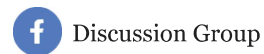




This was a swarm that the Beginning Beekeeping Class had boxed on March 19th. Photo Credit: Tammy Sneath



**Our upcoming meeting will be  
Tuesday, April 5th, 6:30-8:30pm  
3220 Platt Springs Road  
West Columbia, SC 29170**

**March Speaker: Susan Marie Jones**

**Topic: Using the natural inclinations of the honey bee colony to increase the colony size, split the colony, and raise a queen.**



photo: Susan Marie Jones

### Speaker Bio

Susan Marie Jones is a retired educator who has a passion for teaching the next generation about honey bees. Susan began keeping bees in 2004 on her family's farm in Southern Greenville County. She soon became an active leader in the Piedmont Beekeeper's Association teaching a number of beginning beekeeping classes each year under the mentorship of commercial beekeeper Tim Dover. In 2016, Susan moved to Lake Keowee where she became active in the Oconee County Beekeepers Association, managed an observation hive for Keowee Elementary School, and you guessed it! Taught beginning beekeeping. In 2017, Susan was appointed the Director of the SC Master Beekeeper Program where she developed programs and organized beekeeping education across the state. In early 2021, Susan earned her Master Beekeeper certification then moved with husband Carl to what they hope will be their "forever home" near Hodges, SC and became involved with the Lakeland Beekeepers.

Susan created and manages two bee-focused businesses: her honey bees and bee products as Susan Marie's Bees and a bee-themed e-commerce business, Keowee Bee. This new year brings a fresh challenge as Susan takes on the role of President-Elect with the South Carolina Beekeepers Association. Susan is passionate about honey bees, but she thrives on being able to share her beekeeping experience with others. Her current beekeeping projects include a transition from 10-frame equipment to 8-frame equipment – she's not as young as she was almost 20 years ago when she started keeping bees! Experimenting with caging queens and Oxalic Acid Vapor mite treatments; and making increases for the backyard/small scale beekeeper – which is the focus of her presentation in April: using the natural

inclinations of the honey bee colony to increase the colony size, split the colony, and raise a queen.

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According to our bylaws, our April meeting is the final date to renew your annual membership. From our bylaws: "Any member of the Association who has not paid dues by the time of the April meeting will be dropped from the role of membership and shall cease to be a member of the Association." Please support our efforts to provide services and education to our beekeepers.

[Mid-State Beekeeper's Association - Join us](#)

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## [Updated NUC Pickup Dates](#)



## UPDATE: NEW NUC PICK UP DATES!

Due to the freeze, the first NUC pick up is April 2nd (formerly March 26th);  
the second is April 16th (formerly April 9th).

You should have been emailed your pick up date - this will be in a group email.

If you did not receive an email, please check your Spam/Trash folder.  
Thank you!

MIDSTATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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**[SCBA Summer Conference - In Columbia This Year!](#)**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! We have already heard from the State's President that this will be a big event. There will be several vendors + wonderful speakers at the conference.

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## Midlands Beekeeping Calendar for April

by Red Maple



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## Bee Thinking Outside the Box

## “The AŽ hive”

By: Enter S. Sting

*Article Submitted by Todd Shealy*

The AŽ hive (pronounced “AH-shah”) is Slovenian in origin. These hives are inside a building or wagon and the bees exit their hives from openings on the outside wall or side. Beekeepers, however, go into the building or wagon and are able to open these hives from a ‘cabinet door’ on the back, so the bees barely notice the beekeeper’s activity. When asked what’s the best thing about these hives, the immediate answer is NO LIFTING! When the beekeeper opens the hives from the back inside the building, removing the frames to examine them is much like removing books off a shelf. They sit in metal supports so there is very little propolis, they are kept in exactly beespace distance, and they slide out very easily.

Slovenia is more industrialized and has some unique cultural things that they do there that you don't find anywhere else in the EU, or in Europe, and one of those things is beekeeping. Slovenia has a very long history of involvement in beekeeping that goes back centuries, even before the Habsburg Empire. If you are looking at the history books, there are records that Slovenes were keeping bees a thousand years ago. First, probably like many other northern European countries, in logs and then in skeps. Then in the late 18th century, the AŽ Hive started to develop.

