



# Bee Line

[www.cherokeebeeclub.com](http://www.cherokeebeeclub.com)

JULY/AUG 2010

## The Presidents' Corner by Bob Behrman

In the spring of 2007 while shopping for plants in Wal-Mart, Lowes, Home Depot, Pike Nurseries or you name your favorite nursery it was a treat to see honey bees all over the flower blooms. At least it was a treat for us beekeepers. Have you seen any this year? From Woodstock to Canton you would be hard pressed to observe even a few. What a difference a few years make. This situation is alarming.

Have you noticed how few honey bees there are around your neighborhood? Take a few minutes to look around at the blooms. Most will report that only bumble bees, feral bee species (about ¼ inch in size), wasps, and some yellow jackets are observed. The fortunate few who observe what is called the European (or Western) honey bee species *Apis Mellifera* will likely have a beekeeper nearby with some hives. Although local, these observations confirm what is happening nationally.

In an "Atlanta Journal-Constitution" article by Kristi E. Swartz 4/5/2010 Dr. Keith Delaplane, Professor and Program Director in the entomology department at UGA, advised the public about the decline. "While the numbers have been steadily falling since the 1940s, the population - 2.4 million beehives in the United States- has been dropping 30 percent a year for the past three years." Kim Flottum, the editor of "Bee Culture" magazine reported in the June 2010 issue that the Apiary Inspector's Report on winter losses came out. From the report Kim figures that 33% of all the bees in the U.S. died last winter - roughly 800,000 colonies.

Why is such a decline happening? According to Dr. Delaplane there is a list of reasons. Some of it is environmental, but pesticides, parasites and viruses are chief culprits. Hey, the use of pesticides is something that you and I can do something about in our yards.

*Continued...*

The spring of 2010 was promising in Cherokee County. Hives have built up numbers and the honey flow indicates the possibility of a good year. Time will tell if the overall honey bee decline takes a pause this year. In the mean time there are a number of things the public can do.

One choice is to become a beekeeper. If you have been thinking about the craft of beekeeping, start preparing by reading books and visiting your local beekeeping club. The club will have experienced beekeepers to guide you in this very interesting and beneficial hobby.

If you can't be a beekeeper, invite a beekeeper to keep hives on your property. Your local club can put you in contact with local beekeepers.

Another choice is to plant flowers or trees that bees love. The internet has a lot of information about the various plants that fit the bill. Buy plants at the nursery that have busy bees all over the blooms.

Don't forget to really think before using insecticides. As a home gardener you may be able to choose alternative methods to protect your plants.

Support research grants to the Universities and Organizations dedicated to the study of this - do I dare say calamity. This is one area where the return on investment can be the food you eat.

By the way, did I mention that meat eaters are affected by the decline? Honey bees pollinate hay, clover and other forage for cows that give us beef and dairy products. In fact one third the food we eat is in some way assisted by the honey bee. Yes, one third.

A somber message but we all must stay informed.

Don't forget to attend the July meeting for under the microscope activity.

kindest Regards,  
Bob

**2010 Calendar of CBC Meetings**  
(Tentative)

July 15	Bee Lab BJ Weeks
August 19	Fall Preparations Bob Behrman
September*	Cherokee County Fair Bud Champlin & Michael Blackwell
September 16	Planting for Honey Gerald Phillips
September *	GA Beekeepers Assoc. Bi-Annual Meeting
October 21	Other Hive Products, Nutrition & Apitherapy Laney Cagle & Mike Elliott
November*	Holiday Banquet John Tackett
December*	No Meeting - Happy Holidays!

Regular meetings held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Cherokee Arts Council building in Canton. except those noted with \*.

*Subscribe to*

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

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

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***Be a Locavore!***  
***Remember to support your  
Local Farmers Markets  
&  
Summer Festivals***



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[terry@rossberryfarm.com](mailto:terry@rossberryfarm.com)  
[www.rossberryfarm.com](http://www.rossberryfarm.com)

***Quote of the Month***

*Art is the stored Honey  
Of the human soul,  
Gathered on wings  
Of misery and travail.*

*Theodore Dreiser*

[AskProfessorBee@cherokeebeeclub.com](mailto:AskProfessorBee@cherokeebeeclub.com)  
is still available to answer your questions.

Send an email when your issues arise.  
Don't wait until the next meeting to have  
your questions answered.

***Recipe Corner***



***Bees in the Garden Coleslaw***

*1 head green cabbage, shredded  
1 green bell pepper, diced  
1/2 cup sweet red pepper, diced  
1/2 cup mayonnaise  
1/3 cup honey  
2 tblsp vinegar  
1/2 tsp dry mustard  
1/2 tsp celery seed  
1/2 tsp salt & 1/4 tsp black pepper*

*Toss cabbage and peppers in large bowl. Combine mayonnaise, honey, vinegar, mustard, celery seeds, salt and pepper in medium bowl, then toss with cabbage mixture. Mix well; cover and refrigerate until thoroughly chilled.*

# Cherokee Beekeepers' Club Monthly Meeting Minutes

05/20/2010

President Bob Behrman opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Approximately 30 members and guests were present.

