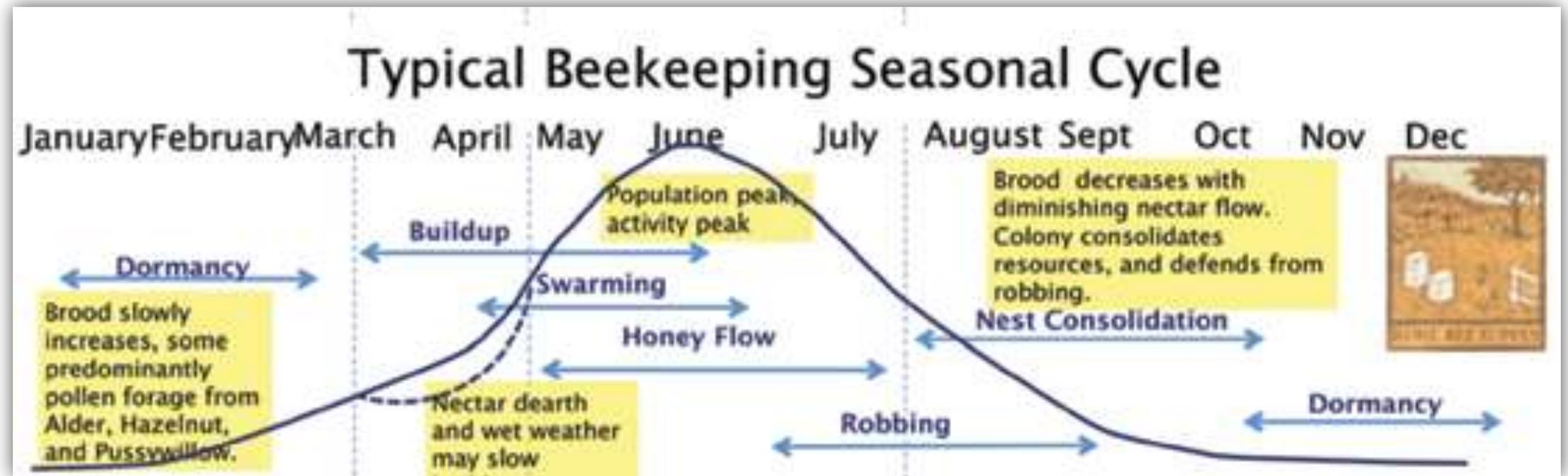




# ROGUE VALLEY BEE SEASON

Sarah Red-Laird





**“Beekeeping is Local”**

**What are Your Beekeeping Goals?**

**There is no “Beekeeping Calendar”**

# EARLY SPRING MANAGEMENT



## Time to bring your hives out of winter

First inspection: warm, sunny, dry, calm winds.

Start at the top, work to the bottom: scrape lid, burr comb, inspect frames, clean bottom board.

Mite roll!

Feed (2:1) / pollen? Reverse boxes? New foundation? Requeen? Split? Amend weaker hives w/ stronger ones? (swarm management)

Watch out for wax moths!

Be aware of inclement weather // starvation

# EARLY SPRING MANAGEMENT



## **What is your Varroa strategy?**

Denial and neglect are not good management strategies.

## **Why have a strategy to control mites/pathogens?**

Honey production

Queen longevity

Ability to over winter

Bees are animals

Be good bee neighbors

# SPRING MANAGEMENT



## Be Ready for the Nectar Flow

Population and activity peak @ summer solstice.

Inspections focus on queen right colonies.

Continue to monitor mites, think about honey flow.

Continued swarm management (know the difference with your queen cells)

Super when: the bees lose interest in syrup, the bees have zero robbing tendencies, and you see a new film of white wax.

Bees need water, too!

# SPRING MANAGEMENT ~ SWARMING



**Free Bees!** A swarm caught in May is worth a load of hay; a swarm caught June is worth a silver spoon; and a swarm caught in July ain't worth a fly.

**Bee prepared!**

- Swarm traps,
- Swarm box/kit in your car (box/bucket, drawn comb, honey frame, smoker, sugar water spritz, clippers)
- Don't leave your foragers!

# SPRING MANAGEMENT ~ SWARMING





# SWARM CELLS



# SUPERCE DURE CELLS

# SUMMER MANAGEMENT



## **Nectar Dearth // Honey Harvest**

Dearth was EARLY last year!

Pull supers off colonies that aren't producing  
~ consolidate.

Keep an eye out for laying workers.

If you have full supers, time, and good  
moisture content – spin and replace – don't  
give new foundation.

Alternative to “spinning” – cut comb.

End of the month, robbing will start. Work  
fast, early, late, bring a wet sheet.

# SUMMER MANAGEMENT



## **Time to get ready for winter!!**

Pull honey supers, feed (2:1) if no nectar flow.

Extract and bottle asap (moisture, moths, crystalizing)

Do a mite roll ~ look for issues on adult bees and in brood cells.

Mix up your mite treatment from the spring.

Winter in two deeps ~ encourage bees to have 60 pounds of honey going into the winter.

**WATER!!!!** (drip hose, bird bath, kiddie pool)

# FALL MANAGEMENT



## **Continue winter preparations**

Feed (2:1) if not heavy enough.

Once temps drop to freezing – hands off!

Make sure hives have good ventilation – cold doesn't kill bees, wet does.

An ideal winter yard is protected from wind and pockets of cold air, and exposed to the sun. Face hive entrances towards the sun and away from prevailing wind. Tilt hives so water drains away from the entrances.

Go to the BEEKEEPERS BALL!!! (date tbt)

# WINTER MANAGEMENT



## Winter Management

Heft hives // If you feed ~ make sure honey is above the cluster

Emergency feed ~ make candy!

Do you have the right kind of bees for our winter?

To wrap or not to wrap?

VENT!! Sawdust // Drivert

Keep thinking about mites // sticky boards (25 mites) // oxalic acid

Build frames, hives, etc.

# WINTER MANAGEMENT



## **Ingredients**

- 3 oz - pear brandy
- 1 tablespoon - Buckwheat honey
- 3/4 pint glass - hot citrus-spiced tea, or other brewed tea
- 1 - orange slice



## **Winter Warmers**

Enjoy tea with your honey!

Make hot buttered rum and hot toddys with your honey!

Make candles for your friends, family, and neighbors.

Catch up on your bee magazines, read a bee book.

Attend the ABF conference.

Place your orders for nucs and queens.

# THE NEW YEAR



## **Bees start getting ready for summer at winter solstice**

Take a warm day, do a mite roll!

Be careful not to feed pollen sub too early and exhaust winter stores.

Be careful not to put on syrup too early and chill the bees!

Make bee candy

Nosema?

**LOVE YOUR BEES!**





# TAKE AWAYS

There is no failsafe “bee calendar”

What is your Varroa strategy? Denial and neglect are not good management strategies.

Strong, well-nourished, low stressed hives.

Don't be part of the problem – wash your hands and clean your equipment

Monitor for Varroa all season – have a plan

Throw out suspect brood frames (a new frame is about \$3)

Re-queen (especially with hygienic)

If you are not sure what you are dealing with-ask an expert – Mentor, Extension, USDA lab

Strong, healthy hives

# Not Tired of Bee Learnin' ?

Spring Beehive Management: May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, Apiary Day 16<sup>th</sup>

[www.beegirl.org](http://www.beegirl.org)





THANK YOU | QUESTIONS?