



# BEE BUZZ

October 2022

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## ISBA Annual Fall Meeting - Springfield, Illinois

As a member of the St. Clair Beekeepers Association you are a member of the Illinois State Beekeepers Association. The ILSBA will host their Annual Fall meeting on November 5th, at the Northfield Inn Suites and Conference Center in Springfield, IL. The agenda has not been set, but the speakers have been announced.

### Jim Tew

- Beeswax – a fundamental requirement of the colony
- Queen Problems – some discussion, solutions and best guesses.

### Ian Stepler

- Single Hive Management
- Queen Rearing—self sustainable queen rearing

### Adam Dolezal

- Level of Susceptibility to Diseases Throughout the Year

The presentations should be of interest to the beginner and seasoned beekeeper alike. The main take away from the meeting should enable you to better comprehend what is going on in the colony, why and what (if anything) you can do to help the bees thrive and survive.

### Ticket Price:

\$50 Per Person for ISBA Member or ISBA Family Member\*\*\*

\$40 Per Person for ISBA Member or ISBA Family Member - U.S. Veteran or U.S. Active Military\*\*\*

\$65 Per Person for non ISBA member\*\*\*

\*\*\* If ticket(s) are purchased before 4 PM on October 29,2022, each ticket will include your choice on one of the complimentary box lunches.

\*\*\* After the 10/29/2022 4 PM deadline, ticket purchases will not include lunch. So purchase your ticket(s) early. All tickets must be purchased online in advance of the start of the meeting at 8 AM on 11/5/2022.

More information and registrations can be found at <https://www.ilsba.com/summary-of-events.html>

## October 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.*

- ◆ Supplemental feeding 1:1 sugar syrup may encourage queens to continue laying well into October in Southern Illinois. This not only assures the colony has sufficient food, but also creates a larger proportion of young bees to survive until the spring. Feed 2:1 sugar syrup once brood rearing stops and until bees stop taking it.
- ◆ Consider a cleanup ,mite treatment wit oxalic acid vapor after brood rearing stops. (late October to early November) Effectiveness can reach 96% once all mites are phoretic and no longer protected by brood cell cappings. The same treatment applied earlier in the season while brood rearing is going on would have been 20% effective at best.
- ◆ Beekeepers should remove all queen excluders that will prevent the queen from moving along with the cluster during the winter and install entrance reducers to keep out field mice.
- ◆ Around the 31st of October, the foraging season ends with the first killing frost, and little, if any nectar or pollen will be available.
- ◆ The worker bees will also prevent the drones from reentering the colony as they are no longer needed for mating with queens and as a result, many dead drones may be observed on the entrance boards.
- ◆ Continue feeding 2:1 sugar syrup until the bees stop taking it (around 45-50degrees F) and once that occurs, I add a Styrofoam block in a gallon Ziplock bag (so bees won't eat) and sugar bricks directly on top of the frames of a 3" top feeder. This covers the center 6 frames preventing heat loss and prevents condensation from dripping on the cluster during the winter. Note: an empty super can be used in place of a fop feeder. The bees will feed on the sugar bricks during the winter and the beekeeper can replace the bricks as needed.



## ***Beekeeping in October***

*DISCLAIMER: The most important thing to remember is that the bees don't live by a calendar. Location, topography, climate, weather and, floral resource are all factors to consider when determining what tasks need to be completed*

As the days get shorter and cooler, the bees will stray from the hives less. The queen will slow down her egg laying, and depending upon the average temperatures the winter cluster will start to form. The bees are starting to get into the winter mode. By now all of the drones should have been ousted from the hive by the worker bees since all they will do this time of year is eat valuable winter stores.

### **Observations and Actions to take –**

*Decline in egg laying* - The worker bees will stop polishing cells for the queen to lay eggs in and the queen will slow down her laying. The brood needs to be kept warm and with fewer winter bees and the drop in temperature the workers are more concerned with surviving and keeping the queen warm than warming brood.

- How are you are going to protect the colonies over the winter? By wrapping them with insulation or roofing felt, covering them, or using a wind break of straw bales.
- Order or prep the materials you will need for protecting your hives so you have them available to install in November.

*Moisture Control* – Humidity and dampness in the hive can become a problem with the fluctuating temperatures. Moisture in the hive can lead to mold and death tot the bees. A large hive will not die from cold weather. Although the temperature inside the hive will drop, the bees keep themselves and the cluster warm enough to survive extreme cold weather. However, moisture can develop within the hive and if this moisture gathers above them, it can rain down onto the cluster and kill the bees.

