

September 15, 2021



## Upcoming Events:

- **Fall Bee Fest on October 10**

See info at right and look out for upcoming emails!

- **Apiary Logo Design contest!!**

Come up with a fun, bee themed logo for our IC apiary. Winner will receive a prize basket from South Hill Forest Products! Designs must be submitted to [southhillforestproducts@gmail.com](mailto:southhillforestproducts@gmail.com) by **October 1**.

Winner will be announced on October 11. Please reach out to Ana Maria with any questions!

## Updates from the Apiary:

This week, our brave Beeks entered the apiary to do their first hive inspections! The inspections went PERFECTLY. The apiary management team was



# Fall Bee Fest

October 10, 2021 10am - 2pm



Come learn about bees and look inside a hive at our Apiary Open House!

- Take an apiary tour
- Play some bug bingo
- Create a pollinator house
- Get some arm painting
- Check out our apiary honey ... and more!



**Free entry, please wear a mask to protect our friends under 12!**

To find the apiary, go to the Office of Public Safety and follow our signs!

---

incredibly impressed by their skills, knowledge and gentle behavior around the bees that made a nerve wracking process very smooth. Great job Bees Class!

Hive inspections are vital for a beekeeper to understand the health of the colony. When opening a hive, there are three main data streams we look for:

### Population

At different times of year, observations can mean different things. Now in the early fall, we are looking for a final rise in population before the winter begins. The baby bees hatching right now will be the bees that live throughout the winter months. They have the longest lifespan of all bees except the queen. To evaluate the population, we look for varying ages of brood- young larva, eggs, older larva, capped brood and freshly hatched bees. We also look for signs that the queen is healthy such as a solid brood pattern and fresh eggs.

### Nutrition

When evaluating nutrition, we check to make sure the bees are bringing in pollen and look at their stores of nectar, bee bread and honey. Nectar is placed in cells to dehydrate until the bees decide it has the appropriate moisture level to be capped with wax and turned into honey. Bee bread is a protein rich food that is fed to the larva and usually surrounds the brood nest. For a colony with one deep brood box, we want to leave them one full honey super for the winter. For a colony with two deeps, they should have enough space to fill their frames with enough honey that we can harvest their honey supers.

### Pests and Disease

Signs of pest and disease tell us the overall health of the colony. This week we inspected hives for Varroa Mites and found that all hives sampled had extremely low numbers of mites, if any! This means our mite treatment from August worked, and our bees should be safe from mites as long as they remain healthy. We did see signs of other pests in a few hives such as Hive Beetles and Wax moths, but we saw no concerning infestations.

It's great to see our hives doing so well leading into the winter!

### **Meet the Menagerie:**

September 13

The advantage of having a pollinator garden next to our apiary is that we have a LOT of cool creatures! I must admit, I've never been particularly interested in insects. They're cool, and sometimes they have pretty colors, but I've never given them much more thought. However on a recent visit to the pollinator garden I noticed some pretty awesome insects that caught my eye. I decided to take some pictures and consult my top Bug ID specialist, Bethany Holland, for some help!



---

This is the spectacularly festive **ermine moth** known as the Ailanthus Webworm (*Atteva aurea*). I thought it was a funky looking beetle when I first saw it, but Bethany explained that it's actually a type of moth with a deceiving wing shape! This moth is best known for laying eggs on a non native tree called Tree of Heaven, but it does eat a variety of different plants and trees.



This equally colorful beetle is probably familiar to many of you... the invasive **Japanese Beetle** (*Popilia japonica*). It was introduced to the US between 1911 and 1916 in the soil of ornamental plants and has become a highly destructive garden pest.

Some people might find her scary, but this absolutely stunning **Black and Yellow Garden Spider** (*Argiope aurantia*) caught my eye as a helpful member of our pollinator garden community. This female is at her largest size at this time of year. She will catch a variety of flying insects, including garden pests like Japanese Beetles and Stinkbugs!

I hope you enjoyed seeing these creatures as much as I did!

- Ana



---

References:

<http://bugoftheweek.com/blog/2015/10/19/bugs-in-orange-and-black-part-i-an-ermine-moth-ailanthus-webworm-iatteva-aureai>

<https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/terrestrial/invertebrates/japanese-beetle>

<https://www.insectidentification.org/insect-description.php?identification=Ailanthus-Webworm-Moth>

<https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Invertebrates/Yellow-Garden-Spider>