



Bee Line

www.cherokeebeeclub.com

January/February 2006

The Presidents' Corner

By: Jim Driggers

Well, it's the New Year and I hope everyone had a nice holiday. We are now in the middle of a fairly mild winter which can have good and bad consequences for the upcoming year.

Are your bees still alive? It's a good idea to check for feed stores, overall condition of the hive, etc. Although the bees have been flying on the warm days, there is very little if anything for them to forage. Also, this increased activity consumes stores. Most colony losses that occur at this time of year are due to starvation. Remember, just because there may be a few frames of honey in the hive, the bees may still starve if the cluster is far away from these stores during cold spells.

2006 is going to be a very exciting year for beekeeping in Georgia. Hopefully, Mother Nature cooperates and we have another good year for honey production. I'm still hopeful that this is the year for that bumper crop of both wildflower honey and sourwood honey. Last year was some better than previous years on sourwood, but not as good as years past. Some exciting things are happening in Georgia in 2006, including: The Winter/Spring meeting for GBA on January 28 in Perry, GA; The Annual UGA/Young Harris Beekeeping Institute at Young Harris College in Late May/Early June; and the Eastern Apicultural Society Annual Meeting at Young Harris July 31-August 4. This is the first time EAS has held their conference in Georgia. Also, the GBA fall meeting is in Sept/Oct. I encourage you to participate in these activities.

Continued.....

The CBC Board of Directors held a meeting before the holidays to discuss plans for the upcoming year and have whittled out a very exciting program. In addition to our monthly meetings with speakers, we have included two field trips this year at my apiary – one in March to get a hands-on approach to spring management, installing packages, making splits, etc. The other outing is in June. Then, we will get our hands sticky by demonstrating harvesting techniques, late spring/summer management, and small queen rearing. We're also planning a picnic for the June get together. For both of these field days we encourage you to bring the entire family and make a day out of it.

Also, don't forget our annual Bee School on February 11 at Etowah High School. This year we will have Dr. Jamie Ellis from UGA as our feature speaker to discuss diseases and pest management. I will be asking some of you for help with this event.

Now is the time for you to be building or repairing that equipment for the upcoming year. Trust me, waiting until spring is not the time to do it because in addition to the bee work, the honey-do list gets issued by The Queen Bee (or King Bee for our lady beekeepers) with those items being priority. Are you planning on requeening or adding packages this spring? If so, I advise getting your orders in now in order to receive them in any kind of time frame to do you any good. Word is that packages and queen supply for the spring will be tight due to beekeepers in the Gulf regions replacing due to hurricane losses. Also, expect to pay a little more this year. The advertisements in the bee journals reflect quite an increase over last year.

Jim Driggers

2006 Calendar of CBC Meetings
(tentative)

- January 19 B. J. Weeks – Apitherapy
- *February 11* 2006 Bee School, Etowah High School
8am – 4 pm
- *March 18* Spring Field Trip to Jim Drigger’s Apiary
10 am – 2 pm (rain date March 25)
- Splits
 - Installing Package Bees & Queens
 - Spring Hive Inspection
- April 20 Jennifer Berry – Queens
(Breeding Program/Practical Applications
Material)
- May 18 Cindy Bee - Collecting Swarms
- *June 17* Summer Field Trip to Jim Drigger’s Apiary
10 am – 2 pm (rain date June 24)
- Family Picnic
 - Harvesting
 - Extracting Honey
 - Medication
- July 20 Carl and Virginia Webb - Candle Making
(Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS))
- August 17 Keith Delaplane - Africanized Bees
- September 21 Robert Brewer - Fall Preparations
- October 19 Billy Engle - A Lifetime of Bees
- *November 17* Holiday Dinner
- *December* No Meeting - Happy Holidays!

Regular meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Jury Assembly Room of the Cherokee County Justice Center in Canton, except those noted with an **.

The 2006 calendar is still being confirmed as of this release, and is subject to change.

