



Bee BUZZ

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

Announcements

There always seems to be some form of confusion when it comes to the Fireside Chat , ZOOM Meetings, or membership meetings. Members are always scrambling at the last minute to find the link or find out what time things start.

The club uses many forms of communication—Face Book, SLACK, email, BeeBUZZ, and last, but not least our website –<https://stclairbees.com/meeting-locations/>. Not everyone uses Face Book or Slack. Not everyone reads our emails, or the Bee BUZZ. There is always the website.

Announcements are posted on Face Book and Slack and are there for an extended period of time. You may have to scroll backwards to find it, but it is there.

I try to send out a reminder email at least two days before the event and include any links to the ZOOM.

The last page of the BeeBUZZ always has the next membership meeting information and address along with a QR Code for Google Maps. There is also a section that contains the link for the Fireside Chat.

Our website always contains the latest information about upcoming events. All of the previous BeeBUZZ newsletters are also on our website.

During the first week of April you will receive an invite to join our Face Book page and SLACK. If you elect not to join, please read our emails and check out the website for information about meetings and events.

Dennis Hessel

Treasurer and Public Information Officer

Officers Election in September..

In September we will hold elections for the following offices—Secretary, Treasurer, Public Information Officer, Program Director, and Director. Please consider holding one of these important offices within our club. SCBA cannot function without volunteers filling these positions.

Duties of these offices are described on page 5 of this newsletter.

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CLUB GROUP ORDER OF EQUIPMENT...

Eleven members ordered over \$5,200.00 worth of hives and hive parts, This represented 3 pallets of equipment. The club plans on doing this again in the Fall and will give you plenty of time to inventory your equipment and place an order.

Thank you to those that participated and to Tom Cairns for driving his truck and trailer to Effingham to pickup the equipment.

March meeting in pictures...

The March membership meeting was cancelled due to threatening weather.



Beekeeping in April

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

April is when the hive comes back to life after the cold, dark winter. Trees and flowers start to bloom and the bees are out in search of pollen and nectar. The queen is busy laying eggs for the next generation of workers and drones. This rapid growth, if not managed, can lead to your bees swarming in late April or May, so now is the time to plan your management strategy.

Observations and Actions to take –

Foraging Flights – Some trees and plants are starting to bloom and you may see the bees bringing in pollen. As the weather warms you should see the bees bringing in pollen.

Queen starts laying eggs – As the days grow longer and warmer the queen will start laying eggs again. Upon close inspection of your hive you should see eggs, larvae, and brood. If you don't you should find your queen to make sure she survived through the winter, and get a replacement if she didn't.

Wear Protective Gear - The bees will be more aggressive coming out of winter until the colony gets back into its normal rhythm.

Read the comb - Inspect every 7-9 days for disease, swarming intentions, status of Queen, brood pattern and stores (9 days is the time it takes the bees to create and cap a Queen cell and decide to swarm). Temperature must be above 59F

Potential swarming - If bees show indications of swarming create an artificial swarm

<https://carolinahoneybees.com/honey-bee-swarm-prevention/>

<https://youtu.be/4MrT5FmuW64> - University of Guelph

<https://youtu.be/-GD0oKQSB-c> - University of Guelph

<https://youtu.be/6kWdXeMVQrs> - David Burns

Tasks to Perform –

Consider Feeding Bees – . As the queen starts increasing the number of mouths to feed the stores in the hive will probably go faster than what is coming in. Don't give up on feeding until the honey flow gets nearer

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- 1:1 sugar syrup (if temperatures are above 55 at night) and pollen patties to supplement natural sources of food and encourage colony growth
- Place dry sugar on a newspaper inside the hive, a candy board, or fondant as food over the top of the cluster.

Clean out Deadouts – Clean out the hives that have died. Freeze the frames if you can to prevent wax moths. Scrape the hive bodies and prepare them for reuse during spring buildup or honey flow.

Combine hives – Evaluate the strength of your hives and combine weaker hives with stronger hives. It is better for many reasons to have one strong hive than two weak hives.

