



Sandusky River Valley **Bee**KEEPERS Association



November 2021

srvba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org

Upcoming Events

November Monthly Meeting

- When: Monday, November 1, 2021 at 7pm
- Where: First United Methodist Church, 510 W Maple Street, Clyde, Ohio 43410
- Topic: Open Discussion
Prepare Honey Bears for delivery to local food banks
- Facilitator: Tom Rathbun, SRVBA President

December Christmas Party

- When: Monday, December 6, 2021 at 6pm
- Where: Ballville Volunteer Fire Department Community Hall, 1413 West Cole Road, Fremont, Ohio 43420 (across the street from the Ballville Township Volunteer Fire Department)



Join Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association:

1. Fill out membership form
<http://srvba.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/>
2. Mail form to: SRVBA, c/o Tami Wylie, 1000 CR 312, Bellevue, OH 44811

Message from the President

Hello SRVBA Members,

Telling of the Bees

It saddens me to inform you that one of the founding members of the SRVBA, Troy Leibengood, has passed away. Troy started Beekeeping in 1979 with his father, Leibengood Apiaries, as a commercial pollinating service in and outside of Ohio. Troy was one of the first members of the SRVBA, which became an organization in 1998. Troy was also a past President of the club.

Troy was a great mentor and friend to many. He was always available to answer many questions a beekeeper had and helped many new Beekeepers get bees and get them established. Troy was also a State County Bee Inspector for Ottawa, Sandusky, and Erie Counties. The last couple of years Troy started a new adventure of transporting bee packages from the State of Georgia to Ohio in the Spring of each year.

Troy leaves behind his wife Cindy and five children. This is a shock to us all and Troy will forever be missed.

November Meeting

The November meeting will be in-person at the church on November 1st, at 7:00 pm. We will have an open forum for a discussion time.

We passed out over 200-6 oz honey bears during our October meeting. Please bring the bears, filled with your honey, to the November meeting so we can place our new label on the bears, and pass them out to our members to distribute to the area food pantries in time for the holidays.

Upcoming SRVBA Elections

As a reminder, the club has elections of officers in December. If you know of someone that would like to run for an Officer or Director position, please step forward and let me or another Officer know. There is still time to get your name on the ballot.

Message from the President (continued)

So far this year we have the following members seeking election:

President: Gary Wylie

Vice President: Dr. Mike Stone

Secretary: Kim Root

Treasurer: Tami Wylie

Director: 1. Chris Earnhart

2. Jackie Kindred

3 Open position

Newsletter Editor, A non-elected position, is also open if anyone is interested.

Christmas Party

We will be having our SRVBA Christmas Party on Monday, December 6th, 2021, starting at 6 pm. The location will be at the Ballville Volunteer Fire Department Community Hall, 1413 West Cole Road, Fremont, Ohio.

Each family attending will be asked to bring a hot or cold dish to share with the group. Family beverages will be available along with all paper products and plasticware. Meat will be furnished by the club.

Door prizes and a 50/50 drawing will take place.

Elections of club Officers and Directors for 2022 will also be voted on.

Thomas Rathbun
SRVBA President

Message from the President (continued)

IN THE HIVE

By now the season is pretty much over. Hopefully, you have gotten your honey supers off, mouse guards on, and checked for food storage. The hives should be buttoned up for the winter.

The next few months is a great time to start planning for next year. Do you want to expand or downsize your apiary? Winter is a good time to check your used equipment. Do they need painting or replaced? . Get new equipment ordered and assembled. As quick as wintertime got here, Spring time won't be far off and another season will begin



Tom Rathbun
SRVBA President

Please take the down-time the winter has to offer and read some good information and get yourself prepared for a new season. Start reading and watching your favorite videos to increase your beekeeping knowledge. You are always welcome to attend the Beginning Beekeeping course the club has to offer. You will likely pick up some new information.

