THE MONTHLY PEEK into hive life

NORTHEASTERN INDIANA BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION – MARCH 2024

Our objective is to promote the art and skills of beekeeping in Indiana and throughout the world. By doing so, we preserve and improve the general environment in which we live, assist in providing better crop yield, provide high quality honey, and we do our part to preserve bees.

What's new in the March issue:

- President's Minutes
- New Members
- Calendar of Events
- Intermediate Beekeeping School
- Beginning Beekeeping School
- A Peek into Your Hive Life (Pictures from members)
- First Pollen
- February meeting recap
- Stahlman Beekeeping Issue 7, Vol 6 Anaphylaxis & that epi-pen
- Northern Beekeepers - Beware of the Ides of March
- Interesting Facts
- List of Officers
- American Bee Journal Subscription
- Bee Culture Subscription
- Places to buy bees, nucs and queens from our members
- Advertisements

From the Desk of the President: *Dr. Chris Lasalle*

March Presidential Minute 2024

Cold and blustery day as I write this. March weather is always interesting. So far in my apiary, the bees have been doing well with the mild winter. I saw pollen coming into the hives as of March 1. Smitty has seen pollen as early as February 26. I will be asking at the meeting when the earliest sighting was. We always like to keep an annual accounting. I noticed that the bees were really going through the candy. The hives do not feel light, but they love easy calories. I feel the mild winter has something to do with the eagerness for the extra food.

March is beginner's night. If you have family members or friends who are interested in beekeeping, this is the meeting to attend. I will be giving the beginning bee talk and there will be demonstrations of beekeeping equipment on hand. Membership in the club is not necessary for attendance, however, it is only $15 to join for the year.

Remember that we have the Intermediate Bee School coming up on March 16. This only requires one year of beekeeping experience. The cost is $65 and includes lunch. There will also be door prizes including a Nuc. This class will be before we have beginner's night on March 24th. Our beginning bee school will be on March 30th. The beginning bee school is $145. Price includes: instruction, hive box, bottom board, inner lid, outer lid, frames, foundation, hive tool, beginner's book, lunch, catalogs and one year membership to the Northeastern Indiana Beekeepers Association. A claw hammer, Tack hammer and a Square are needed for the class. There will be raffle/door prizes here as well.

Another reminder is we have a Trunk Sale 30 minutes before the meeting. If there is some bee equipment that you would like to sell – this is the time.

Swarm season is just around the corner. If you are interested in getting on the swarm list please call Rick Stephens 260-610-1040. Bees are not getting any cheaper and this is one of the best ways to increase your bee yard. Free is always a great price. Please try to be available as the bees will not wait. Despite their docile nature, a ball of bees always makes a homeowner very anxious. With the mild winter, I have a feeling that this will be a busy swarm season. We will be talking briefly about swarming at Beginner's Night.

Hope to see you all at the meeting.
Chris

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Bob Kokovay
Fort Wayne

Laurie Parmenter
Fort Wayne

Gary Patter
Columbia City

Chad & Christine Geiger
Avilla

Narottama Crowells
Roanoke

Emily Ahlersmeyer
Fort Wayne

Michael & Bridgette Bodeker
Fort Wayne

Larissa Martin
Fort Wayne

Ted Smeltzer
Grabill

Curt Luebbert
Fort Wayne

Jonas Schoenherr
Yoder

Don Williams
Fort Wayne

Steve Felton
Fort Wayne

Bradford Smith
Fort Wayne

Please *save the dates* for these important upcoming events:

March 16 - Saturday, Intermediate Bee School 9am to 3pm @ Classic Café. (One year of previous experience)
Fee: $65.00 single $75.00 husband/wife Includes: Lunch, Drawing for a Nuc and door prizes.

