

Before we start....

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The “Modern” Management of Bee Hives

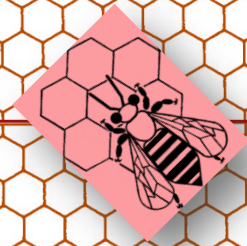


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Like many other pursuits, beekeeping is begun as a craft and grows to become something akin to an art.



Successful beekeeping is a combination of *good luck, experience and feel.*



Don't have more hives than you can manage.

- I can work about 24-26 colonies per day
- Include “*front time*” and “*back time*”
- Personal schedule and stamina
- Daytime temperature
 - Hot and cold, beekeeper and bees
- Annual season
 - Summer robbing
 - Fall/Winter cluster breakage

Your time spent within the hive
should be quality time (*with caveats*).



Reduce colony stress....

In a perfect bee yard

- Food availability
- Water availability
- Diseases and pests (e.g. skunks)
- Seasonal temperatures
- Hive relocations
- Hive proximity
- Hive openings
- Pesticide protection



Good stress vs. bad stress

Desirable expertise areas

- Disease and pest recognition
- Queen management
- Seasonal cycles (bee and plant)
- Biology (bee and plant)



How can you really be helpful?

- Give space
- Disease management
- Add food stuffs as needed*
- Queen condition*
- Equipment maintenance*



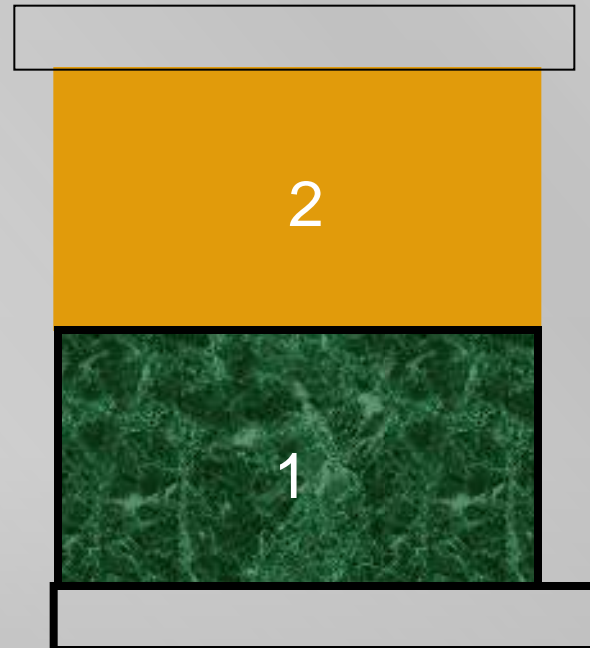
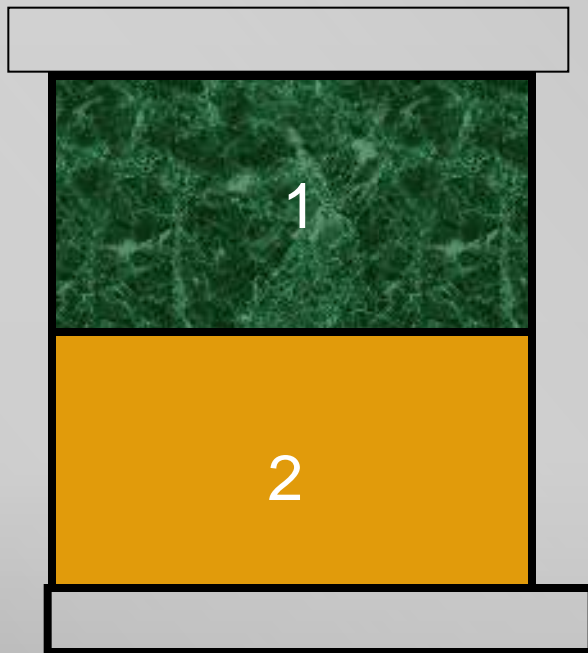
* More later

Hive space



- Reverse brood chambers
- Reverse inner covers
- Remove entrance reducers

Reversing deeps....

