



THE BEE SPACE



Will County Beekeepers Association
Est. 2011

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR NEXT MEETING:

March 16, 2022 at 7 pm
Will County Farm Bureau
100 Manhattan Rd
Joliet, IL 60433

FEATURED TOPICS:

- Russ Hook on bee friendly plantings
- Jim Lindau on making more honey
- Product review: Pollen Patties
- Win a bee package! *See below for info.*

THIS MONTH IN YOUR HIVES

MARCH

- Rotate your hive bodies being sure not to split the brood nest
- If temperatures are warming up, consider feeding 1:1 sugar syrup and placing in pollen patties
- Check for mite and treat before putting on supers

APRIL

- Check for mites and treat before putting on supers
- Begin weekly checks looking for signs of swarming and space
- Continue to feed 1:1 sugar syrup
- Consider checker boarding or other swarm prevention techniques
- Super-up (when bees cover 7 of the 10 frames, add a super)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HIVE

Additional information regarding your hives for March and April was kindly provided by John Leibinger for both veteran and new beekeepers.

[Chores of the Month – March](#)

[Chores of the Month – April](#)

SPECIAL MARCH MEETING RAFFLE – WIN A BEE PACKAGE!

New members that sign-up at the March meeting will receive a free entry to win a bee package. Existing members can purchase raffle tickets for only \$5 per entry. *Tickets will be pulled at our April meeting. Must be present to win!*





JUST ASK! – BY FRAN MILLER

Spring is a season of new beginnings!

Flowers begin to bloom and animals will awaken.

A strong healthy colony will have the natural urge to reproduce and swarm. You've worked hard to make sure your bees made it through the winter. Now what? Our Q&A section will focus on why bees swarm and what steps you can take to reduce the chance of your colonies swarming.

Q: How can I stop my bees from swarming?

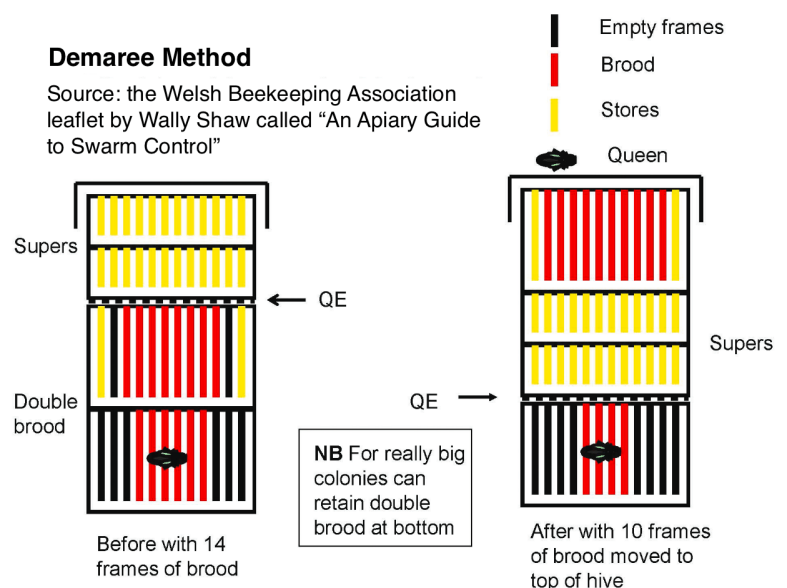
A: Steps to prevent a swarm should be initiated usually 2-4 weeks before the first major nectar flow begins. There are a number of steps you can take to limit/reduce swarming.

Keep the brood nest open. As bees prepare to swarm they will fill the brood nest with honey. The queen stops laying to be trim enough to fly, and her newly unemployed nurse bees go with her. The concept of this method is to open the brood nest to employ those nurse bees and get the queen laying again and redirect this sequence of events. This is done by any number of slight variations from empty frames in the brood nest, frames of bare foundation in the brood nest or drawn comb in the brood nest, or moving brood comb to the box above to cause more expansion of the brood nest.

Equalize strong and weak colonies prior to the primary nectar flow. Remove frames of bees/brood to add to weaker colonies or perform a split.

Implement the Demaree Method.

