



Bee BUZZ

NEWSLETTER MAY 2023

Announcements

Meeting Schedule for 2023

May Membership Meeting—May 21st at 2PM . At Tim and Linda Schartung's apiary, 9300 Pister Rd, Leababnon, IL. The May meeting was moved so we can all spend time with family during memorial day weekend. Snacks only. Presentation will be—What occurs after bees swarm from day of swarming to eggs and some of the pitfalls in between.

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 This is more a social meeting with a Thanksgiving potluck. New board members are installed. The location is the Madison County Farm Bureau.

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CLUB GROUP ORDER OF Honey Bottles...

After the success of our group equipment order, we are looking into offering a group purchase of honey bottles. We are looking at offering 12 ounce and 16 ounce bottles in glass and plastic. We have not checked pricing or source, but we need to know if there is an interest.

Please send an email to stclairbees@gmail.com if your interested. Please state size, glass or plastic and how many you would be interested in.

April meeting in pictures...

The April membership meeting was held at the Old Six Mile Museum and due to cool weather and gusty winds it was held indoors. Unfortunately we weren't able to do the split or open the hives. As you can see it was an overflow crowd



Beekeeping in May

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

May is a busy month. Everything is in bloom, the colonies are growing and just when you think things are good your bees decide to swarm or you have someone calling you to catch a swarm.

Observations and Actions to take –

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/-GDooKQSB-c> - University of Guelph

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

Tasks to Perform –

Consider making a split -

Check your swarm traps

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;

PS> SWARM SEASON BEGAN THE :AST WEEKS OF APRIL THIS YEAR.

May 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.

- ◆ During late April and throughout May in Southern Illinois, honey bees are usually busy collecting the main honey flow of the year.
 - ◆ Beekeepers should monitor their hives for adequate super space above the brood nest for the bees to store nectar. A strong colony of bees can easily fill several supers of honey in a two-week period during a strong honey flow.
 - ◆ In most areas, the main honey flow has begun and consists primarily of nectar from, dandelions, white Dutch clover, fruit trees and honeysuckle. The bees will add fresh white beeswax to the tops of the brood combs and this whitening is a sign the flow is starting.
 - ◆ In some areas, black locust trees may also provide a significant honeyflow starting about the 1st of May. However, it is very unpredictable due to the sparse location of trees, and unfavorable weather conditions. On average, black locust will only produce a large crop of prized honey about one year in four.
- ◆ Weather factors that affect the black locust nectar flow are late season frosts, storms and high wind speeds that knock the blossoms off the trees, and rainstorms that dilute and wash the nectar from the flowers.
- ◆ Beekeepers should monitor Small Hive Beetle levels and set traps as needed.



CATCHING A SWARM OF HONEY BEES

Tools needed – you can never have too much

- 8' Step Ladder
- 2 -30-gallon trash cans
- 8' tarp or white bedsheet
- a couple buckets
- 10' ratchet strap
- spray bottle w/water
- spray bottle w/sugar water
- loppers, and hand pruner
- stapler
- one eighth hardware cloth
- duct tape
- lemon essential oil

Questions to ask

Are you sure they are honeybees?

Can landowner take a picture and send it by text or e-mail?

Where are they?

Are they a swarm or a cutout?

Hanging on a limb or a swing set, mailbox, etc.

How high are they?

How long have they been there?

How big is the swarm? As big as a football, bigger or smaller.

Be sure to get a name, address, phone number, directions. Is electric accessible?

Are they on your property?

Will someone be home?

Ask them to look again just to be sure before you leave.

Ask them to call you if the bees leave.

Ask if anyone has sprayed them? If so, forget it you're done.

