



# Bee Line

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

May/June 2006

## The Presidents' Corner

By Jim Driggers

The nectar flow is on! Hopefully everyone's bees are in good shape for the flow and swarms have been minimal. Remember, the bees will not fill those supers sitting in the garage.

It is important to watch for overcrowding as the colonies are going into a population explosion. At this writing, Blackberry and Poplar flows have been going on for a couple of weeks and now that dreaded Privet is starting to bloom. (I don't like Privet in case you don't know).

This spring has been quite challenging for beekeepers, package and queen producers with shortages and all kinds of weird things happening. I had the pleasure once again to go on a couple of bee shaking adventures this year to try to help BJ get through his tough spring. It is very exciting work and I think that once you have helped, you take on a different outlook toward the challenges that are involved. Queens are tight, weather, etc. Hopefully everyone has gotten their packages in and they are producing well.

Coming up in the May Program will be a presentation on swarm capture, and a panel

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discussion on swarm prevention. As well as, preparations for late spring harvest and summer management. Also, the UGA / Young Harris Bee Institute will be held at Young Harris College on May 18-20.

June 17 is the Field Trip to my apiary in Canton. Hopefully if the honey gods are smiling down upon me, we will harvest some honey, demonstrate extraction, care of harvested honey and perform some early summer management techniques. And best of all, we will have a family picnic! Lots of fun is expected, so please plan on attending.

My Experiment for UGA is still progressing well. (No surprises) I have just finished making splits and requeening everyone as most of the Italian colonies had superseded queens or were duds. The Russians are doing well with the exception of one that had become queenless and has a drone layer. Mite levels are pretty low at this time since the count was done in March. It will be interesting to see the counts in June and August. I have been pretty aggressive in making splits this spring in order to get my numbers up perhaps sacrificing the spring honey crop and looking forward to the sourwood flow this summer. The last time I did that, it backfired in that the sourwood flow was non-existent. Oh Well... that's beekeeping!

## 2006 Calendar of CBC Meetings

- May 18 Collecting Swarms – Open Forum
- \*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 Ctr in Canton, except those noted with \*\*.

### Thank You

In bygone years, a man’s wealth was determined by the number of sons. In modern days, it has changed to the number of friends. Following my eye injury March 4th & the resulting 6 weeks of not driving, I found that I have many friends. I tried to take it easy on the volunteer help, but there were no complaints about starting at 4:30 am or finishing at 1:00 am. Thank you so much for all of the help offered and given, it helped me get the work done. I gave myself driving privileges April 17<sup>th</sup> when I realized the pain was gone. I still have problems with the eye & more surgery is a probability for the end of the year. In the meantime, I am in your debt.

BJ Weeks

### Directions for June Field Trip:

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:

*“The sweetness of life does not come without the occasional nasty sting, but those who go to far out of their way to avoid the venom avoid the sweetness as well.”*

*Beeing by Rosanne Daryl Thomas*

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Kelly's Brood Foundation, #120, by the box or sheet. And, a Dadant, 4 frame motorized Extractor. Contact Bill Posey @770-386-3311 or [billsbeefarm@yahoo.com](mailto:billsbeefarm@yahoo.com).

Beeswax Candles: Decorative, TeaLights, Votives, Tapers or Citranella Buckets. Contact Laney Cagle @ 770-893-2635 or [lane714@tds.net](mailto:lane714@tds.net).

## Recipe Corner



### Crispy Sweet Tortillas

(4 Servings)

- 1 tsp ground Cinnamon
- 1 tsp grated Orange Peel
- 1 tsp Cocoa Powder
- 4 (7-8") Flour Tortillas
- ¼ cup Honey

Combine cinnamon, orange peel & cocoa powder, mix well. Cut tortillas into triangles. Fry in hot oil or Bake until crisp. (Drain if fry method is used.) Put tortillas into paper bag with cinnamon mixture. Shake to coat. Drizzle with, or Dip in Honey. Mucho Bueno !

# Minutes of 4-20-06 CBC Meeting

## Attendance

Total members in attendance were 27, which includes seven new members. Welcome!

## Topic of Meeting

Tonight's guest speaker was Jennifer Berry, Research Coordinator for the UGA Honey Bee Program. Jennifer spoke in depth regarding honey bee genetics and breeding. Since 2000 the varroa mite has been the main focus of research at the honey bee lab in Watkinsville. Research is proving that integrated pest management (IPM) practices are the key to managing the varroa mite.

IPM involves four distinct areas of application:

- I. Biological – i.e. growing certain fungi which attract mites
- II. Cultural – use of bottom screens, drone brood trapping, use of powdered sugar
- III. Genetic – encouraging and breeding for hygienic behavior
- IV. Chemical – responsible use of coumaphos, fluvalinate and essential oils

Many thanks to Jennifer for sharing with us the in-depth research, which is on-going at the lab.

Jennifer announced that the lab will have 40 to 50 Breeder Queens available for sale during the third week of May. Anyone interested may e-mail her at [jbee@bugs.ent.uga.edu](mailto:jbee@bugs.ent.uga.edu) or call Jim Driggers for more information.

## Upcoming Events

As President of the 2006 Eastern Apiculture Society, Jennifer shared with us the agenda and introduced us to many of the speakers for the yearly EAS Convention. The dates for the event are July 31 through August 4<sup>th</sup>, and will be held on the campus of Young Harris College in Blairsville, Georgia. The event is geared towards backyard beekeepers.

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In addition to numerous classes and seminars, there are several social events planned, including a hog roast, low-country boil, bluegrass music and a costume ball!!! Hope to see ya'll there!

