



## June 2021 NEWSLETTER

### ***We NEED Your Help!***

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
- A good website
- An educational opportunity that you are aware of
- Pictures that you'd like us to share

Basically, anything interesting! If interested, please email [willbees-board@willbees.org](mailto:willbees-board@willbees.org)

### **June Things to Think About:**

- 1st week of June: Continue managing for swarm control. Add honey supers as needed. For new hives, check brood pattern that queen is healthy..
- 2nd week of June: Continue managing for varroa mites and watch for signs of viruses and queenlessness.
- 3rd week of June: Time to extract light spring honey.
- 4th week of June: Manage honey supers as they become full. Change their positions so they are all full at the same time for easy harvesting.

There may be a delay in this schedule with the later arrival of your bees due to the super freeze in the south earlier this year. If so, refer to previous newsletters.

NOTE TO NEW BEEKEEPERS: Make sure there are lots of fresh water sources around your yard.

**Information on Dues:** If you paid dues for 2020 then that covers 2020 and 2021. If you paid dues in both 2020 and 2021 then your 2021 membership will be refunded. If you did not pay dues in 2020 and only paid in 2021 then that covers 2021 membership as expected.

Did everyone get their monthly mailing from the Illinois State Beekeepers Association (ISBA)? If not, please email to let us know ([willbees-board@willbees.org](mailto:willbees-board@willbees.org)). Do not pay ISBA directly, they are paid from your dues paid to WillBees.

## **In-Person Meeting News..**

It was great to see people in person in May but no one attended virtually. If you were unable to attend the meeting, click on the link below for a brief summary of what occurred.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xirU3DrNMQtE0mtqE-qMdj0Ce0xnIW7Q/view?usp=sharing>

**Our Next Meeting will be Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 6:30 pm (doors opening at 6:00 pm).**

Use this link to the Google Form to reserve your spot! A link for the meeting will be sent out later in the month.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSda6-cdXQklx3sW333DHap8e-GNWQu1rSQgeMVyz2fv4BfmRA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSda6-cdXQklx3sW333DHap8e-GNWQu1rSQgeMVyz2fv4BfmRA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

We are going to use Zoom one more time in June, but if there are no attendees virtually, we will discontinue offering this opportunity.

## **How To Be A Better Beekeeper** *by Keith Meiser*

A few observations for backyard beekeepers (my personal opinions) ... **Ditch the gloves!**

I remember when I started keeping bees, having them crawling all me over was a cause of much apprehension. Can they sting through the gloves (actually yes)? Will I accidentally crush a lot of bees trying to remove the frames with the bulky gloves (also yes)? Will the bees get angry and attack after many are crushed (maybe)? Why in the world would I think one should handle bees without gloves?

First of all, feeling the bees with your bare fingers when you reach into the hive to work with them will make you much more perceptive of their temperament. You will undoubtedly slow down and work more smoothly and carefully. If you are using your smoker effectively (the beekeeper's most important tool), the guards and the hive bees will be distracted and calm, not interested in defending the colony with their lives. A little smoke when they are lined up looking at you between the frames will send them down to fill their tummies with honey. They will then move out of the way of your fingers as you feel to grip the frame and you won't crush the bees.

If you do get stung on your hand or arm, a quick swipe with the scraper end of your hive tool or even a thumbnail will remove the stinger AND the attached poison sac so quickly that the amount of venom will be minimal. Does it hurt? Of course! That is what it is designed for and probably why they are not extinct. You will quickly build up an immunity so that stings will no longer cause swelling and discomfort.

Should you also stop wearing a veil? Absolutely not! If you get stung in the face or head, you can't possibly find the stinger to scrape it out. You would be distracted easily and maybe drop something and have a big mess! Always wear a veil.

So why is it so important to be keenly aware of your bee's temperament while you work them? Neighbors. Keep in mind that if you set off a worker bee to full defense mode, she becomes a kamikaze with a full tank of gas, intent on completing her mission to protect the colony with her life. If you are working in a bee yard hundreds of feet from other humans, she will eventually calm down and go back home. In a residential area, she may find the end of your neighbor's nose, and that could become a huge problem, not only for you, but for all the other beekeepers in your community.

The first time is a little scary but you will quickly gain confidence and your bees will appreciate it. Make an effort to work them when nectar is coming in and the weather is sunny. Before long you will forget they are walking on you at all. Save the gloves though. The weather is not always nice, hives can get knocked over, and sooner or later a friend or neighbor will ask you for help with "bees" that turn out to be yellowjackets. **That's** what the gloves are for.

### **Supering Hives** *by Wayne Dailey*

This month we discuss supering the hives. Supering means the adding of honey boxes with frames on top of the brood chamber(s).

First though we need to discuss the brood chamber. Some beekeepers prefer to have one brood chamber, others prefer two. Either is fine, and a personal choice for the beekeeper. When the brood chamber becomes full or nearly full of bees and brood, it is time to give the bees some extra space, otherwise the bees will store the honey in the brood chamber. This takes valuable brood laying space from the queen and drastically increases the likelihood of swarming.

