



[www.JeffcoBeekeepers.org](http://www.JeffcoBeekeepers.org) November 2021, Volume 7



# Jefferson County Beekeeper Association



## Table of Contents

Nov. 2021, Vol. 7

Jefferson County Beekeeper Association  
Newsletter. Volume November 2021, Vol. 7

### Association Leadership

President	Doug Rush
Vice President	Richard Ratigan
Secretary	April Johnson
Treasurer	Kip Davis

### Editors (alphabetical)

Kathy Gill	Eric Skougstad
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### Writers (alphabetical)

Kathy Gill	April Johnson
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### Layout/ Design

Eric Skougstad/ Uff Da Media, Antiquated magazine

JCBA Meetings, second Sunday of every month at 1 p.m.,  
weather permitting, at our apiary.

## About Us

Jefferson County Beekeeper Association was established in 1998 by a group of backyard beekeepers. Meetings with outside speakers were held several times a year combined with social events. The club went dormant in 2007 as membership waned but was never officially abolished. In 2019 with a surge of interest in beekeeping and new ordinances allowing backyard beehives, local beekeepers saw the need to revitalize the club. We hope to connect with new and experienced beekeepers in and around Jefferson County and are looking forward to many years of successful beekeeping!

**COVER:** "Sabine," The bee under a microscope at 15x magnification. Courtesy Craig Krull Gallery, Santa Monica, California

**Photo Credit:** [Rose-Lynn Fisher](#)

### Meeting Notes Page 3

What happened at the September and October Jefferson County Beekeeper Association meetings.

### What Should We Be Doing, Now? Page 4

A checklist of things we should be doing in and around the hive.

### The Queen of Hearts Page 5

Kathy Gill discusses finding a red queen in one of her hives.

### Pollens Honeybees Seek Out Page 6

ARS Carl Heyden Bee Research Center in Tucson, Arizona studies the differences between seasonal pollens.

### Do You Know? Answers Page 7

The answers to the questions at the bottom of some of the pages.

### Recipes Pages 8-9

Honeycomb Dipped in Chocolate with Sea Salt and-Honey Lime Chicken Tacos with Siracha

### Membership

Yearly dues: \$25.00 which includes membership in the Colorado State Beekeepers Association.

We are not set up yet for on-line payments. Email the club treasurer for information on how to join.

[jeffcohoneybees@gmail.com](mailto:jeffcohoneybees@gmail.com)

Website: [www.jeffcobeekers.org](http://www.jeffcobeekers.org)

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## Last Meeting Notes

August 8, 2021, we met at the apiary with 23 people present. Doug opened with a discussion about mites and the low counts. Seth attributed it to people treating package queens. A few people reported queen problems with package queens. Colonies superseding right away. Having better luck with locally mated queens. A few book recommendations: The Buzz About Bees, Honey Maker, and Honeybee Democracy.

Diane suggested the Waterston Community Church in Littleton for a possible indoor meeting spot. April will check it out.

Don and Linda Lesovsky have beekeeping stuff to sell. They will send out a list and we will e-mail it to club members.

Seth recommended robbing screens to help protect from mites. He cited a recent study.

We did a hands up tally on the honey harvest at the Jeffco Fairgrounds. Everyone was on board. Lots of people have honey to extract. We decided to make it a special event with food, drinks, honey extraction demonstrations with a meeting.

Garrit went into the Layens Hive, and everyone gathered around to see the queen. We will have to keep feeding as they are small and not built out much. Will bring pollen patties on Wednesday to add to that hive.

Bumble Bee colony is gone.

We will meet Wednesday, August 11, 2021, to do mite checks at the apiary. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

\*\*\*We met on August 15, 2021, at the Apiary to do mite checks. Unfortunately, the bees in the Layen's Hive were dead.

September 11, 2021 Meeting Notes

Special meeting at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds for honey harvesting and a picnic/meeting

We had around 30 people come and go with some staying just for the extraction demonstrations and some arriving at 12-1:00 for the food/meeting.

The rental room was perfect for extracting; clean, hot water, easy to clean up floor.

3 extractors 2-4 frame and 1- 8 frame all motorized. Nice outside hose with hot water for easy clean-up with the extractors.

A little chaotic but still fun. The club extracted about 30 frames for 8-10 gallons of honey. Will be jarring at Kathy Gill's house next week.

