

JEFFERSON COUNTY BEEKEEPER ASSOCIATION



JCBA SPRING NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023, VOLUME 14

jeffcobeekeepers.org



Jefferson County Beekeeper Association Group

jeffcohoneybee@gmail.com



jeffcobeekeepers

JEFFERSON COUNTY BEEKEEPER ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

President	Doug Rush
Vice-President	Jessica Padgham
Secretaries	April Johnson, Pat Donahue
Treasurers	Kip Davis, Teri Dowgiert
Apiary Manager	Kathy Gill

EDITORS

Pat Donahue Kathy Gill Sarah Jarrell

WRITERS

Pat Donahue Kathy Gill

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Sarah Jarrell

JCBA MONTHLY MEETINGS

When: 2nd Sunday of every month

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Where: Maple Grove Grange Hall
3130 Youngfield St
Wheat Ridge, CO 80215



UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 9
August 13
September 10

MEMBERSHIP

For membership details email
jeffcohoneybee@gmail.com or inquire during one of
the regular meetings.

Membership Dues: \$25.00 per year
JeffCo membership dues include membership to
Colorado State Beekeeper Association.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor's Note	2
Last Meeting Notes	2
CSBA	4
Swarm Dispatcher News	5
What do you know?	5
Seasonal Calendar	6
Traveling Roadshow	7
JCBA Events Calendar	9
In The News	9
Sip Life's Sweet Moments	10

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the last newsletter that I will be doing. I want to thank everyone for your time and attention. To those who wrote letters, and Pat's awesome articles. To Doug, April, Teri, Kip you guys are the best. To Sarah J, you are creative and incredible. Thank you for your generosity. **Kathy Gill**



LAST MEETING NOTES

April 15, 2023

- This month our meeting was moved to a Saturday since we re-scheduled around Easter and the Grange Hall's availability. We will return to our regular second Sunday of the month meeting dates in May.
- We had 47 people in attendance. Doug called the meeting to order and opened with a few announcements of upcoming events. He encouraged volunteers to sign up for next Saturday's Earth Day Event at Heritage Park in Lakewood. Reminder to members to check their emails from the club re: apiary visits, meeting dates, etc.
- Since JCBA will be hosting the CSBA winter meeting, November 11, 2023 in Lakewood, we put some feelers out for donations. In the past, there have been some really nice, donated items to give away to attending members. We're hoping to get people working on this now.
- Kathy Gill gave a short presentation about her master beekeeping research project, Testing Mite Counts on drones. She is working with Dr. Zac Lamas at the USDA Bee Research lab in Beltsville Maryland on the importance of testing mite counts on drones. She passed out copies of the protocol & record sheet she developed for recording data. For more questions contact Kathy at kathycg519@gmail.com.
- Pat Donahue gave her sustainable beekeeping tip of the month: Educate Yourself! Three methods of Learning and 3 versions of each: 3 good books; 3 good bee courses; and 3 good video sources. She gave examples of books, journals, websites, and other ways to be informed.
- Our main topic was presented by Teri Dowgiert: Making Sense of Varroa. Teri gave a well- researched and very thorough presentation with great visuals.
- Meeting was adjourned just before 4:00. April Johnson, Pat Donahue

May 14, 2023

- 32 people in attendance. Not bad considering it was Mother's Day.
- Doug: announcements: Garden and Inspection Day May 20, 2023. If the road up to the apiary is clear, we will proceed as scheduled. It's been rainy and the road has been very muddy. Garden work 9-12; Inspection 12-2. Bring garden gloves and your bee suit. -New Members, Welcome. Get your welcome bucket. - Have bees already. Get a bee buddy, who installed a bee package, consider a OA vapor treatment before you see capped brood. Consider Formic Pro if there is brood. It's a good choice with lower temperatures and it gets under the brood. - If you want help doing an OA vapor treatment, send an email to the club. -The club's Facebook page is a good place to post questions and send messages.

