Natural Beekeeping in Horizontal Hives

Dr. Leo Sharashkin

HorizontalHive.com
“Peasant families commonly have ____ hives. Tending these takes little effort, so the owner can work his fields and attend to other matters.”

-- Nikolay Vitvitsky,
Practical Beekeeping, 1835
“Peasant families commonly have 1000 hives. Tending these takes little effort, so the owner can work his fields and attend to other matters.”

-- Nikolay Vitvitsky,
Practical Beekeeping, 1835
“God created bees so that even the most destitute of men could have his own little animal herd and find his solace.”

-- Illarion Kullanda,

*Bees for Everyone*, 1882
“Bee culture requires little effort, and barely any capital to get started.”

-- Georges de Layens, 
*The Complete Course in Apiculture*, 1892
“Many farmers in the Ozarks keep a few colonies in nail-kegs and log gums. The bees are never fed in the fall, and receive no extra protection in winter. Modern hives are almost unknown; but five out of six seasons the beekeeper ‘gets enough to rob.’”

Keeping Bees With A Smile

A vision and practice of natural apiculture

by Fedor Lazutin, edited by Dr. Leo Sharashkin
402 pages, over 100 illustrations and 32 full-color photographs
$34.95, ISBN 978-0-9842873-5-2
www.DeepSnowPress.com

“Fascinating! It will shake up your thinking.”

“Keeping Bees With A Smile is a valuable guide for independent-minded beekeepers who are seeking ways to keep bees without treating them with chemicals, disrupting their homes, and otherwise intruding on their lives. Fedor Lazutin, one of Russia’s foremost natural beekeepers, describes a beekeeping system based on a trust of a bee colony as a living being capable of solving life’s challenges without human assistance. Beginner-friendly and complete with fascinating photographs, it is a special book, and one that I expect will ‘shake up’ the thinking of the independent-minded beekeepers in North America and Europe.”

— Dr. Thomas D. Seeley, Professor, Cornell University author of Honeybee Democracy and The Wisdom of the Hive
“Pick the hive model that is best suited to your locale, populate it with local bees, and the results will speak for themselves.”

-- Georges de Layens, *The Complete Course in Apiculture*, 1892
“Make no mistake: build the kind of hive you can craft yourself with the cheapest materials available in your country.”

-- Illarion Kullanda, 
*Bees for Everyone*, 1882
Keeping Bees With A Smile

A vision and practice of natural apiculture

Fedor Lazutin
Growing Vegetables With A Smile

Bring your backyard garden to the front of your mind

One Million Happy Orchards

Growing Fruit With A Smile

Planting seeds of laughter, reaping fruits of joy

Nikolay Kurdyumov

Nikolay Kurdyumov
“Many years of carefully noted observations show that modified Layens hives produce the largest harvest of honey with minimal effort.”

-- Jean Hurpin,

*Modified Layens Hive*, 1941
“Horizontal hives are wonderfully suited for remote outyards. In the yards that I visit only once per year, I always find the bees in excellent shape with the hives full of honey, harvesting which becomes my sole task.”

-- Jean Hurpin, *Modified Layens Hive*, 1941
I. Kramskoy
A Bee Man,
1872
“The hollow was 16 ft deep and 14" across. It had 7 combs 13 ft deep. We worked at it for two days, filling 12 deep frames with brood and cutting 10 buckets of comb honey. The colony built 12 medium frames of new comb in 36 hrs.”

-- Mikhail Lupanov,
Advice of an Old Beekeeper, 1974
Extra-deep Frame - Do It Yourself

Some prefer a garden full of bees to a workshop full of sawdust. Let’s support that! Here is a greatly streamlined way to build the extra-deep frames for your horizontal hives. This design uses regular “two-by-” and “one-by-” pine lumber, and the only tools you need are a miter saw (or regular hand saw), a table saw, a drill, and a screwdriver! There are no complex cuts, and you can cut a hundred frames like that in a day (excluding assembly and wiring). Assuming a knot-free board, lumber costs can be under 30 cents per frame.

This frame has the same dimensions as the one used by Fedor Lazutin (pp. 339 and 370 of Keeping Bees With a Smile). Its length is that of standard Langstroth (17-5/8” long with a 19” top bar) and it is 18-1/2” deep. It consists of four parts: a top bar, two identical end bars, and a bottom bar, connected using the most basic butt joints:
LICKING
SUCCESS
Only $50 to $300 fine
YOU Can Keep Bees
How to Start A Few Hives For FREE

Dr. Leo Sharashkin
Editor, Keeping Bees With a Smile
HorizontalHive.com