



Bee BUZZ

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023

Announcements

Sorry ...

Sorry for the lateness and lite on content this month, but everyone has been busy around the bee yard and otherwise.

Dennis Hessel

Meeting Schedule for 2023

July Membership Meeting—July 30th at 2PM Katelyn Hentrich is hosting this meeting at her apiary in Dow. The topic will be Avoiding Fall pitfalls and to prepare for Winter. 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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July 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.

- ◆ July normally brings heat and humidity to Southern Illinois, and it has now been 3 months since you last performed a mite count at the beginning of the season.
- ◆ It is important to perform a mid season mite count early in July as the queens have been steadily building up the hive population to this point.
- ◆ Now that the main spring flows are ending, and the bees are entering the summer dearth, the mite load unfortunately has been steadily growing. A mite count above 3% means treatment of some type is necessary sooner rather than later. It is much easier to limit the mite growth, than to reduce it once it has gotten too high!
- ◆ There are many treatment options with varying degrees of complexity and success!
- ◆ As some form of mite treatment is usually necessary in July, a number of options include:

- √ Apiguard –thymol based Miticide
- √ Api-Life Var—thymol based Miticide
- √ Apistan—Tau Fluvalinate based Miticide
- √ Apivar— Amatrax based Miticide
- √ HopGuard 2—Beta Acid of Hops
- √ Mite Away Quick Strips—Formic Acid based Miticide
- √ Oxalic Acid Vapor—Oxalic Acid based Miticide
- √ Oxalic Acid Dribble—Oxalic Acid based Miticide
- √ Brood Break— IPM(integrated pest management) Method
- √ Drone Trapping - IPM
- √ Powdered Sugar—IPM



Drone Trapping Frame



Respirator and Oxalic Acid vaporizer



APIGUARD



Around the Bee Yard

- Go to Randy Oliver's website and read up about varroa mites [Varroa Management Archives - Scientific Beekeeping](#)
- Check for mites, check for mites, check for mites
- Remove honey supers and treat for mites if necessary
- Continue to monitor for congestion, queen rightness, and queen cells
- Provide plenty of water the workers are hard at it in this hot weather
- Think about nominees for Beekeeper and New Beekeeper of the Year awards
- Attend SCBA Membership Meeting July 25th
- Consider running for an officer position in the club
- Submit nominations for Beekeeper of the Year and New Beekeeper of the Year



A Little Bee Humor

:Q Who protects the Queen Bee?

A: Her Hub-bee.

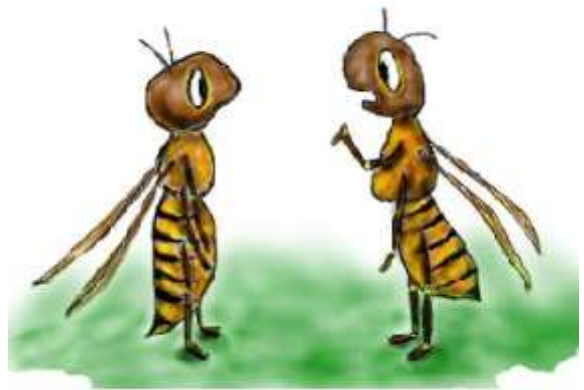
Q: How many bees do you need in a bee choir?

A: A hundred!

Q. What's the last thing to go through a bees mind when it hits your windshield? A. Its bum.

Q: Why did the bee go to the barbershop?

A: To get a buzz-cut.



Okay new guy, did you see who stole all our honey?

June 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.

The latter part of June in Southern Illinois generally marks the end of the spring honey flow. Small roadside flowers like chicory may begin to bloom. The supers hopefully by now are full of nectar and once the moisture content of the honey has dropped to about 18%, the bees will start applying a fresh coating of beeswax known as cappings to seal the cells.

- ◆ Beekeepers use an instrument known as a refractometer to measure the moisture content to assure it has reached 18% or less moisture, as too much moisture can result in the honey fermenting!



- ◆ IMPORTANT: since small hive beetles arrived in Southern Illinois around 2006, beekeepers must extract honey combs removed from the hives within 48 hours or risk finding small hive beetle larvae contaminating the honey.



