



Vol.2 Issue 1

Knox County Beekeepers Association

Web Page

<http://www.kcbaofn.org>



January 2011

NEXT MEETING:
January 3, 2011
6:30 p.m.
New Harvest Park

January Meeting Starts At 6:30



President's Message

Lynda Rizzardi

January Newsletter Information:

Bee Keepers,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas Holiday!

A new year brings a new BEGINNING.

BEGINNING with our January 3 Planning Meeting, KCBA looks forward to another year.

If you would be willing to help with a monthly program, briefly tell about a beekeeping experience, provide a demonstration, or help in any way in 2011, please plan to attend the January 3 Planning Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the New Harvest Park Community Building.

May each member of KCBA BEGIN to realize he/she is a vital part of each monthly meeting.

Best wishes and Happy New Year,
Lynda Rizzardi

Seasonal Management



This Month in the Apiary

A quick search on-line for “Beekeepers Calendar” will turn up all sorts of lists and guides for what needs to be done on a monthly basis in the apiary. **Beekeeping in Tennessee** in particular provides a handy monthly guide geared to our region.

Remember that all beekeeping is local and these are only guides. The bees won't always follow our calendar to the day but these lists are a good way to remember what needs to be done. Interestingly, on the Bee-L discussion list there is currently quite a discussion about what triggers brood laying to resume in late winter. Everything from lengthening days to warmer temperatures to humidity changes to availability of food sources are being talked about. It seems that some of nature's internal clocks have yet to be fully understood.

Most of our time this month is spent assembling, painting and repairing equipment. Wait until just before supering, though, to install wax foundation, as it tends to be brittle and will break in cold temperatures. Cull old combs. Discard any with more than 2 square inches of drone cells. The

goal is to have all equipment ready for making honey by mid April. This is an especially good time to catch up on your reading with a good book on beekeeping.

Order any needed packages or queens as soon as possible so you will be able to get them with the first shipments. By February or March many of the producers will be booked up.

In the apiary, be vigilant for wind damage and skunk damage. Ventilation is important to keep excessive moisture out of the hive so be sure all openings are unblocked. Often the entrances are reduced and can become blocked with dead bees.

Except for the occasional calm, sunny day with temperatures in the 50's when bees will take cleansing flights, they will mostly keep their cluster intact during this time. Brood rearing will normally resume this month and be in full swing by the end of February.

Generally, December and January are not times to be in the hives. Don't open the hives for any extended period unless the temperatures are 40 degrees or above and then only if the sun is shining and early enough in the day that the bees can reform their cluster before night.

On the occasional warm day take a few minutes to look at your hives. Pay special attention to any hives where there are no bees flying. A quick look is all that is needed to ensure there are adequate stores of honey immediately next to and above the cluster. Be Careful not to break up or separate the cluster. Watch for signs of serious tracheal mite damage. Bees clustered or crawling on the ground in front of the hive or bees exhibiting K wing are symptoms of tracheal mites.

Lots of lists mention feeding. Make sure that honey stores are immediately beside and above the cluster. Colonies should have a minimum of 2-3 frames capped honey in a deep super or 6 frames capped honey in a shallow super.

If you must feed use thick syrup or a candy board or even dry sugar on the inner cover in an emergency. Feeding can actually cause problems if you aren't careful. Over stimulation of brood rearing at this time can lead to starvation later if you stop feeding before adequate natural food supplies are available.

Notice when the maple trees start blooming. Generally they will be blooming in February, but often will begin as early as mid January. The blooms are a drab red and the bees collect yellow pollen from them. This is one of the first major sources of pollen for brood rearing and is an indication that the end of winter is coming.

Tennessee Beekeepers Association Officers for 2011



Ray Turner, Danny Scott, George Martin, Dale Hinkle, Debbie Clayton, Jim Garrison

(All Officers not present)

President- Jim Garrison

Vice-President- Ray Turner

Secretary- Danny Scott

Treasurer- Petra Mitchell

Regional VP's

Upper East- Debbie Clayton

East- Dale Hinkle

Middle- George Martin

West- Dick Shaw

KCBA 2011 Officers



Left to right: Shirley DeBusk, George Windle, Earl Seay, Ed Close, Jeff Greenwood, Harry Bowie, Lynda Rizzardi, Nick Allen, Carla Basile

