



The Black & Yellow

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Meet SCBA's VP. . . . Jimmy Carmack

When Jimmy Carmack is not working as a commercial beekeeper, he finds time to volunteer with being the 2013 Shelby County Beekeepers Association Vice President. He owns Carmack Farms in Odenville, Alabama. But along with his wearing many hats, finds time to give advice to new beekeepers, facilitate a honey tasting contest by checking for moisture content and more! Jimmy has several years of beekeeping experience as well as being a certified master beekeeper through the University of Georgia's Honey Bee Program. He also

has served as President of both the Jefferson County Beekeepers Association and the statewide Alabama Beekeepers Association. Jimmy became interested in bees as a child, he indicates that the bees were interesting and knew as he grew up was influenced by a local beekeeper. He explains that he bought his first book of bees from the Sears store downtown several years ago. But when he ordered his first package bees, that was when he fell in love with the process and never looked back. Ironically, Jimmy met his lovely bride Lindakaye at a state-wide beekeeping



Jimmy tests the honey for moisture content.

meeting and considers it a special match as the two have lived happily with bees together ever since. You may see Jimmy's honey stocked in stores, labeled "Pure Alabama Honey" throughout Birmingham and Highway 280.

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February SCBA Speaker, Lt. Don Williamson, Chelsea Fire & Rescue

Speaking to SCBA about bee stings this month was Lt. Don Williamson of the Chelsea Fire and Rescue. With many years of experience, he says it's a good idea to keep an EpiPen with you and one at your home just in case the next bee sting is the one where you discover you are allergic! Additionally, having an EpiPen available is a bonus if someone around you gets stung and they are allergic and was unaware of their allergies. He reminds us that the EpiPen can be obtained by a doctor's prescription and is based on age/weight. So, call your doctor or make an appointment if you have honeybees just in case.



Lt. Williamson says, "Never use tweezers to remove the barb from a honeybee sting by doing so only injects more of the venom which will make the effect last longer."

He is offering a "What to do in case.....CPR Class soon. If you would like to attend send us an email with CPR CLASS in the subject line. shelbycobeekers@gmail.com

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Beekeepers Check List for February & March

February-

__ Feed Bees to keep them alive during the cold winter month.

__ Early Spring splits must be considered.

__ You can order spring time package bees, nucs and queens on sites now. **The Bees.** The queen, still cozy in the cluster, will begin to lay a few more eggs each day. It is still "females only" in the hive. Workers will take cleansing flights on mild days. The bees will consume about 25 pounds of honey this month.

The Beekeeper. There is not too much to do this month. Attend bee club meetings, and get your equipment ready for spring.

Time Spent. Estimate less than one hour.

March-

__ Spring splits and installation of nucs begin to be an option for late month.

__ You can order spring time package bees, nucs and queens on sites but you will need to act quickly.

— You can install early ordered package bees this month. **The Bees.** This is the month when colonies can die of starvation. However, if you fed them plenty of

sugar syrup in the late autumn /winter, this should not happen. With the days growing longer, the queen steadily increases her rate of egg laying. More brood means more food consumed. The drones begin to appear. The bees will continue to consume honey stores. **The Beekeeper.** Early in the month, on a nice mild day, and when there is no wind and bees are flying, you can have a quick peek inside your hive. It's best not to remove the frames. Just have a look-see under the cover. If you do not see any sealed honey in the top frames, you may need to provide some emergency food (fondant or granulated sugar if cold temps prevail, syrup if the weather is mild). But remember, once you start, you should not stop until they are bringing in their own food supplies.

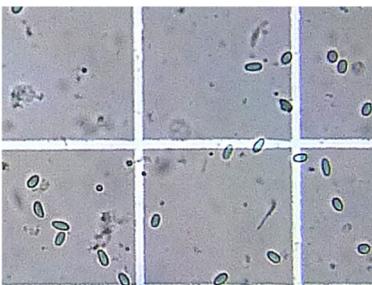
Time Spent. Estimate 2 hours this month. For the full 12 month plan follow link [here.](#)

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Nosema....What is it & why should I care?