Heroes to Hives Program

For Military Veterans

By Nina M Clark

May 5, 2023



As a military veteran, there are countless programs available during and after military service. One program that is available for veterans interested in beekeeping is Heroes to Hives. Founded by Bee Wise Farms LLC and Michigan Food and Farming Systems' Veterans in Agriculture Network, the program began as a way to engage Service Members in beekeeping as an opportunity for them to continue serving their nation by protecting our nation's food security and work with other Service Members to recreate the support network of the military. The program was started in 2015 by Army veteran, Dr. Adam Joseph Ingaro along with his wife, Lacy Ann Ingaro. Since its inception, they have trained over 8,200 veterans in the art and science of beekeeping.

Heroes to Hives is a 9 month, beginning beekeeping educational course designed to train Service Members through a free online training program that is coupled with on ground training opportunities (in select States) and to develop a community of support with other veterans. Service Members successfully completing the Heroes to Hives program are eligible to receive a Certificate of Completion, recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and have the opportunity to transfer Heroes to Hives credits to the Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program at the University of Nebraska where Service Members can complete their Master Beekeeping Certificate.

The 2023 Heroes to Hives program includes:

- Over 100 hours of online training in beekeeping through lectures, instructional videos, and handouts
- Small business training by the Small Business Administration's Veterans Business Outreach Center
- Educational module and job seeking tool for preparing veterans for jobs in the commercial beekeeping industry
- Online marketing training
- Training on therapeutic practices in the bee yard

For field hours opportunities through the University of Nebraska Great Plains Master Beekeeping visit <https://gpmb.unl.edu/open-apiary-st-louis-mo>

Eligibility requirement to participate:

Veterans, Reservists, Active Duty or National Guard members of the I.S. Armed Forces are eligible for the program. And they are allowed to enroll their adult children, spouses, partners, and caregivers.

Upon passing the exam for the Certificate of Completion, the veteran will then be transferred to the Apprentice Beekeeping Program with the University of Nebraska, Great Plains Master Beekeeping. Requirements for completion of the apprentice program includes 20 modules, 20 Field Training Hours and 20 Volunteer Hours. Field and volunteer hours need to be verified by a mentor, associate or volunteer coordinator.

HOW TO JOIN THE HEROES TO HIVES PROGRAM?

Registration for the 2023 program is closed. Registration for the 2024 course can be completed from Nov. 1, 2023, to Feb. 28, 2024.

To register and additional information please visit www.heroestohives.org

For field hours opportunities through the University of Nebraska Great Plains Master Beekeeping visit <https://gpmb.unl.edu/open-apiary-st-louis-mo>

Location : Isabee's Bee Yard, 765 Gravios Rd, Fenton, MO 63026

A Little Bee Humor

Q: What do you call a bee born in May?

A: A maybe!

Q: What kind of bee can't be understood?

A: A mumble bee!

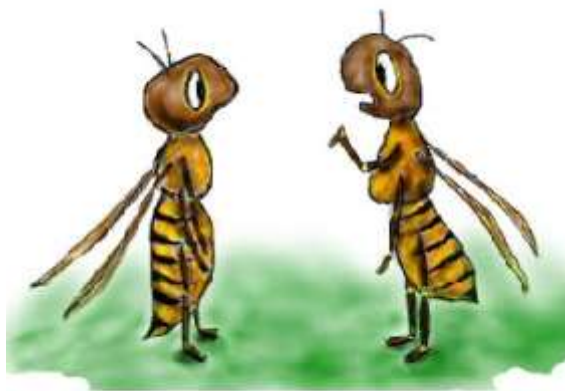
Q: What does a Wasp say during an Identity Crisis?

A: "TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE"

Q: What do you call a bee that lives in America?

A: USB

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



Okay new guy, so may have noticed, a lot of workers left with the Queen and left us to re-build. So get busy.



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 May 21st , 2:00 PM

At Tim and Linda Schartung's apiary, 9300 Pister Rd, Leababnon, IL. The date of the May meeting was moved so we can all spend time with family during memorial day weekend. Snacks only. Presentation will be—What occurs after bees swarm from day of swarming to eggs and some of the pitfalls in between.

QR CODE FOR MEETING PLACE

