FIGHT THOSE MITES & PROTECT THE BEES
NEW APIARY INSPECTOR JOINS PLANT BOARD
ARKANSAS CITY JOINS BEE CITY USA

EMILY BEMIS photo
ABA Mission Statement

“The Arkansas Beekeepers Association is dedicated to being the voice for beekeeping in Arkansas, and to promote beekeeping within the state. We shall provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and mutual support in the keeping of honey bees and the marketing of honey, to share our insights and passion for beekeeping to help others grow in their appreciation and enjoyment of keeping bees, to encourage all beekeepers, and to be a resource of materials, equipment and information.”

The Arkansas Beekeepers Association meets twice a year around the state to discuss beekeeping practices, stay up to date on new information, and to learn from experts and professionals in the beekeeping field. The ABA membership includes a free emailed copy of the Between the Bee Space newsletter that is published biannually. For more information on becoming a member of the ABA, or renewing your membership, visit the ABA website.

http://arbeekeepers.org

Join the ABA!

When we eat honey, we are actually eating concentrated flower nectar. The smell and taste changes year and through according to the flowers that are in bloom. Arkansas honeys vary in color and flavor from the light and mild soybean, cotton, and black locust honey to the darker, more robust honey of the tulip tree, or yellow poplar. Most of the honey that we collect is actually a blend of the various nectar sources in bloom throughout the year. Arkansas honeys of spring and summer are delightful in aroma and flavor. However, honey can change rapidly as certain plants come into bloom in the fall. Honey produced from the nectar of fall asters, Pennsylvania smartweed, goldenrod, and bitterweed have a strong odor and biting flavor. Even when blended with mild flavored honeys, the fall honeys are overpowering. This fall honey is not preferred by most consumers, but it is very healthful for the bees as overwinter stores. People purchasing fall honeys will not be repeat customers, but honey bees love the strong-flavored honey.

Beekeepers share their hard-earned experience in determining nectar sources and bloom dates with others in their area usually through our network of local beekeeping associations. They learn when to harvest honey and how to handle and package it as the prized product that it is. There are at least 50 species of asters in Arkansas. Their flowers appear in various colors, including white, yellow, and blue. Here, a honey bee gathers nectar from fall asters.

By Richard Underhill

FALL HONEY
Since their arrival here in the U.S. in the mid-1980’s, the varroa mite has been responsible for many of our beekeeping woes. Along with the tracheal mites that arrived around the same time, varroa were largely responsible for the demise of feral bee colonies. They also began to vector viruses and diseases between bees and between colonies.

Viruses have always been present in honey bee populations, but for much of history their transmission was slow, because few had a good method to spread from bee to bee. The introduction of bloodsucking mites became an efficient system of mass transit for bee viruses. The recent careful scrutiny of bee health due to CCD has revealed more kinds of viruses than scientists suspected. While we know of more than 20 viruses that can infect honey bees, few have obvious symptoms that beekeepers can recognize. Most of us should be able to spot Deformed Wing Virus if it appears, and occasionally sacbrood virus is seen around the state. There is even one called Arkansas Bee Virus, isolated in the 1970’s by British scientists looking at samples of bees from all over the world, but it exhibits no obvious symptoms. Rather, most of these viruses simply weaken individual bees and shorten their lifespans by a few days.

A couple of days may sound like much to people who live for decades, but it’s a significant chunk of time to a little worker bee. Workers usually only forage outside their hive for about the last two weeks or so of their lives. If their lifespan is cut by 2 days, that may represent 1/7th of their nectar-gathering productivity. If we multiply that by every bee in a hive, the overall colony productivity can be severely impacted just in terms of honey. The potential for that colony to do pollination work is similarly decreased. With less food coming into the hive, they cannot support as large of a population, and the queen’s diet may be decreased, slowing brood production. So these little mites can really have a big impact on our bees.

Colonies severely infested with mites may be significantly weaker. On an individual level, the bee is parasitized by several mites during the pupal stage, a very susceptible point in its life cycle. During these 12 days under the cap, a bee uses nutrients it has consumed as a larva to completely reorganize its body structure to grow wings, eyes, antennae, legs, and other important parts and systems. A varroa mite and her offspring repeatedly feed at an open wound site on the developing bee, slowly removing a significant amount of protein and nutrients from the bee’s blood. At the same time, the foundress mite may be infecting the bee with one or more viruses, which are picked up by her young mites, and may then spread to every other bee they ever feed upon. Some viruses are known to incubate and multiply inside mites, helping them to spread faster throughout the colony.

