

[Mid-State Beekeepers' Association](#)

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January 2022 Newsletter



 Facebook Page

 MSBA Website

 Discussion Group

**Our next meeting is scheduled for
Tuesday, January 4th at 6:30pm
The Edge Church:
3220 Platt Springs Road, West Columbia, SC 29170**

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January Meeting Info



Our January Speaker:

Larry Coble

TOPIC:

Swarming, Swarm Prevention, and Swarm Control

SPEAKER BIO

Larry Coble of West Columbia, SC, is a retired Registered Nurse and started with bees in 2011 by relocating a colony which had taken up residence in a squirrel box on his property. The next spring the bees built up and swarmed twice, but by then, Larry was hooked. That year he bought 6 packages and collected local swarms growing to 18 hives, then 28 hives the following year.

Currently he fluxes between 30 -50 hives for pollination, extracted and comb honey, nucleus hive production, and sometimes, with luck, queens.

He has served as Secretary for Mid-State Beekeepers Association and co-founded the beekeeping library. Larry continues to contribute to the MSBA monthly newsletter and has published articles in Bee Culture and ABJ.

In 2018 he became an Eastern Apicultural Society Certified Master Beekeeper.



It's that time of year when we ask you to renew your membership in Mid-State Beekeepers Association. Current members can renew in the webstore by clicking on the bee. Your support is needed and appreciated.

To Join Us or Renew Your Membership [Click Here](#)

Midlands Beekeeping Calendar for January

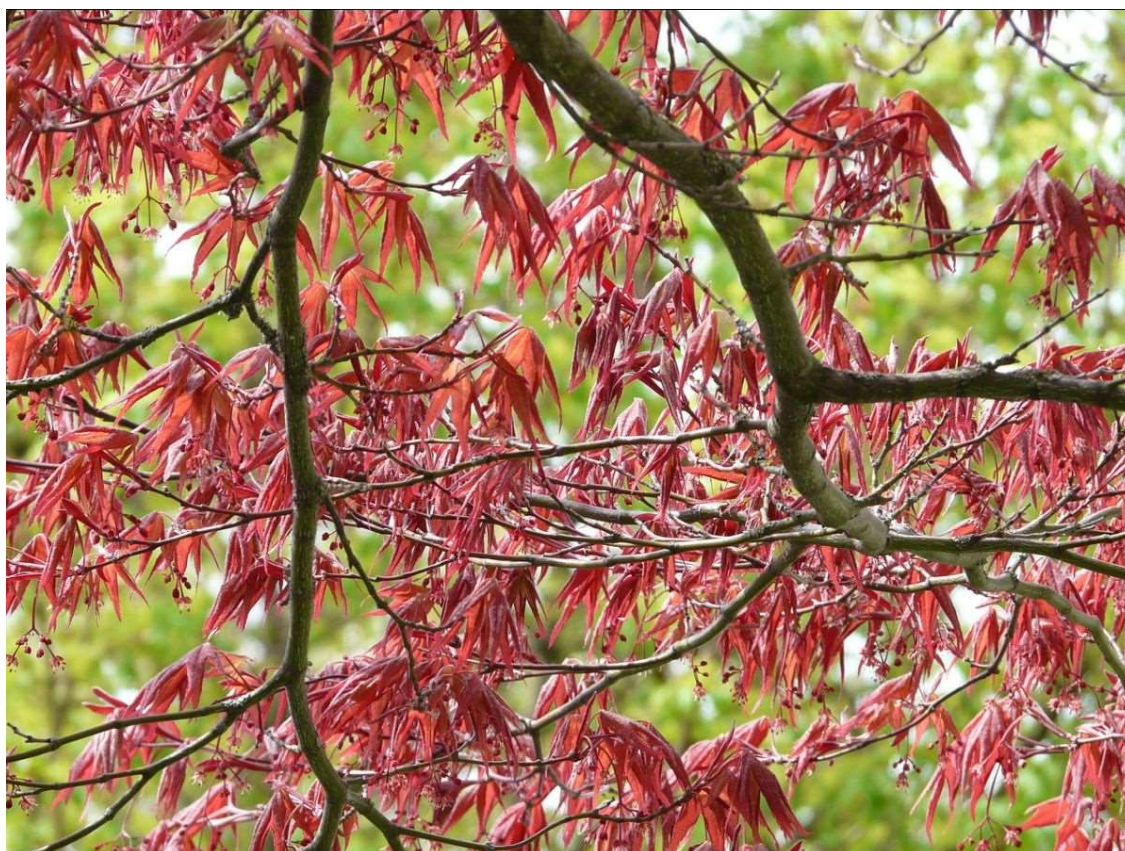
by Bott M. Board

Click [HERE](#) or on the graphic below to see this month's Beekeeping Calendar.



