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# Bee BUZZ

NEWSLETTER

October 2023

## **September Meeting News.....**

The voting for new officers occurred at the September meeting today.

The Officers for the 2023-2024 year are :

Tim Shartung—President  
Tom Cairns—Vice President  
Rachel Done — Secretary  
Katelyn Hentrich— Treasurer  
Tim Cronin—Public Information Officer.  
Frank Dorris—Director  
Darla Hsiao—Director  
Johnny Murdock—Director

The Director of Programming remains open. This is a very important position and needs to be filled in order to have informative presentations at our meetings. Please consider filling this position.

**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

After the business meeting, Marc Mayhew gave a presentation about his experience entering honey products in the state fair, followed by a discussion about winter prep.

The club is taking bids for 18— 8 ounce bottles of honey for honey rent at St Clair Farm Bureau. Please send bids to the club's email address. Madison Farm Bureau wants to charge \$75 rent for each meeting and \$150 for the class. If you know of somewhere we can meet to replace the Madison County Farm Bureau shout out to Tim Schartung..

A BIG THANK YOU to Darla Hsiao and Rich Perkins for hosting the September meeting.

## ISBA Annual Fall Meeting – 11/14/2023 – Tickets on Sale Now

Tickets for the ISBA 2023 Meeting are on Sale Now

The Featured speakers are:

- Dr. Samuel Ramsey
- Melvin Disselkoen – Inventor of OTS (On The Spot) Queen Rearing method and miticide free bee-keeping
- Dr, Alexandria Payne

Tickets purchased before October 29, 2023 includes buffet lunch

\$60 ISBA Members and immediate family

\$50 ISBA Members who are veterans/Active military and immediate family

\$75 Non-members

Meet and greet Friday night. Many Vendors

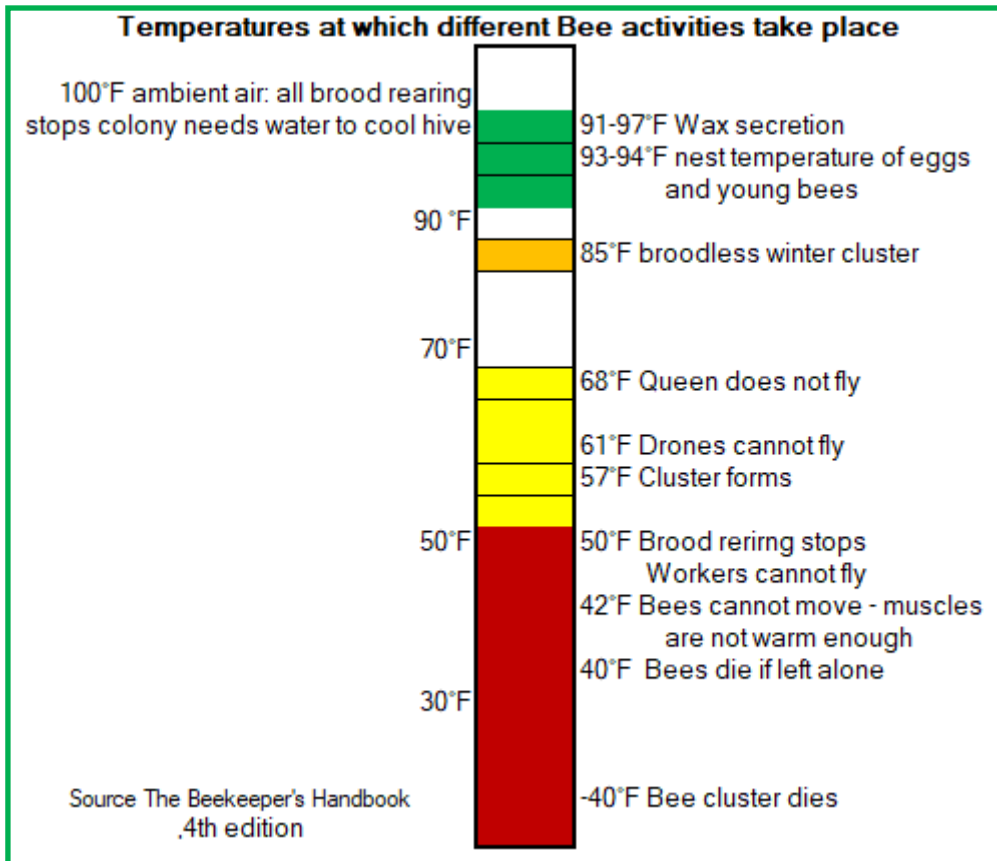
Group Hotel Rate \$89.00 per a night at the Northfield Inn and Conference Center. Mention ISBA Rate.

