THE MONTHLY PEEK into hive life

NORTHEASTERN INDIANA BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION – APRIL 2024

Our objective is to promote the art and skills of beekeeping in Indiana and throughout the world. By doing so, we preserve and improve the general environment in which we live, assist in providing better crop yield, provide high quality honey, and we do our part to preserve bees.

What's new in the April issue:

- President's Minutes
- Loss of a member – Telling the Bees
- New Members
- Calendar of Events
- A Peek into Your Hive Life (Pictures from members)
- Our Hive News
- Field Day Events
- Recap of Beekeeping for beginners with Chris LaSalle
- Stahlman Beekeeping Issue 11, Vol 6
- Beekeeping Around the World - Korea
- List of Officers
- American Bee Journal Subscription
- Bee Culture Subscription
- Places to buy bees, nucs and queens from our members
- Advertisements

From the Desk of the President: *Dr. Chris Lasalle*

April Presidential minute

Well guess why the newsletter is so late. I forgot to do the minute. I could make a whole bunch of excuses, but time gets away from me and I needed a gentle reminder from Patrice. Well. here it is.

Great to see some warmer weather. I started to go through hives over the weekend. Most made it through winter well. Something interesting happened today. I was inspecting a hive and saw a couple of swarm cells two days ago. They were poorly formed but definitely there. I removed the queen cells. I found the queen, marked her(red), and put her in my resource hive. For those who don't know, a Resource Hive is basically a modified deep body that turns the deep into two nucs. I saw eggs and young larvae in the hive prior to pulling out the queen from the original hive. In the resource hive I put some brood with honey and of course the queen. My hope was to make the hive feel like it had swarmed. Basically, this is what is termed as an artificial swarm. Placed a super on the original hive and went about my other beekeeping chores. Today there was a swarm in my yard. Small but in a low branch, easy to capture. When I went through it to make sure I had the queen, low and behold a beautifully marked red queen. I went back to the resource hive and there was a very small clutch of bees trying to keep the brood warm and I am sure saying WTF just happened. I pulled the brood and put it with the swarm. I guess when the hive gets the urge to take off, there is nothing to stop it. Will keep you informed on how this goes. They may abscond on me again!

If swarming is happening to me, then it is happening elsewhere. If you are interested in being on the swarm list, again, contact Rick Stephens. Please try to be available when the call comes in.

I am excited to welcome Nathan Gidley to discuss beekeeping and weather forecasting. This should be an interesting topic. Nothing affects the bees like the weather.

Our May meeting will be Field Day at Buskirk Engineering in Ossian. Please let us know if you are having lunch. This is the only cost for Field Day. This is the place to see how an experienced beekeeper does an inspection, makes splits and grafts for queens. Do not miss out!! Nothing makes beekeeping better then seeing how things are done instead of learning by trial and error.

Just a reminder that we will not be having a meeting in June. This means that our last meeting until September will be Field Day. Terry needs the space. This is great news for him.

See you Soon

Chris

TELLING THE BEES

Loss of a member

David Allan Myers

Fort Wayne

May 8, 1940 - March 9, 2024

Dave was born and raised in Fort Wayne. He graduated from North Side High School and attended IU Bloomington. He and his brother, Bill, spent their careers running the family business, V.R. Myers Pump & Supply, Inc. Dave also founded and ran Utility Marketing Concepts, Inc. An avid outdoorsman, Dave loved to spend time hunting, gardening, and beekeeping. He was a lifelong member of the Boy Scouts of America, serving as a volunteer with the Anthony Wayne Area Council and as a board member of the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. He also served many years as a member of the Mizpah Shrine Temple and loved riding his horse, Norma Storm, in the Shrine Horse Patrol.

Our family would like to thank the kind, caring, and compassionate staff at St. Anne Home, where Dave spent his last weeks on this earth.

Dave is survived by his wife of 58 years, Lesley (Malone) Myers; his children Julie (David) Toth and Stuart Myers; his grandchildren: Sydney Toth, Caroline Toth, William Toth, and Parker Myers; and his brother, Bill (Penny) Myers.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents, V.R. and Leola (Miller) Myers, and his three sisters: Beverly (Paul) Hildebrandt, Norma (Richard) Shirk, and Judy (Robert) Thomas.

Please join us at an open house to celebrate his life from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Sunday, April 28, at Pine Valley Country Club, 10900 Pine Mills Rd. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: The Anthony Wayne Area Council (please note "Dave Myers" so funds will be directed according to his wishes) www.awac.org, Riley Children's Hospital (Indianapolis) www.rileychildrens.org, or St. Anne Home (Ft. Wayne) https://sacfw.org/.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Nila Augustuniak
Hoagland

James & Kathy Burns
Kendallville

HOST BEES

My name is Jacquelyn, and my family and I live on 7 acres in Laotto. We are interested in offering our property for a beekeeper to keep their bees and hives. Do you know of anyone who would be interested? Thank you!

jclapper@ivytech.edu

SWARM LIST:

IF YOU WANT TO BE ON THE SWARM LIST CALL OR TEXT RICK STEPHENS AT 260-610-1040

PLEASE INCLUDE: NAME

PHONE NUMBER

ADDRESS (HE NEEDS YOUR LOCATION)

Please *save the dates* for these important upcoming events:

April 18 - Thursday, April NEIBA Club Meeting, 7pm @ Classic Café

Topics:

Nathan Gidley from Channel 15

"Forecasting the Weather"

May 11 - Saturday May 11th, May FIELD DAY + NEIBA Club Meeting, Buskirk Engineering

June – NO MEETING THIS MONTH

September 19 – Thursday September NEIBA Club Meeting, 7pm @ Classic Café

Topics:

AZ hive demonstration with Teri Fuller O'Brien and Casey Filler

Winter Prep with Dave McComb

October 17 – Thursday October NEIBA Club Meeting, 7pm @ Classic Café

Topics:

State Apiary Inspector with Jarod Spokowsky

November 21 – Thursday October NEIBA Club Meeting, 7pm @ Classic Café

Topics:

Purdue to discuss bee genetics and bee types (Russian vs Italian)

A Peek into Your Hive Life

PLEASE SEND PICTURES OF YOUR HIVES!!!
TO: meanqueenhoneyfarm@gmail.com or reidenbachjp@gmail.com

Pictures contributed by Christina Perozzi of her hives.

