



MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

ELECTION RESULTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

President: Patrick Schab

Treasurer: Patricia Costion

Vice President: Alexander Parks

Secretary: Michelle Gattuso

Directors: Wayne Dailey, Keith Meiser, Dave Meyer

NO-COST AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS

Due to the inability to conduct meetings for most of 2020, and the other disruptions in our typical schedule due to COVID-19, the Board has decided to extend memberships to Dec 31, 2021 for all members who were active and paid as of Sep 30, 2020. There is no action necessary on your part. If you paid for a WillBees membership any time between Oct 1, 2019 and Sep 30, 2020 your extension has already been applied. Members who missed this message from the November Newsletter and still signed up thru PayPal in 2021 have been issued refunds.

All 2021 in-meeting dates are on hold until further notice.

FREE VIRTUAL BEEKEEPING EVENTS offered by GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY

Wednesday, March 3 Presentation Information:

Free virtual presentation and conversation with Dr. Tammy Horn Potter. She will be talking about her book *Beeconomy: What Women and Bees Can Teach Us about Local Trade and the Global Market*. *Beeconomy* examines the fascinating evolution of the relationship between women and bees around the world. From Africa to Australia to Asia, women have participated in the pragmatic aspects of honey hunting and in the more advanced skills associated with beekeeping as hive technology has advanced through the centuries. *Beeconomy* not only explores globalization, food history, gender studies, and politics; it is a collective call to action.

Synthesizing the various aspects of hive-related products, such as beeswax and cosmetics, as well as the more specialized skills of queen production and knowledge-based economies of research and science, noted bee expert Dr. Tammy Horn Potter documents how and why women should consider being beekeepers. The women profiled in the book suggest ways of managing careers, gender discrimination, motherhood, marriage, and single-parenting—all while enjoying the community created by women who work with honey bees. Dr. Horn Potter finds in beekeeping an opportunity for a new sustainable economy that takes into consideration environment, children, and family needs. Dr. Tammy Horn Potter has served as the Kentucky State Apiarist since 2014, sampling hives for the USDA, inspecting migratory hives, working on grants with Kentucky State Beekeepers Association and the Kentucky Queen Bee Breeders Association, and educational-related activities. She has written *Bees in America* (2005), *Beeconomy* (2012), and *Flower Power: Establishing Pollinator Habitat* (2019). She worked for Big Island Queens from 2006-2010, worked with Coal Country Beeworks from 2010-2014, and serves as a board member of Project Apis M, Honey Bee Health

Coalition, Eastern Apiculture Society, Green Forests Work, Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, and Kentucky State Beekeepers Association.

<https://garfieldconservatory.org/event/virtual-beekeeping-lecture-with-dr-tammy-horn-potter/>

These additional events are live:

<https://garfieldconservatory.org/event/12th-annual-bee-forum-secrets-your-bees-want-to-tell-you/2021-03-14/>

Use discount code WILLBEES on the Eventbrite checkout page to get free access

12th Annual Bee Forum: *Secrets Your Bees Want to Tell You*

Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance hosts an annual Bee Forum to join local beekeepers and beekeeping experts to discuss relevant topics in the world of beekeeping, in addition to building community with Chicagoland beekeepers. This year, we will host three separate online presentations in lieu of our traditional on-site gathering. GPCA is excited to have Scott Debnam, Dr. Tom Seeley, and Dr. Sean Leonard present on the topics of honey bee research and its practical application for the beekeeper. Come and learn about the secret lives of your bees.

Your registration includes links to all three live virtual presentations!

Schedule:

Sunday, March 14 10:30am – 12pm: Scott Debnam

Sunday, March 21 10:30am – 12pm: Dr. Tom Seeley

Sunday, March 28 10:30am – 12pm: Dr. Sean Leonard

Presenter Bios:



Scott Debnam

Scott Debnam is a graduate of the University of Montana Wildlife Biology program and has 20 years of experience managing the University of Montana's research colonies. He completed his Master's degree in Pollination ecology in 2016 through The University of Montana's Organismal Biology, Ecology, & Evolution program and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. from the Division of Biological Sciences. His research focuses on nest thermoregulation and the economics associated with thermoregulation. He, of course, uses the

honeybee as the model species for this research. Scott is a Yale Scientific Teaching fellow that possesses extensive expertise with honey bee ailments and pests. He possesses an intimate knowledge of the insects that he is eager to pass on to others. To that end, he has been an instructor for the University of Montana Online Master beekeeping program for six years, instructing over a thousand students from 11 different countries. He is a recipient of the 2019 UPCEA award for outstanding online education. He began teaching the Practical Beekeeping online course for Umass Amherst in 2019 and is delighted to bring his expertise to the University of Massachusetts Sustainable Food and Farming program.



Dr. Tom Seeley

Dr. Tom Seeley received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Dartmouth College. He received his PhD in 1978 from Harvard University, where he studied with Bert Hölldobler and Edward O. Wilson. He held a postdoctoral fellowship in the Society of Fellows at Harvard until 1980, when he accepted a faculty position at Yale University. He remained there until 1986, when he joined the Department of Neurobiology

and Behavior at Cornell University. In recognition of his scientific work, he has received the Alexander von Humboldt Distinguished U.S. Scientist Prize, been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, received a Gold Medal Book Award from Apimondia for *The Wisdom of the Hive*, and been elected a Fellow of both the Animal Behavior Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His most enduring honor, though, is to have had a species of bee named after him: *Neocorynurella seeleyi*.



