
From: Cook DuPage Beekeepers Association
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 7:55 PM
To: NeilSexton
Subject: CDBA June 2017 Buzz Newsletter and Annual Picnic Reminder



The Buzz

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

June 2017

June Reminder

- There will not be an evening meeting in June due to the annual picnic on June, 17.

June Annual Picnic Update

The CDBA **Annual June Picnic** will be held at the **York Woods** Forrest Preserve in Oak Brook on **Saturday, June 17**, from 11-3pm. The CDBA will

provide entrées and members are asked to bring salads and desserts. Click [here](#) to RSVP online. **We must receive your RSVP by Friday, June 2.** Jana Kinsman from Bike-A-Bee will join us to talk about urban beekeeping.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Watch Bees Freshen Up

Watch this video from the New York Times to see how much pollen is actually on a bee and how they "freshen up." Click [here](#).

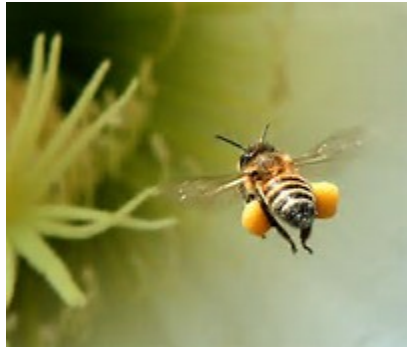


Chores of the Month: June

The nectar flow is in full swing at this point and the prudent beekeeper is watching their hives to make sure there is room for brood and storage. It's also a time when the bees like to spread their wings and look to divide the colony by swarming. In our area it's time to:

- **SUPER UP** – keep an eye on the hive to make sure the bees have room to store the honey and pollen. The super can fill quickly so a weekly review is suggested to make sure you are ahead of the colony.
- Trim the grass/weeds around your hive. Keeping the vegetation low around the hives will give your bees a clear flight path to the hive, and makes finding a dropped hive tool and other beekeeping paraphernalia easy to spot when dropped. It also helps keep the air flow open around the hive and doesn't block the circulation to those who are using a ventilated bottom board.
- Watch for warm weather. Your bees do their darnedest to keep the hive at the right temperature and you can help them out by making sure that the hive has the opportunity to get plenty of air.

- **Keep an eye out for swarm cells and take appropriate action if you are see the cells beginning.**
- **Review the various pests and diseases that can infect your hive and bee on the lookout for the warning signs.**



U.S. Beekeepers Lost 33 Percent of Bees in 2016-17

Beekeepers across the United States lost 33 percent of their honey bee colonies during the year spanning April 2016 to April 2017, according to the latest preliminary results of an annual nationwide survey. Rates of both winter loss and summer loss—and consequently, total annual losses—improved compared with last year.

Total annual losses were the lowest since 2011-12, when the survey recorded less than 29 percent of colonies lost throughout the year. Winter losses were the lowest recorded since the survey began in 2006-07.

The survey, which asks both commercial and small-scale beekeepers to track the survival rates of their honey bee colonies, is conducted each year by the nonprofit Bee Informed Partnership in collaboration with the Apiary Inspectors of America. Survey results for this year and all previous years are publicly available on the Bee Informed website.

"While it is encouraging that losses are lower than in the past, I would stop short of calling this 'good' news," said Dennis vanEngelsdorp, an assistant professor of entomology at the University of Maryland and project director for the Bee Informed Partnership. "Colony loss of more than 30 percent over the entire year is high. It's hard to imagine any other agricultural sector being able to stay in business with such consistently high losses."

Beekeepers who responded to the survey lost a total of 33.2 percent of their colonies over the course of the year. This marks a decrease of 7.3 percentage points over the previous study year (2015-16), when loss rates were found to be 40.5 percent. Winter loss rates decreased from 26.9 percent in the previous winter to 21.1 percent this past winter, while summer loss rates decreased from 23.6 percent to 18.1 percent.

The researchers noted that many factors are contributing to colony losses, with parasites and diseases at the top of the list. Poor nutrition and pesticide exposure are also taking a toll, especially among commercial beekeepers. These stressors are likely to synergize with each other to compound the problem, the researchers said.

"This is a complex problem," said Kelly Kulhanek, a graduate student in the UMD Department of Entomology who helped with the survey. "Lower losses are a great start, but it's important to remember that 33 percent is still much higher than beekeepers deem acceptable. There is still much work to do."

The number one culprit remains the varroa mite, a lethal parasite that can easily spread between colonies. Mite levels in colonies are of particular concern in late summer, when bees are rearing longer-lived winter bees.

In the fall months of 2016, mite levels across the country were noticeably lower in most beekeeping operations compared with past years, according to the researchers. This is likely due to increased vigilance on the part of beekeepers, a greater availability of mite control products and environmental conditions that favored the use of timely and effective mite control measures. For example, some mite control products contain essential oils that break down at high temperatures, but many parts of the country experienced relatively mild temperatures in the spring and early summer of 2016.

