



Jackson County Beekeepers Monthly Newsletter



Busy Hives



by Meindert Dijkhuis on May 21, 2022

June 2022
TOP NEWS

2022 Club Meetings

Club meeting on Thursday, June 2, 2022, at the ALFA building on Hwy 72 in Scottsboro.
The meeting will start at:

- **6:00 PM.**
- **PLEASE NOTE: Live Demonstration: Dustin Davis. Our Own Beekeeper extra ordinaire will demonstrate how to make pollen patties with MegaBee.**
- **Dustin will explain how and when to use Pollen Patties throughout the seasons.**
- **  Easy pollen patty recipe (YouTube video from Kamon Reynolds Tennessee's Bees) Makes 47 lbs of pattie material**

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.

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.

More on the next page



Pointing the way to the queen in the box

Let's Talk Bees!

Time flies when you're having fun. It's the end of May. I had my last, and 7th swarm, on the 27th from my Layens hive. Right now, I am running 8 full hives (with 2 brood boxes each), and 1 nuc. The swarms I transitioned to a full 10-frame brood box are already running a 2nd brood box, and I added a honey super as well. I was going to transition the 6th swarm I caught on Mother's Day, from the nuc to a full-size box on the 24th, but those plans had to be postponed due to the rain we're finally getting.

Here's something for our new beekeepers: **Things NOT TO DO!** When I had my 6th swarm on 5/8/22, I placed the bees in a nuc box. The swarm was nice and large, so I added an empty nuc box under the one with the frames to give them the feeling this space was worth staying in, and I provided syrup as well to help them get started. (I have done this with all my swarms) Checked on them a week later, and everything looked great. The frames were being built up, and I knew I had to move them pretty soon to a larger box. The key is: when 7 frames are filled up, add another box. I was going to do this on 5/24/22. Oops, too late!

At this point they had been in the nuc 16 days. The bees had already added comb under the frames in the top box. The one frame I pulled against the box wall weighed a ton, and I could barely pull it up. Full of honey.

Ofcourse, I couldn't transition these frames into a larger box like this. This needs an additional box, and open frames I can stick this wild comb in. I ran out of equipment too (boxes and frames). Another trip to the bee supply store. (Thanks Caney Creek Beez for being there). It was already late afternoon, so I decided to wait, and paint the boxes, and do the transition on 5/25. Then we got rain, wind, and a temperature drop.

LESSON LEARNED: If you decide to give your bees extra space, make sure all that space is filled with frames. Bees will fill it up if you let them. Make sure you have enough equipment standing by to address colony expansion. I should have been more attentive to the bees and my own equipment needs. I am adding a video clip on how I transitioned the wild comb to the frames. You'll see the final set-up too.

Before you watch my movie, have a look at this YouTube video from Kayman Reynolds. He's in Tennessee, and I really like watching his videos. This one shows how to properly inspect your new swarm, and how to determine when to add another box.

Signs your Honeybees Need another Box!

My movie begins with me moving the nuc to a worktable, away from all the other hives. I open the nuc, and start removing the frames one by one. I wipe the bees from the wild comb back into the nuc, and cut the wild comb from the frame, and place the frame in the new full size box. That box already contained 5 frames with wax foundation they can use to build out the colony. After all the wild comb was removed and collected in a tote, I put an inner cover on the new box, and left the bees for the time being. At that point I took the wild comb pieces and stuck them in empty frames with a rubber band holding them in position. These frames went in a second brood box. I filled the empty space with wax foundation frames to make that box full. These frames were in the middle of the box, and lined up with the frames of the 1st box. This will ensure the warmth of the box below will rise over the top frames, since some had brood in them as well. I had one frame with broken pieces. I held that back and added it to my nuc with the #7 Swarm, to give them a little help getting started. After the whole process was completed, I moved the hive back to the stand by the other hives. Added the 2nd brood box on top, and closed it up. Here's the clip: (23 min. Thank you Eileen (my wife) for adding the commentary (good questions) as she films the action)

<https://youtu.be/eScBrHT4M6k>

Horizontal Layens hive Update: When I checked on this swarm colony on 4/13, they already filled the 9 starter frames up. I added 6 more frames, which they built out too by 4/26. When the remaining 5 frames were added. The hive contains all 20 frames. From that moment on I left them alone. It sure looked like a strong colony. Until 5/27 that is, when I caught a small swarm from the hive. I have the suspicion that the main 1st swarm

happened a week earlier, but I missed it. I opened the hive on 5/29, and found no queen, no brood, except for a few drone cells, and 3 swarm queen cells. The swarm cells looked nice and had not been opened. Since the 2nd swarm happened the day before, I hope a queen will emerge in the next few days. The frames still contained a lot of honey. Also, some of the bees still in the hive were very fuzzy looking. I assume these are young bees, just recently hatched. They are doing house chores, and are waiting for eggs to be produced real soon. (After the new queen goes out for her mating flight) Below is a picture of one of the frames with a queen cell, and a few drone cells at the bottom. Fingers crossed.



Layens hive frame with queen cell, no brood, except a few drone cells. The rest is honey or empty cells

More on next page

Warre Hive experiment box Update: Great progress is being made. On May 17th, my wife and I checked on how they were coming along. The top box was full now, and the bees started attaching the comb to the viewing window. At this point, I knew they would be building comb in the 2nd box from the top. A week prior I had removed the Boardman Feeders I had placed inside to make sure they wouldn't incorporate that into the design (LOL). Since this is a top-bar hive, the bees continue extending the comb from above into the second box. Each box does have top bars, but they become part of the support to hold the comb together as it descends into the open cavity. This means; you can't separate the boxes any longer. So, I did break the seal on boxes 2 and 3, and carefully tipped the 2 top boxes. This allowed us to look inside and see what the bees had accomplished so far. The picture below shows they built comb on all the bars. The 3rd one contained only a little piece, but they were working on it. I thought it was pretty cool. It does look like bar 1 and 2 have one solid comb.



View from below into box 2 of Warre hive

More on next page

CALENDAR

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

For May, address 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)

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.
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, 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.
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)

More on next page

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.