In 2022, the Beginning Beekeepers class will take place in February at Cherry City Honey in Bellevue, Ohio. We feel this will give the new students time to let the vast information sink in, and then have everyone back in late March or early April to demonstrate how to install a package of bees. If anyone would like to help teach the class, please let an officer know. We now have a great PowerPoint that we follow.

Please stay safe and enjoy the bees.

Tom Rathbun

SRVBA President

In Remembrance

Troy J. Leibengood

Sandusky Register – Oct 20, 2021 3:30 PM

CLYDE — Troy J. Leibengood, Clyde, died at The Bellevue Hospital on Oct. 18, 2021.

Troy was born on Sept. 16, 1960, the youngest of six born to Rollie Vernon and Ruth Adell (Conner) Leibengood.

He graduated from Clyde High School in 1979.

He attended The Ohio State University's ATI campus studying commercial beekeeping.

He and his father started L & S Apiaries, now known as Leibengood Family Apiaries, in 1979.

Troy also worked as a driver for Sofo Foods in Toledo, Erie Blacktop in Sandusky, and most recently, on the maintenance crews for the Ohio Turnpike's Castalia and Elmore buildings.



He was a bee inspector for Sandusky and Ottawa Counties and the current inspector for Erie County. As a mentor to many area beekeepers, he was a founding member of the Sandusky River Valley Beekeepers Association, serving for many years as its president. He also served as a member of Farm Bureau's Bees and Honey Commodity Committee. He was an involved father, helping often with Clyde St. Mary's BSA Troop 320 and the Clyde-Green Springs Music Boosters. He was a member of the Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Troy married Cynthia (Steinbauer) on Dec. 17, 1988. She survives as well as his children Brendan of Elyria, Ohio, Tyler of Evanston, Illinois, Alec, Cassandra and Carrie-Ann. He is also survived by siblings Shirley (Jerry) McKee of Clyde, Kathy (Terry) Dragon of Dayton, Carl (Patricia) of Clyde, Charles of Bardstown; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Thomas.

Visitation will be at 2 p.m. and a memorial service will be at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021, at the Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church, 4909 W. Sylvania Ave., Toledo, OH. A meal in the fellowship hall will follow.

Memorial Contributions may be made to Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church, Adventist Disaster Relief Association (ADRA) at adra.org or Daily Audio Bible at dailyaudio-bible.com.

Stahlman Beekeeping Notes

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I am getting questions about feeding bees. I have shared my thoughts about honey versus sugar syrup. But I also realize that many beekeepers are having problems with hives at this point in the season, low on honey stores and time running out for bees to collect nectar from goldenrod and aster.

I have written notes previously (2018 and 2019) regarding feeding. Looking back on the topic, there are many methods used to feed bees and various feeders. The only feeders I feel are not good for feeding in cold weather are the outside entrance feeder or a gravity feeder.

If a hive of bees is short on surplus food, there is still time for supplementary or emergency feeding.



This is a photo of me feeding bees back in Ohio maybe 25 years ago. I bought a ton of sugar (2000 pounds) from a Big Bear store in Columbus, Ohio and it got news coverage. Who in the "H" needs a ton of sugar and what is he using it for?

Some individuals think "making booze" when that much sugar is purchased.

I ended up with a news crew wanting to see how I was using it -- so this picture illustrates me using granulated sugar to feed starving bees. I really don't like to open hives when the temperature is below 45°.

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Note the temperature when this picture was taken indicates 30°F. That was because the news people don't care if heat escapes from hives. They wanted a story!

General principle: If a hive is on the verge of starvation, one can feed anytime!

Removing the top cover releases a lot of warm air that has accumulated above the bee cluster. Note that I poured granulated sugar directly on the top bars of the hive. The dark area one sees in this picture is the bee cluster.

This picture illustrates one more point I can make. Note the absence of snow on the center of top covers. The lack of snow in the middle of the top cover indicated to me that the hive was alive with bees. The heat generated by the cluster of bees melted the snow.

