



Bee BUZZ

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2022

From the President ...

Greetings Beekeepers and I hope your New Year 2022 is a good one for you and your bees. As we enter into winter there are several unpleasant chores that each beekeeper needs to complete so that you are ready for spring which is a vital time for our bees. January – March can be harsh on the bees and this year with the extreme swings in temperatures it has us all guessing on what to do next. Today is December 27th, 2021 and we had a 65 degree morning temperature! I have a friend near Lexington, Kentucky who is feeding syrup! I am also considering the syrup path if this warm weather becomes more prevalent.

Jane Sueme opened up our fireside chat series with a good topic and everyone's favorite, Varroa Destructor control! The take-away I received is that we are los-

ing the battle on this pest and that at best Oxalic Acid will only keep the mites in check and is not a very good choice during the active parts of the year when there is a lot of brood present. This was also confirmed in the December 2021 issue of "Bee Culture."

Jane and her ISABEES business donated two hives for use during teaching and at Pierre Marquette State Park. Dennis Hessel is adding ISABEES along with the Club's name to the side of each hive and etching each teaching frame to make sure the equipment does not grow legs. This is a good public relations reach out to our community and promotes bees/beekeeping which is the core of our charter.

The next meeting is at the Belleville Farm Bureau on January 28th at 7PM and I am excited to see everyone

in person. We will follow the state's recommended mask policies while at the meeting. We have several topics to discuss with all members and I look forward to the feedback from everyone. The board is thinking about purchasing a honey extractor and OA vapor tool for club's use. We would like to have everyone's thoughts on this. From what we know the club has/had a bee vacuum but so far we do not know where it is. As a club we need to come up with a process that keeps club's assets from walking away and returned in good condition.

Just a reminder that January 31st is the end of the grace period for membership.

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Open Invitation To All Beekeepers - Weekly Zoom Meeting

For beekeepers looking for something else to do during the winter, You are invited to participate in a free Zoom meeting every Saturday - Courtesy of Fox Valley Beekeepers Association.

It's called "Breakfast with the Bees". It's a group chat and it's open to all who want to participate. Each week local beekeepers of all levels join together via zoom and we go over weekly beekeeping topics and discuss what's happening in our hives. Everyone is encouraged to contribute to the discussions and ask questions. We have been meeting for over a year now and it's been great to be able to talk with fellow beekeepers on a weekly basis and discuss beekeeping.

The next meeting is Saturday, January, 8 2022. Start time is 7:30am.

We meet every week, You are invited to join us and put us on your calendar.

For more information. You can reach me by email at james@jamesgardenbees.com

James Konrad - Fox Valley Beekeeper Association - Keeper of the Bees

The link and information is below.

Beekeepers Zoom Meeting:

Topic: Breakfast with Bees

When: Every week on Sat Time: 07:30 AM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting Link: Breakfast with the Bees <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81555464614>

Meeting ID: 815 5546 4614 **Passcode:** bees

Or can you open the Zoom app on your PC or smart device, select Join a meeting in the app and then enter the below meeting ID and passcode when prompted

Dues for 2022 are now due....

Membership dues were due January 1st. The dues are \$20 per year. Go to our webpage on the Members Only page complete the Membership Renewal form.

President..

On February 1st you will be dropped from the club's mailing and email list. We really want to keep everyone so please pay your dues at the meeting or online through the club's web site by January 31st. The board members will be right outside the meeting room door to process dues quickly from those waiting to pay on meeting day.

Last year on the Facebook page I read a very good question: What are the benefits of membership in the club? I can tell you this question is the core of our board meetings and that is to find ways to promote beekeeping and provide each club member with enough information, mentorship, and equipment when needed to help you in your apiary. We plan to do a lot more with fireside chats, monthly meetings educational sessions, frequent apiary visits, equipment checkout, friendship and mentorship and we want all of you to come along with us as we grow as a club providing value to each member.

Tim Schartung

President SCBA

Around the Bee Yard

- Take inventory of your equipment
- Scrap excess propolis from hive bodies and frames
- Check hive parts for need of repair or replacement
- With the warm weather make sure your bees are fed
- Start planning your next year's activities

A Little Bee Humor

Q: What do you call a bee explorer?

A: Christopher Colum-buzz.

Q: What do you call a bee you can't share secrets with?

A: a blab-bee.

Q: What's a bee-line? A

: The shortest distance between two buzz-stops!

Q: What is a baby bee?

A: A little humbug!

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



Okay new guy, this hasn't been typical winter weather for around here so don't wander off too far, it could change in a minute.

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.C**

Fireside Bee Chat

The club has started a new event—a Fireside Bee Chat. This is a series of virtual meetings where a topic will be presented and then followed up with a question & answer period. This is a special event for members only. The next Fireside Bee Chat will take place Tuesday, January 11th at 7:00 via ZOOM <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85293755652>,



Scott McKane will be talking about AŽ hives and beekeeping in Slovenia.

AŽ Hives: The best beehive you have never heard of Slovenia's love affair with bees has existed for centuries, with recorded history of Slovenians keeping bees stretching back centuries. Throughout the 16th and 17th centuries, the tradition of keeping bees was accomplished mostly by farmers, who used woven baskets called skeps, or in hollow logs which were carried by backstraps into the Julian Alps to the high mountain meadows, where the flowers are plentiful in Spring and Summer.

At the turn of the 20th century, several imported modern beehives and their domestic versions were in use in Slovenia. Since none of them satisfied the needs of Slovenian beekeepers, however, the most resounding innovation was provided by the pioneer of the new beekeeping era, Anton Žnideršič (1874-1947). Žnideršič, a large-scale beekeeper from Ilirska Bistrica, designed a beehive, the AŽ. Žnideršič sought to improve upon the German-Austrian system of leaf hives, and experimented with different frame sizes. The AŽ beehive he created enables the Carniolan honey bee the best possible development in the Slovenian environment, ensuring a higher yield of honey and wax, and making it easier for beekeepers to work in the apiary and transport bees to foraging.

Žnideršič's beehive was established under the name, the Alberti-Žnideršič beehive, as Anton Žnideršič was inspired by the German beekeeper Adolf Alberti when designing this beehive. The AŽ hive is opened from behind and is part of a stack of hives placed into a secondary structure with a large overhang to protect the hives from moisture. In the AŽ beehive, the combs are placed longitudinally, in the direction of the bees' flight. Combs can be moved like pages in a book, or removed like books from a shelf.

The AŽ hive quickly became popular among Slovenian beekeepers, and is still used by more than 90 percent of beekeepers in Slovenia. Thus, the home of the Carniolan honey bee is usually an AŽ beehive. The AŽ Hives currently in use in Slovenia are, more or less, the identical design in use for over 100 years. They feature rear-door access for the beekeeper, two or three-levels for frames, and are designed to be placed into a secondary structure to protect the hives. There is no lifting required to manage AŽ hives, apart from removing the individual frames, which typically weight around six pounds. The hives are a particularly good choice for individuals with physical limitations, as they can be adapted to nearly any structural design the beekeeper chooses.





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

