



The Managed Mentoring Program on getting started in beekeeping.

Managed Mentoring



Managed Mentoring

Demaree Method of Swarm Control

Lesson | Demaree Method



What is Covered in this Lesson

What is the Demaree Method?

Demaree for Swarm Control

Managing found Swarm Cells

Queen Replacement Option

Managing a Demaree Stack



What is a Demaree Method?

□ Swarm Control Method

- *Invented in the late 1800s, the method is named after its founder George Demaree*
 - The Demaree method of swarm control is a labor-intensive swarm management technique when you manipulate the colony resources in a prescribed manner
 - The premise of the technique is to separate the colony into a vertical split
 - The queen is separated from the brood and the nurse bees
 - Any queen cells are also separated from the queen and managed in a manner suitable to the beekeeper
 - The benefit is that you maintain the workforce for honey production



Demaree vs. Today's Demaree

□ It is not what George Described

- *When you review the instructions in modern day, you will find that they differ from what was originally published in the American Bee Journal.*
 - The more common elaboration of the technique as described today is more involved
 - This is primarily because the newer instructions are more successful
 - Originally the vertical split was only separated by a divider
 - Modern day takes call for a wider separation – as will be outlined in the next few slides



Fundamentals of Demaree

□ Separating the queen and the workers

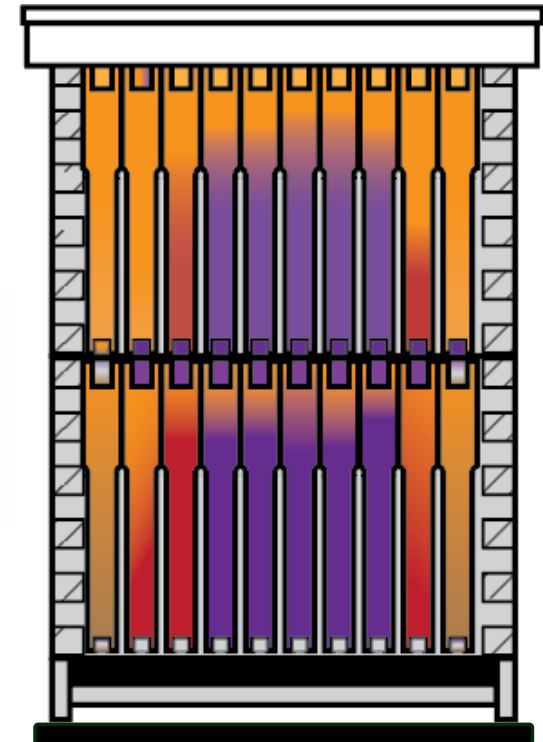
- *The vertical split aspect of a Demaree calls for isolating the queen in the bottom box, over the bottom board*
 - She is placed in a box with a few frames of capped brood and foundation frames
- *The rest of the brood nest from the origin hive is placed over a divider*
 - The premise is the workforce is separated by the queen and this act will signal to the colony that it has swarmed as the bulk of the colony will no longer be in contact with the queen



Swarm Impending

□ When your box is full...

- *One option you can consider is the Demaree Method*
- *Keep all the bees.... while stopping swarms*
 - The premise is to restructure the content without having to make a separate colony
 - Requires a management practices long with additional equipment (Additional Deep Box, Foundation or Drawn comb, and a Queen Excluder or Snelgrove Board)
 - This method also has a provision to take advantage of swarm cells if they happen to be present upon inspection



Restack

□ Redistribute resources

- *The queen and capped brood are placed in the bottom box*
- *They are flanked with foundation or drawn comb frames*
- *A box with foundation (or drawn comb) is placed above*
- *A queen excluder is next*
- *The second box is placed above*