Prepare for Swarm Season – Educate yourself about the signs of swarming. Make sure you have extra equipment ready to prevent swarming or for giving a captured swarm a home. If you are going to put out swarm traps make sure they are ready and you have your locations identified and permission received if necessary.

Plant Bee-Friendly Flowers - Bluebell, crabapple, crocus, daffodil, forsythia, flowering cherry, hawthorn, pussy willow, rhododendron, rosemary, viburnum

Add-on - Make sure there is enough space for the bees. Super-up (when bees cover 7 of the 10 frames, add a super).

Test for Varroa Mites – Test for varroa mites to get a baseline reading. Treating if results deem it necessary. Finish treatment before you have to put on honey supers;

Find the Queen... you may want to enlarge this picture



April 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.

April is probably the busiest time of the beekeeper's year in Southern Illinois!

- ◆ Hives are growing rapidly, inspect at least every 10 days to 2 weeks in order to catch problems early! Monitor Small Hive Beetle numbers and trap as needed.
- ◆ Nectar and pollen are being collected; hives are growing quickly. Make sure you have plenty of frames prepared.
- ◆ Swarms require capture by the beekeeper. Have equipment, tools, and ladders ready to retrieve quickly!
- ◆ Beekeepers may need to schedule inspections for disease and moving permits with IL Dept. of Agriculture.
- ◆ Perform and record beginning of season mite counts.
- ◆ Add honey supers generally when the combs of the top brood box are approximately 80% drawn and filled. Beekeepers may want to install queen excluders but seek guidance from your mentor as to exactly when to add them, as bees will tend to avoid drawing foundation into new combs in supers above a queen excluder.
- ◆ Queens or package bees ordered in January may start to arrive in late April or early May and require installation in your hives and/or queen banks. If you ordered nucs in January, make sure your hives are prepared for installation into your equipment before they arrive.
- ◆ If you are producing nucs for sale, you may need to make splits from overwintered colonies in April and May. Consider treating & trapping to avoid transferring mites & SHB to your customers.



Officer Duties

Excerpt from our By-Laws

Section 6. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be the principal accounting and financial officer of the corporation. The Treasurer shall:

- Have charge and be responsible for the maintenance of adequate books of account for the corporation
- Have charge and custody of all funds and securities of the corporation, and be responsible therefore, and for the receipt and disbursement thereof
- Perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the President or the Executive board.
- File annual tax forms with State and the IRS
- Ensure members are enrolled in Illinois State Beekeepers Association

Section 7. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall:

- Handle all correspondence of the association
- Record the minutes of the meetings of the members and of the Executive Board in one or more books provided for that purpose
- Ensure that all notices are fully given in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws or as required by law
- Be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the corporation
- Keep a register of the post office address of each member, which shall be furnished to the Secretary by each member, this register to be published and distributed at least once annually and distributed to the membership
- Perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the President or by the Executive Board
- Serve as the registered agent for the association

Section 8. **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.

Section 9. **Program Director.** The Program Director shall:

- Develop a committee of interested members
- Set up an annual plan of programs with the committee for club meetings which will serve to educate our membership
- Serve as the contact for outside speakers
- Provide membership with information about the program for monthly meetings

Section 10. **Directors.** The number of Directors shall be not less than three (3) and shall be elected to serve for a three (3) year term. 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.

Meeting Schedule for 2023

April Fireside Chat—April 20th at 7PM Fireside Chat ZOOM Presentation by Mark Mayhew about the “History of AZ hives and his success working with them.”

Late April Katelyn Henrich plans to setup the observation hive at Pierre Marquette State Park Visitor Center. Date and time to be determined. Katelyn Hentrich is the chairperson and caretaker of the hive. If you want to volunteer please contact her.

April Membership Meeting - April 30th at 2PM This is the club’s first outdoor meeting hosted by Julie McKinney at the Old Six Mile Museum in Granite City. The weather may be hit or miss so please understand if this meeting is cancelled. I want to invite our new beekeepers and those with a couple of years experience to look in hives that are booming. Julie has enough hives that we can break up into small groups while Julie demonstrates hive inspections. You might even get to witness a split or two. Bring your protective gear.

