



Bee Buzz

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

Introduction to Beekeeping

The St. Clair Beekeepers Association held a one day virtual Introduction to Beekeeping Class on Saturday, February 21st. The club was able to introduce the fascinating world of beekeeping to 25 new-bees. The topics covered include: Bee Biology and Colony Behavior, Equipment You Will Need, Your First Hive– Acquiring Bees and Setting up the Hive, Opening and Inspecting Your Hive, Pest Management and the Beekeeping Year: Seasonal Management Activities.

The subjects were presented by Charity Davis-Woodard, Dennis Hessel, Tom Cairns, Tom Simpson, Eleanor Schumacher, and Julie McKinney. Tim Schartung and Jeff Keller monitored and directed the ZOOM Webinar.

Upcoming Membership Meeting.....

Your attendance at the next membership meeting is requested. It will be held via ZOOM on Friday evening, March 26th, at 7:00 PM. The topics for the meeting will be: April Tasks, When to put on supers and preparing for Swarms. What to look for in a healthy colony? When do you need to split?

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PROGRAM DIRECTOR NEEDED

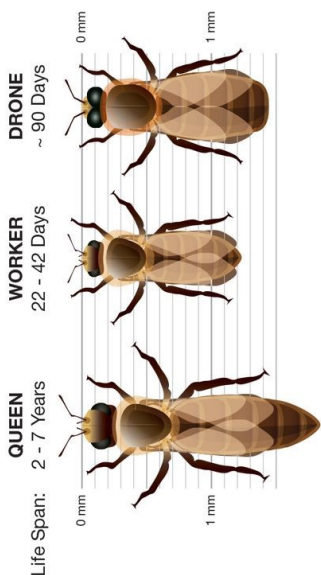
The club is still in need of a Program Director. In order to have educational meetings we need a Program Director to arrange the speakers and topics. The position is a three year term and entails the following duties:

- ◆ 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

If you are interested in filling this position please contact President Julie McKinney.



Things haven't
changed much....



Beekeeping 100 years ago....

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

Starting the Bees in the Spring

April is ordinarily a busy time among the bees, as experience proves; they gather much pollen and often considerable nectar.

Naturally where the colonies have stores with the added nectar, brood rearing is going on at an astonishing rate, and much brood is maturing.

If the colonies have not sufficient stores on hand, it is good thing to remedy matters at once; and, personally, I haven't much faith in the idea of stimulative feeding for brood rearing that is, giving the colony a small amount of syrup every day. I believe the better plan is to give them what they need at one feeding, say from ten to twenty pounds of syrup.

Feed If Necessary

This feed is made by mixing equal parts of hot water and granulated sugar and stirring it until the sugar is completely dissolved. Care should be exercised in feeding to prevent robbing by other bees, and not to chill the sensitive brood.

If colonies are rearing much brood and there comes a sudden shortage of food for same, then there is great danger of the entire colony of bees and brood perishing from starvation.

This need not be feared if the colony went into winter quarters with ample stores; but if the colony is not amply supplied at this time, then the condition must be remedied at once to avoid disaster.

The most desirable way to feed is in some overhead feeder, with all the feed given at one feeding, seeing that the hive is warmly packed, especially the upper story hive body in which the feeder is placed, and all packed with cloths and other material will conserve the heat of the colony.

Transfer Brood from Strong Colonies

Weak colonies should be strengthened by giving them frames of sealed brood and bees from the strong colonies, care being exercised that the queen from the strong hive shall not be upon the frame if brood given the weak ones, or else there will be a queen lost to the strong colony and brood rearing will be seriously retarded in that hive.

The combs taken from the strong colony must be replaced with a like number of frames for the weak one. I would not advise taking more than two or three combs of brood and bees from any strong colony.

Watch for Bee-Moth

The larvae of the bee-moth will begin to make its appearance, and should be destroyed, as one moth destroyed now will prevent the appearance of thousands in the fall. While there isn't much danger to a strong colony from the bee-moth, yet it is decidedly annoying to have perfectly good combs destroyed after on. That is, combs stored in the honey house. Swatting the bee-moth now will largely prevent its appearance in the fall.

