



# THE BEE SPACE



WillBees.org

Will County  
Beekeepers  
Association

Est. 2011

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## PLEASE JOIN US FOR NEXT MEETING:

**November 16 at 7 pm**  
Will County Farm Bureau  
100 Manhattan Rd  
Joliet, IL 60433

## FEATURED TOPICS:

- Honey Tasting!
- Super Storage
- Bee Blunders with **free pizza!**
- Beecabulary

## THIS MONTH IN YOUR HIVES

### NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

- Pull all remaining supers, harvest and store them using an repellent to protect against moths
- Provide final mite treatments
- Place candy boards on top of the upper brood box for emergency feedings
- Add insulation to hives and close off open screen bottom boards
- Make sure mouse guards are secure
- Keep an eye on hives over the winter to make sure entrances are clear and not clogged with dead bees.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HIVE

Additional information regarding hives management for November/December was kindly provided by John Leibinger. Click to download.

[\*Chores of the Month – November\*](#)

[\*Chores of the Month – December\*](#)

## *Win the prestigious Golden Spoon!*

IT'S TIME TO TASTE THE HONEY, AND WIN SOME MONEY.

Honey tasting is back and here's your chance to show off how well your bees did. At our November meeting, bring a small unmarked jar of your best honey. If your fellow beekeepers choose yours, you will be rewarded with \$50.00 and the prestigious Golden Spoon award.





*I'll always recall my days  
as a beekeeper.*

MEMOIRS OF A BEEKEEPER – BY DONNA ANDREWS

## Keep on Keeping!

*The corner space in my backyard is empty of hives. I've immediately planted multiple new plants in the void so as not to feel so melancholy each time I look out of my window.*

There is a myriad of reasons why my smoker no longer smokes, but let's not dawdle there, I'd rather remember the positive aspects of my beekeeping experience.

"How are your bees?" starts so many conversations. And everyone, friends, family and fellow beekeepers are sincerely interested. Beekeepers are always happy to meet, talk and share with like-minded people. There is no such thing as competitive beekeeping. This is typically a sharp contrast to our day jobs which is why I found beekeeping to be so relaxing and peaceful.

Relaxing, yes, but challenging at the same time. Learning more and better ways to manage my bees was a continuous journey. Even the most seasoned beekeeper must be open to new ideas, the latest technologies and makeshift gadgets which will make their lives easier and their bees more fruitful. When someone finds the newest, shiniest bee toy, their first inclination is to share with all of their fellow beekeepers!

And of course, the sweetest part of beekeeping (excuse the cliché) is the honey! Extraction day left every surface in my home sticky, but the joy I felt in jarring my own honey and sharing with family and friends is priceless. I now have a lifetime supply of honey, unless I keep giving it away, which will always bring a smile to my face.

I'll always recall my days as a beekeeper fondly, with great memories of the people, bees and honey...in that order. My bees have been adopted by a new beekeeper. His enthusiasm in beekeeping confirms I made the right decision willing my bees to him. I'll check in on him occasionally and I'd wager his number of hives will expand exponentially as is the path for most beekeepers. To all of you, please continue to enjoy the great contribution you provide to our environment with the most fruitful hobby/business possible.

Keep on keeping!

## Busy Bee

This month bee advocate is Willbees member Glenn Skoff.

Glenn has been an active bee advocate in his community speaking at a number of engagements. Recently he lead a beekeeping discussion with 10-12 members from the Yorkville Chamber of Commerce. Glenn and the group discussed beekeeping and the perils bees face. Glenn provided information on how beekeepers and non-beekeepers alike can support bees by planting bee friendly plants. He also discussed the difference between bees, wasps and hornets.

The presentation wrapped up with a tour of Glenn's apiary to see his bees in action. Thanks Glenn for s haring your passion for beekeeping and helping to educate the public on the role honeybees play in our community.