The AŽ hive is the creation of a man whose name was Anton Žnideršič. Say that three times. He was heavily influenced by some earlier European beekeepers, including one whose name was Alberti. The name AŽ takes “A” from Alberti and “Ž” from-- Ž with a diacritical over it-- from Žnideršič, and so you have AŽ. In the United States, they have come to be known as AZ hives. Anton Žnideršič was a really creative guy. He was familiar and used the leaf hives that, during the 18th century, were very popular. This was a stacked hive. The reason that he started looking at this is because he was hoping to use the idea of movable frames and then be able to make these hives mobile.

To read the entire article, click here: <https://www.beeculture.com/thinking-outside-the-bee-box/>

AZ Hives North America - <https://azhivesnorthamerica.com>

AŽ Hive Inspection - <https://youtu.be/ws5nbLyfNiI>

AŽ Hives Group on Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2134465946665350/>

David MacFawn is an Eastern Apiculture Society Master Beekeeper and a North Carolina Master Craftsman beekeeper living in the Columbia, South Carolina, area. His third book, [Applied Beekeeping in the United States](#) is available at Outskirts Press.

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## [This year, the Golden Hive Tool Goes To ...](#)

Every year, we give away a "Golden Hive Tool" + Certificate for the first person to email us with a swarm they caught for the current year. Congratulations to Mary Watson - her own swarm took off mid January. Good job, Mary! That was an easy one!





## BEES OVER DINNER

BEES OVER DINNER IS A BEFORE MEETING FELLOWSHIP THAT MEETS TO TALK ABOUT BEES OVER THEIR DINNER PLATES. IT RETURNS THIS MONTH AT A NEW LOCATION CLOSE TO OUR CURRENT MEETING PLACE: *NICK'S GYRO'S AND SEAFOOD* LOCATED ON THE CORNER OF WATTLING RD. & HWY. 1. THE ADDRESS IS 3260 AUGUSTA RD., WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29170. IT'S "STRAIGHT FROM THE BEE YARD" CASUAL. ALL ARE WELCOME. COME AROUND 5:30PM FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK BEES WITH OTHERS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

### [A Message from Ben Powell with Clemson University.](#)

Calling all SC beekeepers.

Senate Bill (s.961) proposes to allow exempted honey producers to sell their extracted honey to a bottler/repacker with an RVC without having to have their extraction facility inspected. This bill is set to be heard and voted-on by the senate ag committee on Thursday. Members of the committee need to hear from beekeepers. They are listed at <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/senateagri.php>

Also, you can contact the bill sponsors listed below.

Click here: [Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee](#)

Information will be posted on this page as received from the Committee. Information older than two years has been moved to the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Archives page. Notice of Public Input - February 23, 2017 - Last updated: February 23, 2017

[www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov)



The Clemson Apiculture and Pollinator Program has concerns that this bill was filed without input from the beekeeping community and will lead to conflicts with honey laws in other states and FDA food safety laws and create confusion for SC honey producers. We also have concerns this change will undermine the integrity of SC's honey crop and the reputation of its producers.

Whether or not you agree with these concerns, you are encouraged to contact your senator to voice your opinion. Beekeepers should be a part of this conversation.

### **BEE CURIOUS!**

**Ben Powell** CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Cooperative Extension

Apiculture and Pollinator Specialist

Clemson Pee Dee Research & Education Center

2200 Pocket Rd.

Florence, SC 29506

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## Continuing Education



**YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**



# *Beekeeping Institute*

This marks the 30th year of the Young Harris College / University of Georgia Beekeeping Institute and the best part, we will be meeting in person at Young Harris College! Below is the link to our fabulous program with over over 90 bee related lectures and workshops, improved honey show with \$1000 in cash prizes, local and national vendors, training and certification for the Georgia Master Beekeeping Program, Welsh Honey Judge, and the newly added Honey Bee Control and Removal Operator. This year will also include a Thursday cake and ice-cream anniversary gathering, along with a Friday night social and dinner, with live music and awards, so bring your dancing shoes. We look forward to seeing you this May!

[Click Here to Download Conference Program and Speaker List](#)

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## More Information & Resources

Since we started the Facebook Discussion Group, we've always maintained that members won't miss anything if they can't or don't want to join Facebook. That's still true. Facebook isn't our primary means of communicating with our membership. But if you want more bee talk and friendly advice from over one-thousand of your peers, it's available as another option to gather Midland's beekeeping information.