Definition: *Nosema apis* & *Nosema ceranae* microsporidian, are small, single celled parasites affecting honey bees. They cause nosemosis, mainly known by the term nosema. Although parasitic, it is often thought of and talked about as a disease. A single spore can cause infection, but the mean infective dose is generally reported to be between 20 and 90 spores per bee. Source: [Dave Cushman website](#)

What are the symptoms of Nosema? The #1 symptom is dysentery. Other signs include: shorter life of worker bees, lack of industry in the colony, lower than normal propensity to sting, crawling bees, disjointed wings, distended abdomens and high propensity to supersede.



If you have a microscope....here's how to diagnose Nosema yourself. <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/sick-bees-part-13-simple-microscopy-of-nosema/>



Treatment? Fumigillin for both types of Nosema. Read what [Alabama Beekeepers Association](#) recommends for this treatment. Also, read the recommendation from [Brushy Mountain Bee Farm.](#)

Microscope Donated to SCBA!

Be sure to thank Wayne & Connie Atchison for donating a microscope. Now, we will be able to identify the Nosema spores that can infect our hives!

THANK YOU!



H'way 280, Next to Cowboy's as you go up Oak Mtn.

For more information:
Contact:
Margie Robertson, President 2013
205-672-9604

E-mail: shelbycobeekkeepers@gmail.com

Monthly Meeting, beginning Jan. 24, 2013
Senior Adult Center on Highway 36,
Chelsea, AL 35043
7-9pm

Where beekeepers get the knowledge
and share the knowledge.

Shelbybees.org



**Shelby County Beekeepers
Association**
SCBA
A Not-For-Profit
Organization

As a SCBA member, if you have hive equipment, package bees, nucs, queens, or local honey for sale, send us COMPLETE INFO. if you would like to add your name to our list.

Email: shelbycobeekkeepers@gmail.com

Honey Bee Plate
can be purchased at Etsey.com



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IMPORTANT Links and Dates:

2013 SCBA Sponsorships [Information](#)

Shelby County Beekeepers Association-SCBA [Brochure](#)

February 2013

Beginning Beekeeping Class. Ongoing...Thurs, Jan. 24—
March 7, 7-9pm. **Extended to March 14, 2013!**

March 2013

SCBA Monthly Meeting. Thurs, March., 7, 7-9pm. Guest
Speaker: Sallie Lee, Jefferson County Extension Center, talks
to us about Top Bar Hives.

2013 Beg. Beekeepers Graduation, Thurs., March 14, 7pm.

2-Day Class: Queen Rearing and Colony Splitting, Fri/Sat,
March 22-23, Contact: Jimmy Carmacke, pureala-
bamahoney@yahoo.com, Cell:205-966-5223, Cost: \$75, In-
cludes a delicious meal and a grafting kit.

April 2013

SCBA Monthly Meeting, Thurs, April., 4, 7-9pm. Guest
Speaker: TBA.

May 2013

SCBA Monthly Meeting, Thurs, May., 2, 7-9pm. Guest Speak-
er: TBA.

Spring/Summer SCBA Picnic

TBA, Volunteers needed.

September 2013

Fall SCBA Booth

Shelby County Fair, Columbiana, AL, Sept. 16-21, Mon.-Fri.,
5:30 p.m. until; Sat., 3 p.m. until. Volunteers needed.

Alabama Beekeepers Association Annual Meeting,
Fri & Sat., Sept., 28 & 29, 8am til. 2013 Taylor Road Baptist
Church, Montgomery, AL.

Master Beekeepers Program, Class & Tests, TBA.

October 2013

Fall SCBA Booth

Chelsea Day, Chelsea, AL, TBA, Volunteers needed.