

What “Newbees” Need to Know



What “Newbees” Need to Know (or What *new-age* “Newbees” Need to Know)

- in a post:*
- * *Varroa*
- * *Old, new & yet-to-be-identified
Bacterial & Viral diseases*
- * *Old, new Pests*
- * *Colony Collapse Disorder*
- * *Questionable Apis Genetics
World*

Preview

- “Newbee” defined...
- Brief Retrospective: Then vs. Now...
- Basic Mechanics: Hive(s), Bees, Tools
- Basic Dynamics: Location(s), Setting hive(s); Installing bees
- WHAT to do and WHEN
- Transition from Newbees to Beekeepers
- Pearls from the Beeyard



“Newbee” Defined

- 1-3 years...depending on experience
- Represent greatest % of an aging beekeeper population.
- Arguably responsible for ~50% of hive mortalities today..
- Optimistic, but tempered...



A Brief Retrospective

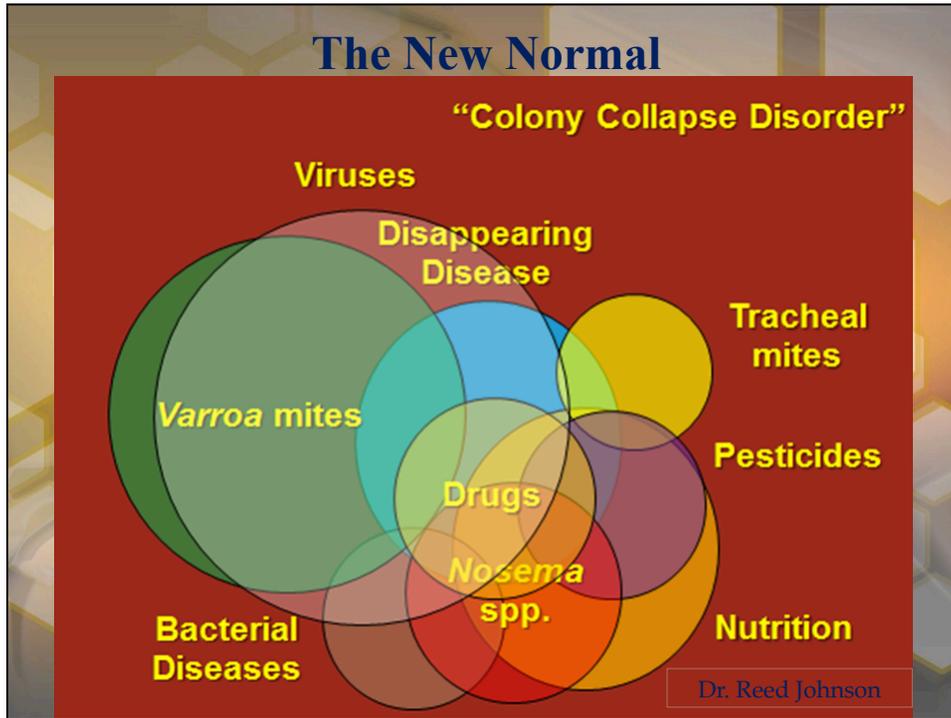


- Pre 1987... “Golden” years of beekeeping
- Had few, well understood problems...
- Mostly about mechanical manipulations & efficiencies.

Then relatively rapid change

- People Magazine Dec’91...Jan’92...brother, but...
- Cigarette Ads...Smith Corona electric typewriter
- Smartphones introduced June 29, 2007...8 yrs!
- What of beekeeping changes...
 - Mechanical...not much
 - Bees...well...feral colonies all but gone...
 - Diseases...pests...YES!





Doom and gloom

Year over year \$Bee and \$Bee equipment inflation... mortality frustration... honey crop failures...

What specifically has changed?

- Pests...varroa...SHB...
- DISEASES...bacterial...viral...
- FORAGE...lack thereof...big #s perspective...400 million X10X100...
- GENETICS...general lack of g. diversity...hardiness...
- Mortality...50%+...
- Feral colonies...~100% die-off.

Changes

← PAST

FUTURE →



BASIC MECHANICS

- Hive(s)
- Bees
- Tools of the trade

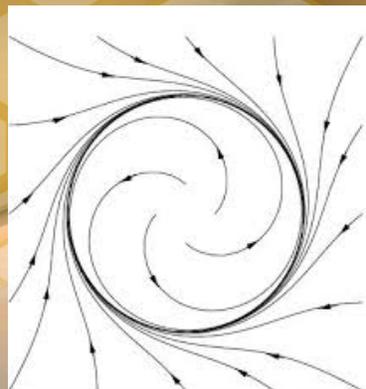


Classic Tools of the Trade

- Smoker
- Hive tool(s)
- Cap Scratcher
- Veil...gloves...
- Bucket
- Gadgets & Gizmos...duct tape to magnifying glasses
- Monitoring Equipment



DYNAMICS of Beekeeping



Placing your Hive

- Location, Location, Location
- Foundation
- Rotation
- Orientation
- Water Source(s)
- Shade...



Starting a Colony...bees in a box

- Of packages, nucs, splits & swarms



Breaking the newbie/beehaver/ beekeeper barrier...

- Here is where newbees are separated from beekeepers...
- 50% mortality...but ~ ½ of this is attributable to newbees
- Nothing can lesson hive overall mortality more than advancing newbees
- Have to know the path...AND take the path...



