



SWEET STUFF

NIBA NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tom Allen

We are in some unprecedented times. Many people are working from home, some have seen their work hours increase dramatically while others are laid off. Students from kindergarten to college graduate students are now learning online, most of them at home. We're asked to stay at home, only leave when necessary, maintain social distancing, stay 6 feet from people you don't live with, no social gatherings, schools are closed. People that are introverts might enjoy this lack of people time, extroverts like me might be struggling because we get energized by being around people. This is all being done to limit the spread of the Coronavirus. This caused us to cancel our March and April NIBA meetings, something that most members don't ever remember happening.

The Board and Directors want to keep all of our members safe, so our April meeting will take place over the Zoom platform. Each member will receive an invitation for the meeting. You can use your smart phone or computer to watch the meeting. I hope all of you will join us. Please remember we are still learning about this technology, so if there are glitches give us time to fix them.

April has given us mild weather so far which has allowed us to get out of the house a bit, either by yourself or with the people you live with. If you were able to get out to check your hives on some of the warm days we've had, I hope you saw your bees flying and bringing in pollen from maple trees. My colonies didn't make it through the winter, so this break has given me the opportunity to do some much needed work on my hives and go through the frames to figure which ones I'll rotate out. I hope you had most of your colonies make it through the winter!

Keeping us all safe will lead to some changes while passing out bees this year because of social distancing. Ralph will outline the way this will be done elsewhere in this newsletter. This year we need everyone to pick up your bees on the delivery day unless you make prior arrangements with him.

I look forward to seeing all of you on Zoom Friday night!

Tom

Ed Allen would like you to know, once you've installed your packages or nucs, he is happy to take your containers. Please contact him directly at allened19@yahoo.com to arrange pickup/delivery.

IF YOU ORDERED PACKAGES OR NUCS...

Ralph Brindise

Hi everyone,

I hope you are all well and ready to start the 2020 beekeeping season. We have orders for 240 packages and 84 nucs with several orders in the mail. I talked to Tim Wilbanks, our bee supplier, and he's planning on picking up our packages on the 15th in Georgia and getting them to us on April 16th or 17th. (The nucs will be coming later, we don't know the date yet.) Both Tim and I are trying to keep each phase of this year's bee ordering procedure as safe as possible.

If you have an order pending for either a package or a nuc you should have already gotten a "test" email, with a second one coming to let you know when the delivery will take place along with other instructions on safety.

The pickup location will be at the same place we've used the last few years, Tina and Doug Wilbrandt's barn on Rt 47. I'll include the address and directions in the delivery email.

We may get an extra package or two, so if you find you need one let me know asap.

NO BAKE CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER ENERGY BITES



INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup - peanuts, finely chopped	2 T - peanut butter powder
1 1/2 cup - old fashioned oats, divided	2/3 cup - mini chocolate chips, divided
1/3 cup - flax seeds	1/2 cup - peanut butter
1/2 cup - almond flour	1/3 cup + 1 T - honey
3 T - unsweetened cocoa	2 T - almond or soy milk

DIRECTIONS

Line a sheet pan with parchment or wax paper.

Place peanuts in a small bowl, set aside.

In a food processor, combine 1 cup of the oats, flax seed, almond flour, cocoa, peanut butter powder and 1/3 cup of the chocolate chips. Pulse several times until it resembles coarse meal.

Add the peanut butter, honey and almond milk to the oat mixture and process until the mixture comes together.

Transfer the oat mixture to a large bowl and mix in the remaining oats and chocolate chips, your hands work best for this!

Scoop out 1" clusters of the mixture and roll into a ball with your hands. Then dip the bites in the finely chopped peanuts. Place each ball on the sheet pan and chill in the refrigerator.

When the bites are chilled and set, store in an airtight container for up to a week.

ANYONE SUFFERING FROM BEEKEEPING WITHDRAWAL?

