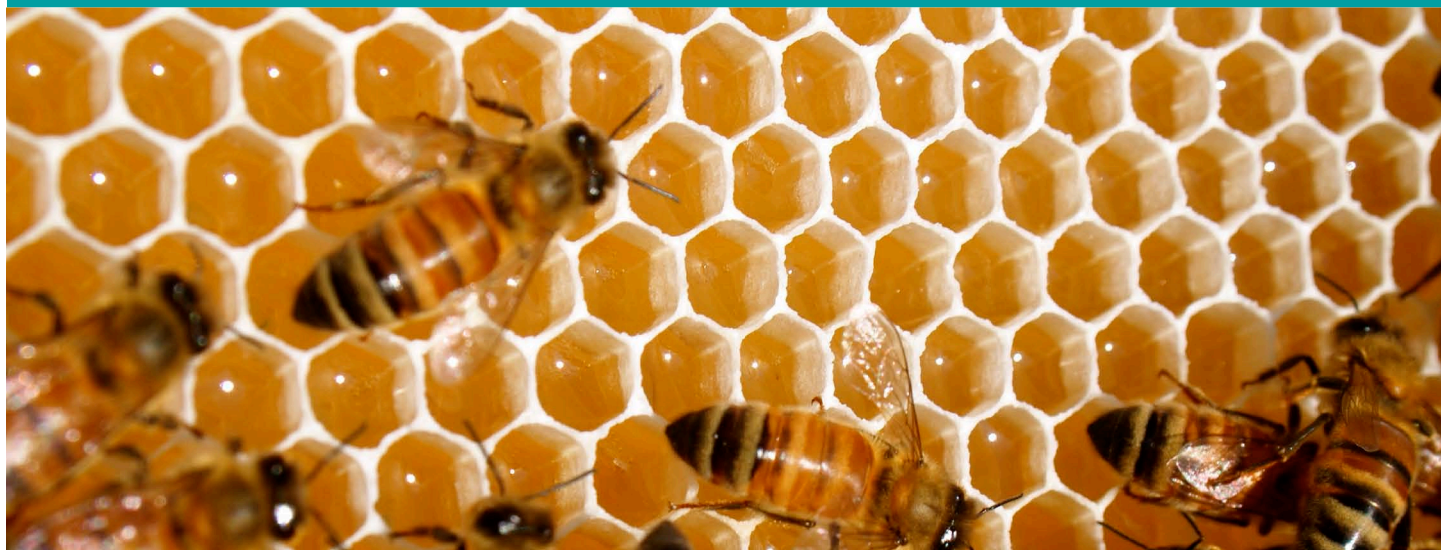




Kelley Bee News

ISSUE 4 - OCTOBER 2010

Modern Beekeeping



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Photo by Jesse Lewis

The Buzz

You could call this the “feeding” issue – lots of information on fall and winter feeding, and some award-winning honey recipes are among the articles. Thanks to all the experts who helped us answer your questions.

Thanks also to you readers who sent in pictures of bee-theme costumes for our special Halloween page. It shows that you know how to have fun.

We also know you take beekeeping seriously, which is why we’ve started a new “What’s New” section. We’ll review a handful of enhancements and new approaches each month, to help make beekeeping easier, better for the bees, or – in the case of the new mini-bear container, simply more fun. Visit www.kelleybees.com for ordering, or give us a call.

As seasonal activities wind down, it is time to start thinking about what you might need for next year. We offer free shipping through zone 4 (see back of catalog for the zone you’re in) and 10% off for those past zone 4 – and YES this does include truck shipments, the three days before Thanksgiving only. Take advantage of this to order all the “big stuff” while we foot the bill of sending it to you.

Thanks for being a customer of the Walter T. Kelley Company. We’re here to serve you the best we can.

Best regards –

Jane Burgess
CEO / Partner
The Walter T. Kelley Company



Jane Burgess waits for a swarm.



Walter T. Kelley, Prop.
Gulf Coast Bee Co.

Do Yourself a Favor

Write for my free bee supply catalogue.



