



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

For those who were not at the April meeting... Larry Greene, one of our members, passed away suddenly in mid-March. Please be praying for Barbara. We will be looking into if/how we can help her in her bee yard this season.

The Field Day hosted by Tom Handford was originally scheduled for this past Sunday (April 13th), but has been pushed back to Saturday, April 19th at Noon. Come on out and see how Tom goes about inspecting his bees. Bring your own suit, veil, etc. There will be more Field Days coming up soon.

Anyone interested in a quick way to hear news from club members should join the Appalachian Beekeepers Assoc. on Facebook! Thanks to Peter Goundry for setting that up. I've already seen pictures of people catching swarms on there. *Editor's note:* You can use this to let members know that you need or have a Queen or Queen cell for sale, or trade.

Our main topic of discussion at the

meeting was managing colony health by preventing the hive from swarming. There are several ways to keep strong and populous hives from swarming. For the most part it comes down to removing bees from the hive. Several club members confirmed that they have drones in their hives. That means it is a good time to split colonies. Besides splitting, you can also relieve the crowding in a hive by removing a frame or two, spraying them down with sugar water, and giving the frames to a weaker colony. Sometimes the queen in a weaker colony is just fine and simply needs more workers to help build the hive up more quickly.

This has been an interesting year already in the bee yard. My surviving hives have barely touched the sugar water I've been feeding them; they are only eating about a quart per week. Apparently the nectar flow has been so strong that the girls have not been interested in sugar water. I'll be curious to see just how dramatically that changes after tonight's freeze (April 15th). The cold may knock out the bloom on my fruit trees, but hopefully it won't completely zap everything currently

Newsletter of the Appalachian Beekeepers, April, 2014

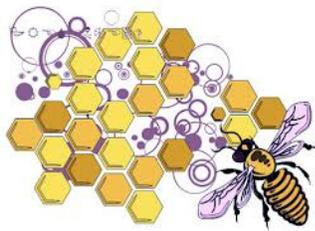
flowering. If it does then I'll probably be feeding quite a bit more frequently!

I hope everyone survives this round of cold fairly well. Every year I seem to need to have someone explain to me,

yet again, all of the different "winters" here in Cherokee County. Which winter is this? I know blackberry winter is the last one, right? *Zack*

Secretary's Minutes

Meeting called to order by President Zack Stockbridge. There were 24 people in attendance.



Zack notified the club of the unexpected passing of Larry Greene in March. Zack has called Barbara and offered assistance from the club with her bees . Zack will get back to us after he talks to Barbara. Joyce Bernhardt sent a card on behalf of the club. A motion was made, seconded and passed for our club to donate \$50 towards the River Walk memorial that the Master Gardeners Club is erecting in Larry's memory.

Kay Cameron read the March minutes. No corrections were required.

Zack showed the T-shirts and hats that are available for sale.

Zack announced that the bee package order was still on track for Wednesday, May 14. Details about pick up will be provided at the May meeting.

At the last meeting it was agreed that some members would do a "Show and Tell" in their bee yards. Tom Handford and Peter Goundry had volunteered for April. Tom Handford said he could host on Sunday, April 13. (It was later changed to Saturday, April 19, at noon.) Inclement weather could cause the event to be canceled.

The question was raised as to how best communicate. Larry Stalcup and Alison Ackerman suggested we use Facebook. Larry said he had trouble using the Forum on our website. Peter Goundry agreed to set up a group on Facebook for our club.

Treasurer's Report

Given by Fred Bernhardt. There was no activity this month, so the balance as of April 1, 2014 is \$296.73. Membership dues of \$12 per family or individual are to be paid at this April meeting. Members were encouraged to pay Fred before leaving the meeting tonight. Dues must be paid prior to the June meeting in order to stay on the membership roles and email list.

Treasurer's Note

It would be helpful if members would pay their dues by check or "exact cash." It will keep things from getting confused since we do not have a petty cash box for making change.



Meeting Discussion and Questions from Floor

The topic for tonight's discussion was "Splitting Hives." Spraying the frames you're going to move with Honey B Healthy and with sugar water was highly recommended.

We also discussed how to prevent swarming and how to possibly attract swarms to your bee yard. Use a queen excluder strip on a box that has a captured swarm to prevent the bees from swarming again.

Queen cells and how to handle them were also discussed.

Door Prizes

Drawings were held for door prizes. Judy Reighter selected the Topsy Turvy Tomato planter. David Catton chose a vase. Alison Ackerman took \$10 gift certificate to Wayne's Feed Store. Great door prize selections! You need to be at the meeting to win! Plan to attend!

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be May 5 at the Mountain Folk Center at 7:00 p.m.



Protégé Report

Brionna reported that she visited her West Virginia relatives recently, and her beekeeping experiences gave her plenty to talk about with her W. Va. family, since some of them are beekeepers. It really helped to make her trip special.