When parasitized bees emerge, they release more virus-carrying mites into the colony. These bees have lower body weights, shortened lives, and impaired immune systems that make them more susceptible to other pathogens, such as Nosema and bacterial or fungal infections. Other metabolic processes, such as royal jelly synthesis or pheromone production, may be impaired in these weakened bees. On a larger scale, colonies that are heavily infested with virus-loaded varroa mites have lower overwintering success, and may be more likely to experience queen failure.

Betty Scott

Jon Zawislak | University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

Article continued on next page
It is becoming increasingly clear that the mites are only half of the equation. Our bees are suffering from a mite-virus complex that can have dire effects on colony health and success. But what does that mean for beekeepers? It means that we need to work more vigilantly to keep the mites under control.

A growing consensus among researchers suggests that the treatment threshold for varroa mite infestations needs to be around 3%, or three mites per 100 bees. In the past, this threshold has ranged from 5-8% infestation, based on time of year and hive location. But after nearly 30 years of moving mite-infested bees around the country for pollination, and shipping them in packages through the mail, varroa mites have become seasoned travelers, and the viruses they carry have become universally distributed. As infested colonies begin to weaken, varroa mites swarm onto robbing bees and hitchhike to new, strong colonies, then taking their toll on the new bees. This is most likely how varroa found their way into all the wild bee colonies years ago.

Beekeepers can now use standard tools and methods to evaluate their colonies’ mite levels. Consistently sampling the mites on 300 bees (about 1/2 cup) from your brood combs every couple of months will give you a valuable insight into the health of your hives. Sampling with a jar of powdered sugar is gentle on the bees, and will allow you to shake off about 80% of the mites in your sample. Washing your bees with alcohol is, of course, fatal to the bees, but is a more reliable way to count mites. Popular writer Randy Oliver has numerous good articles on his website (scientificbeekeeping.com) that outline in detail how to make and use various varroa monitoring tools.

If you know your colonies have too many mites, you owe it to your bees to help them out. In short, if you have bees, you have varroa. And if you have varroa, your bees have viruses. The best way to control most of the viruses is to control for mites. Do your bees a favor and treat them right by treating for mites. For a comprehensive list of varroa mite treatments available, updated every year, ask for a copy of the publication MP-144 at your local county Extension office, or go online to https://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/mp144/c-beehive-management.pdf.

Photo by Gilles San Martin
(Wikimedia Commons).
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Female_Varroa_destructor_on_the_head_of_a_bee_nymph_(5048727154).jpg

You wouldn't treat a dog like this, so why would you let your bees suffer?
I had a local beek (new beekeeper) call me and let me know that after our monthly meeting, he went home and extracted his honey and placed the extractor and tools between his hives. Between his hives and the local bees, they cleaned up the honey. What he did not expect was that those same bees robbed and killed one of his stronger hives. This tragedy prompted me to tell others my story in the hope that the same does not happen to them and that I can help save another new beekeeper from the soul wrenching torment of a dead hive.

When extracting hobby hives at home, be wary of the “robbing frenzy” that takes place. After extracting, the bees will clean up the mess but there are several important issues you need to consider:

1) Do not promote robbing. Again, do not promote robbing. If you put your equipment outside to let the bees clean it up, as most do, do not put it to where the local bees will rob your weaker hives. If you are placing the equipment outside, place at a minimum of 50 foot from and outside of the line of sight of any hives. One more time, do not promote robbing.

2) After extracting place supers back on hives that could use a boost. Ideally you can pull supers from hive A, extract, and replace on hive A, you pull supers from hive B, extract, and replace on hive B. You can split and put some on one and some on another.

3) Do not leave those supers on weak hives or hives that do not have the bee population to cover the comb. Small Hive Beetles will set up in unprotected comb and lay eggs. Larva can take over quickly. Wax moths will also move in. So, as a general rule, if the hive cannot cover 80% of the frames with bees, remove it.

4) Any supers that are not staying on the hives, freeze them for 3 days and then store them in a protected area with Para-Moth crystals (paradichlorobenzene). Do not confuse these with Moth Balls, they are not the same component / item. See the section on storing honey supers in your favorite beekeeping book or periodical for details.

5) Place your equipment and tools at a downhill angle to allow the flow of liquid. If the honey is allowed to pool, the bees will fight and kill each other in a feeding frenzy. No beekeeper wants dead bees.