Top Box Resources

□ Top Box Options

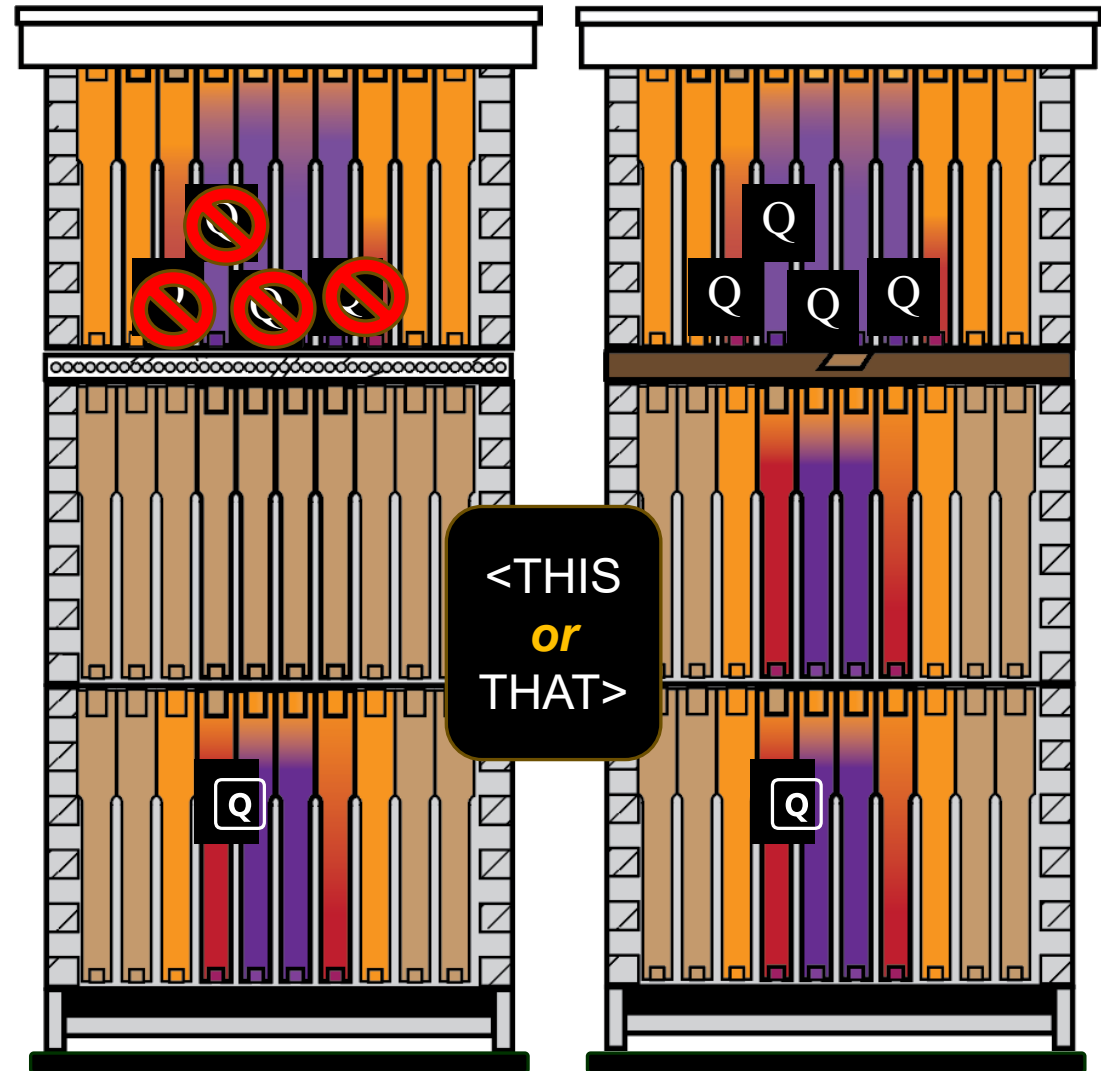
- *The top box would get any brood in progress along with pollen and nectar resources*
- *On the outside would be honey reserves*
- *If by chance a hive had any swarm cells (QC) in progress, **they would be relocated in the top box***