Just a thought: Would there be any interest in an informal meeting for breakfast once a month. If you're interested, meet us at Cosmos on Lima/DuPont Road on the third Saturday of the Month, April 20th) at 8:30. We can make new friends and talk bees!
Send a text or call for numbers coming for the first initial meeting, 260-637-3359

Our Hive News!

The Intermediate Bee School was held on March 16th and there were about 15 in attendance. A Big Thanks to the presenters and all who helped, also to Classic Café!

A nuc was won by Kendra Oglesby – Congratulations!!

The Beginning Bee School was held on March 30 and there were 44 students with a total of 72 in attendance. A raffle was held for a nuc and a package of bees.
The Nuc was donated by Rekeweg Honey Co. and was won by Greg Brite of Decatur.
The Package of Bees was donated by Wheeler's bees and was won by Julie Beer from Berne.
The raffle netted the club $420.00.
Door prize of a Smoker and Subscriptions to American Bee Journal were provided by Dadant Corporation.

A great meal was provided by Classic Café.
We would also like to thank Classic Café for hosting the bee school.
And a Big Thanks to the Presenters and all who helped.

FIELD DAY EVENTS

We have a TERRIFIC 2024 NEIBA Family Fun Field Day Event planned for May 11th, generously hosted once again by James Wheeler and Family out at Buskirk Engineering and The Wheeler's Bee Store, located at 7224 E 900 N, Ossian, IN! Field Day is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a beekeeping community to enjoy fellowship with all of our friendly beekeepers, to learn more about how to better care for our bees and to be more successful than ever before with our hives.

I**n addition to having our State Bee Inspector, Jared Spokowsky** (Apiary Specialist & Nursery Inspector, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology) **we are extremely fortunate and thrilled to have landed one of our club's all-time favorite speakers, Dr. David Hocutt, to give... not one... not two... but THREE OF HIS TOP AND MOST INTERESTING PRESENTATIONS during our morning field day session this year!**

We will start the morning at 8:00 am with Free Coffee and Donuts and then begin with our presentations at 8:15 am.

J**ared Spokowsky will be sharing updates and insights on bee pests and diseases.** He will also be bringing along FREE BeeCheck yard signs for anyone interested in using them.

Our Featured Guest Speaker, Dr. David Hocutt will be speaking on:

1) **Sustainable Beekeeping**
2) **Making Splits**
3) **Beekeeping Tips and Suggestions**

After the morning presentations, we will break for another Fantastic Field Day Lunch catered by Terry Clancy and The Classic Cafe:

1) Breaded Jalapeno Cheddar Brat with onions and assorted condiments on a Pretzel Roll (or)
2) Hamburger with choice of lettuce, tomato, onion on a Hawaiian Roll
3) Fresh Broccoli Salad

4) Rainbow Tortellini Salad
5) Fresh Fruit Salad
6) Assorted Gourmet Cookies
7) Honey Lemonade and Bottled Water

The cost of the catered lunch is a mere $15.00 per person (which is optional). Anyone is welcome to bring their own lunch ***or*** send an RSVP to BeeGreatCompany@gmailcom or by texting 260-229-8356.to make a reservation with our treasurer DAVE for the number of lunches they would like for themselves/their families in advance so that Terry can plan accordingly. You can also pay at my.cheddarup.com/c/field-day-73997 or at the door.

After lunch, we will have several Hands-On, LIVE HIVE DEMONSTRATIONS led by Duane and Tony Rekeweg and James Wheeler and TEAM.

There will also be drawings for all sorts of terrific door prizes **(Including a FREE NUC!!!),** a **Hive Smoker Contest** and possibly an indoor workshop or two after lunch as well (TBD).

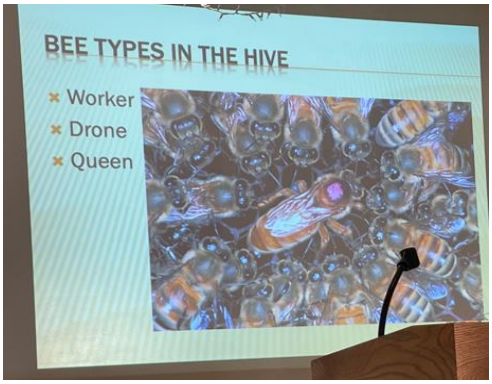
*** The Wheeler Bee Store will be OPEN ALL DAY for your shopping convenience for ALL of your beekeeper needs. ***

Be *sure* to remember to Bring Your Bee Suits/Protective Gear for the afternoon Live Hive Demonstrations... and... Bring YOUR FAVORITE LAWN CHAIR TO SIT IN FOR THE MORNING PRESENTATIONS (*as no chairs will be provided*).

Looking forward to one of our Very Best Family Field Day Events EVER!

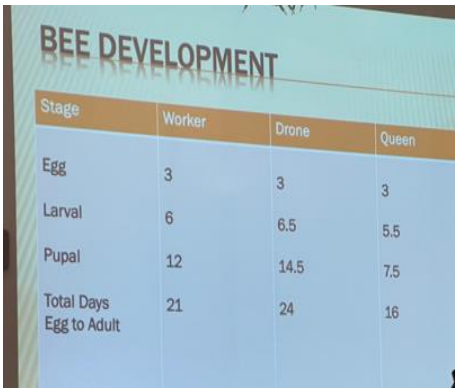
Respectfully, James Ringswald
NEIBA Field Day Coordinator

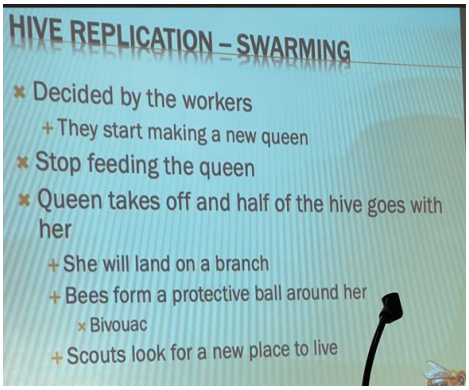
March recap - Beekeeping for beginners, we're so glad to have you!

