



# THE BEE SPACE



Will County Beekeepers Association  
Est. 2011

THE PUBLICATION OF WILL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION • SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2023

### PLEASE JOIN US FOR NEXT MEETING:

**September 20, 2022 at 7 pm**  
Will County Farm Bureau  
100 Manhattan Rd  
Joliet, IL 60433

### FEATURED TOPICS:

- Making candle presentation
- Harvesting tips
- Beecabulary

### THIS MONTH IN YOUR HIVES

#### SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

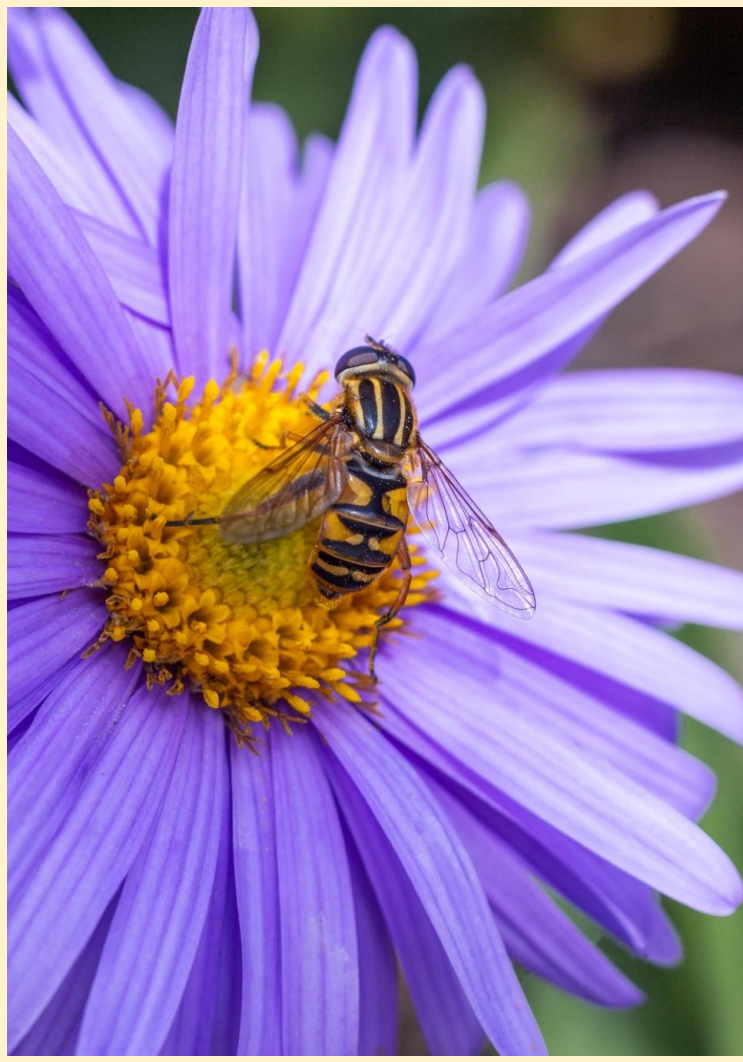
- Put on supers for goldenrod and aster flow in September
- Provide final mite treatments
- Remove honey supers and harvest fall honey going into October
- Prep for winter by making sugar candy
- Feed bees 2:1 sugar to build stores for winter once supers have been removed
- Consolidate weak hives

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HIVE

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

[Chores of the Month – September](#)

[Chores of the Month – October](#)



## Free Yellow Jacket Trap!

THE FIRST 15 MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A FREE TRAP AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING!

Our bees get a bad rap this time of the year when in reality its those pesky yellow jackets that are stinging us and the neighbors. To help ward off those claims, all attending WillBees members will get a free yellow jacket trap. *Must be present.*





BY KEITH MEISER AND FRAN MILLER

## Mind Your Own Beeswax: Part 2

*In our last newsletter we talked about all the great things you can do with beeswax and hopefully you've been collecting wax over the course of the summer.*

Your collection of wax could be from old comb, uncappings or bits and pieces of wax you've collected during your hive inspections. Collected wax should be stored in an airtight container or frozen until you're ready to process. Wax moths can quickly infest such wax if it is not protected or their eggs may already be present, waiting to hatch.

### HOW DO YOU PROCESS OR RENDER THE WAX?

First we need to set some rules. Beeswax is HIGHLY FLAMMABLE, so we need to be very cautious on how to process it:

- Never use wax over an open flame. An open flame and beeswax is a dangerous combination.
- Never use a microwave.
- Try to melt cappings separately from old comb since old comb contains non-wax substances that can penetrate and reduce the value and appearance of pure wax cappings.