5 CYPRESS shallow extracting supers with soft white pine frames, kd. in carton (8- or 10-frame size)
\$3.25

"As the quality of the material and the workmanship of the supplies we have been getting from you has been the highest, we are herewith inclosing our order for 100 nuclei."
(Signed) Bolling Bee Co.,
Breeder of Grey Caucasians.

GULF COAST BEE COMPANY

HOUMA, LOUISIANA

This ad ran in the February, 1930 issue of the Bee Journal.

Healthy Bees

Wintering Bees in Northern Climates

By Gary S. Reuter, Scientist, University of Minnesota

One of the most challenging management items now is getting bees through winter. Let's first discuss what the bees need to get through winter, then what can we do to make that happen.

- The bees need to be healthy enough to live the extended period of time.
- They must have enough "winter" bees to keep the cluster warm during the cold winter.
- They need to have enough honey to last through the winter.
- They must have a proper living space (hive).
- They must have pollen stores for spring brood rearing.

Your colonies should be checked for diseases and mites as soon as possible. If they have any they should be treated early. You need to have bees that emerge before winter ("winter bees") to be raised by nurse bees without disease and pupated without any mites.

Check to be sure they have enough honey. In Minnesota they should have at least 70 pounds. Check with experienced beekeepers in your area for how much they will need where your bees are located. If they are short on honey you can feed them 2:1 heavy syrup until they have enough.

The living space is very important. It must be protected from the prevailing winds and have a lower and upper entrance. On top there should be some way for the moisture to be absorbed and then evaporated to the outside. We use a "moisture board."

For more details see our wintering poster at www.extension.umn.edu/honeybees/components/free-bees.htm.

You cannot do much about the pollen stores now but if there isn't pollen in the upper box remember to add a pollen patty early in the spring. Hope all your hives survive winter.

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Survey of Northern Midwest Winterizing Practices

By Camilla Bee, Editor

Last month's newsletter featured winterizing tips from southern beekeepers. It was insightful, but not only do "y'all" speak funny down there, you probably aren't in a geographic position to advise us. Unless you own at least three different heavy coats, and have worn all three at the same time, you don't know winter.

Seeking information for northern, Midwest Kelley customers was my main objective. And, as a relative rookie beekeeper in that geographic area, I also needed information. Thus, I interviewed a half dozen Midwest northern beekeepers, from northern Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

You've heard "ask three beekeepers a question, you'll get three different answers?" These guys

didn't let me down. While receiving so much disparate advice, I asked each what I should do. They all hesitated, saying it was up to me.

Beekeeper Corky framed the issue well. He explained that most beekeepers do what their mentors taught them, and modify it a bit as their skills and track record evolve. So, one beekeeper may swear

Unless you own at least three different heavy coats, and have worn all three at the same time, you don't know winter.

by tar paper wrapping because that's what he knows and it has worked; another, 20 miles away, may have equal success by doing very little. It's "whatever works for you," he summarized.

While there were vast differences among those interviewed, there were some generalities:

- 4 of 6 leave two deeps, with one leaving an additional deep, and another an additional shallow
- 4 of 6 either use full bottom boards consistently, or slide in the additional bottom boards if they're using screened bottom boards
- When it comes to breaking the wind, all of them do something, typically with straw bales. Half also wrap their hives in tar paper.
- Reducing the hive entrance, and installing mouse guards? Split 50-50. However, all agreed you need to keep the hive entrance cleared for ventilation. A mouse guard installing beekeeper gave this sound advice: put on the guard on a warm day. If you do it on a cold day, you may be trapping the mouse inside.
- Most fall feed 2:1, with only half medicating for Nosema, and one treating for foulbrood and mites.

- Half feed throughout the winter with candy boards, fondant, or the Mountain Camp method.
- Two beekeepers have awesome survival rates, but were quick to point out that they've been "doing this for hundreds of years, over hundreds of hives," and that they're a little, or a lot, obsessed with it.

Red cedar shavings: this involves mounting a screen across the bottom of a deep, and framing it with a 3/8" rim. Pour in 3-4" of red cedar shavings (the kind you buy for gerbils). Tap and shake to remove the fines. Place this altered deep above the top deep; the covers go on top of it. This method minimizes insects, provides some insulation, and absorbs moisture.