- Steve Altom read minutes from the last meeting on 4/15. John Tackett's motion to approve the minutes as they are was carried by majority vote.
- Worth Green reported approximately \$6022.69 in the club checking account.
- Mike Elliott reported on the the Queen Rearing Project.
- Laney Cagle is looking for volunteers for Honey Snacks for future meetings.
- Bob Behrman discussed the Summer Picnic. Honey Extraction will be performed. Worth asked for a show of hands attending, 15 people responded. Laney discussed folks bringing sides, she will email an invitation around June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Pat Sarks reported on Club Library. The book Beekeeping 101 by Dana Stahlman is available for sale.
- Bud Champlin reported on the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute and recognized newly Certified Beekeepers.
- Bob Behrman discussed the Choosing Green Festival in Brown Park on June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Bob Behrman discussed the Board Meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Ryan Sarks and John Tackett discussed getting T-shirts/Polo shirts with the club name and logo. Ryan took a hand count of those interested. Most of the room responded in the affirmative.
- Bob Behrman reported on the recent Canton Arts Festival.
- Business meeting was concluded at 7:35pm.

Presentation

## **Marsha(and Mike) Elliot Capturing Swarms**

Marsha presented and slide show and short videos discussing the capture of bee swarms

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm.

# Cherokee Beekeepers' Club Monthly Meeting Minutes

06/12/10

No regular meeting in June. Instead, the Annual CBC Summer picnic was held at the beautiful home of Candler and Debbie Ward.

There was lots of good food, some fun in the hives and an extracting lesson or two. A good time was had by all!

# At German Airports, Bees Help Monitor Air Quality

*The New York Times*

By TANYA MOHN

Published: June 28, 2010

Airports in [Germany](#) have come up with an unusual approach to monitoring air quality. The Düsseldorf International Airport and seven other airports are using [bees](#) as “biodetectives,” their honey regularly tested for toxins. “Air quality at and around the airport is excellent,” said Peter Nengelken, the airport’s community liaison. The first batch of this year’s harvested honey from some 200,000 bees was tested in early June, he said, and indicated that toxins were far below official limits, consistent with results since 2006 when the airport began working with bees.

Beekeepers from the local neighborhood club keep the bees. The honey, “Düsseldorf Natural,” is bottled and given away as gifts.

Biomonitoring, or the use of living organisms to test environmental health, does not replace traditional monitoring, said Martin Bunkowski, an environmental engineer for the Association of German Airports. But “it’s a very clear message for the public because it is easy to understand,” he added.

Volker Liebig, a chemist for Orga Lab, who analyzes honey samples twice a year for the Düsseldorf and six other German airports, said results showed the absence of substances that the lab tested for, like certain hydrocarbons and heavy metals, and the honey “was comparable to honey produced in areas without any industrial activity.” A much larger data sampling over more time is needed for a definitive conclusion, he said, but preliminary results are promising.

Could bees be modern-day sentinels like the canaries once used as warning signals of toxic gases in [coal](#) mines? Assessing environmental health using bees as “terrestrial bioindicators” is a fairly new undertaking, said Jamie Ellis, assistant professor of entomology at the Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory, [University of Florida](#) in Gainesville. “We all believe it can be done, but translating the results into real-world solutions or answers may be a little premature.” Still, similar work with insects to gauge water quality has long been successful.

Many experts say aircraft are not the only, or even main, source of pollution at airports. Cars, taxis, buses and ground activities as well as local industry are often major polluters. Not surprisingly, Nancy Young, vice president of environmental affairs at the Air Transport Association of America, an airline trade group, defended the air quality at airports. “Airports are not significant contributors” to local air pollution, she said, adding that aviation emissions represent “less than 1 percent of the nation’s inventory and typically only a few percentage points in any given metropolitan area with a major

airport.” She said the United States had improved the air quality at its airports through more stringent standards and improved monitoring techniques.

Internationally, there have been similar improvements, said Steven Lott, a spokesman for the International Air Transport Association. Since the 1960s, carbon monoxide, unburned hydrocarbons, smoke and nitrogen-oxide emissions have been substantially reduced, he said. Standards for most of them are set by the International Civil Aviation Organization, a [United Nations](#) body. “It’s a challenge for an industry that continues to grow,” Mr. Lott said. But the industry has invested in developing cleaner aircraft engines and ground-support equipment and vehicles as well as improvements in how equipment is operated. Initiatives like its Green Teams, for example, allow industry consultants to visit airlines to identify and share ways to reduce fuel burn and emissions. More than 105 airlines have participated, he said.

Still, some community groups are not persuaded that air quality at airports has improved. “It’s way worse than people think,” said Debi Wagner, a board member of Citizens Aviation Watch USA, who lives in Seattle. Some emissions are not adequately sampled and measured, Ms. Wagner said, and other potentially dangerous ones are not monitored at all. She said she was concerned particularly about the health of people living within three miles of commercial airports.

