



Bee Line

www.cherokeebeeclub.com

May/June 2010

The Presidents' Corner

by Bob Behrman

SPRING ARRIVES

Hummm, hummm, hummm. What is that humming that seems like a loose high voltage line? Scanning the sky at the level of power lines the discovery is shocking but not of the electrical type. Ten to twenty thousand honey bees swirling around overhead is a natural marvel to behold. Like a mini dust twister the bees go round and round for maybe ten or fifteen minutes and as fast as it appeared it seemingly disappears. The swarm doesn't stay in the air too long. As it disappears from the air another marvel appears on a branch, picnic table, bush or countless other structures that can support the massive swarm. Starting at softball size the cluster may get so large that you wonder if a 5 gallon bucket could even hold it. How do so many bees just hang off the branch like that? The wonder of it all is an understandable reaction to the first time experience of beholding a swarm. Fast forward, now you are a beekeeper.

Yikes, a swarm is not what the beekeeper wants. What to do, what to do? Well, you can come on down to the May 20th meeting and learn all about the ABC's of swarming. Why do bees swarm? To what extent can the beekeeper control swarms. How do you capture a swarm? The club is featuring our very own Marsha and Mike Elliott team to take us through this very timely subject. Between now and the meeting keep an eye on your hives. This is swarming season so inspect your hives at least every 10 to 12 days to make sure they are queen-right and cut out the swarming queen cells you find.

Continued....

As this Bee Line article is published the honey flow has started in Cherokee County – at least it is normal to start in the first week of May. Starting in southern part and progressing to the north part of the county. Remember the club offers extracting equipment for rent of \$15 per use and includes everything you need except for bottles and jars. You must be a current member. Have your membership card available when checking out the equipment.

May 13, 14, and 15th the University of Georgia's annual Beekeeping Institute is being held at Young Harris College. Many of us in the club have become certified through their master beekeeping program. Check the program out here <http://www.ent.uga.edu/bees/young-harris>

May activities include the club's participation in the Canton Arts festival located at Brown Park, May 15 and 16. If you would like to sell a product from you hives, that YOU produced, please contact me.

June 12 is very special. It is our Summer Picnic in lieu of our regularly scheduled meeting in June. It will be a day of family fun. Bring your favorite side dish. The picnic will be hosted by board member Debbie Ward and husband Candler.

June 26, 2010 the Club for the first time will participate in the Choosing Green Festival that will be held in downtown Canton. This is information to the public type meeting with many booths covering an array of green subjects. Board member Gerald Phillips will present to the public information about bees with an emphasis on how choosing green will help the bees. If you like fruits and vegetables in your diet help the honey bee.

Now everyone go spread the word about beekeeping and enjoy a bountiful harvest of honey this season.

2010 Calendar of CBC Meetings
(Tentative)

- May 13,14,15* UGA Bee School
Young Harris
SOLD OUT
- May 15 & 16* Canton Arts Festival
- May 20 Swarming
Mike & Marsha Elliot
- June 12 * Summer Field Trip – Family Picnic
Debbie and Candler Ward
NO REGULAR MEETING IN JUNE
- June 26 * Choosing Green Festival
- 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 3rd 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.

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

Quote of the Month

“If you would win a man to your cause, first convince him that you are his sincere friend. Therein is a drop of **honey** that catches his heart, which, say what you will, is the great high-road to his reason, and which, when once gained, you will find but little trouble in convincing his judgment of the justice of your cause.”

President Abraham Lincoln

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



Honey Mint Iced Tea

- 4 Cups Boiling Water
- ½ Cup Fresh Mint Leaves
- 2 Tea Bags (Green or Black)
- ¼ Cup Honey

Makes 4 servings: In large heat-proof pitcher, pour boiling water over mint and tea bags. Whisk in honey. Let steep 5 minutes. Remove tea bags; cool. Refrigerate until ready to serve. To serve, pour over ice.

**We make Honey Mint Tea at our house a lot in the summer when the Mint is so fresh. This also works well if you just put room temp water and everything else in a glass jar in direct sunlight for several hours. Then you have Honey Mint Sun Tea!*

Since swarming is our meeting topic of the month, I thought I would share this article by Dr. Delplane on the subject.

Entomology: UGA Honey Bee Program: Bees, Beekeeping, and Pollination
Dr. Keith Deleplane
www.ent.uga.edu

Honey bee swarms and bees in walls

The Value of Honey Bees

Honey bees are one of the most beneficial of all insects. Honey is humanity's oldest sweet, and beeswax was the first plastic. Today, honey bees provide these and other valuable hive products. In addition, thousands of beekeepers in the United States keep bees for fun and profit. Honey bees are important pollinators of almonds, apples, blackberries, blueberries, cantaloupes, cranberries, cucumbers, forage crops, kiwifruit, squash and watermelons. The annual contribution of honey bees to U.S. food production is more than \$9 million.

