



HCBC Monthly Meetings Summary

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February 2, 2016

The State Beekeepers meeting is in Newburg on Feb. 26 - 27.
Some beekeepers are seeing pollen going into their hives which indicates brood.

Guest Speaker: **Sarah Eshan**, AKA The Bee Whisperer

"What is going on in the hives?" The time for starvation is now through May. Need to do the 'heft test' to see if the hive has enough honey. If light then feed. And have a plan for swarming. Be ready to split hives. Have extra hives on hand. If you feed pollen it will stimulate bees to make brood and they could swarm in March.

Put food directly on the cluster in the top box. Jar feed - glass or plastic, baggie feed using name brand baggies 1 gal or 1 qt., fondant, or dry sugar.

Watch the weather when it changes. Be aware of what is going on in your area. Watch the trees for budding or freezing. If the maples freeze we need to feed pollen patties. First inspection of hives. Check the queen for health and good brood pattern. If there is no queen, you may be able to combine hives.

Check hives for mites. Treat hives for mites. Mites cannot survive without brood. Sarah says she uses ApiLife Guard but it has to be done 4 weeks before honey flow. Apivar has an 'open bond' chemical in it that can bond with chemicals in pesticides. Oxalic Acid needs to be used when there is no brood. You can use the 'drizzle method'. It takes the vapor method 10 minutes, but you have to have a mask and vapor dispenser.

Honey Bee Healthy is good for treating Nosema.

In March there will be 2 plant sales by the Master Gardners. Edible plants and Pollinator plants.

April 4 - 8 Bill Skelton and Louis Cauble will be inspecting hives.

Next meeting will be March 1.

Vicki Morrison
Haywood County Beekeepers Secretary