March 21 - Thursday, March NEIBA Club Meeting, 7pm @ Classic Café.
Topics: Beginner's Night with Dr. Chris LaSalle

March 30 - Saturday, Beginning Bee School 8am to 5pm @ Classic Café. Fee: $145.00 Includes: instruction from experienced beekeepers, hive box, bottom board, inner lid, outer lid, frames, foundation, hive tool, bee brush beginner's book, catalogs, lunch, and a one-year membership to the Northeastern Indiana Beekeepers Association. Call (260) 615-1863 to register by March 12th please.

April 18 - Thursday, April NEIBA Club Meeting, 7pm @ Classic Café

Topics:
- Nuc hives/Swarm Prevention/Expanding Hives
- Double Nucs
- Resource Hives

May 11 - Saturday May 11th, May Field Day + NEIBA Club Meeting, Buskirk Engineering

June – NO MEETING THIS MONTH

NORTHEASTERN INDIANA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Intermediate Bee School

Saturday March 16, 2024, 9AM to 3pm

CLASSIC CAFÉ

4828 Hillegas Road

Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Individual cost $65 Husband & Wife $75

Includes detailed beekeeping information, lunch, door prizes, and a chance to win a nucleus colony.

This class is for beekeepers with at least one (1) year of previous experience keeping bees.

The class is presented by experienced senior beekeepers from the club.

Registration deadline is March 1. For more information or registration contact:

Mike Miller (H) (260)493-0481 (C) 467-0640

E-mail: Beeman41747@G-mail.com

Beginning Beekeeping School 2024

Saturday March 30, 2024, 8 AM to 5 PM

Classic Café
4832 Hillegas Road
Fort Wayne IN 46818

COST $145.00

Price includes: instruction, hive box, bottom board, inner lid, outer lid, frames, foundation, hive tool, beginner's book, lunch, catalogs and one year membership to the Northeastern Indiana Beekeepers Association.

Class is taught by experienced beekeepers. Assembly/use of beekeeping equipment and how to keep honey bees is explained. A claw hammer, tack hammer and square are needed for the class. Door Prizes/Raffle of bee equipment.

Call 260-615-1863 to register. Payment is due by Wednesday, March 15. Class size is limited.

A Peek into Your Hive Life

PLEASE SEND PICTURES OF YOUR HIVES!!!

TO: meanqueenhoneyfarm@gmail.com or reidenbachjp@gmail.com

Pollen Colour Chart – South Staffordshire & District

Visit >

First Pollen

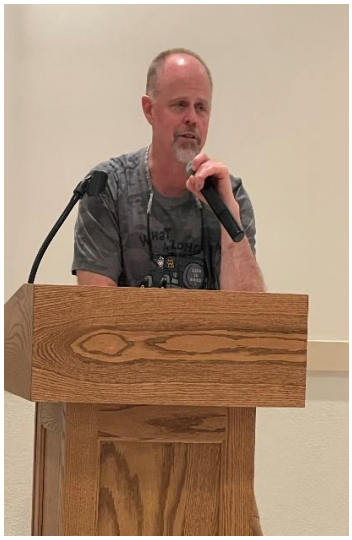
For the past 52 years the NEIBA has recorded the earliest date a member has reported seeing bees bringing pollen into the hive. In the coming weeks, as you see your bees flying, watch for pollen being brought into the hive and report the date by calling (leave a message) or texting 260-312-2998 or by email at jnywatch@gmail.com.

Thanks

John Minerd

THE FIRST POLLEN WAS REPORTED ON FEBRUARY 21 2024, BY STAN BAKER.

February meeting recap



Spring preparation with Chet Gilbert, Mike Miller and Brian Scott

Feeding bees – fondant, winter patties, sugar blocks, or sugar on newspaper
Do not feed liquid food until nighttime temperatures are at least 50 degrees or better

Putting out pollen substitute

If your bees died, think about ordering a nuc or a package of bees.

Hive maintenance

- replace rotted wood, repaint, repair boxes
- clean up super boxes
- scrape frames and add wax to foundations
- clean out dead bees in dead hives
- clean out dead bees from entrance to hives
- replace 2 new frames per year per box

Mid to late April check for queen. You should have multiple frames of brood. Cells should have one egg. Good laying pattern, a horseshoe or half moon pattern in the frames.