Some colonies will possibly be found to be queen less, and this is a condition which should be remedied as soon as possible by securing queens from the Southern queen rearers. If this is not possible, then two or three frames of young larvae not more than two or three days old, should be given the queen less colonies, that they may rear a queen at the earliest possible time.

2021 Club Meeting Survey

The Executive Board would like your input as to when is most convenient for you to attend our monthly membership meetings. During the months of May thru September we hold our meetings outdoors at a volunteer's bee yard for open hive demonstrations and business meeting. October—April the meetings are held indoors at the Belleville and Edwardsville Farm Bureau buildings.

Please respond with an email to stclairbees@gmail.com with your preferences before March 27th.

- Respond with which day of the week works best for you for the indoor meetings September—April, meetings starts at 7:00 PM
- Respond whether Saturday or Sunday is best for you for the outdoor meetings May—August, meetings start at 2:00PM
- Include any topics or presentation you would like to have covered
- Indicate if there is a topic or presentation you would be willing to make
- Indicate if you would volunteer your site for an outdoor meeting

Thank You for your input.

A Little Bee Humor

Q: What do you call a bee born in May?

A: A maybe!

Q: What kind of bee can't be understood? A: A mumble bee!

Q: What does a Wasp say during an Identity Crisis?

A: "TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE" Q: What do you call a bee that lives in America?

A: USB

Q: What do you get if you cross a bee with a skunk?

A: An animal that stinks and stings!

Q: How do you fight a killer bee?

A: With a Buzz-ooka.

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



Set up of a new hive—It's all about location, location, location

Beehives can't just sit on the ground. Your woodenware will get wet and warp. Bugs mice and other critters have easy access to the hives and their treasure. Skunks and other bee chomping predators can have a field day. A good hive stand has to be able to support the weight of at least 250 pounds per colony. It has to be able to withstand the weather, so regular painting and maintenance is needed. The hives have to be level. A very slight tilt towards the front of the hive is acceptable, what you don't want is the hive tilting towards the back so that moisture gets trapped inside the hive when the bottom is closed. Large concrete patio blocks are often used as a base. Get those level and build up from there. If you will use screened bottom boards, you need to make sure your stands have good airflow that can get underneath the hives. This helps the bees keep them cooler in the summer. Bearding bees are unemployed bees.

The direction that your hives face is important. You want the entrance exposed to the south or southeast, keeping the bees better protected from the north and west winds. A natural windbreak can make a huge difference in the winter. Planting tall grasses or fences on this side of the hive may just be what gets your bees get through the windy winter sub zero nights.

Are your bees in full sun? Partial shade? Hives in the shade all day may make it better for the beekeeper (July in a bee suit is HOT) but this also is where the hive beetles thrive. Hives located in full or mostly sunny sites tend to have a lower hive beetle population.

Check your local ordinances if you have a new location in mind to make sure bees are allowed and any restrictions that are required. Bees need a nearby water source. Not everyone has the luxury of having

a pond 20 feet from the hives. If you have 3 neighbors with pools nearby, you had best set up a close source of fresh water for the bees right away. Bees need lots of water, don't underestimate this.

All of the wooden parts of the hive (exteriors) need to be painted to help protect them from the weather. The bees don't care what color they are, sometimes a coat of paint can give a bit of camouflage and have them blend in to the background.

Register your hives with the state. If you are moving bees across county lines, you will need a moving permit.

Dead outs - The ones that did not survive....

Don't leave a dead hive sit. Close it up. Try to determine what was the cause. Starvation? Disease? Too small to keep warm through the winter? Don't know? Take lots of pictures, show it to other beekeepers. Freeze the combs to kill off the eggs and larvae of pests. Clean out the dead, scrape out the slimed or motheaten areas. If you don't suspect disease, use the drawn combs to boost other hives that need help. Don't let these hives get robbed out because if it was diseased, you've just let the rest of your colonies become infected. Be a beekeeper, not a be haveer

Swarm List

Kay Good is getting the last few names on the soon to be published Swarm list. If you want to be on the list, please email or call her. You must be a current club member to be on the list. If your name was on the list in the past, you must let her know you still want to be included. Cut off is 3/31/21. The list will only be updated at the end of the month. email kwkwgood@gmail.com with any questions.