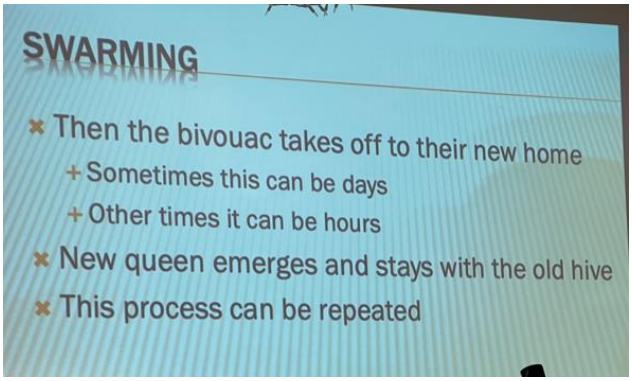


As a new beekeeper there is much to know. It will take time to hone your skill with them but be patient.

The hive has many many bees and each bee has a specific job.

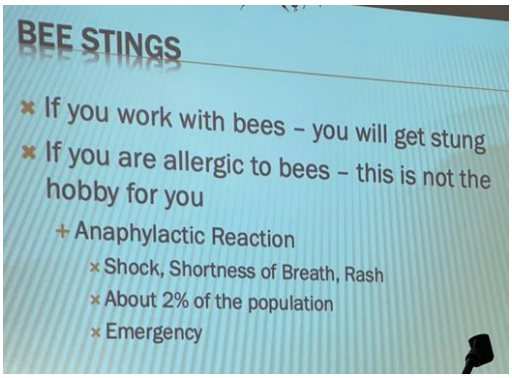


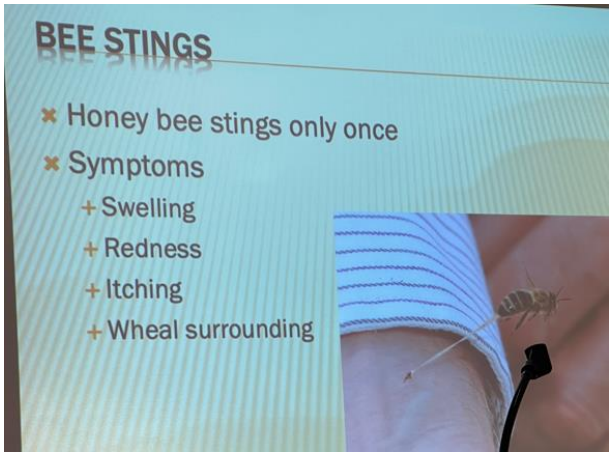


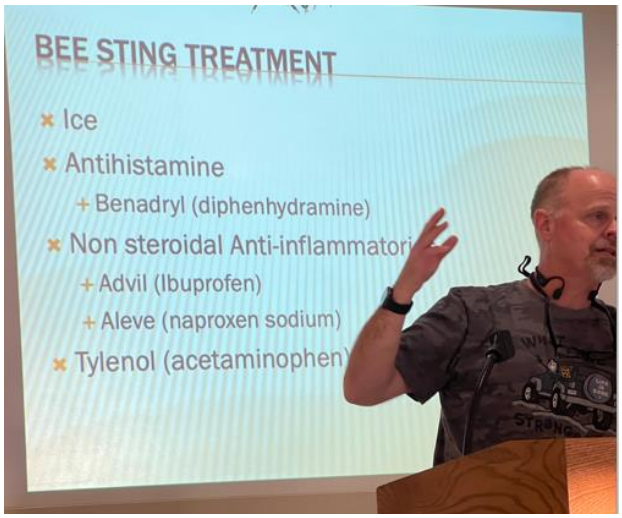


Swarms – no matter what you do, they will swarm. Possibly many times from one hive! It's frustrating but it's bee nature.

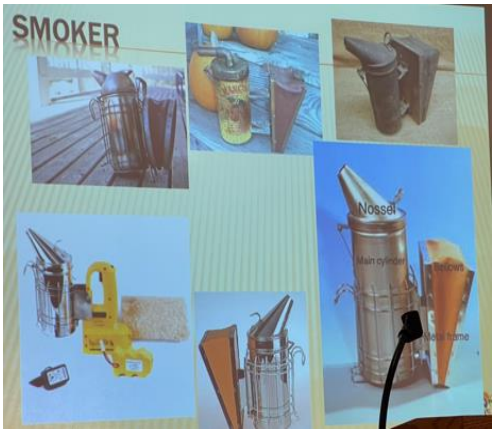
You will get stung! More than you think so be prepared!

