

July 2024



**The Miami Valley
Beekeepers Association
Newsletter**

July Speaker

Lance Alexander

Four Leaf Honey Farm

Topic

**7 Situations to
Consider Moving
Frames/Resources
Between Hives**

Zoom link provided in email

Next Meeting:

July 1 (Mon)

6:30 PM at the

Tipp City Public Library

or Zoom

Editor: Erica Adler

Common Beekeeping Rules Explained

At the June meeting I mentioned the “7/10 rule” regarding when to add another super. Afterwards I received a question about this which made me do some additional research and re-visit some beekeeping “rules”.

7/10 Rule

This rule helps a beekeeper know when to add more space to a hive, either honey supers or brood boxes. You may think that more space is always better, but this can actually be detrimental to a hive because the extra space affects temperature and humidity regulation needed by the colony. Also, bees tend to move up before moving out, so extra space can result in a “tower” up the middle of a hive instead of spreading out to the edges, so knowing when to add boxes is an important beekeeping skill.

The concept is this: the proper time to add a super is when bees have covered 7 of the 10 frames in an existing box. This is fairly easy when dealing with honey supers - during an inspection, count how many frames have drawn comb, stored nectar, and/or capped honey. To know when to add a brood box, count the frames with brood, pollen, and honey. I’ve seen the rule be 80% for brood boxes, but 70% (7/10) is probably just fine.

NOTE: If you are running 8-frame equipment, 70% is 5½ - 6 frames.

source: <https://wildflowermeadows.com/2021/04/when-to-add-a-super-to-a-beehive>

3 Feet or 3 Miles

When moving bees, the adage is to either move them a maximum of 3 feet a day *OR* 3 miles. Why the huge difference? It’s because foragers orient on their hive so they can return to its exact location, even in a crowded apiary. Moving it 3 miles (or more) forces the foragers into an entirely new environment. If you have the means and the resources, you can temporarily move a hive 3 miles, leave it there for a few weeks, and then move it back as a way to relocate a hive somewhere within an apiary. The new location forces the foragers to re-orient to their new location. Any new foragers don’t know any different, so everything should be back to normal in a few weeks.

When moving only 3 feet, the returning foragers can smell their home and will adjust to the small location changes. Moving a hive more than this within an apiary will most likely result in confused foragers that hang out in the hive’s old location. Eventually they may go to a different hive, but this can have a negative effect on the moved hive’s population. If you cannot move a hive 3 miles, there are other tricks & techniques that can be used to force re-orientation (see source below).

Personally, I’ve done the 3 feet per day approach by putting the hive on a horizontal moving dolly. After dark I would go out and move the dolly a few feet until it was in the new location. It was slow (several weeks), but it seemed to work.

source: <https://www.betterbee.com/instructions-and-resources/how-to-move-bee-colonies.asp>

Happy Beekeeping!

MVBA Meeting Minutes: June 3, 2024

Donna Meade, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Jeff Adler, MVBA President.

New members and visitors were given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

Reminder to pay your annual dues (\$20) to Brian if not done so already.

Members can advertise in our monthly newsletter and on our website if desired. Sign up sheets available.

What should you be doing in your apiary now?

Continue to look for queen cells – signs of swarming if running out of space.

Decide and start implementing your Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – how to control varroa.

Remove honey supers when they are capped

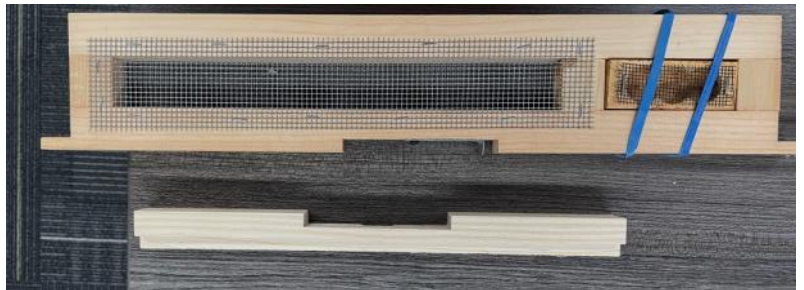
Provide space: 7/10 rule

Discussed the difference between swarming and orientation flights. Typically swarming flights happen in the morning and orientation flights in the afternoon. Orientation flights are figure 8's near the hive and widening circles higher up. Swarms are like tornados. Swarms are thousands of bees so it is quite noisy.

