



**NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION**



Beginning Beekeeping Series



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Beginning Beekeeping Series Overview

Part 1 – February 10th

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

Part 2 – February 17th

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

Part 3 – February 24th

- 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 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. 19th





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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

Gloves



Hive Tool



Spray Bottle



Smoker



Veil





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Tool Options Abound

Gloves



Hive Tool Options



Awesome Jacket



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.

Nitrile Gloves: Preserves some touch and keeps hands clean.

Consider whether you really need them.





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Introduction to Beekeeping

The Hive

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.



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.



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

16317 Hazel Valley Rd
Fayetteville, AR



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The Langstroth Hive

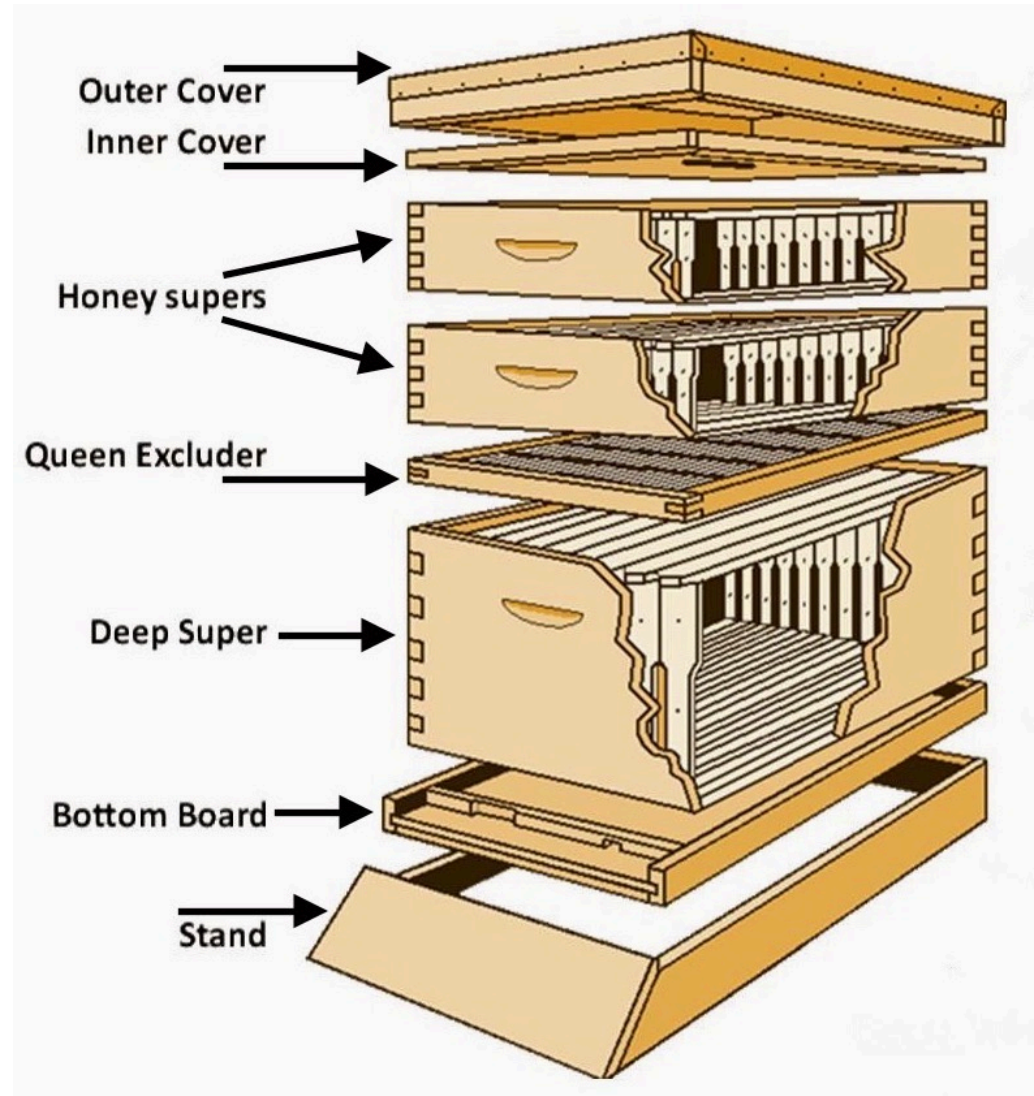
L.L. Langstroth is considered “the father of modern beekeeping.” Inventor of the Langstroth hive that the majority of beekeepers use today. The main principals are the use of “bee-space” and the ability to move parts within the hive without destroying it.





