



# SWEET STUFF

NIBA NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2018

## THE BEE PULPIT

Dave Hill

We took the last supers off of the hives at the house. There was some honey but none that was capped. We treated the two hives at the house as well. We still have to remove the supers from the five hives at the farm and treat. Time and weather have just not cooperated. We'll do our best to get supers off and treat in the next week or so. We'll also start winter feeding to help the girls build up additional stores for when the weather gets colder.

Last week we noticed that there was huge activity at one of the hives at the house. Huge clusters of bees were around the upper entrance (before we had removed the supers). The clusters would build until the weight would cause them to fall to the ground. It looked like there was robbing taking place. We posted a video of the activity on the NIBA Facebook page. Several responses indicated that it looked like "robbing". We removed the supers and examined the two deeps. There were only a few bees there, and we could not find the queen. The hive had died, and the stores were available for the taking! It took a day or two and all of the honey was relocated to the "robber hives". This was our first

experience with wholesale robbing, and it was quite a sight to see!

I hope that our beekeeping members were able to harvest at least a modest amount of honey this year. I understand that the results vary widely, but we are thankful for what we get! We have to remember that it takes a lot of work on the part of our honey bees to bring us the "fruit" of their labors. Remember that honey bees will visit about two million flowers and fly about 50,000 miles to make a 1-lb. jar of honey. And during its entire lifetime, a single foraging bee will collect enough nectar to make one twelfth of a teaspoon of honey!

It's that time of year when our beekeeping activities slow down, and we begin to dream of warmer spring days and the first bloom of nectar-bearing flowers.

Thanks to Marianne for stepping up and helping with my "Bee Pulpit" submission last month. My travel schedule has been pretty hectic. From the feedback, my absence was hardly noticed.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Friday, October 12, 7pm**

McHenry County Farm Bureau  
1102 McConnell Rd  
Woodstock, IL 60098

### McBEES FRIDAY

**Friday, October 19, 7pm**

McDonald's  
250 S Eastwood Dr (Route 47)  
Woodstock, IL 60098

### SAVE A BEE, PLANT A TREE

**Friday, October 19, 7pm**

McHenry County College  
8900 US Hwy 14  
Crystal Lake, IL 60012

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Friday, November 16, 7pm**

McHenry County Farm Bureau  
1102 McConnell Rd  
Woodstock, IL 60098

The next regular meeting will be Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Club honey tasting is on the agenda, so bring a sample of your honey to share with the club members. We'll be talking about winter preparation and conducting the election of the 2019 slate of officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer). We look forward to seeing you all there!

## BOARD ELECTIONS

2019 Board Elections will be held during the October 12<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. The slate for the NIBA Executive Board is as follows:



President - Dave Hill  
Vice President - Tom Allen  
Secretary - Angie Garrod  
Treasurer - Ralph Brindise

If you are interested in one of these positions, you may be nominated from the floor, however, you need to be present to be considered.

Directors are appointed by the Executive Board. John Leibinger and Marianne Hill are slated to be appointed. There is room for another director.

If you are interested in making a difference by serving, please contact Joe Scherb (815) 861-5210, [sbscherb@gmail.com](mailto:sbscherb@gmail.com)) as soon as possible.

Beyond the board positions, we're looking for event chairs. If you have an interest in any of OUR activities, let a current board member know. Your support would be most welcome. Ultimately, this is where it matters. It's your club. If you don't actively participate, the activities you appreciate the most might not be available next year. Our club is here to Promote an Interest in Honey bees and Beekeeping. If you share that interest, support the club and participate. If you feel the club should change directions, please consider joining the board.



### GREEK HONEY CAKE

Mary Hubert

1 cup all-purpose flour  
1½ tsp baking powder  
¼ tsp salt  
½ tsp cinnamon  
1 tsp orange zest  
¾ cup butter  
¾ cup sugar  
3 eggs

¼ cup milk  
1 cup walnuts, chopped

#### HONEY SYRUP

1 cup sugar  
1 cup honey  
¾ cup water  
1 tsp lemon juice

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease & flour 9" square pan  
Combine flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, and orange zest; set aside.  
In large bowl, combine butter & sugar. Add eggs one at a time.  
Beat in flour mixture alternately with milk until all ingredients are incorporated.  
Stir in walnuts.

Bake 40 minutes until toothpick stuck in the center comes out clean.  
Cool 10 minutes; cut into serving sizes.

