



Wake County Beekeepers Association March 2008

Next Meeting: March 11th

Location: Wake County Commons Building, Cary Drive. The meeting officially starts at 7:30, but everyone is welcome to arrive around 7:00 to enjoy refreshments and visit with others.

The following are signed up for refreshments for March: Bob Matheny, Tim Hayworth, and Karma Lee. Starting in March if anyone wants to be reimbursed for meeting refreshment purchases bring your receipt to Vivian at the meeting. Several members have asked that we try and incorporate water or decaffeinated beverages, since not everyone enjoys caffeine in the evening.

The topic of the Meeting is 2 fold: Club Member John D. Foust, will have a brief presentation addressing "Swarm Prevention", a necessary topic this time of year. Then "Products from the Hive" presented by Charles and Nancy Fleckenstein.

February Meeting Summary

Thank you to Barry Pulley, Edward Jordan, and Monica Warner for providing refreshments. Thanks to Jerry Brantley for the Door Prizes.

Old Business: If you did not get your membership card see Vivian.

Catalogs were supplied thanks to Jerry. Danny reminded us if we order from Busy Bee (Brushy Mountain catalog), Jack delivers to the meetings and we can save on shipping costs.

This year, we are doing 5 regions of swarm lists: Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western Wake and Raleigh Proper.

Freddy Gregory asked to resign from his board position, Larry Williams has been appointed to replace this new vacancy.

The mentor list currently contains 9 mentors. As a reminder: We have many knowledgeable experienced members that you can get some mentoring out of, if you arrive to the meeting early. If anyone else wants to mentor, contact me (Jill).

*We need a LIBRARIAN: responsibilities will be to wheel in our "library" of books, periodicals, and videos for the meetings. It is kept in the Commons Building. Also, you will need to be in charge of cataloging. We already have the list of materials. You will just need to keep up with who has what checked out, and nicely reminding someone if they do not return items in a timely manner. Or if someone is waiting on the item they have, after adequate time with the material, hustle them to return it. If anyone wants to volunteer to be our librarian please contact Danny.

New Business: Jack has a rotator cuff injury. As we all know Jack has been very good to our club delivering orders, donating great raffle prizes, and

Editors Note:

Some of you are familiar with Durham based Burt's Bees Company. They make natural personal care products and make up. It was started by a beekeeper in Maine in 1984. Last year they were giving away seeds and trying educate people about overuse of chemicals and CCD. Several months ago, the Chlorox company purchased Burt's Bees (for over \$900 Million). I hate to say I automatically assumed quality would go down and the products would be increasingly made with synthetic as opposed to natural ingredients. I am glad to say, It seems to be going to the other direction. Chlorox is making "Green" household cleaners without dioxins!

Moreover, they are doing more advertising to promote use of beeswax, criticizing petroleum beauty products. Burt's says: Beeswax is a "naturally replenishing moisturizer made by bees," while petrolatum is a "non-renewable hydrocarbon made from crude oil" that leaves a "greasy film that could contain contaminants."

Ads in several magazines such as Oprah, People, Allure, Real Simple, and Natural Health will educate consumers to what they are putting on their skin.

Jill Currin, Secretary WCBA

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<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)

offering advice etc. If you are able help him out now, donating some time helping with various areas at Busy Bee Apiaries; that would be greatly appreciated. It is a great opportunity for some who could benefit from the hands on experience. When I started putting together my frames I was doing it incorrectly until my mentor Matt, showed me how. We can all probably learn a lot of valuable information assisting Jack, but if you are just starting out, it is highly recommended.

Our Chapters website is being assembled. We want this to be informational and attractive. If anyone has input on what should and should not be on it talk to Bill or Danny. The goal is to have it looking and running well by April 1st. The club will vote on all content before it is finalized.

Our New President voiced some goals for the club. He would like to see more involvement in the State Fair competitions to recognize individual members and as our chapter. He claimed not to want to toot his own horn, but he told us of his placing on top honors in booth, bees, and honey. He learned some helpful presentation techniques and tips from Virginia Webb, who is internationally recognized that has helped him the last 2 years. Danny wants to share his knowledge with us on preparing for the State Fair. Apparently Guiliford County shined as individuals and as a chapter in 2007. We have over 100 members, and our club is successful at many things, we should try to get more recognition at the State Fair. There will be a committee started to focus on this, as well as a presentation at an upcoming meeting.

Danny proposed we consider changing our annual get together to July or August since the fall is close to our other big event Bugfest.

