PP-244 [Beekeeping Technology and Quality]

BEESWAX ESSENTIALS

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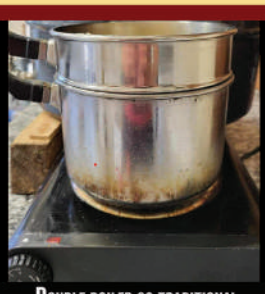
RENDER

Turkey pot very fast render


Double boiler so traditional

Baking cooks low and slow

Solar melter uses sunshine

RE-FORM

Outdoor wax cooling

Wax cake with debris

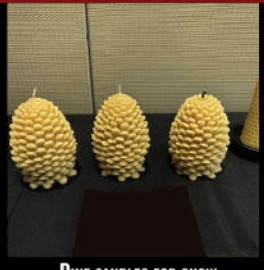
Golden melt

Cooling wax cake

REVEAL

Beeswax one ounce bars

Light wax sculpture


Pine candles for show

Candle variety - added color

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Beeswax Essentials

Nancy Simpson
South Carolina Beekeepers Association and Eastern Apiculture Society

Beeswax, a remarkable byproduct of the hive, has been cherished for centuries for its versatility, purity, and natural beauty. This oral presentation will briefly combine the history, science, and practical rendering of beeswax products, offering insight into its formation, extraction, and diverse applications. Geared to all types of beekeepers, the presentation will be of particular interest to the many small-scale, backyard beekeepers who want to dabble in the craft of wax making but have no idea how to begin. The talk will explore the step-by-step process of how to render raw beeswax, ensure its quality and preservation, and how to transform it into exquisite, handcrafted goods. Whether for personal use or commercial endeavors, beeswax remains a timeless, sustainable, and deeply rewarding material that continues to inspire beekeepers and crafters alike. The unique composition of beeswax, including its esters, fatty acids, and hydrocarbons, makes it a sought-after ingredient in health, beauty, and household products. Beyond its functionality, beeswax holds a special allure. The products of the hive, including honey, wax, pollen, and propolis, can be used for profit, yet it is beeswax—with its aroma, color, and purity—that has captured my heart, and I suspect many others as well.