



Wake County Beekeepers Association

May 2007

Editor's Notes

This newsletter is short. We've spent our time fighting Apex to keep our chickens that they outlawed with their livestock ban. The town manager has said that honey bees are not livestock. Let's hope it stays that way.

Then there is keeping up with the bees. Jack was right that a cold spell before the honey flow means swarm cells. I had three hives. They were going to swarm so I split them before it got cold. As soon as it warmed up, I had seven swarms and caught them all. So I have been painting boxes, building frames, wiring frames, and getting foundation installed.

Send articles, information, and classified ads to barrycary@aol.com by the 25th of the month.

Michelle Barry, secretary WCBA

May Meeting Topic

In May we will have two speakers: Hugh Norse will talk about local wildflowers beneficial to beekeepers and James Knox will explain a queen rearing technique for the hobbyist.

June Meeting Topic

Our own Master Beekeeper Larry Green will demonstrate harvesting and processing products from the hive. If you are a new beekeeper, you will not want to miss this meeting. You can read all the books about how to extract, but it just doesn't click until you actually get a chance to try it under expert supervision.

Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

A one day workshop for beginning beekeepers was held April 28th with about 60 people in attendance. Thanks to Ricky Barbour for all his work getting this together. Thank you also to the speakers for the day: Charles Heatherly, James Knox, James Howard, Jack Tapp, Betsy Spencer, Larry Williams, and Danny Jaynes. A special thanks to Denton Bell for demonstrating how to cut a colony from a tree and hive them.

At the end of the workshop we gave away bee hives to Wake and Johnston county residents that were donated by the local farm bureau. The attendees had very good comments about the course. Some realized they were not ready for beekeeping yet and were glad that they had attended the course to find that out before investing in beekeeping equipment.

Raffles

At the April meeting the club raffled off a Brushy Mountain tool/swarm box. At the May meeting we will have a full hive from Busy Bee to raffle off. Bring your dollars to buy tickets.

Refreshments

Thanks to Mitchell and Austin Wrenn, Richard Warren, and Short Brantley for bringing refreshments in April. Those signed up for May are Ann Marie Gerney 233-8054, Matt Flint 873-2124, and Mike Hinton 870-7875.

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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 extractor: Ricky Barbour
(in Zebulon 269-0108)
Hand extractor: Raleigh Myers (in
Raleigh 787-0058)

April Meeting Summary

Jack Tapp and Betsy Spencer talked about how to prevent swarming. They suggest never having a queen over two years old. Any time you have a cold spell right before the nectar flow means they will be making swarm cells (they sure got that right!). A five frame nuc is useful for introducing queens. In March you should switch boxes if the brood is on the top. Break up the cluster --move some of the outside frames toward the center. Betsy told us once the hive decides to swarm it is hard to discourage it. Often splitting the hive is the best option. Jack likes to replace the queen when hiving a swarm since this is usually an older queen.

Ricky gave a quick talk about hiving a swarm. He has a bucket on the end of an extension pole. This extension pole is a great idea. You can put a bucket on the end or attach a cardboard nuc to the end. The cardboard nuc that Frank Wyatt sells are great for catching and carrying swarms.

Other April Business

The club is looking into buying a projector to use at meetings. If you have any knowledge in this area, talk to Larry Williams.

Bottles can be purchased from Daniels Scientific Inc. at a good price.

Pat needs volunteers to help out at the zoo. Contact her at 362-7027.

T-shirts were available at the April meeting

Bee-lieve It or Not

Jerry Brantley is claiming the first filled super of the year and Jack Tapp the first 5 gallon bucket of honey. Stan Bolden took some bees out of a church and got them so mad they chased his car all the way to the store. Jerry insists that they were holy bees complete with a halo on the head and were upset by Stan's support of the Blue Devils.

Door Prizes

Thank you to Steve Brown for fresh eggs, Jerry Brantley for two inside feeders, Mitchell Wrenn for daylilies, Jack Tapp for a hive stand, Bobby Lee for a frame holder, and Denton and Cindy Bell for lip balm. I neglected to thank Jack Tapp for the queen excluders he donated in March. Some members have repeatedly blessed us with donations from their businesses or largesse. Please support these member's businesses:

- Busy Bee (Jack Tapp) 1201 New Hope Ch. Rd. Chapel Hill (919) 942-2006 bee equipment, queens, etc.
- Mitchell Wrenn 5078 Brantley Rd. Zebulon (919) 269-9781 strawberries, other fruit and veggies
- Karma Lee -- Buckwheat Farm, 2700 Holland Rd. Apex (919) 303-0339 Strawberries
- Steve Brown sbrown@trianglerentacar.com farm fresh eggs