Whichever method you choose to render your wax, we suggest not using good kitchen equipment. The equipment you choose to process the wax will become your dedicated wax melting equipment, as it is almost impossible to completely clean it free of wax.

### HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO RENDER WAX:

#### **Repurpose an old crockpot**

First step is to pick up a previously used crockpot at the thrift shop. Then using a cloth bag, cheese cloth, or a nylon stocking as a strainer, place wax over the crock pot filled with some water. Turn on the crockpot, have a long lunch, and after 2 hours simply pull the filter out of the water to let the golden clean wax drain. It's cost effective and a good way to clean your wax while melting it. Check out this [link](#) for a step by step guide on using this simple technique.

### **Solar wax melter**

Simply place old wax, comb and capping into the tray, and the sun does the work for you! Watch the wax melt while you work on your tan. You can easily make one yourself or purchase an already assembled one for about \$180. The University of Florida Extension has a great publication on using a solar wax melter and DIY plans for building one of your own. Check out this [link](#).

### **Electric wax melter**

Good for melting clean cappings. There are various commercial models available for purchase from 5 quart models starting at \$100 to massive 66 gallon units that are over \$5,000.

### **Double boiler made of aluminum or stainless steel**

This is another simple method for cleaning wax, but note that you'll want to avoid using iron or copper pots which will darken the wax which is undesirable. Also, whatever you use for the double boiler will become your wax melting equipment forever, as it's almost impossible to clean as noted above. Be sure to ask your spouse before pulling out that fancy high-end pot for this project, or you might find yourself living outside with your bees! This [video](#) gives you an idea of how to use a double boiler to melt wax.

If you have a favorite method to melt wax that wasn't mentioned here, let us know!



*This month's recipe was found by  
Patrick Schab on [www.recipetineats.com](http://www.recipetineats.com)*

## **Honey Garlic Salmon**

### **Ingredients**

#### *Sauce*

- 4 tbsp honey
- 2 tbsp soy sauce (all purpose or light soy sauce)
- 1 tbsp white vinegar (or sub with any other vinegar except balsamic)
- 1 large garlic clove (or 2 small) , minced

#### *Salmon*

- 2 salmon or trout filets, skinless (6oz / 200g each)
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper

#### *Optional garnishes*

- Sesame seeds
- Finely sliced chives or shallots/scallion

### **Directions**

Take salmon out of the fridge 20 minutes before cooking. Pat salmon skin dry with a paper towel and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Whisk together the Sauce ingredients in a small bowl.

Drizzle oil in a non-stick fry pan and heat over medium high heat (or just under, if your stove runs hot). Place salmon in the pan, and cook the first side for 3 - 4 minutes until golden. Turn, then cook the other side for 2 - 3 minutes or until golden.

Pour Sauce over salmon. Cook for 1 minute or until it starts to thicken slightly. Check the side of the salmon to tell how cooked through the middle is - I like mine medium rare inside. (Note 1). If Sauce thickens too much before your salmon is cooked to your taste, just add water 1 tbsp at a time.

Remove onto serving plates.

Serve salmon drizzled with Sauce, sprinkled with sesame seeds and chives/shallots, if desired.

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



BY JIM MOLESKI

## Beemobile

*It's time to reap the rewards of hard work and dedication to your bees.*

August has arrived, signaling the moment to bring in your supers. Sounds straightforward, doesn't it? A pickup truck would have been a convenient choice, but unfortunately, that wasn't an option for me. Last year, I made the mistake of removing all the supers simultaneously. The result? I found myself driving back home, fully geared up, with my car filled with supers and buzzing bees. Picture this: windows and trunk open, yet my new passengers still managed to find their way inside my vehicle. Over the course of two days, I commuted to work in the city wearing my bee suit and with the windows wide open, hoping to escape curious looks. I'd park with my windows down and trunk ajar, a sight that raised eyebrows, especially for those waiting in line at the Uber Vehicle inspection site. As you might expect, I was asked to secure my car properly, given that people were getting stung while waiting.

The situation demanded action. I realized I needed to come up with a solution, even though it wasn't an approach I'd normally boast about. Here's what I did: I spoke gently to the bees, assuring them of a better home, as I fired up my shop vac. With the vacuum's hum in the background, I released them into a nearby field. Miraculously, most of the bees survived the ordeal, and my car was left slightly less chaotic.

From this somewhat comical escapade, I've gathered some valuable lessons — insights earned through the university of experience, albeit punctuated by a few stings. First and foremost, I learned not to pull out all of my supers at once! This seemingly simple advice carries with it the weight of hard-won wisdom.

