

The Stinger

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALABAMA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Jan/Feb "To Do" List

Luckily we don't have to scrape the snow off our hives very often! There are other things we should do in January and February to help ensure good colony health. Read full article on *Pg 2*

Association News

Association officers share news and comments with members. Also, an update about Honey Judging. *Pg 3*

Symposium *Pg 7*

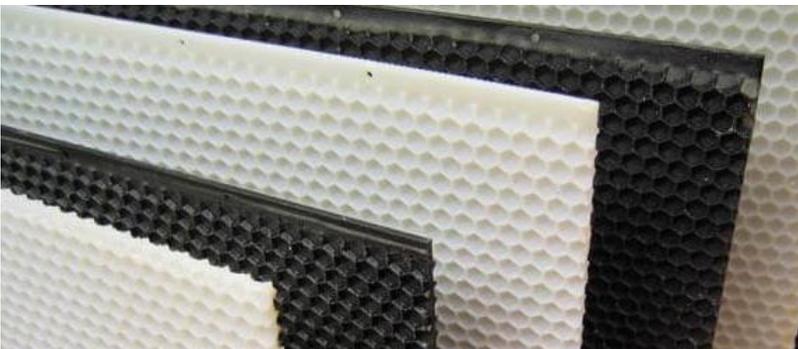
Jerry Carter Retires *Pg 9*

Buzzworthy Fun *Pg 5*

A different sort of "Night before Christmas" *Pg 4*

Resources *Pg 8*

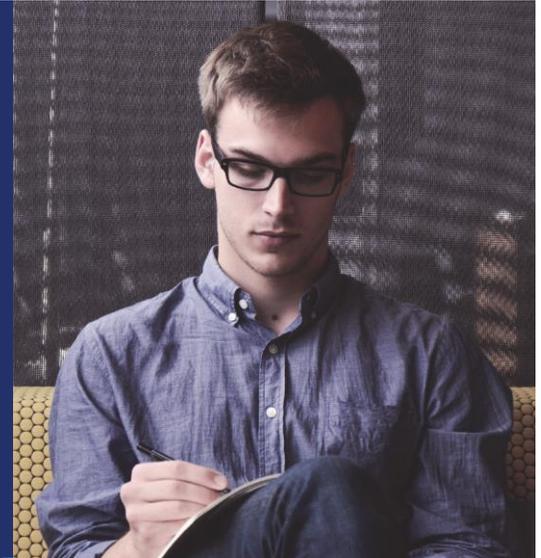
Submissions *Pg 9*



Learn about the pros and cons of plastic foundation vs wax foundation, plus sources for purchase of plastic foundation.

See page 6

January/February To Do List



Winter is about getting ready. . .

- Repair or replace equipment & paint woodenware
- Order queens in late February for April delivery
- Open hive when temp over 55 to check; feed if needed
- Collect nucs to be ready for Spring swarm captures
- Plant bee friendly trees and shrubs
- Engage in education at local meetings, ACES Symposium and/or Master Beekeeper's meeting.
- Find local outlets for honey sales. If you make your own retail sales, check out competing store prices.
- Master Beekeepers program is Feb. 7-9 at Clanton Conference and Performing Arts Center. More info at www.AlabamaMasterBeekeepers.com

24th Annual ACES Beekeeping Symposium Saturday 2/3/19

Early registration
discounts
end
1/19/2019

More
Info
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Bee Friendly Plant Resources

THE SEED CATALOGUES ARE COMING!!!

Winter is when the seed companies send out their catalogues. During the cold January and February evenings, we all spend hours poring over them, planning our spring gardens.

Get a head start with some of these resources. Click to read or download. If you want a printed copy, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Denise Evans at 1031 County Road 50, Jemison, AL 35085

[ACES List of Nectar and Pollen Sources](#)

[USDA Alabama Honey Bee Programs and Plant Info](#)

[University of Georgia Pollen & Nectar Plant List](#)

[BEE Smart™ Pollinator Garden App](#)

[MSU "Gardening for Beneficial Bees](#)

Association News

President Bill Evans	Bill delights us with his personal beekeeper's rendition of "Twas the Night Before Christmas," including a Santa nod to the 2019 ACES Symposium on February 2. See page 4.
Secretary Heather Sinyard	Heather reports that we've gained 60 new members since August 15, and now have 854! Way to go beekeepers!!! She and Wynelle will have a table at the ACES Symposium on Feb 2, to sign up even more new members. Tell all your friends to come!
Treasurer Wynelle Milstead	Wynelle reminds us that annual dues of \$10 are payable in January. There is a renewal form online at www.AlabamaBeekeepers.com . If you cannot print one out, just mail her a check, to 1495 Sandcutt Road, Nauvoo, AL 35578. Be sure to include your name, current mailing address, phone numbers, and email address.
Master Beekeepers Gerry Whitaker	Gerry want us all to remember the February 7-9 Alabama Master Beekeepers Symposium, which will include honey judging. He also asks that we think of candidates for the Youth in Beekeeping award.

Honey Judging

The largest honey show ever was the September 22, 2018 Alabama Beekeepers Association Annual State Honey Show for all to see! Beautiful art, photographs, beekeeping gadgets.....what an array of superior products from the hive!