Honey Syrup – simmer sugar, honey, water for 5 minutes. Add lemon and boil for 2 minutes.  
Pour honey syrup over cake squares.

## EVENTS UPDATE

Tom Allen

Hi NIBA members! Here's an update on events we've attended since our last meeting.

We were at the quilt show at Countryside Nursery in Crystal Lake on September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. We were set up in a cool spot with a breeze running through it and in a high traffic area. Thank you to volunteers Ralph Brindise, Terri Reeves, Jennifer Cavka, Erin Wagner, Donna Taliaferro and John Leibinger for setting up and manning the booth. Those who stopped by enjoyed talking with us about the bee quilt and of course, honey bees. It was a good public relations event for NIBA, the attendees were primarily seniors but there were a few young families with kids. Everyone enjoyed the observation hive: finding the queen is always a hit! The quilt was the main attraction, admired by everyone. Between honey sales and raffle tickets, NIBA earned \$349 – some nice income from this two-day event.

Our next event was the McHenry County Farm Stroll on September 30<sup>th</sup>. We had been graciously invited by NIBA member Sue Dietz to set up a table at her farm, Harvard Egg and Feed. Thank you to Brian Blaauw, Stephanie Slater and Mary Hubert for joining me to answer questions about beekeeping. We also handed out pamphlets and the flyer for the upcoming *Save A Bee, Plant A Tree* event. More than 225 people came through the barn, rainy weather kept the number of attendees low but the attendees were eager to see the farm and most enjoyed learning about bees. Thank you, Sue, for the coffee, cookies, hot dogs, chips and pizza for our volunteers – it was very much appreciated!

Our next event is the Green Living Expo on November 3rd at McHenry County College. We will need many volunteers, so if you haven't had an opportunity to join us at an event this year, please consider volunteering some time at this one.

Finally, a huge thank you to all members who donated honey to the club. We received both 12oz Bears and 1lb jars at the last meeting, many of which were sold at the quilt show. It was perfect timing for your donations, so THANK YOU! Please keep the honey flowing in!!! Future events need honey!!!

Thank you to everyone for giving your time, talent, and treasure to the club. We couldn't do it without each and every one of you.



## THE QUILT IS UP FOR RAFFLE.

Many, many thanks to Artisan and Beekeeper Debra Wakitsch. Your talent is amazing, and your generosity is much appreciated.

Quilt 54" x 60" Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

Drawing at the Oct 19<sup>th</sup> event at McHenry County College. Need not be present to win.



Successful weekend at Countryside Flower & Nursery's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt Show.  
(We were so busy chatting with people, no one was available to take a picture.)



Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association  
invites you to  
"Save a Bee, Plant a Tree" featuring Mike Connor



Trees are the leading source of pollen and nectar in the United States—more than all other plants and flowers combined!

Mike Connor has been a beekeeper for more than 50 years and an ISA Certified Arborist since 1998. His presentation will enlighten people interested in helping pollinators.

You may order trees directly from his website [honeytreenursery.com](http://honeytreenursery.com), and they will be delivered the night of the presentation. Please enter code **NIBA10-19**, this will enable Honey Tree Nursery to deliver the trees to the event.



**Friday, October 19, 2018**

**7:00 pm**

**McHenry County College**

**Auditorium**

**All are welcome to this free event!**

Questions? Email: [rbrindise@att.net](mailto:rbrindise@att.net)

A few people have indicated a problem ordering on the website. People can order by emailing [julie.honeytreenursery@yahoo.com](mailto:julie.honeytreenursery@yahoo.com) and paying at the event.

Also, NIBA will be raffling a few trees at the event!



## MEMBER DONATIONS

**Thank You** for refreshment donations to the following members:

- \*Carolyn Besserud
- \*Marianne Hill
- \*Erin Wagner
- \*Jan Magyar
- \*Donna Taliaferro and John Leibinger

An additional huge **Thank You** to these members who made raffle donations:

- \*Sue Dietz (*Harvard Eggs, Feed, & Produce*)
- \*Ron Besserud
- \*Tom Montavon
- \*Jan & Joe Magyar

I would certainly be remiss if I didn't thank the many members who brought in Honey Bear donations which helped our honey sales immensely at the Countryside Quilt Show.

### **Thank You:**

Tom Allen, Marcin Matelski, Caryn & Phil Konopinski, Angie Garrod, Gene McCray, George Waterman, Ron Zimmerman & Sara Wiaduck, Paul St. John, Linda & Al Fullerton, Pierre Pollin, John Gordon, Jen Cavka, Jim Odom, Dan McFee, Heidi Sujak, Paul Santonacita, Erin Wagner, and John Leibinger.