It's Time to Plan for Spring

by Red May Pull



Above: Red Maple, Harbinger of Spring

Sooner or later, if one stays in beekeeping, it becomes apparent that success is directly related to being proactive in one's management of the bees rather than

reactive. After all, this is exactly what the bees are doing. The bees never wait until the last minute to put up stores for winter. Nor do the bees wait until the day before the spring nectar flow to gather a full house of foraging bees to harvest nature's bounty. Rather, the bees work months ahead to make sure they have everything needed to succeed. You too should follow their lead in preparing now for spring beekeeping if you want to have the best chance of success.

Click [HERE](#) or on photo above to read full article.

New Beekeeper Class Starts in January



The 2022 Beginning Beekeeping Classes: January 15th, February 19th and March 19th

Registration for the beginning beekeeping classes ended December 15th, and books have been ordered. If you missed the deadline, visit the state's beekeeping site at: <https://scstatebeekeepers.com/> to find other club's available classes.

For more info, please visit our website and click on the events tab:

<https://msb3sa.wildapricot.org/events>

Order your Spring Packages and Queens



Above: Package bees being unloaded for pickup

Time is running out to order bees for the spring. Packages and Queens can be ordered at the link below. You must be a MSBA member to enjoy the discount pricing we offer. Membership has its privileges :-)

<https://msb3sa.wildapricot.org/events>

Continuing Education

Save the date! The South Carolina State Beekeepers Association will have its Spring 2022 meeting in Spartanburg February 25th and 26th 2022. Stay tuned for registration and information at: <https://scstatebeekeepers.com>



From Flower to Fare
THE JOURNEY OF HONEY BEE NUTRITION
FROM FORAGE TO TABLE

2022 Spring Conference
February 25-26 ~ Spartanburg, SC

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Juliana Rangel
Associate Professor of Apiculture
Department of Entomology and
Interdisciplinary Program in
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Texas A&M University

Bait Hives and Swarm Traps Trapping Honey Bee Swarms by Apis Stan



With a mild winter, swarms can come early to the South Carolina Midlands-around February 15th. That sounds like a long time from now but it will get here sooner than you think and swarms are unforgiving with beekeeper tardiness. Building and getting ready for swarm trapping is something that you should consider doing during these off months of winter. Remember, once swarm season starts you'll probably be caught up in preparing your own hives for the primary nectar flow and have a limited amount of time to prepare traps. However, for those who are prepared there will be free bees.

Click [HERE](#) or on photos above to read full article.

Mid-State Beekeepers Community Outreach

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHINE!!

ATTENTION ALL MSBA VOLUNTEERS!!!

MSBA always encourages members to look for ways to promote honeybee education in your encounters with friends, families, and colleagues. We are expecting to

receive volunteer requests to visit elementary schools and libraries to share the passion of beekeeping with kids and adults. Our club Outreach Coordinator, Kevin Cullis, is in need for volunteers willing to carve out some time in their busy schedules to help!

If you are interested in assisting Kevin, please contact the secretary, and she will pass along the info. secretary_MSBA@hotmail.com MANY THANKS!

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 850 of your peers and experienced members, it's available as another option to gather Midlands area beekeeping information.

Facebook Discussion Groups:

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

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

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

Tips to Having a Successful First Year with Your Bees

by Spring Split

Fifteen tips to having a successful first year with your bees:

- 1. The new beekeeper should find a local club or association and start attending meetings.** Your goal is to see if the club is a fit for you. Are meetings educational? If you don't feel it's a good fit then look elsewhere for a club that fits you.
- 2. Start your search for a good beginning beekeeper class.** Half-day or single day classes are good for determining if beekeeping is something you'd

like to learn. Better introductory beekeeping classes span multiple evenings or weekends and offer certification testing. If your local club doesn't offer one, look for a class at the next closest club. Attend their meetings too. The drive may be worthwhile.

