



Haywood County Beekeepers Chapter

Monthly Meeting Minutes

www.hcbees.org

March 06, 2018

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

President Rick Queen introduced **Scott Davis, President of the Buncombe County Beekeepers Chapter**, who reported on the NC State Beekeepers Association Spring Meeting. Marla Spivak was among the speakers and she conducts extensive research on treating and feeding of bees. She expressed her belief that the feeding of probiotics and antibiotics may disrupt the bees' systems.

Scott Davis circulated a survey which the Buncombe County Beekeepers Chapter is conducting. He asked those in attendance to complete the survey form and record information about; mite treatment, colony survival rates, types of mite assessment, and treatments administered by beekeepers. The goal of the survey is to offer better education for controlling mites to assess percentages of hive losses.

Hive Loss Numbers: Beekeepers at the NCSBA State meeting discussed hive loss numbers and initial loss percentages with preliminary loss percentages around 30% to 35%. However, once all the numbers are in the nationwide losses could rise as high as 50% or more.

North Carolina Beekeepers Association Summer Meeting is on July 19, 20 and 21, 2018, at Blue Ridge Community College. An onsite apiary will be set up and with several workshops planned. Greg Rogers will conduct a queen rearing workshop and the keynote speaker will be Tom Seeley.

Apiary Inspections: Bill Skelton and State Apiary Inspector Lewis Cauble have scheduled bee hive health inspections for our area for the week of April 02 – 06, 2018. Bill had inspection forms available at the meeting. Anyone interested in signing up to have their hives inspected should contact Bill Skelton.

Pollination Plant Project: Rick Queen and Al Edwards spoke with Ronnie Donaldson at Riverview Hardware and obtained a Club price for Buckwheat and Dutch White Clover seeds. Rick asks for folks to volunteer to plant seeds in various places such as around their yards and gardens, along fence lines and walkways, and any available areas-even in planters. He also asked that folks contact any farmers they think might be interested in planting pollinator plants on their farms, even if only in a small area.

- The quoted price for Buckwheat is \$53.85 for 50 pounds or \$1.05 per pound.
- The quoted price for Dutch White Clover is a little over \$3.00 per pound.

Door Prizes given were a gift certificate donated by **KT's Orchard and Apiary** and a

gift certificate donated by **Wild Mountain Bees**. Also, Sarah McKinney of Wild Mountain Bees donated a gift certificate for the Beginning Beekeepers School at Wild Mountain Bees, a jar of lemongrass infused honey, and a Wild Mountain Bee tote bag. The Club extends a sincere thank you to our most generous door prize contributors.

Bee Package Raffle Tickets are still on sale for a three-pound package of bees. Tickets are \$1.00 each or six tickets for \$5.00. The drawing will be at the April 2018 meeting.

Our speaker this evening was Sarah McKinney, owner of Wild Mountain Bees. Sarah also writes articles for WNC Women's Magazine. Sarah gave an excellent presentation on the topic of bees coming out of winter entitled "Diagnosing and Strategies to Recover: Why, how and when to re-queen." The program was followed by a very informative question and answer session.

The speaker for the April 03, 2018 meeting will be our own Tyree Kiser, who is scheduled to give a presentation on "Splits – Why do a split? Different methods to achieve different goals."

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

Cindy G. Way, *Secretary*