

# THE BEE SPACE



Will County  
Beekeepers  
Association  
Est. 2011

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## PLEASE JOIN US FOR NEXT MEETING:

**November 15 at 7 pm**  
Will County Farm Bureau  
100 Manhattan Rd  
Joliet, IL 60433

## FEATURED TOPICS:

- Honey Tasting!
- Hive Tracker Presentation
- Elections
- **Free Pizza!**

## THIS MONTH IN YOUR HIVES

### NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

- Pull all remaining supers, harvest and store them using a 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](#)



## *It's back, the Golden Spoon award!*

### ARE YOU READY TO BE A WORLD CLASS HONEY CHAMPION?

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 awarded the prestigious Golden Spoon award plaque!







BY DENNIS WISNOSKY

## Bees from Nowhere

*Those of you who saw my presentation at the September meeting about [honey extraction](#) may recall that I said that I am in my 8th year or so of this learning process.*

A few years ago I moved my 5 Langstroth hives to my Plainfield Conservation Easement property which is a restored Prairie teeming with native flora. While at my Naperville home the girls would maybe produce a few pounds per hive, or nothing at all that I could take. In Plainfield the average is 5 gallons per hive.

Ok, so now that the girls are in Plainfield and making much honey for them and for me, how do I process was the question? In Naperville I have an air conditioned garage and no bees. So the question was soon answered. How to get them there. Last year, as I showed in the talk, I attempted to blow the bees out of each box, quickly load the box in my truck bed and put a lid on it. The result was tens of thousands of bees staying with the boxes. Fortunately for me and for Tippy, they were outside and we were inside. But the ride was a nail biter nevertheless as I watched the bees through the rear window at every stop light.

And, when processing the next day, I was of course surrounded by the girls as I moved one frame at a time into the garage trying to keep the girls out. My helpers were frightened and in protective clothing. We got the job done but it was stressful during extraction and the reverse trip to the property. How many bees did I lose?

This year, my brilliant idea was to blow the bees off of each frame one at a time and to put the frames in a bin immediately and close the bin with a lid. I had 5 bins with nearly 200 frames. And, almost no bees. Hooray, success!

The next day we started the extraction with no bees harassing us inside or outside. But, then they arrived. Where did they come from? There are no honeybee colonies that I have ever seen anywhere near my neighborhood.

My big mistake was that instead of putting the extracted frames back into the bins I carried them outside and put them back into the supers that I brought from the property. Fresh wet frames on a nearly 80 degree afternoon. What a honeybee banquet. Tens of thousands of honeybees.

Now that the frames were in the boxes I had the reverse problem of last year. Getting the boxes full of somebody's girls back to the prairie. This was accomplished with no harm other than to my ego for performing another stupid man trick and unintentionally purloining someone else's bees.



## Is there a veterinarian in the house?

THIS MONTH'S BEE ADVOCATE IS MIKE PULINS.

I have been a hobbyist beekeeper for five years, with five hives in my backyard in Romeoville. I am a full-time small animal veterinarian by profession, practicing in Bolingbrook. I'm married with two teenaged children, two cats, a freshwater aquarium, forty houseplants, and a quarter million honey bees (give or take).

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



*Back by popular demand, we're bringing back this yummy treat 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!*





BY PATRICK SCHAB

## The “Wish List.”

*For me, the anxiety of Santa coming to town compounded every day till Christmas Eve. The dreaded question that played in my mind over and over again was, “Was I good... enough?”*

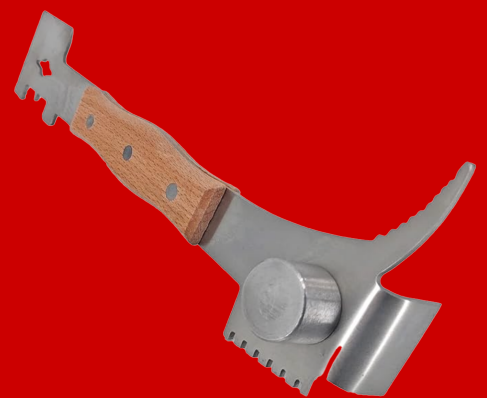
From my perspective, the bee Board has been very good this year and is certainly worthy of a visit from Santa. They’ve spread the word of beekeeping by attending multiple events, spearheaded by Susan and supported with many volunteer hours from Keith. Dennis has to be top of “the big guy’s list” with all the work he’s done to launch our new [website](#). And then we have Dave, sharing all his knowledge of new products, and beekeeping techniques to help us to be better stewards of our insects. Fran has kept the whole club rock’n by keeping us in order and bringing in guest speakers. And Jim... he’s a man of many tasks from taking care of our library, volunteering at events and bringing in pizza when the Board is in need of extra energy while planning our member meetings.

