



# Bee Line

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

March/April 2006

## The Presidents' Corner

By Jim Driggers

Well, spring is just around the corner. The bees are now flying pretty regular and are starting to bring in some early pollen loads. Significant nectar flows are still a little ways away so continue monitoring for feed stores. Pretty soon we will need to watch out for that sudden population explosion and take steps to control swarming.

The 2006 Bee School was a great success! Even though Mother Nature didn't cooperate, we had a very good turnout. I believe we had about 29 or so new beekeepers with family members and other stragglers attending. I want to personally welcome all the new members and look forward to seeing you at our meetings. I also want to thank all that helped with the Bee School this year. Without you, this would not be the success that it is.

This month, our March 18 meeting, will be a continuation of the Bee School at my home in Canton. We will be demonstrating Package Bee Installation, Making Splits and Spring Hive Manipulations. This will also give everyone the opportunity to get their hands on the bees.

*continued...*

My Experiment for UGA is still progressing well (no surprises). The control colonies with no mite treatments are having a difficult time coming out of winter with small clusters and some losses. The Treated colonies are only slightly better but not by a great margin. These are Italian bees on solid bottom boards. The IPM colonies are doing great! No treatment, good cluster size, just plain healthier. These are Russian Stock on screened bottom boards.

The purpose of this experiment is to determine if IPM practices consume any more time than treated colonies. We measure time spent in each colony, honey production and mite load. Mite loads were slightly higher than the treated colonies but far lower than the control colonies. I have another year to perform this study.

Our Prayers and best wishes go out to BJ Weeks for his recovery from an eye injury. BJ had gotten something in his eye that eventually resulting in a ruptured cornea and will be out of commission for quite some time. At this writing, he is home and is doing ok but he is very limited with what he can do. (No bending, No Lifting) As you can imagine, this is the worst of times in this is his busiest part of the season. Please don't hesitate to call BJ and offer him a helping hand during his recovery. It will be greatly appreciated.

**2006 Calendar of CBC Meetings**  
*(tentative)*

- \*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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 \*\*.

**Directions for March & June Field Trips:**

260 Spring Branch Drive, Canton, GA 30115  
678-493-0154 (Home) 770-714-0221 (Cell)

I-575 South Exit 19 Turn Left (Hwy 20 East - Cumming)  
Aprox. 1 mi, turn Right at 1<sup>st</sup> Light (Shell Station) (Scott Rd)  
Go about 2 mi, turn Right on Spring Branch Dr (Cross Ties with Bradford Pear Tree in Entrance)  
4<sup>th</sup> Drive on right (Gravel Driveway with Bee Hives in Front)

I-575 North Exit 16 (Hwy 20 West/ Hwy 5 N/ Hwy 140)  
Take Right Fork in Ramp to Hwy 140 East Toward Roswell  
Bottom of Ramp Turn Right (East Hwy 140 Toward Roswell)  
Go about 2-3 mi, turn Left at 1<sup>st</sup> Light (Scott Rd)  
Go about 1 mi, turn Left on Spring Branch Dr (Cross Ties with Bradford Pear Tree in Entrance)  
4<sup>th</sup> Drive on right (Gravel Driveway with Bee Hives in Front)

**Quote of the Month:**

"Instead of dirt and poison we have rather chosen to fill our hives with honey and wax, thus furnishing mankind with the two noblest of things, which are sweetness and light."

**- The Battle of the Books by Jonathan Swift**

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***Recipe Corner***

**Asian Style Vegetable Stir Fry**



- 1/4 cup honey, 1/4 cup teriyaki,*
- 1/4 tsp crushed red pepper flakes*
- 4 tsp peanut or vegetable oil,*
- 2 cups small broccoli florets*
- 2 cups mushrooms, 1 small onion largely chopped,*
- 1 med carrot cut diagonally into 1/3 inch slices*

*In a small bowl, combine honey, teriyaki, & red pepper flakes; set aside. In wok or large skillet, heat oil over med to high heat; add vegetables & toss while cooking 2 to 3 minutes. Add honey sauce, stir until all vegetables are glazed & sauce is bubbling (about 1 minute). Serve with rice or noodles.*

# Minutes of 1-19-06 CBC Meeting

## Attendance

Officers and Board Members present tonight were Jim Driggers, Randy Tudor, Trina Barron, Ryan Sarks, B.J. Weeks, Laney Cagle, John Tackett, Bill Posey, Worth Green, Hoyt Rogers, Ron Ridlin and Jerry Floyd. Total members in attendance were 21.