### **Facebook Discussion Groups:**

[SC Mid-State Beekeepers](#): **For general Midlands beekeeping discussion.**

[SC Mid-State Beekeeping Buy, Sell, Trade](#): **Midlands For Sale Beekeeping items, including bees, queens, woodenware, nucs. etc.**

[SC Mid-State Beekeepers Public Announcements Page](#): **General Announcements to the Public Page.**

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## Honey Yeast Rolls with Brown Sugar Cinnamon Butter



We had a big group over for Easter yesterday, so of course I cooked a lot. I'm still getting the hang of coming up with my own bread recipes, and I didn't want to risk an experiment with a big crowd. So, I used [this recipe](#) for honey yeast rolls from Southern Living. These rolls were amazing. There were no rolls left. People were going back for second and third rounds of rolls!

I used the last bit of honey we had on the actual rolls, so I had to come up with another plan for butter. The butter recipe makes enough for 28 rolls, and you might have some left over. (A second butter recipe added below from Thanksgiving)

### **Brown Sugar Cinnamon Butter**

Combine ingredients below with a fork. Ideally you want to let it sit for a little while so the brown sugar isn't grainy, but I served it right away and it was fine.

2 sticks butter, softened and partially melted.

1/3 cup + 1 tbsp light brown sugar

6 shakes ground cinnamon

### **Brown Sugar Honey Butter**

Melt 2 sticks butter in a small saucepan. Add 3 tbsp brown sugar and 3 tbsp honey. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Chill in the refrigerator to let it firm up a bit before serving (you may have to stir it because sometimes the ingredients separate when it cools).

For the entire article, click here: <https://sarahsbites.com/2017/04/honey-yeast-rolls-with-brown-sugar-cinnamon-butter/>

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## **For Sale and Things You Need to Know**

### **Extraction Services:**

Member, **Danny Cannon**, located at 1437 Jessamine Rd in Lexington will extract honey for beekeepers for \$5 per box with a \$20 minimum. Call Danny to schedule when to bring your boxes to be extracted. 803.600.4576.

A checklist for every Beekeeper... especially newcomers

- a 2 gallon feed pail/bucket. we need to start feeding sugar syrup \$8-\$10 + shipping (Betterbee has them). I would get 2 buckets. This is a better solution than internal frame feeders or boardman feeders that fit into the hive entrance, especially in the winter.

- a metal smoker box about \$35 + shipping to put your lighted smoker in after use. You also need to get a cork (Lowe's or Home Depot in their hardware drawers) or rag to plug the smoker so you will have charred pine straw that is easy to light (W.T. Kelley makes them)
  
- some folding veils (easy to store) with the long strings and helmets about \$25 for a veil + \$15 for the helmet. (Dadant carries them).
  
- some long sleeve bee gloves (Buck's has them for about \$12 a pair) of the correct size
  
- get a canvas/cloth large laundry bag (Wal-Mart or on-line Amazon) to put pine straw that has been mowed/run over to make soft for your smoker fuel. This should be stored in a very dry place so it lights easy.
  
- a paint brush (2" or 3") and a double boiler or crock pot to melt beeswax and coat the frames after scraping in that dead out. We will need the frames and extra equipment end of Feb/2021 when I give you a split of bees. You need a double boiler or crock pot since beeswax is very flammable.
  
- some beeswax. I use about 2/3 pound of wax for 8 medium frames. You have deep and medium frames. about \$8/pound at Dadant
  
- some high quality paint to put on the dead-out and active hive. You only paint the outside and leave the inside for the bees to coat with propolis.
  
- Make sure everyone wears light colored clothing. Blue jeans are ok. White socks preferable; no dark fuzzy socks. Long sleeve shirts. Do we have veils and gloves for everyone?
  
- If the beekeeper wears blue jeans and a tan/light long sleeve shirt with a collar, white socks with covered toe shoes/boots, you will only need the veils/gloves. This is cheaper than the bee suits with attached veils.

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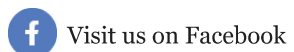
## MSBA Extractor Rental

## Harvesting Honey?

Mid-State Beekeepers Association has a powered extractor for use by members.

Rental is \$5 per day with a two-day minimum. A \$50 refundable cleaning and damage deposit is required on pickup. The additional honey this powered unit will extract from the comb more than pays its rental fee. A heated capping knife, and strainers are also available with the extractor if needed.

Members will need to obtain their own food grade buckets. We can direct you to these locally or you may be able to get them at local bakeries, food service establishments, etc. The quartermaster for the MSBA extractor is Jeannine and Neal Taylor-To reserve the extractor, you may click here to email them directly: [nealtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:nealtaylor@gmail.com)



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**Our address is:**

Mid-State Beekeepers Association  
West Columbia, SC

<https://www.scmidstatebeekeepers.org/>

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