



# Bee BUZZ

NEWSLETTER    SEPTEMBER 2023

## Announcements

### Greeting Members,

It was nice to see several members at the August meeting and Julie did a great job with the kabobs and hosting. Our next meeting is Rich and Darla's house in Freeburg. On Sept 24<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. I look forward to talking to all of you.

We pulled our honey supers today, Sep 2<sup>nd</sup>, and I am surprised how much we have considering we pulled them on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. We'll be busy extracting in a couple of days. When we arrived a very weak hive that I have had problems with all year was being robbed. There was no brood or larva so we broke it down. While working that hive all the raiders just moved to the next hive and before we knew it that hive was beyond saving. It was a small one too. This is the first time I have seen robbing at this magnitude and it would definitely be devastating if you only had a couple of hives. Of course that is one of the problems you can have when pulling supers this time of year.

We will start OA treatment next week using the 5-5 method. OA Vapor 5 times 5 days apart. This can be taxing when I work full time to get it done. But I think it is very effective. The other hives are strong and have good honey stores. We'll start open feeding soon because we have the luxury of placing the syrup 100 yards away from the hives.

During the September meeting we have our annual voting for board members. Today we have nominations for:

Treasurer – Katlyn Hentrich

Secretary – Rachel Done

Public Information Office – Tim Cronin

Program Director – No nominations

We are also looking for a Chairman for the Beginner Beekeeper Course on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>. If you have some time please think about volunteering. This is the club's major fund raising event and part of our charter to promote beekeeping.

*Continued on next page.....*

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A question that has come up is equipment. We have two extractors, one that Rich Perkins and Darla Haiso keep at Freeburg and I have one for now in Mascoutah. Eventually the one I have will migrate to Edwardsville. We have a Teaching Hive that Dennis Hessel maintains. We also had a bee vac that has not been returned. I need to try and recover it. Please remember this equipment is for the benefit of all members and should not become a permanent part of your garage.

Eleanor sent me an email asking to help her with some research. If you have not looked at the American Bee Journal you may want to. Her column is Beekeeping Basics. Here is the survey link. <https://tinyurl.com/4psw2uzh>. The survey asks about your favorite researcher, youtube, and books.

Thanks and see you in a couple of weeks.

Tim Schartung

President

***From Eleanor Schumacher...***

I want to find all of Illinois' beekeepers that are interested in pollinator habitat and tell them about my coming native wildflower seed collection trainings. Below is information about educational opportunities.

***Volunteer for Project Wingspan! Collect Seeds! Save Pollinators!***

Pollinator Partnership is training volunteers to collect native wildflower seeds throughout Illinois. Seeds we collect are cleaned and awarded to local pollinator habitat projects, enhancing and expanding thousands of acres of Illinois prairie for our bees and butterflies! Learn everything about this volunteer program and complete the full training and certification process. Join your Illinois Project Wingspan State Coordinator Eleanor Schumacher for a training and certification event. **Only one training is needed for certification.** These dates are the last real-time training options of 2023. Hope to see you!:

**Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 6:30 pm - Zoom Meeting:** <https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/81707856582>

One tap mobile +16694449171,,81707856582# US or +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) Meeting ID: 817 0785 6582

**Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> LIVE, IN-PERSON @ Lincoln Memorial Gardens, 2301 E Lake Shore Dr, Springfield, IL 62712**

Registration at 8:30 a.m., training from **9 pm to noon**. Registration Link: <http://bit.ly/LMGSeedCollectionTraining>

**Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 6:30 pm - Zoom**

**Meeting:** <https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/89510636622>

One tap mobile +16694449171,,89510636622# US or +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) Meeting ID: 895 1063 6622

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Eleanor Schumacher  
Illinois NRCS Pollinator Liaison &  
Project Wingspan State Coordinator  
Pollinator Partnership  
email: [es@pollinator.org](mailto:es@pollinator.org)  
Website: [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)  
Phone: (510)285-7879



## ***Appeal from Illinois State Beekeepers Association .....***

### **Membership Director Vacancy**

Persons interested in being appointed to serving the remainder of a 3 year term as Membership Director (a little over 1 year is left) should contact Steve Petrilli for the full details of the duties and responsibilities (in addition to the bullet points below) to be placed in consideration for the appointment.