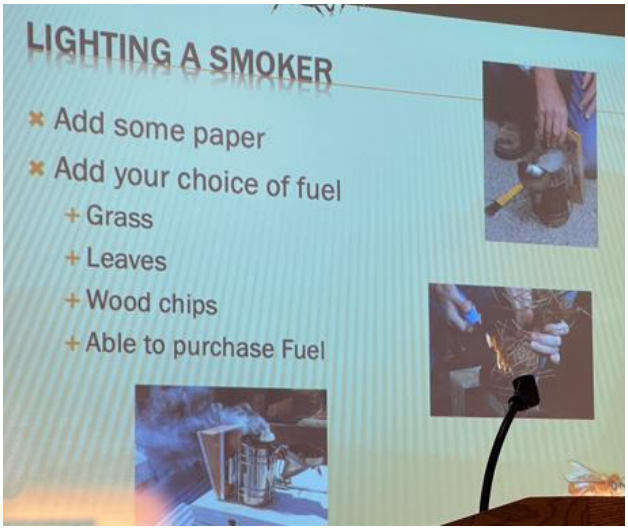


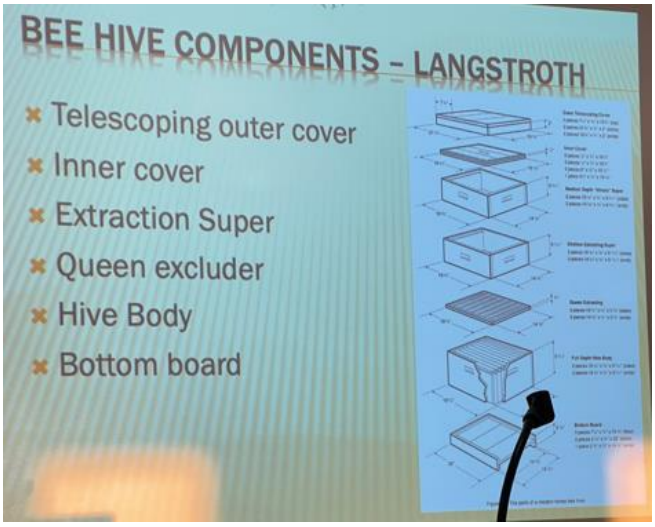




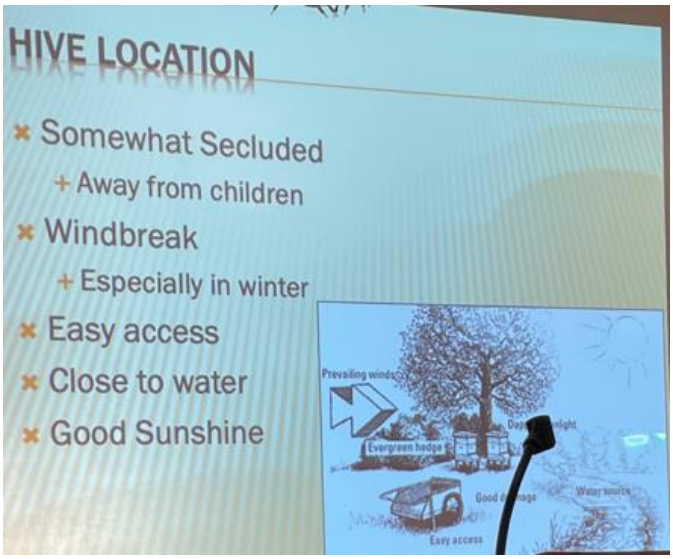
Bee suits are a must! I know you see many people on social media not wearing them but trust me WEAR THE SUIT!







Smokers are one of the most important things you should have as a beekeeper! It keeps them calmer so you can work with them.

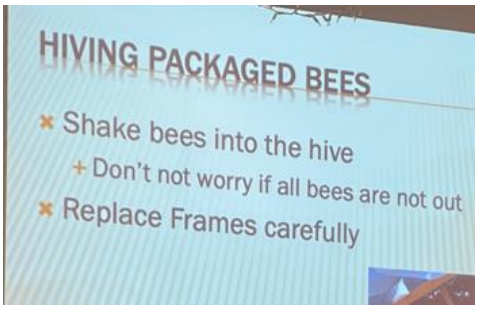


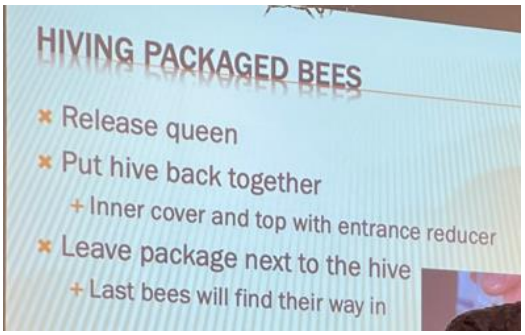
There is a page in the newsletter with a list of members that sell nucs, queens and bees.

The advertisements also show many places you can buy equipment and bees from reputable sellers.

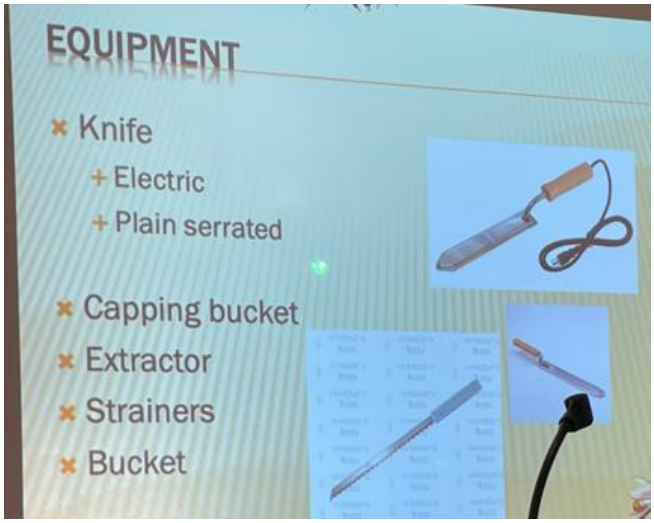
HIVING PACKAGED BEES
Spray bees lightly with sugar water
Remove board on top
Jar the package to knock the bees to the bottom

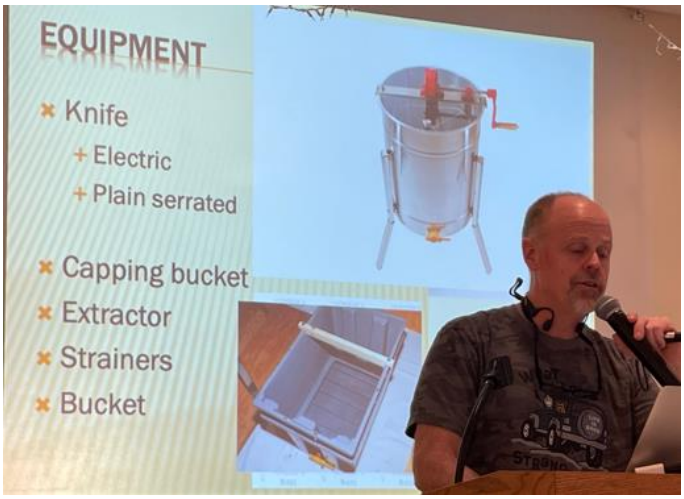
HIVING PACKAGED BEES
Remove Can of Syrup
Remove Queen cage
Inspect queen


HIVING PACKAGED BEES
Shake bees into the hive
Don't not worry if all bees are not out
Replace Frames carefully


HIVING PACKAGED BEES
Release queen
Put hive back together
Inner cover and top with entrance reducer
Leave package next to the hive
Last bees will find their way in

EXTRACTION OF HONEY
This is the fruit of our labor
Sweetest work you will ever do


EQUIPMENT
Knife
Electric
Plain serrated
Capping bucket
Extractor
Strainers
Bucket



Questions, you will have many, many questions!

That is why a mentor is a great way to get the confidence you need to handle bees. They will help you along the way and maybe become lifelong friends!

Stalhman Beekeeping Notes are available from Dana Stahlman, he is a very knowledgeable beekeeper. He puts out this newsletter twice a month with invaluable information on bees.

STAHLMAN BEEKEEPING NOTES

2024 Vol 6
issue # 11

Published by Dana Stahlman Raleigh, North Carolina Email: stahlmanapiaries@aol.com
Published free as a public service to anyone interested in honeybees. Email me to be added to my mailing list. Published 3-16-24

Weak Hives

I have indicated many times that weak hives require more attention to keep than a strong hive, and often with little to show for the time and labor put into saving the hive.

