



Bee BUZZ

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2023

From the President ...

Happy New Year,

My beekeeping year in 2022 went very well.

We went from 6 hives to 12 hives and harvested 300 pounds of honey. I am going into my 7th year beekeeping and learn more every day. I hope that all of you had a successful year and are preparing for 2023. I have been lining up speakers for 2023 and so far have Queen Rearing, Pollinator, and Treatment free beekeep-

ing as topics. I am always looking for program topics at the monthly meeting if you have something you want to present let me know. Membership dues are to be paid by Jan 31st according to the bylaws.

As we enter 2023 we also need to start looking for board members.

We have the program director and public information officer vacant today. In 2024 there

will be several positions open to include the treasurer. This position is critical and we need to have a volunteer step up in the next couple of months to shadow Dennis Hessel. I really appreciate it if you consider volunteering.

Let bee be bees.

Tim

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Officers for 2023

- Tim Schartung – President
- Tom Cairns – VP
- Kaetlyn Hentrich – Secretary & Librarian
- Dennis Hessel – Treasurer & Public Information Officer
- ?????? – Program Director
- Frank Doris – Director
- Darla Hsaio - Director
- Johnny Murdoch – Director

*******DUES ARE PAST DUE*******

If you have not paid your 2023 dues by the time you receive this newsletter they are past due.

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 a membership renewal form with your current information. On our website—www.stclairbees.com—click on Members Only in the top menu bar. On the next page you will be able to submit your renewal form and pay your dues.

You may pay your dues from the that page using PayPal or you may mail a check payable to SCBA to Dennis Hessel, 1720 Cloverdale Dr, Edwardsville, IL 62025.

Any member that hasn't paid their dues by February 1st will be dropped from the club's mailing list, email list, and Illinois State Beekeepers Association. We really want to keep everyone so please pay your dues before or at the January meeting.

Each year we purge the swarm, cutout, and mentor list to ensure we have the latest information. If you would like to be on one of these list you may submit your information from the Members Only page.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Dennis Hessel—Treasurer

January 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.

- ◆ In January, honeybees are usually found inside their hives in a cluster, attempting to stay warm. Try not to disturb them unless you feel supplemental food needs to be added to prevent starvation!
- ◆ You should find someplace warm to prepare new equipment for use in the spring and/or to repair old boxes and frames, and cut out old comb.
- ◆ You should consider registering for a new beekeeper course, and/or plan to attend the Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS) conference, a great educational opportunity in the summer.
- ◆ In January, you should also place orders for any queens, packages of bees, or nucs that will be needed in the upcoming spring.

A Beekeeper's New Year Resolutions.

- ◇ Faithfully monitor and treat for Varro Mites.
- ◇ Learn about Queen Rearing
- ◇ Read at least one of the following beekeeping books or articles. .
 - The Resources section of the club website www.stclairbees.com lists additional websites, videos, articles and books.
 - 1. Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping by Caron and Connor
 - 2. The Beekeeper's Handbook 5th edition by Diane Sammataro and Alphonse Avitabile
 - 3. The Backyard Beekeeper by Kim Flottum
 - 4. www.Scientificbeekeeping.com/first-year-care-for-your-nuc (written from the perspective of a California beekeeper but has lots of helpful general bee-keeping information)
- ◇ Learn to recognize the spring build-up
- ◇ Learning how to manage for minimal swarming?
- ◇ Make a split
- ◇ Keep a NUC as backup
- ◇ Plant some bee friendly plants
- ◇ Burn old hive bodies, frames and comb so as not to spread diseases
- ◇ Attend and participate the St Clair Beekeeper Association meetings
- ◇ Help education others about beekeeping
- ◇ Subscribe to the American Bee Journal or Bee Culture Magazine to stay up-to-date

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.

St. Clair Beekeepers Association Board Meetings for 2023

All meetings are scheduled at 7:00 PM via ZOOM. If you would like to attend notify the President and he will send you an invite.

Jan 4th	July 5th
Feb 1st	August 2nd
April 5th	September 6th
May 3rd	October 4th
June 7th	November 1st

Meeting Schedule for 2023

January 27th, 6:30 PM, membership meeting at St Clair Farm Bureau, Presentation - Treatment Free Beekeeping, by Peter Hill

February 11th, 8:00 AM, Beginning Beekeepers Class at Madison County Farm Bureau

February 24^t, time 6:30 PM, membership meeting at Madison County Farm Bureau, Presentation - The Pollinator Partnership by Eleanor Shumacher

March 31st, time 06:30 PM, membership meeting at St Clair Farm Bureau, Presentation - Queen rearing by Johnny Murdock

April 30th, time 2:00 PM, Location -Tim and Linda Schartung Apiary, Presentation - Hive Inspections

May 21th, time 2:00 PM, Location - Katelyn Hentrich Apiary Presentation - TBD

June 25th, time 2:00 PM, Location – TBD Presentation - TBD

July 30th, time 2:00 PM, Location – TBD Presentation -TBD

August, 27th, time 2:00 PM, Location – TBD Presentation -TBD

September 24th, time 2:00 PM, Location - Rich and Darla Perkins Apiary Presentation - TBD

October 27th, time 6:30 PM St Clair Farm Bureau Presentation - TBD

November 12th Thanksgiving potluck and final meeting, Madison County Farm Bureau.