## Topic of Meeting

Tonight, our very own B.J. Weeks gave an extremely informative presentation on the benefits of apitherapy, which includes the use of bee pollen, honey, royal jelly, beeswax, and also bee venom to treat over 50 different health problems. Royal jelly is known to expedite rebuilding in the body, bee pollen is used by many athletes for recovery from exhaustion and beeswax has been proven to contain policosanol, a key ingredient in controlling cholesterol. B.J. shared with us his personal reasons for exploring the use of bee venom therapy to provide relief from pain and improved mobility, particularly for persons with Multiple Sclerosis and arthritis; he shared many success stories with us. B.J. also stressed that bee venom therapy is not a cure for everything. He provided us with a list of "Dos and Don'ts" for the beekeeper that might want to try bee sting therapy on his own. B.J. offers group classes where he will educate and guide someone through the steps which will enable them or their family members to administer bee stings. If you or anyone you know thinks they may benefit from apitherapy, contact B.J. at [bnweeks@juno.com](mailto:bnweeks@juno.com). Many thanks to B.J. for this wonderful discussion.

## Old Business

Jim reported that at the December planning meeting, it was discussed that it would be appropriate to increase dues from \$10 to \$12 for the upcoming year. The need for the increase was to help offset some upcoming costs, including speaker fees. He thanked the membership for going along with this decision.

The officers which were elected in November were recognized.

## Reading of Minutes

None

## Treasurer's Report

Ryan reported that we currently have \$1,219.50 in the checking account. The checking account balance on 11/30/05 was \$1,419.50. The decrease in \$200 was for payment of the club's donation to the UGA research program.

Randy gave a brief synopsis a budget which he drafted. A copy of this budget will be included as an attachment to these minutes.

## 2006 Bee School

Jim asked for a show of hands of who would be available to help out on the day of the Bee School, which will be February 11, 2006 at Etowah High School. Jim will be calling on some people to help put it all together. Jim will be interviewed for an article in the Atlanta Journal regarding the upcoming Bee School. Please take some fliers tonight and distribute them where you think they would get some good visibility.

## 2006 Calendar

The tentative 2006 calendar for the year was published in the recent issue of Bee Line. A copy of this tentative calendar will be included as an attachment to these minutes. Booking of the guest speakers will be done as funds are available.

## Upcoming Events

The Georgia Beekeepers Association Spring Meeting will be held January 28, 2006, in Perry, Georgia. In June, UGA will sponsor its annual Beekeeping Institute at Young Harris College. In July, the Eastern Apiculture Society will have its annual meeting in Georgia for the first time, also to be held at Young Harris.

## Other

Jim reported that he attended the American Beekeepers Federation meeting recently. A topic of discussion was the approval of tylosin as a treatment for, not a prevention of, foul brood.

Jim gave us an update on his mite study. Of the four colonies with Russian queens, no colonies have been lost. Of the Italian colonies, four have been lost.

Thanks to Jerry for sending out the e-mail reminders for the meeting.

## New Business

None

## Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn. Motion was approved.

## **Interview with A Beekeeper**

CBC Newsletter Interview Reporter, Trina Barron recently met with Dick, Rick & Will Burge. For those of you who haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting the Burge's, they are a three-generation family of beekeepers. Will, the youngest, at 15, has been keeping bees for four years now. His Dad, Rick, got his first hive last year. Granddad, Dick, started keeping bees on his own six years ago. Will and Rick, along with mom/wife Katy, live in Alpharetta with the other members of their family. Dick and his wife, Lois, live in Roswell. Dick and Rick are natives of Ohio, having been in Atlanta for more than twenty-years now. Read more to get to know this wonderful family.

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**TB: How and when did each of you become interested in beekeeping?**

**DB:** I first became interested in beekeeping when my neighbor, who had a garden, started keeping bees and I would help him out. He got older and passed away and I inherited his six hives. That was six years ago. I usually keep three or so now.

**WB:** I became interested in beekeeping when my grandfather started keeping his. I got my first hive four years ago and have one hive now.

**RB:** Last year Will started with two hives. I jumped in and provided some "capital funding" to him and took over one of his hives. So I've had one hive for one year now.

