



The Buzz

November 2015

Newsletter for the Cook Dupage Beekeepers Association
An Affiliate of Illinois State Beekeepers Association

Monthly Meeting

The Cook Dupage Beekeepers will hold their November meeting on the evening of November 21st at Christ Lutheran Church of Clarendon Hills, located on the northwest corner of Rt. 83 and 55th Street. The doors open at 6:30 pm and the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Please come early to chat with fellow beekeepers and bring a snack to share if you wish.

*NOTE: This is the last meeting of 2015.

The program for the evening:

- Treasurer & Membership report
- General updates and announcements from President, Pete Soltesz
- Vote on the updated CDBA Constitution & Bylaws
- Speaker Namaan Gambill, head beekeeper of Westside Bee Boyz
- What's the Buzz Q&A where members ask questions and a pre-selected panel provides answers
- Chores of the Month

Purdue University's Bee Hive Website

Purdue University's Entomology Department has an informative website, The Bee Hive. For information regarding the work they do in the Hunt Bee Lab, including bee genetics, behavioral genomics, mite resistance, links to local (Indiana)beekeepers, as well as general beekeeping information and resource links, please click below:

<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/beehive/index.htm>

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CDBA Constitution & Bylaws

Club members will vote to install the updated Constitution & Bylaws at the November 21st meeting. The CDBA board made changes to the Constitution & Bylaws twice in 2015. Please familiarize yourself with our Constitution. The notable change for this update is the addition of meetings in 2015 for the months of June, July and August.

Click here for the proposed CDBA Constitution & Bylaws:

<http://cookdupagebeekeepers.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/By-laws-proposed-final-100115.pdf>

Happy Thanksgiving!

On behalf of the CDBA Board, we'd like to wish you and your families a peaceful, safe and Happy Thanksgiving!



Chores of the Month

Cold weather is right around the corner. Here are some steps to help get your hives ready for winter:

- Apply winter protection, wrap the colony or use some other form of insulation for winter. You may consider insulating your top cover.
- Remove Apistan strips and menthol packets after a minimum six week treatment.
- Consider providing a windbreak for bees on north or west side of hives if they are open to the wind (a snow fence or some other protection).
- Check that an entrance reducer is in place to help keep the small critters out of the hive. Mice love to over winter in a nice warm and snuggly hive.
- The hive entrance should be reduced to the smallest opening. This helps prevent robbing and keeps the mice out.
- Be sure to renew your annual Apiary Registration with the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
- Clean excess propolis off the top bars of the upper hive body with your hive tool. It's much easier to do in cold weather.



The Science Behind Honey's Eternal Shelf Life

A slew of factors—its acidity, its lack of water and the presence of hydrogen peroxide—work in perfect harmony, allowing the sticky treat to last forever

This article is from Smithsonian.com. It delves into why honey lasts forever and explains the chemical makeup of the sticky food. See below for an excerpt from the article and click on the link for the full text.

Modern archeologists, excavating ancient Egyptian tombs, have often found something unexpected amongst the tombs' artifacts: [pots of honey, thousands of years old, and yet still preserved](#). Through millennia, the archeologists discover, the food remains unspoiled, an unmistakable testament to the eternal shelf-life of honey.

There are a few other examples of foods that keep—indefinitely—in their raw state: salt, sugar, dried rice are a few. But there's something about honey; it can remain preserved in a completely edible form, and while you wouldn't want to chow down on raw rice or straight salt, one could ostensibly dip into a thousand year old jar of honey and enjoy it, without preparation, as if it were a day old. Moreover, honey's longevity lends it other properties—[mainly medicinal](#)—that other resilient foods don't have.

Honey has been used for centuries as a medicinal remedy. Because it's so thick, rejects any kind of growth and contains hydrogen peroxide, it creates the perfect barrier against infection for wounds. [The earliest recorded use of honey for medicinal purposes](#) comes from Sumerian clay tablets, which state that honey was used in 30 percent of prescriptions. The ancient Egyptians [used medicinal honey regularly](#), making ointments to treat skin and eye diseases.

Click here for the full article: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-science-behind-honeys-eternal-shelf-life-1218690/?no-ist>

Geiling, Natasha. "The Science Behind Honey's Eternal Shelf Life." Smithsonian.com., August 22, 2013. Brian Wolly, Digital Editor

Building a Windbreak

You might consider building a windbreak around your hives to protect them from prevailing winter winds. You may have already done so by placing your hives in a naturally protected area. If not, you can create a temporary windbreak. Some options include: Wooden sticks or posts with plastic sheeting, hay bales, or pieces of privacy fence. You should ensure that:

- You call Julie before hammering anything into the ground
- The windbreak is taller than the hive, by approximately a foot
- Place the break a few feet from the hive. Putting it too close can cause the wind to be directed up through the screened bottom of the hive
- Make it three sided so that the bees can still come and go on warmer days



Did you Know? Bees in the Colonies

In honor of Thanksgiving it seemed apropos to touch on the history of honeybees in North America. Honeybees are not native to North America but rather were imported by European colonists. There weren't honeybees in North America until 1622. The first bees came over from England and were brought up the James River in Virginia. These bees then helped to populate the continent. For a time, when the colonies had an import embargo against England, honey, along with maple syrup, became an important sweetener. Also, beeswax was a much used byproduct. Between 1740 and 1744, 8,000 lbs of beeswax were shipped out of Yorktown. The wax was used for candles, shoe polish and to coat the insides of wine kegs for waterproofing.