Special vent top: This is a black medium super with a top sloped to the back. The back outer wall of the super is 1/4" short, allowing for both ventilation and, more critically, draining of the moisture that condensates inside the black, sloped top.

This modified super goes atop a "red shavings" super, with one significant alteration: a plastic tube, a couple inches in diameter, is mounted vertically atop the screen in the middle. The shavings are added around it. This tube vents moisture from below

Overview of Other Winterizing Practices

	Tom 8 hives	Corky Dozens of hives	Bob 2 hives	Jack 100ish hives	Bob 100ish hives	Mike 100ish hives
Popsicle stick trick or holes for ventilation?	Yes – 3/8" hole in upper deep	No	No	Yes – 3/4", 4.5" down from top of top deep; 4.5" from the right side. "And put a frame around it so the bees can see it to easily return!"	No	Yes – 3/8" in upper deep
Survival rate	50%	2/3rds	2/3rds	Nearly 100%	About 95%	70%
Special tricks?	Mountain Camp method, see details		"Let 'em bee"	Red cedar shavings - see details	Red cedar shavings + special vent top, see details	

for condensation and drainage from the modified top cover.

Mountain Camp method:

1. Place a 2" spacer rim on the top of hives, place 2 sheets of black and white newspaper directly atop frames, covering roughly 2/3 of the surface area (leaving 1/3 of the frames visible.) Be sure to keep the newspaper within the spacer rim.
2. Mist newspaper with a spray bottle of water.
3. Dump about a third of a two pound container of granulated sugar on the newspaper, mist until it begins to clump. Repeat until all sugar has been applied.
4. The inner cover goes atop the rim spacer; the top cover follows.

So, there's plenty more information on what you *could* do. But there's no what you *should* do. With so few rules, you need to read, talk with others in your area, and eventually decide what to try, given your time, financial and carpentry constraints.

Of course, you won't know what really works for you until some warm day in early 2011, when your winter coat collection is shoved back in the closet, and glorious bees are dancing outside their hives.

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Fall Management

By Eric Mussen, UC Apiaries,
University of California

Reprinted from the Bee Bayou Newsletter, July/August 2010

Fall management begins in late summer. The goal is to raise as many healthy bees as possible for a wintering population. Three crucial considerations for population buildup are:

1. Adequate pollen supplies
2. Large numbers of week old to two week old nurse bees, and
3. Lots of empty space in the brood combs to accommodate egg laying.

Was it the love of honey?

A fascination with insects? Because your family always did it? For the money? We'd love to know why you're a beekeeper, and will share those answers in future issues. Please email me at KelleyBeesEditor@gmail.com. Thank you!

If the bees are short on food, consider feeding BOTH sugar syrup and supplemental protein.

If the brood nest area is pretty much filled up with honey, remove combs and replace them with combs that are practically empty. Brood rearing naturally wraps up, or tapers way off, by the end of October, so the colony needs space dearly during the next month.

As for bee health, honey bees infected with diseases, fungal and/or bacterial, or that have been fed upon by Varroa mites while pupating, will not be able to survive the four to six months expected of healthy winter bees. You should have an idea of your colonies mite populations through periodic monitoring with sticky traps. Nosema spore counts are not technically difficult to determine. You can find instructions at: www.scientificbeekeeping.com. Interpreting the counts and deciding how to treat, if deemed necessary, can be a bit dicey.

Finally, the bees should have produced enough honey for winter survival and for you to take some. Try to leave 30-60 pounds for the bees. Fully filled deep combs contain about 5 pounds of honey and medium-depth combs between three and four pounds each.

If the bees read the textbooks, they will have put the honey above and to the sides of the brood nest, leaving many empty cells in the bottom box for late summer (then early spring) brood rearing. You may have to help the bees redistribute their stores to acquire that arrangement.

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Bee-Yond & Bee-Hind the Hives

Queen Breeding and Nuc Building, Part 1

By Sean Burgess, Kelley Employee & Beekeeper

I started keeping bees the way most people start out -- with a couple of hives in my backyard. I had my share of trials and tribulations, learning from my mistakes and expanding my knowledge through classes, seminars and reading all the info I could find.