What Is a Honey Bee Swarm?

Honey bee colonies reproduce by a process called *swarming*. During mid-winter, the queen begins laying eggs and the colony population grows. By spring, the nest is congested with many new bees. The colony raises a new queen and the old queen flies away accompanied by more than half the bees. This flying swarm temporarily clusters on an object, such as a tree branch (Fig. 1), while scout bees search for a permanent nest site. A hanging swarm may assume any shape, depending on the surface on which it is clustered. Most hanging swarms are round or oval, about the size of a basketball, and dark brown. Swarms in the clustered stage are relatively gentle, and the risk of stings is low. Nevertheless, treat swarms with caution. A swarm usually relocates to a permanent nest -- a hollow tree, abandoned beekeeper's hive, or inside a hollow wall -- within 24 hours.

Options for Dealing with Swarms

If a honey bee swarm lands on your property:

- Do not disturb it. Keep pedestrians, children and pets away from the swarm.
- If the swarm is safely located away from animals and people, you may wait for it to fly away on its own.
- If the swarm poses a real risk to people or animals, you may find a local beekeeper who will remove it. However, not all beekeepers collect swarms, and some may charge a fee for this service. Your county Extension agent can refer you to local beekeepers who collect swarms.
- If Africanized bees are present in your area, do not ask a beekeeper to collect swarms. Instead, report honey bee swarms to your county Extension agent or state Department of Agriculture. Authorities may wish to collect the swarm for official testing. For more information, ask your county Extension agent for Leaflet 432, *Africanized Honey Bees*.

Options for Dealing with Bee Colonies Inside Walls

Wall voids are attractive to honey bee swarms seeking permanent nesting sites (Fig. 2). This is especially true if the cavity has had bees in it before. To avoid this problem, caulk potential entry sites such as knot holes, gaps in siding, and openings around plumbing or electric wires. If ventilation is necessary around the openings, cover them with window screen.

Bees in walls can be a problem:

- They pose a sting hazard if their entrance is near human or pet traffic.
- They may trouble people indoors with the sound of their buzzing.
- If the colony dies, its beeswax combs are no longer ventilated by fanning bees, and combs may melt and stain interior walls with honey and wax.

If you discover a bee colony nesting inside a wall, here are your options:

- Save money and labor with quick action. If the swarm moved inside the wall very recently (within a day or two), a qualified person can kill the colony by injecting an insecticide into the void. If you wait longer than this, bees will build combs and store honey.
- If a more established colony must be eliminated, it is a job for a specialized bee removal service. The entire nest, including bees and combs, must be removed (Fig. 3 & 4) because if you leave behind the unventilated combs, they may melt and stain interior walls. Many pest control companies avoid these jobs because they involve unusual expertise and liability. Fortunately, this work can be done humanely without killing the bees. Bee removal specialists locate the nest cavity by listening and observation. Next, they open the wall void to expose the nest and cut out and remove all combs, honey and dead bees. Specially-designed bee vacuums permit the operator to remove bees without injury, and the bees can be reunited with their combs later in a conventional hive. It is extremely important to close up all potential bee entry sites; otherwise, you run the risk of a new swarm quickly reoccupying the void. The operator may need to work either inside or outside depending on the nest's location.
- In some cases, bees and people cohabit with no problem for years. If the next entry site is remote from human and pet traffic, such as the peak of a roof, a leave-alone approach may be best.

Remember, honey bees are beneficial insects and are not aggressive. However, they will defend their nest if they perceive a threat. If you encounter flying honey bees, calmly walk away from them and never swat them. Swatting only threatens them and increases the chance of a sting. Your county Extension agent or local beekeeping association can help you with any questions about honey bees.

UGA BEE COLLEGE AT YOUNG HARRIS IS SOLD OUT
Contact Detsy Bridges to be put on the waiting list.
706-542-9035

Cherokee Beekeepers' Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

03/20/2010

Spring Outing

Mike and Lindsay Cline with their whole family catered the event. Light breakfast goodies and barbeque lunch – this was above the call of duty. * The Cline's provided all the food (Home made, too!) and drinks for the event as a donation to the club.

Bud Champlin – Finalize hive equipment preparations

Bob Behrman/Ryan Sarks – Coached four selected first time installers

Jake, Megan and Renee Baker, Palmer Haffner and Laura Chumley were the brave ones selected to install the packages.

