



# **NORTHWEST ARKANSAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

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## Beginning Beekeeping Series



# Beginning Beekeeping Series Overview

## Part 1 – February 10<sup>th</sup>

- Introduction to Beekeeping
- Types of Beekeepers
- Basic Bee Biology

## Part 2 – February 17<sup>th</sup>

- Hive Components and Equipment
- Hive Placement
- Installation of Bees

## Part 3 – February 24<sup>th</sup>

- Hive Management and Inspections
- Honey Harvesting
- Winter Prep and Moisture Control



## Tonight's Agenda

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Beekeeping Tools & Protection
- ❖ The Basic Beehive & Options
- ❖ Break
- ❖ Hive Location
- ❖ Acquiring Bees
- ❖ Installing Bees
- ❖ Q & A
- ❖ Closing/Class Survey

( We must be out of the building by 7:45 )

[Beginning Beekeeping](#)[Bee Plants](#)[Equipment Checkout](#)

# Beginning Beekeeping Class

## Class Powerpoint Decks

These are copies of slides only and are intended as reference for class participants. These will remain up until the end of February 2026.

### [Session 1](#)

Slides from Session 1 February 10, 2026

### [Session 2](#)

Slides from Session 2 February 17, 2026

### [Session 3](#)

Coming Soon ! Slides from session 3 February 24, 2026



# NWA Beekeepers Apparel

Pre-Order Deadline Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>





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**Beginning Beekeeping: Part 2**



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# Introduction to Beekeeping

## *Beekeeping Tools*

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# The Essentials/Economy Options

Veil



Gloves



Hive Tool



Spray Bottle



Smoker





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## Tool Options Abound

Awesome Jacket



Gloves



Hive Tool Options



Flameless Smoker





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## The Smoker

Bees communicate by pheromones (smell) and the smoke confuses this ability.

Organic material can be used in the smoker: pine needles, burlap, hay, cotton t-shirts (no synthetics), etc. Oak leaves, cardboard, etc. are not good. Do yourself a favor and fill a 5-gallon bucket with pine needles during a dry period. You are good for the next year.

A smoker with a cage (like the one pictured) helps protect you and the smoker from damage. The hook is handy to hang it from a fence or metal bucket.





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## Lighting a Smoker

- Take a small handful of fuel, light it, place in the bottom and pump the bellows until flames jump.
- Add another small handful of fuel and again pump until you see flames. Repeat one more time.
- Add fuel until the smoker is packed tight pumping along the way. (Patience is your friend.)
- The goal is a cool smoke. NOT a flamethrower.





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## Hive Tools

You cannot work the hive without a hive tool. Be sure to have several and paint them bright colors.

The hive tool is used to:

- Open the hive
- Pry and lift frames
- Scrape away propolis
- Remove burr comb
- **Kill small hive beetles !!**





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## Optional Tools

**Bee Brush:** Used to manually remove bees from a frame.



**Frame Grip:** Works but be careful not to lose your grip.



**Frame Perch:** Great tool as it gives you place to hang frames. Gotta keep up with it.





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## Protective Gear

**Minimum:** Veil – Keeps stings out of your eyes. Paired with baggy long sleeve shirt and pants.

**Most Common:** Jacket with a round or fencing veil.

**Maximum Protection:** Full suit. Overkill for most tasks but a matter of personal preference.





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## Protective Gear – Leg Protection

Bees will crawl up open cuffs.

**Boots w/Tucked Pants** : Prevents stings and reduce ticks when in the field.

**Maximum Protection**: Full suit. Overkill for most tasks but a matter of personal preference.





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## Protective Gear – Gloves

Gloves are sting resistant, not sting proof.

**Traditional Beekeeping Gloves:** full coverage but take time to put on.

**Nitrate Gloves:** Preserves some touch and keeps hands clean.

Consider whether you really need them.





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# Introduction to Beekeeping

*The Hive*

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# Hazel Valley Honey





# Hazel Valley Honey

## NWA Local Nucleus Colonies

Five Frame Nucleus colonies consist of 5 frames of bees in total; 2-3 frames brood, 1-2 frames honey/pollen, and a proven, NWA local Queen in a transportable 5 frame box. Available for June pickup.

Each nuc is \$200 total including a \$40 deposit. Use the QR code to make your reservation.