I am now going into my fifth year and currently manage around 60 hives. I teach a Beekeeping 101 class at Kelley's and occasionally am asked to speak at meetings. I also travel frequently and I have been across the country talking to some of the biggest and best beekeepers in the industry, from queen breeders and honey producers to authors and educators.

So, after several years of selling thousands of packages of bees, queens and nucleus colonies I thought, why don't we try to do some queen breeding and nuc building of our own? How hard can it be?

Thus, in the issues ahead, that answer will be documented, complete with photos. Here's how the project will begin:

- After the flow is over this fall I will rob my heavy colonies.
- The hives will be evaluated, and broken down into single, 10-frame deeps (see photo below).
- Queens will be added to the splits; the mother hives requeened when necessary.
- These colonies will be fed heavily with 2:1 and medicated with Honey-B-Healthy and Fumigilin-B.
- In late November, I plan on trucking 60 colonies of bees to southern Mississippi for build-up in anticipation of the second part of my plan.

Watch for Part 2 in upcoming issues!

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Dr. Marla Spivak Named 2010 MacArthur Fellow

On September 28th, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation named 23 new MacArthur Fellows for 2010, selected for their creativity, originality, and potential to make important contributions in the future. Among them, Dr. Marla Spivak of the University of Minnesota's Bee Lab, an entomologist protecting one of the world's most im-

portant pollinators—honey bees—from decimation by disease.

She learned of it through a phone call out of the blue from the Foundation. Dr. Spivak will receive \$500,000 in “no strings attached” support over the next five years.

Additional information, video interviews, and photographs are available at www.macfound.org.

The Walter T. Kelley Company salutes Dr. Spivak and her important work.

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Beekeeping 101 Classes

On October 23 and again on November 20th, Sean Burgess of the Walter T. Kelley Co. will lead a beekeeping 101 class. This class will appeal to new and first year beekeepers. This is a 1-day class, with a lunch break from 12 – 1. Lunch is on your own and there are many restaurants within 10 minutes of Kelley's.

This class will cover:

- Basic choices in equipment and an overview of assembly procedures
- Optimal hive set up locations with ground condition improvement
- Package bees vs. nucs- pros and cons
- How to install packages & nucs
- How to prepare queens for installation
- Feeding and caring for your bees
- Healthy brood patterns and what to look for
- How to diagnose most common problems in beehives
- An overview of pests, predators and diseases of bees
- Medication options and alternatives
- When to add deeps and supers
- When to remove supers
- Getting your bees ready for winter
- Winter observations
- Opening your hives in the spring
- A walk in the Kelley apiary
- Various handouts

Registration can be by phone or online.

If weather permits we will do a hive inspection, students may want to bring a veil.

At A Glance

Date: 10/23/10 and again on 11/20/10

Time: 9:00 am central time – ending at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00 per person

Location:

Walter T. Kelley Co.
807 W Main St.
Clarkson, KY. 42726

Register by phone: 800-233-2899

Online: www.kelleybees.com



Beekeeper Sean Burgess

BeeCause

By Camilla Bee, Editor

Like young bees, young beekeepers are critical to the future. If Serena Fuelling represents beekeepers of the future, I think we're in good shape.

Serena, daughter of Shelly and Mark Fuelling of New Haven, Indiana, is a third generation beekeeper. The knowledge handed down from her grandfather and father, with whom she routinely works the hives, along with her own enthusiasm, have served her well. She's been beekeeping for eight years through 4-H, and received a blue ribbon and special merit award at the State Fair her very first year. She also went to the State Fair for beekeeping all the other years. 2010 was her third year for her honey to be offered at the Sale of Champions.

Serena is now a freshman at IPFW, Purdue, in the pre-vet program. As an honor roll student through her high school career, while active in church, softball, volleyball and 4-H among many other activities, I suspect she'll have no problems with that challenging curriculum.

I recently caught up with this very articulate young lady, and asked about her favorite part of beekeeping. Not surprising, it was extracting honey, putting it into jars – a tangible reward for all the hard work. Her least favorite part is also not too surprising – the heat of beekeeping when it is “blazing hot.” After questioning her (we rookie beeks never miss an opportunity to learn), it was evident she truly work



Serena inspecting the honey for ripeness.

the bees. She easily handled questions on swarms, supering and queens while I scribbled notes. Serena also shared that, regardless of being stung “quite often,” she encourages everyone to get involved with beekeeping.