I took this picture many years ago. This was a small cluster of honey bees still alive on a comb. They were starving. I removed the queen and the bees and put them into a queen cage thinking I could use the queen to put into another hive.

Unfortuantely a few days later even with a drop of water every day and a plug of sugar candy, they died. I was disapointed but I tried.

All beekeepers must realize that a colony of bees is made up of individual bees that work in concert with all other bees in the hive. It takes "a village to raise a child" is a common expression.
To be successful a colony of bees must:

- Have a good queen
- Have a bee population to maintain the colony (care for young larva, keep them warm, leave the colony to gather food, and as this picture shows attend to the queen.
- Health issues are another aspect of hive survival.

Lets look at what a beekeeper can do to save a weak colony! Keep in mind that a beekeeper with resources "can usually save the day" for a week hive.

Bee schools teach that a new beekeeper should start with two hives of bees for a reason. A second hive provides resources of frames of bees, brood and honey.

A beekeeper can also use the biology of honey bee behavior to save a weak hive.

The first thing to consider is replacing the queen:

- **Young queens are more productive than old queens (generally speaking)**
- **All the colony's bees are expressing characteristics good or bad inherited from the queen.**

- **Queens can be well mated or poorly mated – age is not a factor.**
- **A disease resistant queen usually produces bees that are called "survivors".**

Management techniques to save a weak hive including replacing the queen:

There are many choices of techniques to use when saving a weak hive. As beekeepers we develop a style that works for us. The last choice I give in this newsletter may be as good as the first choices I will share with you. I don't spend much time thinking about methods. As a commercial beekeeper, time spent with a hive had to be profitable. Most hobby beekeepers have the time to spend working with a hive of bees that will not produce income. Thus, you will have the choice of methods to use – it doesn't have to be my way.

1. **Combining hives:**

Colonies of bees can be combined almost any time during the year. Usually during the fall, one can combine weak colonies. The same process can be used in the spring.

A beekeeper with several hives should find the strongest hive available. I am not an advocate of combining two weak hives.

One way to combine two hives is as follows:

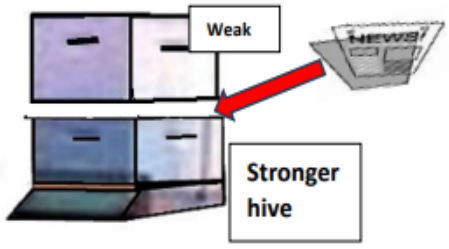
"Find a stronger colony and move the weak colony above it."

I was asked last week about using the newspaper method. I am going to recommend that you disregard what I do "I just set a weak hive body with bees and even maybe the queen above a very strong hive without using a newspaper." I let the bees in the strong hive take care of the queen and any bees they do not accept quickly. I don't think I can recall anytime when the weak hive queen was accepted by the strong hives bees! It does result is some bees fighting but that event is over very quickly.

This works well with drone laying worker hives as well. I have worked with a large number of bee hives and the method I mentioned above fits into the time and labor saved category.

Almost all bee books will provide information on how to combine two hives of bees – the following will illustrate a way to feel comfortable saving a weak hive.

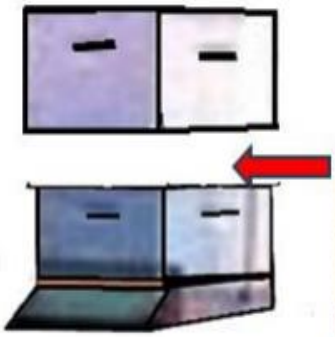
The queen in the weak hive is removed eliminating any chance that the better queen is killed.



The illustration shown here has the strong hive on the bottom board. The top cover and inner cover are removed. A single or double layer of newspaper is placed between the two hive bodies. The weak hive is placed above the newspaper and the hive is closed-up. Job done.

Inspections later will show how well this method worked. The weak hive's bee population is added to the strong hives bee population. It might be possible to split this hive later when it is stronger.

The second method is much like the illustration above except this method <u>does not</u> join the two weak hives into one. It does allow the weak hive time to build up and it is removed when stronger. Heat from the strong hive below provides the weak hive above with warm air so that more brood can be raised by the limited bee population.



To help the weak hive, a beekeeper must have something called a double screen board and a separate entrance usually to the back of the hive. In place of newspaper the double screen board is placed above the stronger hive below.

This is a double screen board. This one has three choice for an entrance, most will have a entrance to the back and only one entrance is needed.

Check out the bee catalogs or bee equipment dealer in your area to buy one. They can be made by anyone working with wood. Screened wire is placed ½ inch or more apart so bees can not touch each other. It separates the two hives from physical contact.

This method uses heat from the hive below to help the hive above maintain the temperature necessary to raise brood. It can be used in many other management decisions such as: making up nucs, raising queens, making splits/hive increases, and even to produce honey as a double queen hive.

Many text books will suggest taking <u>frames from a strong hive to give to a weak hive</u>. Both A.J. Cook and C.C. Miller used this method to make hive increases.

A beekeeper must consider the number of frames to be taken from a strong hive. Another issue to consider is what frames should one take. This is a popular method to help weak hives. If wisely used, both the strong hive and the weak hive will benefit.

This is a strong hive. It can spare a few frames of bees and brood. Removing a few frames from this hive will help prevent swarming and drawn comb frames added as replacement frames will be quickly filled with eggs by the queen. The major honey flow is still weeks away. Taking some frames from a hive like this will not harm it as long as the queen is not also taken from it.

Some rules for transferring frames:

When frames with brood are transferred, place them next to the existing brood in the weak hive.

Do not transfer frames that are completely filled with worker brood – why? Because a weak hive does not have enough bees to keep the brood nest at 92° F. and something called "chilled brood" will result.

This picture shows the movement of frames from a stronger hive into a weaker hive. This is called equalizing colonies. Weak hives should be reinforced with enough bees and brood to make a colony of at least 5 frames of bees. A hive made stronger will with a good queen be strong in about 6 to 8 weeks and strong enough to get a honey crop. <u>All frames moved to a weak hive do not have to come from one hive.</u> Maybe a hive is not as strong as the picture I used but it can give up one frame. Remember all older bees on frames moved usually fly back to their mother hive. The younger bees are less likely to be a danger to the weak hive's queen.

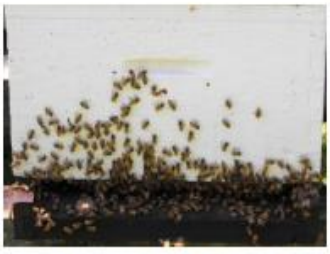
Chilled brood means that the brood outside the bee cluster get cold and die. What a waste of good brood.

