

Beekeeper Brainstorm

Question 1

What topics would you like HABA to cover during upcoming regular meetings?

- different bee varieties (russians vs carnelians, italians, etc)
- what to plant (flowers, trees, grass)
- different styles of beehives
- when possible, “entry level” followed by “more advanced” information
- beekeeping season—what comes next?
- how bees are bred to create new strains
- Lesson from Brother Adam
- Queen rearing / genetics / bee life cycle
- Pollen identification and nectar flow times
- How to become a “bee” advocate in your community
- start a hive (how)
- queen raising
- stop swarming
- how long to feed bees and when
- hive beetle control
- where do you get equipment & supplies
- how to get or catch a swarm
- different kinds of bees & best behavior
- how do you know they are doing well during the winter without opening the hive?
- what to do with wax and how to render it
- candle making
- lotion making

- beekeeping gadgets
- different types of hives
- race of honeybees—russians, etc.
- hands on topics (for example: actually show or demonstrate how to treat of varroa mites)
- have a member tell their own experiences
- splitting in spring / when to make splits
- combining hives
- start nucs
- mites
- mead
- decorating hives
- plants
- health benefits
- protective clothing
- research on most effective treatments
- equipment
- types of protective clothing
- technology - weight, sound, temp
- shared info
- “new” ideas on the horizon
- construction techniques
- overwintering in this area - lower michigan
- making splits in spring
- catching swarm - active & passive
- starting with a package

- starting with a nuc
- fall preparation
- winterization methods that work
- marketing for selling honey products
- asking people if we are interested in being guest speakers at schools K-12 to educate the public
- building (from scratch) a hive & all its parts - including upper hive entrance - feeders - etc
- introduce different hive designs with actual examples of non-langstroth hives & and how they are used. Also the pros & cons of different hives.
- demonstration hives - how to build - have one for people to see (full of bees)
- dealing with wildlife problems with hive communities (apiaries)
- queen rearing
- maximizing comb drawing
- timing & methods to keep brood out of supers without excluder
- honey supers! timing & how/when to add or remove
- winterizing
- Randy Oliver studies/experiments - oxalic acid (vapor & dribble) treatments & how we can apply to our apiaries
- varietal honey - best ways to obtain
- pollen collection & uses
- propolis collection & uses
- screen vs non-screened bottom boards
- wax products
- new regulation on antibiotics for bees
- winterizing - sorting through the vast #'s of recommendations - what is important?
- bee candy...recipes, how to put in, how much

- hive check schedule
- when to split - how, why, what to look for
- treating for mites
- hive splits
- hive protection
- frame inspections & interpretation / disease recognition
- flow hive, really interesting new system, specially for new beekeeper (I can bring mine)

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