



Jackson County Beekeepers Monthly Newsletter

It's Spring



Bee on Blueberry flowers (April 9 '23): by Meindert Dijkhuis

May 2023
TOP STORIES

2023 Club Meetings

We will be meeting on Thursday, May 4th, 2023, at the ALFA building on Hwy 72 in Scottsboro. The meeting will start at:

- Start time: 6:00 PM,
- Presentation: Return visit of YouTube Sensation Yappy Beeman (Travis Ulbrich). Looking forward to his visit; come and join us.
- Here's a preview of one of his latest YouTube postings: (click on the link)
 - ▣ Can I Save A Pallet Of Angry Bees

Current Management (2023)

February is traditionally our changing of the Guards so to speak, and 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 Renewal Due Now!

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!

- 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.

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.

Let's Talk Bees!

It's a rainy day on April 26, as I am sitting at the table thinking about what I want to write about.

First, my own bees are doing fine. The 3 hives in my yard here in Sylvania are active. I still haven't inspected them. Now with the rain forecast for most of the week it will have to wait a little longer. I have been on the road between Florida and Virginia this last month and I keep thinking my bees have surely swarmed by now. The funny part is, my bees in Florida haven't swarmed either. My neighbor keeps an eye out for it, but nothing has happened yet. Fingers crossed. Got the swarm traps out.

Be sure to scroll down past my story and read about the Bee School Event on April 22nd. Trisha Jacobs attended Kent Williams' open house bee school event in Kentucky, and writes about her experiences.



On April 1st I helped Dale Orłowski put his 2 highly anticipated bee packages in his hive. That was fun. We had decided to do the installation 2 ways. One; The shake method, Two; Place the open package in the hive, aka self-release.

Thinking about my own package installations; this was going to be a breeze. The bees would be pretty docile, and we wouldn't encounter too many problems. Well, it did not turn out that way. Dale wore his bee suit and veil; I did not. We took 5 frames out of his first hive, to accommodate the package. After that we removed the lid from the package, and proceeded to remove the sugar water can. That's always a bit tricky, and we struggled a bit with it. We had sprayed some sugar water on the bees to keep them calm and busy.

We removed the queen cage. Removed the piece of cork holding the candy in place, and placed the queen between 2 frames. After that we placed the now open package in the space we opened up in the hive box.

As we're trying to do all this, one bee did not like me and started buzzing angrily near my ears, and eyes. I had to step away from the whole thing and get my suit on. Dale got it on film, but he can't show it to anyone. Mostly embarrassing behavior on my part.

The 2nd package installation was easy, just like I remembered it. We placed the queen cage in the hive, after removing the cork bit, and shook the bees in the hive. We placed the open package in front of the hive on the ground to let the bees that didn't come out, exit on their own.

Dale had some fancy Boardman Feeders, but instead of mounting them near the entrance on the outside, I advised Dale to place the feeders inside the hive, on top of the frames and add an empty honey super. This was more to provide protection for the bees, and have the feeder not be an invitation for other bees to come and rob. Dale has since removed them, and created a community feeding area away from the hives, where all the bees can access the sugar water if they have a need for it. At some point, when the bees find enough natural resources in the field, they will abandon the feeders.

The installations are a success. The more aggressive hive seems to do a little better. As of a few days ago, they had already built out 6 frames. The calmer hive lags a little behind, but everything seems to be on track. Dale was able to locate the queens, and he should be seeing some young bees real soon.



April 19, 2023. Package bees are hard at work building comb. (Dale Orłowski)

Bee School Event in Wingo, KY on April 22nd! (Trisha Jacob)

If anyone ever has a chance to go to Kent Williams Bee School please do! It is an overwhelming production at his farm that would not be possible to walk away with more bee knowledge than when you arrived.