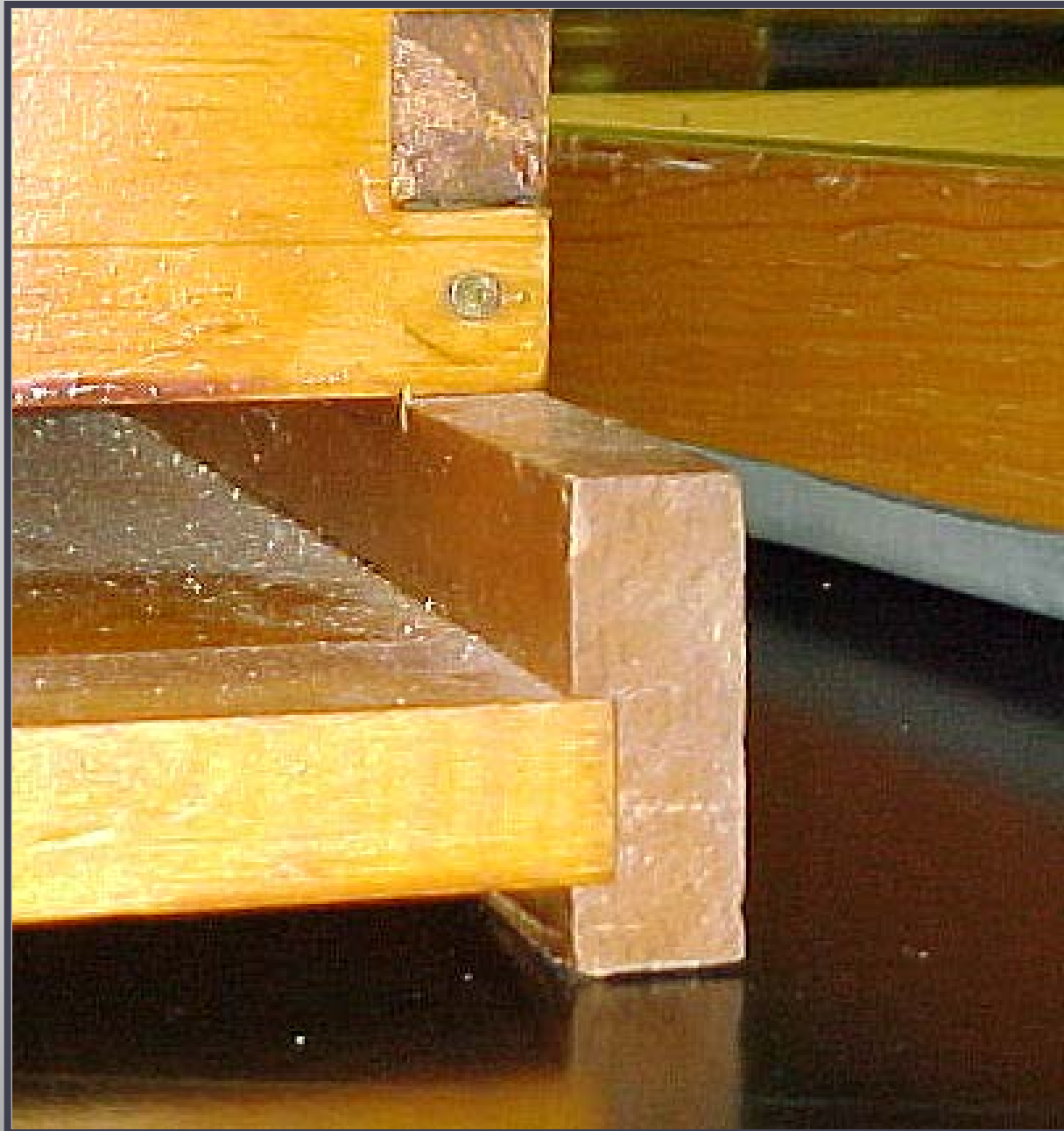


“Summerize” equipment

- Remove entrance reducers
- Flip inner covers







Spring feeding

- For stimulation
- For food stuffs storage
- Pollen substitute
- *When to stop?*



Be prepared to feed copiously whenever the bees need it





Control Swarming

(as possible)



Don't harass drones



Murdered bees

- Don't whimsically kill bees in the hive
- But work quickly



Remove wax scrapings from the yard.

Chemicals – *as necessary and correctly*



- Any chemical
- Use sparingly
- Apply properly

Other Winter/Spring chores

- Combine weak colonies
- Equalize strong and weak colonies
- Remove damaged or worn equipment*
- Maintain hive stands (if needed)*
- Monitor for mites and AFB
- Make splits

Your colonies will not be any lighter....
Make changes now.



Be patient. Perform your tasks.
Leave the bees alone.



So much as possible, practice *non-invasive* management.

- Give the bees a chance to work
- Read entrance activity
- Out-of-hive tasks
- “Bunch-up” invasive tasks
- Consider an observation hive

Management unknowns ... *We just don't know.*

- Nutrient availability
- Old comb usage
- Hive proximity
 - Drifting bees
 - Robbing bees
 - Competition



Latter day management tools



Honey Bee Acoustic Scanner

- Categories
 - Africanized
 - Beetle
 - CCD
 - Ceranae
 - Mite
 - Queenless
 - Empty
 - Normal



- 86% or better discrimination of most variables using audible sound
- Very good discrimination of Africanized bees, varroa mite
- Capable of discriminating to race of bees
- Ultrasonic recordings show promise for better signal discrimination, especially in noisy backgrounds
- Beta version \$770
- Beealerttechnology.com





- Use with 12 volt battery.
- Takes about 8 minutes per colony.
- No harmful chemical residues.
- Use under any temperature conditions during the drone rearing season.
- No special equipment is needed.
- Ideal for organic bee farms requiring natural varroa mite control.
- Control box - \$48.00, frame - \$40.00
- www.mitezapper.com



In summary:

- Give space
- Feed as necessary
- Watch for pests and diseases
- Maintain equipment and yard*
- Manage strong and weak colonies
- Make queen decisions
- Manage swarms

Thanks for your bee interest...



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