The Membership Director is to :

- Serve as the major point of contact between the ISBA affiliated associations and the individual Member At Large Members.
- Have a working knowledge or be willing to learn to use Microsoft Access to maintain the ISBA membership file and to send reports (in the form of Excel spreadsheets) back to each association to reflect the renewals processed and new members added.
- Be willing to expend considerable time renewing membership each year and adding new members (January - May time frame)
- Run and/or create reports and statistics to the ISBA Officers and Directors
- Ascertain number of bulletins to be printed for each issue.
- Produce and provide name and address file to the mailing service which mails out the bulletins
- Provide file of active members to use for ISBA mass email campaigns (such as this email).

The appointment will be made by the President and need to be approved by the existing ISBA officers and Directors.

Steve's contact information is listed below

Email: [spetrilli45@gmail.com](mailto:spetrilli45@gmail.com)

**OR**

Phone: 217-638-7891 (if no answer, leave name and message)

# 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 CONfernece 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>

## Around the Bee Yard .....

- FEED, FEED, and FEED some more, but be aware of robbing.
- Check for mites, check for mites, check for mites
- Remove honey supers and weigh your hives
- Attend SCBA Membership Meeting September 24th
- Consider running for an officer position in the club
- Submit nominations for Beekeeper of the Year and New Beekeeper of the Year



## **Inverted Sugar**

Inverted Sugars are less susceptible to robbing. The information below was taken from *Wikipedia*

**Inverted sugar syrup**, also called **invert syrup** and **invert sugar**, is an edible mixture of two simple sugars—glucose and fructose—that is made by heating sucrose (table sugar) with water. It is thought to be sweeter than table sugar, and foods that contain invert retain moisture better and crystallize less easily than do those that use table sugar instead. Bakers, who call it invert syrup, may use it more than other sweeteners.

Though inverted sugar syrup can be made by heating table sugar in water alone, the reaction can be sped up by adding lemon juice, cream of tartar, or other catalysts, often without changing the flavor noticeably.

The mixture of the two simple sugars is formed by the hydrolysis of sucrose. This mixture's optical rotation is opposite to that of the original sugar, which is why it is called an invert sugar.

Common sugar can be inverted quickly by mixing sugar and citric acid or cream of tartar at a ratio of about 1000:1 by weight and adding water. If lemon juice which is about five percent citric acid by weight is used instead then the ratio becomes 50:1. Such a mixture, heated to

### ***Meeting Schedule for 2023***

**September Membership Meeting** -September 24th at 2PM. Darla Hsiao and Rich Perkins will host this meeting at their apiary at 2915 Turkey Hill Lane, Bellville. We will vote on the vacant board member positions. Marc Mayhew will talk about his experiences attending the Illinois State Fair. **This is last outdoor meeting of the year.**

**October Membership Meeting**—October 27th. We will meet at the St Clair Farm Bureau at 7 PM. Please note this moves our meetings to the last Friday of the month until Spring.

**Annual Membership Meeting and Thanksgiving Dinner**—December 1st at 7:00 pm This is more a social meeting with a Thanksgiving potluck. New board members are installed. The location is the Madison County Farm Bureau.

## *September 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.*

- ◆ goldenrod, asters, and boneset.
- ◆ In my experience, goldenrod is usually the dominant floral source and blooms for several weeks in September. The nectar from goldenrod can be quite pungent while it is being ripened in the supers, so many beekeepers chose not to extract it and leave it for the bees to backfill the top brood box. The decision is yours.
- ◆ I have found if you decide to extract the fall crop, generally only one super per hive will; be necessary and many years the flow will only produce a few frames of surplus. One way to determine how strong the flow will be is to break off the goldenrod flower and rub it between your hands. If your hands become sticky, you probably will have a significant honey flow. A few inches of rain in late August or early September can make a huge difference in the flow.



Goldenrod



Aster



Boneset

### Good and Faithful Servant

Consider the bee. She has five eyes: three simple ones on top of her head, two compound ones with thousands of lenses. And she has 5,000 nostrils -nose enough to smell an apple tree two miles away. She has two sets of wings, which can be hooked together in flight so they flap as one, 16,000 times a minute. And no matter how she zigzags her dizzy dance of the flowers, she always beelines it back to her home and her job there. She may be a street cleaner, a water carrier, a nurse, a sentry, a mason, an engineer, or an air conditioner. If she is the last, she may fan 12 hours at a stretch in the hive, on top of 12 hours spent gathering nectar outside. Busy as a bee is no overstatement; she literally works herself to death, all for the single teaspoon of honey spread upon your breakfast toast, the entire quota of her few short weeks of life. A one pound jar of honey on your table represents 50,000 miles as the bee flies, or a girdling of our globe twice around.

