



Bee BUZZ

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2023

Announcements

Meeting Schedule for 2023

August Membership Meeting—August 27th at 2 PM. Julie McKinney is hosting the membership meeting at the Old Six Mile Museum in Granite City. We will ask again nominations for the vacating board positions.

September Membership Meeting -September 24th at 2PM. Darla Hsiao and Rich Perkins will host this meeting at their apiary near Freeburg. We will vote on the vacant board member positions. This is last outdoor meeting of the year.

October Membership Meeting—October 27th. We ill meet at the St Clair Farm Bureau at 7 PM. Please note this moves us to the last Friday of the month until spring.

Annual Membership Meeting and Thanksgiving Dinner—November 12th This is more a social meeting with a Thanksgiving potluck. New board members are installed. The location is the Madison County Farm Bureau.

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Please consider running for one of the officer positions for the club. Nominations are open and elections are in September.

August in 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.

- ◆ August is considered by many to be the month that marks the beginning of the beekeeper's year.
- ◆ Beekeepers usually notice colonies bearding in hot humid temperatures. Adding a couple of small 3/8" shims at the corners of the top supers can increase ventilation and help cool the hives.
- ◆ Inspections in August will often reveal that the amount of brood is really starting to decrease in the brood nest. At the same time, the varroa mite population is reaching its seasonal peak!
- ◆ Beekeepers must manage hive mite counts now to 2-3% or risk losing colonies over winter. It is advisable to perform follow up mite counts after treatment are completed to determine the treatment effectiveness.
- ◆ Colonies that you intend to overwinter need to be:
 - ◆ Strong—consisting of a minimum of 5 or 6 brood frames well covered with healthy bees, Consider joining or balancing hives.
 - ◆ Well Provisioned—adequate and well-arranged honey and pollen stores. Feed 2:1 sugar syrup & pollen substitute as needed.
 - ◆ Disease Free- contact Dept of Agriculture apiary inspector if suspected, for advice!
 - ◆ Low Mite Counts—treatments applied early to reduce counts is critical. Delays in treating colonies with counts higher than 3% usually results in loss as it will be too little too late!
 - ◆ Re-Queen—consider replacement of old queen with a young mated queen.
 - ◆ In Appropriate Hive—adjust the hive to brood nest boxes only and remove queen excluders.



Around the Bee Yard

- Go to Randy Oliver's website and read up about varroa mites [Varroa Management Archives - Scientific Beekeeping](#)
- Check for mites, check for mites, check for mites
- Remove honey supers and treat for mites if necessary
- 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 August 27th
- Consider running for an officer position in the club
- Submit nominations for Beekeeper of the Year and New Beekeeper of the Year



Please consider running for one of the officer positions for the club. Nominations are open and elections are in September.

A Little Bee Humor

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

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

Q: What do you get when you cross a race dog with a bumble bee?

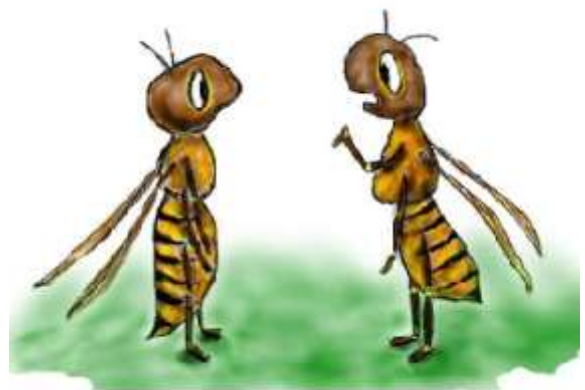
A: a Greyhound Buzz.

Q: What is a bees favorite sport?

A: Rug-Bee.

Q: What TV station do bees watch?

A: Bee bee c one!



Okay new guy, it's getting HOT and there's not much food out there to collect.

FROM ISBA

State Wide Weekly Zoom Meeting

"Breakfast with Bees" Open Invitation To All Beekeepers Weekly Zoom Meeting

Join James and the "Breakfast with Bees" community.

Are you a Beekeeper looking to expand your beekeeping experience?

You are invited to join in and participate in a free Zoom meeting every Saturday morning with an expanding community of beekeepers from all levels of experience.

Hosted by: JAMES KONRAD, FVBA

All are invited to: "Breakfast with Bees" – Saturdays 7:30 am. via zoom.

- We are a group chat and beekeeping community open to all who want to participate.
- Each week our gang of beekeepers of all levels; hobbyists, masters, sideliners, educators and commercial, all join via ZOOM to discuss weekly beekeeping topics for successful "sustainable management" of our hives.
- Everyone is encouraged to contribute, ask questions, discuss, and learn.
- Our community of beekeepers meets every week to discuss our beekeeping experiences.

Meetings every Saturday morning, Start time is 7:30am.

