

THE BEE SPACE



Will County
Beekeepers
Association
Est. 2011

THE PUBLICATION OF WILL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION • MAY / JUNE 2022

PLEASE JOIN US FOR NEXT MEETING:

May 18, 2022 at 7 pm
Will County Farm Bureau
100 Manhattan Rd
Joliet, IL 60433

FEATURED TOPICS:

- When to add supers
- Shake and swarm to make comb honey
- Testing and treating for mites
- Win a honey super! *See below for info.*

THIS MONTH IN YOUR HIVES

MAY / JUNE

- Continue feeding bee package installs until they no longer take sugar water
- Check for mites and treat before putting on supers
- Set-up swarm traps
- Add additional supers when 80% of the frames are full
- Monitor strong hives closely for swarming traits such as swarm cells
- Check brood pattern to determine if the queen is healthy
- Supply a water source heading into summer to help the bees cool their hives in the heat
- Consider performing splits to expand your apiary and to avoid swarming

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HIVE

Additional information regarding hives management for May and June was kindly provided by John Leibinger. Click to download.

[Chores of the Month – May](#)

[Chores of the Month – June](#)



SPECIAL MAY MEETING RAFFLE – WIN A HONEY SUPER!

Just in time for the upcoming nectar flow, Willbees is raffling a 10 frame honey super with frames and foundation for only \$5 per entry. Tickets will be offered at the May meeting and pulled at the conclusion of evening.

Must be present to win!





BY JIM MOLESKI

Two is better than one.

The Bee Space answers why it's best to start with two bee hives.

Many new beekeepers want to start with one hive, but the benefits of having two bee hives instead of one, are almost endless. It costs more money upfront and more time, but adding that second hive and you will watch your apiary grow!

SOME BENEFITS OF MULTIPLE HIVES:

You will learn more:

Every colony is different. You can have two colonies next to each other and have completely different results. The more colonies you have, the more situations you can observe and learn from.

Comparison:

You will have a better chance at succeeding as you can compare your hives. A weak hive may appear normal, but when you compare it to another, it helps you figure out which colony is failing. By comparing the two colonies, you can take action sooner.

Extra Resources:

By starting out with two hives, you can take resources from the stronger colony to help the weaker hive. An example of this would be taking brood frames (eggs) and moving them to the weaker colony to get it going.

Save money:

Every beekeeper loses colonies. If you have more than one hive and one survives the season you can split it and make two more hives.



JUST ASK! BY FRAN MILLER

You Asked, We Answered

We received some great questions from our last 2 meetings. Let's jump into what's on your bee minds.

One of my hives has just a few bees and were very 'pissy' when we opened the top to check for feed.

Q. Could they have survived queenless?

A. Perhaps. Your small colony size could be an indication that they are queenless. Check your frames. If you see eggs and larvae, then the colony is queen-right. Just a note, if the frames have a spotty brood pattern, it may indicate the queen is starting to fail, which could also contribute to a small colony. You may want to consider requeening.

Q. When can we do a complete hive inspection?

A. It's ideal to inspect your hives on calm (low winds), warm (60 degrees or warmer) and sunny days around 11am to 4pm. This will ensure less bees in the hive since the forager bees will be out working and not guarding. Avoid cold, windy and rainy periods.

Q. How soon will queens be available for splits?

A. Queens are now available at a variety of queen providers, including [Meyer Bees](#).

Q. Does anyone have any experience building an observation hive?

A. We do not but this [link will bring you to some plans](#). Please take photos and let us know how it worked out!

Q. What is the easiest split method?

A. The easiest split is a walkaway split. A colony is simply split into two. You do not need to locate the queen. As long as both new brood boxes have eggs, the queenless hive will raise a new queen from existing eggs. Check out this great informative [video](#).

Q. My bees are nibbling on bird seed at the wife's bird feeders.

I told her they aren't my bees. Why are bees attracted to the bird seed?