Swarm Cell Options

□ Cull or Continue

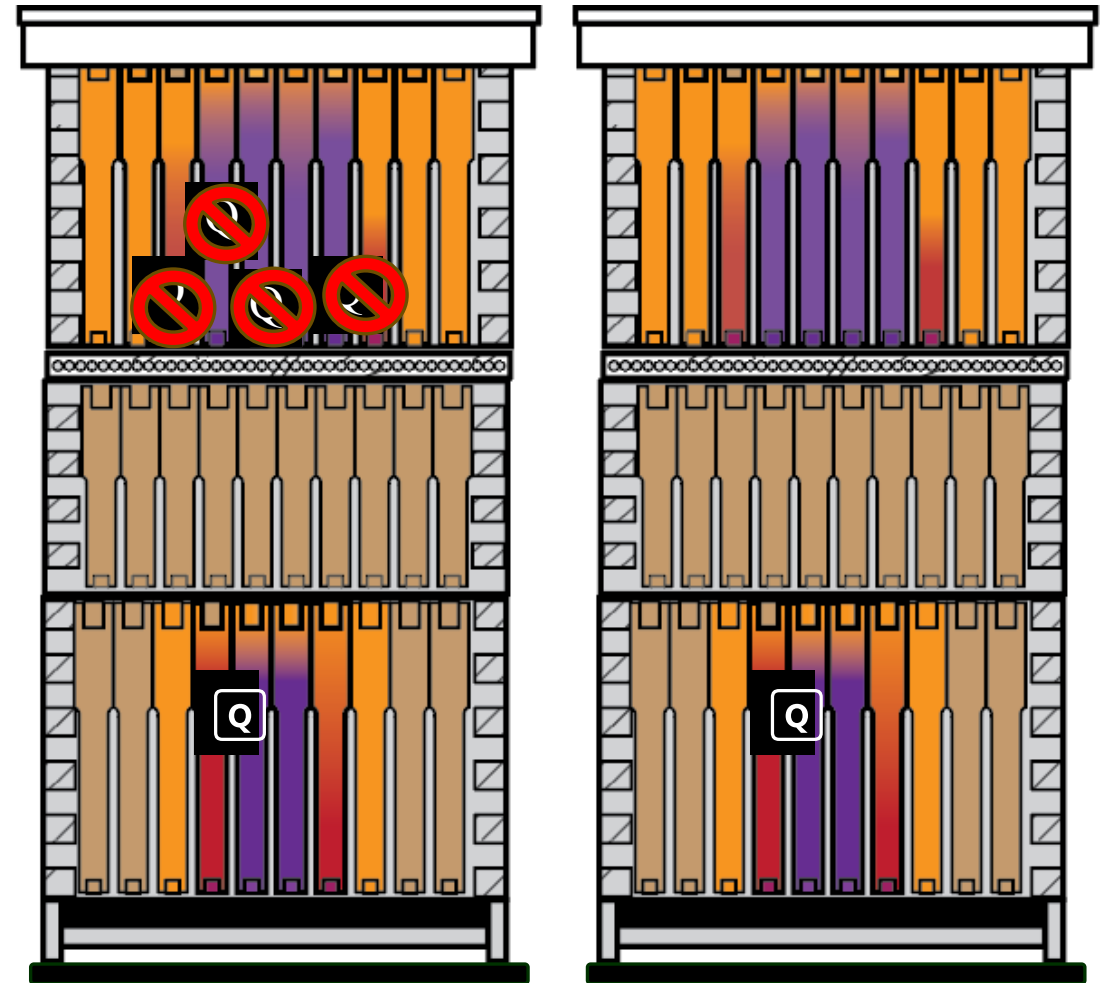
- ***You have the option***
 - You can let the top box rear a queen above the queen excluder
 - Or you can pinch off any queen cells and prevent additional queens
- *The principle with the top box is to either let it become another colony*
- *Or prevent that and allow all of the brood inside to run its course*



