



Jackson County Beekeepers Monthly Newsletter

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Beating the heat!



Added a roof to the hives to deflect heat. (by Meindert Dijkhuis on July 28, 2022)

August 2022
TOP NEWS

2022 Club Meetings

Club meeting on Thursday, August 4, 2022, at the ALFA building on Hwy 72 in Scottsboro. The meeting will start at:

- **6:00 PM.**
- **PLEASE NOTE: Jimmy Carmack will be our featured speaker. He'll be speaking about honey extraction.**

Annual Picnic - August 20th

🐝 We're planning our Annual Picnic for August 20th. Traditionally, we'll have BBQ meets provided, and ask you all to provide a dish that can be shared. Sign-up lists will go around for food, drinks, and supplies on 8/4/22. Keep your calendar for August 20 open! It will be held at the ALFA building (our meeting room)



2022
**Alabama
Honey Festival**

4th Annual Honey Festival - October 2nd

🐝 This is an invitation and reminder to please sign up for the 4th Alabama Honey Festival in Hampton Cove. Your fees are waived for educational/non profit associations. However, we have space limitations. Please join us sooner than later.

Questions can be directed to Keith Fletcher or Marguerite McClintock (256) 658 2234

Here is a link to the Vendor information page: [Vendor Link](#)

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 (Acting president while Ray has surgery)
- Dustin Davis - Secretary
- Meindert Dijkhuis - Treasurer/editor

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)

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.)

Club Resources you can use!

- If you want to use any equipment, like the extractors, or EZ-Vape, for instance, CALL or TEXT Keith Fletcher at (703)887-6071 and reserve whatever you need.

2022 Membership Renewal Continues

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.

Be a Contributing Editor.

If you have ideas, articles, YouTube video links, or subjects you would like to share with our Club Members, please let me know by sending me an email to meindertdijkhuis@gmail.com

Feel free to write something, and I'll be glad to add it. We want to share information.



Added a roof to my hives to deflect heat. The weather has been brutal for the bees. I hope this helps lower the inside temperature by a few degrees.

Let's Talk Bees!

I should have done this sooner I think, but I made a simple open roof for each one of my hives to deflect some of the intense heat we're experiencing this summer. I had some old plywood laying around, and cut a 26" by 17" and 26" by 16" piece screwed to a 1x1 support. I painted the tops white. I made the one side 17", because it overlaps the other side, and makes the roof more even as it sits on top of the hive. Not only do these tops deflect heat, but they also allow wind to go through the open space and help cool the hive down further. The additional length creates a small overhang over the front entrance and casts some shade on the top honey supers. To make sure the roofs don't blow off, I tied them down with baling twine.

Horizontal Layens hive Update: I was right about my assessment in last month's newsletter. With few bees, no food to speak of, and drone brood, the colony is dead. Today, July 28th, I inspected the hive, and found no bees, but plenty of wax moths. Luckily, they had not done too much damage, and I removed the impacted frames and stuck them in the freezer. What a disappointment. In this case, the hive swarmed, while I was away. It

must have been a big swarm, because the remaining bees were unable to protect the hive from intruders, and were robbed of all their food supplies. The hive was just too large (20 frames) for them to protect. The other question on my mind is; what happened to the new queen? Was she able to mate? Did she return to the hive? There were several queen cells. You would expect one of them to survive, but if she did not come back from her mating flight, the remaining bees may already have been stressed as it is due to the robbing that was taking place at the same time. With no brood to speak of, they could not raise a new queen. I'll never know. Just another lesson learned. We'll try again next spring. I am sure I'll have a few swarms come spring.

Warré Hive experiment box Update: No change! The Warré hive is still doing well. As I wrote before, this hive has currently 3 boxes. The top 2 are now fully filled out. From what I could see through the screened bottom board, the bees are starting to build comb in the 3rd box. I do not expect them to make a lot of progress, due to the heat and or dearth. However, I need to keep an eye out for progress, because it would be time to add the 4th box at the bottom.

Based on the writings from Mr. Warré, as soon as I add the 4th box, I would also remove the top box. This would contain any extra honey the bees stored for the winter. This hive mimics a tree hollow, and as the bees ascend down, the brood chamber ascends down with it, and the top of the hive becomes now the store for winter supplies. As Fall/Winter approaches, the brood chamber will have ascended down to box 3. By placing box 4 under it, the bees will still feel they have room to expand, and the beekeeper can now take the top box (box 1) out. This leaves box 2 as the top box with Supplies for winter. Since the boxes are square, less space is required to be kept warm, and the bees can easily move up to access honey supplies if needed during cold winter days. Below is a view up into the hive.



Warre hive view from below. The top slats are in box 3, and the bees are starting to build comb. (M Dijkhuis 7/6/22)

More on next page

CALENDAR

Based on the Beekeeping Calendar for our climate zone, we should: (Covers June-August)

For June, address the following:

1. Keep monitoring for supercedure cells
2. Keep monitoring for swarm cells
3. Check ventilation. Use popsicle sticks to raise the cover slightly to improve airflow, for instance.
4. Start checking for surplus honey. This may be the start of harvest season. Seen some impressive harvests on Facebook!
5. Survey flowering plants in your area. We'll start seeing a decline soon. I noticed that Privet is not very abundant near my house this year. Still have a lot of white clover.

For July and August, address the following:

1. Check ventilation. Use popsicle sticks to raise the cover slightly to improve airflow, for instance.
2. Check for surplus honey. This may be the start of harvest season. (July 4th weekend)
3. In Alabama, we may see a dearth during the hot summer months. Bees may start feeding on the honey they already collected.
4. Start putting out communal feeding areas. For instance, I keep a feeding table out near my apiary and feed sugar syrup. I also noticed bees heavily foraging on water. I have a pond nearby, and the bees use certain spots to collect water.

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

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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.

\$39.95. 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

\$24.95 (on sale). 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 \$14.00. \$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.

Raising Honeybee Queens

by Gilles Fert (Author) Dr. Leonid Sharashkin (editor)

144 pages, 150 full-color illustrations

\$29. ISBN 978-0-9842873-8-3

Deep Snow Press, 2020

Note: The above books are available in the JCBA Library.