



**Welcome to the HIVE!**

**November 2021**

**The Beekeepers Association of Central Arizona**  
**(azbeekeepers.org)**

**NEXT MEETING**

**This Thursday, November 18, 2020**

**7:00 pm Valley Garden Club**  
**1809 N. 15th Ave. , Phoenix, AZ 85007**

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**Guest Speaker**

**Duane Combs**

***Who will be doing a presentation on Electronic Hive Monitoring***

***which you DON'T want to miss!***

***Doors open at 6:45pm – BEE THERE!!!***



***A note from President Joc;***

***Thanks to everyone for the great attendance and participation in our monthly meetings and raffles. The proceeds for the raffles are being added to the club's general fund to help support bringing outside speakers to our meetings. Thanks for your support, and definitely send me any great ideas you have for future speakers and general ideas for helping BACA continue to be successful in helping all our beekeepers. (joc@bridlepathbeeyard.com)***



***Did you know that BEES are the only insect on the planet that provide FOOD for humans? (Excepting chocolate covered grasshoppers and those scorpions they stick in drinks, but who eats THAT stuff?!)***

### **Just how is a bee hive organized and who does what?**

**Like a BIG family, every bee is needed and has it's own "chores". Read on to see what all the bees do to keep a hive running...**

**\* It's the GIRLS who do all the work and the BOYS who have all the fun!\***

**The girls grow up to be "WORKERS, WARRIORS, GUARDS, NURSEMAIDS and MAINTENANCE CREW, etc.," and the boys grow up to be "DRONES", or in other words, they don't do anything except sit around all day and play video games in the Queen's basement. However, once winter comes around, the girls get back at their brothers by ousting them out into the snow, just so they don't have to keep cooking for them. Since a hive is headed up by a QUEEN, she makes the girls go out and work and lets the boys hang around just in case she needs more babies. But then, we don't really want to go there, do we?**

**Functioning as a unit, bees produce a workforce capable of pollinating thousands of acres of flowering plants, producing upwards of 100 pounds of honey per year and continuously rearing more bees to replace those lost throughout the season. When you understand just how hard honey bees work, the phrase "busy as a bee" begins to take on new meaning!**

**If you're a GIRL BEE, below is a list of all the available career choices.....**

#### **1. Nurse and House Bee**

**Upon hatching, each fledgling bee immediately cleans out its hatching cell to prepare it for the next egg. (WOW! A self-cleaning baby!!) Its first duty as a working member of the hive is to care for the young: As a nurse, a young bee will feed the brood, the collective term for honey-bee young, pupae and larvae.**

#### **2. Undertaker**

**Honey bees are sticklers for cleanliness. With so many live bodies coming and going from the hive, there are sure to be a few dead ones. Undertaker bees are responsible for carrying out the hive's dead, cleaning up body parts and removing other debris.**

#### **3. Architect**

**As a young bee ages, its wax glands mature. When it begins to secrete wax, it's able to build comb. Wax-producing bees are also required to cap pupae and ripen honey cells. Bees in this category repair damaged comb and fill cracks in the hive with propolis, a sticky substance bees collect from tree resin.**

#### **4. Cleaners, Organizers and Honey Makers**

*Some female bees are tasked with the duty of cleaning their sisters in the hive and tending to others when they return from foraging trips. These workers remain in the hive to collect pollen and nectar from returning bees, packing it into cells and putting it away for later. Some of these same bees might be put on “honey” duty. Raw nectar requires digestive enzymes from select worker bees, as well as diligent fanning to reduce moisture and create honey.*

#### **5. Queen’s Attendants**

*Not many worker bees get this prestigious status. The queen is so busy in her own duties that she’s unable to groom or feed herself. For this, she enlists a dozen or so attendant bees. These workers care for the queen as she goes about the hive.*

#### **6. Forager**

*Don’t be fooled: Every role in the hive is critically important to its success and survival, but forager bees receive the most press and the most prestige. This is because the result of foraging—pollination—is one of the hive’s byproducts that we humans benefit from the most (the other being honey production, of course).*

*When a worker bee matures, she develops a working stinger stocked with venom. At this point, she may leave the hive and become a forager bee. Foragers are the breadwinners of the family: They’re tasked with scouring a 3-mile radius from the hive for suitable nectar and pollen. Once her belly and pollen baskets are filled to the brim, a forager will return to the hive to drop off her bounty with one of her sisters. Then she leaves again and starts over, continuing this cycle as long as the sun shines. This work, flying hundreds of miles per day, will eventually leave her wings torn and tattered. Foraging is one of the last duties a worker bee will perform: She will work until she collapses from exhaustion. (Sound familiar, housewives?!)*

#### **7. Guard**

*The “Guard Bee Force” is the local police department. The role of a guard bee is one of the few that requires a worker to develop a mature stinger. As a guard, a bee stands watch over any of the hive’s entrances—there can be more than one—to keep intruders out as necessary. Guards allow foragers from the hive to enter, but keep everyone else out: bumblebees, wasps, honey bees from other hives and yes, YOU. If you’re ever stung walking up to a honey-bee hive, it’s likely a guard giving you a warning; You may wish to think twice.*

## 8. Queen

*The queen's job is crucial: She ensures the future population of the entire hive. She lays up to 2,000 eggs per day, choosing where to lay them and how many of each type (worker or drone eggs) to produce. For the majority of her life, she's sequestered to the hive, only leaving with a swarm of bees for relocation or on her mating flight as a young virgin queen. Unlike a worker bee, which may live for three to six weeks during the summer or several months over the winter, a queen bee can live between two and five years.*

*And for the GUYS...*

## 9. Drones

*Drones have earned themselves a bad reputation. These male bees are often seen as lazy, hungry and fat members of the hive that mooch off of their sisters' hard work and produce very little in return. There is a bit of truth to this: Drones don't carry their weight in the hive. They don't make honey but they do eat it; they don't protect the hive or the queen; and they don't help rear the young. They are basically useless in the hive. Their job is outside of the hive, to mate with neighboring queens, start wars with other hives and spread healthy genes (!!)*

*It may seem like an easy job (and let's be honest, it is!), but it's no less important than what the ladies do. For the greater survival of the species, healthy drones are critically important. Their population, a mere 500 or so, peaks in spring and early summer, when mating occurs. Some drones may hang around in the hive through the summer, but any drones left over in the hive come autumn are kicked out by their sisters. The harsh reality is that every hand is needed for winter's survival, and stores of honey are too precious to waste on drones whose contributions have ended for the year.*

*(Thanks to Heidi Strawn of "Hobby Farms" for this informative article!)*

*If you love sculpture and fine art,  
just leave the frames out of your hive box  
to get something like THIS →*

*(And if you have an interesting article or topic to share,  
contact; Kat Moody at [be.a.light12@gmail.com](mailto:be.a.light12@gmail.com) to share!)*

**A beekeeper forgot to put a frame in the box and this is what they made after one week**

