



Jackson County Beekeepers Monthly Newsletter

.....

# 1st Swarm of 2022



by Meindert Dijkhuis on March 30, 2022 (11:30)

.....

April 2022  
TOP NEWS

## 2022 Club Meetings

**Monthly Meetings are back! We will be meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2022**, at the ALFA building on Hwy 72 in Scottsboro. The meeting will start at:

- **Board members!!** Please plan to **be there by 5:30 PM** to discuss Club Business.
- **Everyone else!!** Please be there **no later than 6:00 PM**, and we can commence with the regular meeting.
- **PLEASE NOTE: We will have a speaker this evening: Prof. Clarence H. Collison. Former Head of Dep. of Entomology & Plant Pathology at Mississippi State. He's joining us from Tennessee this evening, so I hope you all can come and listen to his talk. Prof. Collison is also the author of various Bee Books. Some of you may remember his column in "Bee Culture" magazine called "What do you know", and was specific to honey bee biology.**

*The dreaded Covid Variant is still here. We highly recommend you bring a mask to the meeting, and wear it if we can't maintain social distancing guidelines in a crowded room*

## Current Management (year 2)

February is traditionally our changing of the Guards so to speak, and as of February 4th, 2022 our leaders are:

- Ray Latham - President
- Keith Fletcher - Vice President
- Dustin Davis - Secretary
- Meindert Dijkhuis - Treasurer

Current directors are:

- Lane Walden and Jeremy Mulkey will be up for re-election since their 1-year term is up this year. (They fulfilled the remaining term of 1 year left vacant by Ray Latham and Keith Fletcher when they were elected President and VP last year).
- Rob Woody and Charlie Smith were elected for the full 3-year term. (This is year 2)
- Terry McClendon will continue to serve the remainder of his term. (year 3)  
(I previously reported Micheal Twilley, but that was an error)

Deb Davis has requested to be dismissed from her duties. (This was her last year too) We're looking to fill her spot. Let us know if you like to volunteer. (Calling all ladies!!!! This is your chance.)

## 2022 Membership Renewal Due Now!

February is traditionally the month to renew your membership. Although we voted to have monthly face-to-face meetings again, some of you may not feel comfortable to join in person. The Board would like to encourage you to renew your membership by mail instead.

Please forward your \$10.00 membership payment (remember, it covers your whole household) to:

- **JCBA, attn Treasurer Meindert Dijkhuis, 794 Hendrix Rd, Sylvania, AL 35988.**

Please include your Name, Address, Phone-number, and eMail. You will receive your proof of payment in return mail.

## Other Items:

### **Queens and Hives for sale:**

"**Under Clover Apiaries**" will be offering queens and hives for sale this spring.

At least 10 hives will be available throughout spring. First come first serve basis.

Contact Robert McClintock: EMAIL: 3210robertmcclintock@gmail.com

CELL: (256)-658-8409 or (256)-658-2234

P.O. 220 Old Highway 431S, Owens Cross Roads, AL. 35763

### **Warre Hive Project Update:** (see January's newsletter for introduction, and February too)

I installed the hive outside in anticipation of a Spring swarm. I added a wax bead on the topbars to help guide the bees when building their comb. Added a lure to the hive as well. As part of the set-up of this type hive I added a final cloth cover to the top box. The cloth will prevent the bees to propolize the Quilt box, which also has a cloth attached as the bottom to keep the shavings from falling in the hive, and helps with the absorption of moisture. On 3/30/22 I had my first swarm. I chose not to put it in the Warre hive, but installed them in my Layens Horizontal Hive instead.

The next swarm will go in the Warre Hive.

# Let's Talk Bees!

Today is March 30th, 2022. We had a beautiful day, but we're expecting storms tonight. The weather service issued a tornado watch already. Hopefully we all stay safe, and our hives will not be damaged. When I last reported, we still encountered several cold nights, and one of them dipped down to 19 degrees. As a result, I lost one more hive. It looked like they starved or just succumbed to the cold, because they had enough food, but not near the cluster. That left me with 3 hives.