It has been 2 years or so since the club has had a Master Beekeepers Course. If people are interested, we hope to have one starting in January 2009.

Todd Warner shared there is a new local beekeeping club of Franklin County meeting in Franklinton. If anyone is interested contact him for details.

James Knox: What to do in the Bee yard this month:

He tells us if you have managed your hives well, you don't even have to look in them this time of year. You can observe from the outside and see that they are flying on warmer days. Now is the time to be getting your equipment ready, also reading and making plans. Get supers and frames ready to put on so that bees have plenty of room, to avoid their swarming and leaving. Mr. Knox tells us as the days have started getting longer, the bees are getting ready for the honey flow. The queen is starting to lay more. Optimally James tells us we should have 2 deeps and a super making up each hive. They also need plenty of honey stores. If they do not have honey stores, you should be feeding them. Once you start feeding they are dependent on it and you cannot quit until the nectar is flowing, and they do not take the feed. If you want to add more hives start feeding them so they can raise a lot of bees. You can add some boxes when they need room, and split them the 1st of April. Most bee fatalities are in Feb and March because they starve to death. If you are using Apistan it needs to be removed now. Although James tells us he hasn't used that in 8 years. James tells us right now maple and dandelions are supplying plenty of pollen. Also the bees are enjoying the camellias that are currently supplying nectar and pollen; he suggests everyone plant a few in the yard.

James Howard: What to do in the Bee yard this month:

He tells us to feed so that the girls can build up quickly. He also reminds us chemical treatments have to be removed 6 weeks before extracting honey. You may or may or rotate the brood chamber. It may be a little early now, but soon you can. The major honey flow here in Central NC is early to mid-April.

Some shrubs and holly are flowering now. There is some nectar coming in now, Larry Williams agreed that he has seen uncapped cells with a slight green tint (maple pollen).

James Howard reminds us that it takes 40 days to produce foraging bees. The queen lays the egg, it hatches on day 21, then it is a nurse bee for 20 days, then they become forage bees. If you want to be ready April 1st go to a calendar and count back 40 days. That is when the big build up needs to be. He suggests opening hives up in Feb and March ONLY if absolutely necessary. A little bit of chill can kill the eggs and the brood. If you do open the hives, make sure it is a warmer day approx 70-75 degrees, with limited access. The bees will fly at 55 degrees, but they have to keep the temperature in the hive around 90 degrees. You can open it at 65-degree weather, but definitely don't keep it open too long. If the weather snaps cold the bees will cluster around the brood trying to maintain in the middle cluster temperature of 92- 95 degrees. Larvae on the periphery or not contained in the cluster will die. The temperature at the outside of the cluster is the outside temperature.

Where the queen is where she will start the spring build up. Some queens are not that smart and only move up; in that case you need to rotate the super to the bottom. You should not take a second super off now. We should be giving the girls plenty of room, and making it so the queen can use all the space available. This means when the queen fills up the super, reverse the hive body on top of it so she can fill that up. Some queens are smart enough to go back down. This positioning should be done around March 1st. The tulip poplar and blackberry blooms are what we need to be ready for. This starts in April and ends before June 1st

Mark Reep showed us the presentation Silence of the Bees on Colony Collapse Disorder, from the PBS Nature Series. The following is an excerpt from PBS about this film:

“In the winter of 2006, a strange phenomenon fell upon honeybee hives across the country. Without a trace, millions of bees vanished from their hives. A precious pollinator of fruits and vegetables, the disappearing bees left billions of dollars of crops at risk and threatened our food supply. The epidemic set researchers scrambling to discover why honeybees were dying in record numbers -- and to stop the epidemic in its tracks before it spread further”. ”Silence of the Bees is the first in-depth look at the search to uncover what is killing the honeybee. The filmmakers of Bees take viewers around the world to the sites of fallen hives, to high-tech labs, where scientists race to uncover clues, and even deep inside honeybee colonies. Silence of the Bees is the story of a riveting, ongoing investigation to save honeybees from dying out. The film goes beyond the unsolved mystery to tell the story of the honeybee itself, its invaluable impact on our diets and takes a look at what's at stake if honeybees disappear. Silence of the Bees explores the complex world of the honeybee in crisis and instills in viewers a sense of urgency to learn ways to help these extraordinary animals”.

