

# BEE BUZZ

November 2022



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## *From the President...*

Greetings and hopefully October is going well for you. As we move into November, we enter the season where the hive's efforts along with the beekeeper's efforts are put to the test. It can be a long time from November to middle of March. The honey stores they have and the supplemental food you give them will become the prime factor to the hive's survival. It's important that you monitor the hive's activity when possible and provide supplemental feeding if required especially as we go into the new year.

Our Thanksgiving potluck is on Sunday, Nov 13<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. We ask that you bring a side dish and possibly a dessert. There will be no official meeting and focus is on socializing and eating. We look forward to visiting with everyone at the meeting. Julie is providing the turkey.

We have several board positions open and really need some volunteers to step up and fill them. Our club relies on board members to help organize the class, plan and schedule meeting locations, develop programs for the meetings, and plan Fireside Chats when we have them. We have two vacant Director positions, Program Director, and Public Information officer. We attempt to collaborate on all activities and it is true that several hands make quick work. The club cannot exist without the effort of eager members who step up to fill board positions. I ask that you think about volunteering for one of the vacant positions and if you want to know more ask one of the board members or look up the duties that are defined in our by-laws on the St Clair Beekeepers web site.

Tim Schartung  
President

## November Southern Illinois

by Ken Kloepper

**DISCLAIMER:** *The most important thing to remember is that you cannot manage honey bees by a calendar. Location, topography, climate, weather, floral resources, and management goals are all factors to consider.*

- ◆ Attend the Illinois State Beekeepers Association fall meeting.
- ◆ By the time November rolls around, the bees should be in their clusters and occasionally taking a cleansing flights if daytime temperatures allow. I also like to finish any oxalic acid vapor treatments I may have missed in late October when the daytime temperatures are in the mid 40's.
- ◆ In November, I like to store my used equipment after freezing the boxes and combs in a deep freezer for 48-72 hours continuously. This kills the eggs and larvae from small hive beetles and wax moths. Once everything has been thoroughly frozen, I separate them into 3 stacks. The first is for brood combs with pollen and honey, the second is for drawn extracting combs, and the third is for foundation frames or partially drawn frames. Any inner or outer covers, or queen excluders should also have been frozen.
- ◆ If a deep freeze is not available for use to freeze the hive equipment, a chemical product available through major bee supply houses called Para Moth may be applied to the top of a stack of stored empty supers or brood boxes to prevent small hive beetle and wax moth damage.
- ◆ On sunny, calm days in October and November, when the temperatures are in the 50's and 60's, I like to cook sugar bricks outdoors that the bees will need for supplemental feed over the winter,
- ◆ **DO NOT** cook sugar bricks or process wax indoors, as either can easily flare up and set your kitchen on fire. By cooking them outdoors with a turkey fryer, I can safely make 20 or 25 pound bricks in an after-



noon and  
the bricks in  
lon Ziplock



store  
gal-  
bags.



## ***Overwintering bees in Southern Illinois***

by Ken Kloepper

My method of overwintering bees in southern Illinois is perhaps a little different than most of you are accustomed to. I raise a lot of nucs for overwintering and have found most winters we have sufficient breaks in the weather to allow for occasional cleansing flights. This is important. Successful overwintering is largely dependent on healthy bees going into winter in the first place. Make sure, in August, that your mite counts are low, ideally less than 3 mites/100 bees. Also, make sure small hive beetles haven't gotten a foothold in your hive. They will overwinter inside the cluster right along with the bees.

I try to get my nucs into single hive bodies and feed syrup in October if stores are low. For this I use 1 gallon Ziploc bags directly over the frames inside a 3" high "Kloepper" feeder rim with a 3/8" x 3/4" opening in front to allow for an upper entrance. I try to feed something close to 2:1 sugar to water but don't get too concerned if it isn't that thick. I have never heard any complaints from the bees! Use hot water in order to get as much sugar into solution as possible. I feed like this until the temperatures (daytime highs) drop into the lower 50's at which point the bees will no longer take the syrup.