- Teri: We are over 100 members. The club has in excess of \$1,700 with more deposits coming in and the Earth Day refund.
- Pat: swarm report, only 2 so far. With warmer dryer weather we are hopeful things will pick up. Sustainable beekeeping tip: start thinking about making summer nucs to winter over. One nuc for every hive is the goal. This year we had a lot of winter losses due to weather, etc., fewer packages available, and not a lot of swarms. Be sustainable, rely on your own over wintered nucs spring arrives.
- Jessica: Presentation on Gardening for Honey Bees. We all learned so much. Native bees are specialists and honey bees are generalists. Plant for the native bees and the honey bees will show up. Grass should be an area rug and not wall to wall carpet. Jessica shared so much information on what to plant and when, when planting you want to consider the microclimates in your yard, learning the species names of plants because it makes a difference, and which Nurseries to go to for plants including Finding Nectar and Sage Times. Check out Lakewood Sustainable Neighborhoods for more Nursery options. Also, check out "Plant This Not That". THANK YOU, JESSICA. Great Presentation.
- PLANT SWAP: a lot of fun seedlings and seeds were available. It was a great hit. Thanks to all for another great meeting. By Pat Donahue

June 11, 2023

- Meeting started 1 p.m.
- Members in attendance= 43
- **DOUG:** Club Announcements:
 - Apiary clinic next Saturday. Meet at 9 a.m. Reading the Frame with Tina Sebestyen, Master Beekeeper. We will visit 3 apiaries starting at our club apiary. Bring a lunch and your questions. April will send out a reminder with the apiary locations we will be visiting. We will start with the club apiary, move to Hoyt Street (April's hives) and then Fleischer Farms.
 - Drone laying queens; poll of the members experiencing similar queen problems this year. 5 or 6 members raised their hands. Issues seen include drone laying queens, queens not laying, not well mated? Supplier issues? Could be related to poor weather in California this past winter. Please post your observations on our Facebook page.
 - Colorado State Fair in Pueblo August 25 to September 4th. CSBA is asking for clubs to pick a day to staff the booth. Free admission if you volunteer. We will send out a reminder and sign up sheet as we get closer.
 - Honey harvest is coming up: Sunday September 10 at the Jeffco Fairgrounds. We will have more announcements as we get closer to the date.
- **JESSICA:** Club Garden update on planting. Jessica put extra apiary garden workdays on the web site calendar. Wednesday June 28th and Wednesday July 5th. Both starting at 5 p.m. Bring your cardboard and gloves. Need to set up the irrigation system too.
- **KATHY:** CSBA Winter Meeting update: The CSBA Winter Meeting is Saturday November 11th. Our regular club meeting is Sunday November 12th. Our club meeting will be canceled and replaced by the Winter Meeting. We will need volunteers. Please contact April if you can help.
- **TERI:** Member update. We now have 118 members.
- **APRIL:** Laying worker colony and sighting of the rare Male/Female recessive trait yellow/chartreuse eyed drone/worker or just a yellowed eyed drone?
- **KIP:** Bucket update. New members pick up your buckets. Anyone can have a bucket. If you want your honey gate installed, Kip usually has his equipment with him and can do the install at the meetings.
- **PAT:** Swarm Hotline update. Very slow year. Only 9 so far. April reports there were about 40 by this time last year. Sustainable beekeeping tip of the month. Watch your colonies closely over the next several weeks. It is going to warm up. Increased nectar leads to increased bees and overcrowding. Backfilling the brood chamber with nectar is an early swarm preparation sign.
- EFB and drone laying worker frames brought to meeting for members to observe and inspect.
- Video: Kristin Traynor and Randy Oliver. Played a bit of each. Will post on Facebook for members to view in full. Adjourn: 2:45 p.m. By Pat Donahue

What did the flower say when it was joking with a bee?

I was just pollen your leg.

COLORADO STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

High Country Bee is the official Newsletter for the CSBA. It is included in club membership and should come as an email to all club members. It has valuable information about state happenings. Be sure to read it!

Not receiving the newsletter? Contact jeffcohoneybees@gmail.com to let us know and we will inform CSBA.



coloradobeekeepers.org



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Colorado State Beekeepers Association CSBA

CSBA Summer Meeting Summary

The CSBA Summer Meeting or Summer Bee College was held June 3, 2023, in Rifle, Colorado.

Dr. Jon Zawislak was the keynote speaker. He is an assistant professor of Apiculture and Urban Entomology for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, in Little Rock, Arkansas. He has worked and played with bees since 1988.

