THE MONTHLY PEEK into hive life

NORTHEASTERN INDIANA BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION – OCTOBER 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 October issue:

- President's Minutes
- New Members
- Calendar of Events
- A Peek into Your Hive Life (Pictures from members)
- A-Z Hives with Dana Goodman
- Glenn Hiles – New Products
- Dave McComb – Winter Prep
- Beekeeping Around the World - Slovenia
- Recommended Control options – varroa seasonal cycles
- 4-H contest Essay – Varietal Honey
- Information on the Fall Conference
- 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*

October 2024 Minute

Well, the leaves are changing, the golden rod is done, and the bees are getting ready for their long slumber. I hope your harvest went well. I also hope that your mite treatment was successful and your bees healthy. I will plan to be at the meeting this month as my meeting got moved to another week. Hope you put in your entrance reducers. Mice love a nice warm hive to live in when the weather gets cold.

I have nothing to report as far as my apiary. All seems to be going well but the winter will tell all. I have a couple of hives that do not seem very strong. I am also going to try to overwinter a couple of nucs. Will let you know how that goes. This will be the first year that I try to overwinter my resource hive. Many club members have done this for years but this is my first attempt. Always looking to try something new.

This is the meeting where we need to decide on officers and directors. The actual voting (which we have not has in a long time) occurs at the November harvest banquet. All have served far beyond their required time frame. For those who don't know, our officers are listed in the newsletter. Anyone who is interested in running for office is welcome. Beekeeping experience is not really necessary for leadership. It would be great if we could get new ideas and input into the club. I personally have been president for 8 years. Thank you for putting up with me. A special thanks to all have served for so long and done such a great job keeping the club going.

Our next meeting will be the November Harvest banquet with more details to follow. This is always a wonderful time to spend together before the holidays.

Sorry to have missed the last meeting as I was travelling for another meeting for work. I look forward to seeing you all there at the October meeting.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Andrew Fink
Fort Wayne

SWARM LIST:

IF YOU WANT TO BE ON THE SWARM LIST,

TEXT RICK STEPHENS AT 260-610-1040

PLEASE INCLUDE: NAME

PHONE NUMBER

ADDRESS (HE NEEDS YOUR LOCATION)

Upcoming & Current Events

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

Topics:

State Apiary Inspector with Jarod Spokowsky

October 25-26 – Saturday & Sunday, TBoI Fall Conference, Grand Wayne Center Ft. Wayne

Fall Conference & Workshops

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

Topics:

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

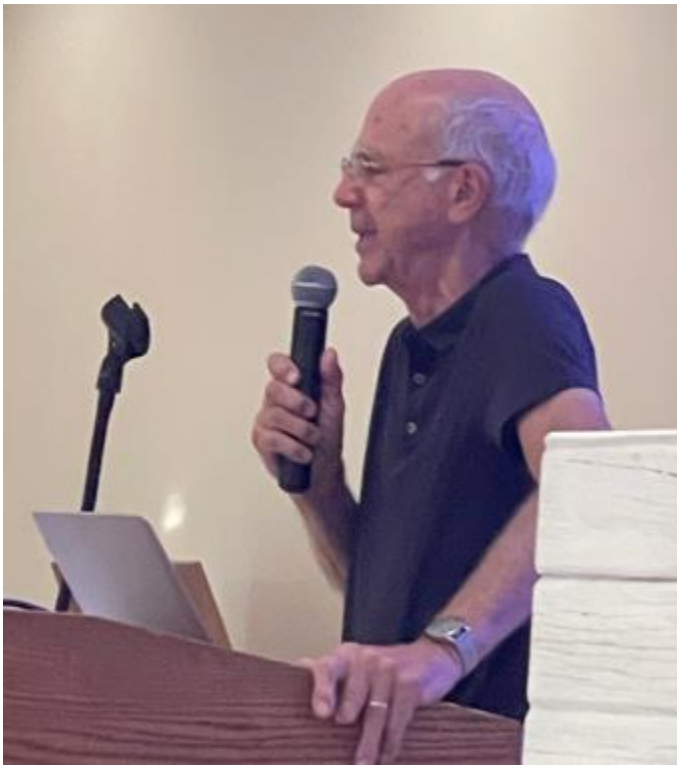
A Peek into Your Hive Life

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

Picture contributed by Julie Beer!

I WOULD LOVE SOME RECENT PICTURES OF YOUR HIVES. PLEASE SEND THEM.

REIDENBACHJP@GMAIL.COM



September's meeting was run by Mike Miller

Mike's thoughts:

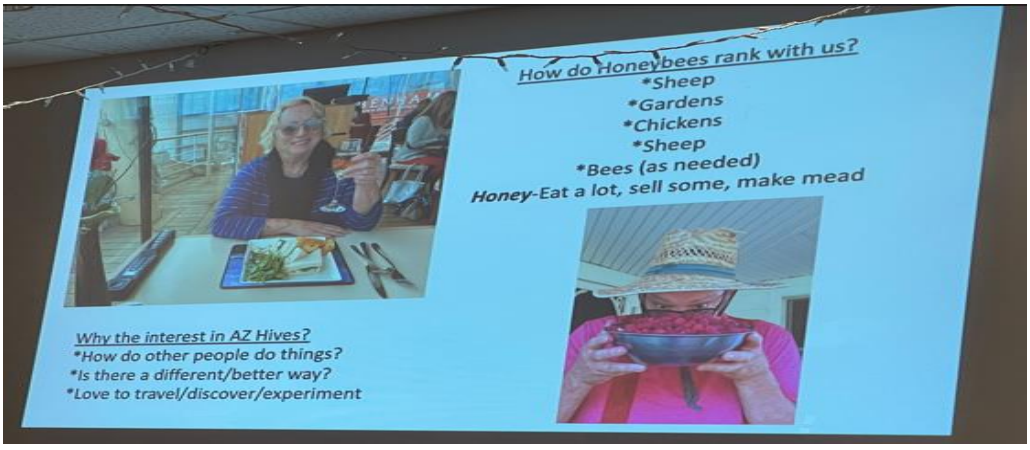
This year some hives due to the heat didn't do so well.

Mite treatments need to be done now.