Back to feeding ---

When bees are flying and active (not in a cluster) sugar syrup is the preferred method of feeding. Weather conditions still allow for some nectar gathering. The advantage of feeding early is to help the bees store the nectar/sugar syrup where they can use it later.

Another issue a beekeeper has to be concerned with is a hive with a lot of bees and a queen but very little brood. Some queens begin to shut down egg laying as days get shorter. A hive with a lot of stores, a lot of bees and a queen is not necessarily in trouble. It is a hive that needs to be watched and checked again before real cold weather arrives. Most hives I have looked at have a lot of capped brood, good sized bee populations -- A double deep hive with bees in both the top and bottom box. The lack of capped brood and larva is a red flag to me. I hate to combine it with another hive at this time. A month from now, I will feel a bit different toward that hive. At least it will have honey stores that can be shared with other hives.

I will have an article coming up in November about the brood nest – honeybee biology – regarding the need for young bees to carry a colony thru winter.

Feeding liquid sugar syrup this late in the season has some consequences:

- Stimulates robbing unless the hive is strong enough to defend itself.
- If the bees are not able to ripen the sugar syrup - the possibility of the syrup fermenting will cause dysentery. (This is why feeding formulas use less water in the formula to make the syrup).
- Liquid syrup will add moisture to the hive.

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- A colony of bees in cold weather conditions can not keep sugar syrup warm. The most common feeders are division board feeders placed inside the hive replacing several frames and a top feeder in which the bees must use a tunnel or "bee-way" to reach the sugar syrup. For bees to use these feeder types, enough heat must be generated by the bees to allow for bee movement. On warm days, the bees can use these feeders.
- Sugar syrup put on a hive in cold weather condition works well with a bucket or can feeder placed over the inner cover escape hole. The area below this opening will have enough heat to allow bee movement and winter clusters are usually found in this area.
- If jars, cans, or pails are used, the rate at which syrup can be used by the bees can be controlled by the number of holes in the lid. Rapid supplementary feeding is okay when temperatures are warm but a reduced number of holes in the lid is best for emergency feeding in cold weather. (Suggestion on hole numbers – slow 3 or 4..... rapid 7 or more) Thus, if the weather is warm and bees are flying, a pail feeder would allow for the greater storage of food if it had 10 to 20 holes. Holes should be no larger than the tip of a small frame nail. Sugar syrup should not run from holes but rather drip when the feeder is jarred. My feeder punch is nothing more than a 2 ½ in drywall screw. Just a little tap is all that is needed to create a small hole.

The more preferred methods used in feeding bees in cold temperature for survival are:

- candy board
- fondant
- granulated sugar
- granulated honey frames from healthy colonies
- frames of capped honey
- A beekeeper might also use strong colonies that do not need feeding -- to fill frames of comb with sugar syrup for colonies that could use it.

Some formulas for winter feeding: (There are many formulas – maybe you have a favorite you would like to share).

Cane and refined beet sugar as well as corn syrup are okay – cane sugar is the easiest to find and I consider it better than the other choices available. The beekeeper should avoid unrefined beet sugar, brown sugar, molasses, and sweeteners. These can cause dysentery.

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Dysentery is an intestinal infection that causes severe diarrhea and because bees cannot fly in cold weather, they defecate within the hive resulting in frames covered in feces.

The following information has worked for many beekeepers feeding during the winter:

