



# BEE BUZZ

September 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>

## September in 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.*

- ◆ Some beekeepers in Southern Illinois may expect to see a fall honey flow from fall flowers such as goldenrod, asters, and boneset.
- ◆ In my experience, goldenrod is usually the dominant floral source and blooms for several weeks in September. The nectar from goldenrod can be quite pungent while it is being ripened in the supers, so many beekeepers chose not to extract it and leave it for the bees to backfill the top brood box. The decision is yours.
- ◆ I have found if you decide to extract the fall crop, generally only one super per hive will; be necessary and many years the flow will only produce a few frames of surplus. One way to determine how strong the flow will be is to break off the goldenrod flower and rub it between your hands. If your hands become sticky, you probably will have a significant honey flow. A few inches of rain in late August or early September can make a huge difference in the flow.



## ***Beekeeping in September***

*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*

During the typical late summer/early fall weather in Southern Illinois the bees will still be gathering stores from the fall flowers. This second flow usually begins in late August and September. Beekeepers may expect to see nectar from fall flowers such as goldenrod, aster, and boneset. Although the amount of honey produced during September may be minimal, if the days are warm enough and your location is right, the beekeeper could expect a significant crop. Be sure to have an empty super on the hive to take advantage of this late flow.

One way to determine how strong the flow will be is to break off the goldenrod flower and rub it between your hands. If your hands become sticky, you probably will have a significant honey flow. A few inches of rain in late August or early September can make a huge difference in the flow.

During this period the bees are working hard to gather more last-minute nectar before the first major hard freeze or frost which will kill the flower and finish the flow. What happens during September will determine how well your bees overwinter. Don't be greedy and make sure your hives are left with enough stores for the bees to dine on through the winter.

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

- ⇒ *Decline in population* Towards the end of September or as the weather begins to cool down you will see a decrease in the number of bees in the hive. You may notice there are few drones in the hive or see them lying on the ground in front of the hive. This is the colonies' way of reducing the workforce to conserve stores.
- ⇒ *Consider requeening* If your queen has done well this year or you replaced her earlier in the year you should be good. If your queen has been not been performing well or is older it is advisable to requeen in September. A younger queen has stronger pheromones and will be more apt to lay eggs more efficiently in the Spring.
- ⇒ *Hive smells strange* - Goldenrod is usually the dominant floral source and blooms for several weeks in September. The nectar from goldenrod can be quite pungent while it is being ripened in the supers. To Extract or Not?? Many beekeepers chose not to extract it and leave it for the bees to backfill the top brood box. The decision is yours.
- ⇒ *Robbing* – As resources become scarce you may experience other opportunistic bees trying to steal the stores your bees worked so hard to put up for the winter. You will have to take steps to save your bees.
  - ⇒ *Robbing Screen* Be sure to have an entrance reducer on your hives. On your weaker hives, you should place a robbing screen over the entrance. The best time to do this is in the evening once the foragers have returned for the day. (See August 2022 BeeBUZZ for plans)
  - ⇒ *Opening Hives* - You should restrict the amount of time you have a hive open for inspection to the least amount of time possible. The open hive is an invitation for robbing from marauding bees.
  - ⇒ *Open Feeding* - Feeding at this time of the year should be restricted to inside the hive as high up as possible. Boardman feeders at the entrance is asking for trouble. If opening feeding is necessary, do it as far away from you hives as possible, but close enough to feed your bees and not the whole neighborhood.

## Tasks to Perform –

⇒ Determine Stores – Be sure your hive has enough stores to hold your bees over for the winter and into spring. You may need to leave a honey super in place to supplement what is stored in the deep boxes. You should have between 60 and 80 pounds of honey and bees in your deep boxes.

- Find something that weighs around 60 pounds. Lift it up slightly with one hand. This will give you an idea what that much weight feels like. With one hand, slightly lift the back an inch or two. Compare how that weight feels to your sample weight.
- For something more accurate purchase a luggage scale for \$8-\$30. Screw an eyehook in the back of the bottom hive body to hook the scale to, or make a J shaped hook to slide under the edge of the hive body to tilt the hive.
- Finish up your honey extraction and store the supers for winter. There is no need for them now, and you will want to tighten up the hive by removing excess supers.
- You can place the supers on the hive over the inner cover for a day (put an extra inner cover or screened cover on to prevent robbing) to let the bees move any leftover honey into the lower bodies. Be sure to remove the supers after one day.

⇒ 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

- For colonies light on honey stores, begin feeding sugar syrup. The fall mixture is a 2:1 ratio of sugar to syrup (5 lbs. of sugar to 5 cups of water). **NOTE: 2 cups of water weighs 1 pound**
- Feed and don't stop. Because robbing is a problem this time of the year consider your feeding method wisely.
- The Boardman Feeder, the one that slips into the front of the hive opening at the bottom and a mason jar slips down into it, is the easiest to use and monitor. However, in the fall, bees from other hives can make their way to the front feeder, and eventually rob the hive. So, do not use entrance feeders during the fall.
- Top feeders are large reservoirs of sugar water above the hive, usually made of plastic and they have a small space where the bees can climb into a screened area and go down into the reservoir to consume sugar water. Don't put an inner cover on top of a top feeder and you may even want to put tape over the notch so bees can't get in. The notch in the inner cover gives robbing bees direct access to the hive. You may find some bees that have drowned in the feed this can't be entirely prevented. If your top feeder leaks you will have up to 2 gallons of sugar water rain down in your hive, drowning and disrupting the hive for several days.
- Frame feeders are feeders that takes the place of one or two of your normal frames. Essentially it is a thin bucket that is about the size of a frame and the bees can eat from within their hive. To refill it you have to open your hive exposing the inside to robbers.
- You can also throw a deep or medium hive body on top of the inner cover and use many types of vacuum feeders. i.e. a Boardman Feeder.