Directions for March & June Field Trips:
Hwy 575, Exit 19. Go East on Hwy 20 toward Cumming.
Go approx 1 to 1.5 miles, turn right at traffic light onto Scott Rd. (Shell Station at intersection.)
Go approx 2 miles. (Pass Covenant Christian Church on right.)
Turn right on Spring Branch Drive. There will be a cross tie center entrance.
It will be the fourth drive on right. (Gravel driveway.)
At the home of Jim & Sharon Driggers.
260 Springbranch Drive.
Thanks Jim & Sharon!

Quote of the Month:

"If you want to gather honey, don't kick over the beehive."
- Abraham Lincoln

Subscribe to

***Bee Culture &
The American Bee Journal***

at reduced rates (25% off),
as Association Members through the club.

If you would like to advertise any Bee related items on the new website, please send your name, contact info, and items available to Ryan Sarks at webmaster@cherokeebecolub.com
Or to have them listed in the CBC Newsletter, please send the info to Laney Cagle at lane714@tds.net

Recipe Corner



Peanut Butter & Honey Cookies
Makes 2 Dozen

- 3/4 cup Honey*
- 1/4 cup butter, softened*
- 1 egg*
- 3/4 cup peanut butter*
- 1 tsp vanilla*
- 1 1/2 cups all purpose flour*
- 1/2 tsp salt*
- 1/2 tsp baking soda*

In med bowl, cream honey & butter. Beat in egg, peanut butter & vanilla. Add flour, salt & baking soda. Mix until combined. Drop dough one Tbsp at a time, onto well greased cookie sheet. Dip fork in flour and press flat on each cookie to form an "X". Bake at 350 for 10-12 mins. Remove from cookie sheet & cool on wire rack.

Minutes of 11-18-05 CBC Meeting

Guest Speaker

Our speaker tonight was Jamie Ellis, a young PhD from Rhodes University in South Africa, who is known as the world's leading expert in small hive beetles. He presented a most enjoyable and amusing look at his travels with his wife, Amanda, around the globe. He showed us how his interest in honeybees at a very young age led him to many noble and exciting adventures. We very much enjoyed the pictures of the different animals He and Amanda have "met" and studied over the years. Our sincere thanks are given to Jamie and Amanda for helping to make our dinner memorable.

Business Meeting

Meeting was called to order by B. J. Weeks. The purpose of tonight's meeting is the election of officers and directors, receiving of annual reports, and other business. The Business Meeting was begun prior to the introduction of special guest speaker Jamie Ellis. A motion was made by the Nominating Committee to introduce the names of those persons nominated for officers and board of directors as follows: President – Jim Driggers, Vice-President – Randy Tudor, Secretary – Trina Barron, Treasurer – Ryan Sarks, Director (1 for 1 year term) – John Tackett, Directors (2 for 3 year terms) – Richard Burge, Walter Champlin, Worth Green and Ron Ridlen. Motion was approved. The ballot was handed out, votes were cast, and the ballots were collected.

Reading of Minutes from Prior Meeting: None

Treasurer's Report:

Randy Tudor reported that there is \$1,519.79 in the club's bank account. Income for the year totaled \$684.15 (mostly from fees collected from the bee school and rental income from the extractor). Expenses totaled \$522.20, for a net income of \$161.95. Motion was made to accept treasurer's report. Motion was approved.

The club enjoys being able to contribute to Keith Delaplane's work at UGA. Amanda Ellis gave us a brief description of some of the things that are on-going within the UGA research program, such as pollination projects and the breeding program. A motion was made to contribute \$200 towards this program. Motion was approved.

Business Meeting (continued)

Audit Committee:

The audit committee met prior to the business meeting. Members of the committee reviewed receipts and financial records of the club and found everything to be in order. Motion was made to accept the Audit. Motion was approved.

Results of Vote:

President B. J. Weeks read the results of the votes that were cast for the above named positions. Results were as follows:

President	Jim Driggers
Vice-President	Randy Tudor
Secretary	Trina Barron
Treasurer	Ryan Sarks
Board of Directors (1-year Term)	John Tackett
Board of Directors (3-year Term)	Worth Green
Board of Directors (3-year Term)	Ron Ridlen

Special Thanks

Our special and sincere thanks were given to Debbie Eidson for everything she did, including making all of the phone calls, to plan and coordinate the dinner that we all enjoyed tonight! As the club has grown, this has become no "small" task. Thanks Debbie!