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### *Extractor Rental*

WHEN IT'S TIME TO HARVEST, WE GOT YOU COVERED.

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



## BEE ON THE BEE BOARD – UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Would you like to share your passion for beekeeping? Would you like to help actively shape the direction of our Club? Consider running for a position on the Will Bees Board!

We will have a number of positions opening for 2024. Some past members will be running for reelection, but don't let that discourage you from tossing in your hat. At our November "Member Appreciation" meeting we will conduct our Annual Board Elections for calendar year 2023.

- *President* – Patrick Schab will be running for a third term
- *Vice President* – Dennis Wisnosky (along with his side-kick "Tippy") will be running for a second term
- *Director* – This position is open and waiting for you to join the team
- *Secretary* – Fran Miller will be running for her third term
- *Treasurer* – Susan "Numbers" Gregory will be running for her second term

**Positions are open to ALL experience levels of beekeepers.** If you are interested in finding out more about the role of each position speak to one of our board members or visit the Will Bees By Laws on our website.

### BEE ADVOCATE

## *Passion for Detail*

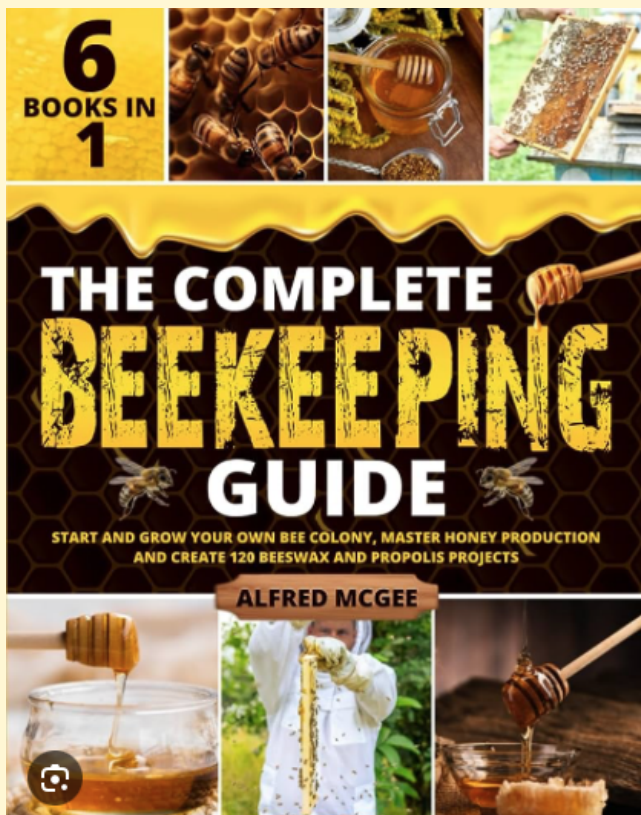
THIS MONTH'S BEE ADVOCATE  
IS FRAN MILLER

We all know Fran as the WillBees highly skilled secretary. She keeps the board in-line with preparing and documenting our meetings. But that just scratches the surface of what she does for our club. Over the last year, Fran has brought in legendary speakers like Jim Tew. Her attention to detail is through and through from helping to fabricate the Golden Spoon award plaque to creating the wonderful spread of food after the recent field day event on her property. Fran is always willing and up for a challenge with the goal, as she once said, "of doing things right." Fran is pictured here feeding a calf next to the WillBees booth at the Will County Fair.



Fran currently has 10 hives on her farm property in Minooka, IL and has been a beekeeper and WillBees for 4 years.

*We would love to feature you within BeeSpace! Please send us a photo and a couple paragraphs about you and your beekeeping experience.*



# BOOK NOOK

## The Complete Beekeeping Guide

*By Alfred McGee*

*Reviewed by Dennis E. Wisnosky*

Some years ago I was buying something at a local dedicated computer store. The person in front of me returned a book. The clerk asked, “why?” “I didn’t get anything out of it”, was the answer. The customer returned the book. The clerk and I discussed if it was the book, or the person.

In searching on Amazon for a new book to review, or at least one that had a series of revisions based upon new tools, research and practice, I settled on

this one because it is the newest. The lack of both photos and/or illustrations should have been a clue that there might not be anything in this book to get. I am guilty of being clueless on this one.

But, it gets worse. The author says that honeybee eggs become pups and then caterpillars that turn into butterflies. He refers to honeybees as being distinct from Russian bees, Carniolan bees and Italian bees. He says that Langstroth boxes – he does not call them supers, must be fastened together. Don’t put your hives where they can get rained on. Boil your honey to increase flow and avoid crystallization.