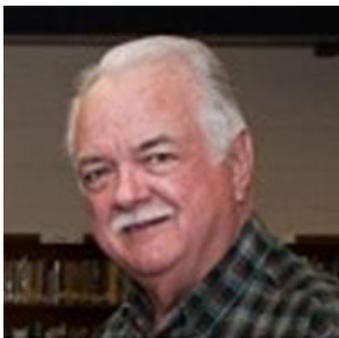
In February, Alabama will graduate their first licensed Welsh Honey Judges, with six new judges. That will make a total of nine resident Welsh Honey Judges. I am encouraging your individual Bee Clubs/Associations to host your own annual honey show. Hosting your own honey show allows you to learn how to compete, gives bragging rights, builds confidence and improves products from your apiary. Another advantage is that the judges will be available to do a program for your club maybe two months prior to your scheduled show. If you need help setting up a show, we will be able to help you do that too.

If you are interested in learning more about the Welsh Honey Judging Program, come join us in February and learn about this exciting challenge. The Alabama Master Beekeepers Program hosts the Alabama Welsh Honey Judging Program. Both courses are held February 7-9, 2019. Hope to see you there!

Marilynn Parker

Merry Christmas Msg

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the yard,
 Not a creature was stirring, for the winter was hard.
 The honey was stocked in the cells with great care,
 In hopes that Spring soon would be there.
 The girls were nestled all snug in their cluster;
 Toasty and warm despite winter's bluster.
 The Queen in the middle, and I in my bed,
 Dreamed happy dreams, all warm and well-fed.
 When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
 I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
 What did I see, gleaming as if show-room new,
 Was a bright red sleigh driven by our own Jim Tew!
 "Now, Gardeners! Now Hobbyists! Now Pros far and wide!
 Remember the symposium, because February is nigh!
 Enjoy the Christmas season and the New Year to come,
 But remember February 2, 2019, or you'll feel dumb!
 That date the groundhogs and the Symposium come together,
 So stay inside with us, and don't fear the weather.
 We'll be at the Clanton Performing Arts Center that day,
 Just off Exit 212 of the I-65 Interstate highway.
 And with that announcement hanging in the air,
 Away he flew, to some distant Yankee lair.
 But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—
 "Happy Beekeeping to all, and to all a good night!"



**An original composition
 by Association
 President Bill Evans**

Buzzworthy Fun



Name these bee favorites-
 Singer? Bee-yonce.
 Sport? Rug-bee
 Artist? Pablo Beecasso
 Composer? Bee-thoven
 Children's author? Bee-trix Potter
 Vacation spot? Sting-apore

Do you have a funny caption
 for this picture?

Send it to

TheAlabamaStinger@gmail.com

Winner will be published in
 the next edition.



January and February Trivia

January is Bath Safety Month, Hobby Month, and Oatmeal Month. There's a country song in there somewhere!

The Roman Senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year.

January 1925 was the date of the first Sugar Bowl.

February 1, 1851 Gail Borden invented evaporated milk

February is Chocolate Lovers Month, Snack Food Month, and National Children's Dental Health Month. Go figure!

February 14, 2005 Youtube was launched. First Youtube video [HERE](#)

Recipes

Wynelle Milstead's Thyme with Lemon and Honey Tea

2 Tbs fresh thyme, or 2 tsp dried

1 tsp local honey

1 Tbs lemon juice

Water

Put thyme into a tea ball and place in a large mug or mason jar. Add 6-8 oz boiling water and steep, covered, for 8-10 minutes. Remove tea ball and stir in honey and lemon juice. Drink 2-3 times per day to help resolve a dry throat or nasal drip cough.

Denise's Honey Fudge

1-14 oz can sweetened condensed milk

2-12 oz pkgs chocolate chips

1/3 cup honey

1 tsp vanilla extract

1/2 cup chopped nuts

Heat condensed milk, chocolate chips and honey in pan, stirring constantly, JUST UNTIL there are no lumps left. Remove from heat, stir in vanilla and nuts. Butter bottom of 8x8 pan or shallow bowl, spread fudge and let cool. Keep refrigerated.

Plastic or Wax Foundation?

Beekeepers have strong opinions about plastic or wax foundation. After surveying a large number of experts, these seem to be the pros and cons:

Plastic	Wax
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assembly required • Wax moths can't chew it up • Holds up well in the extractor • Can scrape aggressively with hive tool • Black plastic for brood makes it easy to see eggs and larvae • White plastic for honey reminds to be careful about treatments not suitable for honey cells • Can be stored and shipped at any temperature • Cheaper than constantly replacing damaged frames • Not a renewable resource • Initially more expensive • Bees don't accept it as readily • If get foulbrood, can't burn. Must bury or irradiate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural and renewable • Bees readily accept it • Old & broken frames make great kindling • It seems philosophically appropriate • Initially inexpensive • Frames can split or warp • High speed extractor can blow them out • Wax moths can damage the frames • Must be assembled

To me, the most significant point is about bees readily accepting the frames. If they won't accept them, then nothing else matters. Some experts recommend spraying sugar water on the plastic foundation in order to encourage the bees to accept it more easily.