When I was a backyard hobbyist, the first year I extracted I promoted robbing. I pulled my one super, extracted the honey from 8 of the 10 frames and I saw on the internet where beekeepers were just putting the equipment outside. In fact, when I bought some supplies in Tulsa, Oklahoma, from Greg and Shelly, they had just extracted and had placed their big extractor, their small extractor, and all of their equipment outside. The bees were robbing the equipment clean of all the honey and Greg told me that all he had to do to store it afterward was to wipe it clean with a damp cloth. No clean up??! I was in for that.

I went home, pulled my super frames, one at a time, diligently but gently brushing the bees from each frame and rushing it into the house. Each trip the distance from the hive to the house seemed to get longer but I was excited to finally be getting some of that LIQUID GOLD I had
been working and sweating for. After diligently uncapping and extracting, which is another story for another time, I proceeded to pick up the equipment and tools, piece by piece, and carry it out to the bee yard. My thought was that if I put it next to the hive, it would be easier for the bees to come out of the hive and get it and not have to travel so far.

Alas, you can see where this is going. My bees found the honey covered tools and equipment but so did every bee in the 4 state region! My hive of 20,000+ bees plus the other 80,000 bees in the area made the amber liquid literally disappear in a very short time! When the honey was all gone, the bees did not simply vanish into thin air as they appeared, they started going into and pouring out of my hive! I had started a mass robbing frenzy! I quickly put on my entrance reducer and stepped back admiring my quick thoughtfulness. I even went back to the house for a drink and figured that when I returned, all would be right in the world.

Upon my return, I walked around the hive only to notice the party was continuing just as it had been! The small and weak creatures that I had cared for and nurtured HAD PUSHED THE ENTRANCE REDUCER OUT AND INTO THE GROUND in front of the hive and the feeding frenzy was continuing! I could not believe it. The weight of the bees was measured in GRAMS but they had pushed the solid wooden entrance reducer 3 inches and dropped it unceremoniously to the ground in front of the hive!

I quickly put the entrance reducer back on and grabbed the second one that I had as my “just in case I lose the first” backup and off to the shed I went. If they are moving a 1x1 piece of wood, I can make it stronger, I thought. I simply picked a piece of 2x6 wood I had left over from a previous project and measured, marked, and cut to length.

I ran back and was about to remove the entrance reducer, but this time those ½” creatures were prepared for the 6 foot monster impeding their progress.

While my bees were fighting for their home and very lives, the dastardly invaders mounted a flank and were waiting for me. As I reached for the reducer, thousands (or so it seemed) of the militant little stinger welding monsters came right at me. I must have received 500 venom laced punctures (ok, maybe 5 or 6 stings, but at the time…) but even through all of the danger, I was determined to rescue my bees!

I did however leave the 2x6 piece of wood I had cut fully blocking the entrance for the rest of the day and removed it that night. After looking the next day, I had lost some bees and even some of the honey that I was hoping to recoup after the extraction, but I learned a valuable lesson. Do not promote robbing.

Patrick Edwards photo
Great Selection
- Hives
- Frames
- Wax & Plastic Foundation
- Tools
- Protective Gear
- Feeders
- Extractors
- Harvesting Equipment
- Treatments
- Vaporizers
- Nucs
- Honey containers
- Beeswax
- Signs, T-Shirts & Gifts

We strive to offer the best and latest beekeeping supplies that our customers need with a level of great customer service that only a small business can provide.

Russellville
6 miles
from I-40 exit 81
1550 Ball Hill Road
Russellville

Owned & Operated by
John & Corinne Smith

Central Beekeepers Supply LLC
Beekeepers tend honey bees that produce honey and provide pollination service. Beekeepers also contribute greatly to their communities by helping protect people, pets, and livestock from stinging insects. Knowledgeable beekeepers are capable of handling bees, including those that may carry Africanized Honey Bee genes. Beekeepers regularly check their hives for exceptionally defensive bees and replace those bees that have a greater tendency to sting. Maintaining gentle bees is an important element in beekeepers’ Good Neighbor Practices, especially in urban beekeeping.

Beekeepers catch swarming honey bees plus they serve their communities as well by becoming knowledgeable of other stinging insects: hornets, wasps, bumblebees, carpenter bees, and yellow jackets. Many citizens are fearful of stinging insects and can’t identify which insects are not honey bees. Among the benefits of having managed honey bee hives in urban areas is that they help prevent the formation of environmental niches that more dangerous insects can fill. For example, managed honey bees are likely to consume much of the available city forage, starving feral Africanized Honey Bees during the winter.

