



Bee Buzz

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

New Vice President

Tom and Gay Simpson recently announced that they were moving to Arkansas and he has resigned as Vice President of the club. We wish them all the luck on their relocation and would like to THANK them for all their years of service to the club and mentoring newbees.

Tom Cairns has agreed to fill the position of Vice President for the remaining term. Tom has been involved in the club many years and served on the board as a director. Look for more information about Tom Cairns in the upcoming Bee Buzz.

Membership Dues

The 2021 Club Dues are now past due. By being a member in good standing you receive the Bee Buzz, your name can appear on our cutout list and swarm list, your Illinois State Beekeepers Association dues are paid, and you receive invites to our ZOOM meetings and other events. Members with past dues after April 30th will be dropped from our roles. If you are having a financial difficulty contact the Treasurer Kay Good

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.

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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

Swarming Time Among the Bees

In the northern section of the country, June is more prolific in swarms than May, but the experienced beekeepers look with positive aversion upon natural swarms, with the possibility of their emergence and loss in the absence of the beekeeper from the yard.

For this reason, the expert Beeman in no sense depends upon natural swarming for increase of colonies, but at this time resorts to artificial increase made at his and not the bees' convenience.

Artificial Swarms

The method is both simple and easy: From strong colonies take two or three frames of hatching brood with adhering bees, but without the queen, and in addition a frame heavy with honey, and place all in an empty hive, filling out the hive with combs or frames of foundation and with a queen in a cage inserted between two of the frames of hatching brood.

Close the entrance with a strip of wood, and remove the hive to its permanent location and leave it severely alone for four or five days until the bees become accustomed to their new quarters and have released the queen.

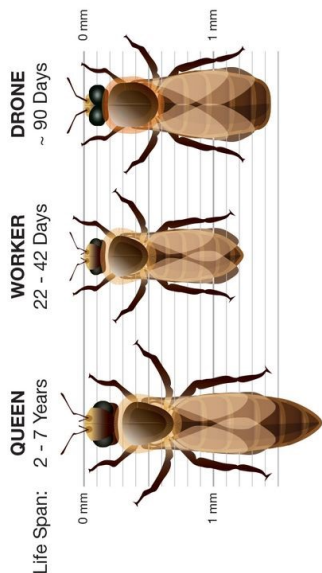
Then pull back the strip at the hive entrance and give the bees an opening of about an inch, increasing it as the bees become numerous; and before the time comes for winter quarters the nucleus will build up into a booming colony if there is reasonable flow of nectar in the fields.

In the hands of an expert, even one frame of hatching brood can be made into a strong colony; but for the novice two into four are better.

What to Do with Natural Swarms

Should natural swarms emerge, then after they are hived in a new hive all the section supers with bees should be removed from the nearest parent colony and placed upon the hive containing the swarm, as the swarm is made up largely of the working force of the colony, and to leave the sections on the old hive is a loss of time and honey.

Every weak colony should be strengthened by frames of hatching brood from the strong ones. Thus equalize things in the apiary.



See link on page 4 for more detailed article about swarm prevention.

2021 Club Meeting Survey

We need 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 April 30th.

- 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.

PS: We received only one response. Please let us know your preference.

A Little Bee Humor

Q: Why did the bee started talking poetry?

A: He was waxing lyrical!

Q: What does Pooh Bear call his girl friend?

A: Hunny!

Q: What flies in the air and goes zub zub?

A: A bee flying backwards.

Q: What are the cleverest bees?

A: Spelling bees!

Q: What bee is good for your health?

A: Vitamin bee!



But, your Majesty, what's the point of being busy bees if this so-called Beekeeper always steals our honey?

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

Around the Apiary...

- * Inspect twice this month for congestion, queenrightness, diseases, and mites
- * Monitor for queen cells to prevent swarming
- * Divide strong colonies or requeen if planned;
- * Install package bees;
- * Remove all drugs four week before main nectar flow
- * Check for adequate stores.
- * Unite weak colonies
- * Set out swarm traps
- * Here is a link to an excellent article about preventing swarms

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56818659c21b86470317d96e/t/5f6377800bc35c48bb2bc95a/1600354289754/Milbrath-article April2020 Feb27-335PM.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56818659c21b86470317d96e/t/5f6377800bc35c48bb2bc95a/1600354289754/Milbrath-article+April2020+Feb27-335PM.pdf)



BEE INFORMED Annual Loss and Management Survey

Bee Informed Partnership Inc (BIP) is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization using science-based, data-driven approaches to improve the health and long-term sustainability of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*), other plant pollinators and the ecosystems upon which they depend.