- Use a 1:1 mix by weight of water and sugar. Pour sugar into a container and add hot water stirred continuously. (Easiest method)
- Use one 5-lb. bag of granulated sugar to 1 quart of boiling water. Remove the boiling water from the source of heat and add sugar slowly, stirring continuously. Stir until crystals disappear.
- A 2-lb. bag of powder white sugar contains 5% cornstarch. Confectionary sugar is the same as powdered sugar. A mix used during winter can be made by mixing a bag or box of powder sugar with corn syrup or your own honey. (Store bought honey or an unknown honey source should not be used due to the possible spread of AFB). Use only enough syrup to make a dough ball that holds together without being sticky. Make hamburger sized patties which can be placed on wax paper to be placed directly above the winter cluster.
- A formula for dry granulated sugar is simple. Place a newspaper over the top bars where the cluster is located and pour the granulated sugar on the paper, close the hive and when possible check back. In an emergency, dry granulated sugar can be lightly poured onto the top bars of a hive without spilling sugar down between the frames.
- Buy fondant - sold in various sizes as cake frosting or icing. Be sure to read the label of any container you buy. In its simplest form, it is sugar and water. Sometimes it is stabilized with gelatin and glycerin. It is cooked to the soft-ball stage, cooled slightly, and stirred or beaten to incorporate air, until it is an opaque mass with a creamy consistency. Sometimes lemon or vanilla is added to the mixture for taste. Avoid fondant with added flavors. Use it much like the granulated sugar method.

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- Candy for a candy board - This requires a rim and support for the sugar candy called a candy board. Boiling the syrup mixture helps caramelize the candy slightly. Avoid scorching the candy mixture. The sugar and water is heated and mixed in a metal container. The mixture is ready to pour as it begins to stiffen. One must use a candy thermometer to keep accurate track of the temperature to no more than 230°F. [How to make the candy] Pour two quarts of water into a large pan. Add 4 lb. of granulated sugar a little at a time until the mixture begins to boil. Check the temperature often. Stir the mix to make sure all sugar is dissolved - this may take some time for the temperature to reach 220°F. Remove the pan from the heat and set the pan in cold water. Continue to stir. As the mix stiffens and looks cloudy, it will be time to pour the solution into pans or molds to set up. Cookie sheets work well for this process. The candy can be cut up and placed in plastic freezer bags for use in the candy board.

I found additional candy board information at: www.carolinahoneybees.com/candy-board-for-bees/

Stahlman Beekeeping Notes

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A large number of beekeepers do not have to move a hive of honey bees. They are kept in permanent locations - usually in the beekeepers home yard. A move in that case may be done but a hive is not loaded onto a vehicle for the move.

Let's take a look at how honey bees react to being moved:

Bees orientate to a precise location. Young adult bees 19 to 21 days old guard the entrance to the hive and begin to forage. A common event often observed by beekeepers is the new foraging bees hovering about the entrance fixing the location into their memory. Once that memory is implanted, foraging bees will return to that location. Even if a hive is moved several feet away, the returning bees will return to the old location before exploring the area near-by for their hive.

Relocating any hive of bees produces stress on a colony.

I can understand the reasons for moving a hive or colony of bees. The reasons vary and the move will differ in respect to why the colony is being moved.

Most beekeepers contemplating a move have a very good reason to do it. For example, residential area bees can be causing problems to neighbors. Bees love water – i.e. Swimming pools, hot tubs, hummingbird feeders, a pet's watering dish.

Another category is made up of beekeepers moving bees for better honey crops and pollination.

A few beekeepers buy existing hives located some distance from their back yard.

And finally, a beekeeper wanting to move a hive of bees to a different location on the same property.

Moving principles:

- A hive moved within the flight zone (usually considered 2 - 3 mile distance) results in bees returning to the location planted in their memory. If their hive is gone, they will drift to other near-by hives or fly in search of it.
- Moving a hive during daylight hours has consequences for both the bees and the people who occupy nearby properties.
- It is best to move a hive of bees after the foragers have returned to the hive in the evening or before the sun comes up in the morning when foragers are leaving the hive.
- Overheating and suffocation should be a constant concern in hot weather. Confined to a hive being moved could cause the bees to die if ventilation is not available.

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- Established hives are usually very heavy requiring additional manpower to move them.
- There is always some danger that bees will be squashed by moving parts within the hive. This might be the case in which a 10 frame hive body only has 9 frames.
- Rough handling of a hive will result in very unhappy bees. Thus, it is important to provide some form of moving screen.

