

NEWSLETTER OF THE APPALACHIAN BEEKEEPERS



Hive Vibes

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

Lots of fun at the August meeting! I think we all had fun with the cut comb demo and tasting.

Also a special thanks to Tom Handford for the demo and explanations on using refractometers to measure the moisture content of uncapped honey (story about that in a moment). We also had a lot of voices chime in on the importance of beginning preparations for winter now: decide if/how you going to feed your bees and decide if/how you are going to medicate your bees. Also start thinking about putting some hives in the honey bee cold storage unit. Keith Wood will be at our Sept. meeting giving a full update on that project.

So...this year I have learned a few things the hard way about extracting honey which I thought I'd pass along. This is the first year I have ever had so much honey simply uncapped in the hives. There were supers of spring honey from the beginning of May which were still uncapped after the 4th of July despite the fact that the bees had already begun filling sourwood supers. Several experienced beekeepers over the years have talked about using dehumidifiers to dry the honey out that last bit so it can be harvested even though it is not capped. I took my largely uncapped supers, stacked

them crisscross and put them in a small room with the dehumidifier on its continuous setting. Everything seemed fine. Then I saw a small puddle of honey on the floor. Remember that dehumidifiers have a warm air exhaust. My exhaust was pointing at my stack of supers! Thankfully it was only a few inches on the edge of three frames that melted. It could have been much worse. So if you try the dehumidifier technique remember to point your exhaust away from your honey boxes. The good news is that the moisture levels in the honey did drop way down; moisture levels were around 19% (unsafe) at the start and just a smidge over 17% (safe) by the time they were done. Hopefully this story serves as both your comic relief for the day as well as a warning of what not to do.



Although the beekeeping year is almost over there are still some opportunities for us to reach out to the community to educate them about honey bees. Fred Bernhardt spoke to a small group this past month. Tom Handford is working on how we can team up with the North Georgia Beekeepers for their educational booth at the Georgia Mountain Fair.

Be Wary of Winter Warnings: Every year people talk about how the colors on the

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wooly bear caterpillars are a prediction of how hard the winter will be. However, every year people tell a different story: 2012 – if the wooly bears are all brown, it is going to be a hard winter; 2013 - if the wooly bears are all black, it is going to be a hard winter. Chances are, every prediction is going to be for a hard winter. For example, our cow's winter coat started coming in slightly but noticeably during the last few days of July = it is going to be a hard winter this year... No matter the prediction, the beekeeper's preparations for winter are the same: make the sure the hive

has a good population, has an ample supply of food, and is moderately protected from winds.

Reminder that our September 8th meeting is actually the 2nd Monday of the month (Labor Day is the 1st Monday). We will have our annual potluck/social at the October 6th meeting. Carl Talbot has generously offered to host the event at his house. We will have directions and sign-ups at the September meeting. *Zack*

Secretary's Minutes – There were no minutes from the July meeting since no one acted as secretary in Kay Cameron's absence.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's report was given by Fred Bernhardt. Opening balance in July was \$717.32. We spent \$388.50 for a new supply of Club hats. Balance as of August 1 is \$328.82.

PROTEGE BLURB

My honey is harvested! I had about twice the amount we extracted last year, but would have had much more if I hadn't made some critical mistakes. I guess that's why I'm a protégé. Hopefully with learning from these mistakes, I will have an even better harvest next year. The plan now is to prepare my hives for winter, so I'll be learning a lot more about medicating them, etc. I would also like to use this blurb to thank the club for sharing their knowledge with me and all their support. I would like to especially thank Mr. Zack Stockbridge and Mr. Larry Stalcup for all their patience in mentoring me and helping me grow in this experience.



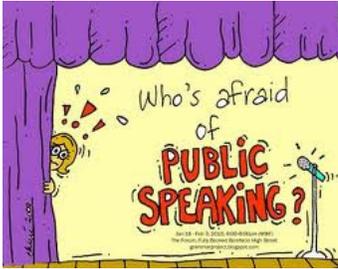
Brianna Sparks

Bulk sugar order!

Glen Henderson has a source of bulk sugar for feeding bees. \$0.25 per pound – delivered here. That is a great price. Contact Glen (706-745-1840) for more details or to place an order (Note: Zack is not coordinating any part of this order – so don't call Zack about it).



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A few months ago, I received an invitation to speak at the Friends of Murphy Library's Potluck Dinner on July 15. I prepared some notes and brought along my demonstration hive (with bees), the Education Hive that the Club has, and the educational posters. The group of about 30 people were very interested in bees and beekeeping and were extremely attentive. I spoke for about 45 minutes (had to get the "wrap it up" signal from the Program Coordinator) and spent sometime mingling afterward.

Our member, Martha Penz, had some very kind words to say afterward and said she felt it was one of the best programs that had been presented.

IF you have an opportunity to speak to a group...please do it! The public is very interested in honeybees and beekeeping. I know this because the WKRK radio talent (DJ) told me that he had a lot of people approach him on the street after my talk on the radio show "Contact", several months ago (done at Keith Wood's request). Remember, you know more about bees and beekeeping than they do. I'm talking to you "newbees", even if you just tell them about how you got started, your equipment, and the steps you have gone through, they will be interested.

Fred Bernhardt

BRAIN TEASER RESULTS

No one submitted any guesses—right or wrong—so there is no winner. Makes one wonder just how many people actually read the newsletter.



Reuters

Coffee's on! Bees get a jolt from joe -- the same kind of jolt we get. Caffeine in the nectar of coffee and citrus flowers gives honeybees a general perk-me-up and also sharpens their memory, according to a study published in the journal Science. [The Buzz: Bees Get a Boost From Caffeine](#)



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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>

Officers

**President
Secretary**

Zack Stockbridge
Kay Cameron

**Vice President
Treasurer**

Larry Stalcup
Joyce Bernhardt

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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: _____



Reuters

When bees score a new cache of nectar, some of them know how to discreetly whisper a bulletin about it to their fellow colony-mates. "Pssst, over here!" They keep it quiet so their competitor bees in the industry won't find out. But other bees may instead "shout" -- via strong pheromone trails -- about the new food source. Researchers listened in on the chatter of competing Brazilian bee species, and the loud message, they think, is intended to warn any eavesdropping bees from competing colonies to steer clear. "Buzz off," they are shouting, loud and clear.

[Some Bees Shout 'That Nectar's Ours!'](#)