



Jackson County Beekeepers Monthly Newsletter

Catching Swarms



First swarm under my feeding table: Placed a 10-frame box under it. Removed a frame to create space, and just scooped them in. (May 4, '23): by Meindert Dijkhuis

2023 Club Meetings

We will be meeting on Thursday, June 1st, 2023, at the ALFA building on Hwy 72 in Scottsboro. The meeting will start at:

- **Start time: 6:00 PM,**
- **Agenda:** Marguerite McClintock discusses: “Oh no, do I Need a Queen?” When and how to get queens.

2023 Club Picnic

Mark your calendar! The annual bbq picnic has been set for Saturday, August 19th at the Pavilion at County Park.

Current Management (2023)

As of February 2nd, 2023 our leaders are:

- Charles Smith - President (email: charlie2875@yahoo.com)
- Rob Woody - Vice President (email: rwoody@nehp.net)
- Maggie Smith - Secretary (email: oneloveneverfails@gmail.com)
- Trisha Jacob- Treasurer (email: tjacob04@gmail.com)

Current 2023 directors are:

- 1-Year Term: Tim Dalton and Marguerite McClintock
- 2-Year Term: Jeremy Mulkey and Terry McClendon
- 3-Year Term: Dale Orlofsky and Lane Walden

We are proud to have you as our leaders for the next season.

2023 Membership!

February is traditionally the month to renew your membership. If you haven't renewed, do it now.

It's only \$10 per year, and covers your whole household. You can pay the treasurer at the meeting, or if you want to mail it in, please forward your payment to:

- JCBA, attn Treasurer Trisha Jacob, 38380 US HWY 72, Stevenson, AL 35772.

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

Club Resources you can use!

- As part of your \$10 annual membership fee, you can use, free of charge, various pieces of equipment. Please CALL or TEXT Keith Fletcher at (703)887-6071 and reserve whatever you need.
 - We have 2 extractors (1 small, 1 large (12 frames))
 - Uncapping box
 - Electric uncapping knife
 - EZ-Vape system to treat for Varroa (includes safety mask and goggles)
 - Tricia Davis (Dustin Davis' widow) donated his Observation hive, Teaching Hive, Mini Hive, several books, and posters. If any of you are asked to do presentations, we may be able to arrange for you to use these resources. We're still looking for a more permanent place to house these, and you can contact Keith if you're willing to take possession of these items.

Let's Talk Bees!

Hope everyone is having a great bee season. I have seen plenty of swarm pictures on Facebook, and I am thinking some of you have already harvested some honey (Yes, me too).

As of May 1st, I had three hives here in Sylvania. I had not really done any inspections on any of them so far. My moving to Florida keeps getting in the way. However, all 3 hives showed plenty of activity, so I wasn't too worried about their wellbeing. On May 4th, one day before my wife and I were planning on making another trip to the south, I caught a very nice swarm. (See the picture at the beginning of the newsletter)

The bees had settled under the feeding table I have stationed near my bee-hut/chicken coop. When I did my late morning check, there hadn't been much activity, but when I came back around 4 PM to collect the eggs, my wife discovered the swarm under the table. I had kept an empty beehive

out just for this occasion, and I was able to put the swarm in without a hitch. I placed the hive (single brood box) on the table, and left it. The next day we left for Florida.

Ofcourse, the first thing I did when we got back was to check on them, and see how they were doing. So on May 27th I opened her up, and I was quite surprised to see the progress the bees had made. The queen had been busy alright. The pictures below show both sides of the same frame. This is 23 days after they were put in this box, and almost all 10 frames looked like this.



I placed a honey super on the box to give them more space, but I am thinking I should have put another brood box on it, because this hive will double when the new bees emerge in a few days time. I'll have to keep an eye on it during the coming week.



While I was checking these bees, I decided to also look at the other 3 hives.

The 1st hive I opened did not have any honey in the honey super (?) Then I started checking the 2nd brood box on this hive. It did not look good, because there was a lot of burr comb between the frames, and I also discovered that some portion of the frame had collapsed or maybe melted. These frames are all wax foundation, and do have the metal wires to hold it all up, so a bit disheartening. The frames were installed properly (spacing). The 1st brood box was in better shape, but it showed traces of the burr comb too. Because I didn't have any empty frames handy, I couldn't rebuild some of them and all frames need some sort of maintenance to make it less of a mess. I closed it back up, but I need to do something. Have any of you ever seen this happen? I would love to know, and also what you did to remedy it.

I did find swarm queen cells, and I believe now that this hive was the mother of the swarm I caught on May 4th.

My other 2 hives are in much better shape. I took 3 10-frame honey supers from them, and I harvested the honey this week. These are medium supers and they weigh a ton. All in all, I got 80 Lbs of honey out of them. Not bad, since I had to leave about 6 frames untouched. Not all full, or uncapped honey. They will go back to the bees. The bees are all doing well. I didn't see any hive beetles, but I do have an issue with ants. The ants are not in the hive, but they are in between the inner lid and top cover. I cleaned them up as much as I could, so I hope they will be less of a problem going into summer.

Beekeeping in Florida. That's another story. The Warre hive is plotting along, but the bees are not expanding into the 3rd hive box. New bees did their orientation flights a few weeks ago, and as a hive, they are very busy. I do have hive beetles. I can't really go into this hive, because this is a top-bar setup, and you can't remove frames from them. The top box has a viewing window, and there is a lot of activity, but I haven't seen hive beetles.

The Langstroth hive is very active, and looks healthy. However, I did find a few bees outside the hive with Varroa Mite indicators. One drone had the deformed wing syndrome, and I found a drone with a mite attached.