A frame like this looks pretty good but <u>do not move</u> it to a hive with a weak population of bees! See why above!

Moved frames should have more capped brood. The reason for this – nurse bees are required to feed larvae and with a small population of nurse bees, it will be difficult for the bees in the weak hive to feed too many more than they already have.

And there is one more method that I have written about in a previous newsletter which I called "Switch-a-roo!"

If the weak hive has a queen you consider of good quality, this is a fast and easy method to add more bees to the weak hive.



This application to bee management can be used in other situations. It was also used by Miller and Cook to make increases. <u>It does not involve moving frames and brood</u>.

The biology: If you want to try an experiment that will take just a few minutes, pick up a hive (it could be small, weak, strong – it makes no difference.) Move the hive 5 to 10 feet from its location. Immediately watch to see what happens! Bees will return to the <u>location</u> not the hive that was moved. If the beekeeper places another hive in that location, the foraging bees will enter the new hive. There will be a state of confusion for a few minutes but the bees will enter the new hive and stay if that hive has brood. Foraging

bees will be accepted by the hive placed in that location because the foraging bees are returning with rewards – nectar and pollen.

Some additional comments about saving a weak hive.

A beekeeper needs to keep a watchful eye for robbing. Not only are weak hives targets for being robbed, they are targets for wax moth and small hive beetles. I would recommend checking weak hives several times during a week. Any sign of small hive beetles and wax moths needs to be taken care of immediately.

All the effort put into saving a weak colony can be lost with-in a week to a month. I often hear beekeepers make this statement "I had bees in my hive the last time I checked. Now there are none!" I often reply, "When was the last time you checked?"

On occasion, weak hives abscond. They leave the hive. It is my experience that this happens when something is wrong with the hive well before the bees leave. I think most often it might be for the lack of food especially during a period when little pollen and nectar is available. It could also be due to wax moth or small hive beetles.

New hives must be encouraged to raise brood. Feed carefully! (A week hive with sugar syrup is a target for robbing bees!) When inspecting weak hives, don't leave the hive open for very long. Do what needs to be done and close up the hive.

The entrance to a weak hive should be reduced. Robbing screens would also be a good idea to place on a weak hive. A hive that is robbed does not survive. The robbed bees are either killed or they drift to other hives.

Varroa mite counts are important. Keeping bees is a full time responsibility. If you find just a few Varroa mites in a weak hive, the hive is in real trouble.

Combining a weak hive with Varroa mites is doing the receiving hive no favor. Giving a hive frames from a hive infested with small hive beetles is not really helping the hive in need.

Medical Doctors have a code of "Do no harm!" Beekeepers should also adopt that code.

Making Splits/hive increases

Hobby beekeeper may only want a few new hives while those wanting to make a number of increases might look to other methods. It is possible to increase hive numbers to fit your goals.

To be successful it helps if one understands bee biology and bee behavior

- **Bees in strong hives split themselves naturally during swarming season.**
- **Thus, it is possible for us to take advantage of the instinct of the honeybee to propagate itself.**
- **We can also use the bee's ability to raise new queens from fertile eggs.**
- **Making splits can also be a useful method to control swarming.**

If you want to make hive increases by splitting hives --find a good hive to split!

Plan for larger splits to develop faster

A decision must be made to introduce a new queen to a split or let the bees raise a new queen.

Splits develop faster with a new queen!

The success of a split is based on bee populations and the ability of the queen to lay a lot of eggs.

A laying queen in a split will provide a continuous growth of bee population and this is important early in the season.

A hive that raises a new queen will be much delayed in reaching a peak bee population when it is needed. It will work if the beekeeper is okay with hives that may develop and survive the coming winter.

Plan for larger splits to develop faster

If the decision is to let the split raise a new queen of its own:

The split will require the following events to occur while the split develops

- **For a day the bees in the split will rush about looking for the queen and when no queen pheromone can be found, they will begin to build queens cells over worker cells that were destined to be a worker bee to become a queen and feed that larva royal jelly. (We all know it takes some time before a new virgin queen will emerge from one of those cells.**
- **In 12 days or less (depending on the age of the larva) a new virgin queen emerges.**
- **She will need to take a mating flight and some time after to start laying eggs.**

The choice is up to you!

There are a number of methods used to make a split.

Don't be confused: Bees do the work – You just pick the method and the amount of effort required. Methods vary considerably and you will need to follow thru on the process required. There is always the possibility of failure even by the most experienced beekeeper.

A Simple method -- maybe 75% to 90% successful

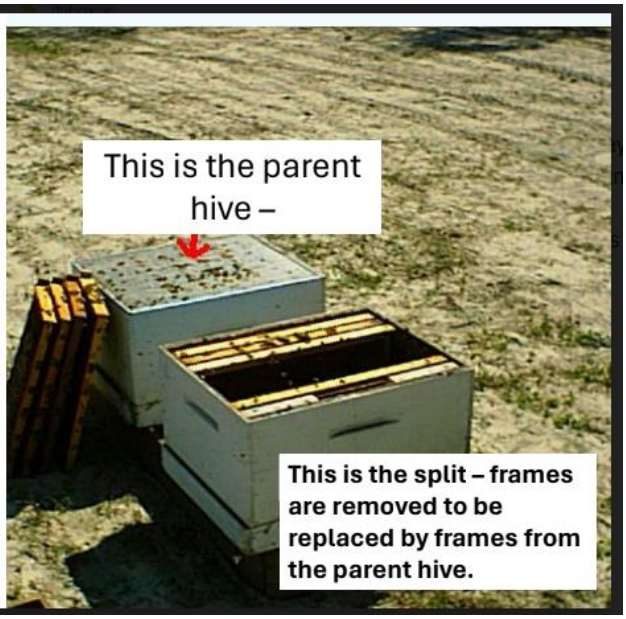
Walk-away Split (Sometimes referred to as a dirty split)

Comment:

- **It is easy because it is not necessary to find the queen and only a new bottom board, inner cover and top cover are needed. In the case of moving frames from a hive into an empty hive, one will need additional frames and hive body.**
- **The only requirement is both hives must have young larvae and eggs present. One will contain the old queen and one will have to raise a new queen.**

Making a split always includes some options:
If a queen is found, a new queen could be introduced giving both hives an opportunity to grow quickly.