A general thanks to **Harvard Eggs, Feed, & Produce**, **Spencer's Apiary Specialties**, and **BL Plastic Containers** for their generous and continued support. When you have some beekeeping needs, please consider supporting these member-vendors as they support us.

I think that I captured all the donations, but if I have missed someone, my sincere apologies.

*Like the bees we study, we accomplish more together.*  
John Leibinger



## McBEE'S FRIDAYS

### MEETING AT McDONALD'S

Let's gather to chat. No agenda, just time for us to get together. Time to get to know our fellow beekeepers. Time to compare notes. Time to ask questions.

Interested? Just show up. No need for reservations.

Third Friday of the Month – **October 19, 7 pm**

McDonald's, 250 S Eastwood Dr (Route 47), Woodstock



## CHORES OF THE MONTH – OCTOBER

John Leibinger

### ***What's happening in the hive?***

**Hive activity will be markedly reduced this month.** Winter is just around the corner, and the bees know it. The “Ousting of the Drones” should be winding down. The foragers are still scouting for natural nectar and pollen sources or other sources to pillage.

Beware of robbing...from both ends of the process. If your hives are **getting robbed**, the result is obviously disastrous. If your hives are **doing the robbing**, though it may seem less obvious, the results can be equally disastrous. The weak hive that they may be robbing could be weak as a result of varroa mite infestation. When your bees are in the weak, infested hive, the parasitic varroa will be looking for a way out so they can find a healthier host. They will hitch a ride on your bees and find their new home in your apiary. **Now you have the mite problem!**

Difficult to prevent, but you can mitigate the likelihood by making sure that you are providing plenty of sugar syrup at 2 parts sugar to one part water (one pound of sugar to each cup of water). If your bees have plenty of access to food their need to rob other hives will be lessened.

There are still some winter bees being raised, though the numbers will be far less than last month. We have already had some significantly cold nights that would lead to clustering at night. The bees will recognize the need for establishing appropriate space for clustering and the need for food stores nearby. They will move and store their provisions accordingly.

### ***For All Beekeepers, it is time to:***



Get the **bees** ready.  
Get the **environment** ready.

#### ***Bees:***

**Feed, Feed, Feed!** 2:1 sugar syrup (1 pound of sugar for each cup of water) to maximize the concentration of carbohydrates and minimize the excess water they need to remove from the solution. It's getting cooler, and it is harder to evaporate that excess moisture.

**Consider an Oxalic Acid sublimation treatment in later October** to eliminate any remaining varroa mites that may have been in the colony or brought in by a late season robbing episode. One advantage of an OA sublimation this time of year (besides the obvious effectiveness it has when treating a broodless colony) is that you will not need to crack open the hive bodies and ruin the hive's propolis seal that was created to keep out the imminent winter winds.

**Consider a Direct Feed Microbial treatment** to improve the gut microbiome of the bees.

#### ***Environment:***

**Remove queen excluders if present.**

**Tilt hive forward a little bit to assist moisture drainage.**

**Rake up leaves and debris from around the hive** to lessen the opportunity for mouse and pygmy shrew problems.

**Add mouse guards.** Don't forget...mice can climb, so protect upper entrances also. If you use entrance reducers as your mouse guard, make sure that the egress slot is at the top not the bottom. It seems counter intuitive, but if the slot is at the bottom, it is easily plugged up with dead bees thus rendering it useless. When placed 'upside down' it allows the live bees to climb over the dead bodies to exit. A little inconsiderate and heartless of the bees if you are given to anthropomorphism.

**Make sure you have an upper entrance/exit.** It helps with ventilation, and it is an easy egress point for bees to take cleansing flights in the winter. Sometimes the lower entrances get plugged with ice or snow and even with dead bees.

**Add an appropriate feeding shim and some solid feed** in the form of winter patties, a candy board, sugar bricks or cakes, or dry sugar above the top hive body. You may want to add emergency feed in later winter and having a spacer already in place will make that effort possible. Prepare ahead of time.

**Make sure there is adequate ventilation** to remove moisture from the hive. Bees breathe and metabolize the carbohydrates they consume to produce heat. A by-product of that metabolism is moisture, and it must find its way out of the hive to reduce dripping from condensation. **Cold wet bees are dead bees. It is preventable.**

**Consider adding a moisture board or quilt box** or some other method of capturing the moisture and preventing it from condensing and dripping on the bees.