Find us on Facebook at Hazel Valley Honey or contact Kenny at 972-740-8828

16317 Hazel Valley Rd  
Fayetteville, AR

## Starter Hive Kits

Our starter kit includes all the components in a standard double deep Langstroth hive:

- Two 10 Frame Deep Sized Hive Boxes
- Bottom Board
- Migratory Lid
- 15 frames with foundation (goes with Nuc)
- In-Hive one gallon feeder

Available Lightly Used for \$200 or ask for pricing on individual components.





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## The Langstroth Hive

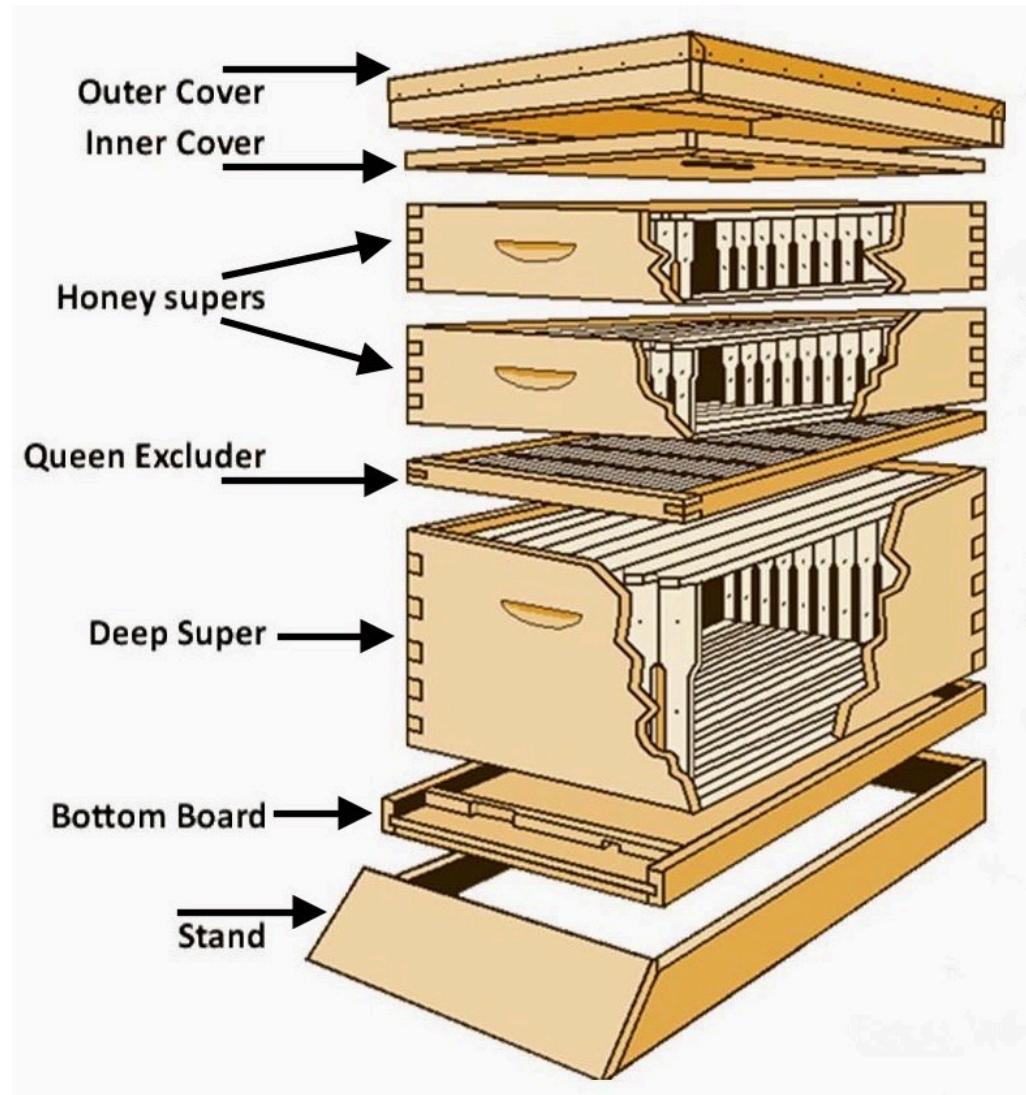
**L.L. Langstroth is considered “the father of modern beekeeping.”**  
**Inventor of the Langstroth hive that the majority of beekeepers use today. The main principals are the use of “bee-space” and the ability to move parts within the hive without destroying it.**





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## Anatomy of a Langstroth Hive





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## Hive Stands

Hives should be kept off the ground with a hive stand.