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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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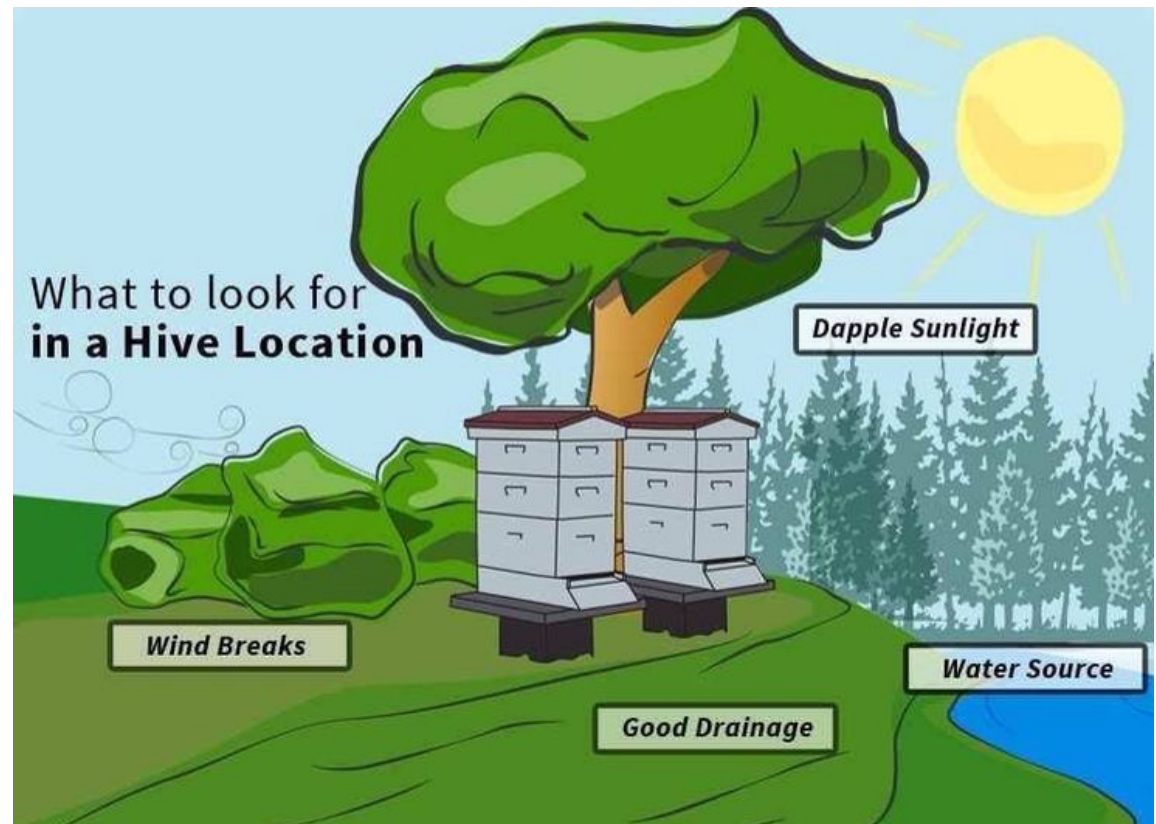
Hive Placement

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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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

