



## Big Island Beekeepers Association Bee Yard Etiquette

### Prior to Apiary Visit:

#### Personal Hygiene

1. For your safety and for the safety of the bees, enter with *clean* and appropriate hive inspection clothing. This should include: a clean bee jacket or full suit, new (or cleaned) gloves, long pants, and covered shoes. Avoid wearing dark colored clothing (including socks), strong scents and perfumes. White or light colors are always best!
  - Repeated use of unwashed bee clothing will contain alarm pheromones from previous stings, which will incite the bees. It can also spread disease.
2. If you need to borrow a suit, please let us know ahead of time.

#### Tool + Equipment Hygiene

1. All tools and gloves that will be used in inspections need to be *thoroughly* cleaned and sanitized before opening a hive. This is to prevent the spread of disease.
  - Scrape off any propolis and debris from tools.
  - Soak in disinfectant, spray with rubbing alcohol (60% or greater) or use a propane tank flame to clean.

### When in the Apiary:

- ✓ Use the BIBA alcohol sanitizer spray for your tools and gloves upon entering the Bee Yard.
- ✓ Your movements - move calmly and deliberately to keep from stressing the bees into excessive defensive behavior.
- ✓ Be aware of the hive entrances and avoid standing directly in front of them.
- ✓ Handling of Equipment - Be conscious of how you're handling frames, etc. Roughly handling frames, banging down equipment, and smashing bees because you're in a hurry can create a hostile environment for the entire yard.
- ✓ Adhere to Best Practices of Beekeeping so all beekeepers consistently maintain the same level of quality care for the hives.

## **Bee Yard Maintenance:**

BIBA Apiary Day attendees will be able to get a first-hand look into beehives. Depending on level of experience they can either watch as a BIBA Board Member works through a hive or help do maintenance, etc. All of this is weather dependent, so if it is a mildly rainy day, only maintenance will be conducted, no hive inspections.

Helping a BIBA Board Member with routine maintenance can include:

1. Hive inspections - A clipboard with hive inspection logs for each hive will be in the BIBA Shed. These logs should be used during inspections every time a hive is inspected, cleaned, parts replaced, etc. Any bee product that is removed from a hive needs to be taken out with us in a trash bag when we leave. This means honeycomb, brood/drone comb, burr comb and propolis.
2. Moving heavy equipment.
3. Cleaning Oil Trays- Oil trays need to be emptied and changed regularly. A covered bucket will be left in the apiary to collect the used oil to discard, and for comb waste.
4. Trees need regular trimming. Occasionally Members will bring pruning equipment, mowers, etc to trim up the surrounding vegetation.
5. Check condition and placement of landscape cloth for weed suppression.
6. Check on water supply for bees -Providing water reduces the need to seek water at neighbors' yards.
7. A To-Do List will be posted at the BIBA Shed for miscellaneous chores.

BIBA will have a locked Storage Shed for the storage of oil, oil buckets, DE, extra equipment, clipboards, etc.