Most beekeepers who use plastic frames recommend coating them with beeswax before installing in the hive. Eric Smith, a master beekeeper and member of the Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley, wrote an article in *The Beeyard* about his experiences with coating plastic frames. He designed a scientific experiment using some frames exactly as they came from the supplier, some with an added thin coat of wax, and some with a very thick coat of wax that filled all the cells and resulted in a smooth wax surface. Were there any differences in honey production? You bet! The thick layer of wax was MUCH better. If you want to read his entire article, it is [HERE](#)

Major providers include



www.Pierco.com
800-233-2662



Plasticell from Dadant, www.Dadant.com
888-922-1293



Rite Cell from Mann Lake, www.MannLakeLtd.com
800-880-7694



Permacomb, www.Permacomb.com
888-813-2337

Beekeeping Symposium

Early registration for the ACES Beekeeping Symposium from now until until January 19 at \$35 per person, lunch included. After that, it is \$50 per person with no lunch, because there won't be time to plan for additional food. Online registration [HERE](#), regular mail recipients have a form attached.

Topics for new and experienced beekeepers!



Alabama Cooperative
Extension System

24th Annual Beekeeping
Symposium

Saturday Feb 2,
8 am to 4:30 pm
Clanton Conference and
Performing Arts Center
1850 Lay Dam Road
Clanton

Off Exit 212, I-65



Photo below taken from the ACES website. Isn't it beautiful?

We are especially excited about Kevin Burkett's talk on *Make More Money with Your Honey*, David Ellis' live demonstration of making *Creamed Honey* and Dr. Reed Johnson, who will discuss *Where are the Bees Going?*

For a full schedule of all topics and speakers, contact Dr. J. Mike Phillips at 334-844-4450 or visit the ACES website [HERE](#)



Resources



Info about local Beekeeping Associations, Click [HERE](#)

Equipment for Sale

8' foot frame conveyor capping tank for \$2100. A large wax separator with float switch \$200 a small separator with float switch \$150 and a brass honey pump \$700, and a 33 frame Kelly extractor upgraded to their Variable speed 3 phase motor and converter \$3000 also some storage tanks all are negotiable. David Kelton 256-441-2887 HoneyBees60@gmail.com

Rear your own queens using cell punch method.

No tedious transferring of delicate larvae. Kit includes the cell punch tool as well as some other useful items to get started. Also 2 pages of instructions.

Send \$20 plus \$2.50 shipping to Will Montgomery, 1401 Lakemont Dr S, Southside, AL 35907 Include a shipping address! Will ship next day after receipt.

Spring NUCs for sale.

I have introduced the Buckfast line of bees, from Ontario, Canada, into my yards. I truly do like them a lot. They are productive, gentle, and do not swarm easily. Please, call for additional information. Henry Rollins 256-859-1747

Message from Lookout Mountain Honey Bees.

We would like to thank each of our customers for another successful year. We hope you all have a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Happy New Year.

We don't have as many packages for Spring 2019 pickup as we normally have each year. If you haven't got your order in, now is the time to order before we are sold out. Our special is two 3-lb packages with two assembled and painted hives for \$500. This special will end January 15th. Package pickup dates are March 22nd and April 3rd. We also offer gift certificates.

Our Beginning Beekeeping class will begin on January 17th. We still have about 3 spots open.

Place orders now for free pickup of supplies at the ACES Symposium or the Master Beekeepers programs in February. For more info or to order, give David or Lynne a call at 256-523-4767

Photo Contest

The Stinger is having a photo contest with a First Prize of \$35 and Second Prize of \$25. Must be taken by the person submitting the entry, and should be related to beekeeping or plants. Email to TheAlabamaStinger@gmail.com by January 31, 2019. Photos will become the property of the Alabama Beekeepers Association. Some of my personal photos appear below to inspire you!



Bill and Grandson



"Buzz" - Painted Propane Tank



Just Hanging Out

Jerry Carter Retires

Our former editor, Jerry Carter, has retired from the position to pursue some activities he's always loved, but had to put on "hold" for the past several years. His loss was our gain, with his tireless efforts to bring us really informative issues of The Stinger. In addition to being the editor, he wrote many of the articles himself. Now, we have to let him go back to his former life, and bid him a heartfelt "Thank You" and best wishes for his future endeavors.

Submissions Policy

Do you have ideas, advice, photos, or items or services you'd like to buy or sell? If so, please write to TheAlabamaStinger@gmail.com or write to Denise Evans, 1031 County Road 50, Jemison, AL 35085 with your submission.

The Stinger will come out on the 15th day of February, April, June, August, October and December. The deadline for submissions is the 1st day of each of those months. Anything sent after the cutoff date will not be included. If you email your submission, I will send you a confirmation of receipt. If you send it by USPS mail, be sure to include your phone number. I will call you and let you know I received it. No text message submissions will be accepted, because it is too much work to transfer them to another format for use and for archiving.

Thank you! ~~ Denise Evans (the person trying to follow in Jerry Carter's footsteps as editor)

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Jemison, AL 35085