

THE BEE SPACE



Will County
Beekeepers
Association
Est. 2011

THE PUBLICATION OF WILL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION • JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022

PLEASE JOIN US FOR NEXT MEETING:

January 19, 2022 at 7 pm
Will County Farm Bureau
100 Manhattan Rd
Joliet, IL 60433

FEATURED TOPICS:

- Cornell Master Beekeeper Certification
- Winter hive checks
- Highlights from the (ABF) conference
- Product review: the bee blanket

THIS MONTH IN YOUR HIVES *(from www.talkingwithbees.com)*

JANUARY

- The bees will consume about 24lb (11Kg) of stores in January and February – so check they have enough by hefting your hive
- Check candy boards and replenish if necessary
- Read books while waiting for spring
- Repair, order, build and assemble hive parts for the upcoming season

FEBRUARY

- Check honey stores by hefting your hive.
- Replenish your candy boards if needed and add a pollen patty to encourage brood production
- Undertake varroa count and plan treatment as necessary if temps are above 60 degrees
- Read and plan the next 6 months, especially [Feeding](#), [Swarm Control](#) and [Varroa Management](#)
- Order equipment and bees as needed

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HIVE

Additional information regarding your hives for January and February was kindly provided by John Leibinger, covering 3+ pages of topics for both veteran and new beekeepers.

[Chores of the Month – January/February](#)



JUST ASK!

We're excited to introduce our new Q & A section, *Just Ask!* to our newsletter.

In this issue, our Q&A is focusing on hive health, more specifically, "are they alive?" With the recent warm up in mid December of two nearly 60 degree days, bees performing cleansing flights was an easy indicator that all was well. But as we go into the depths of winter, colder weather prevails and our bees are more than likely in a tight cluster and not exploring outside. With that in mind, you may need to go a step further to check on their status.

Q: How do I tell if my hive is still alive in the winter?

A: Look at the entrances. If there is snow, the warmth of the hive should melt away the snow from the entrance. Be sure to keep your entrances clear of accumulated snow. If dead bees are blocking your entrance, take a stick or wooden skewer and clean the entrance of dead bees. If the hive is clustered in your bottom box you may soon see guard bees greeting you at the entrance. Listen to your bees. There's a couple ways to do this. You can use a stethoscope or you can place your ear up against the hive wall. You may hear buzzing or a faint hum. If you don't hear anything you can try knocking on the hive wall and listening again. If you have insulation on your hive and can't listen for activity try popping the lid. On a calm, sunny day pop the lid and look for bee activity and check for supplemental food availability. Replenish food as necessary. Check supplemental food resources every 3 weeks in the winter. The later we get into winter the more likely your bees will be eating resources at a fast pace. We don't want them to starve!

Q: I just checked my hive and ALL my bees are gone and the hive is full of honey! What happened?

A: Your bees absconded. Absconding is when bees completely abandon their hive. Almost all of the bees leave the hive along with the queen. There are a number of reasons why bees abscond but if they do so in late fall or winter it is most likely due to high varroa mite infestation. In the fall, bee population and the amount of bee brood decline while the phoretic mite numbers drastically increase on the adult bees. When the bees become stressed due to high mite levels they abscond. Mite control throughout the season is critical.

Do you have something on your mind? *Just Ask!* Please email willbees-board@willbees.org.