For a link for the most up-to-date detailed information on each of the speakers or to purchase your ticket(s), visit the <https://www.ilsba.com>

### American Bee Journal - Discount

As a member of the SCBA you are also a member of the ISBA. Below is a discount coupon for the American Bee Journal from the ISBA.

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL		Discounted Rates!		Association Member Subscription		
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. \$24.65	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. \$42.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. \$50.00		
<i>Prices good through Dec. 31, 2021</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. \$46.75	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. \$81.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. \$89.00		
		<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Yr. \$66.30	Retain yellow copy for your records.			
Return white copy to: American Bee Journal, 51 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341		<input type="checkbox"/> Check or Money Order Must be drawn on a U.S. bank in U.S. funds only.				
Customer Number (if available) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card Mastercard, Visa, Discover and American Express accepted.				
Subscriber's Name _____		CARD NUMBER _____ / _____ (CVV)				
Address _____		NAME ON CARD _____ SIGNATURE _____				
Address _____		Association _____				
City, State, Zip _____		Secretary's Name _____				
Phone _____		Address _____				
Email _____		City, State, Zip _____				
		Phone _____				



**Future Meetings.....**

- ◇ Oct 27th: Membership meeting at St Clair Farm Bureau , 7 pm. Please note this moves our meetings to the last Friday of the month until Spring.
- ◇ Dec 1st: Annual Thanksgiving pot luck at Madison County Farm Bureau, 7 pm This is more a social meeting with a Thanksgiving potluck. New board members are installed. The location is the Madison County Farm Bureau.
- ◇ Jan 26th: Membership meeting at St Clair Farm Bureau, 7 pm
- ◇ Feb 17th: New Beekeepers Class at Madison County Farm Bureau, 8 to 5
- ◇ Feb 23rd: Membership meeting at Madison County Farm Bureau, 7 pm
- ◇ Mar 29th: Member meeting at St Clair Farm Bureau, 7 pm
- ◇ Apr 26th: Madison County Farm Bureau, 7 pm

**This will be the last issue of the BeeBUZZ that I will be publishing. Since December of 2020, I have worked hard each month to bring you informative news and a little Bee Humor. It has been fun and very educational. The new Public Information Officer, Tim Cronin, will be taking over the BeeBUZZ and the webpage maintenance. Please make his job easy by submitting articles or other information for him to consider publishing. Thank you for this opportunity to serve the SCBA. Dennis Hessel**

**P.S. THANK YOU— Julie McKinney for always providing me with photos to publish and Charity Davis-Woodard for being my advisor.**

## October 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.*

- ◆ Supplemental feeding 1:1 sugar syrup may encourage queens to continue laying well into October in Southern Illinois. This not only assures the colony has sufficient food, but also creates a larger proportion of young bees to survive until the spring. Feed 2:1 sugar syrup once brood rearing stops and until bees stop taking it.
- ◆ Consider a cleanup ,mite treatment wit oxalic acid vapor after brood rearing stops. (late October to early November) Effectiveness can reach 96% once all mites are phoretic and no longer protected by brood cell cappings. The same treatment applied earlier in the season while brood rearing is going on would have been 20% effective at best.
- ◆ Beekeepers should remove all queen excluders that will prevent the queen from moving along with the cluster during the winter and install entrance reducers to keep out field mice.
- ◆ Around the 31st of October, the foraging season ends with the first killing frost, and little, if any nectar or pollen will be available.
- ◆ The worker bees will also prevent the drones from reentering the colony as they are no longer needed for mating with queens and as a result, many dead drones may be observed on the entrance boards.
- ◆ Continue feeding 2:1 sugar syrup until the bees stop taking it (around 45-50degrees F) and once that occurs, I add a Styrofoam block in a gallon Ziplock bag (so bees won't eat) and sugar bricks directly on top of the frames of a 3" top feeder. This covers the center 6 frames preventing heat loss and prevents condensation from dripping on the cluster during the winter. Note: an empty super can be used in place of a fop feeder. The bees will feed on the sugar bricks during the winter and the beekeeper can replace the bricks as needed.