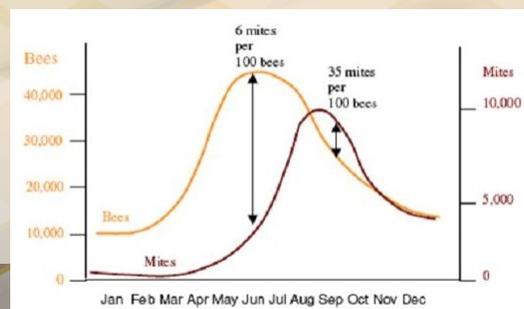
WHAT to do?

- Understand seasonal bee, pests, disease cycles
- Monitor
- Treat (if and where appropriate)



Understanding cycles/“curves”

- Beekeepers Year...general...
- Bee Cycles...macro...micro...
- Pests and diseases cycles



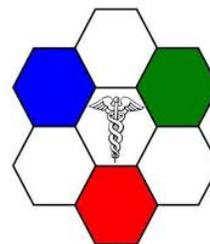
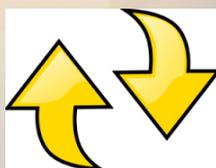
MONITORING

- A philosophy...mindset...a beekeepers tool!
- What to look for...when to look...what to do about it...
- Hands-off beekeeping no longer an option...
- Monitoring avoids Cognitive Dissonance...



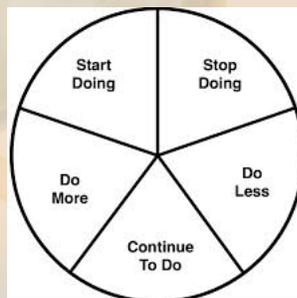
TREATING

- Know your treatment options..
- Timing of...Duration of...
- Rotation of treatments: IPM...Integrated Pest Management
- CAUTION...Bees...YOU!
- Consider seasonal frame culling...

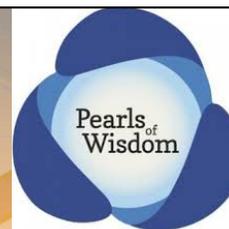


WHEN to do things: Typical Seasonal walk through

- Cheat Sheet...?
- F feed...starvation, stimulation, & nutrition
- E evaluate...
- S super
- M monitor
- Extract...
- T treat, if necessary
- R requeen (if necessary)
- P prep for winter
- Or some such...
- Z's eq: $F + E + S + M + \dots + P = \text{Prob. of successful beekeeping}$



NewBee PEARLS from the Beeyard



- **Untreated, feral colonies all but extinct...note treated!**
- **Colony health as a proximity of hive/apiary to beekeeper...**
- **Frequency of hive visits...**
- **Beekeeping doesn't take a lot of time...timing...**
 - Fire drills...goal specific inspections...

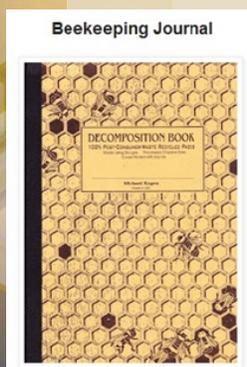
Back to Hands-on beekeeping...

- **Self-awareness...Bee awareness...dealing with an ancient, complex organism in an ever changing and complex environment...**
- **Desensitize yourself...**
 - Handle drones for practice...
 - Mark queens...a starting point...
- **Know your bees...temperament...**
- **Conquer your fears...breath control...**
- **Choose your days...**
- **Make it fun!**



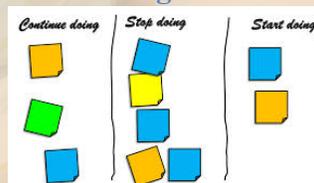
Use new technologies

- Newbees have access to new technologies... smartphones...software...et.al.
- Better record keepers make for better beekeepers



DETERMINISM... lots of hive behavior under our control...

- The role of a new beekeeper vs. behavior...
- Stimulus/Response organism...do this...get that...
- No room for negligence...
- Beekeeping by faith...
- Organic beekeeping...
- **Do the right things at the right time...even push**
- **Push or “fly” your bees...amazing what YOU can get them to do...**



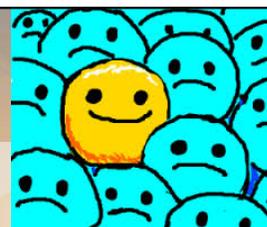
Review

- Understand & adapt to the Pests-Diseases Centric World
- Shop for “best” bees possible
- Build in mortality to your bee operation...requeen...
- Location: forage & water...think 10s, 100s or million of flowers
- Foundation, rotation, & orientation...
- Know your CURVES...seasonal...pests...
- Time & Timing
- Hands-on beekeeping
- Monitor, monitor, monitor...
- Treat appropriately
- Feed for starvation, stimulation, and nutrition.



In closing...take heart...

- Newbees are the vanguard...don't have to forget or relearn...
- Might look over complicated...but not..."eat an elephant one bite at a time..."
- Beekeeping is an art; a science; a craft; a hobby; a vocation, whatever YOU make it...
- Beekeeping can be a joyful, educational, and rewarding, lifelong endeavor...
- See B Associations...mentors...B Schools... internet... magazines... books...from casual to OSBA's Master Classes.
- Shameless plug: See Ohio State Beekeepers Association – Annual Fall Conference; Oct. 31st; Plain City, OH



**Good Luck
Newbees!**



*That the powerful play goes on, and
you will contribute a verse.*
-Walt Whitman

**Thank YOU!
QUESTIONS?**

*...for there is a fresh wind blowing;
we may yet again do things
like mountains,
and music and beekeeping
because
they are hard, and clean,
and clear
in the morning!*

- Philip Gillett

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