With honey, pollen and bee bread.

Start to look for swarm cells and consider splitting your hives.

If you buy a package or nuc, feed and treat for mites.

Most importantly get a Mentor!

STAHLMAN BEEKEEPING NOTES

2024 Vol 6
issue # 07

Published by Dana Stahlman Raleigh, North Carolina Email: stahlmanapiaries@aol.com
Published free as a public service to anyone interested in honeybees. Email me to be added to my mailing list. Published 2-17-24

Anaphylaxis & that Epi-Pen

The most common question asked of me is: "How many times have you been stung!" I used this statement in last weeks newsletter.

Some of you ask questions about how I come up with topics I write about. Last night I went to the Wake County Beekeepers meeting and sure enough I was given much to think about. There is an old saying "You can not teach an old dog new tricks." I appreciate new information and what is going on with current beekeeping news. I appreciate those of you that stop to say "hi!" and maybe ask a question or invite me to a beekeeping event.

So let me begin by sharing a little about the topic for this week. Wake County Beekeeper's Association speaker was Maureen Michele Petersen, MD. Her topic was anaphylaxis. This kind of fit in with comments I made last week about new beekeepers. The meeting included all the students signed up for the bee school. The room was packed.

Dr. Petersen talked for well over an hour and half about life-threatening insect allergies. There were tons of questions and answers (very technical in nature). In all my experience, I never was so glued to what a speaker had to say. I can say I am no expert and I lack knowledge on this topic.

I have never taken this subject very seriously. I never ever included this topic when I was helping organize and develop a bee school. In those days we (the bee school committee) did not want to say anything that would scare away new beekeepers.

Thus, after many years of working with bees and listening to various kinds of comments about stings, I walked out of the meeting with a new understanding of "What is a serious reaction to a bee sting compared to anaphylaxis?" I learned quite a bit about Benadryl and Epinephrine (EpiPen).

A few things I can share with you. First, I am not making any suggestion for what one should do! I am not a medical doctor! I will stick with facts:

- No one should handle an EpiPen without knowing how to use it. Yes - there is a right and a wrong way to use it. Read the directions on the label.
- The difference between anaphylaxis and a severe reaction was explained:

- **Anaphylaxis involves at least two (multi-systemic allergic reactions) – Life-threatening symptoms were described and involved a number of body functions and systems.**
- **The list she shared is somewhat long but include some of the following:**
  - **Central nervous system (lightheadedness, loss of consciousness, confusion, headache, anxiety)**
  - **Swelling of the conjunctiva – a thin clear membrane that protects your eye.**
  - **Swelling of lips, tougue and/or throat.**
  - **Fast or slow heart rate – low blood pressure.**
  - **Shortness of breath, wheezes or stridor (A high-pitched, whistling sound most often heard while taking in a breath.**
  - **Pain with swallowing. Also coughing**
  - **Hives, itchiness, flushing (Person's skin, face or body becomes red and hot)**
  - **Gastroinstinal issues such as abdominal pain (cramping), diarrhea, vomiting and loss of bladder control**
- **Then severe reactions –**
  - **Any continous swelling or pain – she emphasized continous. Such as a bee sting on the hand that continued to spread but was confined to hand and or arm. No other reactions involved such as listed above. She explained it takes two separate reactions to be considered anaphylaxis.**

What I took out of the talk:

- **People (beekeepers included) should take a bee sting seriously!**
- **Action for someone showing signs such as listed under anaphylaxis should be taken seriously and help sought immediately.**
- **It is good to have an epi-pen but it is not the solution to all bee stings. I was surprised to hear about the infectiveness of Benadryl! I had always been told that Benadryl was the solution to control reactions to bee stings.**

If one does have serious reactions to stings or think they may have – see your doctor - (Allergist/Immunologist).