Hive beetles are strong this year.

Dana Goodman presented an overview of the A-Z hive that he is now using.

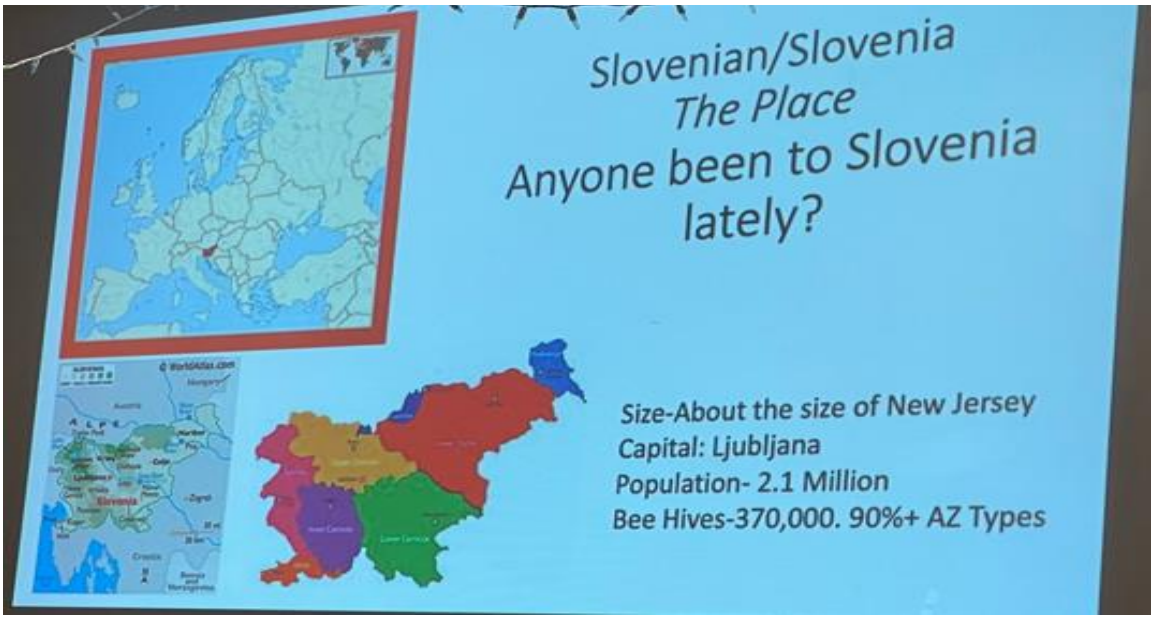
Dana and his wife Terri are quite busy selling at farmers markets. Produce and yarn from their sheep, eggs and honey.

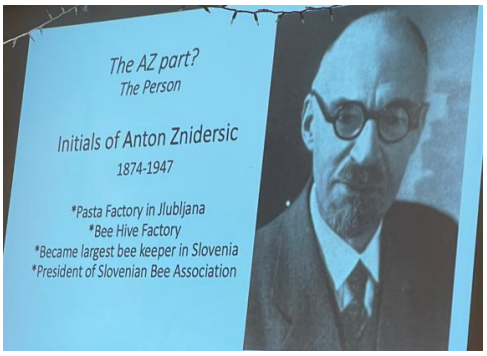


The Slovenian-AZ Hive

Are they the same thing?

Yes and No



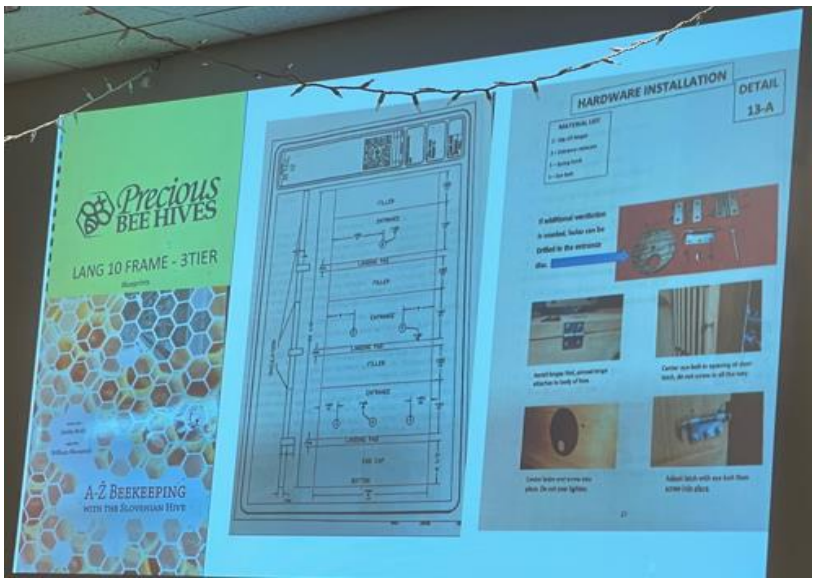


The AZ hive was invented by Anton Znidersic (1874-1947) inspired by Adolf Alberti, a German beekeeper. Anton named his new design AZ honoring Alberti. The original AZ frames are 16⅛" (410mm) by 10¼" (260mm). A typical two chamber AZ hive is 25" high with a volume of 90 liters. Anton grew up in Slovenia, which must be the beekeeper's capitol of the world. One out of every 200 Slovenians keeps bees. My queen is a Carniolan honey bee (*Apis mellifera carnica*) which is the only honey bee allowed in Slovenia. I don't think my queen remembers her home land, but building a couple of hybrid AZ hives became my quest.

