



Haywood County Beekeeper's Association

Monthly Minutes

April 4, 2017

President Allan Blanton opened the meeting and he discussed the State Convention and raising queens. In the future, he will have a free class on raising queens and he mentioned using old cone for grafting.

Bill Skelton had the new people introduce themselves to the club. Louis Cauble is currently in the process of conducting hive inspections and Bill says they have found 'snotty brood,' which needs to be treated with Terramycin that can be purchased from any veterinarian. Most hives they found are doing well. The bees are not ready to swarm yet, but soon they will be in the swarming mode. You can give brood more space by spreading some brood to the outside frames and moving less populated frames closer to the center of the box.

Allan also reported that Bill's wife is selling nucs and packaged bees may be harder to get now. Wild Mountain Bees are receiving their bee packages and nucs. KT's Orchard and Apiary will have the per-ordered bees and nucs ready for pickup on April 15.

Bloom Report – currently, red bud, the mustard family, hen-bit, service berries, and dandelions are flowering. Due to the weather, the bloom was early this year. Watch for tulip poplar to bloom next.

To earn credits for the Master Beekeeper Certificate there is a Boy Scout troop that needs a beekeeper to speak in June about beekeeping.

Bill Franklin has an extractor for sale.

Raffle

Speaker Tyree Kiser spoke about "Preventing Swarming." Tyree was the president of the club in the 80's and he pointed out that some members have already had swarming issues.

Swarming is fascinating! You cannot prevent it nor control it because it is a natural and instinctive behavior of honeybees. More than 1/2 of the bees leave the hive with the queen. A swarm means, 1) \$130 on a tree/bush, 2) no surplus honey, and 3) you may lose the hive.

Swarming happens in the middle of April or later. Go into the strongest hives first:

1. Be ready when you leave honey exposed or a hive open too long.
2. Gear up and get a smoker before going into the brood chamber.
3. Take the top off - leave inner cover on and smoke through the hole.
4. Work with the hive tool on the side then lift and twist. Lift, it up and smoke on the bottom. Move to the hive top.
5. Switch hive bodies and cover up the hive.
6. In ten days go back inside the hive and repeat the process, while checking for queen cells and queen cups. The peanut shaped type cups are swarm cells and if any exists, it indicates that the bees will swarm in a week or so.

To prevent swarming:

1. Take the hive body off. Put inner cover on the bottom of the hive body. Find the Queen which is usually in the top hive body.
2. Start with the 2nd frame from the end of the frame. Leave the end frame. Check for the Queen. If there is no Queen set the frame in another hive body that is closed
3. Check the 3rd frame and put it back.
4. Check the 4th frame and if it has empty cells, look for the Queen.
5. Check the 5th frame and if there are young larvae, eggs, or dry cells. If the Queen is on this frame move the queen to another hive body.
6. Put 2-3 frames of drawn comb in the middle of the rest with foundation and 1 frame of capped brood in the bottom of the hive. Take the Queen frame (check and destroy Queen cells) and put in bottom hive. Make sure no queen cells or brood are in the bottom hive. All in the top hive body.
7. Use a screen and put on the top of the bottom hive. Destroy queen cells on top hive except for 3 or 4 of the best. Use a sugar feeder. A young Queen will hatch in a week and mate. If you have all brood

frames you can take some out and put in another hive body and make a nuc. Put another double screen and put on top.

8. Wait two weeks before checking the hive!
9. Look for eggs and laying Queen. There may have supercedure cells or a new queen.

* Young queens will not swarm. They will kill the old queen if there are queen cells.

Purchased Queen- Add young queen in the middle of frames with the candy end up and do not open the hive for a week. When you return, take the queen cage out and put the frame back in, then wait another week.

1. Check frames for larvae and capped brood.
2. If there is no field force of bees and little or no brood, they will not swarm.
3. Usually the bees will not swarm after the end of May.

Questions: Put entrances opposite - one in front and one in back if you have two hives on top of each other.

1. If you do a split you must have a queen.
2. If you have both queen cells and supercedure - leave one of each
3. If you have a “mean” queen separate the hive body with the queen and let the field bees go back in another hive body.
 - a. Kill the queen and put in a new queen.
 - b. “Mean” bees *run* on the frames, “gentle” bees do not.
 - c. Put the brood and queen cells on top and one frame and one queen cell on the bottom
4. When the honey flow starts take the strong hive and move the Queen box and swap positions of the hives - only during a heavy honey flow. If full of queen cells, move over. You should make the bees think they swarmed.

Honeybee license plates-can be purchased for \$15, of which \$5 goes to the University State and \$10 goes to the DMV. You can personalize your license tag for \$45. You can go online and look it up.

Rich Byers- gave a slide presentation about, *What Happens When a Hive Swarms?* He also mentioned that beekeepers who desire to be on the “Swarm List” would contact him. You will need to leave your name, address and phone.

Some "Do's and Don'ts when collecting swarms.

Do cut branches or bushes that are within reach. **Do not** over extend yourself.

Do shake or brush a swarm that you can reach easily, but first, spray the swarm with sugar water.

Do Lure with a frame of young brood frame attached to a pole.

- TOUCH the hive and the bees will migrate to the frame.

Do put a bucket on the end of 1-1/2" PVC pipe that you can take apart and use it to place under the swarm, then tap the branch to get the swarm to drop into the bucket.

To keep the swarm, use a white sheet under the swarm where they are working. Cut the branch, lay it on the sheet, place the sheet in front of the hives and the bees will march into the hive.

Fanning - when the bee's wings are 'fanning' the hive is releasing a pheromone to bring in the other bees.

Provide drawn comb for the bees and feed them sugar syrup. Maybe put a frame of brood in with them and let the swarm settle down. Leave them alone for one to two weeks.

OR

Use BAIT hives in the bee yard to attract swarms. 30' up with a 2" opening and regular hive body.

Rich mentioned a good book called *Honeybee Democracy* by Thomas Seeley which discusses how bees decide when and where to go during the swarming process.

Next meeting is May 2. Louis Cauble will be speaking on Varroa mites.

Meeting adjourned.

Vicki Morrison

Haywood County Beekeepers Secretary