Let us not take the bee for granted again. All her dipping into dandelions and daisies and snapdragons is no joyous game but an instinctual obedience to an ordinance of nature that command "while the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest shall not cease". There are 100,000 species of plants which could never properly form seeds without the bee. Without her, our bread would not be sweet; indeed there would be no bread or wine either. And so, in many churches, beeswax candles are used at the traditional service of bread-breaking and wine-drinking; it is a way of paying tribute to our good and faithful servant, the bee.

## A Little Bee Humor

Q: What do you get if you cross a horse with a bee?

A: Neigh buzz

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

A: Bee-hive yourself!

Q: Why did the bees go on strike?

A: Because they wanted more honey and shorter working flowers!

Q: What do you get if you cross a bee with a skunk?

A: An animal that stinks and stings!

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



**Okay new guy, the dearth is upon us. You have to be vigilant for marauding robbers.**

## ***It's time to start thinking of Fall.....***

### **Fall Feeding Your Bees** by Joe Copeland

#### **Why Feed Your Bees**

- Bees have insufficient stores for winter
- Bees need medication
- Protecting the Hive
- While feeding, install entrance reducer to help bees protect the hive and reduce robbing (Important for weaker hives)
- Do not feed bees while supers are on - You don't want syrup in your honey
- Do not medicate bees while honey supers are on - You don't want any contamination of the honey

#### **Types of Foods for Bees**

- Syrup – 2:1 Sugar syrup
- Mush -Granulated sugar & small amount of water
- Bee candy -Made from granulated sugar
- Commercial - Powder, liquid & patties

#### **Types of Feeders**

##### **Hive Top Feeders**

- Very good for feeding syrup
- Minimizes loss of bees
- Don't have to open brood chamber to feed in cold weather
- Can be used to feed mush



##### **Division board feeder**

- Good for feeding syrup
- Must remove frame(s)
- Can be used for feeding mush
- Remove top cover and bee ladder
- Must remove hive inner cover to fill



**Checkout our website for articles about feeding and making feed.**

[Articles – Promoting Beekeeping \(stclairbees.com\)](http://stclairbees.com)



## Jar or Bucket with Holes in Lid

- Used for feeding syrup
- Requires a spacer or medium super
- Place over inner cover
- May use small strips under bucket lid
  - Allows ventilation
- Place syrup in bucket, seal the lid and place upside down over the hole in inner cover



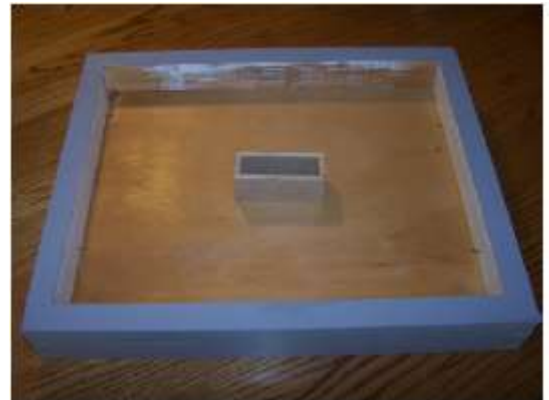
## Entrance feeder

- Inexpensive and easy to use
- Doesn't require you opening the hive
- Not good for cold weather



## Candy Tray

- Place directly on top of brood chamber
- Serves as inner cover
- Serves as spacer to feed mush
- Allows you to open hive in colder weather
- and not expose bees to cold winds



## Late Summer/Early Fall

- After you remove the honey supers, check the weight of your hives
- Bees still have fall flowers to increase winter stores
- If hives are very light you may need to boost stores
- Use two parts sugar to one part water by volume—You want to increase stores but not increase brood

## Late Fall Feeding

- When daily high temperature falls below 50 degrees F - frosting at night
- Bees start to cluster
- Bees may no longer be able to process syrup to remove water
- Most recommend each hive have at least
- lbs of stores for the winter
- Again perform the lift test on your hives

## Winter Feeding

- Switch to bee candy or mush
- Use candy or mush until bees can start processing syrup in the spring
- Fall, use 2 part sugar to 1 part water syrup
- Medicating Your Bees Example: Fumagilin-B
- Mix in Fumagilin-B per manufacturers recommendation
- Must not have supers on hives
- Do not expose medicated syrup to sunlight

**FROM ISBA**

**State Wide Weekly Zoom Meeting**

**"Breakfast with Bees"  
Open Invitation To All Beekeepers  
Weekly Zoom Meeting**

Join James and the "Breakfast with Bees" community.