This month's recipe was found on Food.com

Red Robin's Honey Mustard Salad Dressing Hack

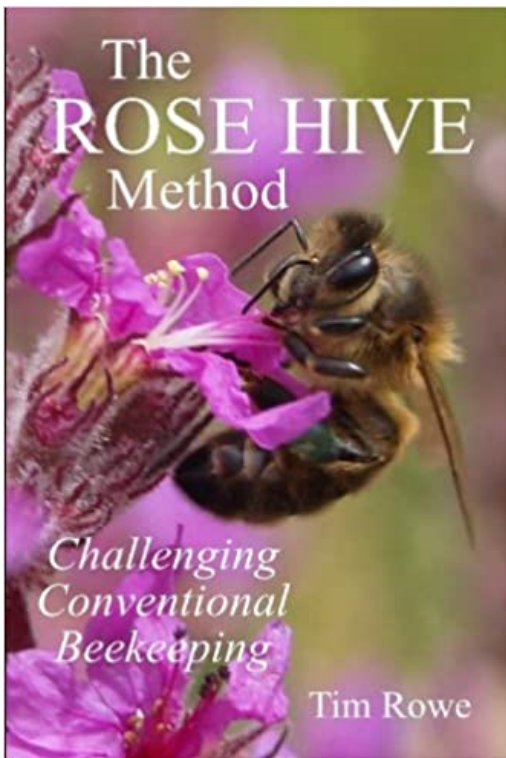
Provided

- 1 ⅓ C mayonnaise
- 4 ½ T white sugar
- 2 ½ T Honey
- 2 T mustard
- 2 T dijon mustard
- 2 T white vinegar
- 2 T vegetable oil
- 1 ½ T poppy seeds

Mix all together with a wire whisk. Last 7 days refrigerated.

(I found it beneficial to use the same half tablespoon for the oil and the honey. Use it for the oil first and the honey will slide right out!)

Send us your favorite recipe with a picture of your creation!



BOOK NOOK

The Rose Hive Method Challenging Conventional Beekeeping

By Tim Rowe, reviewed by Michelle Gattuso

This book challenges you to think outside the box, the Langstroth box that is. This beekeeper (located in Ireland) continually looks at what the bees are doing out in the “wild” and wonders if our current management practices might be part of the reason that the “kept” bees are on the decline. Even if you do not agree with the author, it should still cause one to pause and reconsider if how we are keeping bees is indeed the best way. For example, wild bees have a symbiotic relationship with wax moths — wild bees do not reuse their wax from year to year according to the author. So, after every season, should we be putting our frames in a pot of boiling water? I don’t know. But it does cause me to go “Hmmm...”

Our Will Bees lending library offers a vast selection of books and videos for you to enjoy. Be sure to check out a book at our next member meeting.

BEE ADVOCATES

Bill Gray

BEE WORTHY PODCASTS:

In my line of work in the environmental consulting field, I spend many hours daily in my car traveling. I have come across some really great and informational podcast related to beekeeping to offset some of this travel time in a productive manner.

All current and historical podcasts can be accessed through Spotify, Stitcher or most other podcast platforms.

Here’s few that I recommend:

Beekeeping Today Podcast - Presented by Bee Culture This podcast is hosted by Jeff Ott and Kim Flottum and normally issues a new podcast on a weekly basis.

Two Bees in a Podcast - Hosted by UF/IFAS Honey Bee Lab, Normally a new podcast is issued every Wednesday.



*Hey beekeeper, what's the word?
Bring your answers to our next member meeting
and impress your fellow beekeepers!*

Festoon

Bait hive

Clarifying

Spur embedder

Castes

Dysentery



ON-GOING ED

Master Beekeeper Program

Are you Interested in learning more about Master Beekeeper programs? Luanne Spiros will give a review of Cornell University Master Beekeeper program early in 2022 ... and with your Willbees membership you may be eligible for a tuition discount!

<https://ecornell.cornell.edu/certificates/beekeeping/master-beekeeping/>

Virtual Offerings from the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance

The following lectures are being offered by the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance and were partially funded by a \$200 grant from your Will County Beekeepers Association (see [LINK](#) for the “Thank You” letter from the conservatory).

Virtual beekeeping lecture with Dr. Rachael Bonoan on January 5

Join us for a virtual beekeeping lecture with Dr. Rachael Bonoan, Assistant Professor of Biology at Providence College in Providence, RI to find out why honey bees like dirty water. Honey bees tend to forage for dirty water sources over clean ones. Since minerals are essential for many physiological functions, and are only found in nectar and pollen in trace amounts, Dr. Bonoan investigated how honey bees might supplement their floral diet with minerals from “dirty water” and what this means for honey bee nutrition throughout the year. In this talk, Dr. Bonoan will answer the question “Why do honey bees like dirty water?”, and share some tips on giving your bees a safe “dirty” water source.