**Consider adding insulation at the top of the hive** to further reduce the opportunity for condensation.

**Consider wrapping your hive** to insulate or at least to eliminate infiltration of cold winter winds. Wraps are often done in black to provide a little solar heat gain on sunny winter days.

**Consider creating a wind block** with snow fencing, straw bales, large lawn bags filled with leaves (word of caution: straw bales and to a lesser extent, bags of leaves may be attractive to mice, so use them with that warning in mind), or basically anything that you can position to break the force of the direct wind against your hive.

**Consider strapping down your hive** for the winter to prevent winter winds from toppling the hive.

## General Info

Download the forms to register your bees with the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Insects/Bees/Documents/beekeep.pdf> (Ctrl+Click link)

### ROBBING SCREENS



### MOUSE DAMAGE



### MOUSE GUARDS



### VENTILATION



### WIND BREAKS



### HIVE WRAPS



The Walworth County Beekeepers  
is pleased to announce

## “A Weekend with Keith S. Delaplane, PhD”

Professor and Walter B. Hill Fellow - Department of Entomology University of Georgia

### Author of “First Lessons in Beekeeping”

Want to know about Keith Delaplane? <http://ent.uga.edu/people/faculty/keith-delaplane.html>

Where: Army Lake Camp & Retreat Center  
N8725 Army Lake Rd.  
East Troy, WI 53120  
<http://www.armylakecamp.org/>

<p><b>Saturday, January 26, 2019</b></p> <p><b>“Beekeeping Skills for Success”</b></p> <p>Registration 8-9 AM 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM</p> <p><b>\$55</b> (Paid <u>by</u> December 31, 2018) <b>\$65</b>(Paid <u>after</u> December 31, 2018)</p>	<p><b>Sunday, January 27, 2019</b></p> <p><b>“Continue Building Your Beekeeping Knowledge &amp; Techniques”</b></p> <p>Registration 7-8 AM 8:00 AM – Noon</p> <p><b>\$55</b> (Paid <u>by</u> December 31, 2018) <b>\$65</b> (Paid <u>after</u> December 31, 2018)</p>
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**Want to attend both days?**

**\$100** (Paid by December 31, 2018)

**\$120** (Paid after December 31, 2018)

*Continental breakfast and lunch provided on Saturday*

*Continental breakfast provided on Sunday*

*Limited seating, Act today!*

Limited on-site modest lodging available: \$30/night/pp, \$15/additional guest/per room

Off-site area hotel: Quality Inn & Suites, 262-642-2100 (call for availability and rates)

**Yes, I'm in! Here's my check for:**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, January 26th          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, January 27st            | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday and Sunday        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On-site Lodging: Fri, Jan. 25th | <input type="checkbox"/> On-site Lodging: Sat, Jan. 26th | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian lunch preferred |

**Please Print**

Name:	Mobile No:	Emergency Contact:
Address:	City / State / Zip:	Emergency Contact Phone No:
Beekeeping Club:	Email:	Emergency Contact Relationship:

Please make check out to: Walworth County Beekeepers

Mail to: WCBK  
C/O Scott Kosteretz  
N9025 Army Lake Rd. East Troy, WI 53120  
Questions/Comments? Send to: [skoz@wi.rr.com](mailto:skoz@wi.rr.com)

## IS IT IN THE AIR?

Larry Kregel

Are you one of the nubees – a newly arrived beekeeper? That group is growing. Ten years ago the Illinois State Beekeepers Association had around 700 members. Today it is more like 1700. The vast majority keep 5 hives or less. So what's up?

Recently I had work being done in my kitchen. The jars of honey on the counter became a point of discussion. One of the workers showed up in my beekeeping class at MCC this fall and plans to be back for the February class. He wants to keep bees. He wants his kids to learn about bees.

Not too many years ago I pick up a swarm in a back yard. The lady of the house joined me in the adventure and decided it was time keep her own bees. She has now completed her second year with the bees.

I worked with a local assessor as he considered an agriculture assessment on some property. I shared a couple of jars of honey with him and we talked bees for a while. The next spring he bought his first packages of bees.

There is an amazing list of people, young and old, male and female, who have come to beekeeping after only a brief encounter with a beekeeper. It doesn't take much. So what's up?

The economy is up. That helps. There are more people retiring and finding time to pursue their longstanding interests. That helps. Bees and their struggle for survival have been prominent in the news. I think that helps, too.