Upon evaluation we decided more time was needed for extraction and more notice given for scheduling. Most people seemed to enjoy the day.

Meeting started around 1:00

Teri explained the cottage food industry rules and regulations. We can sell if the class has been taken by the person jarring it.

Long discussion on what to do with the club honey. Decision still pending.

Talked about winterizing and will have a full meeting in October for that topic.

November meeting ideas...maybe a honey tasting, making lip balm or candles.

It was suggested that we have more hive inspections as people said they learned the most from them.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30.

Lots of folks stayed to help clean up. Clean up took around 1 hour we were checked out at 4:00.

## Colorado State Beekeepers Association

CSBA once again had a "Bee Booth" at the State Fair in the Agricultural Education Building to educate the public about honeybees and their contribution to pollination efforts not only in Colorado but in the entire country. You can see pictures of the booth on Facebook. Eric has posted pictures on Colorado Beekeepers Group; it is awesome.

High Country Bee, the Newsletter for the CSBA, will be including more "Average Joe Beekeeper Hints and Tips." These relevant hints and tips are by Master Beekeeper Joe Komperda. Also new in the newsletter are short articles from members in the Master Beekeeping Program.

The CSBA Winter Meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2021, in-person at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Castle Rock, CO. They are looking for volunteers in coordinating many things, including venue and set-up. If interested email Eric at [president@coloradobeekeepers.org](mailto:president@coloradobeekeepers.org) and let him know how you can help.

AFB contest-The American Beekeeping Federation (AFB), which is a member at the Association/Club level, is offering a contest this fall. They will be offering a \$2000 award to an individual AFB member who had developed a practical beekeeping practice or who needs funds to develop their practical idea. More info will be forthcoming later in September.

High Country Bee email newsletter comes out monthly.

## Jefferson County Beekeeper Association Website

At [jeffcobeekeepers.org](http://jeffcobeekeepers.org) you can sign up for membership, see upcoming meetings, find a mentor, and more! Be sure to check it out.

**If there is a topic you want us to provide or want to share or write an article let us know. Write to [jeffco-honeybee@gmail.com](mailto:jeffco-honeybee@gmail.com)**

## Meetings

Meetings are the second Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. We meet outside at the Apiary when weather permits.

Dues include membership to Colorado State Colorado Beekeepers Association.

## Mentoring

Beekeeping may seem overwhelming.

Indeed, there is quite a bit to do and remember!

Jefferson County Beekeeper Association offers mentoring programs. We have seasoned keepers willing to take new keepers under their wings. Contact us for more information.



# What Should We Be Doing With Our Hives Now?

The beehive has two objectives: to have enough food for winter and propagation of the hive. Colony development follows the nectar and pollen availability, not day length or calendar dates. Colorado beekeeping is much different than other states, because of the different micro-climates we have. Base all management decisions upon the biological needs of the colony.

1. Remove honey supers, extract, or save.
2. Do the last mite check in September.
3. Do not break the propolis in October.
2. Protect hives from predators, such as mice or rats. First, check for intruders already in the hive by checking the bottom board. Clean bottom board by scraping all debris off. Close screened bottom boards or remove. Remove queen excluders.
3. Install metal mouse guards to the front entrance. Then reduce the entrance reducer to the smallest opening. One half inch hardware cloth attached to the front entrance of the hive, works well also.

4. Provide protection

from the wind. Stabilize the hive by strapping the hive down, especially if your hives are on a very windy hill.

5. Check the honey and pollen stores in the hive. Do not assume because your honey supers were full the brood boxes are. The bottom brood box should have the brood in the middle, followed by frames of pollen and honey, followed by full frames of honey. The top or second brood box should be full of honey frames. One full honey frame weighs 8-10 pounds. A medium frame of honey about 6 pounds. According to [Rust Barlow](#) at, [HoneyBeeSuite.com](#),

the ideal 10 frame Hive colony will have 12 deep frames completely full of honey which gives you (8 X 12) or 96 pounds, plus any additional that is stored on the pollen frame. [To read more visit.](#) <https://www.honeybeesuite.com/how-much-honey-should-i-leave-in-my-hive>

6. Styrofoam attached to the inside of the outer cover works well to insulate the top cover.

7. Supplementing with a 2:1 sugar syrup in early fall in Colorado is frequent practice. This will give the bees enough time to ferment the syrup and turn it into honey reserves. ([CSU Extension, Feeding Honeybees in Colorado-5.622](#)). <https://>

[extension.colostate.edu/](https://extension.colostate.edu/)  
8. This is the best time to arrange old dark comb frames close to the edge of the box. Then it is easy to replace the old comb frames with new in the spring.