## Beekeeping in October

*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*

As the days get shorter and cooler, the bees will stray from the hives less. The queen will slow down her egg laying, and depending upon the average temperatures the winter cluster will start to form. The bees are starting to get into the winter mode. By now all of the drones should have been ousted from the hive by the worker bees since all they will do this time of year is eat valuable winter stores.

### Observations and Actions to take –

Decline in egg laying - The worker bees will stop polishing cells for the queen to lay eggs in and the queen will slow down her laying. The brood needs to be kept warm and with fewer winter bees and the drop in temperature the workers are more concerned with surviving and keeping the queen warm than warming brood.

How are you are going to protect the colonies over the winter? By wrapping them with insulation or roofing felt, covering them, or using a wind break of straw bales.

Order or prep the materials you will need for protecting your hives so you have them available to install in November.

Moisture Control – Humidity and dampness in the hive can become a problem with the fluctuating temperatures. Moisture in the hive can lead to mold and death tot the bees. A large hive will not die from cold weather. Although the temperature inside the hive will drop, the bees keep themselves and the cluster warm enough to survive extreme cold weather. However, moisture can develop within the hive and if this moisture gathers above them, it can rain down onto the cluster and kill the bees.

Provide ventilation at the top of the hive to help remove the moisture.

Place cardboard or wood chips in a spacer at the top of the hive to absorb the humidity. Sugar candy board will also soak up the moisture and feed the bees.

Place a piece of Styrofoam or other insulating material under the outer cover shield the hive from the cold top and help retain some heat in the hive.

Pest Control – now is the time to protect your hive from the pests that want to get in out of the cold or have a tasty meal.

Install mouse guards, hardware clothes, pieces of old queen excluders, anything to reduce the opening to the hive to 3/8 inch so that mice don't take up lodging in your warm well stocked bee hive.

Bees are a favorite source of protein for skunks and they love to hang out in front of the hive at night. If skunks are a problem in your area place a piece of carpet tack strips on the edge of the landing board. The sharp tacks will deter skunks for putting their feet up on the landing board.

### Tasks to Perform –

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

- Continue to feed your colonies 2:1 ratio of sugar to syrup (5 lbs. of sugar to 1 quart of water). The bees will continue to feed as long as daytime hours remain warm,
- Stop feed liquid syrup when average temperatures fall below 50 °F.
- Spread a piece of newspaper over the tops of you frames and spread sugar on top of the paper. The bees will eat this and the sugar will also help absorb moisture,

*Continued on next page.....*

## **Beekeeping in October continued.....**

Last Minute Winter Preps – It doesn't hurt to repeat the task below one last time even if you did them in September.

- ◇ 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 to keep the cluster warm and enough stores for the hive to survive on during 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 treating your hives with chemicals for varroa mites keep up with the prescribed routine.
- ◇ Purchase or make mouse guards so you have them on hand to install when the weather turns cooler.
- ◇ Winter winds can be strong, so place a heavy concrete block on your hives or strap them down.
- ◇ 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.

