



The Buzz

March 2016

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

Meeting Update

The Cook DuPage Beekeepers Association will hold the next scheduled meeting on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at Christ Lutheran Church of Clarendon Hills, located on the northwest corner of Rte. 83 and 55th Street. Doors open at 6:30pm and the meeting starts at 7:00pm. If you plan to renew your membership prior to the meeting, arrive a few minutes early. Also, please consider bringing a snack or beverage to share.

Note: We will have a limited supply of pollen patties for sale.

Member Survey

In an effort to learn more about our members' hives, beginning April 1, plan on taking a short eight question survey on the website. The goal is to learn more about winter loss, hive pests and management right here in the back yards of CDBA club members. The results will be made available for all members.

2016 Membership Renewal

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their CDBA membership for 2016. If you haven't yet, you can pay now online or at the March meeting. For more information, please click below:

<http://www.cookdupagebeekeepers.com/about-us/how-to-join/>

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Beekeeping Donkey?

A beekeeper in Brazil has an interesting partner: Boneco, the beekeeping donkey who wears his own bee suit!

<http://www.treehugger.com/culture/honey-farmer-creates-beekeeping-suit-his-donkey.html>



Chores of the Month

March is the time for the beekeeper to kick it into high gear. The new beekeeping season is almost upon us and you want to be ready.

In our area it is time to:

- Finish repairing and assembling your equipment. Be sure you have enough bottom boards, hive bodies, inner covers, frames and telescoping outer covers. The hive bodies and supers may be painted to protect them from the elements, or camouflage them into the background.
- Identify where you are going to put your hives. Exposure to the south or east establishes a good location for the hive, especially if it is protected from the north and west winds.
- If you are placing hives in a new location, check the local ordinances to be sure that bees are allowed in your location.
- As the weather warms, remove the winter wrappings if you applied them last year.
- On a warm sunny day, do a quick hive inspection to determine the status of the hive. Feed if necessary and if the queen has laid a lot of eggs in the upper brood chamber, reverse the chambers to provide more room for brood so you get a good build up.
- Check the hives for lost colonies. Identify the reason and prepare the hive for a new colony.
- If feeding is necessary, continue with a candy board or granulated sugar. Be prepared to switch over to a 1–1 sugar water solution. If you are in doubt, feed your bees. Late winter and early spring are still dangerous time for starvation.
- Feed the bees some protein: place a pollen patty in the hive to help build up the colony. There are thoughts that pollen patties can aid in improving the health of the bees.
- If you have determined you will treat your bees for foulbrood and nosema, now is a good time to do so. Follow the directions for using Terramycin or Fumagillin.



Mushroom Beehives Could be the Solution to Colony Collapse

Remember Paul Stamets, the guy who holds the patent that could destroy Monsanto? After partnering with an entomologist, he discovered that a certain type of mushroom can protect bees from viruses, pesticides, AND mites!

Life without [bees](#) isn't life at all. Seriously, have you considered just [how empty supermarkets would be](#) if the tiny, bumbling insects went extinct?

Since the 1980's, [bee populations](#) have diminished dramatically. At least 61 culprits – from viruses to pesticides – have been blamed, but scientists are still groping for answers.

One culprit in particular – the mite – is thought to be a major contributor to colony collapse. Because the *varroa destructor* mite's life is so short-lived, it has been able to evolve and [develop resistance to pesticides](#) that have been previously able to control it.

Thankfully, a solution to the catastrophe may already exist. It just took a mushroom expert and a scientist to discover it.

Click for the full article: <http://www.trueactivist.com/mushroom-beehives-could-be-the-solution-to-colony-collapse/>

Amanda Froelich. "Mushroom Beehives Could Be The Solution To Colony Collapse." *Mushroom Beehives Could Be The Solution To Colony Collapse*. True Activist, 3 Mar. 2016. Web. 9 Mar. 2016.

CDBA Board Positions Needed

We are looking to fill two board positions: CDBA Treasurer and a Director position. We thank Jacquie Schuelke for all her hard work as CDBA Treasurer and we wish her well in the future. That being said, we are in need of a new Treasurer. Do you excel at financial bookkeeping? Would you like to provide an essential service by donating your time to the CDBA? If so, we want you!

We are also looking to fill a Director position. Thad Smith is stepping down and we thank him for his service. If you have ideas to share, can provide input on Club initiatives, and are willing to volunteer your time while working with a great group of people, please join us!

If you are interested in either position, please send an email to jen.colandrea@yahoo.com for consideration by the Board.

Calling All "Toolmakers"

The CDBA Board wants to feature our own members for a show and tell segment at an upcoming meeting (April/May). If you have created some kind of handy tool or process to help with beekeeping, we'd like you to bring it to a meeting and show it off so that other Club members might benefit from your ingenuity. Put your thinking caps on and stay tuned for the planned meeting date!



