



The Buzz

March 2017

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

Membership Renewals

Please renew your membership to the Cook DuPage Beekeepers Association for 2017. Click [here to renew online](#). Renewal forms will also be available at our March meeting. Plan on arriving early if you'd like to renew before the meeting.

2017 Package Bee Update

Package bees and queens will arrive area in two shipments:

- 2lb package: April 7 to 17
- 3lb package: April 27 to May 7
- Unmarked Queens: April 27 to May 7

Click [here](#) for more information. Pick up location is Trinity Lutheran School in Burr Ridge. An email will be sent with the location and a map prior to the pickup dates.

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March Meeting Update

The March general meeting will be held **Saturday, March 18** at Christ Lutheran Church of Clarendon Hills located on the northwest corner of Rte. 83 and 55th Street. The doors open at 6:30p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:00p.m. Please consider bringing a snack to share with fellow friends.



Chores of the Month

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

In our area it is time to:

- Repair and assemble the equipment. Be sure you have enough bottom boards, hive bodies, inner covers, frames and telescoping outer covers. Paint hive bodies and supers to protect them from the elements, or camouflage them into the background.
- Identify the best location for your hives. Exposure to the south or east is preferable, 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.
- 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 on if the bees should be fed, do it. Late winter and early spring are still dangerous times and starvation can occur.
- Feed the bees protein: place a pollen patty in the hive to help build up the colony. There are thoughts that a pollen patty can improve 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.
- As the weather warms, remove any winter wrappings.



A Bee Mogul Confronts the Crisis in His Field

Beekeeping on an industrial scale is central to American agriculture, and “colony collapse” has proved to be a severe test.

KERN COUNTY, Calif. — A soft light was just beginning to outline the Tejon Hills as Bret Adee counted rows of wizened almond trees under his breath. He placed a small white flag at the end of every 16th row to show his employees where they should place his beehives. Every so often, he fingered the buds on the trees. “It won’t be long,” he said.

Mr. Adee (pronounced Ay-Dee) is America’s largest beekeeper, and this is his busy season. Some 92,000 hives had to be deployed before those buds burst into blossom so that his bees could get to the crucial work of pollination. But it is notable that he has a business at all. For the last decade, a mysterious plague has killed billions of bees every year. “Every year at this time of year, we wonder are there going to be enough bees,” said Bob Curtis, director of agricultural affairs at the Almond Board, a trade group for almond growers.

Pollination services, as the bees’ work is known in the industry, has risen this year to between \$180 to \$200 a hive from an average of \$154 a hive in 2006, Mr. Curtis said. There would be no almond crop — not to mention avocados, apples, cherries and alfalfa — without honeybees. Of the 100 crops that account for 90 percent of the food eaten around the globe, 71 rely on bee pollination, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Demand for Mr. Adee’s bees is soaring in part because a poorly understood plague, known as colony collapse, has decimated the nation’s bee population in the last decade. The cause is widely debated: Some cite climate change affecting habitat, others the proliferation of certain pesticides, but most believe the problem has multiple factors.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

Mark your Calendar

- **3/11:** Beginning Beekeeping, Cook County Farm Bureau
- **Ongoing thru March:** Lyman Woods, Downers Grove Beekeeping Classes & Events
- **3/26:** 8th Annual Bee Forum, Garfield Park
- **March:** Classes listed on ISBA website

Links:

- [Beginning Beekeeping Cook County Farm Bureau](#)
- [Lyman Woods March Beekeeping Classes](#)
- [Garfield Park Conservatory Bee Forum](#)
- [Classes listed on ISBA website](#)

Register your Hives with the IL Department of Agriculture

In compliance with the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act, every person keeping bees must register with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. There is no charge for registration. Click [here](#) for the form.

Register with Field Watch

Field Watch is a communication tool that enables crop producers, beekeepers, and pesticide applicators to work together to protect specialty crops and apiaries through the use of mapping programs. Consider registering your hives. It's free. To sign up, click [here](#).

Scientists Taught Bees to Play Soccer. And then the Bees Taught their Friends

Yes, those bees are playing soccer in the picture to the right. And they score goals. [Click here](#) to find out how researchers accomplished this feat.