3. **Sign up and take the next beginning beekeeper class offered.** Read the handouts; read the book. Don't be satisfied to be spoon fed the information and don't limit yourself to only the information in the class. Consider this class your foot in the door, your introduction, the beginning of your adventure.
4. **Visit your local library and check out books on beekeeping.** You will find some entertaining, some are scientific, and some are histories. Read all that you find helpful.
5. **Decide right now that coming to monthly meetings is an important part of your continuing beekeeping education.** Miss one at your own risk. Many club meeting topics follow the bee's annual cycle through the seasons. Important things to do and observe are discussed at meetings. The meeting you miss may be the one that offers the information you needed to hear that month.
6. **Volunteer for club activities.** If your club offers community outreach at festivals and events talk to your club's event coordinator. Volunteer to work with someone else "talking bees" with the public. If you took the beginning beekeeper class you know 100% more than the general population. Listen to the experienced volunteer you are paired with and learn from them. Talk with them during breaks. If you enjoy speaking to children there is real need to visit with elementary classes. Senior centers also appreciate visits and often contact clubs to schedule brief talks. Most clubs have materials, Power Points, and teaching aids for use.
7. **Watch your bees.** Even if you aren't going inside the hive. Get a chair and sit and watch them coming and going. Soak it in. At first you'll not have anything to compare their coming and going with. As the seasons progress, nectar flows begin and end, temperatures change, their behavior will change as well. Soon you will notice subtle changes in their behavior on the landing board. With time you'll know when something's wrong and needs further inspection - just by watching them.
8. **If your club has social events like pre meeting dinners, occasional social events, or days in the bee yard, attend them.** Beekeepers tend to want to talk about bees – exhaustively. Only other beekeepers want to talk about it as much as you will. You will learn a lot talking with others at these events.
9. **Find a bee buddy.** A bee buddy may be another first year beekeeper in your neighborhood or a second year beekeeper that lives close by. Your bee buddy is the one you call when your hive swarms and you need to borrow a box. A bee buddy is someone to visit and look at their hives; they come over and look at

yours too. Bee buddies show you how to do new things with your bees. Find a bee buddy at meetings, events, or during meeting fellowship time.

10. **Enter your hives as often as is prudent.** During some seasons the bees are docile and tolerant of your intrusions. In the spring visit them often – even every week. When you enter the hive go in with an idea of what you wish to accomplish in mind. What do you want to observe? The first few times you will be so filled with excitement you'll forget to look for those things you set as your goal. That's okay, look on your next visit. There are other seasons when the bees are best left alone such as when they are arranging and securing their winter home or during colder months. Take every opportunity to observe them.
11. **Join [your club's online discussion group](#) if it has one.** You'll find quick answers to questions you have. Often a photo and description posted to the group will result in helpful responses or allay your anxiety about something you've never seen before. If you do have an emergency often a club member can swing by after work and take a look. Both girls and guys participate in forums and sometimes you find that you're neighbors!
12. **Read your club's newsletter.** Local happenings are listed. Important dates too. Sale ads and articles of interest as well as your clubs minutes and scheduled speakers and topics keep you informed. Often the club will have an article directly related to seasonal beekeeping letting you know what to observe and do in your hives that month.
13. **Attend local educational offerings.** Some clubs bring in out-of-town speakers for special topics of interest. Other times clubs or local beekeepers offer day classes on specific topics of interest: Queen rearing, Moving hives, Making Splits, Africanized bees, oh my!
14. **Attend state conferences.** Even if you can't stay for two and a half days at least go for a single day. The information you hear will be from the scholars in bee research around the country. They have a knack for breaking it down for us simple beekeepers though so it all works out. Have lunch with fellow beekeepers. If you overnight, find out where your club or neighboring club will be having dinner and socialize. Carpool with your bee buddy. Hang out in the hotel lobby and talk bees until late.
15. **Find a mentor close to you.** Preferably one that also attends meetings. If you don't understand something, ask after the meeting. Offer to help your mentor do hard work like pulling supers, rotating boxes, or extracting honey. Tell them you'll gladly help with their next swarm retrieval. Ask them tough questions that show your enthusiasm and that you're making every effort to learn. If they know you're dedicated to learning, attending, and making an effort it makes all the difference in the world.

In the end it's all about learning about bees, their biology, behavior, and management. Along with that come the seasons, foliage, the bees' cousins, and foes. Today's prospective beekeeper has more resources than ever before: face to face

education, fellowship, books, YouTube videos, discussion groups, community outreach, conferences, and more. Take advantage of every offering available and you will succeed. Now, get to a meeting!

Clemson Apiculture Facebook Page



Clemson's Apiculture and Pollinator Protection Program has a facebook page specifically for beekeepers. Clemson will assist beekeepers by supplying breaking news and information about apiculture research and trends through this facebook page.

[Click here to Clemson Apiculture go to the new Facebook page.](#)

Please "like" and "share" the page with your beekeeping peers.

Thank you,

Ben Powell CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension
Pollinator and Invertebrate Conservation Specialist

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 o 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.

MSBA Extractor Rental

Harvesting Honey?

Rentals are available for current and qualifying MSBA members only.

The extractor is currently available for certain dates, but you need to pay for the daily rental online at the MSBA store and then we can book the calendar.

<https://msb3sa.wildapricot.org/> Then Log in. You can find the extractor under the top right tab "MSBA Web Store Items".


Download and print the extractor user agreement from the website:

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

It will be needed along with the deposit when the Extractor is picked up.

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 email: please email the secretary, and she will pass along the info: secretary_MSBA@hotmail.com.

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 On the Web: Mid-State Beekeepers

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