John Leibinger

Here are a few resources that you may want to explore for your entertainment and education:

Podcasts

Beekeeper's Corner podcast <http://www.bkcorner.org>

The Kiwimana Buzz <https://kiwimana.co.nz/category/podcast/>

HiveTalk with David and Jon <https://www.talkshoe.com/show/hive-talk-with-david-and-jon>

The Beehive Jive <http://thebeehivejive.com/>

The treatment free beekeeping podcast <https://tfb.podbean.com/>

The Honest Bee <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/the-honest-bee/id1220294018?mt=2>

Beekeeping Short and Sweet <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/beekeeping-short-and-sweet/id1369094363?mt=2>

Beekeeping Today <http://beekeepingtodaypodcast.com/>

Recordings of Sessions of past ABF Conferences available on the Internet :

<http://abfconference.com/2018-session-recordings-handouts>

<http://abfconference.com/session-recordings-handouts-2017>

<http://abfconference.com/session-recordings-handouts-2016>

Several videos on Varroa by Meghan Milbrath

Why did my bees die? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWfSbVXqO_Y

Understanding Varroa Risk <https://pollinators.msu.edu/keep-bees-alive/understanding-varroa-risk/>

Making a Plan for the Varroa Mite <https://pollinators.msu.edu/keep-bees-alive/making-a-plan-for-the-varroa-mite/>

A Couple Other Favorites

A Canadian Beekeeper's Blog

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyDBTwXKg92H0cI3vIBQ0XOYbPQua5PzI>

University of Guelph Honey Bee Research Center Videos

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/honeybee/videos.shtml>

Minnesota Bee Lab Videos <https://www.beelab.umn.edu/resources-beekeepers/videos>

MORE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Stephanie Slater

With stay-at-home orders cancelling our club meetings and other beekeeping training, several universities are working to provide free online training for new and experienced beekeepers. Many of these are live via Zoom or Facebook, with several (but not all) being recorded for future viewing. These are great opportunities to learn from great educational institutions. Here is a list:

- University of Minnesota – <https://www.beelab.umn.edu/bee-squad/mentoring-apiary>
 - 4/9/2020 – 6:00 pm – “Hiving New Packages”
 - 4/23/2020 – 6:00 pm – “Checking Overwintered Colonies”
 - 4/25/2020 – 10:00 am – “Preparing for Divides”
 - 5/7/2020 – 6:00 pm – “Dividing Overwintered Hives”
 - Email ma-bees@umn.edu to register
- Michigan State University Extension – https://pollinators.msu.edu/resources/beekeepers/webinars/?fbclid=IwAR0CMSyP4vUpEC9fJ_e2YaB6CUAdB2SoIWw04YblAmDfwG3zVqFpEqVc8
 - 4/6/2020 – 6:00 pm – “Established Colonies: Preparing for Swarm Season”
 - 4/20/2020 – 6:00 pm – “First-Year Colonies”
 - Several varroa webinars available to view also
 - Visit the website for Zoom link and supplemental materials for each session
- Stay at Home Beekeeping Series – Distance Learning for Beekeeping Clubs
 - 4/7/2020 – 6:30 pm – “Coping with Pesticides”
 - 4/16/2020 – 6:30 pm – “Learning from Pandemics”
 - 4/30/2020 – 6:30 pm – “Queen Management Essentials”
 - 5/14/2020 – 6:30 pm – “Bee and Parasite Biogeography”
 - 5/28/2020 – 6:30 pm – “What’s Killing Honey Bees”
 - Please see the attached flyer for registration information
- Penn State Extension - <https://extension.psu.edu/beekeeping-101>
 - Beekeeping 101 Online Course
 - FREE if you register by 4/30/2020 – go to the website to register
- Ohio State University - <https://u.osu.edu/beelab/webinar-recordings/>
 - Watch several previously-recorded webinars



Stay at Home Beekeeping Series

Distance Learning for Beekeeping Clubs

Social distancing to resist COVID-19 doesn't mean you need to stop learning about your favorite social insect!

We're offering members of beekeeping clubs the chance to attend 'remote' meetings from the comfort of one's own home using a computer or mobile device. Each event will bring participants up to date on timely beekeeping topics. Time for Q&A included.