Krebs, Bill. "Bees in the Colonies." Interview. Audio blog post. *Bees in the Colonies*. Colonial Williamsburg, 5 Oct. 2009.

The CDBA October Banquet was a Success!

On Saturday, October 17, the CDBA held their annual October banquet. This year's speaker was Krispn Given from Purdue University. Krispn gave a wonderfully informative presentation with an emphasis on the benefits of the "chewing" or "mite-bitter" bees they are working to breed in the Purdue Entomology department. The CDBA thanks Krispn for his program. We also enjoyed a delicious dinner, various door prizes were awarded and a donated (used) four frame extractor was raffled off. Congratulations to John T. and John F. Rolowicz for winning the extractor. Thank you to all members who attended this year's banquet!

Mark your Calendars

- November 14: Museum Guild Bazaar at Dupage Historical Museum in Wheaton
- November 14: Urban Composting, Chicago Botanic Garden
- November 19 – January 3: Christmas Around the World, Museum of Science and Industry
- November 27: Downtown Holiday Walk, Glenn Ellyn
- November 27-December 24: Christkindlmarket, Oak Brook Mall
- December 1: Poinsettia Sale, Cantigny Park
- December 5: Farmside Christmas, Fischer Farm, Bensenville



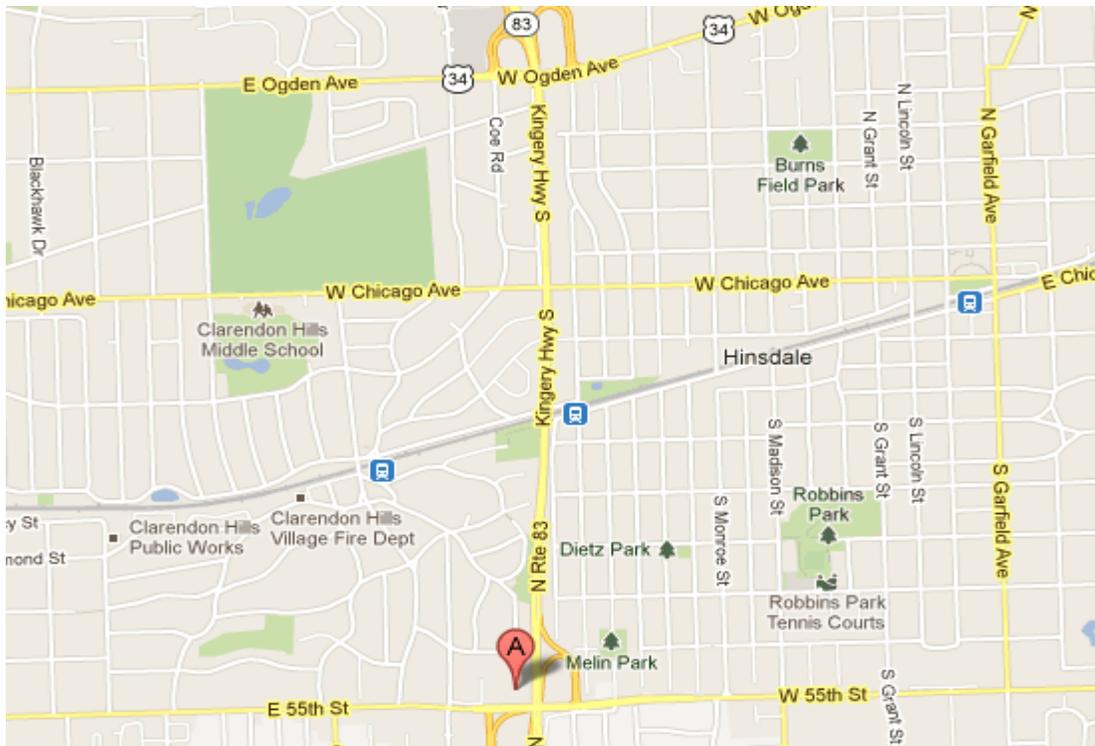
CDBA Executive Board

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| President | Peter Soltesz |
| Vice President | John Hansen |
| Secretary | Jennifer Colandrea |
| Treasurer | Jacque Schuelke |
| Director (2015) | Matt Schmitz |
| Director (2017) | Kim Kulton |
| Director (2017) | Thad Smith |

Committee Chairs

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Membership | Jacque Schuelke |
| Webmaster | Joe Slowinski |
| Newsletter Editors | K.Kulton/J.Colandrea |
| Sergeant At Arms | Ed Borsuk |
| Hosts | Tony Duchinsky |
| | Mary Duchinsky |
| | Gary McMahon |

CDBA Monthly Meeting, Saturday, November 21, 2015
Christ Lutheran Church of Clarendon Hills
at the 60 –55th St. at the northwest corner of 83rd and 55th St...



[Link to map on Google Maps](#)