However, in this example, I am going to suggest that the parent hive have most of the frames with bees removed from the hive and placed in the hive called the split. Most likely the queen will be moved to the new split.
The parent will retain the foraging bees and any bees that return to the parent hive position.
One frame with brood in all stages – eggs, larvae, and capped brood is retained in it.
Both hives will need food.
The hive body without the queen will attempt to raise a new queen.
Nothing will be lost in this type of split. If the split fails to raise a queen, the bees and



All brood in the new split should be concentrated so the bee population can cover it.

If frames are taken from a hive to build a nuc hive or a split, the frames should be placed so that the frame with the largest area of brood is centered between frames with lesser brood. Frames of foundation and honey should be placed to the outside of the cluster.

This is a good looking split. The bee populations from a parent colony is split into two groups – they should be equal in size.

A Vertical Split -- Rather than set two colonies side by side, this method sets the split above the parent colony.

This is a typical winter colony of bees. The winter cluster is clearly identified. A winter cluster generates a lot of heat that moves upward. The vertical split uses this heat to help the split above a double screen. Remember the weak hive we talked about earlier.

The mother hive in all cases is going to be located on the bottom board. It can be a single or double hive. The important thing is it must have a good population of bees generating an upward flow of heat.

The double screen is placed above the bees in the mother hive. There is one special operation that must be addressed.

The bees of the mother hive use the bottom board entrance to get into their section of the vertical hive. The upper hive body must have an entrance as well. This should be on the back side of the hive.

A Simple method -- maybe 85% to 95% successful

The Vertical Split

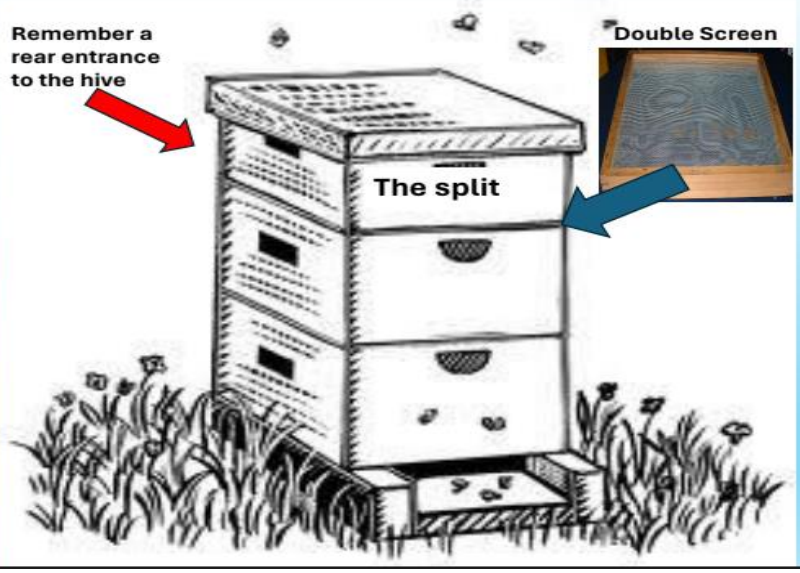
Comment:

- It allows splits to be made up earlier due to variable weather conditions.
- Uses less room in the bee yard because a new bottom board, inner cover and top cover is not required until the split is to be removed from the mother hive.
- Less fear of chilled brood on very cold days.
- It can be adapted to raise a few additional queens.
- When the split is moved, all foraging bees from both the split and mother hive are not lost. Honey supers can be added to the mother hive by bottom suppering.
- If one is interested, the hive could be converted to a two-queen hive.

How to make a vertical split

This is a double screen board. It consist of wire screens separated by a space of ½ inches or more. Double screen boards are available from most bee suppliers in both 8 frame and 10 frame sizes.

However, they can easily be made if one is handy with tools.



The method used to move frames in the previous example can be carried out in the same manner here.

I generally put two frames with brood in the center of the upper box, a frame of honey if available on each side of the brood and add drawn comb if available and a feeder.

If the split is to raise its own queen, count on her to begin laying by four weeks. And by six week the split will be ready to set off the mother hive.

If one is wanting to sell a few nucs, they would not need to buy bottom boards and top covers. Frames could be transferred directly into nuc boxes.

The mother hive would continue to be gathering honey without much interruption.

Beekeeping Around the World

South Korea

> Beekeeping has an important role in the economy of South Korea. The estimated annual honey bee production and pollination values are approximately 5.5 billion USD [20]. In 2020, there were 2,697,842 colonies and 27,532 apiaries in South Korea [29]. Feb 4, 2023
>
> Korean beekeepers have reared two species: (1) the oriental honeybee (Apis cerana), which includes native Korean bees; and (2) the Western honeybee (Apis mellifera L.), which is exotic and was first imported to Korea in the early 1900s [13].

> The history of beekeeping in Korea dates back 2000 years to the earlier kingdom of Gogurye. In the present day, the native honeybee Apis cerana Fabr. is mostly kept in log hives in the deep mountains, whereas the introduced A. mellifera L. occupies habitats at the interface of mountains and open land. The beekeeping industry has drastically increased to two million hives in the early 2000s, and honey production is now 30,000 tons per year. Even with diverse floral composition, honey production relies highly on the black locust Robinia pseudoacacia. The mites Varroa (Korean haplotype) and Tropilaelaps provide challenges in mite pest management for Apis mellifera. A recent outbreak of Sacbrood Virus has threatened A. cerana beekeeping. Challenges for the beekeeping industry in Korea include invasion of new pests, such as the yellow legged hornet (Vespa velutina) and small hive beetle (Aethina tumida), and degradation of black locust viability.

Mr Lee Young-ki, a 69-year-old beekeeper in Yanggu County, Gangwon Province in South Korea, let out a deep sigh as he opened up an empty hive box. Since this January, at the head of Haenam County in South Jeolla Province, reports have been made by apiaries all across the country where honeybees went missing all at once. Mr Lee's apiary was no exception. Out of 120 hive boxes, only 20 boxes managed to survive. Not only that, the remaining honeybees were mostly dying on the floor, unable to fly.

According to a joint public-private investigation carried out by the Rural Development Administration(RDA), Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency(QIA), local governments and Korea Beekeeping Association, honeybees from 416,409 hive boxes nationwide disappeared between

October 2021 to March 2022. Assuming that each hive box has a population of 25,000 honeybees, the total number of missing bees amount to 10 billion.