ALL ARE WELCOME! IT'S FREE!

Apr 2: Ten mistakes beginners make, with <i>Lonnie Funderburg (Blount Co. Beekeepers, AL)</i>	6:30 pm
Apr 7: Coping with pesticides, with <i>Jack Rowe (Alabama Extension)</i>	–
Apr 16: Learning from pandemics, with <i>Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda (University of Tennessee)</i>	7:30pm
Apr 30: Queen management essentials, with <i>Dr. Juliana Rangel (Texas A&M University)</i>	
May 14: Bee and parasite biogeography, with <i>Dr. Keith Delaplane (University of Georgia)</i>	Central
May 28: What's killing honey bees, with <i>Dr. Jamie Ellis (University of Florida)</i>	Time

Register at <http://www.aces.edu/go/1196>

or watch live at: <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyvextension/>

Questions? Email Allyson Shabel ams0137@aces.edu

Our institutions are equal opportunity educators and employers. Everyone is welcome!
See our efforts here: [ACES](#) | [Auburn](#) | [Florida](#) | [Georgia](#) | [Tennessee](#) | [Texas A&M](#)

CHORES OF THE MONTH – APRIL

AND SO IT BEGINS... STAY SAFE

John Leibinger

What's happening in the hive?

Overwintered colonies should be well on their way to raising brood for the coming year. On warm days the bees should be out foraging pollen from some early flowering plants and trees. Though temperatures may be a bit low to do a prolonged deep dive inspection early in the month, the influx of pollen is a good sign that the colony is raising brood. Brood rearing requires significant protein which is sourced from the incoming pollen. If weather conditions are preventing foraging, use pollen patties and/or pollen substitutes as supplemental feed. The brood will require warmth so the bees will be consuming more carbohydrates (honey, or sugar syrup) for the energy they will require to produce the heat needed to raise their brood. You may well see bee poop or signs of dysentery at the exit points for bees. Don't panic and jump to the conclusion that your bees have Nosema. This is more likely an accumulation of feces the bees are finally getting to void. It could be dysentery, but dysentery is not Nosema. Nosema can only be determined by inspection of bee guts via microscopy. If it is dysentery, it will likely clear up fairly quickly as the bees get foraging and consuming fresh nectar. If it is Nosema, the only approved product on the market right now is Fumidil-B (Fumagillin) but its efficacy on the most prevalent type of Nosema (*N. Ceranae*) is marginal.

For Beekeepers with live overwintered colonies, it is time to:

Feed. Sugar syrup at 1:1 ratio (2 lbs sugar/1 qt water) is conventional this time of year. A small amount of heat will dissolve the sugar quickly. Allow to cool before feeding to bees.

Pollen, pollen substitute, pollen patties. These supplemental protein sources may help the colony raise brood until natural pollen sources become more abundant.

Rotate Hive Bodies. If your bees have moved into the top box consider rotating the top box to the bottom. The upside to this is that it provides space for the colony to expand upwards and may reduce or delay the swarming urge. The downside is that you may be dividing the brood nest if it spans both boxes. If this situation exists, addition of a third box (with frames) above may be a better alternative.

Frame Rotation. As temps warm up, consider removing some old frames (w/o brood) and replace with new foundation as part of an annual comb renewal program. Place new foundation frames at the outer positions in the hive.

Remove Winter Wrappings as the weather warms.

For New Beekeepers just getting started this year:

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)

Bees will be arriving soon so make sure all equipment is ready to go.

Finish assembling and painting your equipment. If you have not done this already, **Get On It!** Don't procrastinate, the bees will not wait! 😊

Set up your Equipment in your Apiary. Have everything in place except maybe the frames and foundation. To minimize the possibility of damage, you may want to keep them inside until the day that you get your bees. Put them in place just before going to pick up the bees. Mix your sugar syrup before picking up your bees. Try to minimize your last minute scrambling. The process will go smoother.

Get a Mentor from the Bee Club. Ask for help and guidance. Hands-on assistance might be a little difficult to come by right now with the 'social distancing' policy, but verbal or written communication will be available.

