



HCBC Monthly Meetings Summary

www.hcbees.org

February 7, 2017

President, Allen Blanton opened the meeting. Allen presented Bill Skelton with a certificate of a Lifetime Membership to our Bee Club. Bill was also presented with an engraved hive tool stating, "To Bill Skelton in appreciation in support of our club - Haywood County Beekeepers." Bill has been the County Extension Director for 16 years and has helped the club throughout the years. He helped to write the grant and get the funds for our honey house.

Bill talked about the Beginning Beekeepers School this weekend. What's Blooming? Hyacinth, daffodils

- Bees will visit the Adler and Willow trees for pollen, there is no nectar. The maples will begin to bloom soon.

The NC State Beekeepers State convention is March 3 & 4 in Rockhill, NC.
<https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/> or <https://scstatebeekeepers.wildapricot.org/event-2399220>

This is a collaborative event with the SC State Beekeepers Association. **KEYNOTE Speakers:** will be Dr. Larry Connor, Dr. Dewey Caron, Dr. Leo Sharashkin, Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda.

If you are interested, you can take the journeyman or master's level beekeeper test on Saturday from 10 to 11 am.

David Zachary, (he goes by Zach) talked about the HCBees.org website he just put up on the web today. He is a brand-new beekeeper and has been attending meetings since October. He has no bees yet; however, he will get them this spring.

- David possesses twenty years' experience in webmaster and website design.
- He has been transferring old information from the previous website to the web layout, with approximately twenty-five more pages in the design stage.
- He says to send pictures and information about your apiary to him through email. (not physical pictures you have to scan in).
- He showed us the website on the wall and explained how to use the links and how to navigate the pages.

Allen had new people introduce themselves to the club.

Rich says there is FREE smoker fuel (pine needles) in boxes in the front of the entrance to the building.

Raffle held.

Bill reports the Wild Mountain Bees has moved further north up the same road - 23 Merrimon Avenue in Weaverville.

Sick-call: One of our members is in the hospital after a complicated heart surgery. We had a prayer for him.

Speaker: Tyree Kaiser - has been a beekeeper since 1970, over forty-five years and here are some of his comments:

1. Always work to the side of the hives, and not the front or back sides.
2. Now is the time to decide what to do for the rest of the year. Do you need to order equipment or build equipment?
3. What do you need for the rest of the year?
4. The club has a library where you can get various beekeeping books (and DVDs).
5. You can subscribe to various bee catalogs on the website.
6. Read a book a year on Beekeeping.
7. There are things you must do during the year to keep bees alive.
8. Nucs cost \$190 which is a lot.
 - a. KT's Orchard in Canton, NC has nucs for \$150 and package bees for \$105.
9. If you can keep bees alive over winter, you can have more bees.
 - a. It takes time, money, and knowledge.
10. Tyree has two apiaries in two locations and he focuses on the sourwood honey.
 - a. Haywood County has the best Basswood honey.
 - b. Tree honey does not crystallize, but clover honey will.
11. When you build your equipment:
 - a. order the hive(s) and put them together
 - b. use a good wood glue
 - c. use a primer on the hive body, supers, and inner covers
 - d. put the top coat of paint on the outside of all of them and the inner covers
 - e. On the inner cover paint the entire board on both sides.
 - i. Exception: on an old used hive body or super use a primer and paint the inside to seal the old wood because it seals in the mold.
 - ii. Bees will cover the inside of the hive with propolis as an antiseptic and protection for bees.
12. Treat bees in September for mites. Monitor the mite count.
13. Winter time: Use double hive bodies - two regular, three mediums, or two supers to build one hive body.
14. Maple trees are the first to bloom.
15. "Dead Out" is a dead hive.
 - a. Take a frame out and see if the bees are head first in the cells dead, brush them out.
 - b. Put the hive body on a strong hive and the bees will clean it out.
 - c. The cause of a 'dead out' could be lack of honey, very little brood, no queen.
 - d. The cause is probably mites and mites will die in a dead hive.
16. Stop the entrance to prevent robbing in the winter.
17. Check dark comb by holding it to light. If you cannot see through it, replace it. Usually every five years. Wax absorbs pesticides. Cells get smaller.
18. You can put the frame on a solar wax-melter to clean the frame. Put on new

- foundation. Bees can only draw out come when it is warm and during a honey flow - three times a year.
19. Check for mites: you need to have a screen bottom board. Use the sticky board and put a thin layer of Vaseline on it. Put it below the screen. Leave it for 24 hours and count the mites in a 1"x 1". If you find 5-10 mites, you are in trouble.
 20. You can get the Bee Inspector to help you identify why the bees died. Bees usually die from mites or starvation.
 21. If you have live bees in your bee yard, do a lift to check the weight of the hive. Feed your bees beginning now until the middle of April. The most dangerous time of the year for bees to starve is now.
 22. To feed the bees you can put a jar of sugar water on two strips of wood placed on either side of the hole on the inner cover. Use 1/8" or 1/4" strips of wood. Use metal lids and glass jars. Put holes on the top of the lid, not the inside, with a nail. Put a hive body on top with a 1/8" stick in between for ventilation. If you don't, condensation will build up when it gets warm.
 23. Top feeders do not work in the winter, because the bees will drown.
 24. Keep mouse guards on the front of the hives in the winter to keep bees from robbing and take them off when the honey flow starts.
 25. In addition, Tyree said that in March he got in hive when it is 70 degrees, warm, sunny, and calm. He stated that the beekeeper must always *have a reason* to enter the hive.
 - a. Smoke the inner cover hole.
 - b. Check for honey and brood.
 - c. Use the hive tool to open the hive.
 - d. DO NOT take out the first frame, but remove the second frame so you don't damage the bees.
 - e. Move the third frame over and check for honey by viewing the remaining frames without taking them out.
 - f. Put all frames back in the order they were removed.
 26. To prevent swarming:
 - a. Check for brood and if there is none, or if all the bees (the colony) congregate on the top of the hive. with none are on the bottom, the hive is empty.
 27. Alternating hive bodies.
 - a. First scrap off the comb on the bottom of the top hive.
 - b. Put the top hive body on the bottom and the bottom one on the top.
 - c. This allows more room for the queen to lay eggs and for the bees to make honey.
 - d. Before you put on supers for honey, swap the hive bodies back the way they were.
 28. It takes 6 weeks for a queen to develop from egg to bee and it takes two and on-half to three weeks to make a new queen. Sometimes it is better to replace the weak queen.

Meeting adjourned,

Vicki Morrison
Haywood County Beekeepers Secretary