



HCBC Monthly Meetings Summary

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April 5, 2016

Allan Blanton reported that there were 30-31 students in the beekeepers school. The 2nd part will be on April 16 at 10am at KT's orchard at which time the Master Beekeeper exam can be taken. It will have around 50 questions. 70 is passing. At 11am everyone will go into a hive.

If you were in the bee school you can get the textbooks tonight.
Alan cautioned to watch for swarms after this cold spell.

Jon Serinus reported that the Appalachian Lifestyle event in Waynesville on Saturday, June 11th, we will have a booth with an observation hive. It will last from 10 - 5pm. We will need volunteers and those who want to can sell their honey in the booth.

Bill Skelton reported the 20-frame honey extractor that we obtained from a grant should be up and ready to use by May 11.
Also, from the Pollinator Project from Soil & Water you can get 1/4 lb of seeds from Bill. Please limit to 2.

Louis Cauble reported that on his inspection of the hives that most were healthy. He saw some that were crowded and ready to swarm and only 1 case of sac brood.

Rich says that there were donations of old bee magazines from Shannon Roberts. Anyone can have some for a small donation. He reminded everyone to pay their dues - \$10 per person, \$15 for a family.

Doug Vincent from Conover, NC, is the speaker tonight. He is the interim VP for the State Beekeepers Association. You can reach him at dtjamvin@gmail.com
He talked about the State Conference in Hickory July 7 - 9, ([HTTP://www.ncbeekeepers.org](http://www.ncbeekeepers.org)) and that Dr. Marion Ellis will be one of the speakers and he will talk about Managing Honey Bees for Honey Production, and How to Use Oxalic Acid to Control Varroa Mites. Dr. Ellis may also conduct workshops. Dr. Vanessa Corby-Harris will be speaking on The Importance of Nutrition on Colony Health. And Jeff Berta will be speaking on New Genetics: Mite biting behavior as promising Varroa control, and New models for state and regional breeding programs.

Doug talked about problems with queen issues, winter losses, absconding, sick bees, mite overload and colony collapse. Causes: many combinations with Varroa at the top. Viruses, Nosema, chemicals, nutrition, immune response disorder, and stress for a few. The war on Varroa: Interrupt reproduction, use hard/soft chemicals, and selective breeding.

Losses: Buy bees and restock or give up. There can be mites in the packages. Restock every year.

Splits: Spring splits bring inherent problems such as: weather, fewer resources for food, Queen availability, slow to build up, fewer drones, and feeding issues. Or congestion when the queen does not have enough cells to lay brood.

Summer Splits - Why? to reduce Varroa mite population, (Varroa mite survival is 100% in the brood), Queens are available, makes a more flexible timetable, sustainability (buy fewer bees), healthier late season (winter) bees, better weather, greater resources (bees, brood, etc), make increases in the summer to hedge off fall and winter losses.

Doug showed slides of charts from Randy Oliver, Kurt Webster, Mike Palmer, and Mell Disselkoen showing the Mite cycle, Lemming Effect and brood breaks in late summer. Doug stated that in July/August to have 2 frames of brood, 1 frame of honey and pollen, fill out with drawn comb and queen cells. Supplement with food/sugar water over winter.

Where do Queens come from? Get Non-grafting queen rearing techniques from colonies you like, purchase local stock from other beekeepers, allow splits to make their own queens, or use Mel's notching technique. Summer queens should be mated after Summer Solstice/June 21. There is less swarming and she doesn't lay drone brood.

Management of Nucs: Move or leave in apiary, feed, check for laying queen in a couple of weeks, remove brood as necessary for more splits or strengthen others, put to bed for winter.

Doug showed slides of enlarging a nuc to 10 frames (reduced to 9).

May 1 - put on honey supers

June 1 - another super, Move to a new location if possible

feed and give pollen - you want the queen to lay a lot of brood and have fat bees

Meeting adjourned.

Next beekeepers meeting is May 3.

Vicki Morrison

Haywood County Beekeepers Secretary