While the Walter T. Kelley Company has been supporting bee research and charitable efforts for decades, it wasn't until earlier this year that we formally announced that a percent of profits go to such endeavors. Donating to the Buyers Group for the State Fair Championship was one such effort. When asked why they approached Kelley's, father Mark answered “Our family has been buying supplies from Kelley's since we started in bee keeping in the '70s. I remember meeting Mr. Kelley on family trips to Kentucky for vacation and to pick-up supplies and trade wax for foundation.” And, as Serena said, “Kelley's – it's just the place; it's what my family uses.”



Serena and her grandfather review a captured swarm for brood.

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FAQs

Each issue we'll post a handful of the questions we receive. We regret that we can't answer each and every question here; we'll select ones that have broadest appeal for the time of year. If you have a question, you can always call us and we'll try to help.

Q: How much honey should be left on the hive for winter? Is there a general rule-of-thumb? The really strong hives used for splits -- do they get more? Any harm leaving on a shallow honey super in addition to two deeps, or is that too much for a colony to heat?

A: Kim Flottum, editor of Bee Culture Magazine, answered this question for us:

Even the coldest part of the country uses 125 pounds or less between Oct and April, but I wouldn't leave less than 75 pounds unless I was in the Keys, in Florida. That means, then, that a 2-deep colony should weigh right about 175 pounds; boxes, frames, bottom board and covers and honey.

If your 2-deep colony weighs about 150 pounds or so, more is OK, less not so good, you probably don't need more honey left on. Extra is always OK; bees don't heat the inside of a hive, just the cluster of bees stay warm.

Don't worry about the volume of the hive. Are the bees in the bottom now, and is the honey situated above them so as they rise during winter they will move into honey? Too far on either side and they can't reach it if there aren't enough bees.

Approximate Weight of FULL Frames

- 1 deep frame = 6 pounds
- 1 shallow frame = 2.5 pounds
- 10 deep frames = 60 plus pounds
- 10 shallow frames = 25 - 30 pounds

Q: Do I feed my bees patties in the fall?

A: While protein patties are usually fed at the first warm weather in the spring to stimulate the queen, you can feed protein patties earlier. However, you probably don't want to leave them in over winter. Try, it can't hurt; you can never have a queen laying too much.

While they're commercially available, if you make your own – then you know they are fresh. Just like making any goods ahead of time: you will lose some of the goodness of key ingredients. The unused mixture should always be refrigerated or frozen.

Plenty of recipes may be found at http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Beekeeping/Recipes_for_the_Bees#Pollen_Patty.

Q: What is a candy board?

A: A candy board is a feeding method that sounds like what it is—candy is made and hardened in a “board” that goes over the top frames. Should the bees eat to the top of a frame of honey, they may receive nourishment from the candy if they are unable to move to the next frame (too few or too cold to break cluster), or if there is no more honey.

Here's a method we recommend for preparing the candy:

Ingredients:

- 12 pounds table sugar
- 1 -1/2 pounds honey
- 1 - 1/4 quart water
- 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar

Heat the water while adding the sugar and honey. Stir continuously until the mixture is liquid. Remove the spoon; do not stir, but continue to heat the mixture. Heat the boiling mixture to 238°F. Do not stir while cooking.

When the temperature reaches 238°F, remove from the heat source and add the cream of tartar. Cool the mixture to 125°F and stir vigorously until

Wish List

The upcoming holiday issue will include suggestions from beekeepers on what they don't want to live without in their apiary operation. This list is ideal for the folks wondering what to get you for the holidays, and for planning for next year.

To make this helpful for your fellow beekeepers, I need your input. Please tell me which items you can't live without in your operation, or what you've always wanted Santa to bring you. Email me at KelleyBeesEditor@gmail.com. Thank you!

the mixture becomes cloudy white. Pour the mixture into a rectangular cake pan or candy feeder box.

Candy molded in a cake pan can be wrapped in wax paper and placed in the hive. A candy feed box can be constructed from a piece of one-half inch plywood the size of the inner cover. A 1 1/4-inch rail is nailed around the perimeter of the plywood to make the tray. Nail 12 roofing nails into the inside bottom of the plywood tray to anchor the candy after it hardens.