Dr. Sean Leonard

Dr. Sean Leonard is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Texas at Austin, where he studies honey bees and their gut bacteria. He completed his PhD thesis in 2020, "Engineering the gut microbiome of honey bees," under the co-supervision of Dr. Nancy Moran and Dr. Jeffrey Barrick. Sean combines synthetic biology with evolutionary biology and symbiosis to understand the intimate connections between hosts and symbionts and then to exploit these connections to benefit society. He has studied honey bees for

over 7 years and has pioneered technology to use symbiotic gut bacteria to improve bee health.

EARLY SPRING BEEKEEPING by Wayne Dailey

Now is the time of year to be thinking about your plans for spring. Now is definitely NOT the time to look in the hives to see how the bees are doing. Wait for a warmer day, around 50 degrees, sunny and no wind. You have a couple decisions to make before then. Do you want to start the queen laying? Or do you just want the hive to survive until natural food sources are available? Either are possible, but the former requires a bit more diligence.

Feeding bees pollen/sugar patties will stimulate the queen to start laying eggs, further straining the colony's already limited food resources. But, it can be done. You just need to be more diligent, and a bit of good luck doesn't hurt either. If you feed pollen sub and the queen starts laying, and then you have another lengthy cold snap, the bees may use up all the food resources before you can restock, and they will starve. So, if you think you can overcome the above-mentioned risks, this method may be for you

On the other hand, if you want to take the safe road, check your bees when the weather warms up a bit, and if they are low on stores you can make up, or buy sugar patties and slide them on the top of

the top frames. Or, you could just put a piece of newspaper or waxed paper over the top frames and then just pour loose sugar on top of the newspaper. The loose sugar will absorb moisture from the air inside the hive and harden somewhat, but the bees will consume it just fine.

There is an old saying in beekeeping. Ask 10 beekeepers how to do something and you will get 10 opinions, all of which will most likely differ from each other. I can assure you that more experienced beekeepers are reading this right now and strongly disagree with one method or another. That's the beauty of beekeeping.

Much of beekeeping is more art than science so, ask around, and get viewpoints from seasoned beekeepers. When you get two of them to agree on anything, that should tell you that it's probably worth remembering. Good Luck with your beekeeping, and remember the only dumb questions are the ones you didn't ask...

IBSA INFO

On March 19 at 7:00 PM ISBA will be offering members an exceptional opportunity to meet with one of the bee world's experts in beehive postmortems, Dr. Dewey Caron. Coming to us virtually from his Oregon beeyard, Dr. Caron will lead us through the methods for analyzing the remains of a deadout in this unique Winter Deadout Workshop. His talk will be followed by a session analyzing photos of frames from recent deadouts submitted by ISBA members.

Those attending are invited to submit photos of two brood frames from a recent winter deadout for Dr. Caron to analyze. This is an exceptional opportunity to improve your life with the bees. Come and join in with your fellow ISBA members at the event. Celebrate the start of a new bee year with better beekeeping skills.

Register now for ISBA's Winter Deadout Workshop at -
<https://forms.gle/L2UDXPQaSwBSvjTr6>

Deadline for registration is March 15,
The Illinois State Beekeepers Association, Serving Illinois Beekeeping Since 1891

MARCH THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

- Feed more sugar bricks as needed. Pollen patties should be started now.
- Order package bees.
- Repair equipment and order new supplies.
- Rotate hive bodies - only good "if" all the brood is in the top box, if split between boxes then do not rotate.
- Checkerboard - Only on strong hives when warmer weather so brood does not chill as easily.
- Feed syrup in internal feeders if temperatures are warm.
- Add honey supers to strong hives.
- Prepare hive stands and get syrup ready for package bees.

Beginning Beekeeping class at JJC

Students can register online at <https://eresources.jjc.edu> then click on the non-credit Lifelong Learning Student registration. Search for "beekeeping" or the course number LLC 5228. Start date is March 6th. 8:00 AM until noon. Course continues into May. This is the first of two comprehensive beginner courses that meets approximately once per month through August. There are a total of 8 class sessions throughout the summer. This is a hands-on course with live bees, not a Zoom presentation. Interested parties can call 815-280-1504 for more information.



EAGLE PROJECT PICTURE by Catherine Harrington

I have completed my Eagle Scout Project (the bee swarm traps). They are ready to be donated to the Will County Beekeepers Association. I was asking when would be a good time for me to bring at least one to you, so you can check out the swarm trap. I made a total of 19 traps. And what would be a good time to present them to the rest of the WillBees? The board will be discussing ideas to get the swarm traps into the hands of beekeepers.

Awareness, Cooperation, Education, Support



Will County Beekeepers Association c/o Will County Farm Bureau

100 Manhattan Rd, Joliet, IL 60433

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