



## HCBC Monthly Meetings Summary

[www.hcbees.org](http://www.hcbees.org)

**September 6, 2016**

Allen Blanton opened the meeting.

1. Allen talked about the Honey House. The use of the Honey House was free to all this year. Next year we may have to charge a small fee for equipment that may be damaged, etc. We have an un-capper that will uncap frames in 5 seconds. The extractor will hold 20 frames at one time. We have a pressure washer in the facility to clean the equipment.
2. The elections are in November and we will need to elect a Vice President, Treasurer, and 2 Directors. The requirements for each office is that one holds memberships in both the NC State Beekeepers Association and Haywood County Beekeepers Association.
3. Take pictures of your Bee yard and they will be shown in November at the meeting.
4. At the October meeting, we will have a Honey Tasting, so bring some of your honey to share and taste with fellow beekeepers. If traveling out of state, country or abroad, bring honey from other places.
  - a. Honey winners at the Haywood County Fair:
  - b. 1st Place for Dark Honey and Extracted Comb Honey - Rick Queen
  - c. 1st Place for Light Extracted Honey - Allen Stewart
  - d. Two second places - Rick Queen

What is blooming? Asters (make the hive stink!) Golden Rod is beginning

You need between 45 - 60 lbs. of honey for winter. You may need to feed on double hive bodies. 1:1

### Raffle

Speaker: Phil Holbert from Saluda, NC with 40 years as a beekeeper discussed winterizing bees..

- Phil talked about feeding the bees and says you cannot overfeed bees. 2:1 sugar water is closer to honey consistency and the bees do not have to dry it out as much. 1:1 is 50% water and closer to nectar.
- He uses Domino sugar because it is non-GMO. Feed the last week of August 1 1/2 gallons of 1:1. You want the queen to lay winter brood. She lays more on the longest day of the year and less and less as the days get shorter. Feed the 2nd and 3rd week of September 1:1 1/2 with fumagillin for Nosema. (In the winter if bees have Nosema they will be outside the hive and there will be dark yellow streaks on the outside of the hive.) Fermented sugar water will give the bees Nosema. Add a spoonful of Chlorox to prevent fermenting.
- Feed now! It is hard to feed in cold weather. Right now, there is pollen but no

- nectar due to dry weather. Feed 1:1 in July and 1: 1 1/2 in September.
- To prevent robbing rip a board 2" wide with a 3/8" hole in the middle. Robbers will not go in a deep hole.
- Bees begin to cluster in late October. When it is 40-45F they will have a loose cluster.
- Two weeks before or after December 22 you may have a brood-less hive because the queen stops laying. On January 10th, the queen will start laying in a circle to replace bees that have died.
- Currently, summer bees are dying off and will only have 1/2 the bees. The queen is laying winter bees. Winter bees have more fat and protein in their bodies.
- Treat bees early to knock down the mites. You want winter bees to be healthy. Phil uses Apivar strips to treat his hives.
- One brood frame weighs 8 - 9 lbs.
- Shallow box weighs 30 - 35 lbs.
- Medium box weighs 40 - 45 lbs.
- Hive body 90 lbs. lift side of the hive
- 25 lbs. of honey per hive = 4 - 4 1/2 gallons of honey

### Winter

Phil says he feeds his bees once a month starting in January through March - 1:1 syrup in 1/2 gallon bags. Feed in the bottom box. If the bees are in the bottom box, then rotate them and then feed the bees. The warmer the winter the more likely the bees will move up.

- If we have a cold winter and there is a small cluster of bees, they may die. If the cluster is small and the weather is cold for 2-3 days, then the bees cannot get to the honey to feed the rest of the hive.
- Do not feed pollen patties in the hives! The patties attract hive beetles (small white larvae crawling around). Put the patties in a 2-gallon bucket with a cut out 2" above the bottom. Put sticks in the bucket for bees to crawl on. Hang the bucket high because possums will get into it.
- Start January 1st to promote brood laying.
- You will need to plan to control swarms in April.

Grade bees now to make sure they will make it through the winter. If the hive is 5 frames or less of bees, then take a loss. 99% of the time the queen has died or left. Shake them out and they will go into another hive.

The strongest hive may eat all their food before winter and die.

Sometimes there will be small fistful swarms that supersedes the queen. Let them go or if you can catch 1 -2 swarms put them in a Nuc with 3 frames in case a hive loses a queen.

- Use Teramicin for Foul Brood in the Spring and Fall. Stop use 6 weeks before the honey flow - middle of March. Terra Brood or Terra Flo

Trivia: Cudzu honey makes the best mead. It only blooms at the top of trees high up where the blooms can hang down.

There will be a Board meeting before the next meeting on October 4 at 6pm. We did not

have a meeting this time.

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*