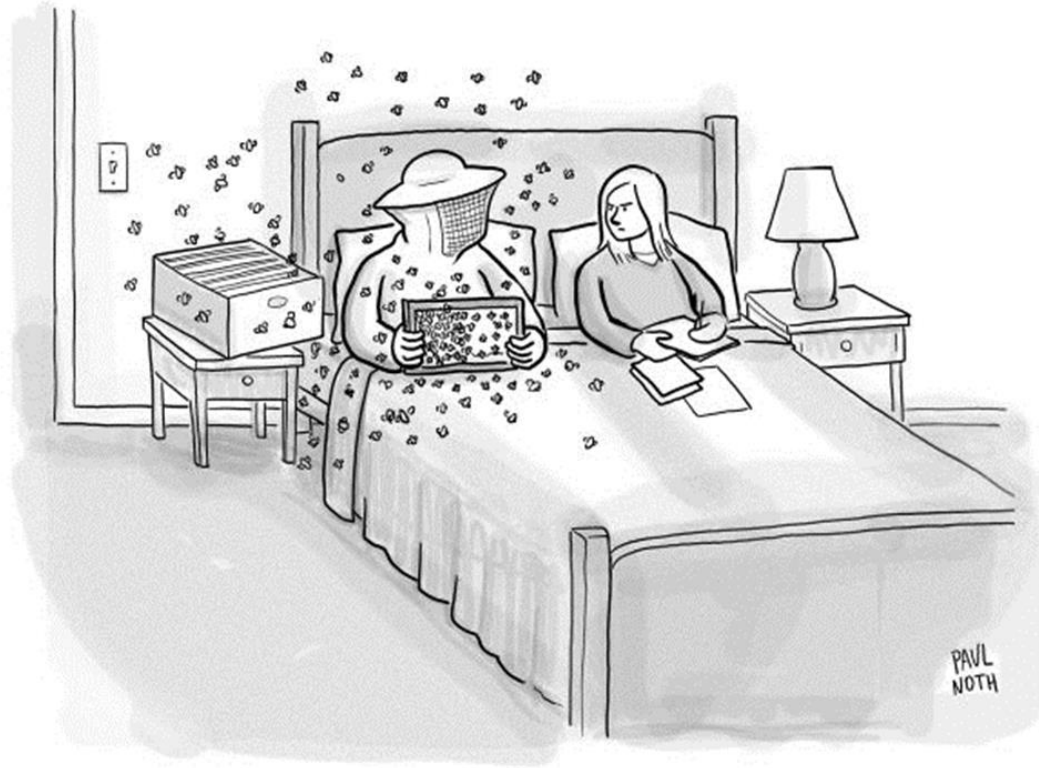


Beekeeping with Nucs



“Oh, but it’s fine for you to grade papers?”

How to Get Bees

Four ways for a beginning beekeeper to acquire bees

- Buy an existing hive
- Get a swarm
- Buy a three-pound package of bees
- Buy a nucleus hive (nuc)

What is a Nuc

- Short for “nucleus colony”
- Regular colony in miniature, typically 2-5 frames
- Usually a few thousand bees and a queen
- Has same food and medication requirements as full-sized colony
- Requires more intensive management

Configurations

- 5-frame commonly sold by bee supply companies
- Can be as small as 2 or 3 frames
- Usually sized for deep frames but mediums possible
- Mating nucs are often smaller, with half-length or smaller frames
- 10-frame or 8-frame boxes can be divided into two or three nucs
- Commercial nucleus colonies are often sold in cardboard nuc boxes
- Avoid Styrofoam boxes

Purchased Nuc



A purchased nuc comes either in a cardboard hive or in a wooden hive, typically with five frames of bees. In the latter case the hive is returned to the supplier after the frames are removed.









Uses of Nucleus Colonies and Nuc Boxes - 1

- As a starter colony instead of a package of bees
- As a resource to supplement regular colonies
 - Brood and bees
 - Queen
 - Frames of honey and pollen
 - A place for bees to build new comb
- Making splits
 - For increase
 - To mitigate swarming

Uses of Nucleus Colonies and Nuc Boxes - 2

- Requeening
- Hiving smaller swarms
 - Easy to move
 - A place for bees to build new comb
- Moving bees
 - When buying a nuc of bees
 - Moving brood
- A small queen bank to store a few queens

Uses of Nucleus Colonies and Nuc Boxes - 3

- Honing beekeeping skills
 - Finding the queen
 - Seeing eggs
 - Working the hive
- In the beeyard
 - Place to sit
 - Tool box
 - Holding a frame with the queen on it