A queen excluder is installed on top of the brood chamber first. The queen excluder does exactly that: it keeps the queen from laying eggs in the honey super frames.

Honey supers are usually smaller than the brood chamber. This is because a 10 frame Langstroth brood sized box (9 5/8" deep) full of honey frames will weigh nearly 100 pounds. The smaller honey super (6 5/8" deep) full of capped honey can weigh as much as 50-60 pounds and can contain 3-4 gallons of honey.

When the first super becomes ~80% full that is, 8 of 10 frames have nectar or capped honey, an additional super should be added to give the bees more storage space. The first super needs to be lifted off of the queen excluder and set aside for a moment. A 2<sup>nd</sup> super is placed on top of the queen

excluder and then the 80% full super is place on the top of that. This will require the bees to walk across the 2nd super frames to get to the 80% full super, thereby familiarizing themselves with the newly added space. Do not add 2<sup>nd</sup> super too early, as the bees may abandon the partially full super and begin filling the 2<sup>nd</sup> super.

In July, the nectar flow stops or slows, depending on rainfall and other factors. This is the time to reap your harvest, and enjoy the fruits of your labor. There are several methods for removing the bees from the supers, including fume boards, blowers, and Bee Escape boards. Google these to find which works best for you. There are many YouTube videos on different methods of each, check them out.

As always please remember to take advantage of the wealth of information available in our library, and on websites like beesource.com, and scientificbeekeeping.com, among others. The body of knowledge around beekeeping is amazingly large.

Remember Beekeeping is a journey and not a destination. Even seasoned Beeks learn new tricks and tips every year.

### **Beecabulary** by *Pat Costion*

Monthly words for thought. Bring your answers to the June Meeting whether in person or by Zoom.

1. Acarine Disease
2. Dearth
3. Proboscis
4. Stages of a bee's life

### **Mentor-Match**

Are you an experienced beekeeper who would like to share your knowledge?

Are you a new beekeeper who would like to have a go-to person?

If either of these describe you, we would like to attempt to match a mentor to a mentee. Please fill out this Google Form.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScaytrP6Kls\\_rVzExcjIDLhVFpxX1j8NwrF63hPSnwMTS\\_rKQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScaytrP6Kls_rVzExcjIDLhVFpxX1j8NwrF63hPSnwMTS_rKQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

We will make a list (which will be available online for the people who would like to participate) of beekeepers who would like to make a connection to other\ beekeepers. If you need assistance with this, please reach out to Michelle Gattuso (michellegattuso@yahoo.com).

## Where did those swarm boxes go?

Dave M



Beau M - Caught one!



Beau M - Swarm Dump into Nuc



### Education Offerings:

JJC is offering an In person Beginning Beekeeping class. Classes start on Saturday, June 5. Use the link below (pg 16) for more information and how to register online or over the phone.

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/807023824/18/>

### University of California Cooperative Extension

The University of California Cooperative Extension-San Diego County offers a 3-module long beekeeping course that is always free. There are training videos and a quiz that is 10 questions long. Overall the course should take about 30 minutes to complete. This course is advertised as helpful to beginning beekeepers as well as a way to keep up-to-date for annual training for established beekeepers.

[https://ucanr.edu/sites/sandiegobees/Online\\_Beekeeping\\_Course/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/sandiegobees/Online_Beekeeping_Course/)

### The Ohio State University

Beekeeping and Honey Bee Biology, Part 1

In collaboration with [iTunes](#), [The Ohio State University](#) created a program that consists of 139 videos all about bees and beekeeping. This program is completely free and is available through the iTunes U app on iPads and iPhones. This program goes in-depth about the biology of honeybees and queens.

**ISBA Summer Meeting Southern Region** is June 12, 2021 in Rend Lake, IL. Speakers will include Dr. Jim Tew and Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda. Watch ISBA website (<https://www.ilsba.com/>) for updates

**Library:** The lending library is a rich resource available to all of our members. Please visit our catalog of books, videos and even candles molds at: <https://willbees.libib.com>



## “The Ultimate Guide to Keeping Stronger Colonies and Healthier, More Productive Bees”

By Kim Flottum

I believe that the title says it all. The book begins with information to either start or grow your bee business and then goes into what I would expect: honey production, the queen, worker bees and then wintering bees. There are LOTS of pictures with a plethora of information included with each caption as well.

Michelle Gattuso

### Board Members

President: Patrick Schab

Treasurer: Patricia Costion

Vice President: Alexander Park

Secretary: Michelle Gattuso

Directors (years remaining on term): Wayne Dailey (1), Keith Meiser (2), Dave Meyer (3)

*Awareness, Cooperation, Education, Support*



**Will County Beekeepers Association c/o Will County Farm Bureau**

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<http://www.willbees.org> | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)