*Are you a Beekeeper looking to expand your beekeeping experience?*

You are invited to join in and participate in a free Zoom meeting every Saturday morning. with an expanding community of beekeepers from all levels of experience.  
**Hosted by: JAMES KONRAD, FVBA**

**All are invited to: "Breakfast with Bees" – Saturdays 7:30 am. via zoom.**

- We are a group chat and beekeeping community open to all who want to participate.
- Each week our gang of beekeepers of all levels; hobbyists, masters, sideliners, educators and commercial, all join via ZOOM to discuss weekly beekeeping topics for successful "sustainable management" of our hives.
- Everyone is encouraged to contribute, ask questions, discuss, and learn.
- Our community of beekeepers meets every week to discuss our beekeeping experiences.

Meetings every Saturday morning, Start time is 7:30am.  
**Join us on zoom with the following,  
Meeting ID: 897 5704 1690, Passcode: bees**

**For more information.** Email: [zjameskonrad@gmail.com](mailto:zjameskonrad@gmail.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.

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

## Looking into the Future....

- ⇒ Make nomination for Beekeeper/New Beekeeper of the Year
- ⇒ Consider becoming a director on the board
- ⇒ Get a head start on what you have to do next month

**SEPTEMBER AND THE BEES:** The bees will still be working fall flowers but in most states, the amount of honey produced in September will be minimum. The days are still warm enough to allow the bees time to gather more last-minute nectar prior to the first major hard freeze or frost which will kill the flowers.

**SEPTEMBER AND THE BEEKEEPER:** This is the start of the beekeeper's year! What you do in September will determine how well your bees do next year, and how well they overwinter. Here's your work list for September:

1) **Consider requeening.** You don't have to, if your queen has done well. But it is advisable to requeen in September. If you can afford to requeen your hive each year, it would be best to do so in September. A new queen means a much younger queen who has stronger pheromones and who will be more apt to lay eggs more efficiently in the Spring. In a future lesson I'll teach on how to requeen a hive.

2) **Take off all your supers.** There is no need for them now, and you will want to tighten up the hive by removing excess supers.

3) **Weigh your hives.** This is guess work unless you invest in a hive scale. Find something around the house that weighs around 70 pounds. Lift it up slightly with one hand. This will give you an idea what 70 pounds feels like. Now, go to your hives and with one hand, slightly lift the back. Only lift it an inch or two so that you can sense how heavy it feels. It needs to feel around 70 pounds. If not, you will want to start feeding the hive 2:1 sugar water.

Because robbing is a problem this time of the year, here's what I suggest. But first let me discuss my experience with feeders. My favorite feeder is the front feeder, the one that slips into the front of the hive opening at the bottom and a mason jar slips down into it. However, in the fall, bees from other hives can make their way to the front feeder, and eventually rob the hive. So, I do not use this entrance feeders during the fall. By the way, this is called a Boardman feeder.

Top feeders are large reservoirs of sugar water above the hive, usually made of plastic and they have a small space where the bees can climb into a screened area and go down into the reservoir to consume sugar water. Here's what I don't like about that. If the top cover does not cover it well, bees from other hives make their way into the top of the feeder and drown or rob the hive. If you make the top cover fit tight enough to keep robbing bees out, then the sugar water can mildew and mold. And, once I had a top feeder break and leak 2 gallons of sugar water onto my hive, drowning and disrupting the hive for several days. There are some nice top feeders available, but I don't like to use top feeders.

Frame feeders are feeders that slip in between your frames, and actually take the place of a frame. Essentially it is a thin bucket that is about the size of a frame and the bees can eat from within their hive. These require going deep into the hive to load and they aren't perfect either.

So, what you should do during September is purchase our fall feeder system. Or you can make your own. Our system resembles a brood chamber size super but with a bottom. A round hole with a mason lid is placed in the bottom of the feeder. Now, you place your mason jar in the lid and place your inner cover and top cover on this feeder. These work great and the feeder winds up being right over the cluster, so you can even feed the bees long into the winter if needed.