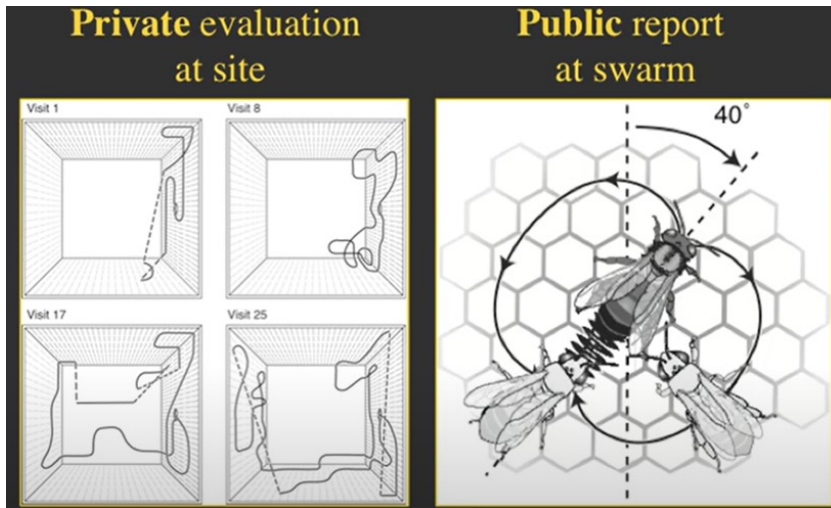
- Dr. Leo Sharashkin (*Natural Ozarks Beekeeper*)
 - www.horizontalhive.com
- Dr. Tom Seeley (*Cornell Professor*)
 - Honeybee Democracy
 - Lives of Honeybees, and more!



High entrance: > 15 feet
Small entrance: < 3 sq. in.



Spacious cavity: 10 gallons
Sturdy cavity walls: live tree





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Swarms Traps

- Swarm Traps
 - DIY – Plans online.
 - Commercial Options
 - Careful with round traps
- Lures
 - Leamon Grass 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

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

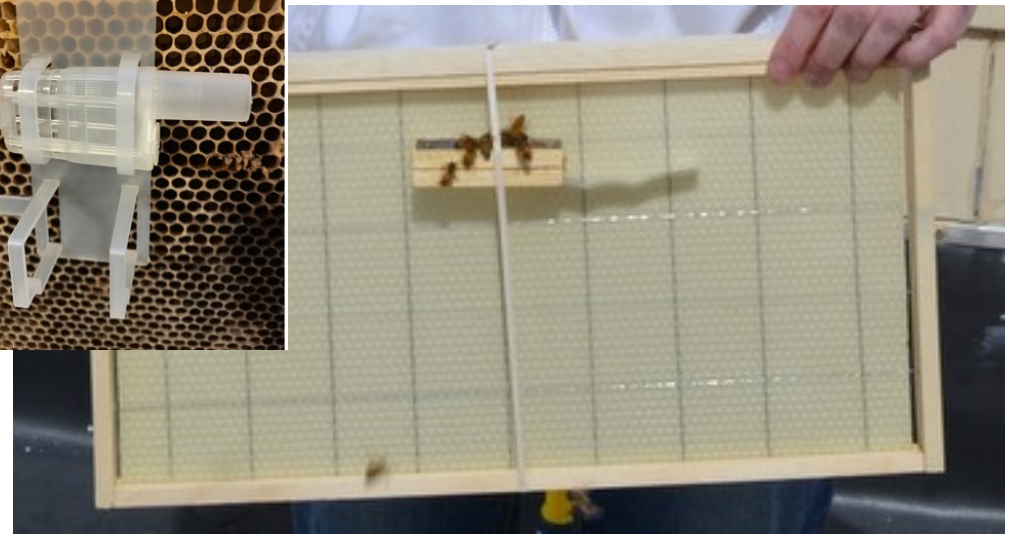
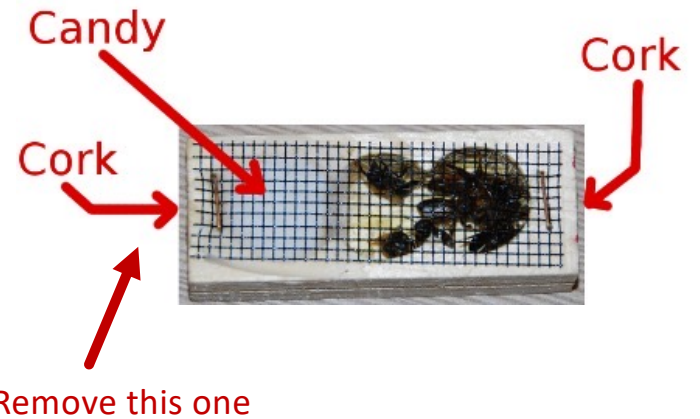




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Installing Package Bees (continued)

- 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