In short, a Demaree is a vertical split. Separate 2 deep boxes. Locate the queen and place the deep with the queen on the bottom with a queen excluder on top. Add 2 supers. Place a queen excluder on top of the supers followed by another deep containing the uncapped queen cells. Provide an entrance on the top deep for bees to enter/exit. See link below for more information on the Demaree method.



Clip one wing of the queen. When one wing of the queen is clipped, a swarm may issue but due to the queen's inability to fly, the swarm will gather right outside the original hive, where the swarm can be easily collected. Even though this is not a swarm prevention method it is a method of swarm retrieval.

Requeen yearly. Young queens can help to minimize swarming tendencies. If queens are not available in the spring, requeen in the fall.

Cut or remove queen cells every 7-9 days beginning 4 weeks prior to the primary nectar flow and throughout the season.

For more information on Swarming, access this article from the University of Florida Honey Bee Research Lab. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN970>

Further information on the Demaree Method can be found at <https://thewalrusandthehoneybee.com/demaree/>

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



This month's recipe was provided from Jerry Daugherty

Honey Caramels

Provided

- 1/3 cup honey
- 1-1/4 cups sugar
- 2/3 cups light corn syrup
- 10 ounces heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

In a 3-quart saucepan over medium heat, add honey, sugar, corn syrup and half of the cream. Stir until mixture boils, then add rest of cream, butter and salt. Return to boil and cook until candy thermometer reaches 244–246 F. Remove from heat and stir until it stops boiling, then add vanilla and stir. Pour into a parchment-lined 8x8, 9x9 or 9x13-inch pan. Cool completely, cut into pieces and wrap in wax paper.

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

BEECABULARY

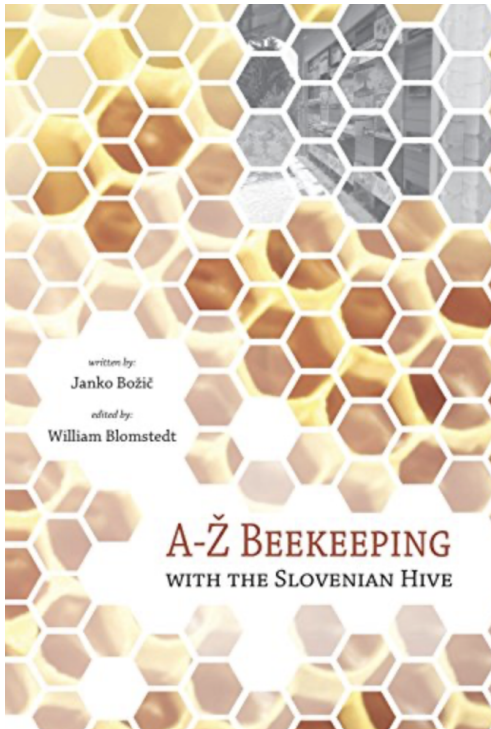
Hey beekeeper, what's the word?

Bring your answers to our next member meeting and impress your fellow beekeepers!

Boardman feeder **Buckwheat**
Corbicula **Ocelli**
Drawn comb **Shim**



BOOK NOOK



A-Z Beekeeping With the Slovenian Hive

*Janko Bozic and edited by William Blomstedt
Reviewed by Dennis E. Wisnosky*

This book, published in 2017, remains the only definitive English language reference to beekeeping using a bee house and bee boxes invented by Slovenian **Anton Žnideršič** (1874–1947). Thus, why are they called A-Z hives? Langstroth bee boxes are said to have been invented in 1851. This makes this type of beekeeping roughly contemporaneous with the common practice in the USA. And, except for the bees, as this book clearly and quite simply explains, it is completely different. The book is well written and well-illustrated with both photographs and dimensional drawings. It takes both the

curious and the serious A-Z wannabee on a journey from the design and construction of the equipment through the seasonal practice of starting and maintaining the family, as the Slovenians refer to their colonies. It is both an initial fun read and a reference to turn to when one wonders ‘why is that happening?’

*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

Helping Hands

COULD THIS BEE OUR NEXT GENERATION OF BEEKEEPERS?

This month we feature our very own Dave Musgrave's grandchildren. These pint size bee "helpers" make sure the feeders are full of syrup. They are also "hands-on" painting bright colored woodenware in his apiary. Dave proudly notes he names the hives after his kids and grandkids. Way to go kiddies ... and Dave!



