



Wake County Beekeepers Association

February 2008

What to Do In the Beeyard This Month

If you attend the upcoming meeting James Know and James Howard will get you on track with this subject. In the meantime, Jerry Brantley has offered some advice: Heft the hives by lifting the back to feel how heavy they are, to be sure that they still have enough food until the nectar flow starts. Weather permitting, you can open them up and see their stores as well. If you are feeding pollen patties check to see if the hive beetles are in them. If they are infested put them in the freezer for a couple of days to kill the beetles. Then give them back to the bees. Both Jerry and I have noticed the girls are toting in some pollen! Jerry recommends also getting your supers ready to put on top. They need to be ready to be placed early March. If you don't give them enough space they will take off on you.

Editors note:

If anyone has information they wish to contribute contact me via email:

jmcurrin@embarqmail.com

or cel phone: (919) 906-4135

Jill Currin, Secretary WCBA

February 12 Meeting

The February meeting will be held at Wake Crossroads Baptist Church. This is north of 540 off of Louisburg Rd: 3329 Forestville Road. We will meet behind the old sanctuary. Contact Person: Barry Pulley 266-2543, bpulley@nc.rr.com

The meeting officially starts at 7:30, but everyone is welcome to arrive at 7:00 to enjoy refreshments, visit with others, and discuss/ ask questions.

February Meeting presentation will be two-fold:

James Knox and James Howard will give a presentation on things to be doing for our hives in preparation for Spring.

Excerpts from the recent PBS Nature Film "Silence of the Bees" will be shown. It chronicles the colony collapse disorder.

Upcoming Events:

Attention Newbees: Beginners Beekeepers Workshop

One day: Saturday, March 15, 2008 from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

Location: Raleigh Police Club,

3500 Leonard Rd. Knightdale, NC

Cost: \$25.00 includes book, handouts, and hotdog lunch

Sponsor: Wake County Beekeepers Association

Contact: Danny Jaynes, President 567-9568

or Vivian Joyner, Treasurer 387-0164

NCSBA Spring 2008 Conference

North Carolina State Beekeepers Association Spring Conference is being held at the Ramada Inn Convention Center in Burlington March 7th and 8th.

For more information and the registration form:

<http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/meetings.htm>

NCSBA Summer 2008 Conference

Southern Pines will be the site of 2008 Summer Meeting, July 10-12. We will meet at Sandhills Community College, which has generously offered their excellent facilities. Please mark your calendars. The meeting will be jointly sponsored by the Moore and Richmond Chapters. This will be another great meeting that is an easy drive from Wake County.

Board of Directors

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wreen@wans.net

Phone Mentor:

Jerry Brantley 919-269-9333

Website:

<http://www.ncneighbors.com/wcba>

Yahoo group:

wakecountybeekeepers
to subscribe send mail to
wakecountybeekeeperssubscribe@yahoo.com

Back copies of newsletters and the bylaws are available on this yahoo group.

Club Extractors:

The club owns extractors that are available for members to borrow.
Electric extractors: Ricky Barbour (in Zebulon 269-0108), Whit Joyner (in New Hill 387-0164)
Hand extractor: Raleigh Myers (in Raleigh 787-0058)

Beelieve it or Not!

Jerry Brantley informs me that on Hwy 39 there is an orchard with 40-50 Peach trees that have been blooming continually since the second week in January despite the cold weather. On the other hand, I had a beautiful blooming Prunus Mume, Japanese Apricot that the bees were thoroughly enjoying until the cold weather and broken promise of snow. It has buds, so hopefully again soon they can enjoy it!

If you haven't already: Renew Your Membership

Memberships for both the Wake County Beekeeping Association and the North Carolina State Beekeeping Association runs from January to December. A form is on the last page of this newsletter, bring it with your check to the next meeting.

January Meeting Summary

A motion was passed to accept the nominations of the new officers for 2008. Officers for 2007, Michelle Barry, Larry Williams, Jim Cook, Freddy Gregory, Bill Herndon and others, were recognized for their outstanding job this past year!

It was noted that the Wake County Beekeeping Association has come a long way with membership, attendance, money in the treasury and 3 extractors around the county!

Michelle Barry recognized perfect membership attendance for 2007: Denton Bell, Steve Brown- Only missed one in the last two years, Jim Cook- Only missed one in the last two years, Danny Jaynes- Perfect attendance for last two years, Paul Strickland, Lawrence Wallace, Austin Wrenn, Mitchell Wrenn, Mary Jaynes and Brenda Jeffries. She also recognized those who missed only one meeting in 2007: Frank Borge, Larry Hall, Steve Hildebrand, and Jack Tapp.

Our current website with NC Neighbors is expiring April 1st. We really need to have website for contact for swarms, gaining new members and communicating events. Bill Herndon has had some offers from web designers and hosts, which are out of our price range. If anyone can help us in this area, please contact Bill Herndon.