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## Bottom Boards

**Screened:** The theory being that some mites will fall through. Allows for mite check board.

**Solid:** Traditional bottom board.

**Entrance Reducer:** Limits the hive opening to reduce need to defend.





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## Queen Excluder

Prevents the queen from moving up into honey supers and laying eggs.

**All Metal**

**Wood Frame** with metal “grill”

**Plastic:** Least expensive and easiest to clean.





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## Inner Cover

Provides top ventilation and an optional top entrance.





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## Frames

This is where bees draw comb for raising brood and storing honey.

**Wood Frames:** Allows for inserting plastic or beeswax foundation. Available assembled or unassembled.

**Plastic Frame:** One piece injection molded.  
(Some concern of allowing for beetle hiding space.)

Always choose double or triple waxed frames.





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## Options Abound

- There are all kinds of options depending on your budget and personal preference.
- There are advantages to insulated hives.





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# Introduction to Beekeeping

## *Hive Placement*

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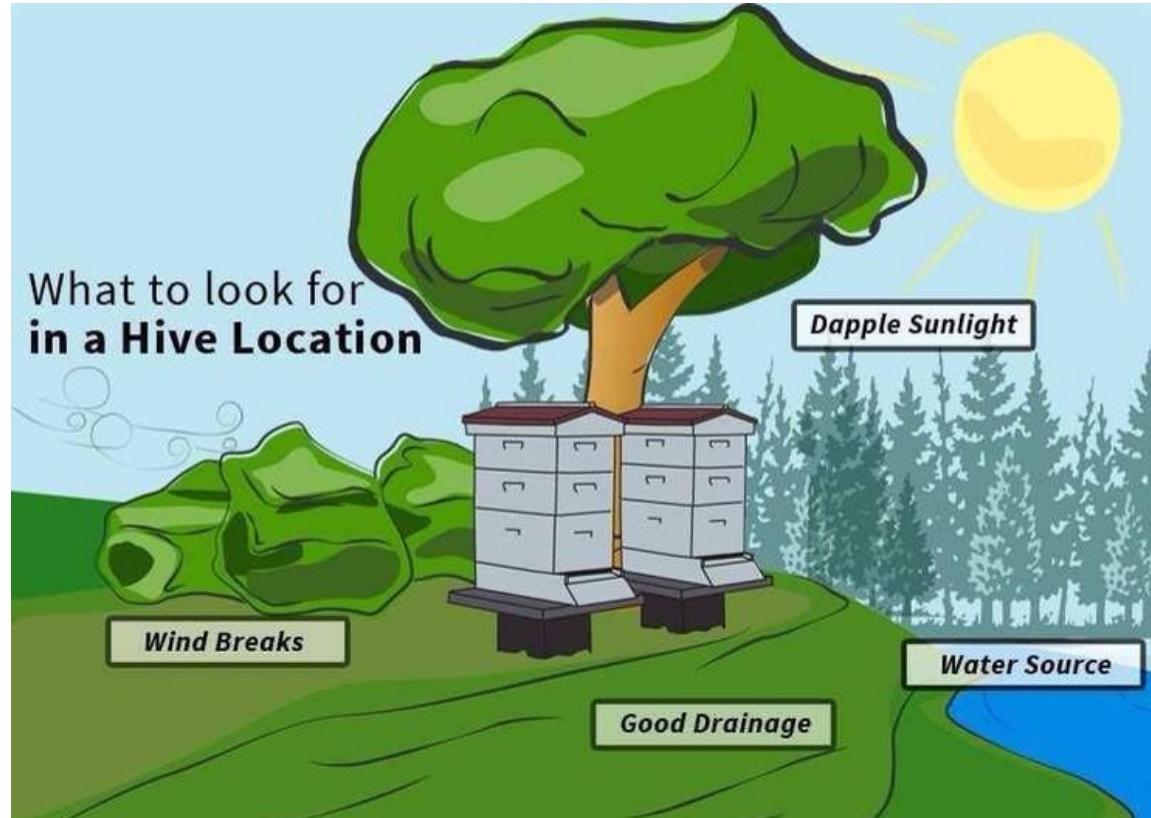
## Hive Placement

**Wind Break:** Protects from wind damage.

**Dappled Sunlight:** Full sun will help control hive beetles.

**Good Drainage:** Stay away from soggy or flood prone areas.

**Water Source:** Provide a water source or they will find one for themselves.





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## Hive Placement

- Privacy fence makes a good wind break.
- Water source could be a bird bath or even a tripping faucet.
- Southeast facing will catch the morning sun.
- Consider flight path and proximity to others.
- Avoid pastures with livestock.
- Good fences make good neighbors!





