



Jackson County Beekeepers Monthly Newsletter

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# Bees in AL Winter Setting

One of those warmer Winter days, and bees start flying



by Meindert Dijkhuis on January 8, 2022

## 2022 Club Meetings

We decided in the January meeting to go back to monthly face-to-face meetings.

The board is working on a spending plan for this year that will include funding for speakers. We have secured Wi-Fi in our meeting room at the ALFA building, and hope to get a large screen TV we can use for remote Zoom enabled speakers or for educational videos etc. We hope to fund it with Federation money.

We're also planning for a March 19th "Beginners Beekeeping" all day workshop. We hope to share more information with you soon. Dustin already has a bunch of folks signed up.

**We will be meeting on Thursday, February 4th 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 & approve the Budget Proposal.
- **Everyone else!!** Please be there **no later than 6:30 PM**, and we can commence with the regular meeting. We're still working on an agenda. If all fails, we will have an open discussion, and or question and answer session. It's always good to exchange experiences of our fellow beekeepers. Remember; there is always more than one answer to our bee questions. Everyone is right.

***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)
- Deb Davis and Michael Twilley will continue to serve the remainder of their term. (year 3)

Deb Davis has requested to be dismissed from her duties. We're looking to fill her spot. Let us know if you like to volunteer.

## 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

If you have information to share or bee related items you want to sell or looking to purchase, let me know, and I'll add a note in the newsletter.



**Warre Hive Project Update:** (see last month's newsletter for introduction)

I installed the hive outside in anticipation of a Spring swarm. Fingers crossed. I do still need to put a wax bead on the topbars to help guide the bees when building their comb. In addition I need to add a lure. I hope the 1st swarm will be enticed to go to this hive by themselves, unless they pick the favorite swarm tree again. I am going all out crazy, but I'll be adding a Horizontal Layens hive as well (with removable frames). I am working on building one. Stay tuned!

# Let's Talk Bees!

Today is February 1st, 2022. It may get up to 59 degrees today. I did a walk-about this morning to check on things and feed the animals, and the bees were busy. I am afraid I lost my No. One hive though. (This is my original package of bees from six years ago. The granddaughters of this original queen have been good to me) I didn't see any bees come out of the hive today. I haven't opened the hive to see. I wonder if the insulating foil I put around the hives had anything to do with it. It's a bit risky, because it could easily cause moisture build up if the hive isn't ventilated well enough. The other 4 hives are doing well so far. Unfortunately we're not done with winter yet. The weather rollercoaster will continue.

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

1. Check Food Reserves. See if they still have natural resources, or add more supplemental food, including pollen substitute.
2. Check entrance for blockage (if we had accumulation of snow)
3. Weather permitting, do the 1st comprehensive inspection of the season. If you wait to do this until March, check for eggs/queen.
4. If you're thinking about ordering package bees, you better hurry up, and get that order in.

As we approach March, start thinking about the following:

1. Medicate for AFB (American Foulbrood - bacterial disease of larvae - worst problem), EFB (European Foulbrood-bacterial disease of larvae), and Nosema - (Fungus infection of intestinal tracks of bees) - We advise to read up on these problems before administering medications.
2. Medicate for Varroa mites. - Ask about the Easy-Vap device you can borrow from the Club
3. Medicate for tracheal mites
4. Check for Hive beetles, and medicate if needed
5. If you haven't already done so; make sure to get your additional hive boxes ready for service. By adding an additional box as soon as you notice increased activity, early swarming may be prevented.

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