



Haywood County Beekeepers Chapter

Monthly Meeting Minutes

www.hcbees.org

April 03, 2018

President Rick Queen called the meeting to order and welcomed visitors.

David “Zach” Zachary shared information on Carniolan queens he received from a producer in California and passed around a queen cage with one of his beautiful Carniolan queens and attendant bees. The queen was marked with this year’s queen color of red.

Rick Queen recognized **David “Zach” Zachary** for an excellent presentation he did at the Haywood County Public Library on March 29, 2018, on the topic: “Beekeeping 101- The First Year,” which was a presentation for prospective beekeepers and what to expect during the first year of beekeeping.

For the benefit of new beekeepers, **Rick Queen** and **Rich Byers** did a detailed demonstration on how to install a package of bees, which was followed by a question and answer session.

North Carolina State Beekeepers Association Summer Meeting: Bill Skelton reminded everyone that the NCSBA summer meeting is scheduled for July 19, 20 and 21, 2018, at Blue Ridge Community College in Flat Rock. Registration information may be found on the NCSBA website at www.ncbeekeepers.org. Among the many outstanding speakers scheduled is Tom Seeley.

Apiary Inspections: Bill Skelton reported that he and NC State Apiary Inspector Lewis Cauble have conducted approximately 45 hive health inspections within the County in the past couple of days. Of the hives inspected, most appeared to be in very good health. Bill did note that there were fewer requests for inspections this year, which could possibly be due to a higher number of winter losses.

Bill Skelton reminded the group that the **2018 Master Gardener Plant Sale** pick-up date for “edibles” is Saturday, April 07, 2018, from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Any plants not claimed by 2:30 PM will be resold. The pick-up date for perennials will be May 19, 2018.

Mentors: New beekeepers who wish to have an experienced beekeeper provide guidance and support by “looking over their shoulder” to help build confidence in working their bees may find on the Club’s website a list of beekeepers who are willing to serve as mentors.

The newly-formed **Jackson County Beekeepers Chapter** meets the third

Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Jackson County Ag Center. Their speaker for April will be NC State Apiary Inspector Lewis Cauble, who will give a presentation on varroa mite management. Visitors are welcome.

The presenter for the Haywood County Beekeepers Chapter monthly meeting on May 01, 2018, will be **Bob Blackwelder**, who will give a presentation entitled, “**Working with Bees.**”

Bloom Report: Currently blooming are: Henbit, Redbud, Dandelion, Flowering Crabapple, Dogwood (which is just beginning to bloom), and Alder.

Swarms: A few swarms have been spotted already. Bill Skelton reported that he saw a swarm just a couple of days prior to the meeting; however, it was too high up in a tree to retrieve safely.

- **Swarm List:** Bill circulated a sign-up list for members who are interested in being contacted to retrieve swarms. Zach will add the list of those names and their contact information to the Club’s website.

Door Prizes given were: three jars of Sourwood honey donated by Tyree Kiser; a hive tool donated by Jim Coller; and two jar feeders. Thank you to the generous door prize contributors.

Tonight’s presentation was given by **Tyree Kiser**, who brings a wealth of beekeeping experience and knowledge, and is very well-known for the high-quality Sourwood honey his bees produce. Tyree’s topic for this month was, “**Splits** – Why do a split? Different methods to achieve different goals.” A question and answer session was held after the program.

Package Bee Raffle: The lucky winner of the package of bees was Carrie Keller. She plans to install the package in a top bar hive. Congratulations, Carrie!

Rick Queen announced that **beginner and intermediate topics** will held from 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM prior to the regular monthly meetings. Zach will list the topics on the Club’s website.

Meeting adjourned,

Respectfully submitted by:

Cindy G. Way, *Secretary*