Someone asked the question: Do screened bottom board affect the temperature in the hive? I didn't get a clear answer here, so I called Busy Bee Apiaries. Different beekeepers will probably have several different opinions. Member Besty Spencer tells me she hasn't had any hard scientific data; However, She and Jack Tapp believe it doesn't seem to, the main issue is summer heat, they bees will have to be busy bringing in water to air condition the hive, and they may propolize the screen like we would shut a window in summer. Betsy recommends to pay attention to you bees, they will guide you, if you see them propolizing the entrance if you forgot the reducer, or propolizing ventilation holes. Also There is a screen bottom board that has the board to slide in for a mite count, you can add or remove when necessary.

Bees Dying: Is It a Crisis or a Phase?

Synopsis of article:

By Andrew C. Revkin

Published in Science July 17, 2007

This paper discusses last year's bee losses. These scientists question how unusual these die-offs are, or if it is just normal pattern of fluctuation. To their point, documented die offs of bees occurred as long ago as 1898. Dr. May Berenbaum, heads the entomology department at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign states: “In years past, these periodic die offs were blamed on something. In the '70s it was Africanized bee genes. In the 19th century, there is a wonderful report about this resulting from a lack of moral fiber. Weak character was why they weren't returning to the hives.” In the late seventies there was a similar epidemic. They called it “disappearing disease”. They never found a specific cause. Scientists believe the losses associated with CCD may be worse because the larger volume of colonies trucked and moved for pollination by fewer numbers of beekeepers. Despite the fact these scientists think periodic bee losses are the norm, they do not dispute the implications on agriculture. They also agree problems with mites and infectious agents have hurt wild, native and commercial bees and may also be a contributing factor. They recommend vigilance and continually trying to improve management methods. Maybe it is the lack of moral fiber causing huge losses in 2007; There is a greater magnitude in the world in the 21st century as opposed to the 19th.

Beekeeper passing:

Carter Lee Linkous, 64, Died of apparent heart problems February 24th. He will be remembered as the Peanut Man, and owner of The Nut and Honey Shoppe at the NC State Fairgrounds for 16 years.

He is also known for the queens he developed with strong mite resistance the "Tiger Tail Queens".

Upcoming Events:

Beginners Beekeepers Workshop

One day: Saturday, March 15, 2007
8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

Location: Raleigh Police Club,
3500 Leonard Rd. Knightdale

Cost: \$25.00 includes book, handouts,
and Hot dog lunch

Sponsor: Wake Co. Beekeepers Assoc.

Contact: Danny Jaynes, 567-9568
or Vivian Joyner, 387-0164

Working in the Hive

April 5th 2008 at the NC State Bee Lab
Lake Wheeler Road.

Journeyman Tests and Certified Tests will be offered.

10:00 am Written Portion of test Practical Immediately following.

Contact: Danny Jaynes 567-9568

There is no cost for this.

****THIS WEEKEND: NCSBA Spring 2008 Conference

Down the road in Burlington, March 7th and 8th, being held at the Ramada Inn Convention Center.

This event has great workshops and informational topics, Featuring keynote speaker Kim Flottum and a special guest appearance by Rev. L. L. Langstroth.

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.

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

Beelieve it or Not!

Stan Bolden removed a swarm already from a building.

There are reports of a super removed from a hive in Johnston County, already harvesting 2008 Honey. Jerry Brantley reports his bees at out working in the 38 degree temperatures.

Cooking with Honey

Instead of sugar, substitute raw, unpasteurized honey in all baked goods. Use 1 for 1 for white sugar. Reduce the liquid in the recipe by 1/4 cup. If there is no liquid to reduce, add 3-4 tablespoons of flour for each 1/2 cup of honey used.

Honey Nut Muffins

1 1/2 C. Whole wheat pastry flour

2 tsp baking powder

1/2 C chopped Nuts

1 egg beaten

1/4 C vegetable oil

1/2 C Honey

1/2 C. Milk

Zest of orange

1 tsp vanilla extract

Stir flour and baking soda in a large bowl. Add nuts and stir again. In a smaller bowl, combine all the other ingredients. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients in the large bowl, pour in honey batter. Stir by hand very gently, only to moisten the dry ingredients. Fill 12 paper lined muffin tins 2/3 full. Bake in a preheated oven for 375 degrees for approximately 20 minutes. Serve warm with butter.

If you cannot find pastry flour (8-9% protein) mix all-purpose flour (12-13%) with cake flour (5-8%).

From: Joy of Honey with Doris Mech

Contributed by Jerry Brantley