Korean Beekeeping on Brink of Collapse as 10 Billion Honeybees Disappear

Since 1969, Mr Lee has been keeping bees for more than half a century, and his conclusion to the mass-disappearance drawn from years of experience as well as independent research is the climate crisis. Various causes have been raised so far, such as disease insect pest or pesticide abuse, but what it all comes down to in Mr. Lee's view is unchanging. "In 2004, I went down to Chungchung Province to feed my honeybees through what became known as mobile beekeeping, which is very common in Korea. There, false acacia blossoms filled the area. Still my bees starved to death, all because of the climate crisis that had taken the honey away from the flowers," he said.

False acacia is the major source of honey in Korea on which more than 60% of the apiaries rely. Thanks to root-nodule bacteria, false acacia trees thrive even under poor natural conditions. Root-nodule bacteria are a type of nitrogen-fixing bacteria which provides nitrogen in return for protein supplied by the false acacia tree, functioning as a natural fertilizer. Despite this tenacity, however, false acacia is helpless in the face of global warming. As the atmosphere heats up at a faster rate than that of land, physiological stress has been inflicted to false acacia trees, thereby forcing them to choose survival before reproduction and to halt nectar secretion.

"There have been attempts to tackle the problem with the lack of honey by developing artificial food for bees made from sugar, but it does not hold sufficient nutrients enough to provide proper immune system for them. Decades of malnutrition and stress have weakened bee colonies, and frequent abnormal weather events this year led to their collapse," he said. "If we don't do something about the climate crisis, there is no future for the apiculture industry." he added.

Experts say the same. According to Dr Choi Yong-soo at the RDA, the southern part of the Korean peninsula saw an unusual surge in temperature and low humidity during the wet season between July and August 2021. This created perfect condition for parasitic bee mites to prosper, which made honeybees exposed to a higher level of insecticides. On top of that, the region is becoming increasingly subtropical, giving room for the Asian yellow-legged hornet, an exotic species and a natural enemy of honeybees, to broaden the area of action.

Extreme weather events in two consecutive years from 2020 and 2021 dealt a final blow to the bee communities where low temperature drop, strong wind, and heavy rain took place during flowering seasons. The bees were already at their limit as they had suffered from fatigue and malnutrition for decades. To make matters worse, winter was warm without flowers while spring was cold with flowers blossoming. It confused the honeybees and made immature bees come out to collect honey during winter where there were no flowers. When spring came round,

temperature plummeted, and the bees did not manage to return and died away from home.

Wildfires gaining momentum in frequency and intensity owing to the climate crisis have also been pointed out. The eastern coastal areas, where Korea's major honey plants habitats are located including Hapcheon, Goryeong and Uljin, were ravaged by massive wildfires last March. Up to this April, 393 cases of wildfires have been reported, doubling the number of 196 cases over the same period in 2021. This is partly because of a significant drop in spring rainfall. At the end of 2021 in the northern hemisphere, the precipitation volume was 85.3% below average.

▲Kim Young-bok, President of the Council of Farmers' Organizations in Yanggu County, owns 23,000㎡ of watermelon greenhouses. "We have 20,000 watermelons in total, and there is no way we could pollinate all of them in time other than using honeybees." he said. ©Newstree

As the honeybees are taken away by the climate crisis, its collateral damage is permeating the entire farming industry, especially those in need of honeybees for the crops' pollination. "When growing watermelons, all that matters is whether the watermelons are getting pollinated or not. In my cooperative farming unit, 3 farming families threw out 5,000 watermelons because they did not manage to pollinate them. It cost us 60 to 70 million won (47,000 to 55,000 USD)," said Kim Young-bok, President of the Council of Farmers' Organizations in Yanggu County. "During midday, the temperature in the greenhouse goes up to 40℃. So even if we pollinate the watermelons with our own hands, that can happen only in the morning when the Sun is still weak. We have 20,000 watermelons in total, and there is no way we could pollinate all of them in time other than using honeybees." he added.

Fruit farmers are finding it difficult to borrow hive boxes from beekeepers because of the shortage of supply as well as the price surge. "10 out of 7 fruit farmers in Korea rely on bee pollination. In

some areas, the price of borrowing hive boxes went up by 15 to 20%," said Dr Lee Gyung-yong at the RDA. "Rather than pollinating with human hands, bee pollination is more likely to attain greater performance as its fruit setting rate is higher and the chance of malformed fruit growing is lower. It is therefore highly possible that the lack of honeybees is going to negatively affect farm household income." he added.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) predicts that since 71 out of 100 major food crops which takes up 90% of the total food production worldwide are pollinated by honeybees, not only does the extinction of bees affect the food on our tables, but it is also going to have a knock-on effect on the ecosystem as a whole.

"As flowers continue to generate less honey, due to which the population of honeybees falters, I'm closing down my apiary which I've been in for more than 50 years. Instead, I'm moving on to growing the paprika pepper which is a spore plant that grows through asexual reproduction which means it does not take honeybees to proliferate," said Mr Lee, the beekeeper.

Mr Lee pointed out that mobile beekeeping that is rampant in Korea has to go because it forces honeybees to travel long distances which adds further pressure to the species. It also makes them prone to insect pests because bees transmit diseases and pests across the country as they move around. "Until the climate crisis is settled, which is the root cause to this whole situation, local governments have to secure honey plants to delay the extinction of honeybees and to prevent upcoming potential food crisis." he said.

Link to article:
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9929316/#:~:text=Beekeeping%20has%20an%20important%20role,5.5%20billion%20USD%20%5B20%5D.

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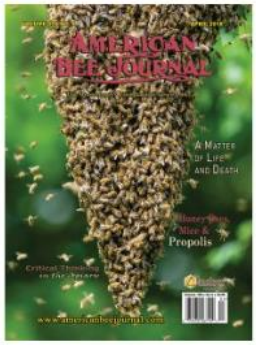

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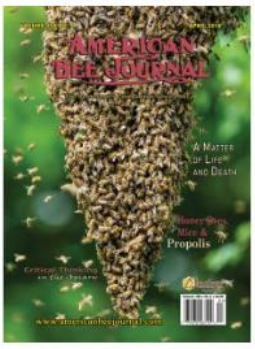

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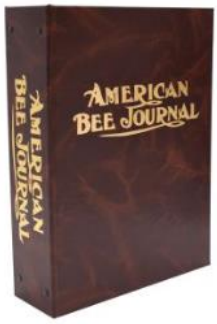

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