Travelling across the country, I encountered many honey bee apiaries, both stationary and migratory. In one of our western states, I found honey bees, leaf-cutter bees and many other stinging insects. Here is a photo of aerial yellow jackets nesting under a barbecue pit. Most of the yellow jackets that I encountered were aerial. Most that I find in Arkansas employ large underground nest structures. Some, that I rarely find, nest inside structures.

Yellow jackets are typically more defensive than honey bees and other stinging insects. Here’s a tip for avoiding stings on outdoor picnics: Provide drinking straws with canned beverages. Yellow jackets frequently enter canned drinks, and people get stings about the mouth. Beekeepers play an important role in protecting the public by determining which kind of insects that they may have around their homes.
Beekeepers play an important role of protecting both the honey bees and native pollinators. As an agricultural state, much of Arkansas is depicted by miles and miles of monocultural plantings of a few crops: cotton, corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, and sorghum. Today’s industrial agriculture involving the complete destruction of weedy forage plants and heavy usage of pesticides make these row crop areas a harsh environment for bees and pollinators. Eastern Arkansas, one of the nation’s principal honey producing regions, is now one of the most threatened for honey bees. Honey bees face many environmental stresses. Of particular concern to beekeepers is the heavy use of insecticides and fungicides applied to soybeans, cotton, corn, and sorghum. Fortunately for the bees, there are beekeepers working to improve the bees’ environmental conditions.

Beekeeper Alan Isom and 45 enthusiastic citizens have been instrumental in getting the City of Searcy and White County, Arkansas designated as a Pollinator Friendly Community. See http://m.thedailycitizen.com/community/image_948687a5-66c3-5e88-af43-77239cfe832f.html?mode=jqm. The city celebrated their first-in-the-state effort at Searcy’s City Hall. Congratulations to our friends in White County! Other communities can explore how to protect pollinators and receive recognition for the effort at http://www.beecityusa.org/.

Alan Isom, a retired professor at Harding University, lives in Searcy, Arkansas. He is a founding member and former President of the White County Beekeepers Association. Alan serves as a Regional Director of the Arkansas Beekeepers Association. These beautiful Arkansas strawberries can only be produced with healthy populations of
Queen Bees For Sale

We offer Italian Queens here at the Searcy Location. All Queens are grafted by me using the wet graft method. My bees are inspected every 90 days for diseases and chemicals by the State of Arkansas Apiary Division and will have State of Arkansas Health Certificates. I guarantee live delivery using USPS Priority Express 1 and 2 day shipping depending on your zip code. Shipping cost vary depending on the weight and zone. When the Queens are ordered I can give you the shipping charges. The queens will be in the California mini cages with tender bees and a candy plug.

I SHIP NATIONWIDE.

QUEENS

1—4 ———— $30.00 ea.
5—10 ———- $28.00 ea.
11—25 ———$22.00 ea.
26—UP ———$20.00 ea.

Queens are marked White (2016) for FREE!

I DO NOT CLIP WINGS

RV BEES

Phone — 501-593-5324
Email — capt44@rvbees.com
Website — http://www.rvbees.com

NOTE: Queens will be available in April 2016 weather permitting.
Check with me for availability Dates.
Arkansas 2nd Annual Honey Festival

Oct. 8th
9am - 4pm

Food, Fun, & Family Friendly
No Charge for Admission

Bemis Honey Bee Farm
13206 Asher Road
Little Rock, AR 72206
Your one stop shop for honey bees, supplies, education, and plants!

Place your order for spring packages or nucs.

(501) 897- BEES

13206 Asher Road Little Rock, AR 72206

www.BemisHoneyBeeFarm.com
Natural Beekeeping In Horizontal Hives

2-day seminar with Dr. Leo Sharashkin

October 22-23, 2016 · Rockbridge, Missouri

"Dr Leo taught a class that was totally dynamite! Amazingly awesome trouble free way to keep bees that manages them so in tune with nature."
— unsolicited comment on Facebook

- Keep bees naturally without interfering in their lives.
- Simplified beekeeping: one-box hive, no feeding, no heavy lifting, no queen excluders, no requeening.
- Start an apiary for free by attracting local bee swarms.
- How to build low-maintenance bee-friendly hives.
- In-depth understanding of how bees live in nature.
- Horizontal hive models and their advantages.
- Complete how-tos of horizontal hive management.
- Keep colonies healthy & strong without any drugs.
- The ideal frame: how deep is deep enough?
- Help bees overwinter successfully in any climate.
- Foundation frames vs. foundationless natural comb.
- Natural swarming – boon or bane?
- "Pulling honey is all I do." One hive visit per year.
- And much more!

