 years and an active participant of the SCBA for the same time.
- Be a member in good standing in the SCBA for 5 years
- Influential in new beekeepers by teaching or mentoring new beekeeper(s).
- Should show evidence of willingness to share information with other beekeepers as well as being a creative beekeeper.
- Must have a good working knowledge of “all aspects of beekeeping including diseases, mites, State laws, Integrated Pest management, etc. Evidence of this would include being a presenter at the SCBA Introduction to Beekeeping, or being a presenter at a membership meeting.
- Evidence of participation in public service relating to beekeeping (i.e., schools, fairs, service clubs, removal of swarms, etc.)
- Show evidence of marketing honey, related items, NUCS, queen rearing, sell hives or equipment.

Some nominees may not fit into some or all of the above criteria and that is ok, we understand that some nominees are inspirational and passionate about beekeeping or have made such an impact on beekeeping in geographical covered by the SCBA that they deserve to be recognized.

The nomination period is open from August 1st until October 31st. The award is present at our annual Holiday Party in late November. Nominations and documentation of support should be emailed to our club secretary who will forward them to the officers of the club. All nominations will be treated fairly and equally thru the process of determining a winner of the award, which is up to the officers to decide.

The nomination process is easy. Write a letter outlining the accomplishments and how the nominee has impacted beekeeping. And provide the following information:

Required information for Beekeeper of the Year

Nomination Statement: *general statement of support*

Brief statement of why individual is being nominated, including overview of major accomplishments and contributions to beekeeping.

Person making nomination:

Your name, address, phone number, and email address for the nominee.

Beekeeping Experience : *background in beekeeping*

Years

Number of hives

Number of apiaries

Is the nominee a honey producer, a commercial pollinator, a Queen Breeder?

Education (i.e., presentations attended, conferences attended)

Advance Beekeeping (i.e., pollination, swarm removal, NUC production)

Other (i.e., Master-beekeeper, special skills such as queen rearing)

Beekeeping Association Activities: *Membership and participation in local, regional beekeeping organizations*

- Association memberships
- Association service (i.e., committee membership, newsletter editor, media liaison)
- Offices held (i.e., Executive offices, Committee chairs)

Beekeeper Service: *participation in recruitment and education of beekeepers*

- Organizing activities (i.e., establishing new group, chaired club project)
- Instructional programs (i.e., short course instruction)
- Meeting presentations
- Journal articles
- Mentored beekeepers

Community outreach: *activities promoting beekeeping to the general public*

Educational displays (i.e., agricultural fairs, science fairs, nature museums)

Media reports (i.e., newspaper, radio, TV)

School programs

Talks to non-beekeeper groups

Required information for NEW Beekeeper of the Year

Nomination Statement: *general statement of support*

Brief statement of why individual is being nominated, including overview of major accomplishments and contributions to beekeeping.

Person making nomination:

Your name, address, phone number, and email address for the nominee.

Beekeeping Experience : *background in beekeeping*

Years

Number of hives

Number of apiaries

Has nominee successfully overwintered a colony?

Education (i.e., presentations attended, conferences attended)

Beekeeping Association activities: *membership and participation in local, regional, and national beekeeping organizations*

Association memberships

Association service (i.e., committee membership, newsletter editor, media liaison)

Offices held (i.e., Executive offices, Committee chairs)



St. Clair Beekeepers Association

**Promoting interest in bees and
beekeeping in Southern Illinois.**

Email: stclairbees@gmail.com

The purpose and function of the St. Clair Beekeepers Association is the promotion of interest in bees and beekeeping by such means as encouraging...

- **Good beekeeping practices**
- **The utilization of bees for pollination of agricultural crops**
- **The dissemination of information about bees and beekeeping**

NEXT MEETING DATE

Our next membership meeting will be held at Kim Palmer's apiary on **Sunday, June 27th at 2:00 PM. At 9519 Old Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL**

Below is the agenda of the meeting -

Brief business meeting then discussions about the dearth, pulling supers and mite treatments.

QR to Google Map

To 9519 Old Lincoln Trail

Fairview Heights, IL