Also, stay out of your hive as soon as you finish your hive work. Propolis is the glue that holds all the pieces of the hive together. Every time you open your hive, you break the propolis seal. If you do this late in the year, when warm days are over the propolis will never seal again, and your hives can be blown a part in the winter by bad winds. So, plan to get out of your hives early enough so the propolis can reseal on a warm day.

## SCBA BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each year the St. Clair Beekeepers Association presents the Beekeeper of the Year and New Beekeeper of the year award. This award is presented to an individual who has contributed in a substantial and positive way to beekeeping; a person who sets high standards and who is looked upon as a resource of beekeeping knowledge.

### Qualification for Beekeeper of the Year

- Must have kept honeybees for at least 5 years and an active participant of the SCBA for the same time.
  - Be a member in good standing in the SCBA for 5 years
  - Influential in new beekeepers by teaching or mentoring new beekeeper(s).
  - Should show evidence of willingness to share information with other beekeepers as well as being a creative beekeeper.
  - Must have a good working knowledge of “all aspects of beekeeping including diseases, mites, State laws, Integrated Pest management, etc. Evidence of this would include being a presenter at the SCBA Introduction to Beekeeping, or being a presenter at a membership meeting.
  - Evidence of participation in public service relating to beekeeping (i.e., schools, fairs, service clubs, removal of swarms, etc.)
  - Show evidence of marketing honey, related items, NUCS, queen rearing, sell hives or equipment.
- Some nominees may not fit into some or all of the above criteria and that is ok, we understand that some nominees are inspirational and passionate about beekeeping or have made such an impact on beekeeping in geographical covered by the SCBA that they deserve to be recognized.

The nomination process is easy. Write a letter outlining the accomplishments and how the nominee has impacted beekeeping. And provide the following information:

### **Nomination Statement:** *general statement of support*

Brief statement of why individual is being nominated, including overview of major accomplishments and contributions to beekeeping.

*Nominee: contact information for nominee*

Nominee’s name, address, phone number and email address

*Person making nomination:*

Your name, address, phone number, and email address for the nominee.

*Beekeeping Experience: background in beekeeping*

Years

Number of hives

Number of apiaries

Is the nominee a honey producer, a commercial pollinator, a Queen Breeder?

Education (i.e., presentations attended, conferences attended)

Advance Beekeeping (i.e., pollination, swarm removal, NUC production)

Other (i.e., Master-beekeeper, special skills such as queen rearing)

*Beekeeping Association activities: membership and participation in local, regional, and national beekeeping organizations*

Association memberships

Association service (i.e., committee membership, newsletter editor, media liaison)

Offices held (i.e., Executive offices, Committee chairs)

*Beekeeper Service: participation in recruitment and education of beekeepers*

Organizing activities (i.e., establishing new group, chaired club project)  
Instructional programs (i.e., short course instruction)  
Meeting presentations  
Journal articles  
Mentored beekeepers

*Community Outreach: activities promoting beekeeping to the general public*

Educational displays (i.e., agricultural fairs, science fairs, nature museums)  
Media reports (i.e., newspaper, radio, TV)  
School programs  
Talks to non-beekeeper groups

**New Beekeeper of the Year Award**

This award is presented to an individual who has contributed in a substantial and positive way to beekeeping; a person who sets high standards and who is looked upon as a resource of beekeeping knowledge.

Qualification for New Beekeeper of the Year

- Must have kept honeybees for at least 1 year and an active participant of the SCBA for the same time.
- Have worked with a mentor.
- Currently has a minimum of two hives
- Regularly attend club meetings and events
- Must have a good working knowledge of all aspects of beekeeping including bee biology, diseases, mites, State laws, Integrated Pest management, etc.
- Show a willingness to learn and ask questions

Some nominees may not fit into some or all of the above criteria and that is ok, we understand that some nominees are passionate about beekeeping or have worked hard to gain knowledge and experience with regard to beekeeping and they deserve to be recognized.

The nomination process is easy. Write a letter outlining the accomplishments and how the nominee has met the above qualifications, and provide the following information:

**Nomination Statement:** *general statement of support*

Brief statement of why individual is being nominated, including overview of any accomplishments or contributions to beekeeping.

**Nominee:** *contact information for nominee*

Nominee's name, address, phone number and email address

**Person making nomination:**

Your name, address, phone number, and email address for the nominee.

**Beekeeping Experience:** *background in beekeeping*

Years, Number of hives, Number of apiaries

Has nominee successfully overwintered a colony?