Many things need to be considered when moving a hive of bees: [Planning]

- How far? How heavy? How many? Where to? What tools and equipment will be needed? What means of transportation? What route if highways are used? What help will be needed?

A Short Move -- Moving a hive of bees on the same property.

Many beekeepers find that the location of a bee hive must be moved for various reasons.

What is unique in a situation like this?

- Regardless of the time of the move, bees will become disoriented and confused. Even if a hive is moved at night, the bees leaving the hive in the morning will be confused when they return.
- To prevent this confused state of the honey bees searching for their hive, a hive of bees should be moved in stages of several feet at a time.
- This may take a period of time (days) to complete.
- A trailer or truck would not be required. Just a little bit of ingenuity or a hand truck.
- An alternate move would be to move the hive several miles away – more than three miles is suggested for a period of several weeks. This would require a second move back to locate the hive where it needs to be. This would require a greater effort as described in a Longer Move below.

A Move of several miles or more – Requires a vehicle, trailer or truck and help.

Anytime honey bees are placed on a vehicle, the beekeeper should not take the trip without considering a number of potential problems moving hives of bees if one does not own the land.

Things to consider:

- Has the intended new location been visited previously?

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- Has the intended new location been visited previously?
- Bee hives can be heavy. It is best to remove any honey supers on hives. Weight is an important consideration when moving bees!
- Does the beekeeper have a formal written agreement with the land owner covering such things as:
 - Have arrangements been made for vehicular access to the site such as combinations or keys for locks on gates?
Has the landowner agreed on the location for hives? The landowner may have a different idea about where the bees are located!
Does anyone else know where the hives are placed?
Has the topic "risk of stings" been discussed regarding individuals visiting the landowner's property?
- How secure will the bee hives be from vandalism or theft?
- What does the owner of the land expect in return for you placing bees on his/her property?

I hate to mention this, but I can share a story of a beekeeper who was denied permission to visit his bees by a landowner who put up a locked gate to prevent access to the property. The beekeeper fortunately had registered his bees with the state department of agriculture so ownership was not a problem. But the landowner did not want the beekeeper visiting the bees without notice 24 hours in advance. That is a right of the landowner! If I was the beekeeper and the notice presented a problem for me, I would move my bees out of that location.

A verbal agreement is "he said "?" and this is what I agreed to"! Lawyers get involved at that point if there is a problem. If many hives are to be placed on a location, it is wise to have any agreement in writing.

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Preparation for a Move

I thought it interesting to share some photos from "The A B C and X Y Z of Bee Culture" published in 1913.

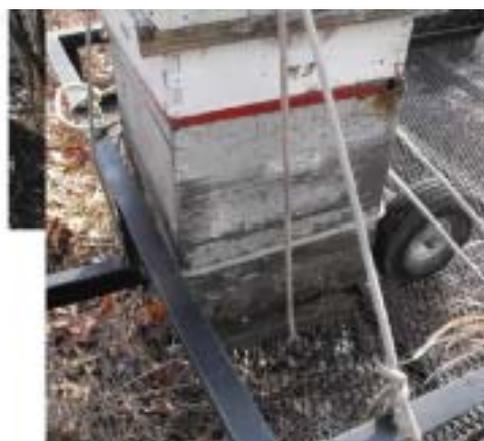


When one thinks about moving bee hives, ask about how the European honey bee got to the North American continent? One of the advantages of working with bees, is the flexibility to move them.

For a beekeeper moving one to thirty hives -- a trailer with a drop down rear gate is ideal.



A 5 X 8 foot trailer is very handy as is a hand truck. This allows a beekeeper the ability to move a hive of bees without help. It is limited however to the number of hives that can be moved at a time.



A person can not use too much rope when moving hives of bees. If only one hive is moved as shown here, it should be centered near the front of the trailer. The wire flooring of this trailer allowed placing rope as tight as possible around the hive and the hand truck. It is important when loading bees that there is more weight ahead of the axel than behind it. More weight behind the wheels will cause the trailer to bounce and swing as it is being pulled. Thus, giving the bees in the hive a rough journey.