Once the bees stop feeding on the syrup, I remove any liquid syrup feed bags and start placing 2 to 3 sugar bricks directly over the cluster. In addition, I place a, roughly 8 1/2" x 9" x 1 3/4" Styrofoam block inside a clean 1 gallon Ziplock bag (it is easier to make that block from several strips of Styrofoam rather than one large block). This block is placed over the center 6 frames with two sugar bricks directly behind it. I make sure the frames to either side of the center six frames are primarily filled with honey on both sides. No empty combs or foundation should be in frame positions #2 and #9.

Of course, I make sure to install entrance reducers in late October to keep the mice out, and I also install a homemade piece of FRP (Fiberglass reinforced plastic ... 4 x 8 sheets available at Home Depot) board over my screened bottom boards to help keep the winter winds out.

By picking a warm day (preferably at least in the 40's) during the last 2 weeks of December, I will go through each hive and add additional sugar bricks as necessary so I know they have food directly over the cluster going into January's typically extreme cold weather. Another check in early February is usually all that is needed to make sure they have sufficient stores to carry them into spring. However, as with any type of overwintering of your colonies, the most likely time for the bees to starve is late winter or early spring, as brood rearing is getting under way and springtime nectar may not yet be available. So check as necessary!

### ***WINTER FEEDING ...***

Check on our website under RESOURCES/ ARTICLES for recipes and methods used for winter feeding.

## ***Beekeeping in November***

*DISCLAIMER: The most important thing to remember is that the bees don't live by a calendar. Location, topography, climate, weather and, floral resource are all factors to consider when determining what tasks need to be completed*

Winter is in the air and by now you should have your hives ready for what is to come. By now the bees are in cluster, but may break cluster on those infrequent days when the temperature goes above 55 °F and the bees take a cleansing flight.

### **Tasks to Perform –**

**Feed- Feed- Feed** - The last weeks of warm weather is when you should assess which hives are ready for winter. There is still time to feed syrup to those without sufficient stored honey and to unite the weakest hives with stronger hives

Continue to feed your colonies 2:1 ratio of sugar to syrup (5 lbs. of sugar to 1 quart of water). The bees will continue to feed as long as daytime hours remain warm,.

Stop feed liquid syrup when average temperatures fall below 50 °F.

Spread a piece of newspaper over the tops of your frames and spread sugar on top of the paper. The bees will eat this and the sugar will also help absorb moisture.

### **Hive Inspection**

While the bees are inside pull the weeds and weed-eat around the hives. Clean up any other debris lying around.

Make sure your mouse guards are securely attached to the hive.

Make sure your hive wrapping is secure and that you have a heavy brick or strapping on top of the hive.

Remove any chemical mite treatments inside the hive on a warm day,

### **Miscellaneous Chores**

Renew your annual [Apiary Registration with the Illinois Department of Agriculture](#)..

Visit any landowners that provided space for your hives, make sure they want to continue next year, and pay your agreed upon rent — some jars of honey will often do the job!

Wash your bee suit

Stow your tools

Enjoy Thanksgiving and attend the Annual St. Clair Beekeepers Association Dinner.

### **October Fireside Chat ...**

The Fireside Chat Zoom presentations returned in October. On October 11th, Adam Dolezal talked about Colony Food Consumption in Winter & Variation in Disease Susceptibility Throughout the Year.