Two recent studies also raise questions about the quality of air at airports. Both focus on small general aviation airports, like the one in Santa Monica, Calif., which was studied in both reports. “The traditional pollutants did not seem to be a local issue,” said Philip Fine, atmospheric measurements manager for the South Coast Air Quality Management District, an air quality regulatory agency for most of Southern California. “However, there were issues for ultrafine particles and lead.” Dr. Fine, who oversees a network of air-monitoring stations, was a lead researcher on a study financed by the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) that is to be released in the next few weeks.

The lead levels from non-jet aircraft emissions did not exceed federal limits, but were significantly elevated, Dr. Fine said. Elevated levels of ultrafine particles, primarily from jet aircraft, were also a concern. The particles are short-lived, but because they are in high concentration down wind during takeoff, they are particularly worrisome for people who live close to small airports or who are repeatedly exposed, he said. Most large airports are farther from residential communities, and also have buffer zones separating them. The health implications of ultrafine particles are not yet known, but some medical research suggests they could pose a serious risk because the extremely fine particles pass through cell walls easily and are able to penetrate far into the brain and circulatory system.

Epidemiological studies have shown there are health risks from elevated levels of these particles emitted by cars and trucks, a concern for people who live near or frequently travel on busy highways, said Suzanne E. Paulson, professor of atmospheric sciences at the [University of California, Los Angeles](#).

But “we know next to nothing about the health effects of aircraft emissions” of these particles, Dr. Paulson said. She was a lead researcher on [another study](#), published late last year in the journal Environmental Science & Technology.

The federal government sets standards for pollutants like ozone and particulate matter, Dr. Fine said, “but ultrafine particles are not currently regulated.”

Europe has limits on ultrafine particles from vehicle emissions, Dr. Fine said. But Emanuel Fleuti, head of environment services for Zurich Airport, said there were concerns in Europe as well. Meanwhile, he said, he is confident about the biomonitoring work the German airports are doing with bees, as the results are consistent with traditional air quality monitoring in Europe. “If you look at the honey, it’s perfectly fine,” Mr. Fleuti said, adding that he often gets jars of it when he visits Germany. “It’s good honey.”

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### *CBC Library*



A Year in the Life of an Apiary	How Do Bees Make Honey
An Introduction to Beekeeping –video	How to Keep Bees and Sell Honey
Beekeeping - A Complete Owner’s Manual	Increase Essentials
Beekeeping - A Practical Guide	Just Add Honey
Bees - Lectures By Rudolf Steiner	Observation Hives: How to Set Up, Manage, and Use an Observation Hive
Bees in America - How The Honey Bee Shaped a Nation	Practical Beekeeping
Bees Were Their Business	Queen Management
First Lessons in Beekeeping	Queen Rearing and Bee Breeding
Following The Bloom - Across America w/ Migratory Beekeepers	Setting Up a Package Swarm
Health and The Honey Bee	Small Scale Honey Harvesting
Hive Management: A Seasonal Guide for Beekeepers	The Candle Maker’s Companion
Honey - From Hive to Honey Pot	The Class Room
Honey and Your Health	The Healthy Taste of Honey
Honey Bee Biology & Beekeeping	The Joys of Beekeeping
Honey Bee Disease and Pests 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition	The Life and Times of the Honeybee
Honey Bee Pests, Predators, & Diseases	The Queen Must Die
Honey Bees and Beekeeping-	75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary Tribute to Walter T. and
A Year in the Life of An Apiary	Ida Babin Kelly

**"If anyone has outstanding library items, please return them to the July meeting"**



## ***Would you be a CBC Meeting Hospitality Volunteer?***

The Club has purchased a coffee pot and has started having Coffee and “Honey Snacks” at our regular monthly meetings.

If you could volunteer to bring a Honey Snack, please contact Laney Cagle. This will be for the months of July, August, September, & October 2010.

### **THANKS to All Honey Snack Volunteers**

MAY: John Tackett

### ***Notes from the Editor***

**Happy Fourth of July!**



For this edition Special Thanks go out to Debbie and Candler Ward for hosting the Annual Picnic. It was all great – the food, the setting, the hospitality and the fellowship!

Last Saturday at the Choosing Green Festival in Canton we were approached by 3 people who were looking for a beekeeper to put bees on their property, now or next spring. One of which is a produce farmer (10+acres) in Calhoun. The other two were both from Canton. I promised to communicate this to the club. If you are interested let me know and I will provide their contact info to you.

The club has been solicited to present a beekeeping demonstration at Cagle Dairy. This summer program (on Saturdays) is sponsored by Farm Bureau. If you would like to assist please contact Bud Champlin.

Wow, Fourth of July, 2010.... My, how time flies! The year is half gone. What service have you provided this year? And what more can you do? There are many opportunities within the club and many more outside. I encourage you to step outside your comfort zone. Look around to see where you can lend a helping hand. You will be blessed!

If you have any articles you'd like to share, or if you would like to list anything for sale, please send them to me or call. Laney Cagle, [lane714@tds.net](mailto:lane714@tds.net), 770-893-2635

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

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