New Business

Planning Meeting

New president, Jim Driggers announced that he would like to have an annual planning meeting with all officers, board of directors and any other members that would like to attend in order to set the calendar for 2006. He will be contacting people to set up a date. Anyone with any ideas for topics for meetings is encouraged to attend or get their ideas to Jim. We would like to set up a field trip to someone's apiary also.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn. Motion was approved. Meeting adjourned.

Interview with A Beekeeper

CBC Newsletter Interview Reporter, Trina Barron recently met with newly re-elected CBC President, Jim Driggers. Their discussion went as follows:

TB: Jim, what made you interested in beekeeping?

JD: My father and both of my grandfathers were beekeepers. I used to help them out when I was a little boy. In fact, I helped my grandfather harvest his last crop of honey. When I was in college, my cousin and I decided to take up beekeeping, again. We did it for a while then got too busy. Most recently I started keeping bees again in 1997.

TB: What do you think are qualities of good beekeepers?

JD: I think the most important thing to become a beekeeper is to be comfortable working with your bees. If that means going out in shorts and no sleeves, no gloves, no veil, that's OK. But if that means putting on a full bee suit and being comfortable, then that's OK too. (Jim told me that he puts on his gloves after he has received about twelve stings.)

TB: How many hives do you have? I understand you have an out apiary in North Carolina.

JD: Here at my house I have 21 hives. My cousin and I have an apiary in Franklin, NC, where we have 25 – 30 hives. We meet there about once per month and work the bees there. After the spring honey flow here in Canton, I move those hives to NC to catch the sourwood flow.

TB: How are these areas different for beekeeping?

JD: Well, although I have numerous sourwood trees here on my property, I've only gotten one really good sourwood flow, whereas in North Carolina the sourwood flow is pretty reliable. I think elevation plays a part in that.

TB: How long have you been associated with CBC? I understand this is not your first time as president.

JD: I joined CBC around 2000. This is my third stint as president.

TB: Tell me about your current research project.

JD: I was approached by Jamie Ellis and asked, along with several other beekeepers in Georgia, to participate in a research project evaluating the benefits of Integrated Pest Management. What this means is that we want to evaluate the benefits of waiting until mite levels reach economic threshold levels before treating them with anything.

So down in my bee yard right now I have three groups of hives. Group I, which consist of 7 hives with all Italian bees, are on conventional bottom boards and receive no treatment for mites. Group II, also 7 hives, all Italians, also on conventional bottom boards, receive Cumaphos (Check-Mite) treatments at regular spring and fall intervals. Group III hives, also consisting of 7 colonies with Russian queens, rest on screened bottom boards. Like Group I, this group receives no regularly scheduled treatments.

Here's what we do. Every 59 to 60 days I put sticky boards in each of the hives and count the number of mites. I only treat Group I and Group III if the mite levels reach the threshold limit. I have to use a stop watch when I begin and record all of my activities in each hive. This is very tedious and time consuming.

The researchers are trying to determine the following:

- (a) Do IPM (integrated pest management, i.e. Group III) practices take any more of the beekeeper's time?
- (b) Are honey yields adversely affected using IPM?

The importance of this research stems from the fact that the honeybees (like all insects) are likely to build up resistance to medications (pesticides, antibiotics, etc.) In fact, they have already done this with many of the chemicals used over the years. It is wiser to medicate only when necessary and to try to establish beekeeping practices that will minimize the need for medications overall.

(Jim pointed out that working with Russian queens is unlike working with the Italian queens. They are very difficult to integrate into the hives, taking much longer than what we are used to. Also, management of the hives is somewhat different. They overwinter with fewer bees.)

TB: What are some things you have done right, given a certain “problem” or “situation”?