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When a hive must be lifted – such as placing the hive on the bed of a pick-up truck, two individuals are required.



Commercial beekeepers move more hives and have the income from hive rentals and honey crops to afford more expensive equipment such as shown here.

Their bee hives are kept on pallets used as the bottom board. Usually, 4 to 6 hives are placed on a pallet. Rather than move one hive at a time, four – six hives are moved.

Winter is a good time to move hives of honey bees. The bees are in tight clusters and the ground is frozen – getting stuck is always a problem when moving hives in the spring or anytime the ground is soft.



Bee hives are moved around the United States for pollination by a number of beekeepers. Growers paying for pollination expect results. Generally, one or two hives per acre are placed on crops to be pollinated. The work requires staying on strict schedules - bees are dropped before blossoms open and are picked up by the beekeeper when short notice is given by the growers to get the bees out as soon the bees are not needed.

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Guidelines for moving single hives of bees:

- Prior to moving bees – bee hives need to be strapped down and entrance screens placed on hives. Ratchet straps work well in holding hive bodies together to prevent them from coming apart. Straps will keep bottom board, top cover and hive bodies in place. Moving screens can be rather simple -- wire screen stapled over the hive entrance so bees can not get out. The entrance is closed after the sun sets and foraging bees have returned to the hive.
- If hive bodies shift or break apart, bees inside the hive can get out. The beekeeper will face a serious problem with honey bees in no mood to be gentle.
- Bee hives can be quite heavy to move. Get help if moving them by hand.
- Bees should not be overcrowded - bees need room and good ventilation. Moving bees in hot weather and the possibility of the bees bearding on the front of the hive will require the addition of an extra super for the bee population. Top moving screens are sold to place on hives in place of the inner cover and top cover.
- Hives should be secured to the trailer, or truck that is carrying them. Quick stops and swerving can dislodge hives. If you want a few minutes on TV, a bee accident is sure to attract TV reporters attention.
- Ideal times to move bees are late evening and early morning when air temperatures are low. Traffic is lighter.
- A bee net may be a good investment. Shade screens can be purchased at Harbor Freight at little cost. Used as a bee net, it will keep any bees that are on the load from escaping from hives. If moving the bees long distance, any stop at a gas station can be a revealing experience if bees can escape from their hives. I have also been told by an attorney that the bee net covering a load of bees shows that the beekeeper is using due caution to prevent stinging incidents.
- Always suit up when loading bees, and carry a smoker with you at all times during the move.

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This is a typical move of bees to sourwood country for a honey crop. The orange cover seen on the trailer over the bee hives is a bee net. Often, bee hives placed on a trailer like this do not have their entrances closed off. This allows bees to cluster outside the hive during a move in hot weather.

Once bees are loaded for moving, the task of getting them to the new location is faced with hazards on the road. Drive defensively. [Start - stop - start] driving is not good for bees being moved. I liked moving bees at night. I would find a semi-truck that seemed to be going the speed I liked - get behind it allowing enough space to slowly stop. I called it my "Rabbit". My truck was always gassed up and any stops anticipated were planned stops.

I have seen a few accidents involving trucks hauling bees. A major problem is the driver going to sleep at the wheel. **BIG MESS!**

Unloading bees after a move: The goal is reached after all the planning!

Driving into an unknown bee yard while it is still dark is a challenge. If one leaves a good road to drive onto unknown ground, trouble could be waiting especially after wet rainy weather.

The reason for visiting the site previously should be pretty obvious.

The site selected will become the new location of the bee hive or hives. All planning on hive placement should have already been considered. The smoker should be lit before the removal of hives begins. Suiting up is good.

What remains is removing the hives from the truck or trailer. Once the hives and bees are off (I have seen a bee hive moved on the back of a car), care should be taken that the bees are not roughly handled.