Brian Willis gave the Treasurer's report.

Jeff shared a few things he picked up at NAHBE (North American Honey Bee Expo).

Sometimes we have a problem sliding the entrance reducer into place. This one is notched so it slides in easily!



Another neat find was this Queen introduction cage.



Presentation by Dave Collins, MVBA Member at Large, owner of Merrie Lane Honey. Techniques for successful cut-outs and trap-outs. He explained why a trap-out is not usually a good idea.

Hot spots for honeybees to enter your home – transitions between siding and bricks, where mechanicals come into the house, any small or large opening into your dwelling.

Using technology to locate colony. A few very helpful tools are an infrared camera or a bore camera. A Bee Vac is sometimes used to remove the bees.

Once the colony is removed, keep the brood warm and relocate to a permanent yard. Fill the void left by the bees.

He provides honey and beekeeping supplies, swarm recovery and live bee removal. [Merrie Lane Honey / Ohio Honey and Beekeeping Supplier](#)



Checking Account		Total Holdings		Cash On Hand	
Beginning Balance Checking Acct June 2024	\$ 5,428.72	\$ 5,508.72	\$ 80.00	Beginning Balance June 2024	
Income				Income during Meeting	
			\$ 120.00	Member dues may/june	
Paypal Transfer	\$ -				
	\$ -				
	\$ -				
Total for Deposit	\$ -		\$ 120.00	Total meeting income (cash/checks received)	
Total Income		\$ 120.00			
Expenses					
	\$ -		\$ -		
	\$ -		\$ -		
Total Check Withdrawals/Debits	\$ -		\$ -	Total Cashbox Withdrawals	
Total Expenses		\$ -			
Cash xfer (Deposit from Cashbox)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Cash Xfer to lessen Cashbox contents	
Ending Checking Balance June 15 2024	\$ 5,428.72		\$ 200.00	Ending Cash Balance June 15 2024	
Monthly total Net change		\$ 120.00			
Previous month Net funds		\$ 5,508.72			
Sum balance should equal total holdings (Bank activity +/- Cash Activity)		\$ 5,628.72		This acts as a check to ensure activity = actual balances	
BA Total Holdings 15 June 2024 (Checking balance + Cash Balance)		\$ 5,628.72			

Get Your Gardens Ready for Blooms

Nectar Sources: Basswood (American Linden). Yellow Sweet Clover, White Sweet Clover, Milkweed, Mints, Bergamot, Loosestrifes, Vetches,

Nectar and Pollen: Catalpa, Bramble fruits, Roses, Coneflowers, Ohio Buckeye, Rubeckia, Thistles, Hyssops, Coreopsis, Caryopteris

Pollen: St. John's Wort

Want to know what is blooming in your area? Know what's blooming and you can plan your honey crop (or if you need to feed your girls)

<http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/>



July

- Remove comb honey supers when properly sealed
- Check for queen cells, especially in colonies used for queen rearing
- Add sufficient super space (undersuper)
- Remove and extract early season honey

The Basic Buzz In the Apiary

August

- Check colonies for disease and monitor/treat for mites
- Remove and extract summer honey crop
- Remove section supers
- Do not work bees unless necessary to avoid robbing
- Add more supers if needed
- Consider re-queening for a winter-ready hive



What is this day? On December 3, 2019, [DetroitHives.org](https://detroithives.org), a 501c3 non-profit organization, declared the 19th of July of each year as **National Urban Beekeeping Day**, a day of awareness to support urban beekeepers and the ethical treatment of pollinators living within urban-cities.

Other names for urban beekeeping are hobby beekeeping and backyard beekeeping.

At one time it was prohibited to keep bees in urban areas, but recent discoveries show that bees kept in the city are healthier than those kept in the country and that bees provide economic and environmental value.