Above: Drone with deformed wing syndrome. Below: Drone with mite on wing



This means; I have to treat. When I go back in the middle of June, I am going to treat the hives with Apiguard gel trays. You place one tray for 2 weeks or until the gel is gone, and place a second tray in the hive for another 2 weeks. You do have to remove the honey supers. I am going to place an empty honey super on it to allow the bees to continue harvesting, and I will destroy that after the treatments. The Warre hive will stay untouched. I will just not harvest anything from it.

That's my story. Happy beekeeping. I hope to hear some of you'all's experiences at the meeting.

Business Opportunity.

No new opportunities reported

Future Events

Welcome back to the 2023 5th Alabama Honey Festival in October! We are so excited that you are joining us again this year. We've grown so much that we are now entering our next phase!

This year, the event is moving to Alabama A&M University, Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research Station at 372 Walker Lane, Hazel Green, AL. [Alabama A&M University Thomas Agricultural Research Center](#). This is an outdoor educational event and market with vendors that support bees and pollinators. Spaces for this event are juried. If you are accepted, there is a non-refundable fee of \$50.00 per 10 x 10 space. Non-profit educational programs are exempted.

This open, almost 1000 acres of research is an invaluable asset where education comes first. I am so excited and humbled that the Dean and Dr. Cebert allow us to hold this event here. Their support will enable us to have more demonstrations and gardens showing how we must work together as a community "super" organism in order to survive.

Your organization or business is part of this group because you have something that ties you to the honeybee, native bee or pollinator. We are all interconnected.

October 1, 2022 Sunday

Event is 1 pm - 5 pm

Setup is early as 11:00 am

Address: 372 Walker Lane, Hazel Green, AL 35750

This is for your information. You have been accepted into this event with no fees. However, please plan on a program that we will have for you to share with kids. (no charge) We will be sending families with kids on a scavenger hunt and they will come back to our booth for a free honey stick per participant. You just have to share something about your work and stamp their card.

If you have updated any of your logos, FB, etc, please send an attachment to the Attention: Angela Hawke at Alabamahoneyfestival@gmail.com.

If you have not filled out your application yet, PLEASE DO SO NOW!

FILL OUT IN GOOGLE FORMS

Again, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to text Marguerite McClintock @ 256 658 2234 or Sandi Billings (2023 Festival Coordinator) 321-795-4618, or Robert McClintock (The Market at Artisans Cove Manager) 256 658-8409

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.

Beekeeping CALENDAR

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

In April, we should have addressed:

1. Check for eggs and or the queen.
2. This would be a good month for new bees 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)
6. Look for swarm cells. Since many of us have already experienced swarms, do this as soon as possible if your hives have not shown signs of swarming. The swarm cells will be located at the bottom of a frame or frames. Take action if you find them.

For May, we should have addressed the following:

7. 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.
8. As the honey flow increases, keep monitoring your honey supers, and add one as soon as 7 frames in the honey super are filled.
9. Keep monitoring for supercedure cells
10. Keep monitoring for swarm cells

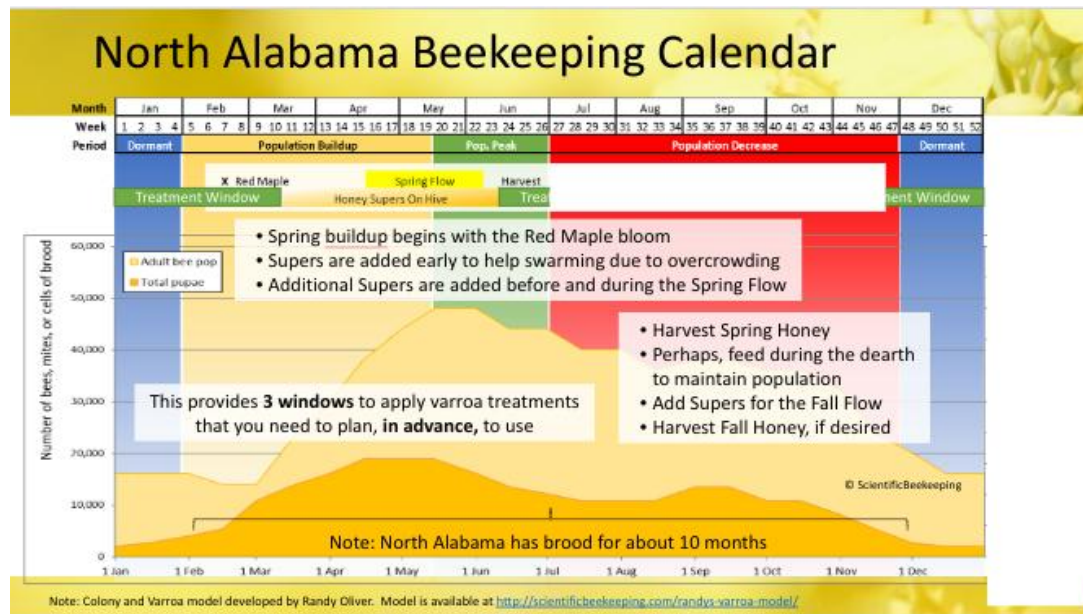
For June address the following:

11. Keep monitoring for supercedure cells
12. Keep monitoring for swarm cells
13. Check ventilation. Use popsicle sticks to raise the cover slightly to improve airflow, for instance.
14. Start checking for surplus honey. This may be the start of harvest season.

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)



Copied from Bill Elliott's presentation about Varroa pests

Favorite Book List

What a bee knows - Exploring the thoughts, memories, and personalities of bees **(NEW)**

Stephen Buchmann

\$25.72 (Walmart Online). ISBN 9781642831245

Island Press, 2023

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.