

## 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](http://www.AppalachianBeekeepers.com)

### President's Corner

High season for beekeepers is here. Just a few more weeks of the sourwood nectar flow and then it will be time to shift gears. As beekeepers, it is necessary that we try to think about things a month or more before they happen. In this case that means two things:

- 1) Start making preparations now for harvesting honey at the end of July or beginning of August [get jars/bottles ready, clean your processing area and equipment, get labels figured out, etc.]
- 2) Begin thinking about how you want to go about preparing your hives for fall and winter (medications, feeding, late splits, etc.). Many of us begin this process as early as the middle of August. Winter may feel far away at that point, but it really isn't when it comes to hive preparations.

We had an interesting discussion near the end of the night at our last meeting on the question of "When is it too late to split a hive?" If you seriously want to do a late season split, then you may want to pull a few frames now and get the bees to raise a new queen now while there is still a good nectar flow in progress. That will give you a queen who is hatched out in the first few days of August and laying a week later. You could then add additional frames of bees to that group later

on to try and help build them up. This is easier to pull off the more hives you have. If you only have five or six hives (or less)...be extremely careful. You do not want to weaken your hives too much as they prepare for winter. Better to go into winter strong and split hives in the spring.

Quick reminder: we are still accepting nominations for a temporary Vice President to finish the year out. Get your nominations to me before the August meeting. We will vote at the beginning of the August meeting.

Back at the June meeting I introduced the idea of putting together a group order on bottles or jars so that perhaps we could benefit from bulk pricing. The response was fairly ho-hum, but a few people were interested. If anyone is interested in participating in a bulk order of regular mouth quart mason jars, please let me know how many cases you would like (12 to a case). If there is a total interest in +60 cases then we can get them for \$8.50 per case. That is the best price I've found so far and is likely to be the best we can get. You need to call or email me by the end of the day on Wednesday, July 23rd. I will place the order first thing the next morning if we have enough interest. The jars would probably arrive the following week on Tuesday, July 29th.

Our next meeting will be Monday, August 4th, 2014. The sourwood nectar flow will probably be over for all but those at high elevations and we can all focus on getting that honey harvested! That will be the focus of the August meeting. I'll have a frame of cut comb honey for a basic demo, we'll review labeling requirements for honey, and

we will try to get newbees teamed up with experienced guys for learning how to harvest honey. A good time will be had by all ☐.

*Zack*

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### **Secretary's Minutes** – Minutes of Meeting on July 7, 2014

The meeting called to order by President Zack Stockbridge. There were 22 people in attendance.

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

**Treasurer's Report** – The Treasurer's report was given by Fred Bernhardt (Assistant to the Treasurer). Opening balance in June was \$669.32. We received \$48 in dues in June. Balance as of June 30 was \$717.32.

**President's Message** – Zack welcomed the many new people in attendance and encouraged them to ask questions. Zack said that he was going to order new Appalachian Beekeeper Association hats, since the last one was sold this month. They will be the same style as our most recent order. The cost will be \$12.95 plus tax. Hats will be available at the next meeting. Zack brought back many Brushy Mountain bee supply catalogs. Anyone who is interested can pick one up at the meeting.

Our Vice-President, Larry Stalcup has resigned. Zack is accepting nominations for the vice-

president position. There will be an election for VP at the August meeting. Anyone interested in running should call or email Zack. This term is for a few months only, until the end of this year. All offices, including VP, will be open for nomination in November. Also, Fred Bernhardt is resigning his position as door prize chairperson. The club needs another member to step up to do door prizes. Please consider doing this job.

**Note from Fred:** I nominate Larry to stay for the remainder of 2014 meetings. No change to VP duties until February, 2015.

**Protégé Report** – Brionna is at music camp this week so Zack reported on our protégé. He had inspected her hives last week and they looked good. Brionna has 3 hives – 2 packages purchased by our club and one split that Larry Stalcup provided. Zack thinks she will have a good honey harvest, maybe 6 supers. Any club member who would like to help Brionna with extracting her honey at the end of July should contact Brionna and Zack. Brionna will be providing a report for Hive Vibes.

**Farm Service Agency and ELAP** – Jeanie Setser from the Farm Service Agency came to speak to us about monetary assistance beekeepers could receive from the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) Program. In order to meet the eligibility requirements for ELAP benefits for honeybee colony, hive, and feed losses, the losses must be the direct result of an eligible adverse weather or loss condition including colony collapse disorder and eligible winter storm. Last winter's cold snap qualifies. Colony reimbursement can be around \$80. Jeanie distributed fact sheets and claim forms and her business card. You can contact her in Murphy at the 409 Building. Her phone is (828) 837-0284 ext. 2, and email is Jeanie.Setser@nc.usda.gov.



**Meeting Program** The cut comb demonstration had to be postponed because the bees had not completed the comb-building. Zack plans to do that in August. Instead, Zack demonstrated spacers that can be used to reduce a 10-frame super to either a 9 or 8-frame super. Fred Bernhardt emphasized that you should start with 10 frames, and then reduce to 9 frames so that the bees' comb will be more even.

**General Q & A** If you need a queen bee, we were told that Harold Watkins is raising queens throughout the season. He marks his bees and they cost \$25.

Gail asked about checkerboarding (interspersing new frames with full frames when adding a super.) There is a good video on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XABXPYQ2rg>. In fact there are many Fat Bee Man videos on YouTube.

During the nectar flow is a good time to start a nuc. You should take frames that have very young brood and eggs so that the bees can make a queen.

Keith Wood, the Cherokee County Extension Agent, received a grant for over-wintering bees in a cold-storage environment. Hives will be kept at a constant cold temperature. Any club members who want to work with Keith on this project or would like to volunteer to store their hives in the unit should contact Keith.

If it's OK with the new Door Prize Chairperson, the winner will receive 3 door prize tickets at the next meeting. The winner will be determined by a random drawing from all the correct answers received by Fred (e-mail [bernhardt28906@gmail.com](mailto:bernhardt28906@gmail.com) or phone 828/837-4546) before August 4.

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**Door Prizes** – As a farewell gesture, Fred drew many tickets for door prizes. Here are the lucky recipients and what they selected:

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Judy Richter     | slate picture           |
| Jeanie Setser    | body butter             |
| Gail             | wax frame               |
| Zack Stockbridge | support pins for frames |
| Kay Cameron      | Chicken Door Stop       |
| Kenneth Miller   | queen excluder          |
| Peter Goundry    | puzzle                  |
| Nick             | gift basket             |
| Mike McWilliams  | hive tool               |
| David Catton     | peg puzzle              |
| Don Reynolds     | note cards              |

**Next meeting will be Monday, August 4 at the Mountain Folk Center at 7:00 p.m.**

*Reminder!*

A note to the 3 members who receive a hard copy of Hive Vibes because they don't have e-mail: If you noticed that Glen Henderson's monthly information is missing, it is because Glen is sending it to our members through e-mail himself. So, get a friend to print out a copy for you, or will let you sit at their computer and read it .

Particularly popular pollen produces plenty pleasing plants.

This is just for the new members (you ancients already tried this). A Bee Brain Teaser from Hive Vibes August, 2011.

In a field are some bees and some flowers. Your job is to figure out how many bees and flowers there are. This is what we know:

If each bee lands on a flower, one bee does not get a flower.

If two bees share one flower, there is one lonely flower without bees.

How many flowers: \_\_\_\_\_ How many bees? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Officers**

**President**  
**Secretary**

Zack Stockbridge  
Kay Cameron

**Vice President**  
**Treasurer**

Larry Stalcup  
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:** \_\_\_\_\_

