



## HCBC Monthly Meetings Summary

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

**October 4, 2016**

**Allen** opened the meeting with updates:

- Our webmaster, Jon Serenius resigned, and a replacement is needed, David Zachary volunteered and stated that he will need to see the nominating committee - Cindy, Rudy, and Tyree.
- Elections for 2018 will be on November 1. We will need to vote in a new VP, Treasurer, and two Directors.
- On December 6, we will have our Christmas Potluck dinner, auction and cake walk. If you have items to donate it would be greatly appreciated. Spencer says there are FREE 1 gallon jugs available.

**Rich** suggested that club members bring and share pictures of their bee yards and how you manage the bees. Members can bring photographs, or digital images on a flash drive.

**Cynthia Schwartz** suggested that people could write questions like, “what you want to know or wonder about as beekeepers,” on cards that could be answered during the party. It was suggested that members bring some of their honey for others to sample.

**Dave Cowart**, speaker for the evening, is from Sandy Marsh in Buncombe County. He has fifty hives and he discussed *winterizing* and *feeding*.

1. In June, we had poplar and blackberry blooming
2. August 1, honey-supers are removed and treatments are applied.
3. This year we had a 6" deficit of rain in Buncombe Co. Thus, if there is a lack of rain, FEED the BEES a solution of 1:1 sugar water.
4. You want to see different colors of honey.
5. By November, the hives should be lead heavy.
  - Hive temperature must be above 55 degrees F, sunny, and allow no wind to get in the hives.
  - Do not leave queen excluders installed, as the cluster will move up and the queen will be left to die.
  - Use pickle jars with the holes in the lid the size of a quarter (the holes not extending beyond the diameter), or use hive top tray feeders (take them off when it gets cold and use jars).
6. Put on top of inner cover and do not use Boardman feeders
7. Reduce entrance and use mouse guards
8. If you feed at dusk, you don't have to worry about robbing.
9. Use Honey Bee Healthy in all sugar that you feed the bees, but only once. DO NOT stop feeding until all hives are heavy.
10. STOP feeding when the hives are heavy.
  - Feed in baggies throughout the winter, if the hive does not feel heavy.

11. In December, you can treat with Oxalic Acid for mite treatments.
  - The problem is because there may be live brood in the hive.
  - DO NOT apply treatment unless the hive is dormant and there is no brood present in the hive.

**Honey Supers** - make sure they are dry.

- Put on hive with inner cover - bees will clean and dry.
- Dry wet frames using a dehumidifier (in storage), as it will stop beetles.
- Monitor 'dead outs' or dead hives.
- Expose to light which will stop wax moths.
- Para-moth can be used, but use it only on Supers not the bee hives.
- Protect honey-supers. Bees can fill drawn comb in 2 days.

Place hives South or Southeast facing out of the wind. Norther beekeepers use hay bales to protect the hives.

**Dave** says he uses thymol for a treatment for mites.

Blackberry could cause honey to crystallize. All honey will eventually crystallize.

**The Chinese** have been banned from selling honey to the US. It has antibiotics in it. It is being re-routed through India and Viet Nam.

- 650 lb. barrels are shipped all over the world in green barrels.
- Star thistle and rape seed make clear honey and is shipped south

**Allen** talked about the Honey House and the un-capper taking only 5 seconds.

**Rich** asked for membership dues to be paid in December for next year.

- Individual - \$10
- Family - \$15 Plus \$15 for the State membership.
- He extended a welcome to all visitors and new members.

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*