"All the best things in life are free. Bees are no exception."

Dr. Leo Sharashkin is a regular contributor to American Bee Journal and Bee Culture, and editor of Keeping Bees With a Smile: A Vision and Practice of Natural Apiculture, a comprehensive resource on keeping bees naturally in horizontal hives. His apiary in the Ozarks of southern Missouri is entirely composed of resilient feral honeybees housed in a variety of low-maintenance, easy-to-build horizontal hives.

www.HorizontalHive.com

"This was the greatest experience I've ever had at a seminar. I feel so much more intelligent regarding bees and feel like I received a lifetime of beekeeping knowledge."
— Linn, Missouri
If you listen closely you can hear the whisper of winter knocking at the door. For beekeepers in northwest Arkansas this means reducing their hives and buttoning up older equipment with lots of holes, cracks, and gaps that let the cold come on in. It means putting unused equipment in storage and keeping the pests out of drawn comb.

When I think about winterizing my hives, I think about reducing to 2 boxes for the season. Moving all of the bees into the lower 2 boxes, sometimes 2 deep brood boxes, sometimes 2 mediums, or even into a deep and a medium set to winter my bees.

I have been told since my first hive by all of the old beekeepers that a hive needs 60 lbs. of honey to winter in our climate. Each 9 5/8” deep brood box will easily weigh 50 lbs. Each medium will weigh in at 35-40 lbs. So combined, the weight puts me in the safe zone for a normal winter.

Ah. I said it. A normal winter. What is a normal winter in NWA? Nothing in the past 8 years has been normal. According to USCLIMATE.com Fayetteville (the biggest and only town in NWA that the service has tracked) only had 14 days of winter weather in the 2015/2016 winter, when over the last 50 years, Fayetteville has an average of 44 days of winter weather. So normal weather in northwest Arkansas would be defined as “unpredictable”.

So in late October, early November, or even early December when the cold winter weather starts to move in, I begin to batten the hatches and move all of my hives into smaller areas. I will shake and smoke down the bees into the 2 lowest boxes I have on each hive. Excess supers and frames will be extracted if they are capped. If they are not capped, I will examine each to determine whether I need to freeze the frames or if they have no stores in them, then just placing them into a black jumbo trash bag and placing a few layers of newspaper and some para-moth crystals on.

One important item of note, DO NOT USE moth balls (naphthalene). This is a different chemical that para-moth crystals (paradichlorobenzene).

Frames of nectar, uncapped honey, and pollen / bee bread, I will store in the barn under para-moth crystals and as the winter progresses, if the weather is mild and the bees seem to be using more stores than normal, I can add some of these frames to enhance the hive. This is preferred to adding candy boards or fondant but either will work. If the weather is more favorable and cooler and the bees do not need the extra food, then the early spring hives will get a small boost when I put on early supers or I can add to early splits.

Winter is also when I will try to repair / replace or just add to the number of deeps & supers, tops & bottoms. Frames will need to be built and foundations prepared for whichever types I use. This year as I have expanded, the number and amount of equipment will be higher than previous years. Older boxes and parts will need touch ups and a new paint job.

The equipment that has seen better days may end up changing their designation from active equipment to swarm boxes. I have found that by turning an old box into a swarm trap, I can extend the life of equipment and get at least one more year out of it. Swarm boxes will be placed upwind and downwind of all of my bee yards. In the event one of my hives does swarm and I miss it, I will give my bees a “second home” to move right into.

As I put together, paint, and fill with frames, all of the boxes will be stacked under the awning of the barn and be ready for spring. If I get that all done, there are a few new books I would like to read.

Supplemental feeding with fondant or candy boards is also something that the NWA beekeeper can use to sustain their bees in winter. Placed either on a wintering board or on the top of the inner cover, beekeepers have helped their weaker hives during winter throughout the years. All liquid feeders are removed from my hives and if I think there is a moisture problem, I will even add moisture boards to the tops of a Langstroth or a quilt board to a Warre.
hive, filling it with pine or cedar chips or sawdust. My sugar syrup feeder is removed from my topbar hives and I make sure and add winter patties where needed. I have heard of beekeepers feeding sugar crystals to bees by pouring pure cane sugar directly on the inner cover, but I have no experience in this. I mostly want to remember that excess moisture equals condensation which equals death to honeybees balled up in the hive.

