



Lincoln County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

In this issue:

- Who we are and what we stand for
- Notes from this month's meeting
- Volunteer opportunities
- Announcements
- Renewal / membership form
- Member submitted stories
- Crossword puzzle

"The honey bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors, but because she labors for others."

-St John Chrysostom

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We are Beekeepers...

This is the official newsletter for the Lincoln County Beekeepers Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to the well-being of honey bees and to the fields of beekeeping, apiculture, research, and education. We are a diverse bunch of individuals who share a fascination for the honey bee and its workings. Our members range from full-time beekeepers and pollinators with thousands of hives to hobbyists involved in back-yard beekeeping. Some members do not even keep bees, but are fascinated by the six legs and four wings of *Apis mellifera*.

Meeting Notes:

This month we had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Schenider from UNC Charlotte speak about Africanized Honey Bees. These new intruders are all over the southern parts of the US as we all know. The main issue occurring since the 1950's when a lab worker in South America accidentally released over 20 colonies into the wild. Since that time they have managed to interbreed with our European bees as they move their way up the continent and crossing our border. These bees seem to retain their genes and create a crossbreed containing lots of the Africanized traits. These traits, which are not favorable to our expectations of beekeeping include: smaller colony sizes, doubles/triples swarm rates and much less honey production.

They have observed these Africanized virgin queens being more aggressive and piping to our virgin European queens making them much better reproductive wise and these bees are great for pollination, just not honey. Researchers and data shows that we will most likely be consumed with Africanized bees in our area as soon as the next 10 years, assuming that transportation and buying queens from southern states doesn't escalate that prediction.

How do we combat this coming evolution in beekeeping? Most likely the best solution will be to requeen your hives monthly to control swarming and new unknown queen genes entering the colony. The future is definitely interesting...

NEXT MONTH'S TOPIC: LCBA Christmas Party & Dinner

January 12th - Swarm Management

February 9th - Splits and what we are doing wrong
(topics subject to change)

NEXT MEETING: December 8th @ 7pm

James Warren Citizen Center, 115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, NC 28092

Volunteer Opportunities:

****Any events, programs, etc you would like announced need to be emailed before the next monthly meeting****

Member News:

If anyone rented the extracting equipment and forgot to return the fume board, PLEASE return to Dick Walker ASAP!

Announcements:

- Check out the NCSBA website for this months quizzes and new games. Each month a new quiz for all levels to test your knowledge and or study for the next levels test.
- We need your tried and true recipes using honey for our newsletter recipe section! Pictures to accompany them are great as well! Send to bethnoles@bluebikerealty.com or reply to the newsletter email.
- CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME!!! Don't forget to RSVP and let me know what you are bringing if you haven't already done so.

FOR SALE: If you make or have items for sale, make plans to list them here!

Extracting Equipment Rental:

Call Dick Walker @ 704 575 0925
wizz22789@aol.com

Rental fee is \$7 per day
Extractor, hot knife, uncapping tub, strainers etc

Putting Your Bees To Bed For Winter

By Kelly Beekeeping

How you prepare your hives for winter depends on where you live, so some of the suggestions below may not apply to you. Nevertheless, the list may give you some ideas. Although the calendar still shows September, those long, dark, cold days of winter are just around the corner. It's time to get busy.

If a hive feels light in the fall, you should start feeding liquid sugar syrup (2 parts sugar to one part water) as soon as possible. My opinion is that it doesn't hurt to feed sugar proactively. I sometimes give sugar as soon as the weather gets cold. In this way, they eat both honey and sugar simultaneously throughout the winter, and the honey supply lasts longer. I think this is better than having them eat only honey, and then only sugar because honey contains essential nutrients. In any case, check the hives on the occasional dry and sunny day. Move frames of honey closer to the cluster, if possible, or add feed if necessary. Do not be lulled into thinking that they have "made it" just because the temperatures are warming in the spring.

If you don't have extra honey from your own apiary to feed the bees, the next best thing is sugar syrup made from granulated sugar. Kelley's offers a great communal feeder, when used with our 5 lb glass jars will provide enough syrup for your bee yard to help get those colonies ready to overwinter. The syrup used in fall and winter should be at a 2:1 ratio, that's a proportion of two parts sugar to one part water by either weight or volume. Also, you may want to add a mold inhibitor. If the temperatures in your area are going to be below 50°F; it is best to use homemade fondant, candy boards, or granulated sugar (mountain camp method) rather than syrup. Because table sugar lacks the micronutrients found in honey, you can add a feeding stimulant with essential oils such as Honey-B-Healthy or Pro Health to give them some added nourishment. You might also consider adding a pollen patty. I use the mountain camp method to feed light hives through winter because it is very simplistic and effective.