Perhaps people are discovering the taste of raw local honey. Maybe it is just in the air.

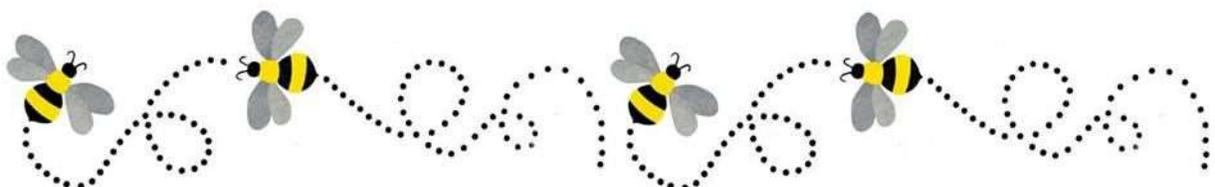
But more than simply more beekeepers we – the bee community – need good beekeepers. We need beekeepers not bee-havers. The modern world that we and our honey bees live in has many more, and different, challenges than only a few beekeeper generations ago. The new recruit needs to be ready to become an educated fellow and take action.

OK, nubees, here are a couple of suggestions for becoming that education fellow. Join a local association. Camaraderie is great, but more importantly information flows freely. Consider attending some of the many bee meeting. There are great ones to put on your schedule. The Illinois State Beekeepers Association will have their winter meeting on November 10 in Springfield. ([ilsba.com](http://ilsba.com)) The Heartland Apicultural Society has a superior 3 day meetings every July. (<http://www.heartlandbees.org/>) Next June 7 and 8 NIBA will host the ISBA summer meeting. It will be a great gathering and right in your neighborhood. Nubees are invited to join the oldbees at all these meetings.

I also try to convince our new protégés to subscribe to one or both of the bee journals – the American Bee Journal (<https://www.dadant.com/>) or Bee Culture ([www.beeculture.com](http://www.beeculture.com)).

Alright, maybe it is not in the air. And if one yields to the lure of beekeeping, it is important to understand it is an adventurous path where learning has no end.

Why beekeeping? Here is what I think. I suspect it is just the continuing fascination with the honey bee. I spend rewarding hours with hundreds of thousands of stinging insect. It is hard to describe. Some don't understand. Yet... that's me.



## 2018 NIBA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President – Dave Hill  
daveahill95@gmail.com  
Vice President – Joe Scherb  
sbscherb@gmail.com  
Treasurer – Ralph Brindise  
rbrindise@att.net  
Secretary – Dan Rank  
dtrank@sbcglobal.net  
Director – Tom Allen  
tallen122@yahoo.com  
Director – Rebekkah Burtcher  
rebeccakcross@yahoo.com  
Director – Marianne Hill  
mariannehill1213@gmail.com  
Director – John Leibinger  
jleibinger@aol.com

Program Chair – Larry Kregel  
Webmaster – Terri Reeves  
Events Coordinator – Tom Allen  
Newsletter Editor – Marianne Hill  
Snack Committee – Donna Taliaferro  
Bee Package Coordinator – Joe Scherb  
Club Extractor Coordinator – Randy Mead  
Club Raffle Coordinator – John Leibinger

## Website and Newsletter Submissions

[www.nibainfo.org](http://www.nibainfo.org) – The Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association website. A wealth of information is available. Contact board members via email, download the membership form, access copies of the newsletter. Terri is asking for your pictures, stories, etc. to have them highlighted on the web page! [reevestherese@att.net](mailto:reevestherese@att.net)

This is YOUR newsletter. Please feel free to contribute. Or let us know if you have any topics you'd like to see covered. [newsletter@nibainfo.org](mailto:newsletter@nibainfo.org)

## Membership Has Its Benefits!

- By Randy Mead

Did you know that your membership in NIBA includes the opportunity to rent a club honey extractor? We have two to choose from. Rental is \$10 for a 3 day rental. \$20 (\$10 for rental and \$10 deposit) is due when you pick up the extractor.

Schedule a pick up time, extract your honey and return the equipment in 3 days. The \$10 deposit will be returned if the extractor is clean.

To reserve a date, contact Randy at [rmeadtoys@gmail.com](mailto:rmeadtoys@gmail.com).

## Are you on Facebook? So are we!

Search for Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association. It's a closed group, so you need to request to join—but we're happy to approve your request.

We're an active and knowledgeable group. We've had LOTS of pictures and videos of your hives! Share your experiences, ask your questions.

Get in on the conversation. Join the fun today!