⇒ Test for Varroa Mites - You need to test your hives for varroa mites. Either do a sugar roll or even better an alcohol wash. Your mite count should be less than 9 mites per 300 bees or 3%. (Count the number of mites collected in sampling, divide that number by the number of bees in the sample, then multiply by 100 to yield a percentage) This time of the year your varroa mite count will be almost at its peak.

Your treatment option depends upon many factors. Temperature, status of honey supers, if brood is present or not, and if you want to use chemicals or go natural. The best source for information is the Honey Bee Coalition

- For a complete A Guide for Effective Varroa Sampling & Control go to [HBHC-Guide Varroa Interactive 7thEdition June2018.pdf \(honeybeehealthcoalition.org\)](https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/HBHC-Guide_Varroa_Interactive_7thEdition_June2018.pdf)
- [https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/HBHC-Guide\\_Varroa\\_Interactive\\_7thEdition\\_June2018.pdf](https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/HBHC-Guide_Varroa_Interactive_7thEdition_June2018.pdf)
- For a tool that will lead you through the decisions you need to make to determine how to best manage varroa mites go to [Varroa Management Decision Tool \(cantilever-instruction.com\)](http://cantilever-instruction.com)
- [https://cantilever-instruction.com/varroatool/story\\_html5.html](https://cantilever-instruction.com/varroatool/story_html5.html)

⇒ *Prepare for Winter*

- 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 and stores to survive 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 planning on moving your hives before winter, now is the time to do it so they are in place before the bees begin to form a winter cluster.
- Purchase or make mouse guards so you have them on hand to install when the weather turns cooler.
- 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.

⇒ *Bottle and Label* -The outdoor chores are decreasing, and now is a good time to package your honey. By now you should have ordered your bottles and labels and have them on hand. Do a Google search for packaging honey to see all kinds of suppliers.

- Check with the [National Honey Board](http://NationalHoneyBoard.org) for ways to help with marketing of your product.
- Go to [Honey Labeling | National Honey Board](http://NationalHoneyBoard.org) for labeling requirements. Also check to see if your state has any specific requirements.

## **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

The nomination period is open from August 1st until October 31<sup>st</sup>. The award is presented at our annual Holiday Party in late November. Nominations and documentation of support should be emailed to our club secretary who will forward them to the officers of the club. All nominations will be treated fairly and equally through the process of determining a winner of the award, which is up to the officers to decide.

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)
- Media reports (i.e., newspaper, radio, TV)
- School programs
- Talks to non-beekeeper groups
- 

The nomination period is open from August 1st until October 31<sup>st</sup>. The award is presented at our annual Holiday Party in late November. Nominations and documentation of support should be emailed to our club secretary 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.

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

*Signature*

*Use additional piece of paper if needed.*

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

Welcome these new members that joined the club in July and August

Jennifer Angles, Mary Kathleen Baird, Lucas Barker, Peter Cinotto, Carol Hammer, Phil Harris, Tony Harris, Jon & Tori Jacobson, Nick Soler and Alex Tarsha

## **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?

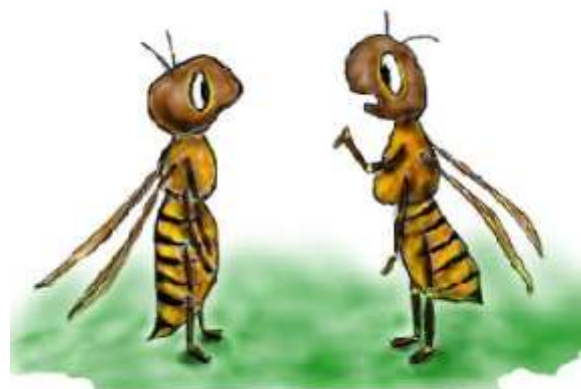
A: Spelling bees!

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, the dearth is upon us.  
You have to be vigilant for marauding robbers.**



## 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.

Sept 25th - Outdoor meeting location, Rich Perkeins and Darla Hsiao, Belleville

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

Nov 11th - Location TBD Thanksgiving Dinner

Dec – no meeting



## NEXT MEETING DATE

Our next membership meeting will be held outdoors on Sunday, September 25th at 2:00 pm at apiary of Richard Perkins and Darla Hsiao, 2915 Turkey Hill Lane, Belleville, IL

Come early or stay late for social time.

Meeting starts promptly at 2:00 PM

1. President Welcome -
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Introduce new members/non-members in attendance
4. Officer's reports
5. Old Business—election of officers
6. Introduction of speaker - Tim Schartung
7. Presentation - Using Oxalic Acid to treat varroa mites(30 minutes)
8. Q & A (30 minutes)
- 9.

Link to Google Maps for  
Meeting location