Although I suggest that you feed, you never want to feed bees honey that comes from an unknown source. Honey can contain the spores of diseases such as American Foul Brood. Also, never feed bees sugar with additives. Brown sugar contains molasses, powdered sugar often contains cornstarch, and commercial fondant may contain flavorings and/or colorings. Any of these "extras" could cause honey bee dysentery. Although many beekeepers use high-fructose corn syrup, be aware that some corn syrup may contain hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF)—especially if it is old or has gotten warm. HMF is poisonous to bees. During winter, moisture can build up inside a hive that is not properly ventilated. They can tolerate the cold, but being wet and cold is a death sentence. Provide ventilation for your hives: air must be able to come in through the bottom and out through the top. Consider using a screened bottom board all winter long, as well as the vented super. I usually place straw in between my inner cover and outer cover, in the space provided by the vented super. This helps insulate but still allows air flow and absorbs moisture.

Here are some other things you'll need to have done before you put your bees to bed for the winter:

1. Treat for mites, hive beetles, and diseases if necessary. Put grease patties in each hive. They won't control a large tracheal mite infestation, but they can slow the increase of mites during the winter months.
2. Remove any empty boxes. Reduce the hive area with follower boards if you are using a top-bar hive. A proper interior size is less drafty and less likely to harbor intruders.
3. Check for a healthy, fertile queen. You should see at least some brood in your hive. If not order a queen as soon as possible or combine the queenless colony with a strong colony.
4. Combine small, weak colonies with stronger ones. Come spring it is better to have one live colony than two dead ones.
5. Make sure that the honey frames are in the right place, that is, they should be on both sides of the cluster and above it in a Langstroth hive. Move frames around if necessary. In a top-bar hive, put the cluster at one end of the hive and put the honey frames next to the cluster on the other side. This way, the colony can move laterally in one direction to find food.
6. Reduce hive entrances and consider using mouse guards. It's time for mice and other small creatures to find a snug and warm overwintering place—one filled with honey is especially attractive.
7. Remove weeds from around the base of the hive, this can be a convenient hiding place for creatures wanting to move into the hive.
8. Use an inner cover under your outer cover for greater insulation.
9. If your boxes, bottom boards, and covers are in ill repair, fix them now.
10. Secure your outer covers.
11. Consider providing a windbreak, such as bales of straw.
12. If extreme cold is a problem, consider wrapping your hives with insulation or tar paper **DON'T FORGET VENTILATION**
13. If winter flooding is a problem, move the hives to higher ground now while the weather is still dry.

Your hives should now be prepared for the winter. Don't forget to tuck the girls in and read them a bedtime story... Mine like "Bee"auty and the Beast.



If you have a beekeeping story, a favorite beekeeping memory or you would like to share why you became a beekeeper, we would love to include it in our monthly newsletter. Newsletters go out just after the monthly meeting. Please send a picture if possible.

Flower Report

(as of 11/8/16) By Ralph Harlan

I see a few goldenrod , some dandelion and false dandelion in bloom, and some ornamentals like roses, red azaleas, and pansies in bloom. I understand that there is some buckwheat in some locations and that the bees are working it well but overall I would think that there is little to forage on now. We're still short on rain, and as the temperatures drop what is blooming now will fail, even if we get rain. You need to watch your hives now. As the groceries are eaten you will need to supplement the pantry for the bees.

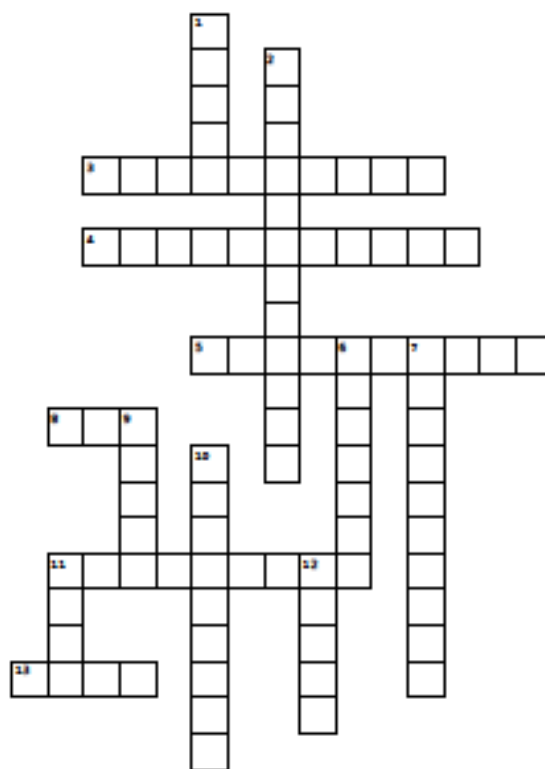
Hive Report

(as of 11/8/16) By Ralph Harlan

With the time change, it is harder to get anything done in the beeyard before the temperatures drop again in the early afternoon. Today was about 37° when I started my day, and I do not believe it made the “upper 60’s” the weatherman promised me. Don’t stay but a minute or two in a hive if the temperatures are below 65. Try not to go in hives if the temperatures are below 60.