This is the 11th year of the winter loss survey, and the seventh year to include summer and annual losses. More than 4,900 beekeepers from all 50 states and the District of Columbia responded to this year's survey. All told, these beekeepers manage about 13 percent of the nation's estimated 2.78 million honey bee colonies.

The survey is part of a larger research effort to understand why honey bee colonies are in such poor health, and what can be done to manage the situation. Some crops, such as almonds, depend entirely on honey bees for pollination. Honey bees pollinate an estimated \$15 billion worth of crops in the U.S. annually.

"Bees are good indicators of the health of the landscape as a whole," said Nathalie Steinhauer, a graduate student in the UMD Department of Entomology who leads the data collection efforts for the annual survey. "Honey bees are strongly affected by the quality of their environment, including flower diversity, contaminants and pests. To keep healthy bees, you need a good environment and you need your neighbors to keep healthy bees. Honey bee health is a community matter."

Read more at: <https://phys.org/news/2017-05-survey-honeybee-losses-horrible-bad.html#jCp>

PhysOrg. "U.S. Beekeepers Lost 33 Percent of Bees in 2016-17." BeelInformed Partnership, 25 May, 2017.

Mark your Calendar: Upcoming Events

- **6/3:** Bee Demo, Garfield Park Conservatory
- **6/7:** Cook County Farm Bureau Beekeeping Round Table
- **6/10:** ISBA Annual Summer Meeting, Quincy, IL
- **6/11:** Vintage Baseball Game, Catigny
- **6/17:** CDBA June Picnic
- **6/17:** Beekeeping Hands On Mentoring, Lyman Woods
- **Thru 9/4:** Butterflies and Blooms, Chicago Botanic Garden

Links:

[Garfield Park Conservatory](#)

[Cook County Farm Bureau](#)

[ISBA Summer Meeting](#)

[Catigny](#)

[Lyman Woods](#)

[Chicago Botanic Garden](#)

Recipe: Warm Potato Salad with Honey Dressing



Serves 6

Ingredients:

- 1/3 cup - cider vinegar
- 2 Tablespoons - vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup - honey
- 1 Tablespoon - Dijon mustard
- 1/8 teaspoon - bottled hot pepper sauce
- 1-1/2 lb. - small new potatoes, cut in bite-sized pieces
- 5 slices - bacon, crisp cooked, crumbled
- 2 Tablespoons - chopped parsley
- 2 Tablespoons - chopped green onion
- 1/2 teaspoon - salt
- 2 tablespoons - olive oil
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375°F. Combine vinegar, oil, honey, mustard and pepper sauce; mix well. Toss half of the dressing with potatoes, reserving half. Spread potatoes evenly on sheetpan. Bake potatoes 18-20 minutes, tossing in the remaining dressing halfway through. Remove from oven. Add bacon, parsley, green onions and salt; mix well.

Tip: One cup sautéed sliced mushrooms may be added.

Nearly \$1 Million in Stolen Bees Recovered in Fresno

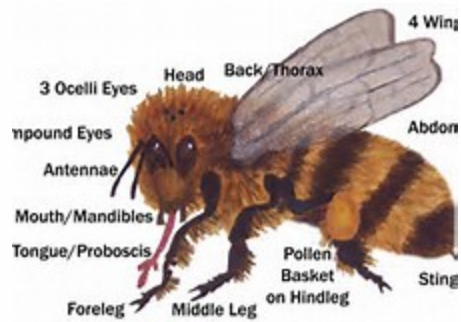
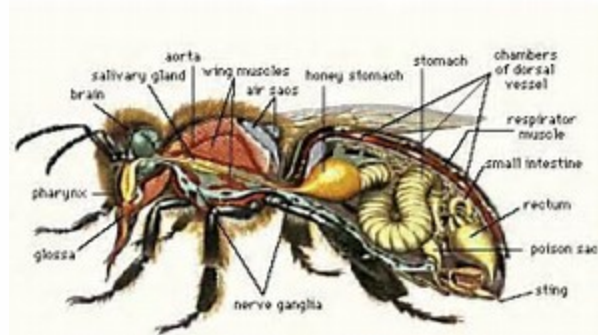
Click [here](#) to read about recovered honey bees in Fresno. Fresno authorities say they've uncovered the biggest beehive theft they've ever seen. They recovered nearly a \$1 million worth of bees belonging to a dozen victims.

Honeybees a Sweet Perk at Downtown Highrises: Read about CDBA Board Member, Bill Whitney

Owner of City Bee Savers and CDBA Board Member, Bill Whitney talks bees with a report from the Chicago Tribune. Read the article [here](#).

Anatomy of a Honeybee

Anatomy Of A Honey Bee



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Upcoming Meetings

CDBA Annual June Picnic, Saturday, June 17, 2017 from 11am-3pm at York Woods Forrest Preserve, Oak Brook

CDBA July Meeting, Saturday, July 15, 2017

Christ Lutheran Church of Clarendon Hills

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

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