His first presentation was "Queens and Genes". He broke this complicated subject into easy to understand, language anyone can follow. His second presentation "The Unappreciated Drone" did not disappoint the audience. Both beginners and experienced beekeepers learned a wealth of information.

Tina Sebestyen gave a presentation on "Mistakes Beekeepers Make" left us all shaking our heads knowing we all had made some of those mistakes. She also gave advice on how to rectify those mistakes. It was very helpful and informative.

Two Master Beekeeping Level candidates gave PowerPoint presentations on their research.

Each Master Beekeeper Program student was recognized individually for their accomplishments and given their patches and chevrons. Congratulations to everyone for all the hard work!

A business meeting followed with updates on all the programs. Eric Smith, President of CSBA appointed Mary Schwartz as interim secretary. She will work with Joe Komperda, Secretary until he leaves for adventures in North Carolina.

Tina Sebestyen was presented with a plaque from CSBA thanking her for the hard work and dedication she has contributed to the CSBA Master Beekeeping Program. Tina recently resigned as program director of the Master Beekeeping Program but will stay active and involved in CSBA as Advisor 3.

The afternoon was spent outside getting into the beehives. Dr Jon Zawislak showed participants how to read the frames, KT Thompson showed others how to graft queens using a simulated procedure, Kathy Gill demonstrated how-to pick-up drones and count mites, & Tina Sebestyen dove into the hives looking at what is going on with the bees. The day was full of presentations, networking, socializing, fun and hands-on work with the bees.

By Kathy Gill

CSBA is Hiring

CSBA is looking for a **Program Director** for the CSBA Master Beekeeping Program. This volunteer position oversees the development, organization, and operation of the Master Beekeeping Program consulting with the Academic Advisor. The position reports to the CSBA Board of Directors at the regularly scheduled monthly CSBA meetings via in person, zoom or written report.

An initial two-year commitment is requested.

Please send resumes to
mbpic@coloradobeekeepers.org by 12:00pm (noon)
MST, July 31, 2023.

See the "Qualifications and Responsibilities"
online: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GoC_fNUnnRpJNGMrTPzN0Zl18LfXch8r/view?usp=sharing

Volunteers Needed

CSBA Winter Meeting will be held in Lakewood on Saturday November 11, 2023.

It will be a day talking, speaking, listening about BEES! Well-known local and national Speakers, vendors, and hands-on demonstrations will round out the day. An agenda will be posted as soon as it is finalized.

Hosted by Jefferson County Beekeepers Association

Volunteers are needed to help:

- Set up
- Greet attendees
- Registration tables
- Accept honey for judging
- Set up a honey
- judging table
- Help with raffle items
- Runners to get lunch
- Help serve lunch
- Answer questions
- Dismantle

Let **April Johnson** know if you can help an hour, 2 hours, part of the day or all day.

SWARM DISPATCHER NEWS

Pat Donahue, Jefferson County Swarm Dispatcher

It has been a slow swarm season. Why? Large colony losses over the winter? Or A very wet spring with slow colony buildup? Or Are beekeepers in the area getting better at swarm prevention? It's hard to say. There could be a myriad of reasons. For the month of June Jefferson County swarm dispatch received 10 calls. Three were not viable: one was the size of a baseball at best and likely a group of lost bees without a queen; one was deep in a tree which would have required a "trap out" rescue or cutting the tree down; and one was 60 feet up a tree and unreachable. Seven were successfully rescued and hived. One property owner had 3 swarms in her yard in one week in June. Jeffco received 2 of those calls. The warmer weather we've been having may be leading to a tic up in swarm activity or this may end up being the slowest swarm season in a very long time.

If you are on the swarm rescue list and you want to increase your chances of receiving a call to go rescue a swarm, the best way to do this is to text me at **(303) 919-3553** and let me know you are "swarm ready." It would be greatly appreciated if you would also let me know how high you are able to go to rescue a swarm.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

1. Foraging honey bees collecting nectar are more efficient than foragers collecting pollen.

True or False?