9. Make up your candy blocks for winter. You can keep them in the freezer until needed.

10. If you are going to wrap your hives for winter, do not wrap until November.

11. Make up your quilt boards if using.

12. Organize your equipment, take inventory, store everything in a safe place away from predators and pests.

13. Look back at the year, what went well what did not. How can you improve.

14. Gather those books you want to read this winter.



Do you know?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Relative humidity has a direct effect on nectar secretion. True or False. (Answer on page seven)

# The Queen of Hearts By Kathy Gill

On a routine hive inspection on August 4, 2021, my friends and I saw a red queen in my Hive #5. She has a red head, thorax, and abdomen. Awe the wonders of nature!

My research led me to the conclusion that she is a Cordovan, a subset of Italian race. Cordovan Queens have color trait changes which turn the normally black body parts to a distinctive reddish-brown color. They can also be blond, to a golden color. These color changes also happen in workers, and drones. Cordovan bees are gentle, strong layers, and the colony produces high honey yields. Cordovan

Bees can consume substantial amounts of food in the winter.

According to one source, Cordovan color is controlled by a single recessive gene which only happens if breeding is controlled or artificially inseminated, in an isolated mating yard. My queen of hearts was not artificially inseminated, nor do I have any isolated mating areas. So, she's not pure Cordovan. How did this happen?

On March 29, 2021, I did a walk-away split. The original queen in Hive #2 is a golden Italian queen, a prolific egg layer, gentle and big. I gave her the name 1B20. I had purchased 1B20

in a package in 2020.

From my Hive #2, I took 1 frame of uncapped brood with eggs and bees, 1 frame of capped brood with bees, two frames of drawn comb I had stored, one frame of pollen, two frames of honey, and two foundation frames.

On April 10, 2021, there were 2 capped queen cells, and one open queen cell. I left them all.

When I inspected on April 24, 2021, the capped queen cells were torn. I could not find a queen, but I heard a distinct piping sound.

On May 7, 2021, I saw a dark gold, colored queen. On May 22, 2021, there was open brood, with larva at

various stages, and capped brood on two frames. The hive grew in June and July and filled two brood boxes.

On August 4, 2021, to my surprise and two other beekeepers helping me, we saw my queen of hearts. She is a big girl with red head, thorax, and red abdomen. I have been able to spot her on each subsequent hive inspection, the last inspection being September 8, 2021.

One of the virgin queens must have mated with a drone with Cordovan traits. That virgin queen was replaced with one of the eggs she laid. The workers just happened to choose the egg with the Cordovan traits from the drone. Hence my red queen.

I have come to realize, it does not really matter what color a queen bee is, as long as, she is healthy and a prolific egg layer.

Thank you to the beekeepers around my area that have Cordovan Bees. My, Queen of Hearts, may only be part Cordovan. I have been having so much fun and feel very lucky for this experience. Here are some YouTube videos of a queen piping and tooting. Enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/xK8fEP-sAc6U> [https://youtu.be/xYYhWR\\_i8s](https://youtu.be/xYYhWR_i8s) [https://youtu.be/utJP1N\\_S8lc](https://youtu.be/utJP1N_S8lc)

[Glenn Apiaries](http://www.glenn-apiaries.com/glenn_apiaries.html) [http://www.glenn-apiaries.com/glenn\\_apiaries.html](http://www.glenn-apiaries.com/glenn_apiaries.html)  
[Lappe's Bee Supply](https://www.lappesbeesupply.com/) <https://www.lappesbeesupply.com/>



Do you know?

2. What are the three primary sugars found in nectar and which one is most attractive to honeybees.

\_\_\_\_\_.(Answer on page seven)



## Pollens to fit A HoneyBee's Every Season

Pollen collected from honeybees in different seasons can be important to their nutritional needs. Many animals such as deer and elk have different nutritional needs throughout the seasons, which are supported by the plants they have available. Scientists at the ARS Carl Hayden Bee Research Center in Tucson, Arizona compared spring and fall pollens collected from the

bees in central Iowa and southern Arizona.