I could go on. I stopped reading about halfway through the book. Because ‘I got nothing out of it’. Actually because the book is dangerous I did try to return it. For the first time that I have ever seen this. Amazon said that it “could not find that page”.

Then I looked at the reviews. McGee must have lots of family. Most reviews are positive. The latest one before mine reads, “It is as if it is a scam. Poorly written, repetitive and with no more information than could be found on a two paragraph piece in a tabloid newspaper.”

I agree. WillBees said that I can put this book in the library and they will reimburse me for the cost.

Nope! This mistake was on me.

*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.*

### BEECABULARY

***Time to expand your bee vocabulary.***

*Bring your answers to our next meeting to earn a tasty treat which will surely impress your fellow beekeepers!*

*Bee blower*

*Pollen trap*

*Double screen*

*Uncapping knife*

*Fume board*

*Uniting*



# FIELD DAYS



BY PATRICK SCHAB

## August 20 Field Trip

*Our second Field Day outing of the year lent itself to several surprises!*

The focus for the day, that took place at Fran Miller's property was around preparing hives for *winter* success, which meant ensuring her hives were healthy going into *fall*. Once again, Dave Myer led the discussion with experienced members including Jame Konrad to give a second perspective to many findings. Top of the "to-do" list was to get those mites "out of here." Mite testing was performed on 2 hives using an alcohol wash that yielded a clean bill of health with no mites within the sampling. That was a nice surprise as we were all anticipating a mite treatment would be necessary.

### A ROYAL PAINT JOB

Fran offered up a confession that things didn't go well with marking her queen. We all agreed when we spotted her ... which was not hard to do! Nearly her entire body except her head was covered in red. Fran said the queen fell victim to a very juicy paint pen. Surprisingly, she continued to be productive with multiple frames of fresh eggs present. However, the inspection led to the discovery of over a dozen queen cells. The attendees speculated that the colony sensed something wasn't quite right with the queen and decided it would be best to requeen her. Talk to Fran to see how her hive fared out. By the way, if you need any paint work, Fran may be your source.

With temperatures nearly 100 degrees, and with a river of sweat running down our back's spines, Fran escorted us back to her patio for a wonderful spread of refreshments and snacks including chilled watermelon, vegetables with dip and ice cold beer.

Our next and final field day event is coming up in October. Please join us as we check our hives once more before we conclude the year's series.

**Our last Field Days event will take place on Sunday, October 8, 2023 at 2 – 4pm.**

**Felicia Akman kindly offered to host the event at her home in Naperville.**

The goal of this outing is to set our hives in good standing going into winter. *Note: All attendees are required to sign a waiver and wear protective gear. More details to come.*

# ON-GOING ED

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

**Sunday, September 24 (6:30 PM - 07:30 PM)**

Mr. Dewey Caron, Ph.D.

**Wednesday, October 25 (6:30 PM - 07:30 PM)**

Mrs. Michelle Flenniken, Ph.D.

## **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.

## **Interesting Reads and Watches:**

*Bee and butterfly numbers are falling, even in undisturbed forests* – [Click here](#)

*Ohio researchers develop new breed of honeybees to fight parasites* – [Click here](#)

*Beekeeper easily removes swarm from Milwaukee home* – [Click here](#)

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# ODDS & ENDS

## ***The Golden Spoon Award***

Did you harvest some really tasty honey? Then enter the Prestigious Golden Spoon Award honey competition which will be held during our member appreciation meeting in November. See our past winner on our brand new award plaque as you enter our member meetings.

## ***The perfect gift!***

As we head to the end of the year, it's never too early to think about the perfect holiday gift for your honey. How about some nice WillBees apparel? In September, we will be accepting orders and payments for t-shirts, sweatshirts and the very popular baseball cap for delivery at our November meeting. Please see our flier at the August and September meeting for details.

## ***Meyer Bees***

The Meyer Bees beekeeping supply showroom in Minooka is open 6 days a week, Monday through Saturday. For details please contact WillBees member Dave Meyer: [dave@meyerbees.com](mailto:dave@meyerbees.com), or 815-521-9116 or visit their website at [meyerbees.com](http://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>

## ***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

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

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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 Health Coalition Mite Management Tool**

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

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

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

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

Wednesdays at 7pm: Sep 20, Oct 18, & Nov 15.

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Patrick Schab, President

Dennis Wisnosky, Vice President

Susan Gregory, Treasurer

Fran Miller, Secretary

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

Keith Meiser (2)

Dave Meyer (0)

Jim Moleski (1)