2. Bees recognize pollen by ____ .

A. Odor

B. Sight

3. Pollen collection increases with amount of brood in the colony.

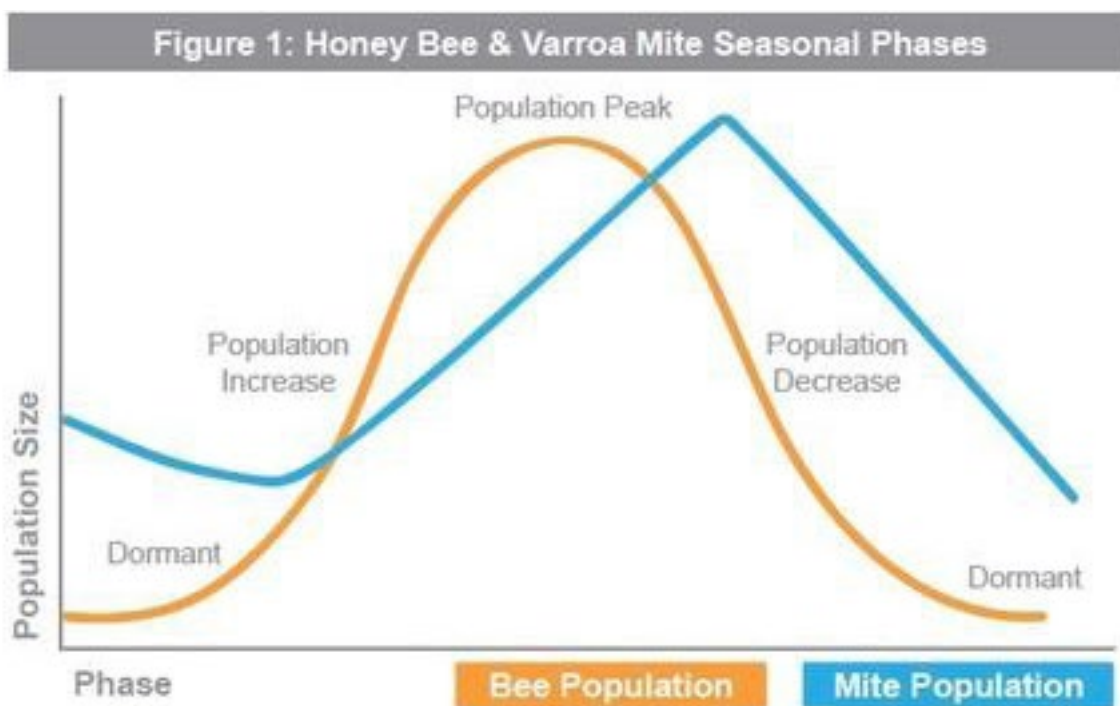
True or False?

SEASONAL CALENDAR

JUNE Colony population gets larger. Do hive inspections weekly. Make splits and watch for swarm signs. Monitor mite counts. Brood boxes need to have 7-8 frames of brood before adding a super. Keep water available. Keep accurate records.

JULY Colony peaks usually. This year because of the cold and rain the colony may peak later for some beekeepers. Keep those monthly mite checks going. Do hive inspections weekly. Keep an eye out for swarm cells. Requeening in July is beneficial because it allows the new queen to become well-established before winter. She can produce a large population of winter bees and spring bees. Also, a first-year queen is less likely to swarm the following spring.

AUGUST Colony starts to decline; smaller brood area is normal. Nectar flow decreases. Mite counts may start to rise. This is a chart by the Honey Bee Health Coalition that depicts the connection of mite increase and honey bee population decrease. Continue your honey supers, do hive inspections every week. There might be a nectar dearth. Put robbing screens on, pull frames of honey in the supers and store until harvest day **September 19, 2023** with the club at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.



For details on the Varroa Life Cycle consult:

www.extension.org/pages/65450/varroa-mite-reproductive-biology

TRAVELING ROADSHOW

WITH TINA SEBESTYEN, ADVISOR 3 CSBA

By Kathy Gill

The club gathered at the apiary with Tina Sebestyen demonstrating her roll technique with cardboard, burlap, bark or twigs to use in a smoker. She discussed what to put in your smoker and how to light a smoker.