After the move, a visit in a day or so is wise. It will confirm that the move was successful for the bees. One can then follow up with regular hive inspections and other management requirements.

Stahlman Beekeeping Notes

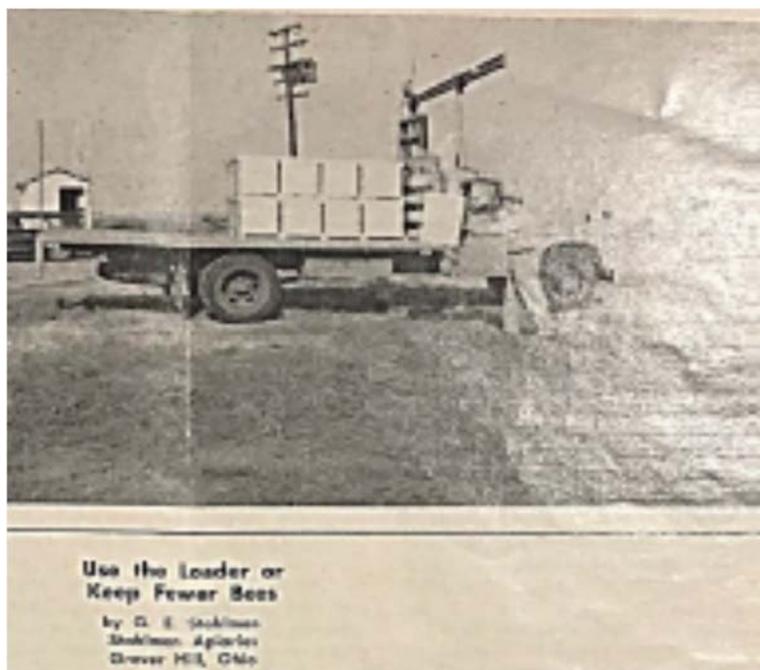
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Additional comments:

If one has never moved a hive of bees, I would not take on the task lightly. Make sure one has enough help! A dropped hive of bees comes apart with all kinds of [hell to pay].

Once the bees are out of sight and the beekeeper is no longer in control of the location, frequent trips to the bee yard should become a regular practice after weather events. The landowner might be of help to relieve your mind of what might be going on in the bee yard in your absence. I always consider honey a good attempt to keep the landowner somewhat invested in the interest of the bees.

Currently I have a very good out-yard and an excellent landowner to work with. I always ask if he needs honey. I usually carry a quart of honey in my truck just in case he says, "he is out or close to being out." This year he even volunteered to plant a five acre plot of buckwheat for my bees. He gets free pollination for his farm and I get an outstand place to keep my bees without any hassle.



Moving bees goes back many years in my family.

The old way was a Kelley Hive Loader that could handle 400 pounds of weight - one hive at a time. It was considered a welcome relief to a breaking back effort to pick up bee hives by hand.

I have lived to see the way bees are moved for pollination. The Kelley Hive Loader saved many man hours of work. Today's skid loaders have improved time to load a truck with several hundred hives of bees.

Looking Back: As a youth, I worked in bee yards with a loader like this. My job was to smoke the entrances to the hives, start the smokers, and go for this and that. Loaders "today are mostly skid-steer type because this loader only picked up one hive at a time."

This article may help some to understand the loss of honey bee habitat. 50 - 60 colonies in a bee yard then. Taking off 200 supers filled with honey in four hours. Beekeeping management practices have changed so much from then to now!

Stahlman Beekeeping Notes

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Without a way to move bees, we would not have a commercial beekeeping industry today.

When I think of the statement "honeybees are responsible for 40% of the food we eat", I consider that to include the vast amount of pollinated crops provided bees by those who move bees from location to location.