President- Lynda Rizzardi

<mailto:lnrizz1903@netzero.net>

Vice-President- Harry Bowie

<mailto:hjbowie@usit.net>

Secretary-Treasurer- Carla Basile

<mailto:carlabasile31@yahoo.com>

Members-At-Large- Ben Volk and Jeff Greenwood

<mailto:ben@bens-bees.com>

<mailto:shrinkjg@comcast.net>

TBA Representative- Ed Close and Earl Seay

<mailto:eclose2003@yahoo.com>

mailto:seay_honeybees@juno.com

TBA Alternate Representative- Shirley DeBusk and George Windle

<mailto:gsdebusk2@comcast.net>

<mailto:cas.inc@tds.net>

Youth Member- Nick Allen <mailto:eclose2003@yahoo.com>



THE CLASSROOM

SELECTING THE APIARY

The most important decision you make for your bees is your choice of apiary locations. Choose wisely and your bees will prosper. Choose poorly and they will perish.

There are a number of **DO's** to keep in mind when selecting a location:

Do select a site with:

- dry, well-drained ground
- plenty of sun throughout the day
- protection from prevailing winter winds - when evaluating a location, think about how well protected it will be when all of the leaves have fallen from the surrounding trees and bushes in the fall
- a gentle slope to ensure adequate air drainage
- good road access - check out prospective locations in the fall or spring, when the ground is likely to be wet

- protection from vandals
- productive nectar and pollen flows throughout most of the season

There are also a few **DON'TS** you should keep in mind:

Don't select a site:

- in a wet or boggy area
- in a low area or in an area subject to flooding - cold pockets can develop in low-lying areas and heavy rains can cause flooding

- on a hill top - hilltops tend to be windy and this discourages foraging in the summer and makes the bees work harder to keep warm in the winter

- close to your neighbor's property line - bees can cause problems with pets and with people - they can

also leave quite a mess during 'cleansing flights', causing damage to cars, houses and other surfaces

- where your bees are likely to be poisoned by pesticides - explore the area around any site you are

considering for an apiary - apple orchards are great during bloom but can cause problems after petal fall

- areas where lots of sweet corn is grown can cause problems with PennCap-M

Most locations will possess several desirable traits, but will lack others. A location may be excellent for the production

season, yet, it may be very poor for wintering, and vice-versa. If you don't mind moving your bees, you can use two

locations for your bees, one for making honey and the other for wintering. Remember! A winter yard can support a lot

more colonies than most summer yards, so you don't have to have as many. You may also want, or need, more than

one summer location, each with a major flow that occurs at a different time during the season.

Make a checklist and

evaluate several potential locations before making a final decision. Always evaluate your locations from the bee's point

of view.

Sitting your colonies

Site your colonies on stands that raise them between 4" and 8" off the ground. This will keep the bees dry and warm and will keep the entrance above the grass. It will also protect your equipment from moisture damage. There are many types of stands. A couple of cinder blocks will work fine. A two-hive stand or a pallet that holds four hives allows you to push your colonies together for wintering, thereby reducing the surface-area to volume ratio. This means that your bees will lose heat less rapidly. A major disadvantage of multiple-hive stands is that you

3. Hives on stands.

sacrifice accessibility to your bees, so it is more difficult to work them.

This can be very annoying.

Place your colonies somewhere between southeast and south. Make sure that they are in full sun on the south side. This will help warm your bees, especially in the morning. Tilt your colonies forward about 5 degrees, just enough to ensure that water does not collect on the bottom board. Another problem to avoid is drifting. Drifting can spread diseases and mites. If progressive, it will significantly weaken some of your colonies, and they will make less honey. You can minimize drifting by placing your colonies in an irregular pattern within the apiary. The use of colored landmarks – signs – can also reduce drifting.

What is Happening in the Hive?

Here is some background of what is happening in the hive.

Right now the bees should have no brood in the hive. The bees are in the lower box of a two deep colony and the middle box of a 3 deep colony. If a beekeeper opened their colony right now and looked at the top box there should be no bees present. But if you peered down deep you might be able to see the cluster in the lower box. If a colony has a large amount of stores the bees may be down deep and the only way to know they are there is to rap the side of the hive and listen. The snow we have received is a bonus for helping to winter the bees. It should provide a little more insulation.

It is not uncommon to see some bees flying out of the hive and dying in the snow in front of the colony. This will go on all winter. The hive started winter with 50,000 bees. If by March 1 there is 20,000 left, that would be considered a nice overwintered colony. So 30,000 bees have to die and go somewhere. That somewhere is either the bottom board or in the snow in front of the hive. In late winter after the snow is melting back some the snow in front of the colony, it will be covered with dead bees. This is normal.