- ◆ Once the supers are ready to be extracted, the beekeeper will remove the combs to be extracted generally by one of four methods.

- ◆ Manually brushing the bees from the combs with a bee brush.
- ◆ Mechanical bee escape boards which when placed under the supers of honey prevent the bees from returning to the supers.
- ◆ Chemical fume boards can be placed over the supers and the fumes will drive the bees downward and out of the supers.
- ◆ Bee blowers use high speed air similar to a leaf blower to drive the bees out of the supers.



- ◆ Beekeepers should remember when extracting and bottling their honey crop that since 2010 the law in Illinois prohibits additives of any kind in honey and limits the amount of honey that may be sold in Illinois to 500 gallons (6000 lbs.) that was processed outside of a commercial kitchen!

The Club has an extractor and some of the tools needed to extract honey. If you would like to borrow this equipment contact —

Ray Chapman Passes Away

Recently Ray Chapman a long time member of the St. Clair Beekeepers Association passed away.

Raymond Allen Chapman, long-time SCBA member and active participant in the club, died on May 12, 2023. Born in Alton in 1941, Ray lived most of his life in Bunker Hill where he and his wife Cookie raised 4 children on their farm at the edge of town.

Ray was a licensed plumber and worked for several local plumbing and heating companies before becoming the building maintenance supervisor at SIUE where he worked for 25 years. While at SIUE Ray discovered beekeeping through a co-worker and acquired his first hives in 1972. For the remainder of his life Ray pursued his passion for beekeeping with the calm, patient, and thoughtful manner that was a hallmark of his personality. He sold his honey from their home, at craft shows and fall festivals, and for many years was a key exhibitor at the Illinois State Fair with the SCBA. Ray was recognized throughout the state for his superior comb honey and consistently won blue ribbons at the fair.

Ray served multiple terms as the Southern District Representative for the Illinois State Beekeepers Association and was a key player in the St. Clair Beekeepers Association. He and Cookie frequently hosted outdoor club meetings during the summer months. With his patient and calm way Ray was excellent at demonstrating how to work a hive, respectful of the bees but not fearing their potential to inflict pain. I remember watching and listening to him talk as he sat in his short-sleeve shirt and hat-veil on a stool next to a hive, bees flying around and occasionally landing on him. As a relatively “new-bee” it was a lesson for me in staying relaxed, thinking before acting, and always respecting the bees. Ray’s “honey shed” was an excellent teaching tool in itself, illustrating the various pieces of equipment it takes to run a clean and well-organized large-scale hobby beekeeping business. Taking a tour of the shed with Ray was always a highlight of his outdoor meetings.

Ray and Cookie loved their community of Bunker Hill where Ray served as an Alderman for 22 years and Mayor for 10. Active in the Lions Club and St. Mary’s Catholic Church, they helped with many activities and events. The lovely landscape surrounding their home was a clear statement of their passion for gardening and their appreciation for living on their own little piece of heaven on earth.

Cookie pre-deceased Ray by 2 years and he was lost without her. He also lost his honey shed in a tragic fire last summer. But the shed is being re-built and Ray was heartened to know his nephew Ben (along with wife Meghan and the help of several grandsons) will continue the Chapman beekeeping tradition into the future. He passed away with that knowledge which surely sweetened the journey.

(Thanks to Mary Chapman May for providing information for this article)

CLUB GROUP ORDER OF Honey Bottles....

At this time it doesn’t appear to be enough interest to place a group order for honey bottles. Only four people responded and everyone had different for size, shape and glass vs plastic. We were trying to keep this simple and only have 2 sizes and styles. Bottomline—we won’t be placing a group order at this time.



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 July 30th at 2:00 pm

Katelyn Hentrich is hosting the monthly meeting at 13809 Schuler Rd Dow, IL. The presentation will be about the how to avoid pitfalls in the Fall and how to prepare your hives for Winter. Vacant board member positions will be announced during the meeting and nominations will be accepted. Watch for email or FaceBook post about refreshments or meal.

QR CODE FOR MEETING PLACE