- Provide ventilation at the top of the hive to help remove the moisture.
- Place cardboard or wood chips in a spacer at the top of the hive to absorb the humidity. Sugar candy board will also soak up the moisture and feed the bees.
- Place a piece of Styrofoam or other insulating material under the outer cover shield the hive from the cold top and help retain some heat in the hive.

*Pest Control* – now is the time to protect your hive from the pests that want to get in out of the cold or have a tasty meal.

- Install mouse guards, hardware clothes, pieces of old queen excluders, anything to reduce the opening to the hive to 3/8 inch so that mice don't take up lodging in your warm well stocked bee hive.
- Bees are a favorite source of protein for skunks and they love to hang out in front of the hive at night. If skunks are a problem in your area place a piece of carpet tack strips on the edge of the landing board. The sharp tacks will deter skunks for putting their feet up on the landing board.

### **Tasks to Perform –**

*Feed- Feed- Feed-* The last weeks of warm weather is when you should assess which hives are ready for winter. There is still time to feed syrup to those without sufficient stored honey and to unite the weakest hives with stronger hives

- Continue to feed your colonies 2:1 ratio of sugar to syrup (5 lbs. of sugar to 1 quart of water). The bees will continue to feed as long as daytime hours remain warm,
- Stop feed liquid syrup when average temperatures fall below 50<sup>o</sup> F.
- Spread a piece of newspaper over the tops of you frames and spread sugar on top of the paper. The bees will eat this and the sugar will also help absorb moisture.

*Last Minute Winter Preps* – It doesn't hurt to repeat the task below one last time even if you did them in September.

- Rearrange your frames of capped honey and empty frames to encourage the bees to finish filling incomplete frames. Place the capped honey to the outside of the hive and the partially filled frames to the center. The bees like to work from the center out. DO NOT interrupt or rearrange the frames with brood on them.

- Determine if a hive is strong enough in number to keep the cluster warm and enough stores for the hive to survive on during the winter, if not, combine it with a stronger hive and pinch the oldest queen. Do this before the winter cluster is formed
- If you are treating your hives with chemicals for varroa mites keep up with the prescribed routine.
- Purchase or make mouse guards so you have them on hand to install when the weather turns cooler.
- Winter winds can be strong, so place a heavy concrete block on your hives or strap them down.
- Inspect the supers for any painting or repairs that need to be done and note any frames that will need to be replaced.
- Freeze frames for a few days to kill wax moth larva and the Moth-proof the supers with Para Moth and store them away until spring.

## **OLD TIMER'S WAY**

By: Ken Schaefer

This month I would like to talk about hive stands or lack thereof. Years ago some beekeepers would just place the hive on the ground, or elevate the hive a few inches by use of bricks. The bottom board deteriorated quickly and the bricks left room for snakes, mice and other critters to call home. Mid summer came and the hive would tilt and be hidden by weeds. Setting hives on eight or ten inch cinder blocks was used by many and still popular today. I soon went from the ground to elevating my hives on cinder blocks. As my back got weaker, I advanced to hive stands, being a lumber frame made by 4x4s and 2x6s of treated lumber. The frame is about 16" high by about 17" wide and six to seven feet long. Setting the legs on 2x12x12 pavers, the stand won't sink into the ground. Using scrap pieces of floor tile I can level the stand, with a slight tilt forward to keep the rain from running into the hive entrance. Setting a hive on both ends of the stand allows the center to be used to place supers, smoker, etc. On it with little bending over. Bees can't hear. Some might say working a hive on one end of the stand vibrates a message to the hive on the other end that an intruder is near. However, I have found that not to be the case.

Hives being placed on the ground remind me of an experience I had around 1976. An old beekeeper died and his possessions went up for auction. He had about a dozen hives that apparently had been abandoned for years. Some corners were broken out, and in each hive the bees had a choice of four or more entrances. I think if I were to stare at the hive hard enough it would have fallen apart. I figured my mother didn't raise no dummy so I decided not to bid. When the bidding got down to \$5 each a fellow beekeeper got the bid and took them all. He then asked me to help him move them, and reluctantly I said yes. The next day with rags and screen we tried closing off what we thought were the best 8 hives. When we lifted some of the hives a portion of the bottom board stayed in the ground. The bees weren't too happy about their truck ride or their new home. I had to keep my veil and bee suit on for the ride home. Somehow, through it all, we got the job done! I think the beekeeper gave up on moving the remaining hives as I never heard from him again.