Frost at the entrance of the top entrance hole on a cold day is a sign that the bees are alive and the vapor of their respiration is frosting up the hole. Again this is normal.

It is best to leave the bees alone and check them in Feb to see if they are alive



Honey Recipes

By Martha Simpson

Honey Vanilla Ice Cream

3 eggs
1 ½ cups honey
3 cups milk
2 tbsp. vanilla extract
3 cups whipping cream

In a large bowl beat eggs until foamy. Gradually add honey, beat at low speed until well blended. Gradually blend in milk and vanilla, chill. In a large bowl whip cream to soft stage, fold into chilled mixture. Churn and freeze (use greater amount of salt to ice then for other ice creams).

Christmas Dinner





ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Members with items checked out need to return them for others to use
- 2) TBA Executive Board voted to apply through the Tennessee Department of Agriculture for the Hive Grant Program for a third year. KCBA voted to participate if this becomes a reality by requesting two
(The state will provide two if KCBA buys one - so we hope to do as last year and have the state provide four and KCBA buy two beginning kits.)
- 3) Having experienced numerous problems with packages of bees and queens ordered the past couple of years....Lynda suggested KCBA place our names with Charles Parton o Blount County for six of his nucs for 2011 for our grant hive winners. Charles charges \$90 each; this expense will be upon our grant hive recipients. We simple requested nucs instead of packages of bees...so our new grant hive recipients will have bees for their hives.
- 4) At the TBA meeting, Lynda was made aware of the fact that Dr. John Skinner was trying to clear he inventory of the BEEKEEPING IN TENNESSEE booklets. He is currently trying to sell the booklets for \$2.50. KCBA voted to order 60 for a cost of \$150.00.
- 5) KCBA Membership Forms - If you could please complete and pay for 2011 dues this month or in December the information provided on the membership form would definitely help in the January 2011 planning meeting of KCBA.
- 6) Our December 6 meeting will be our annual banquet/pot luck dinner and installation of 2011 officers.

New beekeepers may register hives with the State of Tennessee at:

<http://state.tn.us/agriculture/regulatory/apiary.html>

If you wish to have your hives inspected, please contact Joel Parton or Joe Tarwater.

KCBA Committees for 2011

Education Committee:

Shirley DeBusk
Joel Parton
Joe Tarwater

Fair Committee:

2010 Officers and Executive Board
Don/Martha Simpson

Medication Committee:

Darrell Acuff
Harry Bowie
Ned Rizzardi
Carla Basile/Secretary/Treasure

Membership Committee:

Andy Evancho
Jeff Greenwood
A.C. Mann
Carla Basile/Secretary/Treasure

Mentors:

Shirley DeBusk
992-0223
Jeff/Debbie Greenwood
584-3210
Earl Seay
748-0124
Andy Morris
567-7192
Joel Parton
688-3294

Tess Arnold
693-9381
Harry Bowie
659-6339

Swarm Removal:

Shirley DeBusk
992-0223 North Knox
Jimmy England
661-4889Knox
Darrell Haynes
765-0554 E.W.Knox
John McGill

Nominating Committee:

To be appointed in September to present a Slate of Officers in October, have the membership vote in November. Officers for 2011 shall be installed in December.

Refreshment Committee:

Chairman: Phyllis Close

Monthly Assistants:

April-Ned Rizzardi

May-Robert Moore

June-Nathan Long

July-Picnic- Officers/Charles and Jennie Wilson

August-Ron Treece

September-Debbie Greenwood/David Trempe

October-Wilma Seay

November-Tom Cate/Ray Williams

December-Officers/Charles/Jennie Wilson

689-4385 N.Knox

Andy Morris

567-7192 E.N.KnoxPowell

Kyle Nolan

281-8782 Knox

Joel Parton

688-3294E.N.Knox

Earl Seay

748-0124 S.Knox

Harry Bowie

659-6339 Blount Knox

Bryan Creech

368-0106 Knox

Clarence Lewis

202-2119

Donnie Parker

546-5311E.N.Knox

David Trempe

789-9306 Fountain City

Ray Williams

773-3893 Knox

Ben Volk

686-4793Knox

George Windle

777-0626All Areas

**Bee Removal(Tree
Structures)**

Jimmy England

661-4889

Bryan Creech

368-0106

George Windle

777-0626

REMINDER!

Is it time to renew your membership?

\$10.00 Per Adult

\$5.00 Jr. Members

This is your newsletter, please help contribute articles, stories, etc. Share your ideas and creative talents with the rest of the club. All ideas are welcome!<mailto:eclose2003@yahoo.com>