Advance Beekeeping (i.e., swarm removal, NUC production)

Beekeeping Experience: *background in beekeeping continued....*

Education (i.e., presentations attended, conferences attended)

Advance Beekeeping (i.e., swarm removal, NUC production)

Beekeeping Association activities: *membership and participation in local, regional, and national beekeeping organizations*

Association memberships

Association service (i.e., committee membership, newsletter editor, media liaison)

Offices held (i.e., Executive offices, Committee chairs)

The nomination period for these awards is open from August 1st until October 31<sup>st</sup>. These awards are presented at our annual Holiday Party in late November. Nominations and documentation of support should be emailed to our club secretary, [k.hentrich21@gmail.com](mailto:k.hentrich21@gmail.com) who will forward them to the officers of the club. All nominations will be treated fairly and equally thru the process of determining a winner of the award, which is up to the officers to decide.

### ***Teaching Hive....***

As the school year gets started, there are many times teachers request that a beekeeper come talk to their class. A few years ago, Isabees donated a hive and teaching pictures to the club to be used for such events. If you would like to use this educational hive, text or email Dennis Hessel and he will get back with you. Email—[dhessel@charter.net](mailto:dhessel@charter.net) or text 618-560-6434.



## **TEN COMMANDEMENTS OF BEEKEEPING**

**Use only good beekeeping equipment.** Ensure you have standard equipment which you can easily interchange. Using mismatched equipment not only makes it more difficult to work hives, but it allows the bees to develop comb in odd ways and lay eggs in the wrong places.

**Protect your beekeeping equipment.** Equipment can last for years if maintained and stored properly. Consider using wood preservatives and/or a good paint and keep hives off the ground where they are subject to rotting and fall victim to pests such as carpenter ants and termites. Store your equipment/supplies in clean conditions.

**Control diseases and parasites.** Learn the diseases and parasites that affect bees in your area. Learn what signs you have to be aware of. Learn what actions and/or treatments are necessary/successful. Take appropriate action.

**Requeen when necessary.** Requeening can maximize both brood and honey production, and is helpful in suppressing swarming and certain diseases. Generally, it is considered best to requeen with local stock.

**Maximize colony populations before main nectar flow.** Requeening, disease/parasite control, and feeding sugar water and pollen can achieve this objective. Supply frames of brood to weak colonies. Don't tolerate marginal colonies.

**Super colonies according to their needs.** Provide plenty of space for bees to store nectar before the nectar flow starts. Remove supers in late summer so the bees will be encouraged to pack brood heavily with honey for the winter.

**Help the bees through the winter.** Use two brood chambers for wintering. Reduce hive entrances. Provide an upper entrance as an alternative access as a means for assisting with the discharge of excess water vapor. Protect hives from the wind. Ensure you have enough honey on board when winter starts. Check your hives during the winter (weather permitting). If you feel they are short on supplies, supplement by feeding.

**Follow State and Local Laws/Regulations.** Adhere to beekeeping laws regulating your area. Many states require registration of hives and inspections (annually and when the hives are moved across a county line). In most states, there is no cost to abide by these rules. Also, it is an opportunity to learn (ask questions) from the inspector when he/she is actually looking at the activity and condition of your hives/colonies.

**Take pride in honey and other hive products.** Keep your equipment clean and disease free. Strain extracted honey to remove particulate debris. Market your honey and other hive products with pride, confidence, and creativity.

**Join and participate in a beekeeping association.** Beekeeping organizations can be exceedingly helpful in your efforts as a novice beekeeper. Not only do they provide you access to knowledge and experienced beekeepers, they also discuss and teach practical beekeeping. Most importantly, beekeeping associations help defend the interest of bees, beekeepers, and beekeeping. There are three local clubs: (1) St. Clair Beekeepers Association; (2) tri-county Beekeepers Association; and (3) Kaskaskia County Beekeeper's Consortium. Each club meets on a regular basis in different locations. Go to [www.isba.com](http://www.isba.com) (Illinois State Beekeepers' Association) to learn more and get information for each club.



### *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 held outdoors on September 24th at 2:00 pm

Darla Hsiao and Rich Perkins will host this meeting at their apiary at 2915 Turkey Hills Lane, Belleville, IL 62221. Just down the highway from the St Clair Farm Bureau building where we meet. We will vote on the vacant board member positions. Marc Mayhew will talk about his experience at the Illinois State Fair. **This is last outdoor meeting of the year.**

### QR CODE FOR MEETING PLACE