On March 14th I added a second full brood box to each hive. That was really needed, because the boxes were bursting with bees.

As a result, my second hive swarmed today. The bees clustered in the "swarm" tree, and I was able to easily shake them in a tote, and transport them to the Layens Horizontal Hive.

I did have to shake the tree three times, but all went well. After the first shake into the hive, I covered it up, and let the bees move into the hive from the tote I placed in front of the hive. It was a big swarm, and it took from 12:00 till about 4:00 to finally have all bees move in.

I still have two nucs as a swarm catcher, but I moved them closer to the 3 mother hives. The nucs are primed with deep frames with foundation from last year, and I added lemongrass-oil lures to make it even more inviting.

I added an additional nuc-box to the bottom of each to make the space more inviting. Based on information I gathered from Dr Seeley's book Honey Democracy, bees look for space to expand when they're searching for a suitable home. Meaning, can they build their hive large enough to sustain themselves through the coming winter. Ofcourse, they don't know we'll put them in a larger box as they expand their hive, but Dr Seeley found during his research that volume of the new space they're looking for is one of the top selection criteria. I discussed this already last month, but this is one of the reasons I got the Warré hive.

As I was trying to familiarize myself with this system, I stumbled on the Layens Horizontal Hive system. Please look at [www.horizontalhives.com](http://www.horizontalhives.com) for information. I discussed the concept last month. I built one of these hives, and the swarm I caught today settled in this hive.

Below are a few pictures.





I placed 2 quarts of sugar syrup in the hive's empty space. The bees can get to it since the division board has a small gap at the bottom. It allows for the bees to investigate the additional space their new home has, and as the colony grows, additional frames will be added. For now, they can access the syrup, and use it to help build out the comb.



12:00 - Starting to move in.



2:30 - Almost there. Just a small cluster left.



This was 3:45 - Finally all bees have moved in.

Hope to be able to report next month how the bees are doing, and hopefully I'll have a second swarm for the Warre hive. Stay tuned.

## CALENDAR

Based on the Beekeeping Calendar for our climate zone, we should: (Covers February, March & April)

As April approaches, start thinking about the following:

1. Check for eggs and or the queen
2. This would be a good month for new bee installation in new hives
3. Continue to check for capped brood and brood patterns
4. Feed pollen substitute
5. Look for supercedure cells. These are queen cells attached toward the top of a frame. These cells indicate the queen is no longer performing well, and the bees are preparing for a replacement queen. (remember; swarm cell are at the bottom of a frame)

For May, start thinking about the following:

1. It may be time to add a queen excluder and honey supers. Since we're in AL, you may want to do this late April.
2. As the honey flow increases, keep monitoring your honey supers, and add one as soon as 7 frames in the honey super are filled.
3. Keep monitoring for supercedure cells (see 5)
4. Keep monitoring for swarm cells (see 5)

(From Beekeeping for Dummies, 3rd edition by Howland Blackinton)



## Favorite Book List

### ***Keeping Bees in Horizontal Hives: A Complete Guide to Apiculture***

Georges de Layens & Gaston Bonnier

Dr. Leo Sharashkin (editor)

374 pages, 250 ill.

\$49.95. ISBN 978-0-9842873-6-9

Deep Snow Press, 2017

### ***Keeping Bees With A Smile: A Vision and Practice of Natural Apiculture* ( I Like!)**

Fedor Lazutin

Dr. Leonid Sharashkin (editor)

402 pages, 140 ill., 32 full-color photos

\$34.95. ISBN 978-0-9842873-5-2

Deep Snow Press, 2013.

### ***Honeybee Democracy Hardcover – Illustrated, October 10, 2010***

by [Thomas D. Seeley](#) (Author)

Can be purchased Used for \$15.00. \$22.00 on Amazon

Honeybees make decisions collectively--and democratically. Every year, faced with the life-or-death problem of choosing and traveling to a new home, honeybees stake everything on a process that includes collective fact-finding, vigorous debate, and consensus building. In fact, as world-renowned animal behaviorist Thomas Seeley reveals, these incredible insects have much to teach us when it comes to collective wisdom and effective decision making.