The LAAZY Hive

A-Z Style Hives
From Langstroth Components

Presented by
Jeannie Saum
Groveport, Ohio

Funded by a grant from NC-SARE
Cradle of Beekeeping
AZ Bee Houses
...or this.
Design - Same components as Langstroth

- Fixed size
- Outer back door
- Inner screen doors on boxes
Box Interior

- Frames slide on metal rods
- Solid, slotted or queen excluder dividers
Inside Design

- Ventilation flaps
- Screened bottom board
- Metal frame spacers
- Screened doors
- Feeding slots
Inside Building

• Rear door - access to the frames on all levels

• Can sit or stand

• Disturb only one frame at time
Outside

- Opening at each level
- Closeable
- Paint only front
- Usually folk art
Advantages of the AZ Hive

- In building, vehicle or shelter
- Stacked, side-by-side
- Building heat / AC
- Sit or stand, behind
- No lifting
- Less disruptive to bees
- Minimal smoke
- Feed inside
- Easy to combine
Disadvantages of the AZ Hive

- Fixed size
- Swarming
- Manage by splitting
- Propolis
- Longer tool needed
- Frequent inspections
Beekeeping in Slovenia

Slovenia - 25 beekeepers for every 5,000 people
USA - 1 beekeeper for every 5,000 people

- Govt. support, regulation, treatments
- Carniolans only
- World Bee Day
- Plant only nectar producing flowers
Apitourism

- Honey, propolis, beeswax, pollen, venom harvested
Honey Massage
Sleep in the Bee House
MEAD MUSEUM

THE WEEK OF SLOVENIAN MEAD

October 10th-14th 2017
Hive-Air Treatment
Honeycomb Accommodations
Success in Slovenia

• NO colony collapse
• NO massive colony loses
• Government support helps
Success in Slovenia

- Beekeeping taught - elementary schools
Resources

A – Z Beekeeping with the Slovenian Hive
by Janko Botzic

Beekeeping Manual for Disabled People
https://azhivesnorthamerica.com/
Resources for AZ Hives

DrebbievilleHives.com
Resources for AZ Hives

http://bee.stevenpankratz.com/
or Steve4bees.us

33 frame
TexAZ Hive
Motivation — when life gets in the way of Beekeeping

- Health issues
- Aging
- Physical Limitations
- AZ Style Hives
U.S. made AZ hives?

TOO EXPENSIVE!

Have tons of Langstroth Equipment

There’s Gotta Be A Way!
NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Program

~2018 Call for Proposals~
Farmer Rancher Sustainable Agriculture Grants
Birth of the LAAZY Hive

Economic Modification of Langstroth to AZ-Style Hives to Enable Aging or Physically Limited Beekeepers to Continue/Begin Beekeeping; Enhance Hive Care; and Improve Colony Health and Production

Funded by a grant from NC - SARE
Langstroth Adapted to AZ Hive for You

Langstroth Components

3 dividers –
1 solid inner cover
1 framed queen excluder
1 slotted inner cover

2 deeps

2 mediums

Screened bottom board
Additional Lumber ~ $43.00

1 x 4” – front verticals
1 x 6” - back verticals
1 x 4’ – back door
½” plywood – top
3/8” x 1” lath – upper box rims
Popsicle sticks – temp. spacers
1 x 2” – box doors
Metal Rods
Metal screen
Additional Supplies

Metal Frame spacers - 8
Door hinges - 2
Door hasp
8 eye screws - pulls
8 Hanger Bolts – doors
8 Wing nuts
Screws, nails

~ $36.00

TOTAL ~ $80
Components

Doors for boxes

Back Door for Hive

Hole
Add Screen

1.5”
1.5”
1.5”
1.5”
1.5”
Tools Needed

Need to have and be able to use:

• Hammer
• Drill – to drill and screw
• Circular saw or Miter saw
• Staple gun
Building the Prototype LAAZY Hive

Deep with back cut off & bottom board

Screwing on the uprights
Inner cover separators

Boxes screwed in place

Frame spacers on far front wall.
Stapling screen
Thin birch ply over cracks & rods
Inner screen doors on.

Swivel holders.

Add pieces on doors

Outer door on.
Build Day

Cutting 1x4”’s
Assembling frames
Readying boxes
Stapling screen

Stack complete

Attaching uprights to boxes
Routing door holes.

Putting stack together.

Old equipment into LAAZY Hives.
A Bee House – from an old trailer

Seeking a project camper...

Gutting the inside.

Framing the outside.
The Tiny House Look

Adding siding.
Roof and Trim
Painting
Cutting Opening for Hives

Benzes for hives

Cutting out the wall.
Putting Hives In
Inside View
Bee House Layout

- 5 Hives on bench
- Room for 5 more Hives
- 5 Hives on bench
- Door
- AC
- Elec. Box
- Lights
- Extractor
- Counter
- Sink
Moving into Place
New Home for BEE House
Beekeeping in the Saum’s Bee House

• Watch videos before installing
• Smoker
• Inspection
Installing Bees
Through the Doors

- Machete
- Propolis
- Survived winter
Issues Encountered

Design Flaws

Not as easy as it looks, once bees are in

Inspections

Suit issues

Stings
Modifying Process

Taking everything apart
Adding Back Bee Space

\(\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{3}{4}''\) square trim pine screen molding
Different Frame Spacers

Mounted differently
Door
Re-Design

Recut Doors
Overlap box edges
Door Attachment

Hanger Bolts

Wing Nuts

Holes
Feeder

Easy to do with hand power tools

Pop bottles
Box Preparation

- Back cut off
- Frame Spacers
- Trim on Rim
- Rods
Preparing Dividers

Inner covers

• One Solid

• Queen excluder

• 2 Slotted
Starting the Stack

- Uprights
  - 1 x 4”
  - 1 x 6”
- Box #1 - Deep
- Bottom Board
Adding Second Box

- Inner cover
- Popsicle sticks for ease
- Box 2 - deep
Adding Third Box

- Inner cover
- Popsicle sticks for ease
- Box 3 - medium
Adding Fourth Box – Covering Sides

• 1/8” plywood
• Covers cracks
• Rod holes
Divider Stops

- 3 Scraps of screen trim
- Keep dividers from sliding through
Add Ledge in Back

Screw between 1 x 6”s
Adding Top

- Plywood
- Not weather-proof
Box Doors

- Cut from ½” Plywood
- Overlaps edges
- Screen, Frame spacer
- 2 Holes to hang
Adding Hanger Bolts
Attaching Screen Doors
Adding Outer Door

- Level with top
- Strap Hinges
- Double hinged latch
Outdoor Shelter

• Front – bee entrance

• Shelter hives from weather
Outdoor Shelter Back

• Shade for beekeeper

• Sit or stand

• No AC!
THE LAAZY HIVE

Langstroth adapted to Az-style hive for you

Directions for converting your Langstroth components into an Az-style hive

Funded by a grant from NC-SARE

Part 1 - Background, hive drawings and materials list

*Note: if you are using hand held power tools, like we did, you may need to do minor adjustments and trimming, to make everything fit tightly. Measure, fit and adjust as you cut and build.
Beekeeping for the Differently-Abled

Thanks to the NC-SARE Grant