**Join us on zoom with the following,
Meeting ID: 897 5704 1690, Passcode: bees**

For more information. Email: zjameskonrad@gmail.com

From the Archives BeeBUZZ August 2014

Check your hives, Don't turn your back too long!

This is the time of year when summer is winding down. The honey harvest is probably extracted, waiting to be bottled. It is the hottest time of the year. The bees are bearding or washboarding or doing the chacha because the nectar is in short supply. But inside the hive things are still buzzing. The queen is still laying eggs albeit at a slower pace knowing the days have started to be shorter.

The hive beetle, unfortunately, love this weather. The hotter it is the faster they can reproduce. In the spring it may have taken a few weeks to take over your hive, now if there is any sign of weakness, those evil little beetles can take over and slime it up in close to a week.

In our hives we have noticed that bees are chasing the beetles to the outer frames. So besides having a smash fest as soon as we lift the lids, we take out the frames starting at the ends, bang them onto a lid or flat surface and smash as fast as we can with hive tools. Don't forget to check the pans of oil you have under the hives, empty them frequently of the disgusting gamish of beetles and larva.

Keep treating against varroa too. The closer we get to fall, the more we need to knock down their numbers so that the bees have a chance to make it through winter. The more we can knock down the pests the better chance our hives will live to see a honey harvest next year.

Looking into the Future....

- ⇒ Make nomination for Beekeeper/New Beekeeper of the Year
- ⇒ Consider becoming a director on the board
- ⇒ Get a head start on what you have to do next month

SEPTEMBER AND THE BEES: The bees will still be working fall flowers but in most states, the amount of honey produced in September will be minimum. The days are still warm enough to allow the bees time to gather more last-minute nectar prior to the first major hard freeze or frost which will kill the flowers.

SEPTEMBER AND THE BEEKEEPER: This is the start of the beekeeper's year! What you do in September will determine how well your bees do next year, and how well they overwinter. Here's your work list for September:

1) ***Consider requeening.*** You don't have to, if your queen has done well. But it is advisable to requeen in September. If you can afford to requeen your hive each year, it would be best to do so in September. A new queen means a much younger queen who has stronger pheromones and who will be more apt to lay eggs more efficiently in the Spring. In a future lesson I'll teach on how to requeen a hive.

2) ***Take off all your supers.*** There is no need for them now, and you will want to tighten up the hive by removing excess supers.

3) ***Weigh your hives.*** This is guess work unless you invest in a hive scale. Find something around the house that weighs around 70 pounds. Lift it up slightly with one hand. This will give you an idea what 70 pounds feels like. Now, go to your hives and with one hand, slightly lift the back. Only lift it an inch or two so that you can sense how heavy it feels. It needs to feel around 70 pounds. If not, you will want to start feeding the hive 2:1 sugar water.

Because robbing is a problem this time of the year, here's what I suggest. But first let me discuss my experience with feeders. My favorite feeder is the front feeder, the one that slips into the front of the hive opening at the bottom and a mason jar slips down into it. However, in the fall, bees from other hives can make their way to the front feeder, and eventually rob the hive. So, I do not use this entrance feeders during the fall. By the way, this is called a Boardman feeder.

Top feeders are large reservoirs of sugar water above the hive, usually made of plastic and they have a small space where the bees can climb into a screened area and go down into the reservoir to consume sugar water. Here's what I don't like about that. If the top cover does not cover it well, bees from other hives make their way into the top of the feeder and drown or rob the hive. If you make the top cover fit tight enough to keep robbing bees out, then the sugar water can mildew and mold. And, once I had a top feeder break and leak 2 gallons of sugar water onto my hive, drowning and disrupting the hive for several days. There are some nice top feeders available, but I don't like to use top feeders.

Frame feeders are feeders that slip in between your frames, and actually take the place of a frame. Essentially it is a thin bucket that is about the size of a frame and the bees can eat from within their hive. These require going deep into the hive to load and they aren't perfect either.

So, what you should do during September is purchase our fall feeder system. Or you can make your own. Our system resembles a brood chamber size super but with a bottom. A round hole with a mason lid is placed in the bottom of the feeder. Now, you place your mason jar in the lid and place your inner cover and top cover on this feeder. These work great and the feeder winds up being right over the cluster, so you can even feed the bees long into the winter if needed.

Also, stay out of your hive as soon as you finish your hive work. Propolis is the glue that holds all the pieces of the hive together. Every time you open your hive, you break the propolis seal. If you do this late in the year, when warm days are over the propolis will never seal again, and your hives can be blown a part in the winter by bad winds. So, plan to get out of your hives early enough so the propolis can reseal on a warm day.

SCBA BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each year the St. Clair Beekeepers Association presents the Beekeeper of the Year and New Beekeeper of the year award. 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.

Qualification for Beekeeper of the Year

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

Nomination Statement: *general statement of support*

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

Nominee: contact information for nominee

Nominee’s name, address, phone number and email address

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, and national 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

New Beekeeper of the Year Award

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.