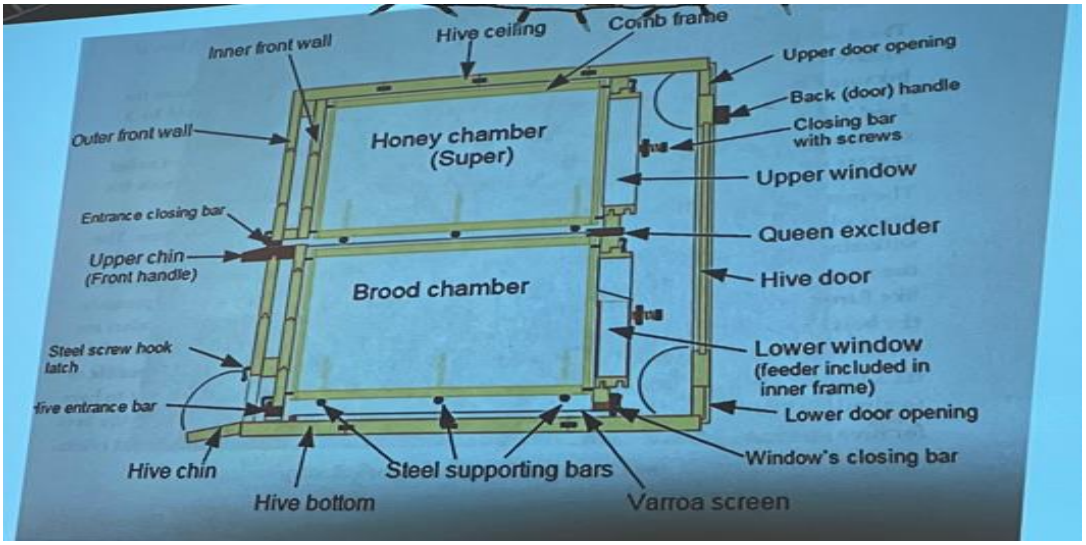
I am convinced that providing bees a wooden enclosure which resembles a hollow tree makes the best living quarters for bees to be productive and remain healthy. A natural honey bee nest in a hollow tree has several inches of wood providing insulation moderating the effect of outside temperature changes. The hive arrangement should be vertical like the honey bee's natural nest which is easier to heat and cool. Using a movable crown board in a single large box, I can expand or contract the interior hive volume without moving any boxes. My hybrid AZ hive is 45" high by 24" deep by 14¾" wide. The total interior hive volume is 186 liters. Using insulated panel construction, I provided an R-value of six (same as five inches of wood in a feral hive) and kept the weight down to 50 pounds.

The green arrow points to his bee hives.

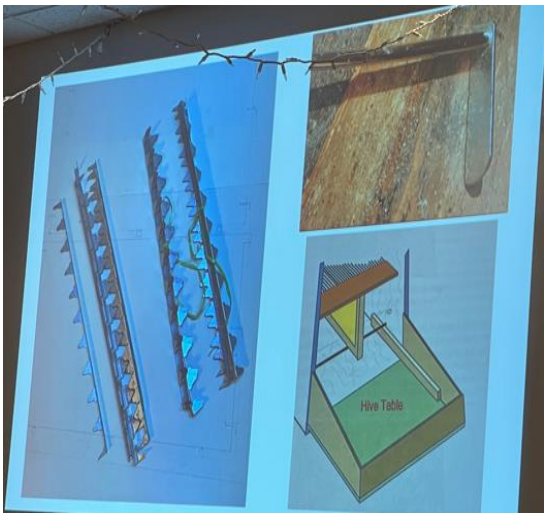
The Slovenian culture is rich in art. Their bee hives show this by the variety of pictures put on the hives.

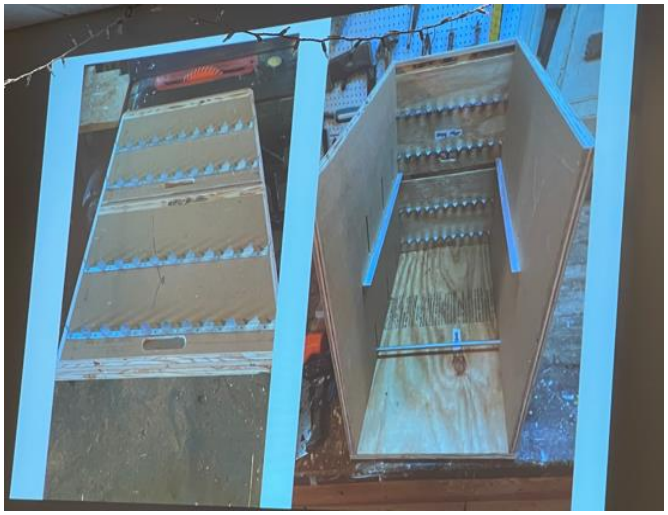


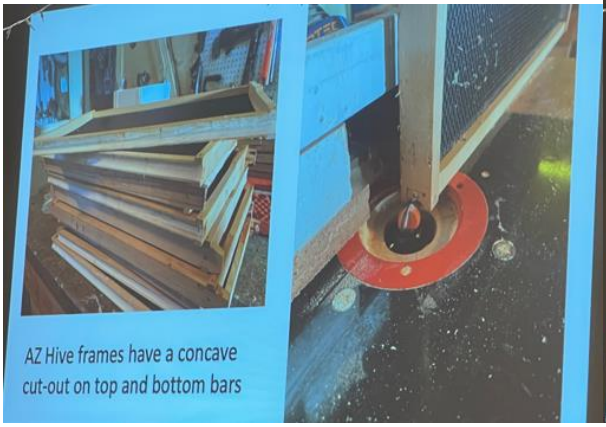
Here is one of the books he used to build his hives.



An explanation of all the parts of this hive. This is a two-box construction.



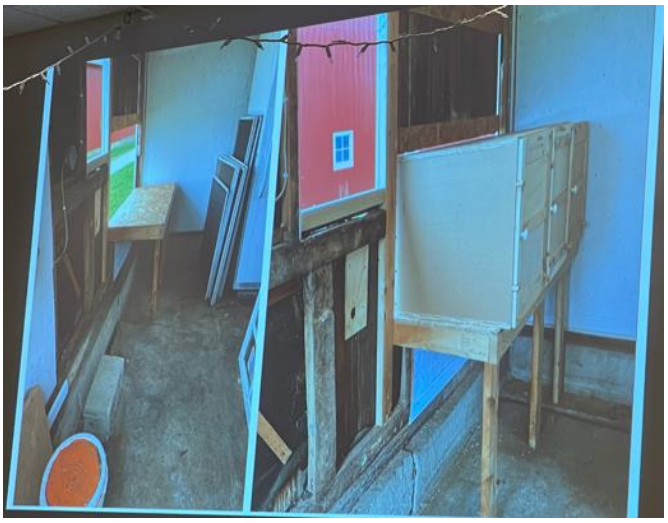




These pictures show the step-by-step process he used to construct his hives.

