



Hive Vibes

Newsletter of the Appalachian Beekeepers

VOL IX..... February 2014No. 1

Meeting the First Monday of Each Month
7 p.m. at Mountain Folk Center (formerly Industrial Park)
65 Folk Center Circle, Murphy, NC 28906

www.AppalachianBeekeepers.com

President's Corner



It was great to see everyone a few weeks ago after the long winter's nap. The warm weather we are headed into is also going to give the bees a major break from what is, hopefully, their long winter's nap. So take the chance to peek into your hives and see who is still alive. If you have a dead colony, then do whatever you need to protect your wax. The chances of hives making it the rest of the way through winter generally is pretty good once the maple trees start blooming. Probably just a few more weeks to go!

Anyone who needs bees: we do still have packages available in the club's order. Contact me if you want package bees. Hopefully several people in the club will have made it through the winter with most of their hives and be in position to split their colonies to (perhaps) sell to others. Please feel free to advertise that in the forums on the club's website.

The big news for the month is that we are hosting a Basic Bee School coming up in just a few weeks: Saturday, March 8th from 9:00 A.M. - Noon at the Mountain Folk Center. The full details are further down in Hive Vibes. Several members have already volunteered to teach certain topics, but not everything is spoken for. So please feel free to contact me and volunteer for teaching or tag-teaming a topic. We already have the event advertised at Wayne's Feed, through the Extension Office publications, and Fred's spot on the radio (which we will try to a link to on the website). I'm working on getting the details published in the newspapers.

We are off to a fast start this year. Let us pray the season will be a good one for the honeybees!

Zack

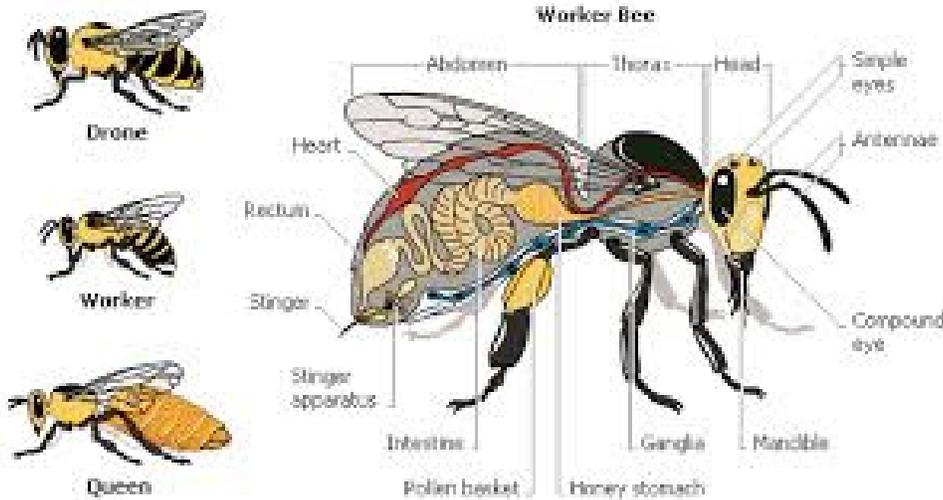
Secretary's Minutes - Kay Cameron was absent from the meeting; therefore no minutes.

Treasurer's Report -- Given by Fred Bernhardt. Balance in the account is \$416.03.

Reminder: Dues are due at the April meeting.

The next meeting will be March 3.





Protégé Report

Despite the loss of both my hives, I am very excited about starting a new year in beekeeping. I've learned so much and am sure I'll continue to grow in experience and appreciation for this project.

Right now I have a ten frame hive and an eight frame hive. I'm hoping to be able to just have two, ten frame hives, for convenience and consistency. So, if anyone would like to trade my eight frame hive box (box, lid and base board), for a ten frame

box, I'd greatly appreciate it!

Brianna Sparks

Pop Quiz

1. In the spring many beekeepers often treat their bees for mites and against potential disease problems. If any medications or acaricides are used, it is essential that all treatments stop at least _____ weeks before the beginning of the major nectar flow so that the honey crop is not contaminated.

- Six
- Four
- Two
- Three
- Five



2. Name three colony management procedures normally done by the beekeeper in the spring that is effective in preventing swarming.