The presentation was recorded and is available on YouTube at the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oY4KajVQjZg>

## **WE ARE GROWING...**

Welcome these new members that joined the club in September and October Kyle Gallagher, Alyssa Heimann, and Jack Hudnall

### ***Officer Positions Needing Filled...***

**The following position on the board of the Club are still open and in need of someone to step up and help with the running of the club.**

**Program Director.** The Program Director shall:

- Develop a committee of interested members
- Set up an annual plan of programs with the committee for club meetings which will serve to educate our membership
- Serve as the contact for outside speakers
- Provide membership with information about the program for monthly meetings

**Public Information Officer.** The Public Information Officer shall:

- Handle the advertising and distribution of information regarding activities, announcements and the press releases of the association
- Create and print the Association's monthly newsletter and distribute it either through the U.S. Postal Service or through electronic mail to the association members
- Serve as contact person for requests from the media for information or press releases from the Association and coordinate with the President or the Executive Board to provide acceptable replies to requests.

## **A Little Bee Humor**

Q: What are the cleverest bees?

A: Spelling bees!

Q: What bee is good for your health?

A: Vitamin bee!

If you want a pet bee, you must be called a wanna-bee.

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



**Okay new guy, its starting to get cold at night so stay with the cluster.**



## October Membership Meeting

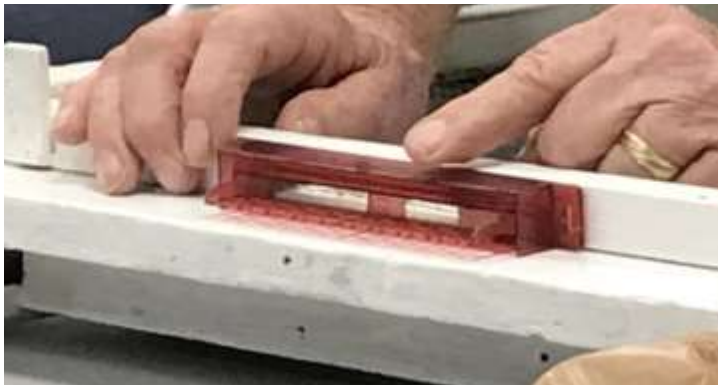
Our October meeting was held on October 28th, at the St. Clair Farm Bureau. The meeting started off with an open discussion about various methods of winterizing your bee hives.

Ken Schaefer (right) spoke about the various steps he takes to keep small hive beetles out of his hives and how he combats them once they are in the hive.

Charity Davis-Woodard gave a brief presentation about how she reclaims and cleans bees wax. Using a solar wax melter. There is an article about how to make a Solar Wax Melter on our webpage under RESOURCES/ARTICLES



Above: Ken Schaefer talks about the screened bottom board he uses.



Left: Ken shows the hive entrance he uses to keep out small hive beetles. Called the Guardian Bee Hive Entrance can be found at <https://meyerbees.com>

## ***THANKSGIVING DINNER...***

The annual Thanksgiving Dinner is November 13th, at the Madison County Farm Bureau building, 900 Hillsboro Ave, Edwardsville. The doors will open at 5:30 pm. with the meal starting at 6:00pm.

The club provides the turkey and you bring the sides. In order to get an idea of how big of a turkey to get and to make sure we have more than green bean casseroles, we have a website where you can register and let us know what you are bringing. Please go to this link and sign up and let us know what you plan to bring.

<https://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?t=WNEH7839&welcome=1>





### St. Clair Beekeepers Association

Promoting interest in bees and beekeeping in Southern Illinois.

Email: [stclairbees@gmail.com](mailto: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

### Meeting Dates for 2022....

Below are the meeting dates for 2022. They are subject to change.

Nov 13th - Sunday evening 5:30pm Location Madison County Farm Bureau  
Thanksgiving Dinner

Dec – no meeting



## NEXT MEETING DATE

On Sunday November 13th, we will host our annual Thanksgiving Potluck. It will be held at the Madison County Farm Bureau, 900 Hillsboro Ave, Edwardsville. The club will provide the turkey and members are asked to bring a side dish. Doors open at 5:30pm and eat at 6:00pm **Please bring your dish already cooked as there are no kitchen appliances in the newly remodel auditorium at the Farm Bureau.**

Link to Google Maps for  
Meeting location

