

ACBA Regular Meeting March 9, 2017

Board attendees: Harry Galer, Bill Naser, Maggie McClelland, Randy Baldwin, H.S. Greene, Doug Galloway and Doug Ehrhardt

President - Randy Baldwin

Vice-President - Helen Baldwin (not here)

Secretary - Doug Ehrhardt

Treasurer - Bill Naser (attending another board meeting; should be back)

Program Chair - Maggie McClelland

Past President - Harry Galer

Board Members - Paulette Lawrence (not here), H.S. Greene, Doug Galloway

Everyone needs to fill out a slip for 2 door prizes...

1. Introduction to Beekeeping class held last month had 19 people in the class. Hive winner(s) for the highest score on the classroom portion of the Certified Beekeeping test were Gilly and Eben Macknee (father and son). Thanks to Hidden Happiness Bee Farm for the hive donation! Doug Galloway spoke on hive treatments and he will speak at our August meeting.
2. Appreciate the new members who are in attendance. Overall attendance tonight included Teri Goodman, Jim Rash, Bob Cole, David Tanner, Mike Moretz, Raven Pruitt, Tina Roberts, Richard Roberts, Doug Hart, Buddy Helms, Josh Brannan, Steven Nichols, Mark McClelland, Greg Gena?, and Marna Napoleon.
3. Maggie McClelland - Program Chair. Thanks for providing snacks and lining up door prizes. Tonight's prizes - wildflower seeds donated by Parson's Feed and a pint of Joy Lewis' Joy Bee Sweet. Thanks to both!
4. Hidden Happiness Bee Farm has a few nucs for sale. The deliveries are currently scheduled for the last week in April and the first week in May, though the dates could change in the event of inclement weather.
5. Dues can be paid tonight after the meeting, if you didn't have a chance before:
 - ACBA membership - \$10/individual, or \$15/family
 - NCSBA membership - \$15/individual (can either pay thru ACBA or online - www.ncbeekeepers.org)
6. Also, raffle tickets for the 5-frame nuc are available for purchase - \$5 each, or 3/\$10. The tickets will be on sale through the April meeting; the drawing will be held at the end of the April meeting. Details for claiming the nuc will be provided when they're available. Maggie had a great idea - in exchange for honey she gives her friends and family, they bought raffle tickets for her! They didn't want the nuc; they just want more honey!
7. Tina Roberts, a new member who attended the class, has some yellow blossom sweet clover seeds for sale (bees love it!): 1 lb/\$4, 8 oz/\$2, 4 oz/\$1. You can check with her at the break or after the class if you're interested.
8. Bee Culture sent a box of magazines, so be sure to pick up a copy. Also, the NCSBA, "Bee Buzz" has a quarterly magazine and it focuses on a state, e.g. NC.

9. The Farmers Market has invited the group to the special Earth Day Celebration on April 22 (8am-1pm). We'd appreciate some help manning the table (or tables); we don't know much yet, but it should be fun!
10. Also on April 22 (12pm-1pm) is a Beekeepers Meeting/lunch sponsored by the Extension Office at Southern States in Jefferson. Greg Fariss, State Apiary Inspector, will be on hand to discuss summer beekeeping and updates on caring for bees. Lunch is provided at no charge. Reservations are requested by April 19 to the Extension Office - 336-846-5850. Flyers are available on the table.
11. Bill Naser went on a safari in the fall and brought back some honey from Africanized bees. We have tasting spoons if you dare....
12. Draw for door prizes
Break - raffle tickets (if anyone's available to take the money)
13. Randy – discussion on nucs
 - a. If you think you know everything, you still have a lot to learn and every topic can be a refresher.
 - b. Greg Fariss had a bell curve graph when varroa mites - carry viruses and up to 40 diseases - but when infected, bees don't show any signs. Bee losses in Jan/Feb. Queen laid the eggs in Aug/Sep. Hives treated in early August are better able to survive than those treated in September.
 - c. Oxylic acid treatment, after 3 days there is no trace other than what is normal for honey.
 - d. Recommend treat 2nd, 3rd and 4th of July and again in February. Treat 3X to ensure you get the entire cycle of emerging bees.
 - e. When you get your nucs - 5 frames in a box - be sure to have top lid secured!
 - f. When you put a nuc in, you start with 5 frames in the hive body - 3 on one side and 2 on the other. Then when you add the frames from the nuc, place them in the same order as came out of the nuc (old method). If you take the hive body, put 5 frame nucs in the hive + 1 extra frame and then wall off the 6 frames with a hive divider...experience has shown that this causes the population of new bees to explode vertically.
 - g. You can put 3 frames in the hole created after walling off the hive body and if the bees move over to that side, they will draw comb and you want have the bees making drawn comb without a frame.
 - h. After 3-4 weeks, pull out the wall and then add new frames.
 - i. When two bodies are full, you can do a walk-away split and put the two bodies side by side, then swap sides and then the foragers are entering the reverse hive. Do it in the middle of the day when the foragers are out gathering pollen.
14. BREAK
15. Raffle Winners
 - Richard Roberts - Joy b Sweet
 - Greg Lyons - shears from H.S. Greene
 - Josh Brannum - seeds from Parsons
16. Tonight's speaker is James Wilkes (hive sampling programs).
 - a. Monitoring program
 - b. Part of Bee Informed Partnership

- c. One Varroa mite per 100 bees is a good measure for monitoring threshold. When you reach, time to treat.
 - d. Easy way to remember for varroa and varroa loads, look at graph. Bees grow in spring, grow in summer and begin to draw down in the fall.
 - e. Varroa population lags behind honey bees and therefore are in greater loads per 100 bees.
 - f. Break that cycle - splitting or re-queening!
 - g. Start with a package, usually pretty clean from varroa. Takes a while for the varroa to really get started.
 - h. To collect, powder sugar roll or salt water jar
 - i. Look at monitoring programs! Go to Beeinformed.org
17. Closing - thanks for coming! Hope to see you at the Southern States Beekeeping Meeting, April 13 meeting, when B. Townes, President of the Wilkes bee group, will talk about foraging.
18. Be sure to leave your name tags on the table!