Q: Any other feeding considerations?

A: Per Phil Craft, State Apiarist, Kentucky Department of Agriculture:

In the absence of a strong nectar flow, you should always feed **INSIDE** the hive to prevent robbing. This means division board feeders (feeders that replace a frame), commercial (or homemade) top feeders, or feeding on top of the hive inside of an empty deep box.

When using division board feeders, fill the inside of the feeders with small sticks. These will serve as floats in the syrup and prevent or minimize drowning of the bees.

If using top feeders, make sure that robbing bees cannot get into the hive from above and that your bees in the hive

cannot get directly into the syrup. For the simplest and most economical top feeder, simply place an empty deep hive body (or two shallows) over the inner cover. You can place entrance feeders inside this box or use plastic jars (empty peanut butter jars work well), canning jars, or other types of glass or plastic containers.

Just punch small holes in the lid, fill the container with syrup, make sure the lids are secure, and place the jar upside down on small sticks of wood (used as spacers) on top of the inner cover. You can place multiple jars in this manner. Then put the outer cover over the empty box (or boxes). Make sure bees cannot get into the feeder box from outside.

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Remember, we're always looking for:

- Your favorite recipes
- Your hive / bee / bee suit or costume photos (Hi resolution please! 300dpi is great.)

Please send them to KelleyBeesEditor@gmail.com. Thanks!

Banana Honey Cake

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup honey
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon hazelnut extract
- 3 ripe bananas
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- 2 1/4 cups self-rising flour

Blend sugar, butter and honey until light and fluffy, add hazelnut extract, sour cream and bananas cut into bite size pieces. Blend well. Add flour 1/4 cup at a time. Batter should be well blended, light and fluffy. Pour into sprayed pan (bundt) and bake at 350°F for 35 - 45 minutes. Cool in pan for 10 minutes and turn out onto cooling rack. Slice and enjoy!

This yummy recipe won first place at the 2006 West Virginia State Agriculture Honey Festival. It was developed by Jean Rectenwald, Secretary of the Jackson County Beekeepers Association.

Herbed Beer Bread

- 3 cups self-rising flour
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 1 teaspoon basil
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- 12 oz beer, room temp
- 1 tablespoon shortening
- 3 tablespoons cornmeal
- 2 tablespoons butter

Preheat oven to 325°F. Combine flour, honey, cheese and herbs; mix well to combine. Stir in beer to produce a stiff batter. Grease loaf pan with shortening and coat bottom and sides of pan with cornmeal. Turn batter into pan and bake for 65 minutes. Brush top of loaf with butter. Turn out and cool on rack.

This recipe was also a first-place winner at the 2006 West Virginia State Agriculture Honey Festival. It was developed by Kelly Clutter of Webster Springs, WV.

Honey Roasted Quail

Serve these quail as an appetizer or as a main course accompanied by greens & wild rice.

Rinse and pat dry:

8 quail

Season inside and out with salt and black pepper to taste.

Chili Paste:

2 Tablespoons of chili powder

1 Tablespoon of minced garlic

1 Tablespoon of olive oil or vegetable oil

Salt and pepper to taste

Mix into a paste and set aside.

Whisk together in a shallow bowl:

1/3 cup honey

1/4 cup soy sauce

2 Tablespoons red wine vinegar

2 Tablespoons chili paste with garlic

3 Tablespoons minced garlic

1/2 teaspoon Chinese five-spice powder (available at most supermarkets)

Marinate the quail in the mixture, covered and refrigerated overnight.

Preheat oven to 450°F. Drain the quail, save the marinade, and place them on a rack in a roasting pan. Fold the wingtips under the birds and tie the legs together. Roast for 10 minutes, and then reduce the oven temperature to 375°F. Roast, basting twice with the marinade, until the juices from the thigh are slightly pink when the skin is pierced, and the flesh is still juicy, about 10 minutes more. Cover loosely with aluminum foil and let stand for 5 minutes before serving. Remove the string and serve.

Honey Bourbon

Fill a rocks glass with ice. Add 2 fluid ounces of bourbon and 1 teaspoon of honey. Stir and enjoy!