May Membership Meeting—May 21st at 2PM . The May meeting was moved up last year so we all could spend time with family during memorial day weekend. We will do the same this year. The location is at Tim and Linda's Apiary in Lebanon, Il.

June Membership Meeting—June 25th a 2 PM Johnny Murdock is hosting the monthly meeting near Waterloo. Vacant board member positions will be announced during the meeting and nominations will be accepted.

July Membership Meeting—July 30th at 2PM Katelyn Hentrich is hosting this meeting at her apiary in Dow. This meeting will also serve as the first nomination for vacant board positions. If a member is not going to be present for voting at the September meeting an absentee ballot should be requested now. I will also ask the membership to form a beginner beekeeper class committee during this meeting. The club needs a Chairman and 5 volunteers to head up the class in Feb 2024, date TBD by the committee. Even if you don’t want to teach there is still plenty of volunteer work to accomplish. This year’s crew will help get you started. Dennis has taken a lot of notes over the last two years to assist the planning committee.

August Membership Meeting—August 27th at 2 PM. Julie McKinney is hosting the membership meeting at the Old Six Mile Museum in Granite City. We will ask again nominations for the vacating board positions.

September Membership Meeting -September 24th at 2PM. Darla Hsiao and Rich Perkins will host this meeting at their apiary near Freeburg. We will vote on the vacant board member positions. This is last outdoor meeting of the year.

October Membership Meeting—October 27th. We ill meet at the St Clair Farm Bureau at 7 PM. Please note this moves us to the last Friday of the month until spring.

Annual Membership Meeting and Thanksgiving Dinner—November 12th iThis is more a social meeting with a Thanksgiving potluck. New board members are installed. The location is the Madison County Farm Bureau.

March Fireside Chat ...

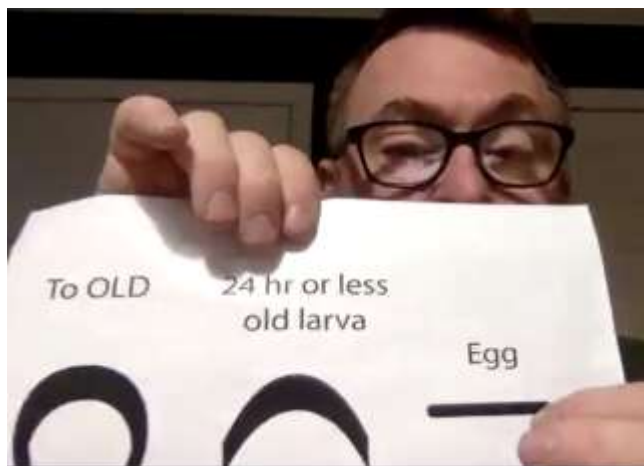
At the March 29th Fireside Chat, Johnny Murdock made a presentation on Queen Rearing using the grafting method. There were 21 people in attendance and the session was recorded.

Pictured at the right is a drawing showing the age of larva based on its shape.

If you missed the live session your should take the time to view the recording

The link to the recording is—

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ydeUcsPVZwAosG_WrDTiogmJkW5OXUcvmMX7SSpBthwjlYiyhc8plmQ5RqRejD_iigwZ62uk6gGLLlb
Passcode: kSSID6+f



Fireside Bee Chat

The April Fireside Chat - Topic: History of AZ hives and his success working with them: host Mark Mayhew

Time: Apr 20, 2023 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82427105064?pwd=bm9VV3grSzQ1eVEoRWNKSkJjNHpEdzo9>

Meeting ID: 824 2710 5064



A Little Bee Humor

Q: Q: What did the sushi say to the bee?

A: Wassabee!

Q: What do you call a bee that can't stop eating?

A: Chub-bee.

Q: What kind of bee is a sore loser?

A: a cryba-bee

Q: What singer is most popular for the bees?

A: Bee-yonce.

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



Okay new guy, it's going to start to get crowded in here, and we may move to a new neighborhood. Be ready to load up on honey.



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 outdoors on April , 2:00 PM , membership meeting at the Six Mile Museum Granite City 3279 Maryville Rd, Granite City, IL

<https://goo.gl/maps/S8173D7yUB7SVqje7>

QR CODE FOR MEETING PLACE