I have been finding small patches of brood in some hives, but others appear to be settling in for the Fall/ Winter and do not have brood at all. In years past, I have not often seen totally broodless periods even in the fall. I would like to see a bit larger cluster in some of my hives, and there may be a short period she will lay between now and Christmas. I think that a small cluster does not eat as much or as fast. BUT, they have to have enough mass to stay warm. Several of my small hives are from swarm cells that were given me from a package that someone else installed this spring. Mostly these are the ones I find with small clusters, and I wonder if the genetics of these hives are more toward not building up and storing winter supplies. It will be interesting to see how they winter over, I have experienced colonies that started winter smaller than these and then bloomed with the red maple and were ready to swarm by the end of February. The big challenge is to keep food on all your colonies through the winter and well enough into the spring to survive those late hard freezes. This is where fondant can play a big role in helping colonies to survive. You will need to check/ install fondant regularly over the brood area on warm days starting now.

Puzzle 3



Down:

1. ancient greeks minted these with bees on them
2. drones develop from these eggs
6. this happens at 146 degrees
7. powerful, milky substance that turns a fertilized larva into a queen bee
9. ancient Egyptians used honey to pay these
10. first month of marriage (called this bc its the sweetest time in marriage)
11. location of first beekeeper paintings
12. ounce for ounce bee venom is more deadly than what snake

Across:

3. how bees maintain the inside temperature of the hive
4. candy made from honey, almond and egg white (from nice, france)
5. aka bee venom therapy
8. kings tumb that contained honey
11. #1 use for beeswax
13. wine made from honey

Library:

LCBA has started library as a resource for members only. At each meeting you may check out a book, video or any resource item for the 4 weeks until the next meeting when you can return the item. Please make sure to sign out the item on the board inside the closet! Feel free to donate to any unneeded books or items to our resource closet at any time!

The Hive and The Honey Bee

Garden Pants for Honey Bees

The ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture

Honey in the Comb

Hive Management

Honey handbook

Natural Beekeeping

Beeswax Alchemy

Honey Bee Biology

Swarm Essentials

Successful Queen Rearing

Presentation Resources:

Other Items:

Teaching Hive

Brochures

Photo Board

Coloring pages

Flowers, fruits, veggies for displays

Crayons

Kids games

Catalogs

Plastic Honey bee

Local Breeder List:

Billy Boyd	5803 Old Monroe Rd	Indian Trail	704 821-7310	russian bees	
Bob Doty	6325 Stirewalt Rd	Kannapolis	704 934-2640 704 651-2555	nucs-minn hyg	odiedody@ctc.net
Ray Revis	P O Box 2520	Marion	828 652-3524	nucs/queens-russians	
Gerry & Libby Mack	121 Hermitage Road	Charlotte	704 953-0565	nucs - russians	
Ralph Harlan	1295 Brevard Place Rd	Iron Station	704 807-6207	nucs	harlanmgmt@live.com
Wayne Hansen	8004 Southway Rd	Charlotte	704 287-4805 704 287-4805		whansen318@yahoo.com
Jeff Ritchie	3901 Piney Rd	Morganton	828 438-1720	nucs/queens	
Jimmy Brooks	126 Cedar Lake Farm Rd	Cherryville	704 477-6242	nuc/queens-russian	cj99brooks@hotmail.com
Chad Williamson	907 Tot Dellinger Rd	Cherryville	704 530-7489	nuc/queens-vsh	blackrockfarms@aol.com

New Members & Renewals

New Member ☐

Renewal ☐

Membership #: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

County of Residence: _____ Local Chapter: _____

1 year dues: NCSBA (state) \$15 + LCBA (local) \$5 = **\$20 total**

You can only be listed under one local chapter in NCSBA "Yellow Book" membership directory. If you choose to be designated "**at-large**" with no chapter affiliation, **check here:** ☐

I want to receive the NCSBA quarterly **BEE BUZZ** newsletter by (check only **ONE**):

Email ☐

US Mail ☐

NONE (I don't want it) ☐

I want to receive notices of bee-related **EDUCATIONAL** opportunities by email: YES ☐ NO ☐

I want to receive bee- and beekeeping-related **SOLICITATION** emails: YES ☐ NO ☐

This form may be turned in during our monthly meetings to the treasurer or by sending with payment to:

Eddie White
6576 Lineberger Road
Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

Make checks out to LCBA or Lincoln County Beekeepers association