Ready or not here it comes! No worries. You have done your homework. You have Read, Studied, and Learned. Since meetings have been cancelled this year, and you may not have received hands on instruction on package installation, review several YouTube videos on package installation. Have a checklist for your package installation.

Again, No worries.

For Beekeepers with dead overwintered colonies, it is time to:

Breakdown and clean out the dead-outs. It can be a dirty job as well as a disheartening one. Don't procrastinate. Depending on the cause of death of your colony, you may want/need to replace all your frames/combs. Viruses die with your colony. Mites do also, so you don't have a worry that either of these will carry forward. *If you had a bacterial foulbrood disease that killed your colony, the problem could carry forward.* This would not be typical so don't rush to this conclusion. Seek an experienced beekeeper or apiary inspector for some advice.

Frame Rotation. Consider removing some older and/or 'condition challenged' frames and replace with new foundation as part of an annual comb renewal program. Place new foundation frames at the outer positions in the hive.

Mix up your sugar syrup. Have this done prior to bee pickup.

For All Beekeepers, it is time to:

Review package installation procedures if you are getting new bee packages.

Prepare your feed.

Review your Beekeeping Goals for 2020 and act accordingly. See earlier month's chores list.


Wash your beekeeping suit or jacket to remove general dirt and specifically to remove lingering essence of alarm pheromone from previous 'suit stings'. Tip: Use an unscented laundry detergent.

General Info:

A couple of ways to install packages: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9qu-zMhtQ0>

Tip: You may want to dress differently.

Practice safe.....social distancing, from other beekeepers, not the bees. Don't worry about the bees. They won't

give you any viruses. 

It is April. Welcome to the 2020 Beekeeping Season!



[I received this email in late February. In case you're interested. Marianne]

Hi, I thought you might enjoy my site: <https://bees.photo>

On it, I publish a different shot of a bee each day - honeybees and natives - with an odd pollinator thrown in now and then as a bonus. A couple of samples are attached. In case it's not clear, these are all my photographs - a new one every day. Maybe like those "quote of the day" or "word of the day" offerings.

(Today's bee is the first bee of the season here!! On a crocus. Spring's coming to the Rockies. I'm very excited!!)

No obligation of any kind. I just thought you might find it interesting and fun. You're welcome to share the link with whomever you think might enjoy.

Best regards, Steve



INDEED BEEKEEPING HAS CHANGED

Written by Frank Pellett in the introduction to his 1938 book on the history of beekeeping in America...



The old-time leadership, which rested with men who live leisurely among the bees has been replaced by scientifically trained men in the U. S. Department of Agriculture and our state institutions.

One thing is very clear; we have abandon the old paths. The old-time beekeeper was something of a naturalist, interested primarily in the behavior of his bees. The beekeeper is now a business man interested in the sale of enough hone to maintain the present day standard of living...

This change came suddenly with the World War, which uprooted so many human institutions, and closed that period of times spoken of as "The Golden Age of Beekeeping."

Frank Pellett was an important figure in beekeeping in the early 20th century the history of which he writes cover that golden age largely from Langstroths intention to the World War... as they called it before the Second World War occurred. Almost a lament, his book can still be purchased from Dadant or read online at <https://chestofbooks.com/animals/bees/History/index.html>.

Gabe Dadant of Dadant and Sons offered to provide a free PDF version of the April 2020 issue of the American Bee Journal to all beekeepers.

Our sincere appreciation and thanks to Gabe and to Eugene Makovec, the ABJ Editor, for their willingness and help to provide the free April 2020 issue.

I hope you enjoy this edition of American Bee Journal.

Corky Schnadt
President, Illinois State Beekeepers Association
www.ilsba.com



You can get a copy to read online or download at:

<https://americanbeejournal.com/free-april-2020-abj-download/>

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Website and Newsletter Submissions

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

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

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.

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. Lots of questions and answers about the Fall season and preparing for winter, robbing, etc. And LOTS of pictures!

Join the fun today!

The queen marking color for
2020 is BLUE.