JD: Some things that I have done correctly as a beekeeper include starting out and maintaining more than one colony, joining Cherokee Beekeepers Club, joining the Georgia Beekeepers Association, educating myself by attending as many meetings and workshops as I can, interacting with other beekeepers, and learning from my mistakes.

TB: What are some things, in hindsight, that didn’t work that you might not try again?

JD: A few years ago I bought ten Buckfast queens from Texas. These were the meanest bees I have ever seen! I had to split and re-queen the colonies.

TB: What is the greatest benefit you receive from beekeeping?

JD: I am fascinated by the bees. I enjoy the camaraderie with friends with like interests, and it is a unique hobby that not everyone does.

TB: What advice would you give to the brand new beekeeper?

JD: Start out with at least two colonies, read everything you can, attend bee events, get education and ask questions. Most importantly, expect losses and learn from your mistakes.

TB: What’s the most fun bee related event that you have been to or done?

JD: In the fall, my cousin and I (and other friends and family members) meet in North Carolina for our BIG harvesting party. We get together on a Friday and work through Sunday. We harvest about 50 supers of honey and have a ball. And we all go home with some honey.

TB: Is there anything else you want to share with our readers?

JD: I would encourage everyone to participate in as many events offered by your local, state and national honeybee organizations as you can. The classes offered at Young Harris are wonderful, as are the GBA meetings throughout the year.

TB: What will you do after the UGA research project? I plan on doing some queen rearing. Also, I’m going to attend the American Beekeepers Federation meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. I’m planning to enter some honey at the national show. (Jim has won Best of Show – 2003 and First in his class – 2003 at the GBA shows.) Jim is also planning to add another bee yard, consisting of from 20 – 30 new hives.

Jim and his wife, Sharon, live in Canton. They have three sons. Thanks very much to Jim for sharing his knowledge and many years of beekeeping experiences with us. It was a very enjoyable and interesting morning! Thanks also for serving the club for a third term!

Jim and his bees!

'World Apitherapy Day' to Celebrate Health Benefits of Bee Products

First Annual Event Marks Birth of Scientist Who Studied Bee Venom
(MIAMI, FL, 1/10/2006)

March 30, 2006, will mark the first annual celebration of "[World Apitherapy Day](#)," an event designed to enhance international understanding of the therapeutic use and health benefits of bee products. . .

The use of bee products as 'green medicine' is growing worldwide. A recently-concluded program in Cuba, sponsored by the Apitherapy Commission of [Apimondia](#), trained 600 medical personnel to treat conditions such as antibiotic-resistant infections, septicemia and burns. (Apimondia is the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations. A similar program, co-sponsored by the United Nations, is being planned in Burkina Faso.)

'Bee hive products offer tremendous benefits to developing nations in need of low-cost, indigenous and self-sustaining health care systems," said Dr. Moisés Asís, one of the international coordinators of [Bees for Life - World Apitherapy Network Inc.](#)

Moisés said March 30 was chosen for the first annual World Apitherapy Day because it is the birth date of Dr. Philipp Terc (formerly Filip Tertsch), the first scientific researcher to investigate the medical uses of 'apitoxin," or bee venom. Terc was born on March 30, 1844, in Praporiste, Bohemia (C z e c h R e p u b l i c) .

Terc's home town is also near Passau, Germany, the location of the upcoming [4th German Congress and Workshop on Apitherapy](#) (March 24-29, 2006). Participants in that event will visit Praporiste to meet Czech beekeepers and apitherapists.

Products promoting World Apitherapy Day are available at: www.cafepress.com/apitherapy (All proceeds will go to the World Apitherapy Network.) . . .

Article provided by Apitherapy News - www.apitherapy.blogspot.com/

Notes from the Editor

Happy New Year & Welcome new officers!

Bee School will be here before we know it. We will be having raffles & silent auctions that day, to raise money for the club. You can help out by donating Bee related items for the auction, or by buying chances on items you want and need. Please contact me regarding your donations and Jim regarding volunteering. *Thanks!*

It's also time to renew our CBC memberships. A copy of the form is included. Please bring the completed form & membership fee to the next CBC meeting or mail to our secretary, Trina Baron. Trina's address is on the form.