The Early Years of St. Clair Beekeepers Association

An article in the Belleville Daily Advocate dated July 16, 1917, states:

BEEKEEPERS HAVE FORMED

ORGANIZATION

A number of beekeepers of Belleville and vicinity met yesterday at the home of R. V. Dew and formally organized an association to be known as "The St. Clair County Beekeepers Association," the object of which will be to promote the general interests of the pursuit of bee-culture in the county. The following officers were elected: President--Charles Hertel, Belleville, Vice-president--Wm. Hubert, Belleville, Secretary-Treasurer--R. V. Dew, 910 Sycamore Street, Belleville

One of the features of the meeting was a demonstration in the apiary, where a practical manipulation of the hives and bees took place, to show the advantages of up-to-date methods of beekeeping. The entire assemblage was right in among the bees and no one was stung, except Mr. Hertel, who purposely received a sting as an antidote for rheumatism.

Interest parties can secure information concerning "The St. Clair County Beekeepers' Association" by corresponding with the secretary.

An article in the Belleville Daily Advocate dated February 2, 1933, states:

BEEKEEPERS FORM OWN ASSOCIATION

Beekeepers of this vicinity have formed an organization to be known as St. Clair Beekeepers' Association, with a membership of 29 men.

O. G. Rawson, of East St. Louis, is the president; W. E. Frierdich, of Belleville, vice president; G. L. Hankammer of Belleville, secretary, and Fred W. Peters, of Belleville, treasurer.

The association will meet each last Friday of the month in the county highway building.

The purpose of the association include: promote better beekeeping; improve marketing of honey; promote the use of honey, and control of foul brood, which is destroying hundreds of hives.

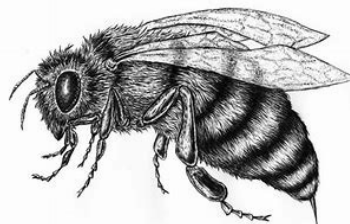
1949 Meeting Minutes

The first minutes found were from a meeting on April 6, 1949. This was a meeting of reorganization. Officers elected were: President - A. H. Zipfel, Vice President - Geo. L. Hankammer, Secretary - Edw. Meyling, Trustees - Edw. Meyling, Henry L. Kaiser, Clifford Wilder. Mr. Hankammer was appointed chairman of the publicity committee. Meetings were set for the first Wednesday of each month from 8:00-10:00 p.m.

A "Basket" picnic was planned to which the St. Louis Association was invited.. Prizes donated for the picnic included some queens, smoker, foundation, spools wire and frames. The secretary was authorized to buy 250 letterheads and 250 envelopes from the American Bee Journal for a total of \$6.50. It was also voted that members pay the full amount for bee magazines with the association keeping the savings.

A map of St. Clair County was secured to mark the locations of beekeepers yards "so as not to crowd on each others locations." It was decided to get maps of Madison and Monroe Counties as well. Dues were \$1.50 with \$0.50 going to the state.

Programs for the year: E. R. Spencer, botanist, spoke on the relationship of plants to nectar, Mr. Glover, St. Clair County Farm Advisor, spoke on honey producing legumes. Discussions during the year: to stop robbing move the robbing hive, to clean excluders of propolis boil in lye water, keep good comb in the brood chamber to avoid abundance of drones, calcium chloride recommended as a preventive for weeds in front of hives, latest advisable date to get package bees - July 1, honey prices, size and style of honey containers (fancy glass was suggested). Anheuser-Busch was planning new honey/corn syrup product to compete for honey trade. There were 20 members in the association. Treasury showed \$9.20 at end of the year.





St. Clair Beekeepers Association

Email: stclairbees@gmail.com

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

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 club membership meeting will be held on March 26th at 7 p.m. At this time we are planning on holding the meeting online via ZOOM . You may join this meeting from your smart phone, tablet or computer. We will send an email with a link to join the meeting.

Watch for more info on our webpage www.stclairbees.com or St. Clair Bees Association Facebook