Terri is quite the artist. These are their hives.

This is a small shed that has been on their property for a long while. They now use it for the A-Z hives.



Inside the shed they can work on the hives in any weather. The bees are accessed in the back of the hives.

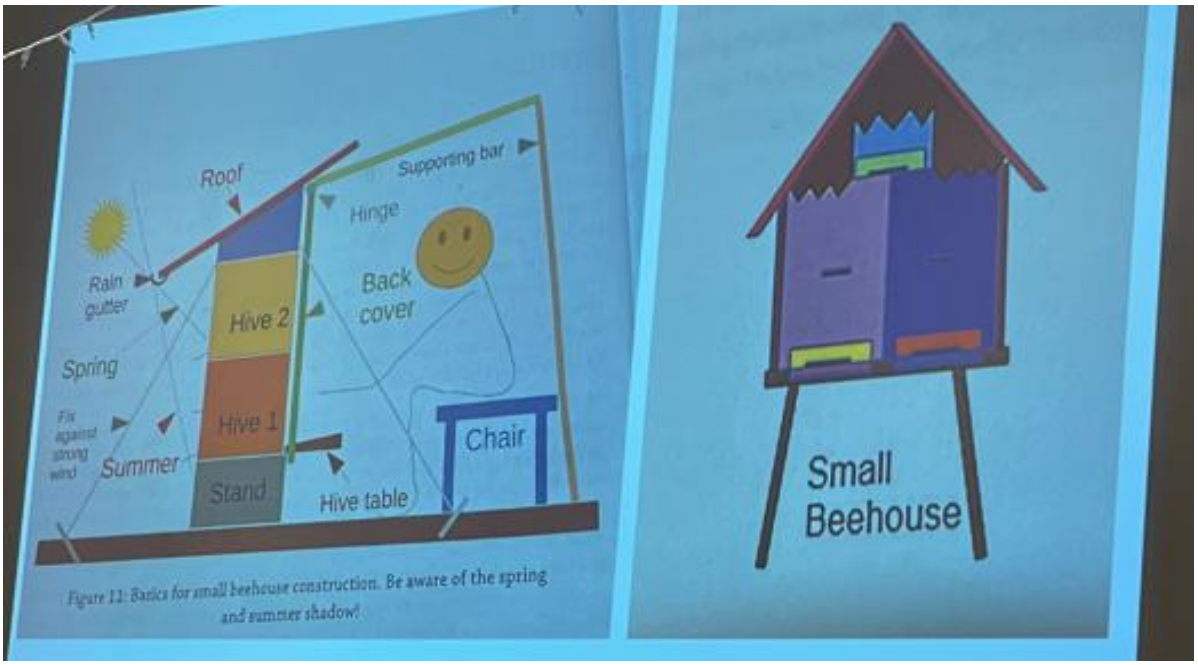
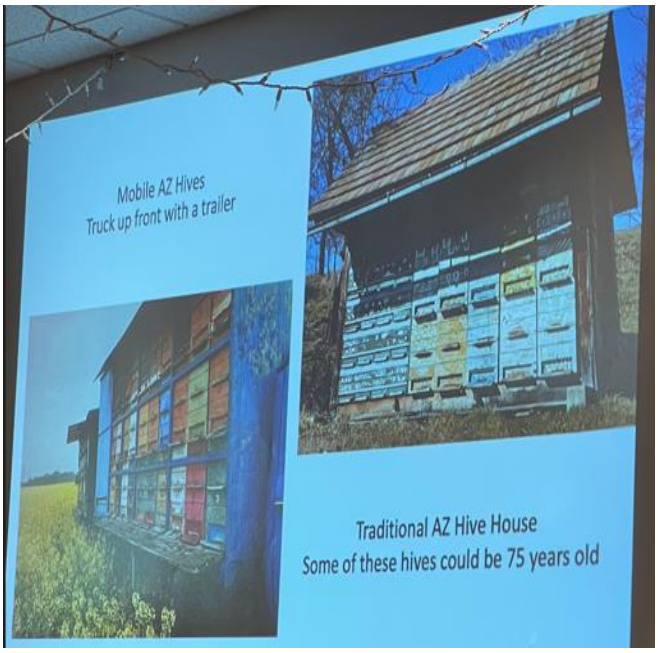
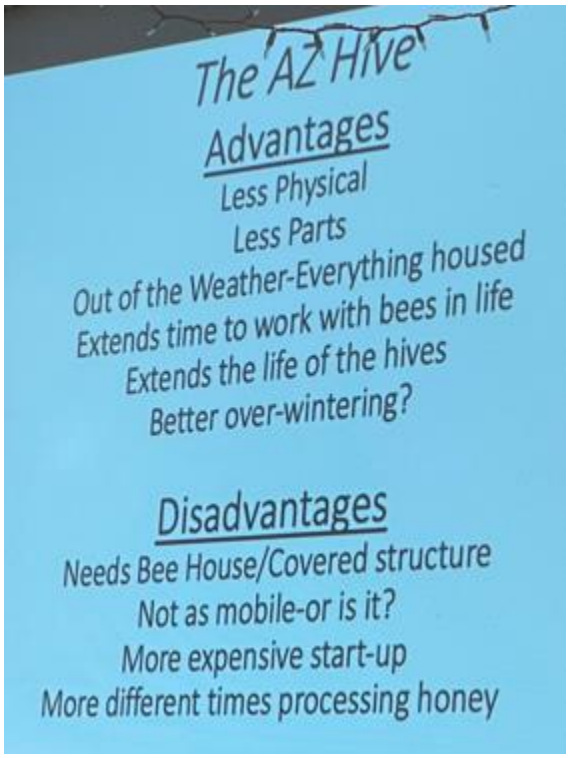


