



Bee BUZZ

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2021

From the President ...

Greetings from your new president and I am honored that you have elected me to this position. The other board members and I are excited to serve you over the next two or three years. I have been in the club since 2015 and follow in the footsteps of some wonderful presidents and board members who continue to lead the club promoting bees and beekeeping.

Just a little about myself. I am from Owensboro, Kentucky and joined the Air Force at the young age of 17. I turned 18, 5 days after joining and primarily worked on Air Traffic Control radar systems my entire career. I retired after 22 years in service, worked a few months as a contractor on base, and then hired into Civil Service where I continue to work today. My job has greatly expanded over the years and I enable all the communications in and out of 11 air force bases and help manage communications at several overseas locations. I have been working for the Air

Force for 40 years.

I married my wife Linda in 1985 and we have a daughter who lives in Peoria. Linda is also a beekeeper and we both enjoy tending to the hives throughout the year. Today we have 7 hives and we worked meticulously to keep the Varro Mite under control because I am convinced that at least two of my hives did not make it through the 2020 winter because of them.

We have several members who have presented ideas over the last few months and already seeing small changes. Some of them include the creation of the members only Facebook page and starting a new communication tool called Slack. I see Slack eventually becoming the tool of choice for club communications. You can tailor what you receive in Slack and won't miss those Swarm calls due to Facebook not notifying you on time. Dennis Hessel has redone the club's web site and made it a lot easier to pay dues, report swarms, and find

additional information. Marc Mayhew is heading up the Beginner Beekeeping class scheduled for Feb 19th, 2022 and is looking for volunteers to help with course design and delivery. If you want to teach or help design the course please give him a call. I do ask all instructors to use the microphone. I know people hate it but's no use of you providing outstanding information if people cannot hear it. Katelyn Hentrich is working to update our mission statement and looking for ideas.

Along with the class we are also looking at inviting guest speakers. Eleanor Shumaker and Johnny Murdock both have signed up to provide presentations. I also want to setup additional speakers each month through zoom. I call this fireside bee chats. The goal is to provide value for your membership and help people of all skills by providing additional education and ideas. I see a small presentation

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President... of 20 minutes and then 20 minutes of Q&A. The goal is to keep the presentations short and allow bilateral communications.

You will notice a change at the in-person meetings. All the board members will have a name tag with their name and position on the tag. I also ask that all wear adhesive name tags with your name, how many hives you presently have, and how many years you have been a beekeeper. The tags will be available as you enter the building. The goal is allow for increased communications with new members or prospective members.

I have several other ideas and will save them for the next edition. Thanks again and see you at the January meeting at the St Clair Farm Bureau.

Tim Schartung
President SCBA

IMPORTANT CHANGES

The Stclairbees.com webpage has a new look. Check it out.

From the front page click on Members Only, from there you will be able to submit your name to be added to the Swarm List, Cutout List, Mentor List, and renew your membership. Club membership runs January through December and the dues are \$20.00 a year and are due January 1st. Each year we ask that you submit the membership renewal form with your current information. You may pay your dues form that page using PayPal or you may mail a check payable to SCBA to Dennis Hessel, 1720 Cloverdale Dr, Edwardsville, IL 62025.

Dues for 2022 will be dues January 1, 2020.

The holidays are a busy time, so please consider paying your dues early. The dues are \$20 per year. Go to our webpage on the Members Only page complete the Membership Renewal form.

The SCBA Board would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Better New Year. Hope to see you in 2022.

Twenty people attended the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Those in attendance had a great meal and caught up on what everyone was doing. Hope to see more next year.



A Little Bee Humor

Q: What do you give a bee on the first day of class?

A: A Sylla-buzz.

Q: How does a bee get to class?

A: On the school-buzz.

Q: What is a bees favorite shape?

A: A Rhom-buzz, of course.

Q: Why do bees hummm?

A: They forget the words to the song.



Okay new guy, stay on formation, because of you break from the cluster you will freeze.

Announcements



INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING

Sponsored by St. Clair Beekeepers Association

One Day Class for the Beginning Beekeeper **

Saturday, February 19, 2022 8:00 – 5:00

Location: The Hall

7132 Marine Rd

Edwardsville, IL 62025

This class is a comprehensive introduction to the fascinating and complex life of the honey bee colony and the fundamentals of managing a hive of bees as a beekeeper. The topics covered include:

Bee Biology and Colony Behavior

Equipment You Will Need

Your First Hive -Acquiring Bees and Hive Setup

Opening and Inspecting Your Hive

Pest Management

The Beekeeping Year: Seasonal Management Activities

The enrollment fee is \$55.00, and includes handouts, continental breakfast, and lunch. Additional family members may attend for \$25.00 a person. Textbooks and other related resources available. More Information and a registration form are available on the website. www.stclairbees.com

**** State of Illinois COVID guidelines for social distancing and the wearing of face masks will be followed.**



Fireside Bee Chat

The club is starting a new event—a Fireside Bee Chat. This will be a series of virtual meetings where a topic will be presented and then followed up with a question & answer period. The first Fireside Bee Chat will take place Tuesday, December 14th at 7:00pm and will feature Jane Sueme. By now you should have received a ZOOM invitation, if not here is the link—<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84800853508>

Jane will share natural beekeeping and black box breeding concepts recently learned through the Montana Continuing Education program, and the newest research and developments on oxalic acid treatment for varroa from the Eastern Apicultural Society Conference she attended this past summer.

Jane Sueme, Certified Master Beekeepers and owner of Isabee's Beekeeping Supplies currently engages in a wide range of activities in the local beekeeping community including retail equipment sales, education and out-reach, client consulting, and management for 25+ honey bee colonies. Jane has served as board member of the Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association from 2004 to 2011, Communications Coordinator for the Heartland Apicultural Society in 2012-2013 and as a founding member of both the Saint Louis Beekeepers club and Bee Speak STL Speaker Series, 2012 to present. Jane received certificates of completion for continuing education - Natural Beekeeping Course, University of Montana SELL program, and Provisional Master Beekeeper with Great Plain Master Beekeeper program, both in 2021.

Jane's role in the Saint Louis Beekeepers Sustainable Stock Apiary is as founder and director, developing programming and queen bee stock evaluation. The Saint Louis Beekeepers Sustainable Stock Apiary (SSA) received USDA SARE grant funding in 2018 to develop locally bred queen stock.

Around the Bee Yard

- Clean your bee suit and store once dry
- Freeze partial frames of honey for late winter /early spring feeding
- Store drawn comb properly
 - In an open airy and lighted area
 - In a tightly seal enclosure with Para-moth crystals (Para-dichlorobenzene)
 - Spray frames with bacillus thuringiensis mixed with water
- Take inventory of your equipment
- Scrap excess propolis from hive bodies and frames
- Check hive parts for need of repair or replacement
- Start planning your next year's activities
- Pay your 2022 dues
- Read and do research about beekeeping.



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, January 28th, at 7:00 pm at the St. Clair County Farm Bureau, IL. The program has not been determined at this time. Watch the webpage or Facebook for more details as they become available.

QR CODE FOR MEETING PLACE

