



HCBC Monthly Meetings Summary

www.hcbees.org

January 3, 2017

Checking: \$537.69 Savings: \$1970.69 Collected on Raffle: \$110

We need membership dues for this year. You can get on the mailing list to get the newsletter each month prior to the meetings.

Thank you to the 2016 Board members.

Spencer Huggins was the Vice President and is now a Director and Cindy Way rotated off the board.

Bill Skelton, County Extension Director:

- Beekeepers School to be offered on February 11
- Registration is at 8:30, with class from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.
- The University of PA information is used for the books.
- Motion was approved for ordering 30 books.
 - Bill will order the books.
- Cost for school will be \$40 individual, \$50 couple, and \$20 for students, or under age 18.
- This will include all materials, lunch, and membership to HC Beekeepers. Call 828-456-3575

January 24, at 1:00 the County Extension Office will present Western NC Beekeeping Updates. Presenters will do ten minute updates on current research, educational opportunities, etc. And what agencies can do to help beekeepers. Dr. Tarpie will call in online. Louis Caubel will speak. Soil & Water will discuss cost share programs and the Family Service Agency will discuss loans.

Allen - March 3 & 4, 2017, there will be joint sessions of the NC/SC Beekeepers Association Spring Meeting in Rock Hill, SC.

- Registration is \$40 online; \$50 at the door.
- There will be a Friday banquet costing \$20 per person.

This will be the last year for Allen to be on the State Regional Directors. He says it has been a great privilege. There are 4 levels to being a Master Beekeeper. Allen is a Master Beekeeper. There are 6 Journeymen.

Rich Queen and **Beth** received their Journeyman Certificate. They studied for 1 month and took the online practice tests each month. Allen gave them the test.

- Go to HCBees.org and at the bottom of the page are links to some sample questions.

- In the February 11 newsletter, there will be questions.
 - Who lost bees already? Discussion with members.

Raffle

Kathy T. got pollinator seeds from Leslie Smathers to seed quarter acre slots. It is a mix of clover for this area. You need two bags of lime and one bag of fertilizer. Plant in the fall and it gives bees a forage in November and December. She wants to give them to four to six farmers throughout the county. She will get prices for seeds next week. She wants \$500 from the club to purchase seeds, lime, and fertilizer.

Speaker: Jon Christi from Madison County has been a beekeeper for twelve to thirteen years. He had Wild Mountain Bees and sold it because he is downsizing his business to make it more manageable. We had a Q & A session about what happened in 2016 and what Jon did in 2016.

March - June he was busy making nucs and feeding bees. We had a great maple bloom that helped the bees make brood. In the mountains foraging days may be different in Asheville than in Maggie Valley.

The bees could be inside the hives not being able to forage and using up stores.

- Mild winters are not good for hives.
- Cold winters the bees have more stress.
- Check the weight of the hives. If you see wax crumbs on the hive entrance, there may be robbing of a dead hive.
- Wax flakes can be seen on the antennae before they fly and they are robbers.

March early bloom was good. Massive brood nests.

April, it got cold and there was starvation.

Spring honey flow - Poplar, Blackberry, and Locust - people didn't get much honey. Bugs affecting the poplar trees. Honeybees will go to pine and oak trees where aphids are and get the honeydew the aphids produce.

Summer honey, Sourwood, Basswood - flow was good if beekeepers took the honey. We had a long, dry fall which was bad for the bees. The third week of July the honey flow stopped. Robbing happened.

September and August – FEED the bees!

- Q&A: If you got bees in August there was dirt and robbing challenges.
- You are wasting time with top feeders - they will drown bees.
- Use jars over the clusters in cold weather.
- Use patties to feed.
 - bees can't store it, but use it for heat and energy.
- Some beekeepers use sugar cakes instead of liquid.

Search *Sustainable Beekeeping*, by Mike Palmer who is a beekeeper from Vermont,

about the four-frame Nuc. He starts in July and August and makes nucs. He winters two nucs above a double-deep hive.

- It is the hardest to have just two hives.
- If you have more than two, you can borrow honey from one.
- DO NOT cut out swarm cells unless there are queen cells in the hive so the bees can make a new hive.
- DO NOT invert the queen cell. It can damage the queen if it is not developed pupae.
- A good sugar source in bulk is an Amish place in Irwin, TN.
- It is not hard to raise queens or to split a hive.

The key characteristics of a hive before it swarms are:

1. When you pull frames, you see queen cells
2. During four to five cold running days in spring the bees get crowded and on the first sunny day they will swarm.
3. If the bees are bearding, they are trying to ventilate the hive

Meeting adjourned

Vicki Morrison
Haywood County Beekeepers Secretary