I would like to thank the person or group that selected this speaker and topic to start off the bee season. Anyone taking on the hobby of keeping honey bees should know what they are dealing with. After many years of being stung – I have become somewhat negligent about what could happen to anyone visiting my bees. I am going to change that practice. I can remember when Five County Beekeeper's Association required any one entering the club beeyard to sign a waver so the club could avoid being sued. That would be a good option for beekeepers as well.

Based upon what I heard, if one does have a serious reaction they can get venom immunotherapy (VIT).

Dr. Petersen's talk was worth far more than the cost of my yearly membership. Even a person with allergies to bee stings -- help is available to allow a person to keep and enjoy beekeeping. Her talk reminded me of an incident that happened in Texas in 1994. Briefly the trial court found a beekeeper, a commercial beekeeper and a partner of the commercial beekeeper responsible for

the death from a bee sting a helper received while helping a commercial beekeeper move hives of bees. The jury trial was held in Texas. That jury found that all (the beekeeper who sold the hives being picked up, the commercial beekeeper and a partner) responsible and liable for a helper's death. The jury awarded compensatory damages to appellees (wife and children) in the amount of $1,591,000.00 and also assessed exemplary damages of $75,000 against each. The case was appealed and finally settled in 2003.

What really stands out in this case is: The case file which I downloaded reviews the meaning of anaphylaxis which an expert witness testified is not uncommon and considering the factors involved – including whether one party had superior knowledge of the risk or the right to control the actor who caused the harm. The actor in this case the bee. According to an expert witness – "We know it's potential –anaphylaxis – It's potentially a hazard for anyone working with bees." The appeals court ruled that anaphylactic shock as a result of a bee sting is not rare and found the evidence both factually and legally sufficient to support the jury's verdict.

Gross Negligence played a role in the jury's verdict. "Gross negligence" means more than momentary thoughtlessness, inadvertence, or error of judgment. It means such an entire want of care as to establish that the act or ommission in questions was the result of actual conscious indifference to the right, welfare or safety of the person affected by it."

The good samaritan defense the appeals court ruled did not apply to this case. Appellant was not sued for damages resuting from acts that he performed during the emergency; but rather, he was sued for damages that resulted from those acts he was under a duty to perform but failed to perform.

After years, the Wilhelm v. Flores Case was finally over. The Conclusion, the beekeeper who sold the bees was not held responsible for the $75,000 – amount for gross negligence. The court affirmed the remainder of the judgement in all other respects. To get a pdf file, down load a summary of this case. No.13-98-148-CV Court of Appeals of Texas, Thirteenth District, corpus Christi – Edinburg Wilhelm v. Flores.

<u>I am not an attorney and I am not acting as one.</u> But I did hear Dr. Petersen say <u>do something</u>. Lay a person down and raise their feet so blood oxygen levels settles in the head instead of the feet. Use the Epi-Pen (one should consider getting permission from a parent for a child). However, calling for Emergency Assistance and getting a person showing signs of "anaphylactic shock" help-- is a good samaritan action. Use the Epi-Pen correctly – don't stab the victim with it. Hold it to their body- follow the directions on the pen.

So much for learning something really important! (Life or death situations)

Northern beekeepers: beware the Ides of March

66 Comments • 5 min read • 7 years ago

As a beekeeper, I have a phobia about the six-week period from mid-March until the end of April. If I were to tally all the colonies I've ever lost, I'm sure the majority succumbed in that early-spring window. Considering that the first day of spring falls around March 20, it seems like a strange time to lose a colony. After all, they made it to spring. But that is the mindset that can get folks like me in trouble. Since it's spring, I don't have to worry. Right?

Wrong. Two things, especially in northern areas, can combine to cause trouble. Thing number one is the expanding population of your colony, and thing number two is quirky weather patterns. The third of two things is the broody nature of worker bees, which makes everything worse. Let me explain.

Contraction and expansion

Beginning in autumn, after the workers have evicted the drones, the colony holes up for winter. Depending on your area, brood rearing is minimal or may stop altogether. Even though you have a colony of long-lived winter bees, some die, and the colony slowly decreases in size. The bees require food to produce heat and keep the colony warm. The amount of food they require fluctuates with the temperature, but it stays relatively constant over the months.

