



Haywood County Beekeeper's Chapter

Monthly Minutes

September 5, 2017

President Allen Blanton opened the meeting and welcomed all new Beekeepers.

Allen Blanton, President of Haywood County Beekeepers Association, opened the meeting. Alan talked about the Honey House at the Extension. It is open from 8 am – 5 pm. It is free this year but will not be next year. Contact Bill Skelton to use it.

Welcomed Visitors

Our new State Representative and Regional Director is David Massengill and he presented the **Journeyman Level** certificate to Jim Collar by the NC State Bee Association.

North Carolina beekeepers are rated number one in the United States, among state associations, and have the largest number of beekeeper Associations in the country.

What's blooming? Yellow flowers? everywhere. Golden Rod, Ironweed, Butterfly bushes

September 23 there will be a Beginning Beekeeper course by Darnell Farms, Bryson City, 8 am – noon, with a \$35 pre-registration

Honey awards at the Fair

- Tyree Kiser received- **1st place** for Chunk Honey
- Rick Queen received- **1st place** for Dark Honey
- Beth Sain received- two **2nd places** for light comb and dark honey and a Blue Ribbon in candle making

Lewis Cable offered to transport entries to the State Fair in Raleigh. Contact Rick Queen,

Sarah McKinney of Wild Mountain Bees presented tonight on "Over-wintering". There is also a class at the store from 12-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday, on over-wintering.

Artist Matthew Wiley has committed to personally painting 50,000 honeybees in murals all over the world for his project, "The Good of the Hive", to raise awareness about the current struggle of the honeybee. On September 16 there is a 'Meet and Greet' at Wild Mountain Bees to meet Matthew. It is from 6-9 pm. Also, an outdoor movie projection will conclude the event. Check the Website.

July 1st through the first 2 weeks in August- we should be treating the hives. Winter is the most difficult time for bees. What happens? lack of education, bad management of bees or lack of, taking too much honey, or start before the first frost.

Why hives fail? Starvation, poor or failing queen, humid or wet hives, disease/mites are the biggest problem.

In late summer- bees just hang out, robbing occurs, they prepare for winter and begin raising winter bees. They can tell when the days start to get shorter. Winter bees have more fat on them and need to be healthy.

Beekeepers harvest- basswood and sourwood honey in late summer. Bees get testy and ornery and they can be mean and aggressive. Go slow and work in the middle of the day. Watch for robbing. Shut down entrances. Assess mite levels and treat.

Feed- The bees need 20-lbs. of honey at all times and a minimum of 50-lbs. during the winter months. Assess brood patterns, and if necessary re-queen or combine poor or small colonies with strong colonies.

When to re-queen? Bad queen vs mites. Failing queen - bumpy brood interspersed with regular brood. Lots of empty cells, messy. Kill the queen.

Mite troubles - open cells, can see larvae, bees cannot clean up. Assess mite load - sugar shake, scientific data.

Treatment options: Soft or water-soluble treatments - ApiLifeVar - Thymol - make three treatments and use thumb tack

- ApiGuard - packets
- Hard or fat soluble ApiVar - open bonding chemical
- Oxalic Acid - can fume or use dry
- Mite Away Quick Strips - easy, leave on honey, use 3-7 days

Non-treatment Treatment options:

Genetics – is haphazard, Drone trapping, Powder sugar, kill and raise new queen - create brood-less cycle and kill mites, splits, Queen trapping - lock Q down and create brood-less cycle.

Bees in the fall: produce winter bees, queen stops laying drones, drones are kicked out, Aster and Goldenrod bloom.

Beekeepers in the fall: do not do a lot and if you do go into the hive, go slow, be careful, do not make mistakes and keep bears out by using electric fencing. During this time the nectar and pollen flows stop.

Check food stores. Equipment weighs 125 lbs. There should be 40-45-lbs in the upper hive. Feed if they do not have it.

September 21 is the Fall Equinox. FEED! FEED! FEED! Feed honey or sugar water 2:1

Use feeders: on top, bags, jars, fondant, sugar paddies, bucket - feeding inside the hive

- Feed cane sugar, not organic sugar or beet sugar
- If you see any pollen on bees in December they have brood and they will die if the temperature drops because they won't leave the babies. Check where the bees are

in the hive.

Arrange and combine hive equipment. Take queen excluders off. Take out foundation or empty comb unless feeding. Check ventilation. Put brood in lower hive body. Use entrance reducers.

What do bees do in winter months? If they are all the way to the top of the hive, they are going to starve. Put emergency honey on top or feed all winter.

Try to feed in the winter if bees are flying more and using up stores. Watch bees!

What do beekeepers do in winter? Paint hives, build equipment, read books, find out what worked – what did not work, do some reflection on IPM, learn more about beekeeping, what was hard or confusing to you.

Questions and Answers

- Q. Do you place feeders on the sides and top?
 - A. Put honey on sides and brood in the middle
- Q. What to do about failing brood pattern? and failing Queen?
 - A: Re-queen. Do not try to raise a new queen.
- Q. How do you know you have 20-lbs in the hive body?
 - A: Use the 'heft test' or lift it. A medium 8 frame weighs 7 lbs. Check inside the hive
- Q. I should re-queen because my bees are mean. Will other hives be mean also if brood is taken from one to the other?
 - A: No. Now is a good time to check the queen and if you need to, re-queen.
- Q. I am using a 3-week treatment and the bees are not friendly. It is hard to lift the boxes.
 - A: Need to place the treatments correctly. Use sugar water to spray bees. Talk to bees positively. Be calm.

Alan - Nominations are in November. Beth Sain is organizing the nominating committee. We will be voting on a new President, Secretary and two Directors.

Rich - Next month, Lady Sorelli of Madison County will discuss Api Therapy and the health benefits from bees and the hives.

In November Beth Sain will be talking about what to do with wax.

Meeting adjourned,

Vicki Morrison
Haywood County Beekeepers Secretary