3. When a beekeeper finds a colony with laying workers, the best way to deal with the problem is to introduce a new queen to the colony (True or False).

4. What are the two basic questions asked when over-wintered colonies are examined in late winter/early spring?

5. Why is late winter/early spring the most critical time for wintered honey bee colonies?

Basic Bee School

Interested in having a few hives of honeybees but not sure exactly how to get started? The Appalachian Beekeeper's Association is hosting a Basic Bee School!

Reminder!

- **When:** Saturday, March 8th, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. – Noon (we may run longer if people keep asking questions).
- **Where:** Mountain Folk Center (~9 miles West of Murphy on US 64 – on the left. less than a mile past King's Leather [which is on the right])
- **Cost:** Free! Reservation requested but not required.
- **Contact:** Zack Stockbridge (828-321-2171 or zackandjen2004@yahoo.com)

This Bee School is a quick crash-course intended to provide enough of an introduction to hopefully push you off the fence and convince you to join the world of beekeeping this spring. The primary topics will include:

1) **Hive Components:** What are the "pieces" of a hive? What kinds of boxes and frames are involved? This session is all about woodenware and wax.

2) **Tools and Clothing:** Try on a bee suit, gloves, etc. Learn how to start and use a smoker. Get hands-on with the various tools that are helpful when working the bees.

- 3) Basic Honeybee Lifecycles: You do not need a biology degree, but understanding some of the basics about the kinds of bees and their lifecycles is an important for knowing the health of your hives.
- 4) Hive Management: So you are standing behind your open hive and looking at a box of bees... What now? How do you go about a routine hive inspection? Learn what you should look for and what you can do to keep the hive healthy.
- 5) Pests: There are a number of different parasites, diseases and downright pests that can weaken and even kill a hive of honeybees. Here is an introduction to the “big ones” along with different treatment strategies.

For a more in-depth class, check out the Community Enrichment course on Beekeeping offered by Tri-County Community College (828-837-6810).



Here are the answers to the Pop Quiz:

- 1. Six.
- 2. Here are five different things you can do:
 - a. Equalize the strength of colonies.
 - b. Add honey supers.
 - c. Split or divide colonies.
 - d. Reverse the brood chambers.
 - e. Requeening the colony will also help prevent swarming.
- 3. False. It is almost impossible to requeen a laying worker colony. The laying workers develop a queen-like relationship with the rest of the bees and any introduced queen is normally killed.
- 4. Is the colony dead or alive? Does the colony need feeding?
- 5. Late winter/early spring is the most critical period for wintering honey bee colonies. Consumption of food reserves increases dramatically to satisfy the needs of a rapidly expanding brood nest. Even though food stores are being depleted rapidly, weather conditions and lack of floral sources often prevents the bees from replenishing their food stores. Many colonies will end up starving to death under these conditions.

Let’s try to patronize member-owned businesses and local supportive businesses whenever possible.



Andrews Veterinary Hospital	Dr. David Ackerman	828/321-3316	1575 Main St., Andrews, NC
Candy Mountain Farm	The Juhlines	828/494-2083	135 Candy Mountain Heights, Murphy, NC
Mi-Po Tree Service	The Popes	828/644-5405	Murphy, NC 28906
Shadow Ridge Bee Farm	Harold & Becka Watkins	706-994-4175 706-374-0409	Mineral Bluff, GA 30559
Stockbridge Farm Wayne’s Feed Store	Jen & Zack Stockbridge	828/321-2171 828/837-2139	Andrews, NC 869 Andrews Rd, Murphy, NC



Officers

President:	Zack Stockbridge	Vice President:	Larry Stalcup
Secretary:	Kay Cameron	Treasurer:	Joyce Bernhardt



If you have an interest in bees/beekeeping, we hope you will join us and enjoy meeting and talking with others who share your interest.

Membership Application For Appalachian Beekeepers

Date: _____ Individual/Family-\$12

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

E-Mail _____

How did you hear about our Club? _____

Mail to:
Joyce Bernhardt, 325 Rolling Oaks Rd., Murphy, NC 28906



RECEIPT

Date _____ Amount \$ _____

Received from _____

For Membership dues prorated from date above to following April 1.

Signed: _____