In the spring colonies concentrate on raising new bees, and in the fall, they concentrate on winter bees and surviving the cold. The spring pollens were similar in nutrients like amino acids and fatty acids. The study found higher levels of omega-3 associated with the bees having larger hypopharyngeal glands. The

hypopharyngeal glands, HPG, produce the royal jelly that is fed to a queen and young developing larvae. Larger hypopharyngeal glands make more royal jelly, more royal jelly means more worker bees.

The clover, which makes up a large portion of pollen in Iowa provided an important nutrient for colony growth.

During fall in Iowa the pollen was found to have

higher levels of certain amino acids and lipids than pollen in the fall in Arizona. These higher concentrations of amino acids and lipids may support honeybees in the winter.

For more information. <https://www.ars.usda.gov/news-events/news/research-news/2021/pollens-to-fit-a-honey-bee-s-every-season>



Do you know?

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Froth on the honey surface when you open a jar of honey is the first sign of fermentation. True or False (Answer on page seven)



## This McDonald's Hive is the Bees Knees!

The McHive is a design by [Nicklas Nilsson](#), and is currently in use in Sweden.

To lessen their impact, some McDonald's have bee hives on their roofs.

"World Bee Day" is celebrated May 20th every year, and in 2019, McDonald's celebrated by putting

the hive in auction where it fetched \$10,000!

With as much food as they produce, McDonald's has a vested interest in food production and bees. McDonald's Sweden is even putting hives on billboards.

(below)



### Do you know? Answers:

1. False. Atmospheric humidity does not affect nectar secretion directly but has a pronounced inverse effect on nectar sugar concentration. As nectar is secreted, it undergoes a regulation of concentration until its vapor pressure come to equilibrium with that of the atmosphere. Unless the humidity of the atmosphere is extremely high, the change will be a loss of water molecules to the air and an increase in nectar sugar concentration.
2. Sucrose, Glucose, Fructose. Sucrose is most attractive to honeybees.
3. False. Froth on the honey surface is not an indication of fermentation the incorporation of air during the e. extraction process and filling of containers. Honey should never be allowed to fall any distance or honey pumps allowed to suck air.

# Recipes!

**Recipe:** Oven-Fried Chicken in Honey Sauce  
Honeycomb Dipped in Chocolate with Sea Salt

**Ingredients:**

1 Tablespoon baking soda	1 teaspoon pure vanilla
1 ¼ cup white granulated sugar	Dark Chocolate
½ cup honey	Coarse Kosher Salt
Pinch of fine sea salt	

**Directions:**

This recipe goes very quickly so gather your ingredients and supplies before you start.

1. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.
2. Pour sugar, honey, and salt into a large pot. (5-quart Dutch Oven is recommended). Heat to 295 degrees F., stirring with a silicon spatula to ensure even caramelization. It will turn an autumn brown color.
3. Turn off heat and immediately add vanilla and baking soda, mix together. The mixture will foam up quite a bit. Keep stirring until baking soda completely dissolves.
4. Quickly pour the honeycomb mixture onto a sheet or parchment paper. Allow to cool completely before touching.
5. Break the honeycomb into shards.
6. Melt dark chocolate. Dip shards in the chocolate so that 1/3-1/2 of the pieces are covered.
7. Immediately sprinkle with coarse kosher salt.

Store in an airtight container.

**Serves:** **From:**



# Recipes!

## Honey Lime Chicken Tacos with Siracha (side one)

	Yield; Makes 5 servings	For Tacos	
Ingredients	2 Tablespoons olive oil	10 flour or corn tortillas	2 Tablespoons lime juice
For Marinade	2 teaspoons siracha	1 oz. coleslaw mix (cabbage, broccoli, and carrots)	1 Tablespoon vinegar
2 limes juiced	Pinch of salt		3 Tablespoon mayonnaise
¼ cup honey	4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts	1 Tablespoon honey	salt and pepper to taste
6 cloves-garlic minced			

### Directions

Whisk together all marinade ingredients. Put marinade and chicken breasts into a resealable bag and allow chicken to marinate for at least 1 hour and overnight, if possible. Remove chicken from bag and grill until thoroughly cooked.

While chicken is grilling, combine coleslaw mix, honey, mayonnaise, vinegar, and lime juice in a large bowl. Stir until evenly coated, add salt and pepper to taste.