Beekeeping in January

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

January weather may be the harshest of the winter. The bees are hunkered down in a tight cluster trying to stay warm and are consuming very little food. Try not to disturb them unless you feel supplemental food needs to be added to prevent starvation.

Observations and Actions to take –

Cleansing Flights – Honey bees don't defecate inside the hives, if you have a sunny day, with lite winds and temperatures over 40 °F, you may see some bees taking a quick, short flight to void feces or what's called cleansing flight.

Make sure the snow is not blocking the entrance to the hive

Dead Bees on the Ground - Although winter bees live longer than summer bees, many of them will die before spring. They drop and accumulate on the bottom board, because the worker bees are in the tight cluster. They will be removed from inside the hive on warmer days.

Don't panic when you see a lot of dead bees on the snow at the entrance of your hive.

Don't panic if you don't see a lot of dead bees on the snow at the entrance of your hive. It just means they haven't broken the cluster.

Tasks to Perform –

Check Stores – Be sure your hives have enough stores. If you have a nice day, quickly open the outer covers and see if the bees are clustered and active around the inner cover hole. If they are low on food you will need to feed them

DO NOT Break up the cluster by pulling out the frames.

Place dry sugar on a newspaper inside the hive, a candy board, or fondant as food over the top of the cluster.

Check for dead-outs and take note which hives they are

Visit your hives - Check for wind or animal damage. Make sure the hive openings are clear so the bees can get in and out for cleansing flights.

Plan for your new beekeeping year.

Review your colony records from last year to determine any changes or additions you would like to make.

Place orders for any queens, packages of bees, or nucs that will be needed in the upcoming spring. Many sources sell out by the end of the month

Clean up your smoker, hive tool, and scrape frames and empty hive bodies

Prepare new equipment for use in the spring and/or to repair old boxes and frames, and cut out old comb.

Consider registering for a new beekeeper course

Plan what conferences you will attend. The Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS) conference is a great educational opportunity held in late June.

Read a good beekeeping book.

Catchup on watching You Tubes.

Introduction to Beekeeping



St. Clair Beekeepers Association

One Day in Person Class **

Saturday, February 11, 2023

TIME: 8:00am – 5:00 PM

Location: Madison County Farm Bureau

900 Hillsboro Ave

Edwardsville, IL 62025



The enrollment fee is \$60.00, one additional family member \$30.00 extra. Fee includes handouts, continental breakfast, water, one year membership in St. Clair Beekeepers Association and Illinois State Beekeepers Association. Textbooks and other related resources available. More Information and a registration form are available on the website. www.stclairbees.com

Registration Information

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Additional attendee- include \$30.00 per person

Name	Relationship
_____	_____

The above information will be used to forward you the meeting invite and contact you about the above event.

All information will remain confidential and not shared with others.

Please mail this completed form and your check to:

**St. Clair Beekeepers Association
c/o Dennis Hessel
1720 Cloverdale Dr
Edwardsville, IL 62025**

MAKE PAYMENT PAYABLE TO St Clair Beekeepers Association

If you have questions email: stclairebees@gmail.com or call 618-560-6434

Fireside Bee Chat

The Fireside Bee Chat Returns. 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. We have a Fireside Chat scheduled in January and March, the links are below.



January 19th, Fireside Chat: Don't Procrastinate. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86272119205?pwd=eEhFYopoMzByQTRwbjhlUXFOY3UrQTO9>, pass code 123456

March 29th, Fireside Chat, Queen rearing by Johnny Murdock, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81087073562?pwd=dlhKMTJqdTlFZUpkaytWUmtpQVpNdzo9>, code 123456

April 20th, Fireside chat, 7 PM, AZ hives by Marc Mayhew

SWARM LIST-CUTOUT LIST- MENTOR LIST SIGNUP TIME.....

Each year we purge the swarm, cutout, and mentor list to ensure we have the latest information. If you would like to be on one of these list you may submit your information from the Members Only page. You may submit up to 10 cities that you will service.

In order to sign up for these lists goto our website www.stclairbees.com

Click on MEMBERS ONLY



Scroll down and click on the appropriate button and complete the form. Please provide all information requested on the form. Click SEND and it will be emailed to the club. Your request will be posted within 3 days.

Swarm/Cutout list sign up

The SCBA Swarm and Cutout list is provided as a service to active members in good standing. The list is dropped on December 1st each year and you must sign up again. At the end of January the list is published.

SIGN UP

Mentor List Signup

Serving as a mentor can be rewarding and educational for both the mentor and the student. If you have 2 or more years experience please consider being a mentor. You must renew your willingness to be a mentor each December.

SIGN UP



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 January 27th, 6:30 PM , membership meeting at St Clair Farm Bureau, The program is treatment free Beekeeping, by Peter Hill.

QR CODE FOR MEETING PLACE

