

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



We are off to a fast start indeed! Lots going on and lots of thanks to be given.

Our Basic Bee School event on Saturday, March 8th went very well! Thank you to the presenters: Tom H., Peter G., and Mike M. Also thanks to Fred for coming and being a "contributor at large" (floating between sessions and chiming in. We had over 20 attendees - the exact number is unknown since not all of them signed in. Throughout the morning we had great questions, genuine interest, and lots of excited folks. Hopefully a number of those faces will become familiar to us this year as they get started in beekeeping.

There are a number of other events coming up soon. Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food is an event put on by Southern Appalachian Family Farms (SAFF) for getting the public interested, informed and equipped to eat locally-grown foods by putting people in touch with local farmers and producers. This year's event will be Saturday, March 22nd from 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. over at the Brasstown Community Center. If anyone is interested in manning a booth on behalf of the Beekeeper's Assoc. then please contact me ASAP. (I'll be manning a booth for my farm the entire time). You could even bring some of your honey to sell, if you wanted (and if you still even have any).

During April it looks like we will have two Field Days - possibly even three. Several club members have volunteered to host hive inspections; Peter G., Tom H. and Larry S. Thank you, gentlemen! These days will be good for everyone but especially those who will be starting their first hives this year. You will be able to see how other people have their bee yards set up and how they go about inspecting their hives. You may even

get put to work in the hives. The dates and times of each Field Day will be determined at the April meeting (dates subject to weather).

Special thanks to Larry S. and Don R. They have each offered to help Brionna, our Protégé, get her hives re-started either by giving her a split off of one of their own colonies or by covering the cost of a package of bees for her. Seriously, I thank both of you for your generosity. If anyone else wants to follow their example... last year our Protégé benefited from a different club member each calendar month mentoring her. Mentoring consisted of calling a few times a month to check-in and helping her go through her hives once a month. Please contact me to sign up for helping Brionna this year

So far, the weather seems to be shaping up for a slightly early spring. The buds on my pear tree were about ready to open on the 12th and my cows started noticeably shedding their winter coats several days before that. However, the maple trees are blooming right on time.

If you feed your hives, now is a good time to start. Keep an eye on what is flowering. Colonies can starve this time of year if a heavy frost comes through and knocks out all of the flowers. The bees have eaten through their winter stores slowly, but they will start eating a lot more now that the queen is laying, the population is going to start growing, and the bees are out foraging more. Feed your bees (1 part sugar to 1 part water by volume) to help them through this last stretch of winter. Hives which are strong coming out of winter may be in danger of swarming in just a few weeks. The days of weekly inspections are near at hand!

Zack

Secretary's Minutes - Meeting called to order by President Zack Stockbridge. There were 30 people in attendance.

Since no minutes were taken in February, there were no minutes to be read.

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

Zack announced that this coming Saturday, March 8, our club will be offering a Beekeeping Basics class at the Mountain Folk Center from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The five topics covered will be Hive Components, Tools and Clothing, Lifecycle of Bees, Hive Management and Pest Management. We still need a few presenters, especially on the topics of bee lifecycle and hive management.



All bee packages in our order have been accounted for. Anyone wanting additional packages will be placed on a waiting list. Next week, after the class this weekend, Zack will call our supplier to see if we can increase the order. He will also check to see if the timing of the order could possibly be moved up earlier in May. Currently, Glen Henderson, from the Georgia Beekeepers' club, is picking up the bees on Wednesday, May 14.

Cold Storage -- Keith Wood's proposal on cold storage of bees has been submitted for review. He will learn later this month if his proposal will be selected for further consideration.

Mentoring - Our club wants to increase its mentoring to new beekeepers. Towards that objective, members will be hosting "show and tell" sessions in their bee yards this spring, probably on Saturdays or Sundays. We would like to do 2 in April and 2 in May. Contact Zack if you want to host a session. Peter Goundry and Tom Handford have volunteered for April. Larry Stalcup said he could show his Martins Creek hives in May. Steve Juhlin said he could do a July session.

Know Your Farmer -- Our club is invited to attend the "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" event on Saturday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 22. It is sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Family Farms organization.

Meeting Discussion and Questions from Floor Keep in mind that there are local beekeepers who would be interested in buying hive splits or queens.