**TB: What are some of your other interests and hobbies?**

**WB:** I plan on being a chef so I enjoy cooking. I am active in the Boy Scouts and am finishing up my Eagle Scout project right now. I also enjoy backpacking.

**DB:** I'm retired now and enjoy my bees. I used to enjoy the backpacking a lot too.

**RB:** I enjoy hunting, backpacking, raising tropical fish, wood working and am a Boy Scout Leader. (Rick's profession is software development. Will is a sophomore at Alpharetta High School.)

**TB: What do you think are qualities of good beekeepers?** All three agreed that patience was necessary to become a good beekeeper. I asked if it was true that beekeepers are also putterers. Rick concurred that they are all putterers

**RB:** I have noticed a change in Will's methods over the past several years. I have watched him become more deliberate when he works the hives and also have noticed that he has slowed down from his first years. I recognize in all three of us a curiosity and desire to learn new things.

**DB:** A common thread I see among beekeepers is that they also seem somewhat to be philosophers.

**RB:** You must learn to appreciate everything that is going on inside the hive and pay attention to the little things.

**TB: How long have you been associated with CBC?**

**DB:** I joined CBC six years ago, Will four years ago, and Rick has been providing carpool services for about the same time and is now an active member.

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

**DB:** I moved my hives into a sunnier location. It's also not as moist as where they had been. The bees became more active and generally healthier. I like the gentle queens that I gets from a certain local commercial beekeeper member of our club. Over the six years, with twenty-one grandchildren, there has only been one sting.

**RB:** Getting the supers on early and being good about feeding has been key to keeping up my first hive.

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

**DB:** This year I feel like I waited too long to medicate. Waiting too long to medicate adversely affected my ability to get supers on in time for the first honey flow. One hive now is very strong, with several supers of bees that I will be able to get several splits from soon.

**RB:** With regards to the mites, last year it was too hot to treat with Apistan when I first thought I had a mite problem. So, I'm unsure how waiting to medicate will affect them through the winter months.

**WB:** I requeened my hive this past fall. I feel like maybe I traded a better queen for a lesser queen. The hive, which was strong all summer started to decline immediately after installing the new queen. I will be more cautious to requeen in the future.

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

**WB:** I like the honey.

**DB:** I enjoy the challenge, as well as the simple pleasures of beekeeping.

**RB:** Along with the honey, I enjoy watching the bees. I find it very relaxing. Last year, I observed a “bee” coming around the hive every evening at about the same time. This “bee” would swoop down and snatch one bee and eat it. I called the same certain local commercial beekeeping member of our club and inquired as to what it might be. He told me that it was a European Wasp, which is about four inches long and that it would eat one bee for itself and then take another back to its nest. I did witness that very act later.

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

They all concurred that medicating on a timely schedule, feeding at key times (spring and winter) and requeening only when necessary would be good advice.

**RB:** Do not be afraid to ask questions.

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

**WB:** I enjoyed helping BJ at Publix with his sampling display. There was one lady in particular that just kept coming back around with more & more questions. We all enjoy the bee school each year.

**DB:** My favorite thing has been harvesting his honey. Will and Rick got about four gallons this year and I got about four gallons also.

**TB: Do your neighbors ever complain about your bees?**

**RB:** Our neighbors on both sides are very understanding. Both are nature lovers and have never complained about the bees. I think that two hives for our back yard is a good number because in the spring and summer when they are pretty active they fill the air.

**TB: Rick, do you think any of your other five children will become beekeepers?**

**RB:** Maybe Michael, who is 8. He has shown some interest in the bees. No interest yet from older brother Jimmy.

**TB: I want to thank the Burge’s, including Katy and Lois, for having me into their home. It can be so difficult to arrange for just two people to meet, let alone four, but they made it so easy to get all of us together with very little notice. Thanks very much for your hospitality and sharing your beekeeping experiences with the club.**

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### *Notes from the Editor*

**Welcome New Members! We look forward to seeing you at the March 18 field trip.**

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make Bee School 2006 a success.  
And Special Thanks to Jim & Sharon Driggers for hosting the March field trip.

If you have not renewed your CBC membership, please bring the completed form & membership fee to the next CBC meeting or mail it to our secretary, Trina Baron. Trina’s address is on the form. This will be the last Beeline sent to anyone who has not renewed their membership for 2006.

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