Jack Tapp and Betsy Spencer of Busy Bee Apiaries, our local Brushy Mountain distributor spoke about equipment and getting ready for springtime. Jack has over 3,000 colonies of bees in the Carolinas. Betsy has the special touch when it comes to grafting the Minnesota Hygienic queens they sell.

Jack's recommendations:

For Starting Equipment you need a 10-frame hive (2 bodies and a feeder). Having a 5-frame nuc is good for picking up swarms.

If you are moving hives, secure the bottom board to the hive.

Swarms are in comb building mode, so keep them fed and they will go to town on the comb. Top feeders are recommended. Do not use inner cover when using a top feeder. If you have one hive you can use any feeder, if you have multiple hives, use an internal feeder. To stop bees from drowning in feeder, float some wood in the top of the feeder.

January Meeting Summary Cont'd

Some people reported black spots after long-term use of feeders. It could be cleaned with a bleach solution, or left alone. In theory, if the Bees didn't like it, they'd clean it. Jack recommends putting hives where they get sunlight, shade will make it harder for bees to control humidity, which may promote mold growth.

Recommended Frames: A cleated top is easy to clean and put foundation in. A slotted bottom bar is easier to clean, & grooved bottom bar makes frames more rigid.

Should you use crosswire to support frames? Depends on the type of extractor you use. A radial extractor won't need to have to cross wire frames for shallow or medium. Need to wire deeps if you extract honey from them. Jack uses staples instead of eyelets. He puts two horizontal wires and spins the frame to twist the ends. He then crimps it to make more taut. Then foundation is put in, with one wire on each side.

Tops: Come in telescoping cover or migrating cover. Jack uses plywood top for cost effectiveness. If you use migratory top, don't forget the inner cover.

There are 3 types of Queen excluders, metal and plastic. The old plastic ones cut the bees wings, but new ones are rounded and safer. Jack doesn't use any.

Betsy Spencer spoke about queen production: A lot depends on weather. They get breeder queens from California (Mark Spivik). She cuts queen excluders to confine the queens to a frame. This gives the whole frame of same age larva. Betsy likes the bamboo Chinese grafting tool. She does dry grafting. Place one larva in each cell, Larva is delicate and sensitive. They are subject to chill and dying out. Put the cells on a bar in a queen-less hive. They need a lot of nurse bees, pollen, and honey. A nice, neat hole means the queen came out. At ten days, put in mating box. They take two weeks to mate and start laying. General rule is to replace your Queens every two years. They plan to have their Minnesota Hygienic Queens ready in April.

The Mentor and Swarm lists circulated:

There are several knowledgeable members who have agreed to be mentors. I really appreciated all the help from my mentor Matt, and all the unofficial mentors I got advice from at the meetings. If you missed the mentor list and are willing to mentor, contact me (Jill Currin, Secretary).

James Knox	Leesville	919-842-5098
Bill Herndon	Smithfield	919-961-7906
Ricky Barbour	E. Wake	919-337-6270
Denton Bell	W. Raleigh	919-859-6734
Jerry Brantley	Zebulon	919-269-9333
Jim Howard	Garner	919-772-8321
Stanford Bolden	Wendell	919-760-3819
Phone Mentor:	Jerry Brantley	919-269-9333

Medical Honey

Clinical use of honey to provide nourishment and as an anti-microbial agent in wound healing has been the "buzz" for many of us. Scientists are discovering it's many benefits in recent years. For those that don't have their own bees to get fresh honey for their wound healing, a New Jersey company has been approved by the FDA to sell "MediHoney". It will even be made available in ready to use bandages at US pharmacies this year. Honey has been shown promising in its safety and efficacy against a broad range of microorganisms, including bacterial strains resistant to traditional antibiotics.

For more information:

<http://apitherapy.blogspot.com/2007/12/us-pharmacies-to-stock-honey-laced.html>

Wake County Beekeepers Association

Registration ---- 2008

Please complete and return to the treasurer for 2008 membership in the Wake County Beekeepers Association. We encourage all Wake County members to register for State membership as well, in order to support that organization.

Dues for either organization are for the calendar year, January 1 through December 31

You may also register by mail to:

Vivian Joyner, Treasurer
2829 Old U.S. 1
New Hill, NC 27562

Please print all information legibly. One wrong letter will make the e-mail not work. Please use the name you would like printed on your name tag.

Date _____ Name _____

Phone _____ Address _____

Number of beehives _____ E-Mail _____

Memberships

Wake County Beekeepers (\$10.00) \$ _____

NC State Beekeepers Assoc. (\$15.00) \$ _____

Subscriptions

American Bee Journal
(1YR-\$18.70) (2YR-\$35.40) (3YR-\$49.80) \$ _____

New Subscription? (Y/N)

Bee Culture
(1YR-\$21.00) (2YR-\$38.00) \$ _____

New Subscription? (Y/N)

Total \$ _____

Make Checks payable to Wake County Beekeepers Association -- Sec.