What's New

Editor's Note: In beekeeping, there are always improvements in equipment and supplies. We'll feature a handful of these each issue.

Bee Dun Cat # 296

Drive the bees out of your supers using a breeze or fume board along with Bee Dun. This is an all natural product of herbal extracts and essential oils. This product does not have the foul odors of some of the other products on the market and can be shipped through the US mail or UPS.



Eight Frame Garden Hive Cat #GHK8

This very attractive backyard, 8-frame garden hive comes completely assembled and includes; screened bottom board, entrance reducer, two eight frame deep hive bodies, two eight frame medium supers, new style top loading frames, wax foundations, support pins, Boardman plastic entrance feeder, wood inner cover and gabled copper outer cover.



Queen Muff Cat # 61-M

This is a good way to handle your queen bees when marking or clipping their wings. By working queens inside this you eliminate the opportunity for them to fly away.



Queen Rearing DVD Cat #689

Apiarist David Eyre takes you through the steps of raising quality queens using any one of three different methods, from simple basic splits to full fledged grafting. The straight-forward, easy conversational style makes for better understanding of a very complex subject, covers no grafting, the Nicot system, grafting and more. Run time 90 minutes.



Goatskin Gloves with Long Nylon Sleeves Cat #240-SLS

The long nylon sleeves extend up above your elbows and the light weight of them is very comfortable. Don't let the thin nylon fool you, if the bees can't hold on with their feet they can't sting. Supple goatskin gives you the best available feel while offering you a good measure of protection. Beekeeper Insight: "I don't often wear gloves but when I do this is my choice." Sean Burgess



Mini Honey Bears - Cat #242

This cute little bear holds 2 ounces of honey and is great for a sample bottle or gift giving. Available in a 50, 100 or 800 pack.



Foundationless Frames Cat # 9-F deep and Cat# 17-F medium (See photo in review)

After consulting with Michael Bush, Kelley's has come up with a frame for those of you who want to have the bees draw their own wax foundation. Allowing the bees to do this will result in a more natural cell size. You will also have only the impurities that the bees bring in themselves. We offer this frame in a 9-1/8" height for deeps and a 6-1/4" height for medium supers. The frames have a bevel on the bottom of the top bar and we suggest you paint this with liquid beeswax to give the bees a starting point. The end bars are pre-drilled and you can add wire if you choose. The bees will draw the comb around the wires.

Foundationless Frames: Field Test and Observations

By Sean Burgess, Kelley Employee & Beekeeper

When we first came up with this frame I started a package of bees out with them in a 10-frame deep. It was mid-April and we had a nectar flow starting. The bees were being fed as were all my new starts.

I was surprised at the rate at which the bees filled these with honeycomb. Within about three days they had drawn four frames partially. By the end of the first week all frames had a start, some almost touching the bottom bars. The queen had also begun to lay and had a nice pattern of brood.

At about three weeks I added a second deep to this colony, painting the guides with beeswax as I had done in the box below. Because of obligations I was not able to get back in this hive for about two weeks. UH OH! I had been so excited and proud of this hive I was not prepared for what I found when I opened it for inspection. I had honeycomb drawn parallel to the frames, and comb in every kind of mess you can imagine. The queen had been up in this and there was brood in this comb also.

Well, there was only one thing to do and that was to tear it all out. If the comb had been more uniform I would have tried to wire it into the empty frames but there was no way to do this. This tear out caused me to kill many bees and brood, (not to

mention really p'ng them off.) Once I had the mess cleaned up I took a couple of drawn frames from below and moved them up to the second box and replaced the lower ones. From there on out the bees drew the frames correctly. Live and learn.

Note: If you have kept bees in regular frames you must resist the temptation to turn this frame flat during inspections! The bees will draw this in a V pattern and it will not be connected completely around the frame and you may have your soft new foundation fall out!

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SAVINGS!

On November 22-23-24, we will ship free to anyone through zone 4 (this includes truck shipping), and 10% off for those past zone 4.

Take advantage of this and stock up on supplies for next year.

Thanks to everyone



It isn't it fun being a beekeeper's cat!



Queen Bee Myrtle Evans



A true Queen Bee!