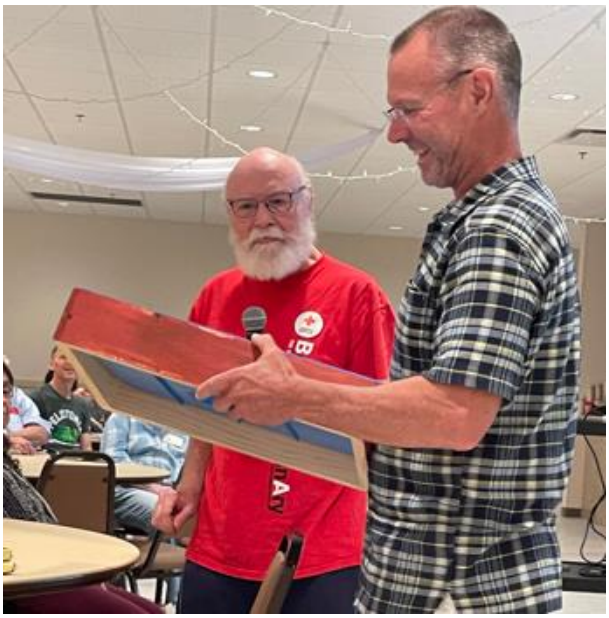
Figure 11: Basics for small beehouse construction. Be aware of the spring and summer shadow!



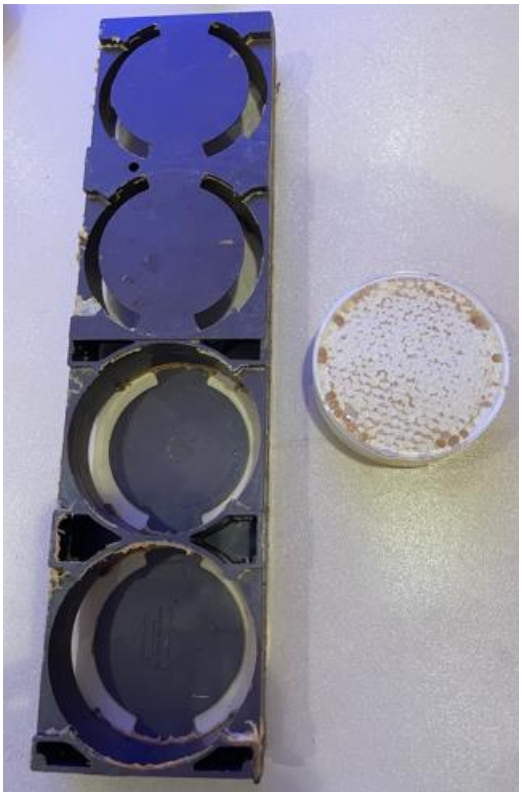


Glenn Hile loves to try out new products.

Here are a few.



Top feeder, holds a lot of sugar water.



These are called Ross Rounds for comb honey.

60 to 70% success rate.

Easy to use.

Crown ONLY - Top Panel / Langstroth 10 & 8 frame & Nuc sizes

from $42.50

Give your bees the ultimate winter protection. Our high-tech panel is made of the most effective insulation material ever created, achieving an R-value of 32 in a 0.8" panel, equivalent to over 6" of foam board.

Sizes:

10 frame: 19.875 x 16.35 x 0.80 inches

8 frame: 19.875 x 14.0 x 0.80 inches

Nuc: 19.875 x 9.5 x 0.80 inches

The high R-value is achieved by a vacuum seal. The panel is wrapped with puncture resistant material; using care with sharp tools is recommended.

Winter Prep with Dave McComb

MITE CHECK

QUEEN CHECK

FEED

REDUCE ENTRANCE

INSULATE

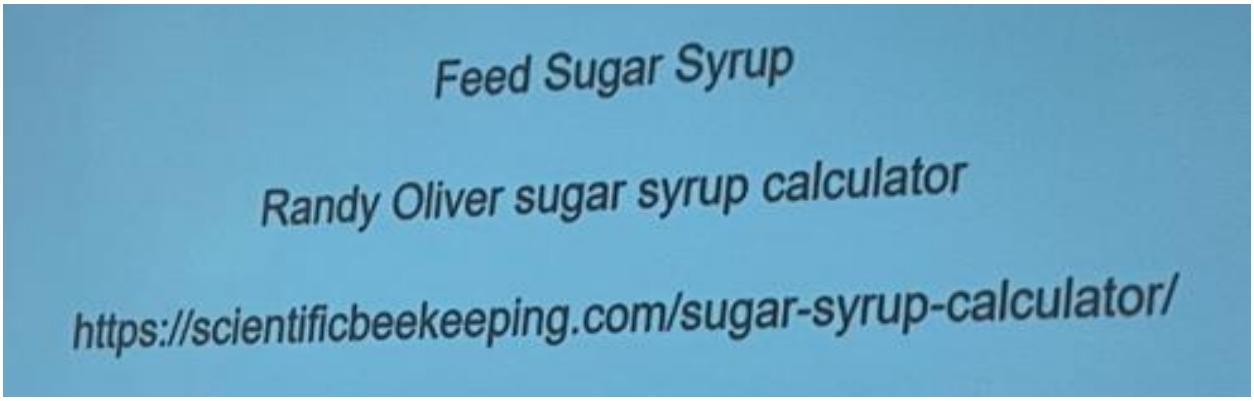
MITE CHECK

THE NUMBER OF MITES WILL INFORM YOUR TREATMENT OPTIONS.

QUEEN CHECK

MAKE SURE HIVE IS QUEEN RIGHT

CHECK FOR EGGS OR ACTUAL QUEEN



REDUCE ENTRANCE

3/8” hardware cloth/screen

INSULATE TOP OF HIVE

½” pink insulation

REMOVE FEEDERS

Dave feeds his bees a gallon a week per hive. 60% water 40% sugar.

You can get 3/8 x 3/8 hardware cloth from Amazon or a hardware store.

The plastic he uses around the bottom of his hives can be bought from Meyer Plastics. (corrugated plastic) 3410 Congressional Parkway Fort Wayne

These are pictures of some of Dave's hives.

Sugar feeders in the fall. Putting them in a super and covering, helps control robbing.

Nucs are put together in the fall to help keep them warm in winter. A corrugated plastic cover is put around the bottom to break the wind coming in the around the bottom.