But soon after the winter solstice, the queen increases her egg laying. The brood nest expands, which requires more food, and the adult population increases, which requires even more. Let's say, just for the sake of argument, that your colony overwintered with 10,000 bees. If, come March, you reach 20,000 bees, the colony will require twice as much food per day. If the number is 30,000 bees, the colony will need three times as much.

Things we can't see get ignored

We beekeepers can get into trouble because, from the outside, the colony doesn't look much different than it did all winter. Although I hate to admit it, this is the mistake I've made.

For example, after one particularly poor nectar year, all my colonies were short on stores even though I harvested nothing. During fall and winter, I checked the feeders and candy boards once every ten days. I calendared the schedule and every ten days, just like clockwork, I took a quick peak under the hood. Anyone running low received extra sugar cakes. All my colonies were thriving by April.

But because I forget what was going on inside, I continued the ten-day check until I discovered my largest colony completely dead. They starved to death in a cold snap and there wasn't a thimbleful of food to be found. I freaked. Three deeps of dead bees is not a pretty sight, and it still makes me angry to think about it. How could I be so dense? The number of bees had probably quadrupled while I was still feeding at the same rate.

Hens in the beehive

The only consolation I have is that I've heard this same story from other beekeepers. We get busy, we operate on a schedule, we travel, we get caught up with day-to-day details, and we stop thinking. *Thinking* about this for two minutes would have prevented the loss.

If you get a cold snap, which can happen easily in spring, things can get bad even faster. Honey bees are not very good at leaving the cluster to find food, which is why so many colonies starve when food is only a frame or two away. But the situation is even worse when brood is present. Just like a coop full of broody hens, worker bees don't like to leave the young'uns to go in search of sustenance. Apparently, systems are in place for this contingency: some bees retrieve food and bring it back to the nest. But if the nest is large and the temperature is low, the colony may not survive.

About the Ides of March

My husband is a piece of work, one of those guys who sees the bright side of everything. If there is something to celebrate—and his imagination knows no bounds—he will discover it and we will celebrate. So, for as long as I can remember, I've been caught up in celebrating the Ides of March just because we can. (In case you forgot, the Ides of March is the 15th, one day after pi day, which we also celebrate.)

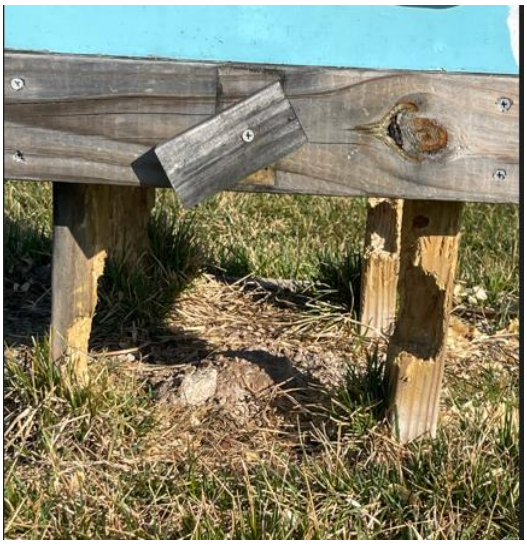
Anyway, since I'm not allowed to forget the Ides of March, I've tried to associate it with more frequent hive checks. Because it sounds kind of ominous—Beware! —the date reminds me that it's time to pay closer attention. Of course, the magic date for you will vary with your latitude, elevation, and local climate. But if you can, build a memory cue into your life, one that will remind you of things you can't easily see.

Now, go take care of your bees. After that, you too can celebrate.

Rusty
Honey Bee Suite

FORT WAYNE HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

THIS YEAR THE SHOW WAS PACKED. THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE INTERESTED IN BEEKEEPING AND WE HOPE THEY COME TO THE BEGINNER'S NIGHT.



