
November/December Newsletter

2 messages

WillBees News <newsletter@willbees.org>
Reply-To: WillBees News <newsletter@willbees.org>
To: Keith Meiser <kem5243@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 1, 2021 at 6:01 PM

Will Bees

Publication of the **Will County Beekeepers Association** - Nov/Dec 2021**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT****PLEASE JOIN US FOR NEXT MEMBER MEETING:****NOVEMBER 17, 2021 AT 6:30PM**

Will County Farm Bureau

[100 Manhattan Rd](#)[Joliet, IL 60433](#)

Please note: There is no December meeting.

THIS MONTH IN YOUR HIVES

- Evaluate if you want to insulate and how.
- Get sugar bricks or sugar boards ordered or ready, they take time to dry.
- Plan your winter feeding ideas and schedule.
- Take books out of the library to read and get ready for next year.
- Start dropping hints to family and friends regarding what beekeeping equipment you want for Christmas!

Don't forget to register your hives with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. This is an annual registration.

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

Beecabulary

Front of Hive in Winter

Wintertime in a Hive

By: David Musgrave

Have you ever wondered how do bees stay warm in the winter? No fleece blankets? No fireplace? No thermostat to control? Well, this is accomplished by thermoregulation: this is the process by which honey bees control the temperature within the colony.

As summer fades to fall, the hive is busy preparing for winter; this includes storing away an abundance of honey and pollen, getting rid of the drone bees (males - sorry guys!) and getting the hive airtight. Also during this time, the queen starts slowing down the pace of laying eggs and the eggs that hatch are referred to as 'winter bees'. Let's talk about each of these a little more:

- Bees pick up on the sun moving from the autumn solstice to the winter solstice and know they need to start preparing; thus the need to store as much honey and pollen in a hive. In an average hive, they need around 30 pounds to make it through winter.
- The purpose of the drone (male) bee for reproduction - that is it. Other than that they provide no value to the hive: they do not defend, gather food, etc. So in the fall, you will see the female honey bees start kicking out/killing the drones. The reason is simple: there is no need to keep around extra mouths to feed.
- The bees also prep the hive by sealing off any cracks or spaces with a substance called propolis which is a sticky substance produced by the bees. If you ever wondered why beekeepers used small crow bar tools to pop open the hive....well now you know.
- The hive and queen know winter is coming so the new bees that hatch are winter bees; winter bees are a little bigger than summer bees as they have more fat to survive the winter.

Bees typically don't leave the hive when temps dip below ~50 degrees so as fall fades to winter and the temperatures decrease the bees do not leave the hive. Inside the hive they band together in what is called a cluster, a round ball if you will, with the queen in the center. Typically starting in the lower part of the hive and working upward, the bees move to get to the stored honey and pollen. The bees need to keep the cluster warm, around ~90 degrees in order to survive so within the cluster they start shivering which produces endothermic heat via shivering; the wing muscles of the bee shiver which produces heat and that heats and protects the cluster and the queen that is in the middle. It isn't necessary to heat the entire hive, just keep that cluster warm!

If you know any beekeepers, they may talk about how challenging this time of year can be especially if the winter is extreme....cold, snow, duration. It is difficult to know how your bees are doing but thankfully technology can help us. Below is a photo from one of my hives where a heat gun was used to determine the status of the hive.

Thermal Image of a hive in winter

"Thermal image from one of the hives. - Ambient temp is 47 degrees, nice and warm in the hive."

BEECABULARY

Monthly words for thought:

- Dextrose
- Honeydew
- Invertase

Whipped Honey butter

Better with Honey Butter

By: Pat Costion

This is a great honey butter recipe that I have tried many, many times with lots of compliments. It makes a perfect gift when put in a 4 oz jar. I generally double the recipe which makes a little over eight small jars and freeze them to give as gifts.

Recipe found on the Food Network by Alton Brown

Prep: 15 min

Yield: two logs or about four 4 oz jars

Ingredients:

- 1 pound of butter
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

Additional Equipment:

- Dough Scraper
- Standing Mixer
- Parchment Paper or Plastic Wrap

Directions:

1. Cut the butter into chunks using the dough scraper.
2. Place butter into the mixer's work bowl and beat at low speed, using the whisk attachment to loosen the butter. Increase the speed to medium and add the honey, cinnamon, and vanilla extract and beat until well combined, about 5 to 7 minutes. Remove butter from bowl and spoon onto parchment paper or plastic wrap. Roll into a log and refrigerate for 2 hours.