Eliminating any potential queens

□ Culling Queen Cells

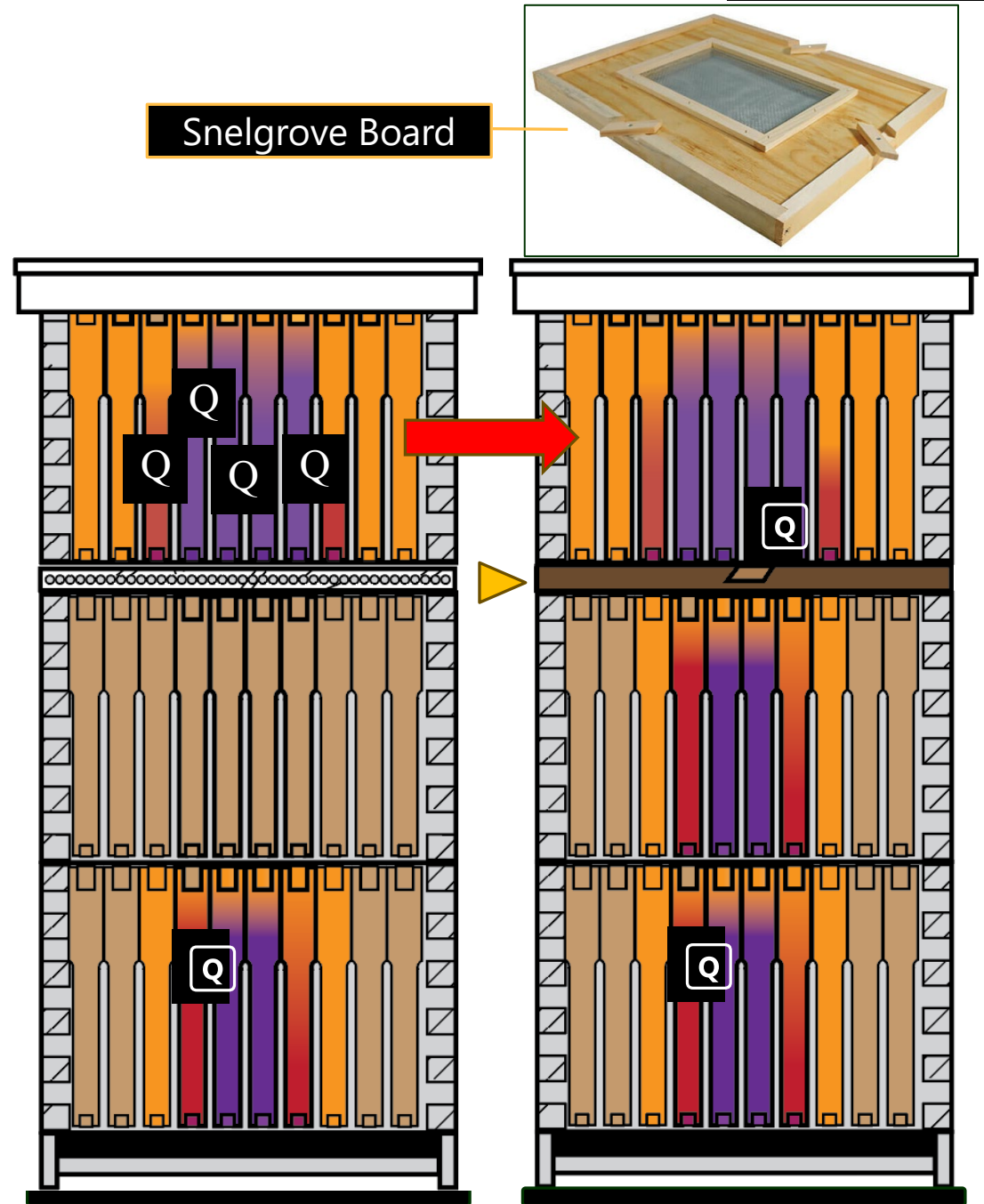
- *The task would be to move the in-play brood frame up*
- *Cull any queen cells you might find*
- *Come back in six days and look to see if the nurse bees tried to make more queen cells*
 - If any are found cull them too
 - Eventually all brood will run its course