A. Even though corn is not typical food for honey bees, they commonly will take advantage of any food source when the weather first breaks in the spring. Bees will collect pollen-sized seed dust particles and yeast that are found in cracked corn and other seeds. Bees will move on to their preferred food sources as spring flowers begin to appear.



Q. How do you tell the difference between sugar water honey and nectar honey?

A. The best way to tell the difference is by taste.

Q. How long (duration) do you feed bees?

A. For new packages you'll want to feed until they don't take it anymore or till they're done building broodbox comb and have stores. In the fall, feed only if they don't have honey stores to get them through the winter.

Varroa related questions will be discussed at our May meeting.

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



This month's recipe was provided by Donna Andrews

Honey Mojito

Equipment

Cocktail shaker
Muddler (or wooden spoon)
Highball glass (or any glass of your choosing)
Measuring cup or shot glass
Citrus juicer

Ingredients

5-7 leaves Fresh Mint (plus extra for garnish)
2 oz White Rum
1 tbsp Raw Honey
1 small fresh lime
1/2 cup Seltzer (to taste)

Directions

Place 5-6 mint leaves in the bottom of your cocktail shaker and muddle with a muddler or the handle end of a wooden spoon (no need to crush them too

much; your goal is just to bruise them enough that they start to give off their delicious flavor). In a separate small bowl combine raw honey with rum until well blended. Pour this mixture into your cocktail shaker on top of the mint leaves. Squeeze the fresh lime juice into the shaker. Add 5-6 ice cubes to your cocktail shaker, place the cover on, and shake until blended. Pour contents of shaker (including mint and ice) into a highball glass or any glass of your choosing. Then top with seltzer to taste and add a mint leaf for garnish.

Share your favorite honey inspired recipe to be published in the next issue of the Bee Space!

SAVE THE DATE:

Summer Picnic



Beer, Burgers, Bingo and Bees, What Could Be Better?

We are pleased to announce the WillBees picnic is returning for members and family members. Meyer Bees of Minooka, IL has kindly offered to host the event.

Please mark your calendars for July 16, 1 to 5pm.

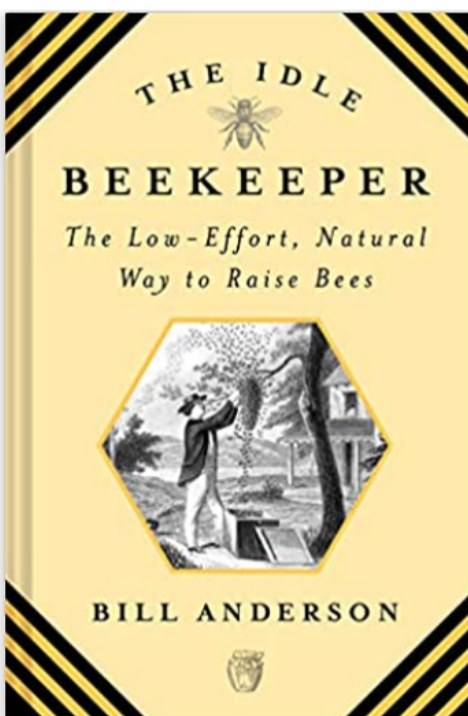
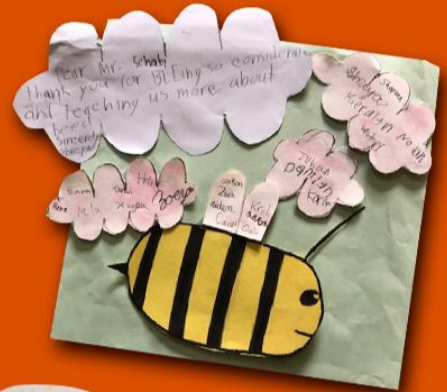
Details to come. Note, there will not be a July member meeting.

What's Buzzing at School?