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## Hive Placement

- Consider mowing and trimming needs.
- Consider a weed-proof bed.





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# Introduction to Beekeeping

## *Getting Your First Bees*

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# Acquiring Bees

- Options
  - Package Bees
  - Nucleus Hive
  - Complete Hive
  - Catch a swarm
- Transportation
  - Secure
  - Plenty of Airflow
  - Temperature (Netting)





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## Nucleus Hive (Nuc)

- Miniature hive
- Normally five deep frames
- Laying queen
- Frames, brood, pollen and honey
- May have an empty frame





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## Package Bees

- Three pounds of bees
- Laying queen in a cage
- Can of sugar syrup
- Pickup or mail order





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## Package Bees

- Bees from different hives
- Funneled into the package until three pounds are added
- Mated queen added
- Can of sugar syrup

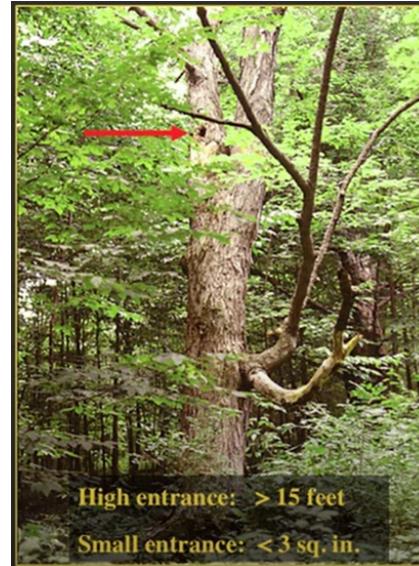
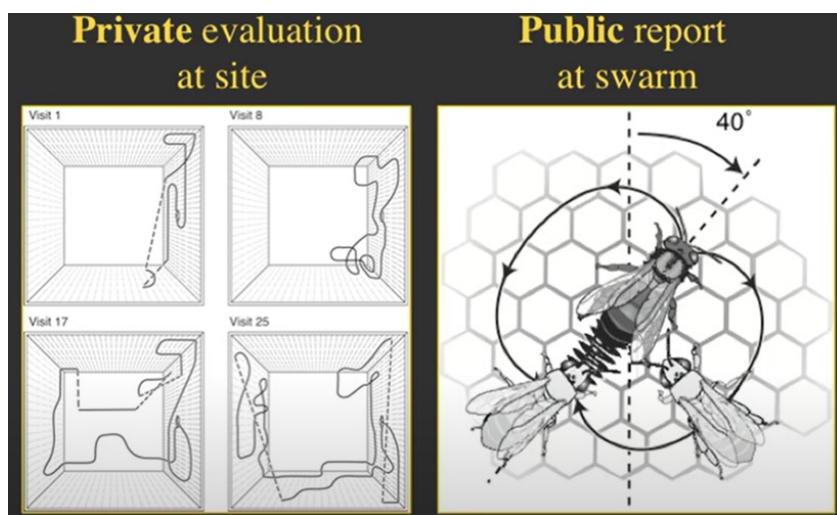




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## Catching Swarms

- Dr. Leo Sharashkin (*Natural Ozarks Beekeeper*)
  - [www.horizontalhive.com](http://www.horizontalhive.com)
- Dr. Tom Seeley (*Cornell Professor*)
  - Honeybee Democracy
  - Lives of Honeybees, and more!





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## Swarms Traps

- Swarm Traps
  - DIY – Plans online.
  - Commercial Options
  - Careful with round traps
- Lures
  - Lemongrass Oil
  - Swarm Commander





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## Hive your Bees ASAP

But if you can't ...

- Nucs
  - Place nuc on the bottom board in the exact permanent location
  - Open the entrance
- Package Bees (1-2 days max)
  - Store in cool dark place
  - Spritz of syrup or water





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## Introduction to Beekeeping

### *Installing Your Bees*

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Place the hive exactly where you want it to be!



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## Installing a Nucleus Hive (Nuc)

- Put on protective clothing
- Light your smoker
- Remove six frames from middle of your new hive box
- Move one frame at a time into box, maintaining original orientation and order
- Shake any remaining bees from nuc
- If bees are still in the nuc, place it in front of hive
- Install feeder (1:1 sugar syrup)
- Close it up ...