The group then moved on to the club hives. Tina gave a thorough discussion and demonstration of frames of brood, absence of a queen and what to do about the situation. A frame of open and capped brood was added to #4 hive from another hive. She discussed the importance of brood pheromone as well as queen pheromone. The group moved on to another apiary at Hoyt street, where they found a queen, marked her and did a split.



The third apiary did not disappoint. The awe struck group witnessed even more learning opportunities. A big thank you goes out to Tina Sebestyen for sharing her extensive knowledge, demonstrating useful tips and techniques, and giving us all the opportunity to make us better beekeepers.

To read Tina's description of the Roadshow visit:
<https://coloradobeekeepers.org/the-traveling-road-show/>





Pat Donahue

“What an experience. Thank you, Tina, for your expertise and all the valuable tips including how to organize your frames, how to motivate the bees to draw comb on foundation using wax, why it’s helpful to feed 1:1 sugar syrup if you want the bees to draw comb and how to do a split using the equipment you have and a queen excluder if you can’t find her.”

April Johnson

“I’d like to thank our members who attended this event, asked great questions, and participated with much enthusiasm. Lots of planning went into this once-a-year road show and it’s only successful when members take advantage of it. We’d also like to thank Paul Fleischer of Fleischer Family Farms and Kim Scaturro for welcoming members onto their properties for this great educational experience.”

Doug Rush

“Another reason to be very proud of the club that we have. It is in my opinion one of the better organized and on mission clubs to be a component of better beekeeping, in our community.”



ANSWERS! WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

1. False. Foraging honey bees collecting pollen are more efficient than foragers collecting nectar.
2. B. Bees recognize pollen by odor when foraging close to the hive. And by sight when foraging long distances.
3. True. Unlike nectar, honey bees need a stimulant to collect pollen. The brood in the colony serves that purpose.

JCBA EVENTS CALENDAR 2023

Events at apiary are always weather dependent. You will be notified if we are unable to go.

Meetings & Events			Apiary Clinics	
Date	Topic / Details	Location	Date	Topic / Details
7/9/2023	Diseases	Grange	7/15/2023	Mite & disease checks, garden work
8/13/2023	Honey tasting	Grange	8/19/2023	Harvest pulling frames, garden maintenance, assess fall foliage, mite checks
9/10/2023	Honey extraction	JeffCo Fairgrounds	9/2023	Garden maintenance (date TBD)
10/8/2023	Winterizing & feeding	Grange	10/14/2023	Feeding, "Rearranging the Furniture," winterizing the garden
11/11/2023	CSBA Winter Meeting hosted by JCBA	TBD	11/18/2023	TBD
11/12/2023	Products from the hive	Grange		
12/2023	No meeting			

IN THE NEWS

Neonicotinoids Have Been Banned in New York State

The New York State Legislature has passed the *Birds and Bees Protection Act*, which limits the use of neonicotinoid pesticides, commonly referred to as neonics. This bill is the first of its kind in the United States and aims to reduce the use of neonic coatings on corn, soybean, and wheat seeds, as well as garden uses. If you want more info go to <https://www.insidethehive.tv/>

SIP LIFE'S SWEET MOMENTS

HONEY BUTTER

INGREDIENTS

½ cup (112g) Unsalted butter
¼ cup (85g) Honey

SUPPLIES NEEDED

Small bowl
Electric mixer
Wax paper
Spoon
Molds
Cutting board

DIRECTIONS

1. In a small bowl, using an electric mixer, whip butter until smooth.
2. Add the honey and mix into the butter.
3. Using the back of a spoon, press the butter into molds.
4. Freeze or refrigerate until solid.
5. To free from the molds, lay the mold (butter side down) on a cutting board. Slowly run warm water over the mold until the butter is released.
6. Refrigerate until ready to use.

PEACHES IN HONEY SYRUP

INGREDIENTS

1 cup Honey
½ cup Water
1 T Vanilla extract
1 T Lemon zest
2 Large white peaches, pitted and sliced in half

DIRECTIONS

1. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, bring to a boil all the ingredients except peaches. Add the peaches, reduce heat to low, cover the pan, and cook for 20 minutes.
2. Remove from heat and let cool slightly at room temperature, then refrigerate until completely cooled. Transfer to a serving plate and serve chilled.
3. Store for up to 3 days in the refrigerator.