*This month's recipe was supplied by [cookieandkate.com](http://cookieandkate.com).*

## Bee's Knees Cocktail

### Ingredients

- ½ ounce honey syrup (see step 1)
- 1 ounce lemon juice (about ½ medium lemon)
- 2 ounces gin
- Lemon twist, for garnish

### Directions

To make the honey syrup: Combine equal parts honey and water (say, 2 tablespoons each if you're only making a few cocktails) in a microwave-safe bowl or small saucepan. Warm in the microwave or over the stovetop just until you can completely stir the honey into the water. Set aside. Before juicing your

lemons, use a vegetable peeler or channel knife to peel off a strip(s) of zest for your twist.

To make the cocktail, fill a cocktail shaker with ice. Pour in the honey syrup, lemon juice and gin. Securely fasten the lid and shake until the mixture is very cold, about 30 seconds.

Strain the drink into a coupe or martini glass. Twist the lemon peel over the cocktail to release some of its oils, then drop it in. Enjoy while cold.

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



BY YOUR BEE BOARD

# Winter Hive Prep

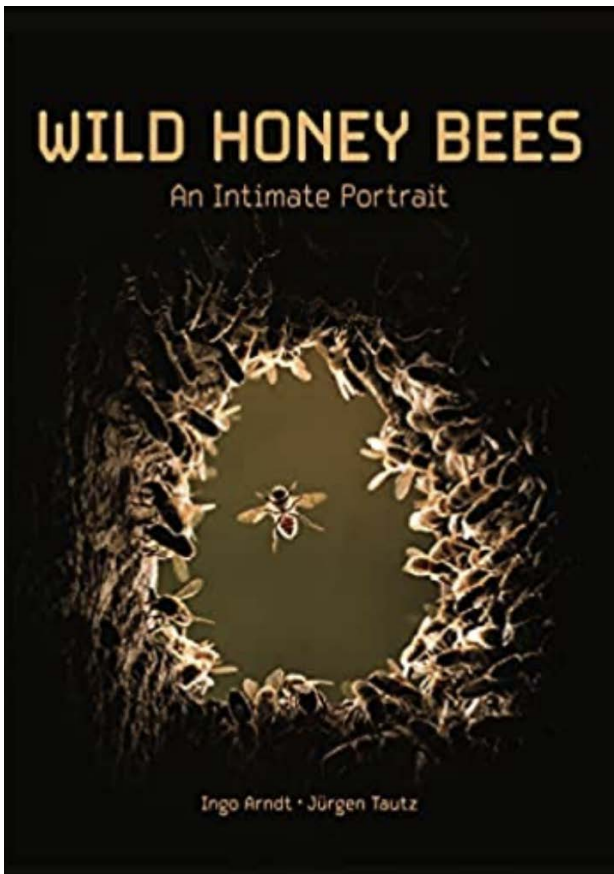
*The tale of 6 beekeepers getting ready for winter.*

We've all heard it, ask 4 beekeepers a question and you'll get 5 answers. Right or wrong, it provides insight into our craft of beekeeping that you may choose to follow or go down your own path.

Preparing hives for winter is no exception. With the mindset of winter survival, *BeeSpace* asked the WillCounty bee board several questions on what they do to prepare their hives for the off season, from mite treatments to keeping their hives warm in the depth of winter. At the end of it all, each board member was asked their survival percentage to help you with your own winter prep plans.

	JIM	FRAN	DONNA	KEITH	DAVE	PATRICK
<i>Do you apply a fall treatment?</i>	Yes. If the population is low I apply Apivar in September or October.	Yes, I use Formic Pro in late September.	Yes, Formic Pro in mid October.	Yes, Formic Pro in mid October.	Yes, I apply 2 treatments. Formic Pro in August and Apivar in October.	Yes. I use Formic Pro in August and Apivar in late October.
<i>Do you insulate?</i>	Yes I put 2 inches of insulation under the outer cover.	Yes, I wrap them with 2" pink foam. I also have a straw bail windbreaker around 3 sides and 2" of insulation under the outer covers.	Yes. 2" of insulation under the outer cover.	Yes. 2" of insulation under the outer cover.	Yes, I have an insulated cover.	Yes. I place a 1" piece of foam board on top of the outer cover and close off the screen bottom board.
<i>Do you provide sugar for emergency feedings?</i>	Yes. I wait till I see bees on top.	Yes, in December.	Yes, in mid-November.	Yes, after January if needed.	Yes, in December.	Yes, at the end of October.
<i>What Feeding method</i>	Mountain camp	Candy board	Candy board	Candy board	Candy board	Candy board
<i>Do you provide pollen in spring?</i>	No, unless I see bees on top in spring.	I put out a pollen feeder in April.	No	No	Yes. I use an open pollen feeder year round.	Yes, in February.
<i>Do you visit the hives in the off season?</i>	No	Yes, an exterior visual inspection weekly	Yes, an exterior visual inspection.	Yes, an exterior visual inspection.	Yes. I open hives every 3 weeks to check candy boards.	Yes. I check the candy boards every month.
<i>Do you use an upper entrance?</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<i>What percent of your hives lived?</i>	<b>10%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>85%</b>