Bee advocate Denise Garvey of Meadow Ridge School, Orland Park had been teaching her class about honeybees when she decided to invite our WillBees president to come to her classroom. She wrote:

"The third graders at Meadow Ridge couldn't BEE more excited to welcome our guest speaker, Beekeeper Patrick Schab. Presently the third graders are learning about social animals and the importance of each organism having a function in the group. Mr. Schab's enthralling and hands-on presentation taught us all about the superorganism, the honeybee. Sure is sweet to know more about these essential organisms!"

The class surprised Patrick with wonderful hand crafted bee influenced thank you cards.



BOOK NOOK

The Idle Beekeeper: The Low-Effort, Natural Way to Raise Bees

by Bill Anderson

Reviewed by Michelle Gattuso

This book is written from a beekeeper in London, Bill Anderson, who is also a regular columnist for a magazine called the Idler. (This very low maintenance way of life is itself an interesting philosophy.) His book discusses that one actually only needs to spend two days a year working their hive: one in spring when you see pollen being flown into the hive and one in fall when you are ready to install your mouse guard and take the top box of honey. He also doesn't use the Langstroth, he uses a Warre' Hive. He also describes the benefits of using the later as

opposed to the former. His goal is to help bees live as they would if they were in the wild. I obtained this book from the Bolingbrook Fountaindale Library which is part of the Pinnacle Library Cooperative.

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.

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

Bearding **Skep**
Bee Bread **Alarm pheromone**
Flight Path **Lit up**



ON-GOING ED

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

Dr. Dewey M. Caron

Dr. Dewey M. Caron is Emeritus Professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, Univ of Delaware, & Affiliate Professor, Dept Horticulture, Oregon State University will be discussing what to do about colony number creep with nucs and swarm capture.

May 25th, 2022 - 7:30 PM ET (Eastern Time)

<https://swohiobeekeepers.com/m-25-may-2022-dewey>

Jerry Hayes

For over 40 years Jerry has worked in and around the honey bee and beekeeping industry.

Jun. 22th 2022 — 7:30 PM ET (Eastern Time)

<https://swohiobeekeepers.com/m-22-june-2022-jerry>

The Illinois State Beekeepers Association, Summer Meeting will be held June 3 and 4, 2022
McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, Illinois. Speakers include:

Dr. Dewey Caron

Dr. Caron, the preeminent expert on honeybee colony postmortems, will take us through frames from deadout colonies looking for signs of the cause of death. He will also be discussing “reading frames.” Examination of a hive’s frames can tell much about the state of the colony and its needs.

Doug Leedle

Doug, the ISBA Southern Region Director and 2019 ISBA Beekeeper of the Year, will have a roundtable discussion on raising honeybee queens using the unique Nicot Queen Rearing System.

Jerry Hayes

Jerry is the editor of Bee Culture magazine and also has an extensive background in government and industry contributions to beekeeping. He is one of the founding fathers of the Honey Bee Health Coalition and will talk about its important contributions to today’s beekeeping. Jerry will also be host a “Talking with Jerry” session, an open-ended question-and answer-session with a master of the honeybee.

Ben Sallmann

Ben from the University of Minnesota Spivak Bee Lab, will share the latest research on propolis and its importance to the health of our colonies.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.ilsba.com/summary-of-events.html>

Paul Siefert – Honey Bee Behaviors Within the Hive: Insights From Long-term Video Analysis

This research paper has some spectacular findings of honey bees behaviors filmed on video.

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0247323>

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.

Varroa mite management tools

Randy's Varroa Model on the Web

This tool helps the beekeeper plan treatment options in order to avoid colony “crash” in the off-season

<https://chickabuzz.com/model.html>

Honey Bee Health Coalition Mite Management Tool

<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroatool/>

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, Carnolian, 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

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.

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: May 18, Jun 15, Aug 17, Sep 21, Oct 19, & Nov 16.

BOARD MEMBERS

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Fran Miller, Secretary

DIRECTORS (years remaining on term):

Keith Meiser (1)

Dave Meyer (2)

Jim Moleski (3)