Corrugated plastic for the bottoms of his hives for winter

Queen container

This is to put a queen in so a brood break can be started.

This helps with mite control.

BEEKEEPING AROUND THE WORLD

Slovenian beekeeping - facts and figures

The importance of beekeeping in Slovenia can also be seen in numbers: in 2020, Slovenia had 11,293 beekeepers, 15,420 apiaries and more than 210,000 bee colonies, which is 42% more than ten years ago. It should not be overlooked that with five beekeepers per 1,000 inhabitants, Slovenia ranks at the very top of the EU Member States in terms of the number of beekeepers per capita. Slovenians are a nation of beekeepers, and beekeeping enjoys a status equal to that of other types of agricultural activity. In Slovenia, awareness of the significance of bees and ensuring their well-being is therefore generally high.

Their tireless helper is the autochthonous Carniolan bee (*Apis mellifera carnica*), which is famous for being a hard-working, humble, resistant animal, with an excellent sense of orientation. In Slovenia, beekeeping is allowed only with the autochthonous Carniolan bee. Slovenia is the first EU Member State that provided legal protection to bees. The Carniolan bee is protected under the Livestock Farming Act, and in its pre-accession agreement with the EU Slovenia protected its territory as the region of origin of the Carniolan bee. By so doing, it committed itself to doing everything possible to preserve the bee.

It is therefore not surprising that Slovenia has an Apiculture Museum ↗ in Radovljica, and that Slovenian beekeepers are well organised in local associations under the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association. Slovenian beekeepers have enhanced the beekeeping tradition by expanding it to include beekeeping tourism.

Honey

Honey in Slovenia can be considered our unique natural treasure. The success of beekeeping production is influenced by many factors, namely weather conditions, winter losses of bee families, losses due to bee diseases, poisoning and much more.

The production of honey in Slovenia fluctuates from year to year, and in 2020 we produced 1,293 tons. Beekeepers produced the most honey in 2001, i.e. a record of 2,550 tons, and the least in 2014, amounting to 471 tons. With their harvest, beekeepers meet more than half of domestic consumption demand, so that the rate of self-sufficiency in honey in 2020 was 67 %.

The predominant method of beekeeping is in AŽ-hives; in Slovenia most beekeepers are engaged in amateur beekeeping or it is a secondary activity. Honey is highly appreciated in Slovenia, as we consume about a kilogram per capita per year. We prefer to buy it from beekeepers, as more than 80 % of their produce is sold directly from home.

> In order to produce a kilogram of honey, a bee has to visit four million flowers and fly four times the distance around the planet.

Apitourism

Apitourism or bee tourism is a contemporary tourism product. Slovenia can pride itself in being the leading apitourism destination in the world. The creativity of Slovenian apitourism shows in its ability to transform the rich beekeeping culture and tradition into a unique tourism product with a high added value, which educates people and enables them to develop a high level of respect and responsibility for the natural, cultural and social environment

Apitourism offers↗ a wide range of services and products. Visit beekeepers and discover the life of bees, get acquainted with and taste bee and honey products, discover the architecture of typical apiaries and beekeeping museums and witness the fabrication of beeswax ornaments, the painting of beehive panels and the baking of delicacies made of honey dough.

Apitherapy plays an increasingly important role in apitourism. It denotes various methods that use bee products or preparations to improve health and prevent and alleviate health problems. Some beekeepers have already adapted their apiaries and started using them for therapeutic purposes. They enable the visitors to indulge in the aromas of bee products while listening to the sound of bees buzzing and enjoy honey-based massages, thermotherapies, honey baths and other services.

Recommended Control Options by Seasonal Phase
By: Jerry Hayes, Bee Culture Sept. 2024 issue

Different control options are appropriate for each of the four phases of the honeybee/varroa seasonal cycle.