Each year they conduct a national Colony Loss and Management Survey. The survey is in full swing and will remain open until April 30. They have made a number of changes to this year's survey to make it faster and easier to complete!

You can take the survey at <https://beeinformed.org/take-survey> or use your smart phone camera and scan the QR code to the right. Your participation in this research is confidential. All your answers will be stored in a secure, password protected database application that uses SSL encryption. No personally identifiable information will be disclosed in any publication or presentation resulting from this research.



The Early Years of St. Clair Beekeepers Association

1950

A motion was made to enter the St. Clair County Fair. Dues were raised to \$2.00 with \$1.00 going to the Illinois State Association. The motion of June, 1949 to pay full magazine subscriptions was rescinded. A membership committee was formed to get new members. It was decided to donate 10 minutes of each meeting to plan for the fair. Judges at fair should have set of rules or standards. The observation hive at the fair was a big hit. The association sent \$5.00 to the American Beekeeping Federation for dues for the association. The KSD TV home economist would be contacted about using honey in her recipes.

Programs: Mr. M. J. Deyell, editor of *Gleanings*, spoke to the members about bees starving in spring and about swarm control by the "Damaree" method. He said the new swarm should be placed on the old stand. Carl Killion, chief state bee inspector, stated American foulbrood was down approximately 3% in Illinois. He also "condemned the unsanitary condition of some honey houses and the appearance of some honey packs on grocers shelves." Mr. Glover spoke on how planting clover will benefit beekeepers.

Hoyt Taylor, secretary of the ISBA, spoke about advertising honey and support of the American Honey Institute. Discussions: two queen system, benefits of Federal Association for Beekeepers, protection of bees from orchard spraying, feeding of sulfa in spring and fall, the red bud tree as a honey and pollen producer, requeening, staffing a tent and selling honey at the next St. Clair County Fair (also, getting literature from bee supply houses to hand out at fair). There were 19 members in the association and a balance of \$7.86 in the treasury at end of year.

1951

The association took part in a quiz program on bees at the Clayton courthouse with the St. Louis County Beekeepers. Mr. Zipfel suggested that the state association give a serial number to all beekeepers to be carried on all equipment and honey labels. The St. Clair County Fair Board furnished a tent for displaying honey and would rent the association another tent for the sale of honey. A committee was appointed to set up rules for judging honey at the fair. Programs: Carl Killion reported Illinois had 332,000 colonies of bees the previous year with the average per beekeeper of

10 colonies. 65,000 colonies had been lost due to severe winter conditions and poor honey prices. Henry Fonke spoke on selling of honey. Roy Grout spoke on wax production and raising of bees for pollination. Discussions: feeding soy bean meal (add anise oil to get bees to start working it), do bees work alfalfa? (only when it is hot and dry), picking a location for an apiary site, a suggestion to prevent the bottom board from rotting by putting four chair buttons on the bottom rail to keep it off the hive stand. There were 25 members in the association and a total of \$6.80 in the treasury at the end of the year.

1952

It was reported there were 1,400 colonies in the 3 counties. The March minutes note the meeting was held in the Highway Building in Belleville and there were 18 beekeepers in attendance. The basket picnic would be held in August at which "only soft drinks will be permitted." The meeting night was changed to the first Monday of the month. A report of honey flow by members showed the average per colony to be about 40#. A display would be set up in the window of Illinois Power for National Honey Week. Programs: Chas. Stookey of KXOK talked to the group. He would feature use of honey in a future program. Celeste Sullivan, Home Service Director of the Southern Division of Illinois Power demonstrated and prepared dishes containing honey. The association toured the candle factory at the Clifford Wilder farm. Carl Killion showed slides on comb honey. Discussion: how to overcome foulbrood in the spring by feeding bees sugar mixed with sulfa, winter feeding, how to sell honey, comb honey, price support, ISBA dues and benefits, National Honey Week. 21 members - \$22.88 in treasury.

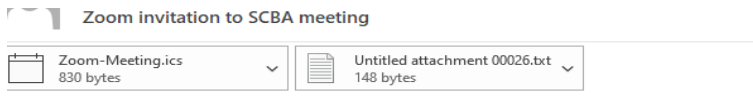


How to join our ZOOM Meetings ...

By Dennis Hessel

Many have asked how to join our Zoom Meetings. Below is a brief explanation and there are many YouTube Videos that go into a lot more detail.