Uses of Nucleus Colonies and Nuc Boxes - 4

- Moving frames of honey pulled from hive
- Bait hives
- Overwintering small colonies
- Queen rearing
 - Starter colonies
 - Mating nucs
- Selling bees



Installation of a Nuc

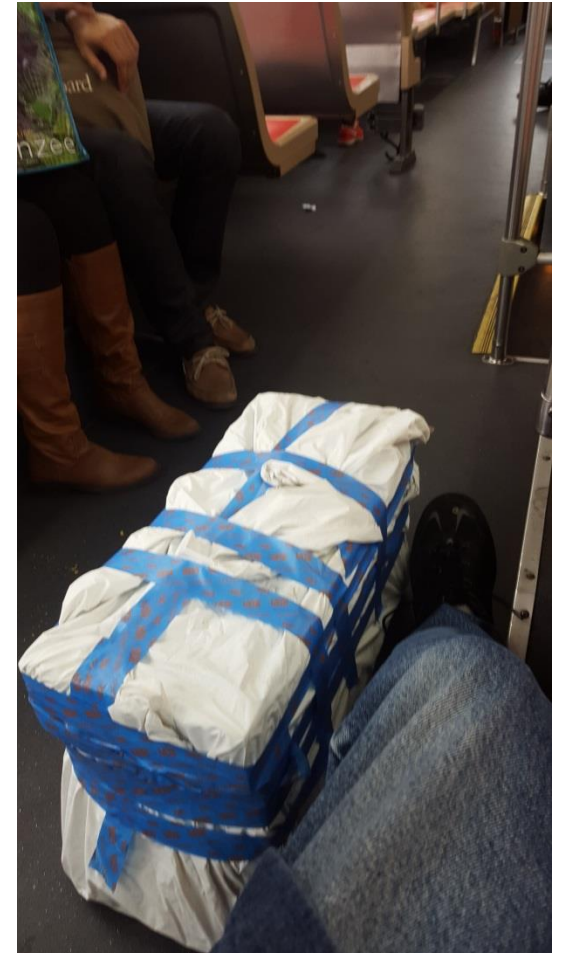
- Remove 6 or 7 frames from the deep hive body into which you will install the nuc.
- Move all the frames from the nuc box to the hive body.
- Reinstall frames to avoid any gaps.
- Add sugar syrup via feeder.
- Close hive body.
- Check the hive in about a week.

After About a Week Check to see if Queen is laying

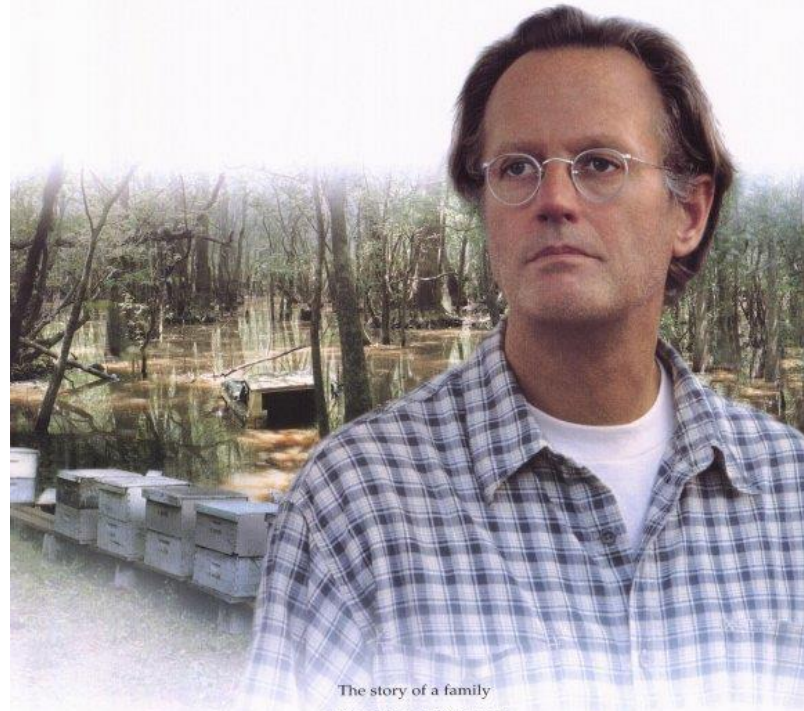


- Work carefully use minimum smoke,
- Queen is usually in the center of the bee cluster
- If you see eggs then you know the queen is there
- Eggs are hard to see. To help wear a pair of drugstore reading glasses

Nucs in San Francisco



PETER FONDA



The story of a family
on the edge, and the man
who brought them back.



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ORION

In Closing

Stay together

Learn the flowers

Go light

-- Gary Snyder