



HCBC Monthly Meetings Summary

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July 5, 2016

Allen opened the meeting. We had the raffle.

There was sporadic or no locust bloom this year.

Rich gave the treasury report. \$303.08 in checking, \$2627.19 in savings

Kathy, KT's orchard, says that she has an extractor that people can use. She reminded people to be mindful of taking care of equipment they use. She says that Louis Cabel did a sugar shake and found mites. Sugar shake: Take bees on a frame and shake them into a tub. Make sure there is no queen. Scoop bees into a jar with confectioners' sugar that has a top with holes. Shake bees and put bees back in hive. Pour the confectioners' sugar into a bowl of water. The mites will float. Do not put the super back on hive - treat with appropriate treatment.

- Kathy believes that re-queening the hive will help decrease the mite population by breaking the brood cycle.

Louis says that is a resurgent of Chalk brood. Check brood for white larvae, eggs, etc. In Michael Bush's books, he says make a 5/8" hole in front of hives to prevent robbing.

Bill says that if you have 1/4 - 1/3 drone brood that you are breeding varroa mites.

Jim Collar says he went to a 'technology round table discussion' (somewhere) on remotely monitoring hives in a cost-effective manner which was exciting. He says there were 85 people there from different levels of society - House of Representatives, University PhDs, CEOs of internet companies, Technology people, and public people. He says that they discussed the link between the bee, farms, and technology. He says there is a lot of interest and follow up.

Allen voiced an appreciation to Jon Serenius for helping and coordinating the booth at the Appalachian Lifestyle event.

- He reports that the NC State Beekeepers Conference begins this Thursday at 9am when the Master Beekeeping program will begin and at 10am classes for the certification level for Journeyman Beekeeper will be.
- He says that Marion Ellis will be speaking at the conference.

Saturday, August 6, will be the field day and picnic from 4 -7pm. There will be 8-10 hives to demonstrate different treatments for varroa. There will be treatments available from Wild Mountain Bees for sale. Supper will be BBQ chicken provided by the club. Members will bring potluck. There will be a raffle.

The chart of "What's Blooming" was passed out. Sourwood will be blooming soon. Honey must have a 51/% pollen count to be called 'sourwood' honey. Basswood blooms the same time as sourwood.

The speaker tonight is Allen Blanton on "Queens and Beyond". Allen is a NCSBA Master Beekeeper.

Allen says that the more attendant bees there are around the queen the more viable she is. If she is alone she could be losing vitality and having problems.

- Queen failure:
- Stress - mites
- Chemical residue in wax *top bar hives have new wax every year and there is no chemical residue in wax.
- Pesticides stored in pollen - Pollen makes beebread to feed new bees. Pesticides could poison pollen
- Poor mating - Allen re-queens every 6 months to a year.
- Genetics - disease (Mites, viruses, bacteria, etc.) or old age Longevity, strength, viability play a role in genetics. Allen says he had a good queen live for 5 years.

*Commercial Queen Breeders - the queens are mated with 4-8 drones, and they need to be mated with 12-18 drones.

If nectar source is low, the queen will slow to lay brood. Allen says he does not 'pinch' the queen or rarely does. Basswood has started to bloom and Sourwood will start in the last 3 weeks of July. The queen will start to lay brood again.

Allen says that 3 years ago, he decided to try the 'natural method' and lost 18 of 22 hives to varroa. He says he uses Apivar to control mites now. He says he rotates frames out. he says he is using a 5-color system of queens on frames to take out frames to prevent chemical residue buildup.

Allen says you need to take notes about your hives. You need to be actively involved in the hives. Check them once a week. Check the brood pattern. Learn about the queen. Ask questions.

Usually the queen will stay at the bottom of the hive - in the lower box. For a hive to make a queen or raise a queen naturally: Take 2 frames of brood. Find the queen and put in queen catcher. Shake bees off and put in another super with empty frames. Put a queen excluder in between the supers. The nurse bees will go up into hive (never leave less than 3 weeks old).

- Use a queen castle - has 4 compartments. Put a queen cell in each compartment.

If you want to enter your honey in the County Fair the rules are in the catalog. The fair provides education awareness and visibility to people who do not have bees. The County Fair has asked for \$200 to support the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize for honey. A motion of 'yes' passed.

Meeting adjourned

Next beekeepers meeting is June 7 at the Lodge at the back of the Mountain Test Farm.

Vicki Morrison

Haywood County Beekeepers Secretary