The article below was written by my uncle in 1959 and published in the American Bee Journal. It brings back many memories of getting up early and working till sun down. For reference, The Monthly Honey Report in January 1961 from Gleanings in Bee Culture list retail prices for honey –

1 -lb. jar.. .43 Cents 3 -lb. package of bees. \$4.75 A Kelley 4 fame extractor.... \$38.00
Queens... .75 cents or if one bought more than 25... 65 cents. (A subscription to Gleanings \$2.50 a year) These were called the good old days!

Use the Loader or Keep Fewer Bees

by G. E. Stahlman
Stahlman Apiaries
Grover Hill, Ohio

If it were not for the use of a loader I believe I would curtail my operations. It is the one piece of equipment that has made our work profitable and it has made crops possible that otherwise we never would have obtained.

We do a lot of migratory beekeeping and the loader saves us countless hours and frayed nerves with a minimum amount of labor. One man can load 120 2-story colonies, in 1½ hours with a minimum of stinging and not much hard work. There is little lifting and regardless of how heavy the colony is it goes on the truck with little disturbance so that many times we are through loading with no fuss among the bees in the yard. Moving bees with a loader is a one-man proposition.

Many times we have to move yards short distances for a better location and often they are supered up four or five stories high. Formerly we would have had to remove the supers and lots of times they would be partly filled with honey at a temperature of 90 degrees so we would let the bees stay there rather than to try to make the move.

With a loader we never worry about the weight or the supering or the weather. We just go to the yard, load the bees and make the move, some 44 colonies to a load. Sev-

eral times we have been able to make a couple of trips a day and with mileage of around 100 miles or less. The first year we had the loader we estimated it paid for itself several times over because I could make moves where honey is available.

Next we used the loaders for requeening and dividing. We try to requeen every year and we make up two to three hundred nuclei the latter part of July or August. Lifting off the honey crop to make them and to find the queen is a breeze with a loader. Many times I work a hundred colonies a day with a minimum amount of labor. Stinging is a bare minimum as all the bees that are in the top supers are left there without being disturbed.

Next, a big labor saving comes with the loading of honey in the yards. We use pallets to set supers on, each one holding 5 full depth supers. We go to the yard using acid cloths, set the honey off on the pallets and then load. Weather permitting, one man can remove 200 supers of heavy honey in four hours.

We generally use two men when taking off honey as we can remove the crop from a 50 to 60 colony yard before the bees find out we are there. We keep robbing to a bare minimum. We give the loader a real workout during the crop year.

About the only time we do not use it is in supering.

I do not want to confuse anyone into thinking that all one has to do is buy a loader and the work will get done. Getting acquainted with this equipment can be very distracting and we find it requires time to be able to get the most from it. I have known beekeepers who have used the loader a short time to be convinced they are no good. But with some gentle persuasion they have found them to be indispensable.

I do not understand why a beekeeper with 300 colonies or more does not look into the possibilities of a loader. Any beekeeper with a little ingenuity and a thousand dollars can become the happiest man in his profession with one of these labor saving devices. It can make the difference between profit and enjoyment by letting the bees get you down. We have different types of Kelly loaders and find them to be rugged and I have not spent a cent on repairs. We did break a couple of drum cables but it was our fault. We are using a 12 volt system and like it. A charger is a necessity for local operations. After a few days' work, we merely plug our charger in and overnight the batteries are ready to go again. It pays to buy the best and largest battery, then the power supply is always adequate.

Classifieds

Cherry City Honey has new sugar board frames available at special purchase price (\$10.00 for club members, while supplies last).

- 8 or 10 frame size
- 1 7/8 inch depth
- Metal hardware cloth
- Reusable year after year
- Frame made from pine wood
- Stainless steel screws
- Vent hole
- Sugar not included



Winter Hive Wrap [enough to wrap two 10-frame hives (2 brood boxes)] \$7.00 while supply lasts. Available at Cherry City Honey.

- Epiley roofing underlayment
- Comes pre-cut
- Easy to install
- Durable
- Easily folds to store after winter
- Re-use year after year



Cherry City Honey, 1000 County Road 312
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