

Ashe County Beekeeping Association
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2015

1. Present: Randy Baldwin, Helen Baldwin, Joy Lewis, Fowler Bush, Doug Ehrhardt, Gwen Campbell, Harry Galer, Mike Haworth
2. Speaker: Jim Miles ...guest Larry Cox, former Commissioner, Allegheny County
3. BOD met before the meeting at Boondocks - Randy, Helen, Fowler, Doug, Jim Miles and Larry Cox
4. 25 in attendance - include Bob Cole and James Wilkes
5. Announcements:
 - a. Sign in before you leave
 - b. Any 1st timers??
 - c. Dues - see Fowler
 - d. Bee Aware team - last meeting presentation. Managed to get 500 for the state...according to Dan Soucek, will produce both plates but the Bee Aware team has been approved. Still taking orders.
 - e. Reminder that classes are on the website...
 - f. Hats and tees.
6. Joy Lewis introduced Eugene Graham, NCSBA Freshman Mountain Regional Director and Program Chair of the Surry County Beekeepers.
 - a. Randy Baldwin has passed Journeyman Beekeeper Certification
 - b. Presentation of certificate
 - c. Congratulations to Randy
7. Jim Miles - talk about splitting hives
 - a. 2nd or 3rd time here
 - b. This club is one of the better
8. Swarming:
 - a. How many have had swarms...why or why not?
 1. Lost their bees
 2. Bees are 2 - 3 weeks behind.
 3. Soon as the flow begins, will happen. Sometimes it will happen even before flow with swarm but due to the cold, delayed this year.
 4. 1st thing to do when you have a swarm on a limb
 - a. Have hive body on hand
 - b. Shake the limb and get to hive body.
 - c. What can you do to keep them in the hive body?? Put a queen excluder above the bottom board to keep the queen from leaving.
 - d. Put a couple of frames over the hive body.
 5. If you can reach a limb, saw or cut off and lay it down close to the front of the hive body. Greater advantage that queen will stay in the hive body.
 - b. Always have 2-3 queen cages...ico virgin queens. Enable setting up additional hives.
 - c. Go into hive body and you see queen cells and you know there will be a swarm...what do you want to do?
 1. Cut queen cells off, but that hive will swarm.

2. Best suggestion is to take the box off...how do you check for queen cells, they will be on the bottom of the frames.
3. Find the queen in the hive...the bees have run her down to flying weight and when ready, they will swarm.
4. If you can find the queen, put her on a frame - 2 frames of honey and 2 frames of brood. Put into a nuc box.
 - d. If you see queen cells, cut all off but two and that increases your chances to have a new queen develop.
 - e. How come bees swarm?
 1. Propagation
 2. Crowding
 - f. One thing that can be done if the queen is up in the super, put it on the bottom and a 10-frame hive body on the top of it.
 - g. 21 days for brood to hatch out
 - h. Have a super + 1 10-frame and put another 10-frame on top with a frame of brood and bait the queen to come up to the it.
 - i. 2nd way - if you can find queen and she has cells and is getting ready to swarm...set up hive body, queen excluder on the bottom board, and an excluder on top of the medium super, bees will work the medium super. Put another super or two with just wax and the bees will build them out.
 - j. Artificial swarm box...take frame with queen and set it aside. Lay a plastic sheet on the ground, take the frames from the hive and shake the bees on it and they will immediately reenter the hive. Next retrieve the frame with the queen plus bees and shake them off on the plastic sheet. Now these bees and the queen will reenter the hive body and you have essentially prevented them from swarming elsewhere.

9. Hive splitting:

- a. Why - to have more hives, to prevent swarming...
- b. To build stock of bees, split hives.
- c. If you split need to have a queen
 1. Raise queens
 2. buy a queen
 3. let the bees make their own queen for the colony
- d. To increase your stock of hives:
 1. Condense a colony down and they will start to produce swarm cells.
- e. Don't want to pull main hive down too low.
 1. With 5 or 6 frames of brood, you can probably get two splits
 2. Stop the front up for 2-4 days
 3. Move to a new location away from the original site.
 4. Learning process

10. Questions:

- a. *Walk away split?* Just like it says...two nucs which are both strong. Take one and put on a second bottom board and walk off. One of the two nucs won't have a queen. Second one will produce a queen quickly - 4 days. Cap vs. non-capped. Seven day seal of the queen cell isn't optimal...want to have at least 8 days. Box with no queen will go into an emergency mode to produce a new queen.
- b. Why split?
 1. Increase # of hives
 2. Prevent swarming
 3. Sell queens
 4. Improve genetics of colony

11. If you buy a queen and put a lot of bees in the colony, she won't lay more eggs than she has bees to take care of them. Got to have pollen and honey to raise bees. You need to supplement with pollen patties and have frames of honey.