This is also a good time to take any old comb and melt it down and render your wax. I render mine by identifying the really old, dark comb and scraping the comb off of any plastic foundation or cutting the wire out of the comb for wired wax foundation. I will bring 6 inches of water in an old pot (not your wife's good pots or pans) to boil and add in about 5 frames worth of old comb. I will allow this to start to boil and then pour through a metal strainer into about an inch of cold water in a bucket. Make sure and work the propolis and old cells in the strainer back and forth to get as much of the wax out as possible. I will let this cool and harden. Then after removing the hardened wax the next day, I will scrape off the bottom layer on the wax. This is the number 2 propolis that some farmers and ranchers add to their horse and donkey feed in the event of infections. The wax disk will be set aside until I have several and then I will combine them by double boiler melting over a medium flame. This can be poured into molds or melted into an aluminum turkey roaster tray from your local dollar or budget store. This pure wax can be used for candles, soaps, lotions, balms, as lubricants, or as one of a hundred different projects or sold or given to someone who will use them for projects.

Winter winds can be harsh and unforgiving, so a wind break on the north side of your hives may not be a bad idea. Just make sure that it is a solid break and not something that will get pushed into your hives and knock them over. A knocked over hive in the winter can be the death of a hive if not set back up shortly after.

When spring has sprung, don't forget to pull the newspaper that had the para-moth on it off of the boxes. This will give the frames some time to “fresh up” in prep for the new home they will move into.

Apiary Inspectors with the Arkansas State Plant Board are invaluable resources to beekeepers across the Natural State. They offer free inspections and helpful advice to beekeepers, they educate the public, and they are often friends and welcomed guests at local club meetings. Not only is it beneficial for beekeepers to register their apriaries, it is also the law. The state of Arkansas requires that all beekeepers register their hives in order to protect beekeepers and the population of honey bees in Arkansas. This is done by monitoring and reducing the spread of disease, pests, africanized honey bees, and monitoring the use of chemicals in hives, as well as informing the beekeepers of Arkansas of any major news or concerns for our state insect.

In June 2016, one of the greatest inspectors in the state of Arkansas retired after a long career of serving her state and caring for the beekeepers in the southern half of Arkansas. Betty Scott not only excelled at her job, but she also made a tremendous impact on the beekeeping community. She will be greatly missed and her legacy will be remembered for years to come.

It had been rumoured that Betty Scott’s positioned would not be filled again, but thankfully Daniel Plyler proved that rumour to be wrong. In September, Plyler became the new Apiary Inspector for the southern half of Arkansas. He grew up in Murfreesboro, went to college at Henderson State University, and graduated in 2005 with a degree in aviation. Plyler started keeping bees in the fall of 2012. He now lives in Arkadelphia with his wife and two year old daughter. Their family is expecting a baby boy in January. If you would like to reach Daniel Plyler, his phone number will be the same as Betty Scott’s previous number, 501-590-2259, and his email is daniel.plyler@aspb.ar.gov. Plyler is fully aware of the big shoes he has to fill, but he is up for the challenge.

By Emily Bemis
We Carry a Full Line of Bee Supplies

Fully assembled starter hive kits available

We carry Brushy Mountain Bee Farm, Mann Lake Ltd., South Florida Beekeeping Supplies and other quality supplies.

- Solid Bottom or Screened bottom
- 8 or 10 frame Deep Brood Box
- Assembled 8 or 10 deep frames
- Assembled inner cover
- Assembled Telescoping Top
- Unpainted Entrance Reducer
- Wax or plastic foundation (not assembled) and plastic frames
- Entrance, internal and top feeders
- Arkansas made Bee Jacket, fencing or round and full suits
- Stainless Steel Smoker, Dome or straight
- Many Hives tools to choose from
- Bee Brushes
- Beginning beekeeping books

Preppers Bee Supply
479-426-7172 and More

orders@prepperbesupply.com

On highway 62 between Rogers and beautiful Eureka Springs. Across the highway from Perennial Gardens Nursery and yard statues.
EVENTS

BEEKEEPING CLASSES

November 12, 2016
9am - 4pm
Bemis Honey Bee Farm
Beginning Beekeeper Class
$35 per person, lunch included.
Hands on education!

