



Bee BUZZ

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2021

September Membership Meeting

Our August Membership Meeting was held September 26th, at Richard Perkins house. There were 21 members and 3 new beekeepers in attendance. The normal business meeting was held. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Tim Schartung and Jeff Keller shared with the club that they had successfully installed a hive of bees in the observation hive at the Pere Marquette Visitors Center.
- Tim Schartung shared how he feeds and insulates the hives for the winter.
- Tim Schartung brought his bee wagon he rebuilt and explained the process he went through to refurbish it.
- Rich Perkins showed the bee vac he had made and explained its features. He also showed the club the swarm lure he uses.

Elections were held and then we ate. The meeting broke up around 4:30

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Tim and Linda Schartung with their Bee Wagon

The Bees are hungry



About fifteen years ago screen bottom boards became in vogue. I made five screen bottom boards with removable trays and installed them in a ten hive yard. On a hot July day I noticed the bees only bearded out on front of the five hives with solid bottom boards. I then converted all my twenty hives to screen bottom boards. About three years later the small hive beetles entered this area. The one-eighth inch mesh screen bottom boards made easy access for the beetles. I still use my screen bottom boards but keep the tray in year round. For bottom ventilation I cut a hole in the tray and covered the hole with a window screen. I also covered the inner cover holes with screens. The only way the beetles can get into my hives is through the front entrance. I also use an entrance reducer.

Also, about this time, the idea of keeping the tray out during the winter would give the bees better ventilation. I didn't like this theory but other beekeepers did. A fellow beekeeper and I decided to do an experiment on this since we both had twenty hives. I kept my trays in during the winter and he kept his trays out. Spring came and I didn't have a single loss, but neither did he. This experiment was moot.

Beetle traps, ground treatment, and full sun somewhat help in keeping the number of beetles down. But there is no silver bullet in stopping the beetles. Fortunately, I have observed in the last two years the beetles appear later in the summer and are not as numerous. I hope this trend continues.

Ken Schaefer
(618) 975-8025

Dues for 2022 will be dues January 1, 2020.

The dues are \$20 per year with \$10 of that going to pay dues for you with the Illinois State Beekeepers Association. The holidays are a busy time so please consider paying your dues early. Send your check made payable to the St. Clair Beekeepers Association to: SCBA c/o Dennis Hessel, 1720 Cloverdale, Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025



Tim Schartung shows member a close up of his winter quilt box



Rich Perkins talks about his bee vac and swarm lure.

Newly Elected Officers for 2021-2022

Tim Schartung—President

Tom Cairns—Vice President

Katelyn Eichorst—Secretary

Dennis Hessel—Treasurer

Mark Mayhew—Program Director

Frank Dorris—Director

Congratulations to the new officers and THANK YOU to the past officers. Please help them out when asked to do so. We still need two more directors.

A Little Bee Humor

Q: Why do bees hum?

A: Because they've forgotten the words!

Q: What kind of bees hum and drop things?

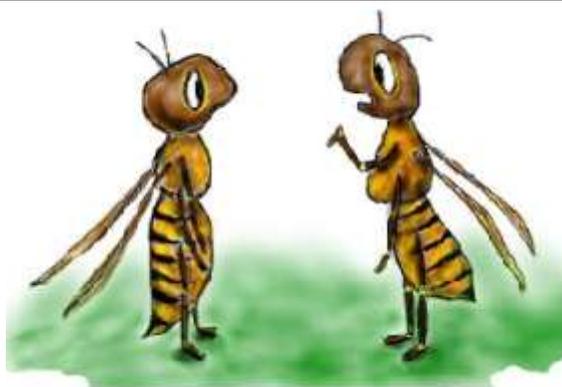
A: A fumble bee!

Q: What did the bee say to the flower?

A: Hello honey!

Q: What's a bees favorite flower?

A: A bee-gonias!



Okay new guy, you will notice the daylight hours are shorter and we have reduced work hours.

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

Announcements

The fall meeting of the Illinois State Beekeepers Association

will take place November 13, 2021 for the ISBA Annual Fall Meeting.

Not ready for registrations yet, but here is some teaser information

Different venue - the Fall Meeting will be held at the [Northfield Inn and Conference Center - Springfield](#)

- Member price \$20 - Includes lunch
- Non Member price \$30 - includes lunch
- Members who are active duty military or veterans - \$10 includes meal
- Attendance will be limited to the first 150

The [Northfield Inn](#) is offering a special room rate of \$85 per night plus taxes. Each room has double queen beds and includes complimentary breakfast.

WINTER FEEDING

No-Cook Sugar Bricks

What You Need:

Yield: about four 9x9 bricks

10 lb sugar

1 1/2 c water

Paint stir attachment for drill

Pans

Put half the sugar in a large bucket and add half the water. Mix well with paint stir attachment for drill. Add remaining sugar and water and mix well. You can do it by hand but the mixture is very stiff so the drill does a better and quicker job. Mixture will be slightly moist-enough to stick together but not wet.

Scoop into pans (non-stick pans work best) and press down to firm mixture. (Don't put in a breakable dish as you may need to hit it to release the brick). You can dry the bricks in a slow oven (180 degrees) for several hours.

Knock out of pans (bricks should come out dry and intact but if they break you can still use the pieces) and store until needed. I usually wrap them in newspaper and keep them in a plastic milk crate. You can freeze them if you prefer but it doesn't seem to be necessary.