This day was created to inform the public on the role of urban beekeeping and the importance of pollinators living within our communities. **National Urban Beekeeping Day** is celebrated by raising awareness on bee diversity, the importance of urban pollinators, and informing inner-city residents of urban beekeeping events throughout the United States.

<https://www.nationaldayarchives.com/day/national-urban-beekeeping-day/>

Spelling Bee

from the New York Times

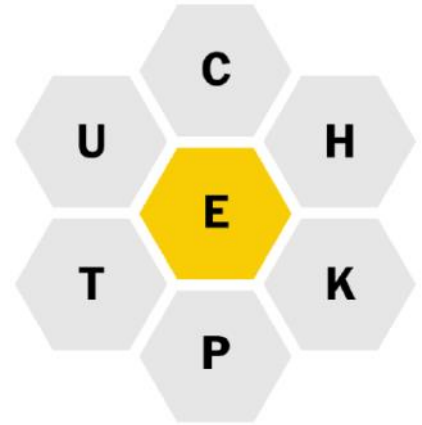
How many lowercase English words, of four letters or more, can you find in each puzzle?

Letters can be used more than once, though each word must include the center letter.

Each puzzle has at least one word that uses all seven letters — a “pangram” — which is worth three points. All other words are worth one point.

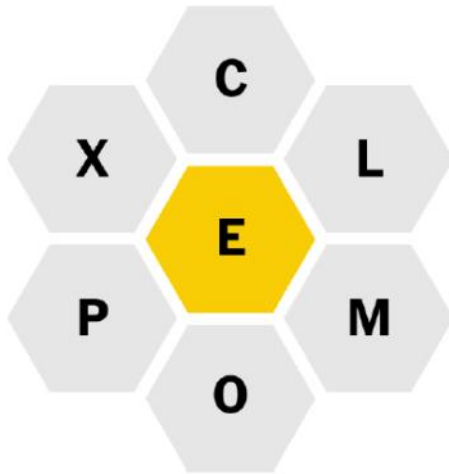
Each puzzle lists the answers and point totals for “Good,” “Excellent”, and “Genius” ratings.

#1: Easy



Rating: 6 = Good; 12 = Excellent; 18 = Genius

#2: Easy-Medium



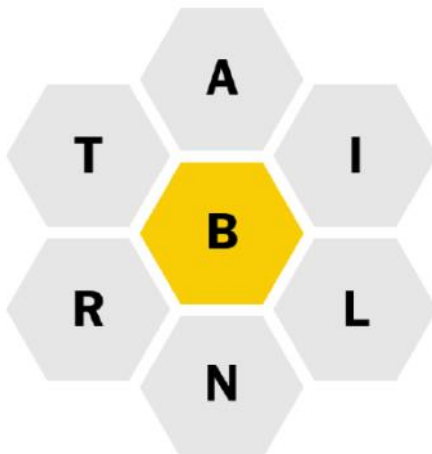
Rating: 6 = Good; 13 = Excellent; 20 = Genius

#3: Medium



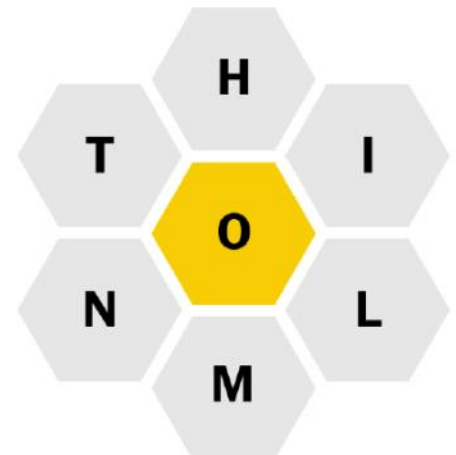
Rating: 7 = Good; 14 = Excellent; 21 = Genius

#4: Medium-Hard



Rating: 8 = Good; 14 = Excellent; 20 = Genius

#5: Hard



Rating: 10 = Good; 20 = Excellent; 30 = Genius