BEE INSTITUTE

Mark your calendars. May 15-17 is the Young Harris Bee Institute. Go to UGA.EDU/entomology/honeybee to get info and sign up. If you don't go to the institute, it is a good time to visit the vendors. Order ahead, and they will bring your shipment free. Heavy stuff like food patties, hive parts, frames, honeybee healthy are good to pick up free. Come and look to see what you didn't know you needed. Books, doodads, etc.





SPRING BLOOMS

From Glen Henderson, Mountain Beekeepers

Trying to figure out the schedule of the hive is the never ending challenge to beekeepers. I like to guide on the blooms. Nectar and pollen are the two most necessary items being brought into the hive. Water is up there too, but the location of the water source doesn't change much.

My recent blooming observations are as follows:

1. Pussy willow From Jan. to mid March
2. Then there was yellow pollen and tan pollen
3. Red Maple: Red tipped and blooms on trees; 1 Feb in sun; Still blooming above 2500'
4. (don't confuse wasted flowers as a source)
5. Hembit weed: 3" purple flower in fields and road ways 10 Feb
6. Ground Ivy: small blue blossom on the ground 10 Feb
7. Bluets: 4" delicate light blue in hot dirt areas 15 Feb
8. Jonquils (daffodils): 15 Feb
9. Pink Apricots (don't confuse with Japanese Cherries) 15 Feb
10. 6" white small flower cluster?? In grass 15 Feb
11. Bradford pears: just starting 20 Mar
12. Ornamental holly starting in sun and lower elevations 22 Mar
13. White spirea 22 Mar

It is important to notice the native plants versus the ornamental plants. There will be more native plants, and they are attuned to our climate as the weather fluctuates. Ornamentals are not as reliable as a bee food source. They are a good supplement.

Editor's note: These observations were made in north Georgia.



New Model For Virtual Hive Lets Everybody Look At Bee Problems

Alan Harman

British scientists have created a virtual hive that gives them just about everything except a bee sting. In their search to unravel the complex causes of colony decline, the new computer model will help scientists, beekeepers and regulators to understand multiple environmental effects on honeybee colonies. The model simulates a honey bee colony over the course of several years.

It is freely available at <http://www.beehive-model.net>

**If we die, we're taking
you with us.**



awforbeauty.com

**"If the bee disappears from the surface
of the earth, man would have no more
than four years to live."**

~Albert Einstein

ZOMBIE FLIES INFECTING MAJOR MEDIA OUTLETS. MAY BE THE CAUSE OF MEDIA COLLAPSE DISORDER

Tom Theobald

The so-called "Zombie Flies" have supposedly reappeared in bee colonies and again are being insinuated as an explanation for the loss of millions of colonies of bees. Is there any merit to these bizarre and desperate reports? Unlikely. Properly known as the Phorid Fly, these predators have been seen in bee colonies occasionally for years and have always been thought of as incidental and of little consequence.

Honey bees demonstrate decision making process to avoid difficult choices

A recent study on the meta-cognitive ability of honey bees suggests that they, like humans, avoid difficult decisions when they lack sufficient information to solve a problem.

Researchers from Macquarie University in Australia tested honey bees with a series of trials involving visual discrimination between targets inside a two-chamber apparatus.

Researcher Dr Andrew Barron says “It’s a highly debated topic, whether non-humans have the same abilities to gauge their level of certainty about a choice before taking action.” Co-author Dr Clint Perry says, “Similar meta-cognitive testing has been conducted with dolphins, dogs, and rats. However this study is the first to demonstrates that even insects are capable of making complex and adaptive decisions. The honey bees’ assessment of the certainty of a predicted outcome was comparable to that of primates in a similar paradigm.”



Of Interest

<http://www.bee-pollen-buzz.com/raw-honey-for-diabetes.html>

We have found that there is a lot of confusion around honey and diabetes. We tell people that using raw honey is safe for both type 1 and type 2 diabetes and for different reasons. There are studies showing when honey is consumed by type 2 diabetics, it helps to lower Plasma glucose levels as well lowers blood lipids and aids in weight loss. Honey is lower in sugar and does not raise blood sugar like sucrose or other high glycemic sugars do. Consumption of natural honey reduces cardiovascular risk factors, particularly for people with elevated risk factors, and it does not increase body weight. That said you will want to spread your intake over the day and consume around 3 TBSP total. Use it in your tea, on toast, in marinades and salad dressings. If you have type 2 diabetes you will want to make sure that you also eat protein at each meal and consume additional fiber. Dr. Richard H. and Joy E. Knee

Define Polygyny

- 1) An island near Hawaii.
- 2) A group of doctors
- 3) Plastic wrap used for vegetables
- 4) Having multiple queens



Newsletter of the Appalachian Beekeepers, April, 2014

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

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

Newsletter of the Appalachian Beekeepers, April, 2014

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 your 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.