

Theo's April Workshop

April 8th , 2017 - 10:00am

Since we did not have a March Workshop, we will combine March and April Workshops.

Spring check:

On a nice day in spring, you may check your hives

Preparations:

- a. A clean floor board to replace the old one
- b. Scraper or brush
- c. Hive tool, veil & smoker

Lift Hive off floor board - read the floor board:

Debris will tell you where the cluster sits and if there is a dead mouse, if bees are starving or if there is nosema.

Now lift cover and inner cover - smoke bees.

Remove outside frame, so you can pull center of cluster frame for brood check.

-A healthy colony should have brood-

If cluster sits to one side, move it to the center, equalize feed frames around cluster. Feed Frames can be brought from other hives or from storage.

You can add pollen and liquid feed.

Close hive and replace entrance reducer. In 10 days to 2 weeks, you may feed colony again.

Next workshop May 6th.

Hive a Package with Drawn Comb

- A. Place hive in your selected location with entrance reduced.
- B. Remove center frames. Replace 2 removed frames with full frame feeder.
- C. Shake Bees into empty space in center of hive. Add queen and close hive.

In a week check – queen should be laying well, feed again.

Move feeder outward as it becomes necessary.

Keep feeding when necessary.

Remember:

A package of bees will decrease in numbers for about 4 weeks, then with the hatching of new bees, will increase rapidly.

Hive a Package on Foundation

Do everything as you would with drawn comb except: you should hand dip foundation in syrup before inserting them into the hive.