Redesigned CDBA Website

Have you seen our newly redesigned CDBA website? Our Webmaster, Neil Sexton, has been hard at work. [Check it out!](#)

Honey/Peanut Butter Protein Energy Treats



Prep Time (including chilling time): 50 min/2 dozen

Ingredients:

- 1¼ cup - old fashioned oats
- 3 tablespoons - shredded coconut
- ½ cup - sliced almonds, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon - hemp seeds, shelled (optional)
- 1 scoop - whey protein powder
- ½ cup - honey
- ½ cup - dried apricots, chopped
- ½ cup - peanut butter

Directions:

In a medium bowl add the oats, coconut, almonds, hemp seeds and protein powder. Stir until well distributed. Add the honey, apricots and peanut butter and stir well. Put mixing bowl into the refrigerator for about 20 to 30 minutes. Then roll into rounded balls. When chilled, they can last about 5 days.



CDBA Executive Board

President	Peter Soltesz
Vice President	John Hansen
Secretary	Jennifer Colandrea
Treasurer	John Hayse
Director (2017)	Kim Kulton
Director (2017)	Bill Whitney
Director (2017)	Neil Sexton

Committee Chairs

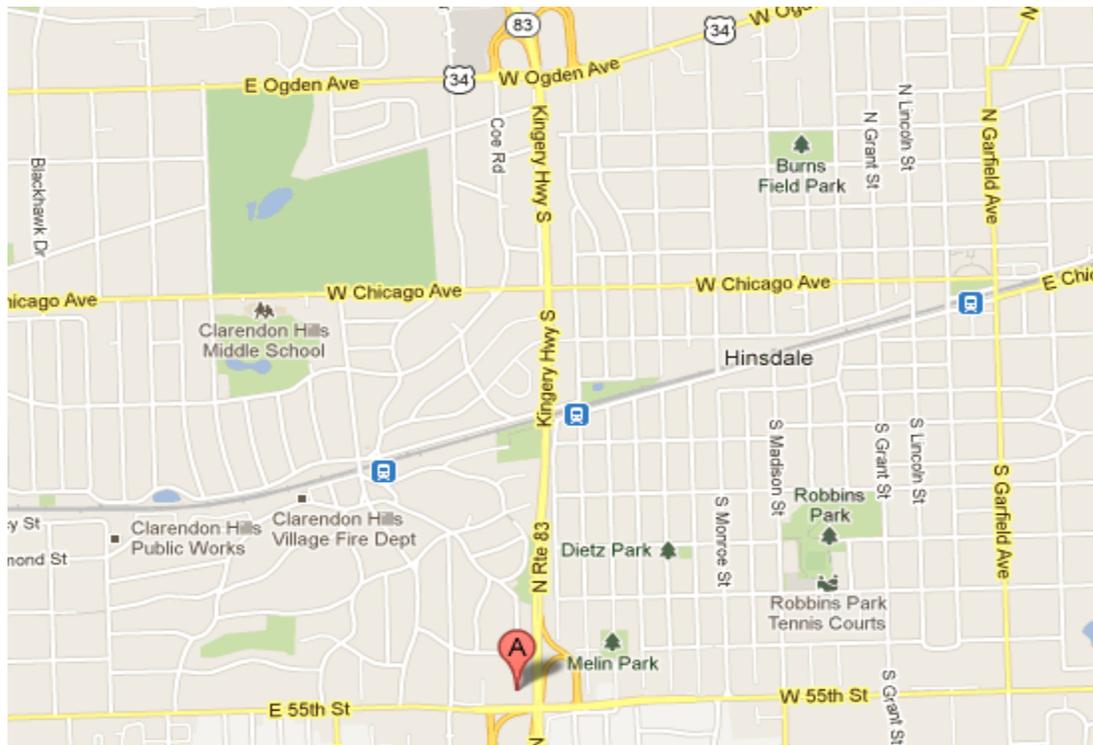
Membership	John Hayse
Webmaster	Neil Sexton
Newsletter Editors	K.Kulton/J.Colandrea
Sergeant At Arms	Ed Borsuk
Education	Omar Kamara
Hosts	Mary&Tony Duchinsky

Upcoming Meeting:

CDBA March Meeting, Saturday, March 18, 2017

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](#)