Jennifer also reminded everyone of the annual Beekeeping Institute hosted by UGA. The dates are May 18 thru 20. This event is also on the campus of Young Harris College.

## Business Meeting

### Treasurer's Report

Ryan reported that we currently have \$1,925.85 in the checking account.

### Secretary's Report

No minutes were read. The minutes from the January 2006 meeting were published in the March/April issue of the BeeLine.

Trina Barron asked for volunteers for Career Days, a Cherokee Farm Bureau sponsored event at two middle schools in Cherokee County. The focus of the presentation should be from an agricultural viewpoint and the tremendous role honey bees play in pollination and crop production.

Motion was made to renew the club's membership in the American Beekeeping Federation. The ABF is the organization that lobbies at the national level for legislation in favor of the honey bee. Cost for club membership is about \$25. Motion passed.

### Other

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

### Old Business

None

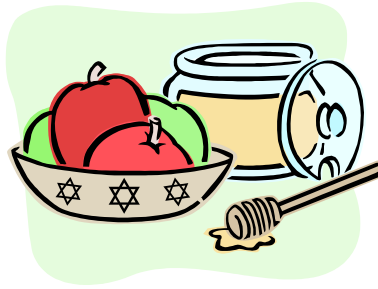
### New Business

None

### Adjourn

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

# Health News



## ***SUPERFOODS***

Steven G. Pratt, MD – Scripps Memorial Hospital

We know that spinach and broccoli are good for us. But did you know that Honey increases the amount of antioxidants in the blood, that dark chocolate can lower blood pressure, or that avocados can prevent migraine headaches? In his new book “SuperFoods Health-Style”, Dr. Pratt adds honey, dark chocolate, avocados and six other foods to the original list of 14 that he presented in his best-selling book “SuperFoods RX”. Together with exercise, weight control, healthy sleep habits and stress reduction, these foods can help you live a long and healthy life.

The Original 14 SuperFoods that keep us healthy, Beans, Blueberries, Broccoli, Oats, Oranges, Pumpkin, Wild Salmon, Soy, Spinach, Tea, Tomatoes, Turkey, Walnuts & Yogurt, have been expanded to 23. The list now also includes Apples, Avocados, Dark Chocolate, Garlic, Honey, Kiwis, Olive Oil, Onions, & Pomegranates.

**HONEY:** Daily honey consumption increases the amount of antioxidants in the blood, which appears to reduce the risk of heart disease and cancer. It also helps prevent constipation and reduces cholesterol and blood pressure. Honey even does a better job of maintaining energy levels than other sweeteners. While consuming sugar typically provides only a very brief spike in blood sugar, a study found that athletes given honey after a workout maintained optimal blood sugar levels for a full two hours and their muscles recovered faster from the workout than those who consumed other sweeteners. Darker honeys tend to have more antioxidants and more flavor. Consumption is considered best when at least one to two teaspoons are had several times a week.

## *Notes from the Editor*

Special Thanks to Jim & Sharon Driggers for hosting the March field trip. Sharon went above and beyond with the assorted home made confections. They were wonderful. Sweets from the sweet!

We are looking forward to our June outing as well. As Jim mentioned, the plan is to have a family picnic. Everyone is invited (spouses, significant others, and kids). There will be more discussion at next weeks meeting. Be thinking of what side item you would like to bring to share. Plan on bringing your own lawn chairs (and folding tables).

Due to everyone's busy schedule, we were unable to "Interview a Bee Keeper" this month. Hopefully, we will be able to do one for the next Beeline. If anyone would like to volunteer for an interview, or knows of someone in particular that they would like to know more about, please tell us.

Thanks goes out to Trina Barron for being the CBC Librarian. She's done a fantastic job with the labels and bookmarkers. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge contained in these books. We have quite an assortment in the club's library. Some are more technical, while others are lighter reading. If anyone has any books or videos that they would like to donate to the club, they would be greatly appreciated. The books are available to be checked out at the monthly meetings, or you may contact Trina directly. The titles are listed below.

Please let us know how you think we're doing with the Beeline and what you'd like to see more or less of. Any of the officers are open to your constructive criticism!

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\**

## **CBC Library**



Beekeeping - A Complete Owner's Manual	Queen Management
Beekeeping - A Practical Guide	Queen Rearing and Bee Breeding
Bees - Lectures By Rudolf Steiner	Setting Up a Package Swarm
Bees in America - How The Honey Bee Shaped a Nation	Small Scale Honey Harvesting
First Lessons in Beekeeping	The Candlemaker's Companion
Following The Bloom - Across America w/ Migratory Beekeepers	The Class Room
Honey - From Hive to Honeypot	The Healthy Taste of Honey
Honey Bee Pests, Predators, & Diseases	The Joys of Beekeeping
How Do Bees Make Honey	The Life and Times of the Honeybee
How to Keep Bees and Sell Honey	The Queen Must Die

**Cherokee Beekeepers Club Contacts:**

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

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bsmith@agr.state.ga.us)

**Other Local Associations**

**Georgia Beekeepers Association**  
 P.N. Williams, President  
 Phone: 404-366-6404  
 E-mail: [ehoneyman@aol.com](mailto:ehoneyman@aol.com)  
[www.gabeekeeping.com](http://www.gabeekeeping.com)

**Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association**  
 Robert Pokowitz, President  
 E-mail:  
[president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org](mailto:president@metroatlantabeekeepers.org)  
[www.metroatlantabeekeepers.org](http://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](mailto:dwidding@hemc.net)