Bob Behrman – Making the splits were simulated and concepts covered. Due to the weather a robust hive of bees was not available. * While the shortage of queens and packages somewhat impacted all we wanted to do, Bob Behrman and Bud Champlin did a great job with demonstrations.

Lindsay Cline – Queen painting Lindsay did a marvelous job of searching down the queens and demonstrating the painting.

Many thanks to Randall Cagle for donating a nuc for the raffle. Laura Chumley won the nuc. This was Laura's big day as she was also selected to install one of the packages. * We sold 25 tickets at \$5 each netting the Club \$125.

Cherokee Beekeepers' Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

04/15/2010

President Bob Behrman opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Approximately 32 members and guests were present.

- Steve Altom read minutes from the last meeting on 2/19 and also 3/20 Spring Outing. Motion to approve the minutes as they are was carried by majority vote.
- Mike Elliott reported approximately \$ 6,157.69 in the Club checking account.
- Mike Elliott reported on the the Queen Rearing Project. The first mtg of this group is Sat 4/17 10am.
- Laney Cagle is looking for volunteers for Honey Snacks for future meetings.
- Bob Behrman discussed the Young Harris Beekeeping Institute coming up in May and the Arts Council Show. Looking for honey to sell at the Arts Council show.
- John Tackett motioned for the club to participate Choosing Green Festival in Canton on June 26th. Motion was carried by majority vote.
- John Tackett motioned for the club to donate \$200 to the County Extension Office instead of the \$100 budgeted. Motion was carried by majority vote.
- John Tackett motioned that the club commit to book the Courthouse building for Bee School next year. Motion was carried by majority vote.
- Ryan Sarks motioned that the club commit to support the revival of the Boy Scout Beekeeping Merit Badge. The club would work with a Scout to mentor. Motion was carried by majority vote.
- Business meeting was concluded at 7:40pm.

Presentation

Bud Champlin Hive Management

Bud discussed various strategies for keeping a hive strong and healthy. This was followed by a vigorous question and answer session.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

Here's an update on the April 17th Queen Rearing Workshop/Cooperative

We had approximately 10 members participate in the queen rearing workshop on Saturday April 17th at Mike Elliott's bee yard in Roswell. Ryan Sarkis contributed larvae from two of his long lived, productive queens along with larvae from one of Mike's two year old, chemical free queens for a demonstration on the Doolittle method of grafting to create queen cells. Participants also got to try their hand at the delicate art of using the Chinese grafting tool to extract the microscopic larvae from the cells on the comb and insert them into the artificial queen cups. Mike also demonstrated the non-grafting Miller method of raising queen cells.

We grafted approximately 45 larvae into the artificial queen cups and then installed into the cell builder colony that had been previously prepared. Only 8 grafts were accepted by the cell builder colony, demonstrating the difficulty of the art of selecting the right aged larvae and successfully transferring them into the cell builder colony. (It also probably didn't help when one of the cell bars fell out of the frame onto the ground while the frame was being installed.) Of the 8 queen cells harvested it appears that 7 have emerged from the queen cells and have made it back from their mating flights and are now starting to lay eggs.

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It's almost



Mark your calendar for June 12th. A separate invite will be sent will directions.

Bee planning for your special side item to go along with Charley's BBQ.

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 nd Edition	The Life and Times of the Honeybee
Honey Bee Pests, Predators, & Diseases	The Queen Must Die
Honey Bees and Beekeeping- A Year in the Life of An Apiary	75 th anniversary Tribute to Walter T. and Ida Babin Kelly

"If anyone has outstanding library items, please return them to the May 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 May, July, August, September, & October 2010.

THANKS to All Honey Snack Volunteers

MARCH:
Mike & Lindsey Cline

APRIL:
Joe Schepers: Honey Cookies
Jorge & MaryLou Blohm: Honey Brownies
Bob & Tiffanie McKenzie: Honey Cookies

Notes from the Editor

Happy Mother's Day!

What strange weather we've had? We completely missed the planting window for the early veggies, like cabbage, etc. We do have our squash and cucs out and they are blooming. So are lots of blackberries, azaleas, and even tulip poplars. So I think it's safe to say Spring has sprung! I've seen bunches of bees in my tomato plants (still in the starter cups) on the porch. Are they after the water? Or something in the dirt? Hmmmm... I think I'll ask Professor Bee...

Special Thanks are in order for Mike, Lindsey, and the Cline Family for hosting the spring outing. It was a great day for it. I've heard nothing but rave reviews about it all.

Another Special Thanks goes to Randall “Cuz” Cagle for donating the Nuc for the raffle. The club appreciates the gift. We hope Laura is happy with her win.

Thanks also to all the veteran beekeepers who were there to assist with demo's, questions, and mentoring. You are why this club operates like a well oiled machine.

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, 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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