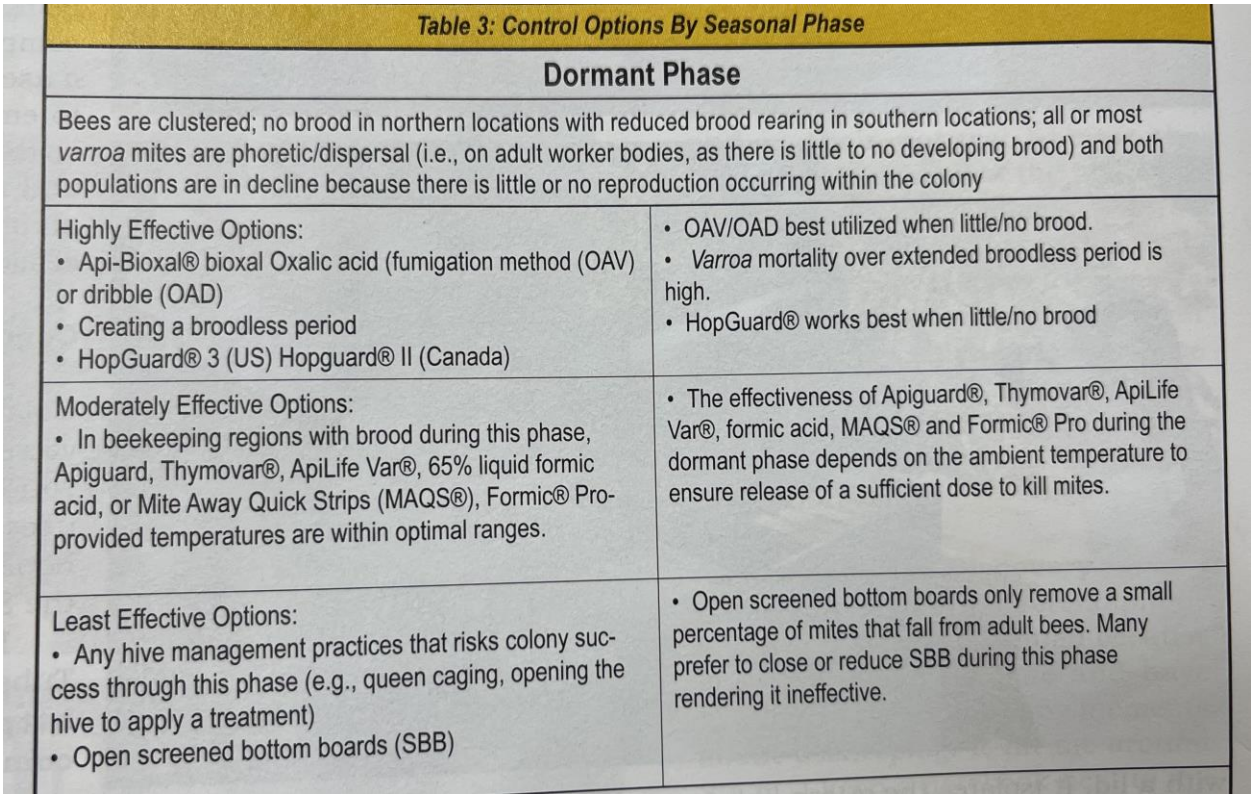


Table 3: Control Options By Seasonal Phase

Dormant Phase	
Bees are clustered; no brood in northern locations with reduced brood rearing in southern locations; all or most *varroa* mites are phoretic/dispersal (i.e., on adult worker bodies, as there is little to no developing brood) and both populations are in decline because there is little or no reproduction occurring within the colony	
Highly Effective Options: • Api-Bioxal® bioxal Oxalic acid (fumigation method (OAV) or dribble (OAD) • Creating a broodless period • HopGuard® 3 (US) Hopguard® II (Canada)	• OAV/OAD best utilized when little/no brood. • *Varroa* mortality over extended broodless period is high. • HopGuard® works best when little/no brood
Moderately Effective Options: • In beekeeping regions with brood during this phase, Apiguard, Thymovar®, ApiLife Var®, 65% liquid formic acid, or Mite Away Quick Strips (MAQS®), Formic® Pro- provided temperatures are within optimal ranges.	• The effectiveness of Apiguard®, Thymovar®, ApiLife Var®, formic acid, MAQS® and Formic® Pro during the dormant phase depends on the ambient temperature to ensure release of a sufficient dose to kill mites.
Least Effective Options: • Any hive management practices that risks colony success through this phase (e.g., queen caging, opening the hive to apply a treatment) • Open screened bottom boards (SBB)	• Open screened bottom boards only remove a small percentage of mites that fall from adult bees. Many prefer to close or reduce SBB during this phase rendering it ineffective.

Population Increase	
Seasonal colony buildup; colony brood population growing rapidly and adult worker population increasing; *varroa* mite population usually low but increasing; pre-honey flow supering of colonies.	
Highly Effective Options: • Apivar® • Apiguard®, Thymovar®, or ApiLife Var® • MAQS® or Formic Pro® • Drone brood removal	• Apivar® must be terminated after a 42- to 56-day treatment period, two weeks prior to adding supers • Apiguard® treatment must be terminated prior to adding supers. • ApiLife Var® must be terminated after 2 or 3 treatments (7-10 days each). Remove ApiLife Var® tablets from the hive at least one month before harvesting honey. (If colonies are not used in honey production, use OK.) • In Canada liquid formic acid is registered for use. • MAQS®/Formic Pro® use is legally permitted when • colonies are supered. • Drone brood removal may be used 2-3 times on strong, populous colonies.
Moderately Effective Options: • HopGuard® II and HopGuard®3 • Colony division (Swarming or making divides/splits) queening using hygienic stock • Basic sanitation • Movement to confinement (effectiveness undetermined)	• Hopguard® II/3 effective on smaller colonies during buildup or following almond pollination service. It may reduce mite levels during buildup. • Dividing the colony during the Population Increase phase may reduce surplus honey production • Hygienic queens are not always available. • Basic sanitation may help reduce other stressors.
Least Effective Options: • Screen bottom board • Powdered sugar • Mineral oil • Failure to perform timely hive managements	• A screen bottom board is marginally effective. • There is little evidence that powdered sugar or mineral oil has any effect on mite populations.

Population Peak	
Bee population (both adult & brood) at peak; mite populations increasing, nearing peak; often honey supers on colonies.	
Highly Effective Options: • MAQS® or Formic Pro© • If no supers are re present or colonies are not producing honey Apivar®, or Apiguard®, or ApiLife Var® can be used	• MAQS®, Apiguard® and ApiLife Var® are not suitable for use in all temperatures. See the detailed descriptions of products below for temperature ranges for use of these products. • Apivar® (amitraz) is highly effective. Be cautious about using it too often to avoid risk of developing mite resistance.
Moderately Effective Options: • Requeening with hygienic stock • Division of colonies • HopGuard® II and HopGuard® 3 • Api-bioxal Oxalic acid drip (OAD) or vaporization (OAV)	• Hygenic or locally selected stock is not widely available. • If colonies are strong enough to produce surplus honey, requeening or dividing (splitting) colonies may negatively affect honey production. • HopGuard® II and HopGuard® 3 can be used while colonies are supered for honey production; Oxalic acid is best used when there is little or no capped brood in the colony during the Dormant Phase or on broodless colonies during queen replacement
Least Effective Options: • Screen bottom board • Drone brood removal	• A screen bottom board removes a small percentage of mites that fall from adult bodies. Use it in combination with other techniques. • Drone brood removal is restricted in this phase by the absence of sufficient drone brood and the difficulty of accessing the brood nest beneath honey supers.

Population Decrease	
Post-honey harvest; bee population decreasing; colonies rearing overwintering bees. *Varroa* mite populations growing, peaking, and then declining until eventually only phoretic/dispersal mites on adult bees after colonies become broodless.	
Highly Effective Options: • Apivar® • MAQS®, Formic Pro©, 65% liquid formic acid • Apiguard®, Thymovar®, or ApiLife Var® • HopGuard® II, HopGuard® 3	• Apivar® should not be used until surplus honey is removed. • MAQS®, Formic Pro©, Apiguard®, Thymovar®, and ApiLife Var® are not suitable for use in all temperatures. See the detailed descriptions of products below for temperature ranges for use of these products.
Moderately Effective Options: • Requeening with hygienic bees • Division of colonies • Api-bioxal© Oxalic acid dribble (OAD) or vaporization (OAV)	• Hygienic stock is not widely available. • Requeening and dividing colonies may be difficult because colonies are shrinking as dormant season approaches. • Oxalic acid is most effective if there is little to no cappe brood present.
Least Effective Options: • Apistan® or CheckMite+® • Drone brood removal • Screen bottom board • Sanitation	• Mite resistance to Apistan® and CheckMite+® is well documented. • Colonies are unlikely to raise drones during this phase • Basic sanitation may help relieve stress.