Recipe-Honey Buttermilk Scones



Quick and easy scones, filled with lots of diced apple, flavored with buttermilk and sweetened only with honey. You don't even have to peel the apples!

- 3/4 cup buttermilk (or 3/4 cup milk with 2 1/4 tsp. lemon juice - let stand 5 minutes)
- 1/4 cup liquid honey
- 2 1/4 all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/2 cup cold butter, cut into cubes
- 1 1/2 cups diced red apple, skin left on
- 1 Tbsp. heavy cream, half and half or milk, for brushing tops before baking

Click here for the full instructions:

<http://www.seasonsandsuppers.ca/honey-apple-buttermilk-scones/>

Mark your Calendar

Note: Many Classes below taught by CDBA Members

- **3/19-3/20:** Beginning Beekeeping, Cook County Farm Bureau
- **4/19:** Advanced Beekeeping, Cook County Farm Bureau
- **4/23:** Hands on Mentoring, Downers Grove Park District, Lyman Woods
- **Spring 2016-** Beekeepers at work- Garfield Park Conservatory

Links:

- <http://www.dgparks.org/calendar>
- <http://www.cookcfb.org/events/Beginning-Beekeeping-Course---Saturday--Sunday- 261>
- <http://www.garfieldconservatory.org/programs/growing-and-green-living.html>

CDBA Executive Board

President	Peter Soltesz
Vice President	John Hansen
Secretary	Jennifer Colandrea
Treasurer	Jacque Schuelke/Open
Director (2017)	Kim Kulton
Director (2018)	John Hayse
Director (TBD)	Open

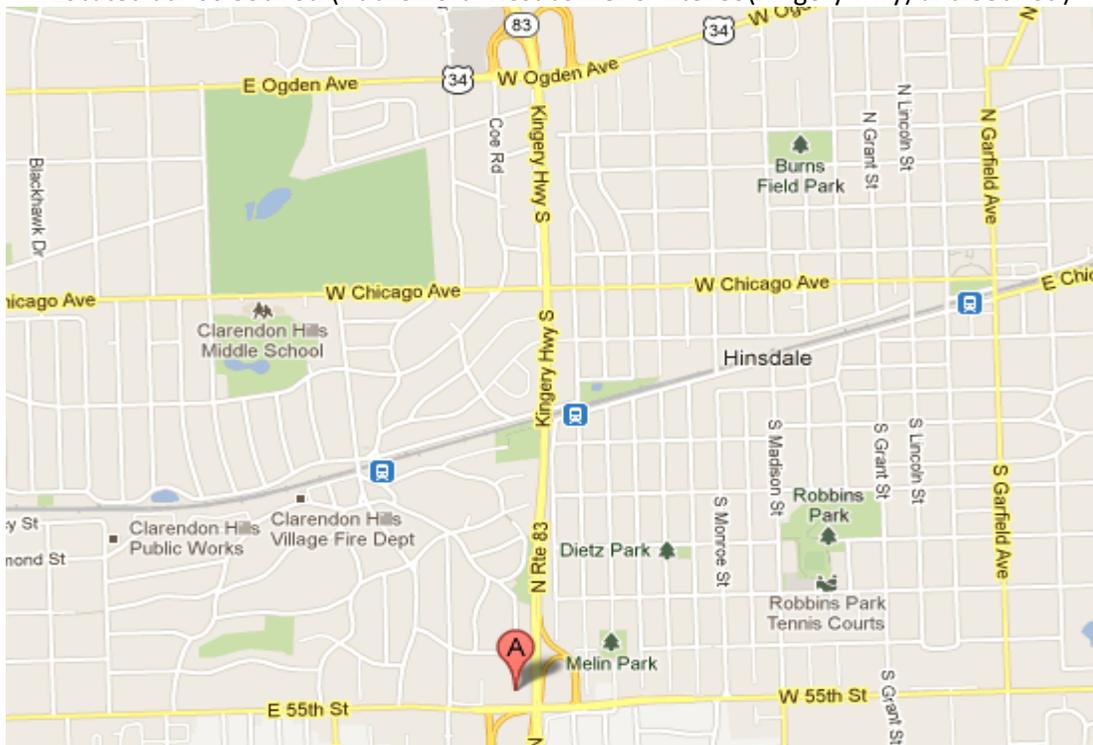
Committee Chairs

Membership	John Hayse
Webmaster	Neil Sexton
Newsletter Editors	K.Kulton/J.Colandrea
Sergeant At Arms	Ed Borsuk
Education	Omar Kamara

CDBA Monthly Meeting, Saturday, March 19, 2016

Christ Lutheran Church of Clarendon Hills

Located at: 60 55th St. (At the northwest corner of Rte. 83(Kingery Hwy) and 55th St.)



[Link to map on Google Maps](#)