## BOOK NOOK



### **Wild Honey Bees: An Intimate Portrait in Hardcover**

*By Ingo Arndt (Author), Jürgen Tautz (Author),  
Thomas D. Seeley (Foreword)  
Princeton University Press*

*Reviewed by member Keith Meiser*

“The honey bee, a key pollinator, is now an endangered species, threatened by human activity and loss of biodiversity. Because of this, understanding forest-dwelling wild honey bees—which are more resistant to diseases and parasites than honey bees kept by beekeepers—is more important than ever before. In this lavishly illustrated book, Ingo Arndt, one of the world’s best wildlife photographers, and Jürgen Tautz, one of the world’s leading bee experts, set out on the trail of wild honey bees,

bringing back sensational photographs, some of which document behaviors never captured before, and new scientific insights that promise to revolutionize conservation and beekeeping.”

“A remarkable number of wild honey bee colonies still exist, living in hollow trees inside the forest, largely unnoticed by humans. This book explores the fascinating secret world of wild honey bees, including the adaptations and behaviors they have acquired to survive and the new challenges they face today. Featuring incredible macro and wide-angle photographs, some taken from inside hives, *Wild Honey Bees* is a unique collaboration that documents a major research project and offers critical new insights about these essential creatures.”

- “A stunning photographic record that documents for the first time the original way of life of the endangered, forest-dwelling honey bee”
- “A unique collaboration between one of the world’s best wildlife photographers and one of its leading bee experts”
- “Features incredible macro and wide-angle photographs, some from inside the hive, depicting bees”



This book delivers on all counts. While this book is centered on wild honeybees in European forests, their behavior and appearance are identical to our own bees. Having spent hundreds of hours attempting to get quality macro photographs of live insects, I am truly impressed with the stunning close-up images in this book. It is easy reading but not just a fluff coffee table book. While well based on science, it is written for average readers and thoroughly explains honeybee behavior and biology. I wholeheartedly recommend it.

*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.*

BY PATRICK SCHAB

# Wrap it up!

*It's the most wonderful time of the year,  
With beekeepers dreaming,  
and believing that new gadgets will be here,  
It's the most wonderful time ... of the year!*

*I think that's how the song goes ... at least that's how I hear it when  
Andy Williams' holiday classic welcomes us to the holiday season.*

And with that, you may want to start your beekeeping gadget list so you don't end up with another set of designer socks. We've compiled a list starting with budget minded buyers, like your kids and great granny, to more serious buyers, like your wonderful spouse. Who knows, if you've been a super good beekeeper, maybe, just maybe the man in the red crushed velvet suit will stop by. *Be sure to leave some tea and honey for him.*



[Hive Tool](#) - We all lose them, so ask for a few more for back-ups! Price: \$6.99

[Things I Do In My Spare Time T-shirt](#) - Wear it in pride cause you know it's all true, plus it's a great conversation starter. Price \$14.00

[Frame Perch](#) - I love this one for when I'm out in the yard on my own. A frame perch is like having a extra set of hands. It takes away the worry of stepping on frames by hanging them off the side of the hive. Price: \$16

[Neck Fan](#) - Feel the cool breeze under your veil with this neck fan gadget. No sweat! Price: \$16.99

[Honey Whiskey](#) - Booze under the Christmas tree is a tradition at my house. Now let's try it infused with honey and make mine a double: Price \$27.59



