

Ashe County Beekeeping Association
Minutes from the 5/8/14 Meeting of the ACBA

1. Agenda:

- a. Welcome
 1. Officers/BOD present: Harry Galer, Helen Baldwin, Doug Ehrhardt, Joy Lewis, Fowler Bush, Gwyn Campbell
 2. Attendance #: 21
- b. Funds donated: \$106 from raffle - hive body from Baldwins
 1. Association balance: \$1715.47
- c. Intro to Beekeeping - Randy Baldwin, T-Th from June 3 - 26. \$71.25
Textbook is First Lessons in Beekeeping, optional, but additional cost
- d. Hive Splitting Class @ 7 Stands
- e. September ACBA Bazaar - highlight members who produce products from their bees. Table available to sell...donation back to ACBA always welcome
- f. Directory Information - complete form or fill out new.
Mentor/mentored/swarms/helping with ACBA activities
- g. Next Month - Jill Sidebottom update on hives in tree farms. Greg Hershner to speak on stings, Rx and allergic reaction
- h. Updates on Web promo by Doug Ehrhardt and logo update from Joy Lewis
- i. Bee yard report:
 1. swarms still a factor
 2. plan room for brood production and honey storage
 3. prepare for sourwood nectar flow
 4. empty supers to draw comb for honey storage
- j. New member intro - Joy Lewis introduced Mike Haworth last month...
- k. Bee related products to be offered outside meeting room
- l. Jim Miles - 7 Stands www.7standsbeefarm.com

2. Minute for sharing - Tommy Hester. Got started by cutting down a locust tree and found 4' of comb in trunk...split wood and ate the honey. Wondered where the bees were?? Some comb had mold. Neighbor kept bees and helped introduce him to how to catch and put in a box. Intrigued and got a book, Beekeeping for Dummies. Found an interest and is now involved with beekeeping. Got hive from Judy Absher.

3. Jim Miles presentation (*summary notes taken during Jim's presentation*)

- a. Bees swarm so they can live...swarm to increase populations
- b. Why control?
 1. Control all? No, impossible
 2. Control is what we do if we take some precautions. Prevent some from swarming
 3. If they swarm, honey production is usually gone if you lose 50-60% of bees.
 4. Talk about trying to control...good way to control is to ensure they aren't crowded...give more room/split, but you might not make as much honey.

5. Supers - any foundation work? Empty super...will they form? What you need is to provide a super with drawn comb.

6. Most hives, take a super and in every other one, put a super with drawn comb.

7. Bees do sleep and they can rest in the foundation.

8. Also, if you have an old super with drawn comb, put it under a hive body, it will allow bees to rest and foragers to rest in that comb...leave room in the hive body for bees to work.

9. Most swarming due to crowding and you will get swarm cells.

10. Most commercial beekeepers use 9 frames - use metal spacers.

11. Cut comb foundation, take the frame with no wires and cut out the comb and use to place on top of new frame.

12. Swarm cell? Who has seen? What do you do if you don't have.

13. Dead out? A hive that has died. Any drawn comb? Even on a deep frame, if no drawn comb on super, use drawn comb from dead out and put on top...

14. Checkerboard? Take drawn comb and put it between two frames...give room to move up in to the frame with drawn comb.

15. Too many bees because the queen is a good producer. Need to ensure that there is room for new production.

16. Jim wants to control swarming as he is in the business of developing new queens and he doesn't want his bees to swarm, or else there are any new bees to begin producing any new queens.

17. Seven or eight frames of bees in a hive, at least 4 or 5 frames of brood. If they are capped, have to be at least 8 days old. Capped brood will be over 8 days old, if all those bees hatch, have a whole lot of bees. With that many, need to have a super on top, or a hive body on top to ensure that they have room.

18. Hive body - 3 frames of brood, other with honey. What do you do with just empty frames? Divide brood nest - honey and pollen and a frame on either side.

19. Put empty frames to allow wax builders to build new comb.

20. Some bees collect more pollen than others...

c. What do you do if they swarm?

1. Hives that swarm every year?? Some queens / genetics, some are worse at swarming than others.

2. If you have a crowded hive and they don't swarm, raise queens from that hive.

3. Bees that don't usually produce are the quickest to swarm...

4. Good queen is one that produces brood that isn't prone to swarm.

5. Re-queen every year? No!

6. Super for spring honey? Add supers to ensure room to store honey...

7. If you want honey or you want brood, have to do swarm control.

d. Artificial swarm a hive? Take a frame out with queen cells...take the frame that queen was on and put it in a nuc. Take a frame of brood and add to nuc...put in another area of yard. Cut out the queen cells that are left.