BEGINNER BEEKEEPING CLASSES

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers Complete Beekeeping short courses around the state. These courses are open to anyone interested in honey bees or beekeeping. No prior experience with bees is necessary to participate. Classes will cover everything a person needs to know to begin keeping bees safely and successfully. Short courses consist of three class sessions, building on the information each night. Because the beekeeping industry is always changing to adapt to new challenges, these classes can be a great refresher course for experienced beekeepers, who may learn some new techniques or better understand the behavior of their bees. For a current schedule of classes and events, visit uaex.edu/bees.

To add an upcoming event or photograph, please contact Emily Bemis.
(501)897-BEES or emily@bemishoneybeefarm.com

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for your continued support of the Arkansas Beekeepers Association (ABA). The ABA is an organization dedicated to bringing quality education to all of the beekeepers across the state of Arkansas. The ABA holds two meetings each year and the location of the meetings travels in effort to reach as many beekeepers as possible. The next upcoming meeting will be held on November 4th and 5th in Mountain View, Arkansas at the Ozark Folk Center. The 2017 spring meeting will be held in Hope, Arkansas on March 10th and 11th at the UA Community College. The ABA prides itself on bringing industry leading speakers to Arkansas from all over the country. This is possible through the support of members, local vendors, and the surrounding community. As president of the ABA, I encourage all members to invite beekeepers in their area to join the ABA and see what the organization has to offer.

There has been a recent scare in the beekeeping community with honey bees and the control of the Zika virus. Many beekeepers in other states have lost colonies due to not being properly informed of aerial spraying for the population control of the disease carrying host, mosquitos. I have recently been contacted by the Arkansas Department of Health, and they have informed me that there is no active plan for aerial spraying in Arkansas at this time. There may be some roadside spraying with the use of trucks, but no more than what has been used in the past to help control the mosquito population. If a human case of the Zika virus were to occur in the state of Arkansas, aerial spraying could become a possibility. In that case, the ADH will contact the Arkansas State Plant Board and all owners of registered apiaries will be informed of the plan to use aerial spraying. I cannot stress enough the importance of having all bee yards registered. Registration with the Arkansas State Plant Board is free and it is also required by law. The paperwork for registration can be found online at http://plantboard.arkansas.gov.

With the weather getting cooler and the honey being pulled for the year, it is time to start thinking about varroa mite treatments. Whether you are for or against the use of chemicals in the hive, please research the effects of mites on the colony and the chemicals that are legally approved to be used in the hive. Always follow the directions for use and safety. Overtreating the hive can be detrimental. The ABA is continuing to grow, as is the awareness for honey bees. I look forward to serving another year as president and value the opinion of each and every ABA member. Please feel free to contact me, or your regional director, with any ideas on future locations, speaking topics, speakers, or improvements.

Jeremy Bemis
ABA President

OFFICERS & REGIONAL DIRECTORS

President: Jeremy Bemis
Past President: Richard Underhill
1st Vice President: Britt Bailey
2nd Vice President: Larry Kichler
Secretary: Linda Rhein
Treasurer: Linda Rhein

At Large: Allan Isom
Northwest: Patrick Edwards
Northeast: Steve Cline
Central: Melissa Mencer
Southwest: Howard Hawthorn
Southeast: Richard Coy

Go to: http://arbeekeepers.org/officers.html for contact information.
DAVID'S BEE SUPPLY
YOUR FULL SERVICE BEE SUPPLY
8100 MOTE RD.
MOUNTAINBURG, AR
72946
479-650-3112
SUPPLIES - EXTRACTORS
CONSULTATION - REMOVALS

ALSO BERRY CAMP
PLANT NURSERY
The 2016 Fall Conference will be held on November 4-5, at the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, Arkansas. Our conference this year is co-sponsored by Wicwas Press, and will feature two popular speakers, authors and researchers. Please join us for a weekend in the scenic ozarks with Dr. Larry Connor and Dr. Diana Sammataro. Our last fall meeting was a door-buster, and we hope to have as many attend again. To accommodate our growing membership, the kind folks at the Ozark Folk Center have moved our meeting into a larger auditorium. Full details are now available on our meeting page. See you there!

For more information on registration, scheduled talks, and directions, please visit the ABA website listed above.

Dr. Diana Sammataro

Dr. Larry Connor