Trina also wanted to let everyone know, that as members of the CBC, we can subscribe to Bee Culture and American Bee Journal at reduced rates (25% off) if we subscribe as Association Members through the club. *Thanks Trina.*

Please send me your articles, classifieds, comments and/or suggestions.

Laney Cagle, lane714@tds.net, 770-893-2635

The opinions expressed in articles in the BeeLine are of the writer & not necessarily of the CBC Membership

Cherokee Beekeepers Club Presents

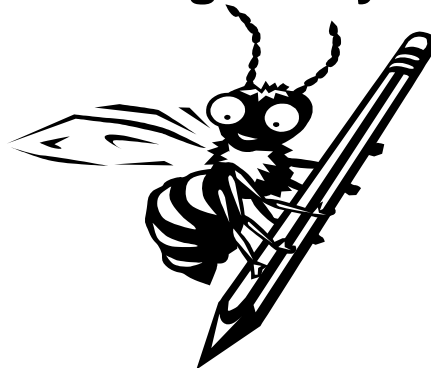
Bee School 2006



Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

**Saturday, February 11th
8 am – 4 pm**

**Go To: www.CherokeeBeeClub.com “Learning Center”
for a printable BEE SCHOOL APPLICATION to fill out
and bring with you!**



Etowah High School

6565 Putnam Ford Drive, Woodstock, GA 30189

Hwy 575 to Exit 8, Towne Lake Parkway, West towards Woodstock. Bare left at fork on Towne Lake. Then straight onto Eagle Drive. Turn right on to Putnam Ford Dr.

Contact: Jim Driggers 770-714-0221

Cherokee Beekeepers Club Contacts:

www.cherokeebeeclub.com

Jim Driggers, President	jdriggers@alltel.net	770-714-0221
Randy Tudor, Vice-President	rtudor@att.net	706-692-9224
Trina Barron, Secretary	2tbarron@comcast.net	770-664-8707
Ryan Sarks, Treas/WebMaster	beehavenapiaries@gmail.com	770-735-2882
B. J. Weeks, Past President	bnweeks@juno.com	770-735-3263
Laney Cagle, Bee Line Editor	lane714@tds.net	770-893-2635

Other Resource Contacts

Todd Hurt
Cherokee County Extension Agent
UGA-Coop. Ext. Svc.
130 East Main, Suite 200
Canton, Georgia 30114
Phone: 770-479-0419
E-mail: thurt@arches.uga.edu

Dr. Keith S. Delaplane
Professor of Entomology
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602
Phone: 706-542-1765
E-mail: ksd@arches.uga.edu

Jennifer Berry
University of Georgia
Apicultural Research Coordinator
1221 Hog Mountain Road
Watkinsville, GA 30677
Phone: 706-769-1736
E-mail: jbee@bugs.ent.uga.edu

Barry Smith
Manager Apiary Program
Georgia Dept. of Agriculture
P.O. Box 114
Tifton, GA 31793
Phone: 912-386-3464
E-mail: bsmith@agr.state.ga.us

Other Local Associations

Georgia Beekeepers Association

P.N. Williams, President
Phone: 404-366-6404
E-mail: ehoneyman@aol.com
www.gabeekeeping.com

Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association

Robert Pokowitz, President
E-mail:
president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org
www.metroatlantabeekeepers.org

Northeast GA Mtn. Beekeepers Assoc.

David Widding, President
555 Barron Dr.
Clarkesville, Ga. 30523
Phone: 706-754-4014
E-mail: dwidding@hemc.net

Tara Beekeepers Association

Bill Lynch, President
Phone: 770-707-2627
E-mail: Bill.@amsou.com

Forsyth County Beekeepers Club

Mr. Jan Payne: President
2926 Pruitt Road
Cumming, Georgia 30041-8233
Phone: 770-781-2959
E-mail: jpayne8869@aol.com

Northwest Georgia Beekeepers Club

Richard Wright: President
3492 Trion Hwy
LaFayette, 30728
Phone: 706-638-1354
E-mail: honey@cdc.net