Shannon and I took a trip to Wingo, KY on Saturday April 22nd in hopes of learning more about our bees and we definitely were not disappointed. There were probably at least 50-75 people in attendance that weekend and each person there was excited about what was happening on the farm. There were children with more knowledge about bees than I ever expected.

The farm is an actual working farm so bring your galoshes/work boots (you are in the fields for the on hands stuff) and a chair (you will want to sit for some portion of the day).

There were about 5 or 6 different, in field, learning teams and you could walk around to each group and just join in on the conversations.

The groups, on the day we went, were hive inspections, queen finding and extractions, pest control, swarm inspections and making splits. We joined each and everyone of these groups just to learn as much as possible.



Queen Finding

We all then broke for lunch which I have to say I did not expect it to be as delicious as it was. They had fried chicken or fried catfish, lots of sides like baked beans and cabbage casserole, rolls & cornbread with tons of sweets for after lunch both homemade and pre-packed. They served tea, coffee, water and even some sodas.

After lunch they had numerous Raffles for tons of great bee giveaways including an entire five box hive!

After the Raffles, Kent took a group out to extract a queen cell for grafting and took the group into his barn where there was a layout of equipment and a training session ensued. This was most interesting even for those of us who are not up to that level yet. It is still fun to learn how this is even possible. (Pic. below)



Shannon and I took a quick look at the queen grafting and then moved on to swarm catching. The teacher for this class was Jordan and he was amazing! He taught every aspect you would need to know about starting a swarm catching hive and then proceeded to take our team to the field and show how to use the easy check system to check for Varroa mites. This is something EVERYONE should know if you are raising bees.



Hive inspections

If you are interested please pre-mark your calendars for next year's event. It typically takes place in April and is a three day funtastic event!

(story by Trisha Jacob)

Beekeeping CALENDAR

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

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.

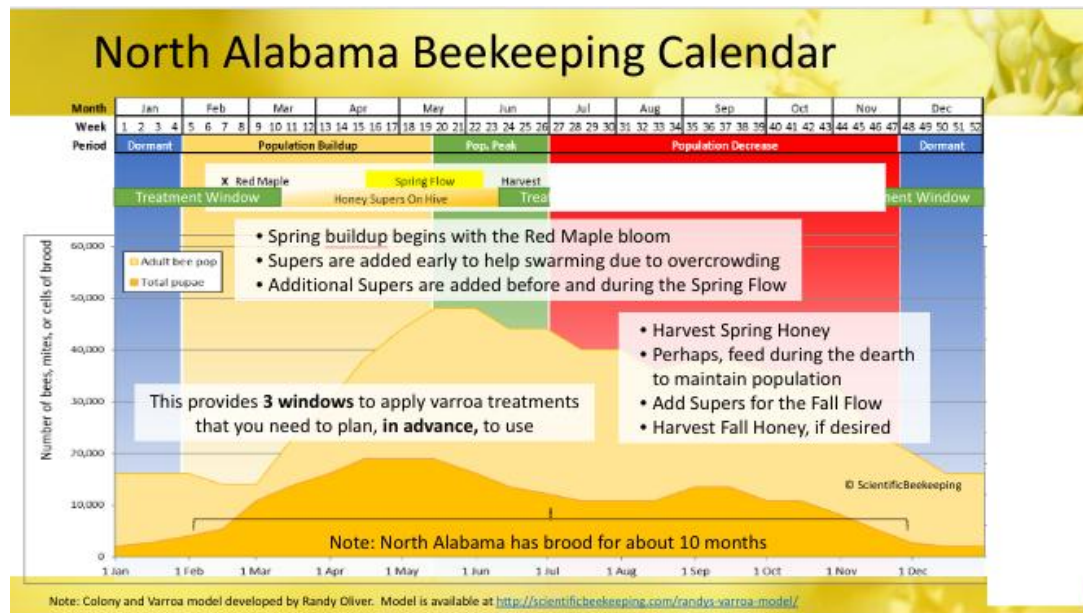
For May, address the following:

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.

(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.