Queen Bee Leslie



Overton County Beekeepers Association's 2009 Christmas Parade float, which won 1st place in the Miscellaneous Entries, featuring Queen Bee Myrtle Evans

for the bee photos!



John & Olivia Farris, of the Sonora Swarm Catchers of Hardin County, KY



Future Queen Bee Kayla



Gus the Bee!



Babee Stella loves her bee socks!



Beekeepers-To-Bee Bahar, 9, and Deniz, 7

16TH ANNUAL



This ought to give you some costume ideas!



CLARKSON HONEYFEST!

www.ClarksonHoneyFest.com

Drownings from a Queen Bee

Dad's Bees

By Charlotte Hubbard

My Dad has a fruit and vegetable farm. It starts with asparagus in the spring when the strawberries, cherries, apples, pears and peaches are starting to bloom; produces a dozen kinds of vegetables in the summer sun; and finishes in the fall with fragrant grapes and colorful squash as families pick apples and pick out pumpkins. If any place needs bees, his farm is it.

My late mother had two hives on the farm, a long time ago. She'd rob a frame or two annually, setting it to drain on the kitchen table. Daily six of us assaulted the comb with fingers and biscuits.

Enjoying their honey is about all Dad would have to do with Mom's bees. Years of working the fields can make you a bit wary of stinging insects.

One winter Mom talked him into taking bricks on his truck to put atop the hives deep in the orchard. Dad insisted I accompany him.

The truck slowly crawled through the snow; Dad warily eyed the hives.

"Go put a brick on each hive," he directed. "I'll stay here keeping the truck running in case they come after you."

Knowing what I now know about honeybees, I don't think they were chasing me. The handful of bees Dad saw were probably just out on cleansing flights ... not that Dad stuck around to study them. I can still see him accelerating up the hill through the snow while I raced after him.

Last winter I chatted with Dad about putting hives on the farm again. Eighty-year-old Dad doesn't re-



Dad sits ready to spring to the rescue.



Charlotte shares honey and bees while her father watches in his good pants.

member well on many days, and walks with a slow, unsteady gait on most days. But somehow, he remembered the requirements for placing hives. Each weekly visit he'd tell me about new locations he'd scouted.

Dad farms over 700 acres, but we finally decided on a low, flat barn roof near the house. Easy access for me, easy observation for Dad, and the customers who flock to his farm market could see the bees but not get too close.

A behind-schedule Amish crew was rebuilding part of the market last spring when I went to set up the hives. We needed a platform for the hives. Dad commandeered the Amish crew to stop everything and build whatever his daughter asked.

The Amish loved taking orders from a female wearing shorts and a tank top. Where's a bonnet when you need one?

My package bees arrived the next week. Dad may have been even more excited than I was. He parked his lawn chair below the roof and watched the installation.

It turns out that you can teach an old dog new tricks. By the end of the summer Dad had learned about brood patterns, drawn comb, and drone-lay-

ing queens. Unfortunately, he never learned how to keep our smoker going. That's probably because I could never teach him.

Our typical start-the-smoker session takes about 30 matches, 10 yards of twine, a half bushel of dried leaves, pine needles, and wood shavings. When preparing to pull the final honey supers in early September, Dad and I set a new record for smoker failures.

Dad finally suggested gasoline or a propane torch, noting we'd lit the smoker four times already and it just kept going out.

Sometimes, a failing memory is a good thing. Four times? I lost count after 10.

As I pulled 2010's final frames of honey, a couple farm market customers noticed the crazy person on the roof in a bee suit, and gathered below. Dad normally watches me on the roof, because he believes he can sprint over and catch me if I get too close to the edge. But, when he noticed the gathering crowd, he abandoned my safety and went over to tell them all about "his bees."

The crowd grew to 18 – grandfathers and parents and kids, all fascinated. After brushing the bees off the final frame of honey, I lay on my belly and handed it down to the giant, calloused, black-with-years-of-grease-and-grime outstretched hand of my Dad's.

At my suggestion, he offered a taste of honey-dripping comb to anyone interested. He had 18 takers. The smiles on their faces confirmed that the bees had done well.

But no one's smile was broader than Dad's.

K