

Ashe County Beekeeping Association

Regular Meeting Minutes

3/8/18

Officer Attendees: Randy Baldwin, Helen Baldwin, Maggie McClelland, Jeff Taylor, Bill Naser and Doug Ehrhardt

1. Welcome - good to see everyone! Are there any visitors/new beekeepers/new members?
 - a. Paul Wood is a new member; he attended a bee course at NCSU.
2. Ask for introductions. We're glad to have you and hope you'll chat with some of our members at the break. Tonight, we're covering two topics - nuc installation and feeding.
3. Announcements:
 - a. If you haven't paid your dues for 2018, you can pay them at the break or after the meeting. ACBA: \$10 - individual / \$15 - family NC State Bee Association (not mandatory): \$15. Can also be paid thru NCSBA - online or mail.
 - b. Maggie McClelland has offered to host a bee yard 'open house' on Saturday, Apr. 7, from 10-12 (morning!), weather permitting. This is an opportunity to share what she's done with her hives and for attendees to learn what did - and didn't - work. It should be a fun opportunity to learn something! If it's successful, we'll see who else might like to share their hives and experiences. If you think you might be interested in attending next month, see Maggie at the break for more info.
 - c. Raffle tickets are now on sale for the state-of-the-art hive donated by Hidden Happiness Bee Farm. Tickets are available - \$5/each, or 3/\$10. The hive value is listed as \$250 on the tickets, but this hive is valued at \$290. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the May meeting. All proceeds will benefit ACBA, so thanks to Hidden Happiness Bee Farm!
 - d. ACBA will have a table at the Farmers Market on Saturday, April 21 (8am-1pm), for Earth Day. Volunteers to man the table are needed for any stretch of time! More info will be coming.
 - e. Next month Jim Miles (7 Stands Bee Farm) will be here to discuss hive splitting.
 - f. During the break, Maggie will share her Wanna Bee Healthy recipe. Three pints are available for sale, and we'll also be giving a pint away at the end of the meeting.
4. Doug Ehrhardt spoke about the ACBA website before the program on nuc installation.
5. Randy Baldwin – Nuc installation:
 - a. 10 frames in your hive...hive body, take out 5 middle for 3 and 2.
 - b. Nuc - 5 frames.
 - c. Key is to take out in order they are in the nuc and place them in the hive body in the same order.
 - d. Shake bees into the hive body.
 - e. Lean box up against the entrance and the bees will go into the hive body.
 - f. Be certain to locate the queen and get her transferred to the hive.
 - g. Take another body and place on top.
 - h. 7 frame set up - limit access to 3 frames on the west side of the hive body. Go vertical...will fill the frames much faster than having all 10 frames in a body as they take longer to fill the outer frames.
 - i. Multiple hive bodies give more stability.
 - j. Feeding - good nuc...should have 3 frames with a queen. H.S. will talk about feeding.
 - k. Installing a package - James Wilkes has a video.
 1. Getting the bees out of the package is a challenge.

2. 10,000 bees per package
3. 1/2 pollen patty and feeder on front.
4. Pour bees into the hive.
5. Place queen case on top with a spacer to provide room. Point the screen up if only on 1 side.
6. Remove spacer after you've checked to be sure queen is out of the cage.
7. Once 7-8 frames are drawn, place super on the hive body.

BREAK

6. H.S. Greene - feeding and demonstration of some of the feeders he's made.
 - a. H.S. used a hive to be raffled as a demo.
 - b. New plastic feeding tray is superior to prevent mold and mildew.
 - c. Use the spacer to enable a pollen patty to rest on the frames and not be crushed.
 - d. Swarm trooper demonstrated.
 - e. Pollen patty vs. winter patty...the latter has more carbohydrates while the pollen has more protein.
7. Thanks to those who donated door prizes:
 - a. Wanna Bee Healthy (Maggie's Honey B Healthy alternative)
 - b. ACBA cap
 - c. Box of Non-GMO Pollinator Wildflower Seeds
8. Maggie wants to do a survey for Ashe County to determine losses and what worked/did not work.
9. Jim Wilkes discussed Hive Tracks. Would like to run a pilot program with ACBA to build a data set that will help encourage/coach/train people on use of the tools.
10. Thanks for coming tonight - hope to see you next month! Be sure to leave your name tags on the table!