### **The Greatest Generation of Bees** by Meghan Milbrath

*This article appeared in the January 2020 issue American Bee Journal and was suggested by*

*Charity Davis-Woodard*

Whether a colony survives the winter in good condition is determined more by its make-up than by the kind or amount of protection.” — Farrar, 19441 Beekeepers love to discuss winter hive protection — wrapping vs. insulation, upper entrances, quilt boxes or moisture boards, bee cozies, straw bales, and which way to turn the hole on the entrance reducer. Our hives may be the best protected hives in history! Our colonies, however, have the lowest rates of survival through winter. In the winter of 2018-2019 beekeepers in the U.S. reported losses of 38% — the highest ever reported in the Bee Informed Partnership survey, and much higher than what beekeepers consider sustainable.<sup>2</sup> To improve winter survival, we have to pay attention to what Farrar said, turning our conversations away from hive protection, and focusing on the make-up of the colony. Whether a colony survives winter depends very little on what we did to the structure itself, and very much on the health and size of the colony — the precious and wonderfully adapted generation of winter bees .

Winter bees are a caste. In insects, the term “caste” is used to describe a physically distinct group of individuals that is specialized to perform a function in the colony. When we think of honey bee castes, we focus on queens vs. workers — female bees with very different bodies and very different functions. However, the worker bees are not a homogenous group, and we also see specialization among workers: summer bees and winter bees. Winter bees have very differently adapted bodies and very different functions than their summer counterparts. As honey bee colonies expanded their range north, bees were forced to adapt to survive cold temperatures and periods without incoming pollen. They had to figure out how to insulate themselves, create warmth, and store energy to survive long cold winters. Honey bees adapted by developing a special bee (winter bee), and a special behavior (the winter cluster).

*In the interest of space, if you want to read the full article click on the link below*

[http://www.sandhillbees.com/s/ABJ\\_Jan2020\\_Winter\\_Published-1.pdf](http://www.sandhillbees.com/s/ABJ_Jan2020_Winter_Published-1.pdf)



## Honey Bees Facts

“apis Mellifera” means honey carrying bee

Ancient Egypt kept bees and honey was used to pay taxes

A bee will visit 50-100 flowers for one load of pollen

Honey bees stroke their wings 11,400 times per minute

Bees can easily travel two miles in search of food

Bees must visit 2 million flowers to make 1 pound of honey

One hive of bees will fly over 55,000 miles to produce 1 pound of honey

On average one hive can produce up to 100 lbs. of honey each year

Honey bees produce 2-3 time more honey than they need during the winter

Honey bees can fly at a speed of 15 Mile per hour

It is normal to see different colors of bees in the hive

Honey bee workers live 6 weeks in summer, but up to 5 months during the winter

In the dark bee hive, the Honey bees dance to communicate the location of rich food sources in the

Only female bees sting, male honey bees don't have stingers

Honey bees can detect human pheromones that we release when we are scared. The bees will know that their hives are in danger and will begin to attack if you intrude

## A Little Bee Humor

Q: How do you fight a killer bee?

A: With a Buzz-ooka.

Q: What does a queen bee do when she burps?

A: Issues a royal pardon!

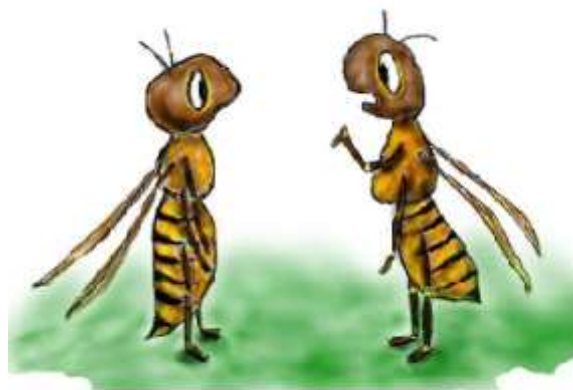
Q: How do you propose to the queen bee?

A: With a Ru-Bee ring.

Q: Did you hear about the bee that was overweight?

A: It had chub-bee legs and a flab-bee stinger.

source: <http://jokes4us.com/animaljokes/>



**Okay new guy, the days are shorter and nights are longer. We need to work faster and harder to collect winter supplies.**



*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

## NEXT MEETING DATE

Our next membership meeting will be on Friday October 27th at 7:00pm with open Q & A at 6:30pm at the St. Clair Farm Bureau, 1478 IL-15, Belleville, IL. The presentation has not been determined at this time.

Link to map <https://goo.gl/maps/jeJj7mXE1KH9VG9L7>



QR Code for map to meeting