Even though Santa’s sleigh will be packed with kiddy toys, surely there must be space for a gift or two for the adults... right? I asked the board what they wanted from Santa and here’s what they had to say.

*Sue*

Sue wants to look stylish for the upcoming bee season. With that in mind on her list, she included a Winnie Honey Jars short sleeve [tee](#).

She would also like this Swiss Army knife style [hive tool](#), “*This hive tool looks really neat. My girls seem to like to “glue” everything together and I often use a pry bar to loosen the frames.*”



## Fran

It looks like Fran is trying to add a few more product offerings to her farmers market table next year. She said, *"I love comb honey. Next year I'd like to try making some comb honey. I've researched different ways to do it and I think I'm ready."* Her list includes [cut comb frames](#) with a slit on the top along and [cut comb foundation](#).

Wanting to keep her hives safe from mice, she put mouse guards on her list as well. She wrote, *"I know I can just use inexpensive hardware cloth and that's actually what I've been using but I like the look of the stainless steel."* These [stainless steel guards](#) are pretty fancy!



## Pat

Guys, I'm going for it. What do they say ... "go big or go home?"

This is a pretty sweet car that seems appropriate for a beekeeper.

It's a 1970 Super Bee coupe with a thundering 426 Hemi engine. Perfect for chasing down swarms!



I'm also curious to give these new [thermal hives](#) a try. It'll be hard for me to switch over from the traditional wood bodies since I make my own, but this seems to make a lot of sense being rot resistant and keeping bees at a fairly consistent temperature year round.

## Keith

Wanting more time to relax and to give his biceps a break from manually cranking, Keith has this [Vevor motorized extractor](#) top on his list. With a capacity to hold up to 4 deep frames and 4 medium or shallow frames, this extractor is the perfect addition to Keith's bee tool set and perhaps yours!

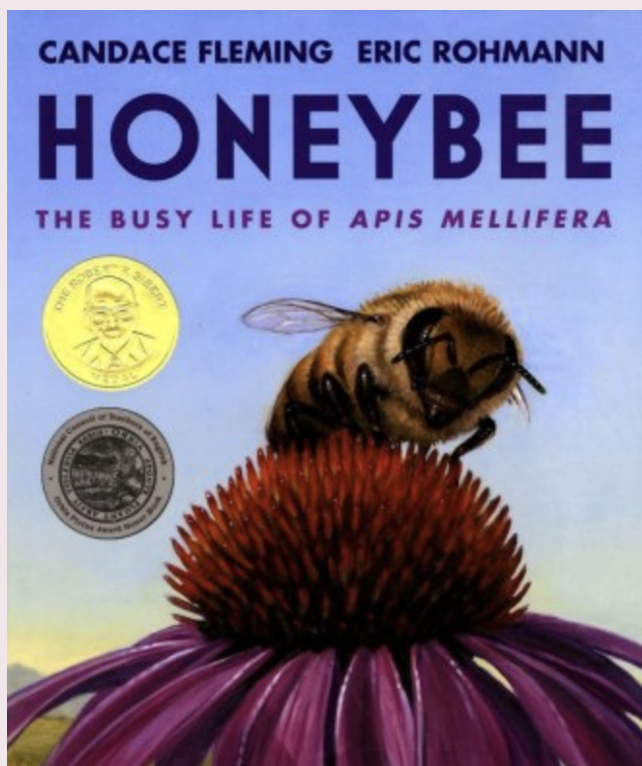
Polished Stainless Steel, rust-resistant design makes cleaning a breeze, ensuring your extractor stays in pristine condition for years to come.



What's on your wishlist? I heard from several elves that cookies, with tea and [honey](#) is a sure way to put your home on Santa's destination list.

***Happy Holidays!***





# BOOK NOOK

## Honey Bee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera

By Candace Fleming

Reviewed by Pam Meiser

*Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera* begins not with the title page, but a close up view of a brand-new worker bee emerging from her cell. The book follows the summer lifespan of a single worker bee. Books about honey bees highlight the many duties worker bees perform. Candace Fleming's writing makes it clear that a single

worker bee performs all the necessary jobs in her lifetime. Including the "age" of the worker bee at each step emphasizes their short lifetime.

As each stage of the worker bee's life is described, the author piques the reader's interest by anticipating the next duty, and asks, "Flying?" When the worker bee (referred to as Apis) is twenty five days old, she finally reaches the foraging stage. Illustrator Eric Rohmann memorializes Apis' first flight on an awe inspiring four page spread.