ON-GOING ED

The SouthWestern Ohio Beekeepers Association SWOBA is pleased to be offering the following free lectures.

Randy Oliver

Randy Oliver owns and operates a small commercial beekeeping enterprise in the foothills of Grass Valley in Northern California. He and his two sons manage around 1,500 colonies for migratory pollination and produce queens, nucs, and honey.

Wednesday March 30, 2022 – 6:30pm Central Time

<https://www.swohibeekeepers.com/m-30-randy-oliver>

Mike Palmer

Mike raises about 1200 queens a year and manages over 1,000 colonies and is widely recognized as a worldwide authority on sustainable beekeeping.

Wednesday April 27, 2022 – 6:30pm Central Time

<https://www.swohibeekeepers.com/m-27-april-2022-mike-palmer>

The Bee Forum at the Conservatory are pleased to offer the following lectures in March.

Dr. Kaira Wagoner

Dr. Kaira Wagoner is a Research Scientist at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Dr. Wagoner is interested in honey bee health and chemical communication, particularly as they relate to Varroa and the social immune mechanism hygienic behavior, the ability of adult honey bees to detect and remove unhealthy brood from the hive.

Sunday March 13 – 10:30am-12pm

Dr. Dalial Freitak

Join us for a virtual beekeeping lecture with Dr. Dalial Freitak to find out how honeybees make their offspring more resistant against diseases. Honeybees get sick, just like every other animal on Earth. However, unlike other managed animals, bees don't have preventative healthcare options such as vaccination. Dr. Freitak's research has shown that although honeybees lack antibodies, the classical carriers of immunological memory, honeybee queens can "vaccinate" their offspring.

Sunday March 20 – 10:30am-12pm

Dr. Paul Siefert

A newly developed video technique from within beehives has allowed scientists to record the complete development of a honey bee and provides fascinating methods that bees have for organizing their colony. In this wide ranging presentation Dr. Siefert will explain in details of what goes on in the beehive, using stunning high resolution videos to show complete development of a honey bee in its hive, how honey bees build the comb, feed their larvae, heat and cool the cells, store nectar and pollen, cannibalize the brood, or clean each other, as well as pesticide influence on the behavior of nurse bees and brood.

Sunday March 27 – 10:30am-12pm

For more information, please visit:

<https://garfieldconservatory.org/event/13th-annual-bee-forum-news-from-inside-your-hive/2022-03-13/>

Breakfast with the Bees hosted by James Konrad

The Fox Valley Beekeepers Association extends an open invitation to all beekeepers to join them via Zoom for a group chat every Saturday at 7:30am Central Time. Guests are encouraged to ask questions and contribute to various topics that relate to the season. Please email James at

james@jamesgardenbees.com for more information.

Master Beekeeper Program

Are you Interested in learning more about Master Beekeeper programs? Check out 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/>

Worth the Watch!

Netflix: Rotten – Season 1, Episode “Lawyers, Guns & Honey”

With demand for honey soaring just as bees are dying off in record numbers, hidden additives, hive thefts and other shady tactics are on the rise.

The Science of Honey (and the Bees Who Make It) – What’s Eating Dan?

(From America's Test Kitchen)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqnpEHSgdV8>

ODDS & ENDS

Meyer Bees Bee Packages

3 pound bee packages with a queen are available starting at \$130 through Meyer Bees. Multiple races are available: Italian, Carnoliain, Russian, Saskatraz. Nuc and queens are also available. The Meyer Bees beekeeping supply showroom in Minooka is open 7 days a week. For details please contact WillBees member Dave Meyer: dave@meyerbees.com, or 815-521-9116 or visit their website at meyerbees.com

Andy Konig Bee Packages

3 pound bee packages with a queen are available for \$140 through WillBees member Andy Koning. For details on queen options, pick-up locations and delivery dates, please contact Andy at: koninghp@aol.com, or 815-485-4211, 815-545-4110 (cell phone)

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

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

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.

Save the Dates: Illinois Beekeepers Association 2022 Meeting Dates

June 3 & 4, 2022 – Crystal Lake, IL see ILSBA newsletter for the most recent information.

More info coming soon to their website.

November 12 – Springfield, IL

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

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: 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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