Qualification for New Beekeeper of the Year

- 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

Some nominees may not fit into some or all of the above criteria and that is ok, we understand that some nominees are passionate about beekeeping or have worked hard to gain knowledge and experience with regard to beekeeping and they deserve to be recognized.

The nomination process is easy. Write a letter outlining the accomplishments and how the nominee has met the above qualifications, and provide the following information:

Nomination Statement: *general statement of support*

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

Nominee: *contact information for nominee*

Nominee's name, address, phone number and email address

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?

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

Beekkeeping Experience: *background in beekkeeping continued....*

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

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

Beekkeeping Association activities: *membership and participation in local, regional, and national beekkeeping organizations*

Association memberships

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

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

The nomination period for these awards is open from August 1st until October 31st. These awards are presented at our annual Holiday Party in late November. Nominations and documentation of support should be emailed to our club secretary, k.hentrich21@gmail.com 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.

American Bee Journal - Discount

As a member of the SCBA you are also a member of the ISBA. Below is a discount coupon for the American Bee Journal from the ISBA.

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL	Discounted Rates!		Association Member Subscription		
	<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	U.S.	Canada	Foreign
<i>Prices good through Dec. 31, 2021</i>			<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. \$24.65	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. \$42.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. \$50.00
			<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. \$46.75	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. \$81.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. \$89.00
			<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Yr. \$66.30	Retain yellow copy for your records.	
Return white copy to: American Bee Journal, 51 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341			<input type="checkbox"/> Check or Money Order Must be drawn on a U.S. bank in U.S. funds only.		
Customer Number (if available) _____			<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card Mastercard, Visa, Discover and American Express accepted.		
Subscriber's Name _____			_____ / _____ / _____ CARD NUMBER MO/YEAR (CVV)		
Address _____			_____		
Address _____			NAME ON CARD SIGNATURE		
City, State, Zip _____			Association _____		
Phone _____			Secretary's Name _____		
Email _____			Address _____		
			City, State, Zip _____		
			Phone _____		

The Club has an extractor and some of the tools needed to extract honey. If you would like to borrow this equipment contact —

Beekeeping 100 years ago....

This is from a book published in 1919 called the How To Do Things —The Farm Journal in Philadelphia

Late Summer with The Bees

Extracting Honey

It is a serious mistake to believe that little if any honey can be gathered after the early clovers are exhausted, for in many sections of the country where buckwheat is not grown the fall flow from the asters and goldenrod even exceed that from the earlier bloom.

While the honey from the late bloom is lacking in the light color and delicate aroma so characteristic of the clovers, yet there is a steady demand for it, and with the increased cost of living its price in many instances equals that paid for the clovers a few years ago.

Naturally there will be a short period of scarcity between the clover flow and the late fall one, and the bees will be inclined to rob, and careful attention should be given the apiary to prevent this.

Watch Out for Robbers

It may be wise to contract the entrances of the hives for a short period to prevent robbing, and in the case of weak colonies this is absolutely necessary, for as a rule strong colonies are amply able to repel robbers, while the weaker colonies are the ones which suffer.

In sections of the country where buckwheat is abundant and constitutes the main flow, the beekeeper will be kept busy, and swarming may be resumed on a large scale.

Buckwheat Honey

While the buckwheat honey has a somewhat rank flavor, very distasteful to some people, still there are other who prefer it to all others, as it has a characteristic bee flavor, and makes a nice combination with buckwheat cakes and country sausage in the winter.

Perhaps the largest producer of buckwheat honey in the country is Frank Alexander, of Delanson, N.Y., and on one occasion his apiary produced as much as 70,000 pounds of extracted Buckwheat honey.

Extracting and Artificial Ripening

Mr. Alexander's methods of harvesting these bumper crops vary from the established rules. He extracts from the super combs before the cells are capped over and whoie the nectar is very watery, and allows it to ripen in huge vats, into which the nectar runs right from the extractor.

The apiary has about 800 colonies right in one yard, the largest individual apiary in the country, and only possible because Mr. Alexander is located right in the heart of buckwheat region of New York State.

On one occasion I sampled some of this artificially ripened buckwheat honey, and found it equal to that left in the hive and ripened and capped by the bees.

Strengthen the Weak

All queen less colonies should be given queens at once; and, if weak strengthened by frames of hatching brood from strong colonies able to spare them.

It is a wise thing to examine every colony, know its exact condition, and remedy anything which needs attention before the season is too far advanced.



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 outdoors on August 27th at 2:00 pm

Julie McKinney is hosting the August at the Old Six Mile Museum, 3279 Maryville Rd, Granite City, IL. The presentation will be about frames and foundation . Nominations for vacant board member positions will be accepted during the meeting.

QR CODE FOR MEETING PLACE