2024 4-H ESSAY CONTEST VARIETAL HONEYS – FIRST PLACE WINNER, LANDON MOORE

AS SEEN IN THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL SEPT ISSUE

2024 4-H Essay Contest Varietal Honeys- First Place Winner, Landon Moore

Foundation for the Preservation of the Honey Bees, Inc.

For more information, please visit: https://preservationofhoneybees.org/first-place-landon-moore-texas-2/

Varietal Honey Essay

Varietal honey is honey that comes from a single source.[1] This honey has a flavor derived from the source flower and can even have a similar scent.[2] In general, lighter colored honeys have a more subtle taste and dark honeys are more intense.[3] Varietal honey has been compared to wine, in that honeys produced in different years can be distinguished, even if they come from the same flower and location. This is due to slight temperature and rainfall differences for the flower that in turn cause small changes to the resulting honey's flavor.[4] This phenomenon is called *terroir*[5] and is responsible for the individual taste of each honey harvest. Varietal honey's unique flavor, based on local flowers, and sometimes rarity, has made this type of honey very valued and frequently quite expensive. In America, more than 300 of varietal honeys are produced.[6]

One example of a unique varietal is blueberry honey. This type is often produced either from honey taken after bees pollinate a field of berries, or from wild blueberries, especially in the Northeast. It is a light-colored honey with a mild fruity and buttery taste.[7] A rarer varietal is Avocado honey. It is produced only in California and Florida. It has a dark amber color and strong rich taste.[8] A more widespread (but still regional) type is cotton honey. It is produced across the South in the many cotton fields. This honey is very pale with a mild and subtle taste.[9] One of the more famous varietals is orange blossom honey. It is produced in parts of a few states mainly California, Arizona, Texas and Florida. It is a very pale honey with a strong floral scent and distinct citrus taste.[10] It is frequently made from multiple citrus species, but purely Orange honey can be found, often from California.[11] One final example of a varietal honey is the ubiquitous clover, one of the most popular types of honey. It is grown all over the United States and produced from several species of clover, most commonly Red, (*Trifolium pratense*) Alsike,

(*Trifolium hybridum*) Crimson, (*Trifolium incarnatum*) and White (*Trifolium repens*).[12] These are often blended together, but are sometimes found as distinct types based on the species. All produce a mild and sweet, light-colored honey. The aroma is often compared to grass, plums and hay.[12]

Certain varietal honeys such as Manuka are authenticated before going to market. Manuka honey is produced from the tree *Leptospermum scoparium* which grows in New Zealand and small parts of Australia. There is some dispute between these two countries over the honey, as New Zealand wishes to trademark the name "Manuka Honey."[13] Despite the controversy, most high quality Manuka honey comes from New Zealand. Its rarity and unusual taste make it highly valued. Additionally, Manuka honey has been found to have several health benefits.[14] [15] It can help heal burns, soothe wounds and has been found to destroy bacteria, even antibiotic resistant bacteria, making it even more highly sought after. All exported New Zealand Manuka honey must be authenticated in a laboratory approved by a government agency, the Ministry of Primary Industries. During the authentication, a sample of Manuka honey is subjected to a two part test that looks for five markers of true Manuka honey.[16] In the first part of the test, dissolved honey has the pollen removed via centrifuge and its DNA is compared to the DNA of the tree, *Leptospermum scoparium.*[17] In the second stage, the sample is tested by a machine called a mass spectrometer in a complicated process called liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry.[18]

After the honey is authenticated, the MGO (Methylglyoxal) level of the honey is usually determined. MGO is a chemical compound that contributes extensively to Manuka honey's

antibacterial properties.[19] The MGO rating is a number equivalent to the milligrams of MGO per kilogram of Manuka honey.[20] Manuka honey is also usually given a "UMF" (Unique Manuka Factor) quality rating based on the amount of over two thousand chemical components that exist in real Manuka honey.[21] These test further show the quality of the Manuka honey and prove its genuineness.

Another rare and valuable varietal is Tupelo honey. It comes from the White Ogeechee Tupelo tree, *Nyssa ogeche*, which grows only in a small area of Florida and Georgia.[22] As with Manuka, Tupelo honey is also authenticated by pollen analysis. Tupelo honey is light amber with a greenish cast. [23] It has a complex, floral taste compared to many other flavors, such as pears[23] with a cinnamon-like scent.[24] Due to an unusually high fructose content, Tupelo honey is much less prone to granulate than other honeys.[23] Tupelo honey is difficult to produce, (and consequently, often expensive) since it requires exact timing to avoid adulteration with other trees' nectar, as there is a narrow window when the Tupelo is the principal plant in bloom.[25] Tupelo honey is highly unique and therefore greatly loved and promoted by the locals where it is produced, to the extent there is an annual Tupelo Honey festival in Wewahitchka, Florida.[26]

Varietal honeys are some of the most distinct and valuable honeys there are. They have tastes that vary greatly from other types and even from the same type produced in different years.

Because they are so distinguished by their origin, they are a source of pride for locals and are frequently protected from adulteration or substitution. Whenever one has the opportunity to sample some of these highly varied and unique honeys, it is always worth it.

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Questions? Contact the Fall Co Committee:

Ethan Mitchell, Chair
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Event questions? Email Ethan Mitchell (ethanmitchell010@gmail.com) or call/text him (574.364.5618). Registration questions? Contact Robert Duffy (tboi.treasurer@aol.com).

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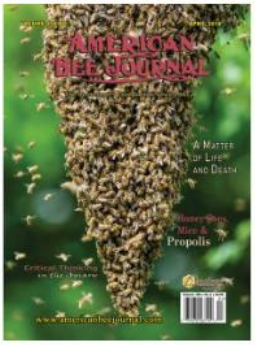

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