

Theo's March Beekeeping Workshop

March 14, 10am-noon 2015

Spring Check

On a nice sunny day in March, you may check your beehive.

Preparation:

A clean floor board to replace the old one

A scraper or brush

A hive tool

Your veil & smoker

Lift hive off floor board and place on new floor board. Read the old floor board- debris will tell you where the cluster sits - if there is a dead mouse, if bees are starving, if there is nosema.

Now lift cover and inner cover and smoke bees down.

Remove outside frame, so you can make room to pull the center frame for a brood check. On a healthy colony there should be brood.

If center sits to one side you can move it more to the center.

*Also with the center sitting to one side, it could sit on empty frames with the feed frames sitting on the other side.

In that case, place feed frames to the outside of pollen frame. If there are no extra feed frames some can be taken from a colony that has a surplus of feed.

Now you can add a pollen patty if you wish and also liquid syrup (preferably luke warm).

Close hive as quickly as possible and replace entrance reducer.

In 10 days to 2 weeks you may feed again without taking colony apart.

In a month's time, you may assess colony again to see if it needs a second box.

Next workshop is April 11th with brood and mite check.