

Spring Management

The David Clark Way

March 13, 2021

How I Transition Bees to Spring

- Winter inspections are quick checks
- First major inspection is **March 17**, if above **50°F**
- Inspection Goals
 - Identify strong colonies to split before they swarm
 - Assess Density of bees
 - Count Frames of brood (which will be bees shortly!)
 - Reset Woodenware
 - Clean
 - Arrange to maximize population growth and honey production
- This has worked for years with my hives.

Winterized hive



- Insulated on November 1 with $\frac{3}{4}$ " foamboard insulation from Lowes
- Can use bungee cords, or zip ties to hold in place.

First Things First



- Remove the insulation from the hive, and set aside.
- Have an empty spare hive body ready
- Remove hive body around feeder

NEXT:

Winter feedings change to 1:1 once temperatures go above 32°F. This is a Kelly Beekeeping Round Feeder



NO bees drowning, no exposure to
moisture from liquid feed



Remove the feeder and the inner cover





In top box:
Loosen each
end of frames



Continue
until all
frames are
loose.



Remove the small hive beetle traps



Clean the top of all frames.
Get everything off you can.



When top bars are clean,
remove frames one at a time



Check each frame for the queen





Capture the Queen



Set her aside in a safe location



Inspect your frames. Remember there are sometimes second queens in the hive.



Remove and clean
both sides of each frame.





Remove all burr comb





Once a frame is are clean, set it aside



Clean the frame rest shelf as you go



Look at lower frames as you go,
to understand overall hive condition



When the box is fully done, put the frames back into the box. Set the box aside where you will NOT trip over it.



This exposes the lower box.



This exposes the lower box.



Reverse brood boxes



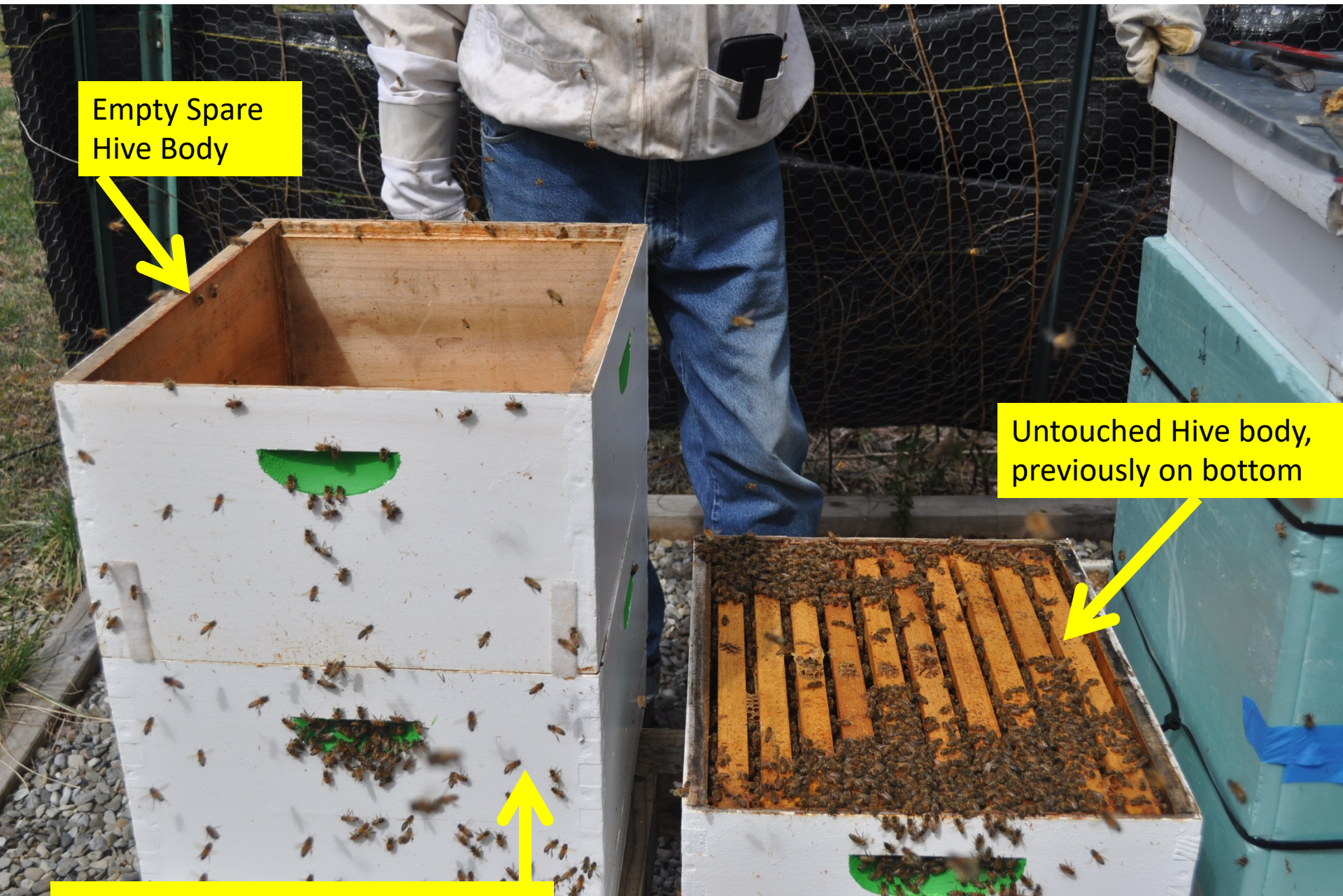
Use a spare hive body as a new 'second' box.



Empty Spare
Hive Body

Untouched Hive body,
previously on bottom

Inspected and cleaned first hive
body (previously on top)





Clean each frame and move
it into the spare hive body

Reinstall Queen. Let her gently walk out gently.



Install new small hive beetle trap in top box.
Replace inner cover & feeder and close your hive.



Start on your next hive



Protecting Woodenware Investment

- The hives you saw were built 7-8 years ago.
- They have been maintained well.
- The old bottom box will now go to the shop to be cleaned, sanded and repainted for next year.
- This extends the life of your hive bodies beyond the normal 4-5 years.

Dave Clark's Calendar

March 17 First Major Hive Inspections: Get condition of hive.

- If it is low on bees, **leave** alone.
- Medium sized, **check** in three weeks.
- Full of bees, **split** in April once drone cells are capped and drones on comb

April 1-30 Split packed hives

- Wait till drones have emerged
- Leave queens in main hive | Transfer young larvae to nucleus hive
- By end of April: if the old queen is weak, recombine nuc with original hive. Otherwise, keep or sell nuc.

April 15 Add Honey Supers to Main Hive

- Add supers one at a time (Use drawn comb if available)

May 1 – Check-Up

- Check honey supers – decide whether to add another honey super
- Check brood boxes for queen cells (swarm cells). The balancing act is between giving them room to grow but not too much space.

Inspect every week for swarm control all the way through the middle of June

Thank you for your attention

Questions?