1. You will receive an email from the Zoom Administrator about the meeting.
2. All you have to do is click on the hyperlink to the meeting, below Join Zoom Meeting



SCBA is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: SCBA Zoom MEETING

Time: Apr 10, 2021 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

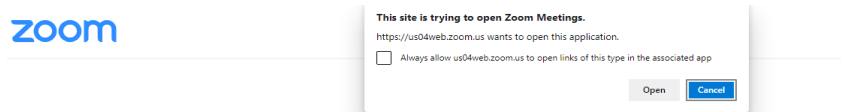
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77419033530?pwd=RkxuUmFmK0hkSnJURkUwMTN5K0k1dz09>

Meeting ID: 774 1903 3530

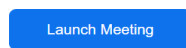
Passcode: zAVD0D

3. You may get the message below click on OPEN



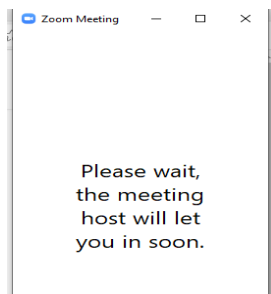
Click **Open Zoom Meetings** on the dialog shown by your browser

If you don't see a dialog, click **Launch Meeting** below

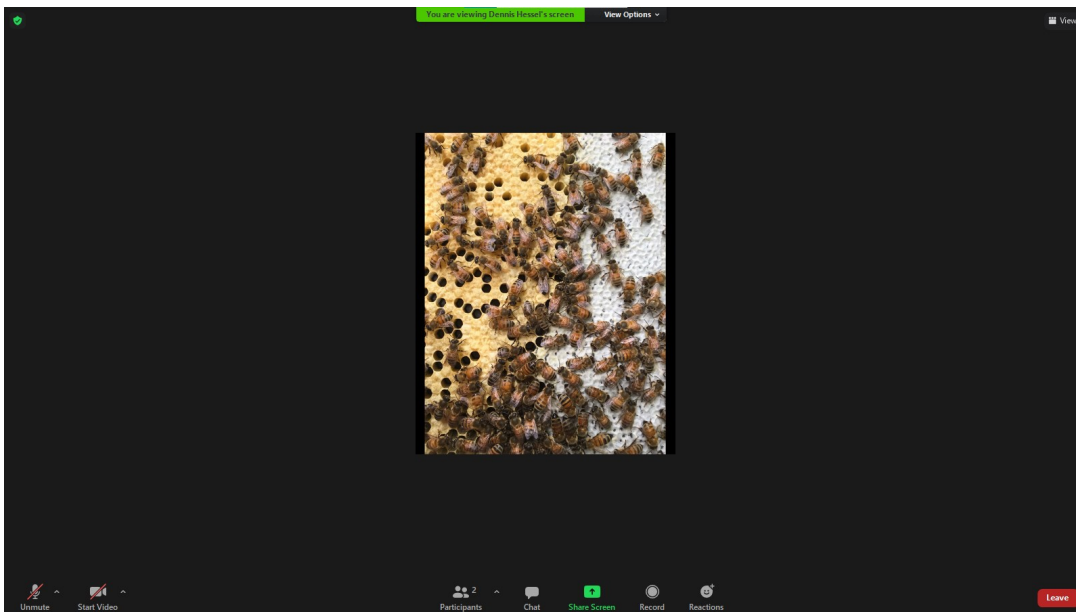


Don't have Zoom Client installed? [Download Now](#)

4. You may then get the following message this means you are waiting to be admitted to the meeting. The administrator will admit you to the meeting shortly.



5. You will then join the meeting and your screen will look something like this.
The picture will be different but the icons at the bottom should be the same.



I encourage you to go to YouTube and do a search for Zoom Meetings to get a much more detailed explanation of all of the options and features.

The link below is to a You Tube that explains in much more detail how to join your first meeting.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gisp3qPeQoE>

Spring is early this year.

Soon it will be time to plant flowers. Here's a list of a few flowers bees really like.

Borage	Catmint
Lavender	Anise
Hyssop	Sedum
Crocus	Calendula
Foxglove	



Here is a link to an article with additional info about Gardening for Honey Bees.

https://www.in.gov/dnr/entomology/files/ep-Gardening_for_Honey_Bees.pdf



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 outdoors on Sunday, April 25th, at 2:00 pm. The Meeting will be held at the Six Mile Museum, 3279 Maryville Rd , Granite City. The meeting will also be available via ZOOM. Bring your lawn chair, a brown bag lunch, and your drinks. The topics for the meeting are:

- ◆ **Frame assembly and foundations**
- ◆ **Capturing Swarms**
- ◆ **Location and hive stands**
- ◆ **Hive inspection—weather permitting**

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