Now is a good time to take a look at your hives and brush out the dead bees. Larry Stalcup suggests that you wait until it is about 60 degrees to open up your hives. You do not want to injure any brood that may be there by exposing them to cold temperatures.

There was a brief discussion about what was done to keep the bees warm over this cold winter. The point was made that ventilation is more important than warmth. High humidity in a hive is very harmful. If the inner cover is moist when you open the hive, you need to provide more air circulation.

Tom Handford said that the biggest problem in beekeeping now is mites. To stress his point, Tom said that this year was the first time ever that he has treated for mites. The problem is increasing, in his opinion.

The question was asked if anyone had any experience in using nematodes to control hive beetles. Roger Herr had purchased some last year. Steve Juhlin said that the nematodes are self-populating so he should not have to buy more this year.

Is our club going to do a bulk sugar purchase this year? Probably not, but the name of Jackie Evans in Cleveland, TN, was mentioned as someone you could contact about buying barrels of sugar at a good price. Since he doesn't always have it, you need to call ahead of time. Larry Stalcup has purchased sugar from Mr. Evans. If you add Honey-B-Healthy to your sugar water, it will prevent mold build-up.

Mike McWilliams distributed a very helpful list he made of Bee Equipment and Supplies for Starters - what a new beekeeper needs and how much it would cost if he bought it here in Cherokee County at Wayne's Feed Store. It was very much appreciated. *(We are trying to get a copy to put on our web page)* Tom Handford said that he builds his own hive boxes, supers and covers. The important thing to remember is that you have to be very precise with your measurements. Some of our members buy metal for their covers from the Cherokee Scout newspaper. It is very inexpensive and works well. It was suggested that one of our meetings should be a lesson on how to harvest honey.



Door Prizes: Drawings were held for door prizes. Judy Reighter selected the hive beetle trap. Colleen Pope chose the Honey-B-Healthy. Roger Herr took the bread/capping knife. Great door prize selections! You need to be at the meeting to win! Plan to attend!

Treasurer's Report: Given by Fred Bernhardt. The balance as of March 1, 2014 is \$296.73. Expenses this month included \$84.30 for website and \$60 for door prizes. Membership dues of \$12 per family or individual are due at the April meeting. Dues must be paid by June in order to stay on the membership roles and email list.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be April 7 at the Mountain Folk Center at 7:00 p.m. The program will be on how to split hives. Remember to bring your dues.

Protégé Report



Brionna reported that both of her hives died this winter. She is not deterred, however, and wants to have two hives next year. She would like to trade out her 8-frame hive box and 2 supers for a 10-frame hive box and supers. Anyone interested in doing that should contact her. Tom Handford said that he had been given some 10-frame boxes. They are in good condition but would need to be cleaned and painted. The sentiment of the club is that Brionna is an enthusiastic protégé and we will support her by providing her 2 packages of bees. Several members offered to contribute toward the cost of Brionna's packages. Larry Stalcup encouraged anyone considering doing a split to provide bees to Brionna.

DOOR PRIZES

Three members gave me items for the door prize table. I want to tell all how much I really appreciate door prize contributions! Buying beekeeping items--\$5 a month doesn't go very far. Thanks again. From now on, when you donate an item for the table, you will get an extra door prize ticket.

Fred, Chairperson of the Door Prize Committee

The following was sent to Hive Vibes from Richard Knee.

"Her vision is to create nothing less than an Appalachian "honey corridor" in eastern Kentucky and neighboring West Virginia, starting with more than 33,000 surface-mined acres, which could be reforested in a way that sets up a bee industry."

Richard

<http://chronicle.com/article/In-Appalachia-a-Researcher/49141/>

"Nearly all colonies possess queen cell cups throughout the period of the year when queen rearing is likely to occur, but only a small proportion are ever used to rear queens." *Bee Culture, February 2014*



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

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

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.

Signed: _____

Not Just Honey

Many valuable agricultural products are dependent on honeybee pollination.

Crop value in billions- 2006	% Pollinated by honeybees
Soybeans	\$19.7 50%
Alfalfa	7.5 60
Cotton	5.2 80
Almonds	2.2 100
Apples	2.1 90
Oranges	1.8 90
Peaches	0.5 80
Cherries, sweet	0.5 90
Grapefruit	0.4 90
Tangerines	0.1 90

SOURCE: U.S. Dept of Agriculture; AP Roger A. Morse and Nicholas W. Calderone, Cornell University



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