<https://garfieldconservatory.org/event/virtual-beekeeping-lecture-with-dr-rachael-bonoan/>

February virtual beekeeping lecture with Emily Noordyke on February 2

Join us for a virtual beekeeping lecture with Emily Noordyke to learn about the latest research on feeding pollen substitutes. Emily has worked on honey bee research with Grand Valley State University, the United States Geological Survey, Michigan State University, and the University of Florida. She graduated from UF with her Master’s degree in Entomology in 2020, with a focus on the efficacy of pollen substitutes as a honey bee management tool.

Emily’s presentation will summarize the findings of pollen substitute research as a whole, and will include results of her research on pollen substitutes at the University of Florida.

<https://garfieldconservatory.org/event/virtual-beekeeping-lecture-with-emily-noordyke/>

Worth the Watch!

My Garden of a Thousand Bees documentary

Taking refuge from the coronavirus pandemic, wildlife filmmaker Martin Dohrn set out to record all the bees he could find in his tiny urban garden in Bristol, England, filming them with one-of-a-kind lenses he forged on his kitchen table.

Find out more at:

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/my-garden-thousand-bees-about/26263/>

ODDS & ENDS

We Want to Hear From You On Insulated Layne's/Deep Langstroth Type Hives

Have you heard of Layen's hive? Double deep lang? Insulated hives? Or maybe you're already using them? Either way, let's connect to exchange ideas and experiences.

A few beekeepers are trying out insulated hives next year. They have been exploring options, and the main goals are to reuse as much as possible of existing equipment, reduce bending and lifting and to provide a more efficient housing for bees. Some of the ideas we've been going through can be seen in these links and attached pictures.

<https://www.beesource.com/threads/layens-lazutin-and-double-deep-lang-oh-my.366876/>

<https://www.beesource.com/threads/ukrainian-deep-style-hive-using-lang-equipment.369787/#post-1893089>

<https://www.beesource.com/threads/gregvs-alternative-way-to-keep-have-bees.350173/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKXgldHpedo&t=754s>

If you're interested in learning more about these types of hives, even if you're not committed to using them, or maybe you're already using some type of an insulated/deep hive, let us know by filling out this [google form](#).

Don't forget to register your hives with the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Insects/Bees/Documents/beekeep.pdf>

Names tags and membership dues.

We would like to print nametags. 2022 dues need to be paid by January 31, 2022 in order to have a printed lanyard at the February 2022 meeting. If you did not receive the Illinois State Beekeepers Association mailing then you are not current with your dues.

Look good while supporting Willbees! Please wear some of your gear to the next meeting.

If you would like a t-shirt, sweatshirt or hat, please email pcostion@comcast.net

T-shirts are \$10

Hats are \$13

Sweatshirts are \$20

Swap Meet

Let's all start going through our existing equipment and think about donating it to new beekeepers. Items may be things you originally may have used and replaced or have more than you need. At a future meeting we will all bring these items and raffle things off. More details in the future. We could use a captain for this project. Please reach out to the board if you can help.

Share what you know

We are looking for people to help contribute to your monthly newsletter:

- Feature articles that you'd like to write
- Review of a book or article in a journal you read
- An educational opportunity that you are aware of
- Pictures that you'd like us to share
- Recipe using honey you would like to share
- Basically, anything interesting.

Please email willbees-board@willbees.org with anything you'd like to share today.

Update your calendar for our upcoming WillBees meetings:

Wednesdays at 7pm: Feb 16, Mar 16, Apr 20, May 20, Jun 15, Aug 17, Sep 21, Oct 19, & Nov 16.

BOARD MEMBERS

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Dave Musgrave, Vice President

Donna Andrews, Treasurer

Fran Miller, Secretary

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Keith Meiser (1),

Dave Meyer (2),

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