### **Fireside Chat Returns...**

The Fireside Chat Zoom presentations return in October. The first one is October 11th, at 7:00 pm. The presenter will be Adam Dolezal. The presentation will be about Colony Food Consumption in Winter & Variation in Disease Susceptibility Throughout the Year.

Adam is an Assistant Professor University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's Department of Entomology. He researches how pollinators (mostly bees), respond to the different stresses they encounter in their environment. These studies have centered heavily around the impacts of virus infection and nutritional and chemical stresses associated with Midwestern row-crop agricultural systems.

**Topic: October Fire Side Chat**

**Time: Oct 11, 2022 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89497702392?pwd=NotZUXJ3NTlmdoxkdFBkZzN5R29JUT09>

Meeting ID: 894 9770 2392

Passcode: 881056

## **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 of new beekeepers by teaching or mentoring new beekeepers.
- 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 area covered by the SCBA that they deserve to be recognized.

The nomination process is easy, simply submit the completed nomination form.

## **SCBA 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 period for these awards is open from August 1st until October 31<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto: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.



**SCBA BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR AWARD  
NOMINATION FORM**

**Nominee: *contact information for nominee***

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Person making nomination: *your contact information***

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nomination Statement: *general statement of support***

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

**Beekeeping Experience: *background in beekeeping***

Number of years in beekeeping \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of hives \_\_\_\_\_ Number of apiaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the nominee a - (check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_ honey producer      \_\_\_\_\_ commercial pollinator      \_\_\_\_\_ sells nucs  
\_\_\_\_ Queen Breeder      \_\_\_\_\_ wax producer      \_\_\_\_\_ educator/mentor

## SCBA BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR AWARD

### **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

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Respectfully submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

*Signature Use additional piece of paper if needed.*



## SCBA NEW BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATION FORM

**Nominee:** *contact information for nominee*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Person making nomination:** *your contact information*

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nomination Statement:** *general statement of support*

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

**Beekeeping Experience:** *background in beekeeping*

Number of hives \_\_\_\_\_ Number of apiaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Has nominee successfully overwintered a colony? YES or NO

Has nominee performed Swarm/cutout removal? YES or NO

Has nominee split hives? YES or NO

Has nominee made a NUC? YES or NO

Can nominee identify Queen cells and Queen cups? YES or NO

Does nominee know how to test for varroa mites? YES or NO

Did you mentor the nominee? YES or NO



## SCBA NEW BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**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)
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- Talks to non-beekeeper groups
- 

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Respectfully submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

*Signature*

*Use additional piece of paper if needed.*

## **WE ARE GROWING...**

Welcome these new members that joined the club in September  
Kyle Gallagher and Alyssa Heimann

## **Officer Elections are coming...**

Nominations are being accepted for the following board positions. Elections will be held at the September meeting.

**Public Information Officer.** The Public Information Officer shall:

- Handle the advertising and distribution of information regarding activities, announcements and the press releases of the association
- Create and print the Association's monthly newsletter and distribute it either through the U.S. Postal Service or through electronic mail to the association members
- Serve as contact person for requests from the media for information or press releases from the Association and coordinate with the President or the Executive Board to provide acceptable replies to requests.

**Directors.** 2 needed The Director's primary function is to provide a direct link between the membership and the Executive Board. The duties of a Director are not limited to any specific area of concern but rather fall in a category of general interest to the welfare of the association of the corporation by whatever means necessary in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois governing nonprofit organizations. The office of Director shall change with one (1) Director being elected each year.

## **A Little Bee Humor**

Q: What are the cleverest bees?

A: Spelling bees!

Q: What bee is good for your health?

A: Vitamin bee!

If you want a pet bee, you must be called a wanna-bee.

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



**Okay new guy, its starting to get cold at night so stay with the cluster.**



### St. Clair Beekeepers Association

Promoting interest in bees and beekeeping in Southern Illinois.

Email: [stclairbees@gmail.com](mailto: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

### Meeting Dates for 2022....

Below are the meeting dates for 2022. They are subject to change.

Oct 28th - St Clair Count Farm Bureau, Belleville - processing beeswax

Nov 11th - Friday night Location TBD Thanksgiving Dinner

Dec - no meeting



## NEXT MEETING DATE

Our next membership meeting will be held on October 28th at 7:00 pm at the St Clair Farm Bureau Building, 1478 Il -15 , Belleville, IL The presentation that night will be about processing beeswax.

Come early or stay late for social time.

Meeting starts promptly at 7:00 PM

Link to Google Maps for Meeting location

