

Ashe County Beekeeping Association
Regular Meeting Minutes
9-10-15

1. Randy Baldwin opened the meeting @ 1905. Attendance = 20.
2. Panel – Randy Baldwin, Joy Lewis and Lyn Soeder.
3. Anyone wants to pay dues...Helen will accept as Fowler not here.
4. Welcome everyone...new people in attendance are from Randy's Intermediate Beekeeping class in Wilkes.
 - Hollis Jarvis
 - Bill Visser
 - H.S. Green - joined last month
 - Ken Bishop
 - Arthur Childers
 - Doug Galloway
5. Bob Cole, Master Beekeeper has books and other items for sale
6. Next month is the ACBA Bazaar...bring bee related or other crafts to demonstrate and sell, e.g. Joy-b-Sweet and pollen patties. Extend invite to Watauga and Allegheny.
7. James Wilkes - 100 bee hives - going to S. Korea to attend Apimondia and will share information at the next meeting.
8. Class at Wilkes Community College started last Wednesday.
 - Randy has about 20 to 25 seats,
 - Greg Fariss will be speaking next Thursday. Will speak from 6-9 PM.
 - Talk about pests and diseases. Covers everything from pests to chemicals for control.
 - Continuing Ed. Bldg., Beacon Hall, Rm. 1403A. Park anywhere after 5 PM. Everyone welcome...no fee. Q? Contact Helen Baldwin.
9. License plate update...B-ware coach assured that the plate would be approved by the legislature. Needs to get on the agenda. Plates will be mailed to persons who filled out the form and paid. The plates will have the necessary monthly sticker.
10. Panel - Randy (RB), Joy Lewis (JL) and Lyn Soeder (LS).
 - a. Talk about winterizing and other topics on beekeeping.
 - b. Q?. Ordered pollen off the internet but it was for humans...use?
 - RB and JL say it should be acceptable.
 - RB - extract honey and there will be pollen (bee bread) in the cells. Per JL, tastes yeasty.
 - RB - wax...if you heat wax, don't heat over 400 degrees, so if making candles, put container in water like a double broiler. Melting wax, be careful not to heat directly. Boil water, dump wax in and then filter through cheese cloth...yields clean wax for candles, etc. Don't ever heat wax in a pan over an open flame. Bottom will start to heat up and reach a flashpoint where the wax will blow up. According to Bob Cole, wax will start to boil at 160 degrees. Don't try to melt wax in your kitchen...take it outside!
11. Getting bees ready for winter.
 - a. RB - he has problems with moisture. Two things will kill bees: wind and moisture. To kill weeds, use distilled white vinegar and add 2 cups/gallon of epon salts

and that will keep weeds down. Very fast acting and better than trying to weed eat them.

b. RB - box with about 1" of white pine shavings...has duck cloth on the bottom and 2 holes on end and 3 holes on sides with hardware cloth to keep bees out. Place on top of hive and this draws out the moisture. JL uses fine screen on the bottom and cedar chips (bigger shavings) and this helps ventilation.

c. RB - Smoker - use burlap on the bottom, cram in pine straw and then cover with with pine or hardwood shavings...will keep smoke going for 1 hour or more.

d. RB - feed pollen patties and sugar now to help the laying. Need to have a large cluster - basketball size - to ensure hive won't freeze.

e. JL - feeding since July and they are taking it like crazy. Adding pollen patties almost 1 a week. At the end of October, shut them up to keep from freezing. After shutting them up, fortify feeding with essential oils and other additives, e.g., Joy-b-sweet which has more than Honey-b-Healthy. Put it in sugar block. Place a shim on top of the super, makes sugar brick from recipe. Lay right on top of super on the frames. In late March, put another pollen patty on the top of the frames to get them going for the new season. To winterize, use tar paper wrap.

f. LS - timeline, as it starts to get cold...if you plan to treat for varroa, now is the time. Before treating, must harvest honey. Know how much honey is put up and how much brood is being produced. Need the queen to be still strong and laying for another month. Want to reduce hive...deep and a super, or double deep. Work down to that # now. Still have a few weeks to rearrange. Need to have all your brood in the lower chambers. Wrap is available, black plastic with foam core and it is sized to cover a hive. Left top feeder on the hive...also can have inner cover on the top of the super and then the feeder. Be sure to close the notch on the inner cover to prevent anything getting in from the outside. Be sure to place large rocks on cover to prevent wind from blowing them off. Food reserves, need at least a deep and a super with honey, if not then feed, feed, feed with 2/3 sugar and 1/3 water, not 50/50.

12. Meeting adjourned @ 8:15.