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## Installing Package Bees

- Put on protective clothing
- No need for a smoker
- Pry off the top cover
- Remove sugar syrup can
- Slide the cover back on

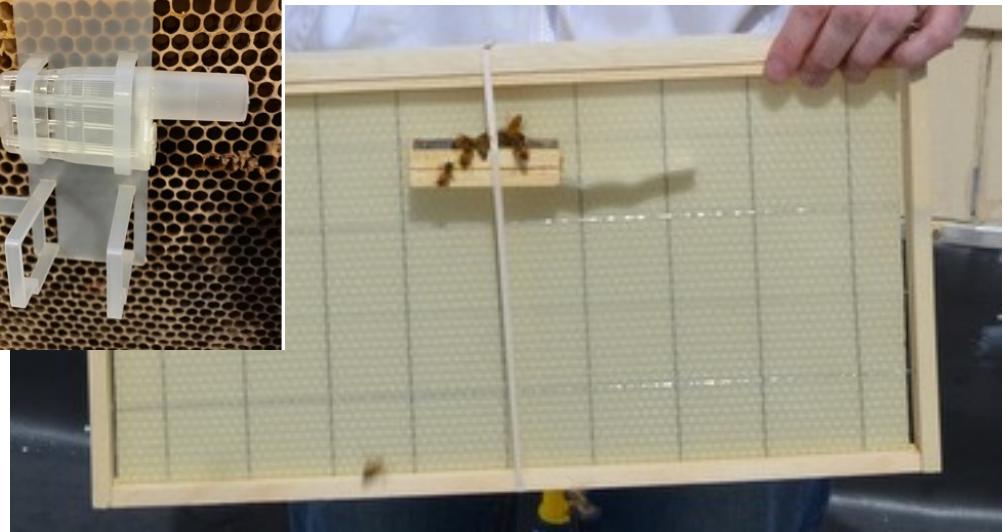
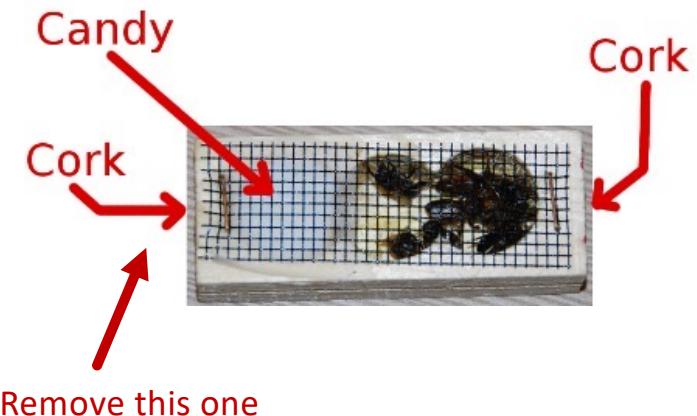




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## Installing Package Bees (continued)

- Secure the queen
- Replace cover on package
- Remove cork on the candy end of queen cage with a pocket knife or wood screw
- Place queen cage between two frames horizontally or with candy end up





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## Installing Package Bees (continued)

- Remove three frames from hive
- Spritz of syrup
- Bump and dump
- Replace frames
- Install feeder (1:1 syrup)
- Close up the hive
- Leave box in front of hive





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## Feed Your New Hive

- Always feed a new colony
- 6–8 lbs. of honey to make one lb. of wax
- Sugar syrup (1:1)
- Feed until they have drawn out all comb, stop taking it, or you add supers





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## Making 1:1 Syrup

- Equal parts sugar and water (by weight or volume).
- Use cane sugar.
- Hot water from faucet is usually enough.
- If using stove keep it very low and stir continuously.
- Refrigerate unused syrup.





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## Leave them Bee

- Nuc: Leave them undisturbed for one week, but check feeders.
- Package: On Day 4, confirm queen has been released. If not, release her carefully.
- Feed until they stop taking it or you put on honey super.
- Undisturbed does not mean you can't sit there and watch your new babies.





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## **Class Survey**

Your input is critical to both the  
Association and the Fayetteville  
Public Library



## Part 3 – February 24th

### Agenda

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Hive Management
- ❖ Honey Harvesting
- ❖ Pest Management
- ❖ Winter Prep
  
- ❖ Q & A
  
- ❖ Closing/Class Survey



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Thank You