



Haywood County Beekeepers Chapter

Monthly Meeting Minutes

www.hcbees.org

January 02, 2018

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President Rick Queen opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending our first meeting of the New Year.

Visitors welcome, the club was honored to have two visitors in attendance this month.

Is Anything Blooming?

We have been experiencing an extended arctic blast. Just prior to the onset of the miserable cold temperatures, some club members spotted Dandelion blooms. Also, some Henbit was beginning to green up and a few of its tiny purple flowers spotted along roadsides.

Winter Honey Stores: A minimum of 50-60 pounds of honey per hive is necessary to sustain the hive through the winter season.

During the current cold spell, the bees are in a tight cluster and consuming little honey. Nevertheless, we should check our hives by routinely hefting them to be sure they are not light on stores. To do this, simply place your hand underneath the back of the hive and attempt to lift.

- If you can lift the back of the hive, you are likely light on honey stores.
- In that event, it is time to consider some emergency feeding methods such as fondant, candy blocks or winter patties.

The **NC State Beekeepers Association Spring Conference** takes place on March 01 - 03, 2018 in New Bern, NC, at the **New Bern Riverfront Convention Center**. Registration information exists on the NC State Beekeepers Association web site.

Bill Skelton- Haywood County Extension Director, reminded everyone that winter is an excellent time to repair and take inventory of equipment and to increase one's beekeeping knowledge by reading and watching videos.

Allen Blanton introduced a book entitled *Garden Plants for Honey Bees* by Peter Lindtner, which has excellent photos and descriptions of plants and trees for pollinators.

2018 Beginners Beekeeping School starts on **Saturday, January 27, 2018**, from

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$50.00 for an individual or \$60.00 per couple. Cost includes the lesson book and lunch. Lewis Cauble, NC State Bee Inspector for the Mountain Region is speaking on pests and diseases. Contact Bill Skelton to sign up and more information exists here.

NC Beekeepers Association SUMMER Conference will take place at Blue Ridge Community College in Flat Rock, near Hendersonville.

Kathy Taylor of KT's Orchard will have bees for sale. She will also be selling nucs for someone else at a cost of \$160.00 each. Kathy is also selling Buckfast queens; however, they are going quick and currently she only has fifteen. Make payments by cash or check. Buckfast are good producers and are more disease resistant than many other types of bees. Kathy encouraged everyone to study the different types of bees and their traits.

- Zach mentioned that some great information exists on the “Resources” page of the HCBC website and specifically in the *Beekeeping in Tennessee* PDF file.

President Rick Queen cautioned everyone to not open hives during December, January, and February. If you have concerns of whether a hive is alive, lightly blow a little breath through the hole in the inner cover. The bees will react to the carbon dioxide from your breath.

The Club recognized webmaster extraordinaire, David “Zach” Zachary, who has done a fabulous job of designing, building, and keeping our website. Folks should visit the club website at hcbees.com and use the wealth of excellent information and beautiful images compiled by Zach. We are very grateful for his dedication and all the time and work he continually puts into making our website the best around.

In February, Beth Sain and Rick Queen will seek volunteers for a committee to find sites around our County on which the Club may set up pollinator patches. With the loss of habitat, it is more important than ever to obtain plants for honey bees and other pollinators. The Club will hold monthly 50/50 drawings to help raise funds to buy seeds and support for this project. The Club also hopes to work toward making Waynesville a Bee City like what Asheville has done.

President Rick Queen discussed the Club's plan to expand its coverage to accommodate all levels of beekeeping and for the Club to have a Bee Buddy program. “Bee buddies” will focus specifically on helping our beginning beekeepers.

HCBC member, Jim Coller presented tonight's program on The Story of Africanized Honey Bees. This excellent, informative presentation included details on Africanized Honey Bees (AHB) such as: origin, identification, migration, Hybrid African and European Honey Bees, and traits of AHB.

Traits of the Africanized Honey Bee (AHB) include:

- a. Able to fly faster,
- b. Queen develops in 14-15 days,

- c. Workers develop in 18-19 days,
- d. Workers' first flights are within 3 days,
- e. Drones' mating flights are within 7 – 8 days,
- f. Swarms between 3 – 16 times per year,
- g. Swarms can travel up to 75 miles,
- h. Absconds often; meaning they leave in a hurry and secretly,
- i. Build up rapidly and work longer days than European Honey Bees,
- j. More resistant to mites and diseases.

How does the Africanized honeybees migrate?

Swarming, absconding, mating, and transport of hives for pollination.

Characteristics of AHB includes:

- a. Very defensive by a factor of ten,
- b. Will sting 10 times quicker than European Honey Bees (EHB) and will deliver 10 times more stings than EHB,
- c. AHB will follow you 200 yards or more,
- d. Calm down time of AHB is much longer than that of EHB.

North Carolina has an action plan, which includes:

- a. Timely analysis,
- b. Education,
- c. Quarantine,
- d. Research,
- e. Working for NC to become self-sufficient with beekeepers knowing that they are buying queens and packages from reputable suppliers, and raising their own queens.
- f. Port areas to be “No Bee” zones,
- g. Monitor movement and transport of bees,
- h. Beekeepers wanting to sell bees must obtain a state permit for this purpose.

What is the likelihood of Africanized Honey Bees coming into our area?

Dr. David Tarpy, Professor at NCSU, shows an almost certainty that AHB will move into North Carolina at some point; however, it is more likely that they might exist in the coastal and piedmont areas, with a lesser likelihood of their moving into the

mountain areas.

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cindy G. Way, *Secretary*