To feed the bees lay them across the top of your frames right before the cold weather sets in. The bricks will feed the bees and help absorb moisture in the hive.

Yield: about four 9x9 bricks



From the President...

Well the mornings are definitely cooling off. You can tell fall is in the air. I was out in the yard the other day. Just your typical inspections everything was going just wonderful, then it came time to inspect my Top Bar. OMG! I have never seen so many bees in a hive. Almost frightening. Has anybody ever experienced this? And have you thought to yourself I can't do this I need help? Well this is how I was feeling and I'm still feeling that way. I don't know why a large box of bees is so intimidating. But anyway that brings me to ... should I ask for help? Would anybody be willing to come out and help?

Well this is where your club comes in to play. We have such wonderful people willing to share their experience, along with their strength, to help an individual overcome or just help with problems in the bee yard. Our club is a wonderful place, with wonderful people. The new board taking charge has never been so helpful. The new Facebook page, the new webpage we all owe thanks to the new staff coming on board, Dennis and Tim thank you so much for all you do to keep the club up-to-date and in the know. Now who is helping with the top bar? 🐝

Julie McKinney

President

Around the Bee Yard

- FEED, FEED, and FEED some more, but be aware of robbing.
- Check for mites, and treat for mites.
- Remove honey supers and weigh your hives
- Make sure your hives a queen right and combine weak hives
- Attend SCBA Membership Meeting October 29th
- Plan how you will insulate or protect your hives this winter
- Attend the SCBA Membership Meeting October 29th.
- See you at the meeting on the 29th.

Bernie's Missouri Krabby Patties

Diane Speed — October 30, 2013 — [MVBA](#) At last night's meeting, our beloved Bernie gave a little program on making his Missouri Krabby Patties. (They were named by his grandson, a SpongeBob fan.) Below is Bernie's recipe, accompanied by some cheesy, fake-ingredient photos I just took because I'm too lazy to clean up a sticky mess in my kitchen this morning.

Bernie's recipe - Mix 5 pounds of white, granulated sugar with 9 ounces of water. Mix and mix and mix some more.



Dale's recipe – *Mix 4 lbs of sugar + 1 lb of bee protein supplement + 9 oz high fructose corn syrup (replaces the water).*

Dump the mixture into a gallon-sized Ziplock bag and smoosh flat. **Optional** - you can also just mix all the ingredients in the Ziplock bag.

Add two spacers to the inside of the bag, a few inches apart. **The spacers should be approximately 4 inches long and at least 3/4" by 3/4"**. This will keep the bag from collapsing and trapping the bees as they eat the sugar.



A completed krabby patty without the 1" by 3" hole cut and without protein substitute powder or patty

Cut a rectangular hole in the bag, roughly 1" x 3", in between the spacers.



Optional Variations to the above recipes:

Cut a [winter patty](#) in half, and then cut a small hole in the middle of it. Place this over the large hole of the sugar bag.

You could also use a protein patty or if you have protein substitute flour you normally make protein patties out of, you can mix from a cup up to a pound of it with the water and sugar (do not do if you are using Dale's recipe).

The Beekeeper's Calendar Of Important Events

Reprinted with permission from David Burns an EAS certified Master Beekeeper, go to www.honeybeesonline.com

OCTOBER AND THE BEES: There are less reasons for the bees to leave the hive. Flying is cut way down. The queen is laying very few eggs. They are now shifting to winter mode.

OCTOBER AND THE BEEKEEPER: Prepare your hives for winter. A wind break should be considered. Entrance cleats should be placed in the front opening to restrict mice from entering the hive. A word about bees and winter. A large hive will not die from cold weather. They stay warm by clustering in the hive. They keep each other warm. The temperature in the hive is only warm within the cluster. They do not warm the entire inside of their hive, only the cluster. They can survive extreme cold weather. But, moisture can develop within the hive as bees do give off moisture like we do. If this moisture gathers above them, it can drip onto the cluster. This is what can kill bees during the winter. They are much like us. We can be cold and get by. But, we cannot stay alive long if we become wet and cold. Bees can get wet in the summer and it is not a problem. But you must prevent your hive from becoming cold and wet from condensation developing within the hive.

Here's how we do it. We use screen bottom boards, fully opened. We do not restrict or cover our bottom boards for winter. Nor do we place any gaps near the top cover. The open screen bottom board allows enough ventilation within the hive to alleviate moisture build up. We do not wrap for winter, although many do. It has been shown to slightly help. Black roofing paper works great. We have too many hives to wrap. Keep in mind that by wrapping your hive, you might be increasing the chance for condensation to collect within the hive.

Winter winds can be strong, so place a heavy concrete blocks on your hives.

[\(Beekeeping in 2021: The Beekeeper's Calendar Of Important Events \(basicbeekeeping.blogspot.com\)\)](#)

Coming soon a new look to the Stclairbees.com webpage.

- ◇ More pictures
- ◇ More information
- ◇ Forms for signing up for swarm list, cutout list, and mentor list
- ◇ Links to YouTube videos
- ◇ Members can submit classified ads



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 indoors on Friday, October 29th, at 7:00PM at the St. Clair County Farm Bureau 1,478 IL-15, Belleville,, IL 62221. According to the state guidelines masks are required. The choice is yours. Be considerate of others and be safe.

Bring a side dish or desert we'll provide the utensils.

Below is the agenda of the meeting -

Brief business meeting then discussions about

Oxalic Acids treatment demo

How to make mead

QR to Google Map