As someone who reads books about honey bees to elementary children, I especially appreciated that the process of sharing the nectar with a gathering worker bee is not described as "regurgitation." With children, this term is immediately followed by "Ewww!" and "You mean honey is bee barf?"

*Honeybee: the Busy Life of Apis Mellifera* won the Robert F. Silbert Informational Book Medal from the American Library Association in 2021. This medal "honors the most distinguished informational book published in English in the preceding year for its significant contribution to children's literature."

Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann live in the Chicagoland area. They both research their topic thoroughly. When comparing the couple's research process, Candace said, "I think our research processes are similar in that we're both seeking fascinating, awe-inspiring, and up-to-date information about a particular subject. ... Utmost in both our searches, however, is accuracy."

Because the pictures are detailed, this book would best be read with readers close by. If reading to a larger group, I recommend displaying the illustrations on a television or screen. Short videos and photographs would be a great addition when using this book for a presentation.

For family, friends, and neighbors who have questions about honeybees, introduce the many aspects of a worker bees life beyond what they see on the plants in their yard by lending them your copy! Don't let its short length keep you from loaning it to adults.

Backmatter includes a large diagram of worker bee's body, suggestions for supporting honeybees, further details and clarity to the text, as well as further online and reading suggestions. The book contains no references to honeybees and hives during the winter other than the removal of drones in the winter.

Opinions expressed in this review are those of the reviewer only.



Pam Meiser is an elementary school Teacher Librarian and beekeeper's kid. She does not have honeybees herself, but advocates for and talks about honeybees to anyone who will listen.

American Library Association, editor. "Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal." *American Library Association*, [www.ala.org/awardsgrants/robert-f-sibert-informational-book-medal](http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/robert-f-sibert-informational-book-medal). Accessed 1 Oct. 2023.  
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Gibson, Jennifer. "Couples Who Collaborate: Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann." *Children and Libraries*, vol. 16, no. 1, 2018. *Association for Library Service to Children*, [journals.ala.org/index.php/cal/article/view/6591/8791](http://journals.ala.org/index.php/cal/article/view/6591/8791). Accessed 1 Oct. 2023.

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*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!*

*Abandonment*

*Box Jig*

*Antenna*

*Doolittle method*

*Beelining*

*Mouse guard*



# ON-GOING ED

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### **ABF Conference – New Orleans, Louisiana**

**January 9 – 13, 2024**

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.

### **North American Honey Bee Expo - Louisville, Kentucky**

**January 4-6, 2024**

The best opportunity to share and network with thousands of beekeepers, industry leaders, and some of the biggest YouTube creators in beekeeping. Experience a massive amount of vendors and see for yourself the latest innovations in the beekeeping industry worldwide!

Visit their website for more information <https://www.nahbexpo.com/>

### **Hive Life Conference and Tradeshow – Sevierville, Tennessee**

**January 5 – 7, 2024**

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.

## **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".  
<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 a Read**

### **[The Nectar of the Gods Is Coming to a Bar Near You](#)**

*How mead, one of the world's oldest alcoholic beverages, could become the drink of the future*

### **[Pressured by lawsuits, EPA toughens pesticide rules to protect endangered species](#)**

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## **Worth a Listen**

### **[Mrs. Honeybee and Her Friends](#)**

*This fun bedtime series features honeybees to put the kiddies to bed.*

### **[Beekeeping Today Podcast](#)**

The podcast for the latest beekeeping news, information and entertainment for today's beekeeper. Hosts Jeff Ott and Kim Flottum bring you interviews and commentary helping you become a more informed and knowledgeable beekeeper.

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## **Worth a Trip and a Sip**

### **[Foxes Den Meadery](#)**

*Located in Yorkville, IL, the meadery creates hand crafted, artisan honey wine utilizing the finest quality ingredients.*

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# **ODDS & ENDS**

### ***Used extractor for sale***

Dave Lautermilch is offering this extractor for only \$200. Lightly used, you could bring this home to try out with any of your supers that still need to be harvested. Please call (815) 790-0550 to inquire!

### ***Do your bees smile! If so, we want to feature your photos.***

We're looking for photos for our presentations and the Bee Space newsletter. Here's your chance to show you have the "eye." Please send your best pictures to [info@willbess.org](mailto:info@willbess.org).

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

Please renew your memberships by January 31 for the 2023 season by visiting 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.

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

Wednesdays at 7pm: January 17, February 21, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20.

### **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)

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