



Jackson County Beekeepers Monthly Newsletter



Northern Alabama Winter(?)



Sylvania, AL October 2022. This is how my hives went into winter. Shielded from western winds with bubble wrap foil. I was away in December when we were hit with the severe cold snap. To my surprise; when I returned, all hives, but one, showed signs of life. The bees were bringing pollen in.



2023 Club Meetings

Club meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2023, at the ALFA building on Hwy 72 in Scottsboro.

Agenda:

Business Meeting: The February meeting will include Officer and Board of Director election proceedings during our business meeting segment. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer positions are up for election, as well as 4 Board of Director slots. We are in critical need of candidates for the officer positions. Please consider running for one of these positions. You don't have to be a Master Beekeeper. We just need someone with passion for beekeeping to help promote and lead the club into the future. You will not be alone; all of us are here to support you and make the club a success. Contact Keith Fletcher if you want to be considered.

Presentation: Lionel Evans, a long time beekeeper from Limestone County, will do a presentation on Swarming.

The meeting will start at:

- **6:00 PM**

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.

2023 Membership Drive Now in Progress

February is traditionally the month to renew your membership, we like to encourage you to become a member now. The Board would like to encourage you to renew your membership by mail if you're still apprehensive to attend live meetings due to the COVID thread. We understand.

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.**
 - (This will change in March since we'll have a new treasurer in 2023)

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 questions, 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.

Business Opportunity.

New Opportunity: Alchemy Farms, at The Market at Artisans Cove, offers Bee related workshops in March of this year. Please go to their website at www.themarketatartisanscove.com

Click on “Shop Now” to see all offerings. In addition, they offer 3 lb Honey Bee Packages for \$150 per package.

(Carry over from last month) I received a message from Mr. Chris Gully. He runs a Hardware Store in Bridgeport, AL. He’s looking for someone to sell honey products at his store. If you are interested in this opportunity, please call him on (256) 495-1033 (store number)

Let’s Talk Bees!

On our January 5th 2023 meeting we invited Lonnie Funderberg from Oneonta to do a presentation on frame building. We had a great turnout, and we had a lot of fun assembling a frame we actually got to take home. The cool part of this session were the jigs Mr. Funderberg provided to assemble the frames, and wire them properly. We assembled frames intended to hold wax foundation. They are a bit more involved, because they require cross wiring to support the foundation.

Steps involved:

1. Get your frame components ready: 1 top bar, 1 bottom bar, 2 side bars, 1¼ nails, ⅝ nails, wood glue, and grommets. Wax foundation sheet, and wire.
2. Use 3 grommets for each sidebar and hammer them into the pre-drilled holes
3. Sidebars in jig, glue, put top bar on, and nail with 1¼ nails
4. Turn frame over and attach bottom bar with two 1¼ nails
5. Add a ¼ nail through each sidebar into topbar at an angle making sure the nail does not show through the top
6. Mount the frame on the wiring jig, and thread the wire through the holes. Also add 2 ⅝ nails at bottom and top of sidebar nearest to the wire dispenser; not all the way in.
7. Tighten wire.
8. Remove one strip of wood from the top bar with Exacto knife. Start 4 ⅝ nails in the strip
9. Add foundation to frame, and replace strip to top, and nail in.
10. Crimp the wire into the wax with wire crimper

Follow the pictures for more visual details.



Lonnie Funderberg



Participants busy assembling and supporting



Jigs to build frame (left), and wiring jig



Equipment list



Sorry, I didn't take a picture of the finished product

The Challenge:

So, Let's all do a Varroa test in January to set the baseline for 2023. It would be cool if you shared your data/findings with me, and maybe we can chart it out, and report on "the State of the Varroa" in the February or March Newsletter or during our club meetings.

Below is a link to a YouTube link on how to check for Varroa with an alcohol wash. This test takes about a cup of bees (ca 300)

[How to check for varroa mites in a beehive](#)

My email is meindertdijkhuis@gmail.com. Let me know how many colonies you tested, and what the results for each are (Varroa count per 300 bees), and the location of your hive (Zip Code)

[More below](#)

Calendar

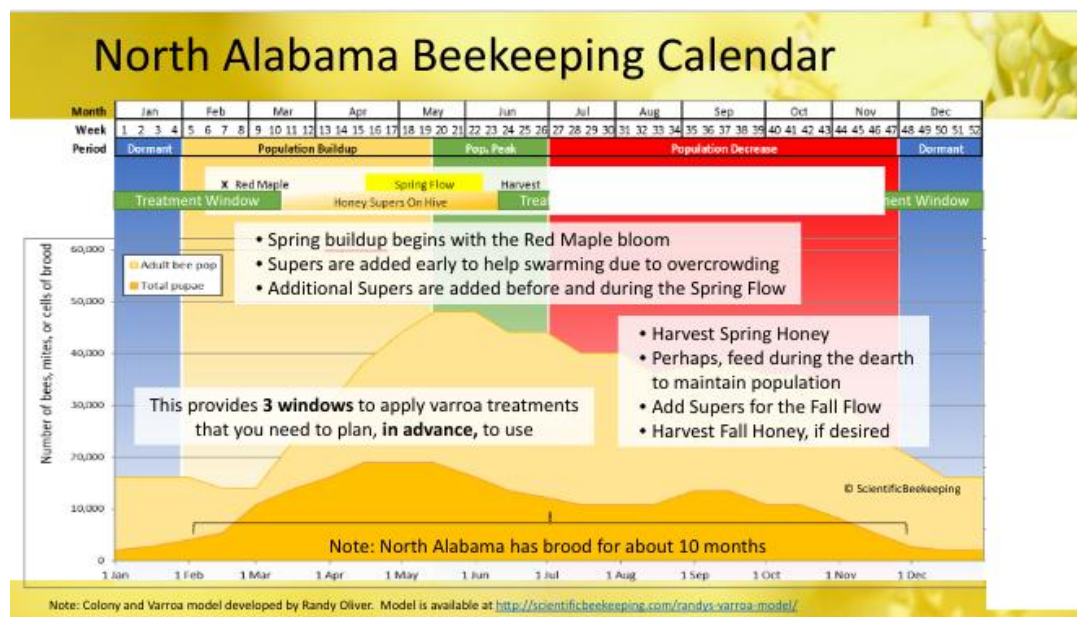
Based on the Beekeeping Calendar for our climate zone, we should: (Covers February and March)

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)



Copied from Bill Elliott's presentation about Varroa pests

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.