Second Colony

❑ Swarm Cell Queen

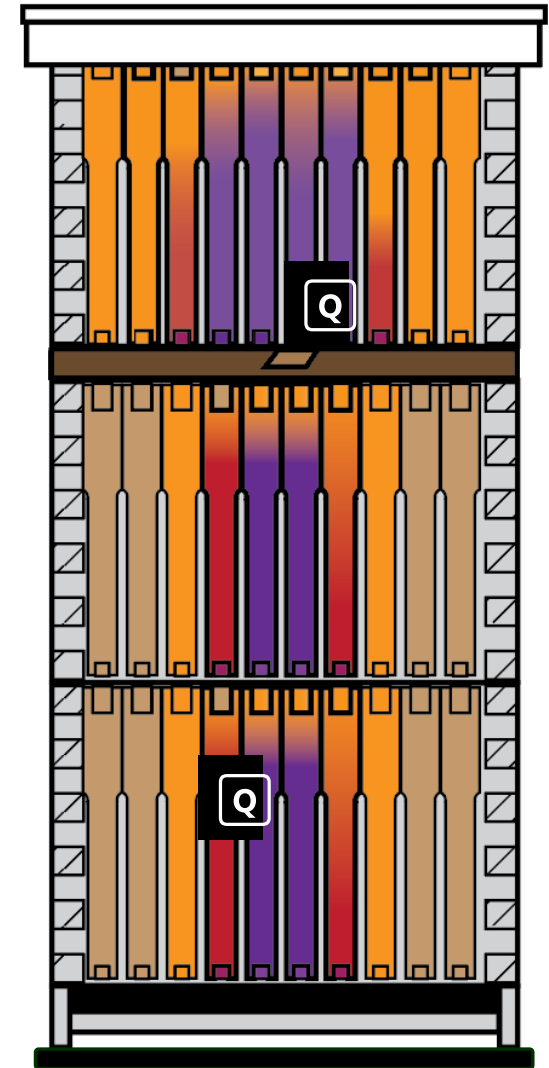
- *If you let the swarm cells continue then you switch to a **snelgrove board***
 - The top colony would go through the process of mating the queen
 - The colony below would carry on normal operations
- ▶ ● *Switch queen excluder to Snelgrove*
 - The snelgrove board is a divider board that separates the colonies
 - ❑ Snelgrove board provides an entrance for the top colony to come and go



Picking the Queen

❑ Queen Replacement Option

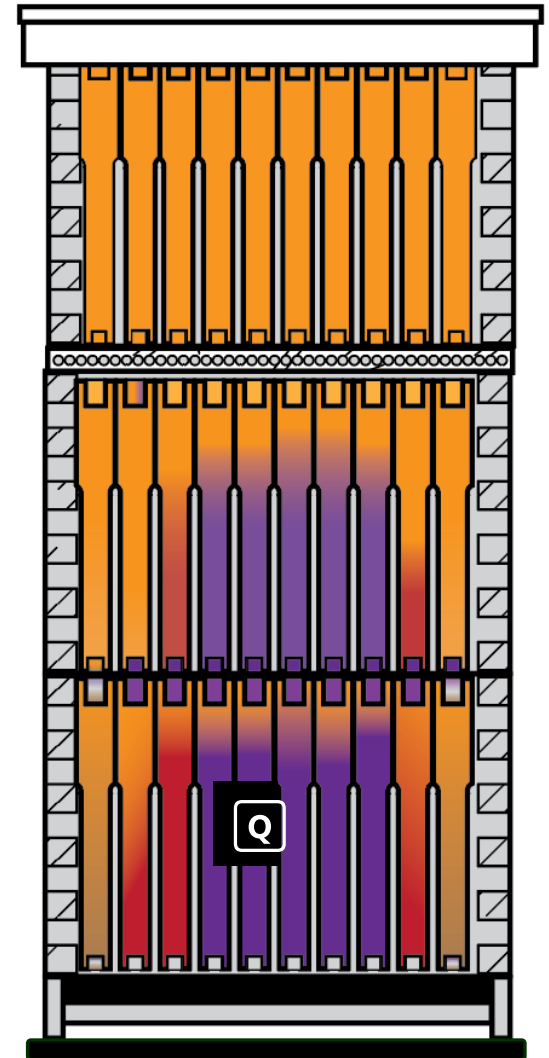
- *One optional premise of this technique is as a queen rearing approach.*
 - The top queen, once established can be chosen to carry the colony
 - The bottom queen would be pinched, and the top colony would be joined with the lower colony – letting the new queen take the helm and 'retiring' the old queen.
- *Vertical Split is another option*
 - Once the top colony is established, the entire colony can be moved off to an established split