<https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/alton-brown/honey-butter-recipe-2013170>



Virtual Beekeeping Lecture offered by the Garfield Park Conservatory on November 3rd featuring Dr. Katie Lee

This is a **free** lecture about healthy queens and healthy colonies. A healthy queen is vital for a colony to thrive. The ability to predict the downfall of a queen can help a beekeeper make the management decision to replace a queen or leave her be. This talk covers what queen failure looks like, if colony signs like brood patterns can help beekeepers read the health of a queen, and the impact of queen age on the productiveness of a colony. Registration is required and more info can be found at <https://garfieldconservatory.org/event/virtual-beekeeping-lecture-with-dr-katie-lee/>

If there is a December lecture offered by the Garfield Park Conservatory we will let you know. The original speaker had to cancel. Watch for info in a future newsletter or a notice sent to your e-mail.

Beecabulary

Illinois State Beekeepers Association 130th Annual Fall Meeting will be on Saturday, November 13, 2021. Here is the link to information:

<https://www.ilsba.com/summary-of-events.html>

Here is the link for the printable registration form:

https://www.ilsba.com/uploads/1/3/1/1/131107083/2021_ilsba_fall_registration_form_latest_

Beecabulary

Master Beekeeper Program

Are you Interested in learning more about Master Beekeeper programs? Luanne Spiros will give a review of Cornell University Master Beekeeper program early in 2022 ... and with your Willbees membership you may be eligible for a tuition discount!

<https://ecornell.cornell.edu/certificates/beekeeping/master-beekeeping/>

Robbing The Bees Cover Robbing the Bees

A Biography of Honey

The Sweet Liquid Gold that Seduced the Word

By Holley Bishop, reviewed by Michelle Gattuso

The author, Holley Bishop, follows beekeeper Donald Smiley, in Florida, on his daily tasks. She also delves into the science, culture and lore that surround each step of the process and each stage of lives of the bees and their honey. The author also reflects on her own beekeeping experiences, the business, the different varieties of honey, as well as recipes, illustrations and historical quotes.

Let me first start by saying that the print was sooo small in this book, that it was difficult to read because of that.

(I also want to add that this font was VERY small which made the book difficult to read for 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.



Elections are coming up for the November 2021 meeting.

To fill the slate we need a VP (1 yr term).

Anyone who is in good standing may run for a board position. See the link below for description of each position. Please know that you do not need to be a master beekeeper to serve on the board. For example the secretary is taking notes at meetings and the treasurer just writes checks and deposits checks/cash at the bank.

<https://www.willbees.org/bylaws/>

The slate:

President - Patrick Schab

VP - *It could be you!*

Treasurer - Donna Andrews

Secretary - Fran Miller

Director - Jim Moleski

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.

Names tags and membership dues.

We would like to print name tags. 2022 dues need to be paid by January 31, 2022 in order to have a printed lanyard at the Feb 2022 meeting. If you did not receive the Illinois State Beekeepers Association mailing then you are not current with your dues.

Look good while supporting Willbees!

If you would like a t-shirt, sweatshirt or hat, please email pcostion@comcast.net

T-shirts are \$10

Hats are \$13

Sweatshirts are \$20

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

Basically, anything interesting. Please email willbees-board@willbees.org with anything you'd like to share today.

Board Members

President: Patrick Schab

Treasurer: Patricia Costion

Vice President: Alec Parks

Secretary: Michelle Gattuso

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

Will County Beekeepers Association c/o Will

County Farm Bureau

[100 Manhattan Rd, Joliet, IL 60433](#)

630-557-6BEE

www.willbees.org

Will Bees Logo

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

WillBees News <newsletter@willbees.org>
Reply-To: WillBees News <newsletter@willbees.org>
To: Keith Meiser <kem5243@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 1, 2021 at 7:04 PM

[Quoted text hidden]