***Bee Blanket*** - It's okay your fall harvest crystallized in your 5 gallon pale as long as you have a honey blanket to melt it back to its normal state. *Price: \$155*

***Flir One Thermal Camera*** - Okay, we're getting up there in price, but this is pretty nifty and something you can use as soon as you open it. The Flir One thermal camera picks up heat sources by plugging it into your phone. Aim the camera at your hive and if you see a red UV heat source on your phone screen, you know they are alive and nice and warm. *Price: \$229.99*

***Insulated Hive*** - These hives are gaining popularity with several benefits: they don't rot like wood, they create a more stable environment for temperature and humidity control for the bees year round, and they are much lighter. You gotta to be very good to get one of these. *Price: \$300-\$500*

There you have it. A few oldies on the Christmas list that you can't go wrong with, and a few new ones that'll be fun to play with once the festivities end for the night. Be sure you let us know what you got, and step-up at one of our meetings to give a product review.

***Happy Holidays!***

**BEECABULARY**

*Hey beekeeper, if its greek to you, look it up!  
Bring your answers to our next member meeting  
and impress your fellow beekeepers!*

***Apiculture***

***Chunk honey***

***Follower board***

***Honey house***

***Terramycin***

***Worker comb***



***Extractor Rental***

**YOUR NEIGHBOR CALLED. WHEN WILL YOU HAVE HONEY?**

As a WillBees member you have access to a 4 frame rental extractor. Please visit our website for [more information](#) and spin today.



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# ON-GOING ED

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### **ISBA Annual Fall Meeting – Springfield, Illinois**

**November 5, 2022**

The key to a thriving and productive colony all points back to the queen and the ability of the queen and the colony overall to adapt to the continuous and different stresses throughout the year. The presentations by Jim Tew, Ian Stepler and Adam Dolezal should be of interest to beginner and experienced beekeepers alike in listening to and understanding what the colony is saying to them.

Visit their [website](#) for more information.

### **ABF Conference – Jacksonville, Florida**

**January 3 – 7, 2023**

The Tradeshow is yet another place where you can learn about the latest products and services available to beekeepers. They anticipate more than 80 exhibitors, who are all anxious to meet with you to demonstrate the latest in beekeeping innovations.

Visit their [website](#) for more information.

### **Hive Life Conference and Tradeshow**

**January 5 – 7, 2023**

The primary goal of this program is to equip the next generation of serious beekeepers with advanced knowledge, networking opportunities, and exciting experiences!

Visit their [website](#) for more information.

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The Ohio State University is pleased to be offering the following free lectures.

#### **Matthew Shepherd**

**November 4, 2022 at 10am Eastern**

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Deciding To Create a Pollinator Garden Is the Easy Step -- What To Do Next?

Visit their [website](#) to register.

#### **Shana Byrd**

**November 11, 2022 at 10am Eastern**

The Dawes Arboretum

Getting Started with Wildflower Patches, Flower Strips, and Meadows

Visit their [website](#) to register.

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#### **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](mailto:james@jamesgardenbees.com) for more information.

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#### **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://chickab>

##### **Honey Bee Coalition Updated Guide to Mite Treatments**

Visit their [website](#) on all the latest mite treatment options, along with “how to videos.”

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## Worth the Watch!

### **Bee Czar, Discovery+**

BEE CZAR explores the bizarre world of bee wrangling and one man's mission to save the world by saving the honeybee. Check your local cable listing for showtimes.

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# ODDS & ENDS

### ***WillBees Membership Dues!***

Please renew your memberships by January 31 for the 2023 season. Cash and checks are accepted at our member meetings, or visit our [website](#) to renew online. Badges will be printed in February.

### ***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

### ***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>

### ***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.

Please email [willbees-board@willbees.org](mailto:willbees-board@willbees.org) with anything you'd like to share today.

## **Update your calendar for our upcoming WillBees meetings:**

Wednesdays at 7pm: November 16, January 18, 2023

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Patrick Schab, President

Dave Musgrave, Vice President

Donna Andrews, Treasurer

Fran Miller, Secretary

### **DIRECTORS** (years remaining on term):

Keith Meiser (1)

Dave Meyer (2)

Jim Moleski (3)