Conventional Method: The End State

❑ When you are done it looks like this

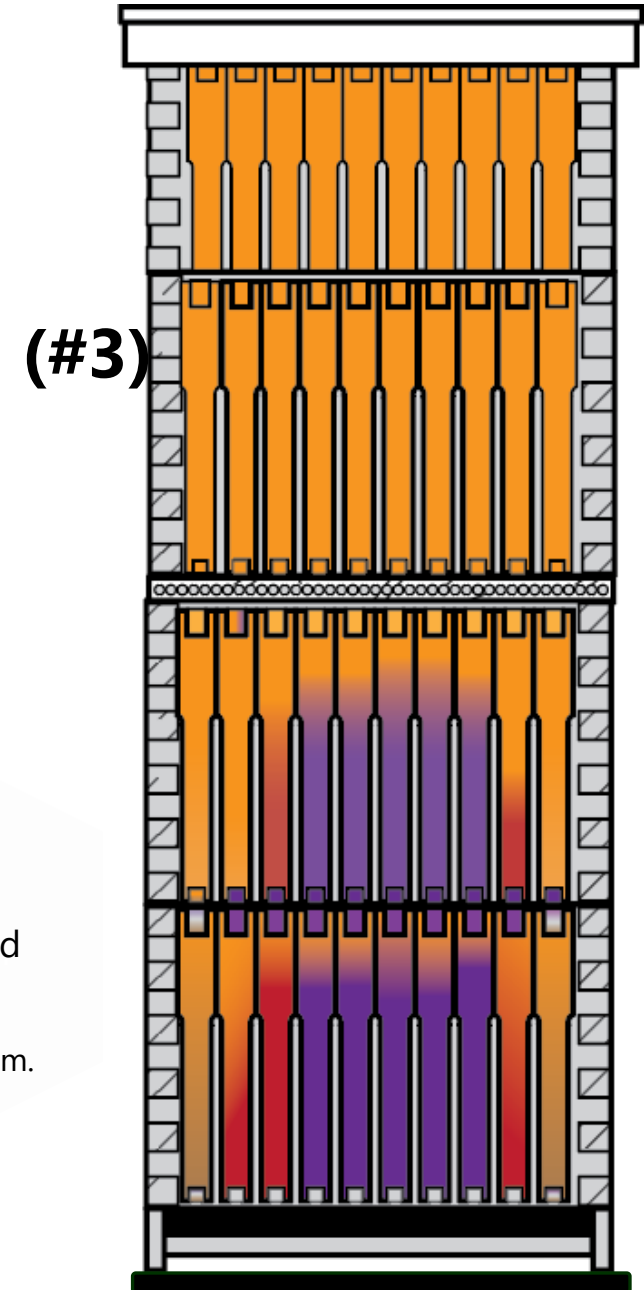
- *The queen is in the bottom box and builds the colony*
 - The top box depletes the brood and the bees in the full stack convert the top box to storage
 - In time, when the brood is gone from the top box, you can remove the queen excluder and you recombine the colony
- *Benefit of the workforce*
 - The solution doesn't show that with the big workforce you are **likely going to put honey supers on the top**



Progression to Honey Production

□ High honey production

- *The key to this technique was optimizing the workforce*
 - It is highly likely that the large colony and workforce will be **prolific honey producers**
- *Some Concerns / **Drawbacks** about the setup*
 - Considerations for the top deep; Labeled (#3) in the illustration
 - This deep had brood in it. Once the brood is exhausted, it will be filled with honey. **It will be heavy when loaded with honey.**
 - Incidentally, you would be harvesting honey from frames that had brood in them.
 - The honey supers are way up high, and will be *heavy*



Wrap Up

□ Clever Idea – Complicated – Timeless

- *The idea is quite clever, but it is often considered complicated*
 - As demonstrated, there are several ways to carry the method once the initial stack is reconfigured. This serves to confuse beekeepers
 - There are many resources that speak of the process – and get it wrong, which leads to further confusion.
- **It works** – *which is why it is still in practice and an option in beekeeping.*
 - If you intend to give this a try, map out your path and don't be afraid to write out the steps to follow to keep everything straight as you move through



Closing Comments

■ Customary Close

- Where we stand, where we are going...
 - *This lesson covered the demaree method for making splits and using the Demaree in various management practices*
 - *Our next lesson covers capturing swarms, and swarm traps.*
 - *Then we follow with a series of honey harvesting know how.*



Q&A

- **What Questions did we not anticipate?**
 - If you have feedback, you can leave a constructive comment; but be nice.
 - You could also send an email to comments@managedmentoring.com
 - *Please refer to this video in the subject so we know what the reference is.*