JUST A NOTE: WHILE CHECKING OUR HIVES ONE DAY I NOTICED A SQUIRREL UNDER THE HIVES. I HAD NOTICED HIM OTHER TIMES BUT PAID NO ATTENTION TO HIM. THIS IS WHAT HE WAS UP TO. LUCKILY, WE WERE ABLE TO FIX THIS BEFORE THE HIVE FELL OVER. YOU MIGHT CHECK YOURS.

INTERESTING FACTS ON BEEKEEPING

A honey bee worker only makes an average of 1/12 of a teaspoon in her lifetime. One ounce of honey would fuel a bees flight around the world. A pound honey is made by 2 million flower visits. The bees fly 55,000 miles back and forth to bring that honey.

Do bees go to sleep at night?

Yes they do sleep and we know this because of the efforts of a researcher called Walter Kaiser who in 1983 observed bees in his hive stop moving and made a new discovery: that honeybees slept. As he watched, Kaiser noted how a bee's legs would first start to flex, bringing its head to the floor. Oct 23, 2019

Can bees hear you?

Bees can hear sounds, but their auditory system is different from that of humans. Bees have tympanal ears, which are located on their front legs, which they use to detect sounds. They can hear in the range of about 200 Hz to 600 Hz, which is lower than the range of human hearing. Jan 25, 2023

What do bees love most?

Bees are particularly attracted to bee balm, echinacea, snapdragon, and hostas, as well as a number of other wildflowers like California poppies and evening primrose. Fun fact: Did you know that bees have excellent color vision? For this reason, they flock to yellow, purple, blue, and white flowers. Jul 28, 2023

Can a bee remember me?

Bees are intelligent animals that likely feel pain, remember patterns and odors and even recognize human faces. They can solve mazes and other problems and use simple tools. Research shows that bees are self-aware and may even have a primitive form of consciousness. May 26, 2023

Can bees sense if you're scared?

All species of bees have a distinct sense of smell and are able to detect predators and any threats to their hive. So while bees cannot necessarily “smell” fear, they do have a way of detecting it and communicating that fear with the hive! May 23, 2022

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M00081

★★★★★ 3 Reviews

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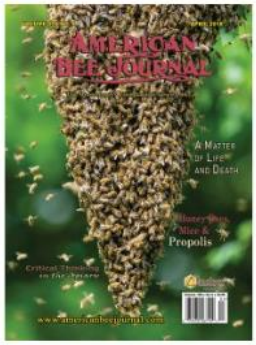

American Bee Journal Back Issue 1 - 5 Years

M00087

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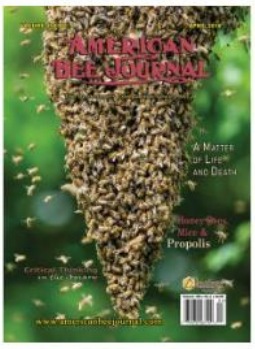

American Bee Journal Single Back Issue - Current Year

M00086

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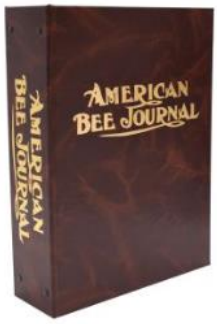

Binder for American Bee Journal

M00080

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M000851

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Payments can now be made online. An app called Cheddar Up on the NEIBA web site is now being used. To sign up - set up a username and password, you can also pay as a guest if you don't want to sign up. There is a small transaction fee.

Here is a list of members selling Nucs, Packages of bees and Queens:

Wheeler Bees	Ossian 260-223-7354
Carter Bees	Auburn 260-573-3812
McComBees Apiaries	Yoder 260-638-4943
Apis Enterprises	Ashley 260-668-0950
Tony Rekeweg	Decatur 260-223-8158
Tracey Richardville	NE Fort Wayne 260-452-8501
Bee Great Company	Churubusco 260-229-8356
Sweet Sammy Sue Apiary	Fort Wayne 260-402-1006

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Ossian, IN 46777

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