



Bee Line

October/November 2005

Presidents' Corner

Hello to all of our bee people,

The fall festivals are in full swing. Honey and free bee information are being passed out as fast as the people approach the booths. It is a fun time and often new club members are recruited. The festivals are a great opportunity for hobbyists to build a reputation in an extended community for quality bee products. Examining the observation hive can be a tremendous first introduction for prospective beekeepers.

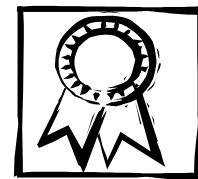
We are having a strong goldenrod and aster bloom. This will help us to have a strong population of healthy bees throughout the winter and possibly we will get by with less supplemental syrup for bee food. Hopefully all of the medicating had the desired effect of getting the varroa and tracheal mites under control.

Be sure to make plans to attend the next meeting- Last minute hive preparations for winter. And at the November dinner meeting, your special menu contribution will be greatly appreciated. Following the dinner, we will be electing officers, directors, and you could also volunteer for any of the volunteer positions at the bee school or committee positions.

We impact an area covering several counties with the club activities we plan as the Cherokee Beekeepers Club. If you have ideas for the bees, the bee club, or need help call another club member. Your input is important as it makes our contribution to the community greater.

Thanks for helping me as I have attempted to serve as your president during the last two years.

BJ Weeks



Cherokee County Fair Winners

The CBC Booth won 2nd Place in its category.

Ron Ridlen won 1st Place in Comb Honey
John Tackett won 1st Place in Dark Honey.
Ron Ridlen won 2nd Place in Dark Honey.
Joe Schepers won 1st Place in Light Honey.
John Tackett won 2nd Place in Light Honey.
Hoyt Rodgers won 3rd Place in Light Honey.

Congratulations to all!

2005 Calendar of Meetings

October 20 Mike Ball- last minute winter preparations with the bees

* November 18 * Holiday Dinner- Legion Hall
Friday 7:00 PM
Guest Speaker- Jamie Ellis,
PHD-UGA

No meeting in December

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 a **

Notes from the Editor

First, I'd like to say Thanks to everyone who has been so supportive in getting the CBC Newsletter going again. Also, we have a new interview column premiering in this edition. We're excited to offer insights from many different club members. Trina Barron has graciously accepted the challenge of being our CBC Newsletter Interview Reporter (fancy title isn't it?). Trina got together with Ryan Sarks to do our first interview. We hope you enjoy it!

Ryan, whom I'm sure you already know, is our new Web Master. He's getting the new web site up and running under CherokeeBeeClub.com. He has offered to post info on the web site for anyone in the club who is interested in selling any of their bee related items. The customer would not be able to order through the web site, but Ryan can list your name, contact info and items for sale, where you would be reached directly. You can contact Ryan at webmaster@cherokeebeeclub.com

Please plan on attending the Annual Banquet at the American Legion Hall in November. Debbie Eidson (770-894-5072/debbie@manorfarm.org) and Jim Driggers (678-493-0154/jdrigger@alltel.net) will be the ones coordinating the event this year. Please let them know what special dish you will be bringing. Or, if you'd like to respond to me (please do not respond to all), I'll be glad to pass it on to them. The paper goods and meats will be provided.

See you next week at the October meeting,
Laney Cagle

Quote of the Month:

"When you shoot an arrow of truth, dip its point in honey"

Arabian Proverb



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@cherokeebeeclub.com
Or to have them listed in the CBC Newsletter, please send the info to Lanev Cagle at lane714@tds.net

Remember to Support Your Local Fall Festivals !!!!

Recipe Corner



Apple Snacksters

1/3 Cup Honey

3/4 Cup Chunky P-Nut Butter

4 Granny Smith or Red Delicious Apples,
centers removed

4 sprigs of Mint (optional)

Cold Water & 1 Tblsp Lemon Juice

Mix Honey & P-Nut Butter well, set aside. In a large bowl, add cold water & lemon juice, set aside. Cut apples crosswise into 4 thick slices. Dunk apple slices in cold water, then pat dry. Spread Honey & P-Nut butter mixture over bottom apple slice. Gently press together to resemble an apple. Use mint sprigs to make a stem on top.

Minutes of 08-19-05 CBC Meeting

The topic for tonight's meeting was bottling your honey for judging/showing. Randy Tudor shared with us some of the many areas that are looked at by the judges and how we may present our honey, candles, and mead for judging. A refractometer was available for anyone wishing to test the moisture content level of their honey. Everyone was encouraged to enter their honey at the Georgia Beekeepers Association Meeting in September in order to learn more about the judging process and what you might do differently next year. Thanks to Randy for sharing his experiences.

Old Business

Reading of Minutes

Minutes from prior meeting (July 21, 2005) were read by Trina Barron. Motion was made to approve minutes. Motion approved.

Checking Account

Treasurer Randy gave the amount in the checking account (about \$1,700.00).

Cherokee County Fair

The building where the exhibit will be set up will be open from 2:00 until 5:00 on Sunday, September 11th. Anyone wishing to help set up the exhibit please show up at that time. The booth will be judged on the following Tuesday morning.

It is still undecided whether the club wishes to sell honey at the fair. Phone calls will go out nearer to the date of the fair to see who is interested in manning the booth should we decide to sell honey.

BeeLine

Laney Cagle asked for e-mails and addresses of anyone who did not receive this month's issue of the BeeLine. The BeeLine is published bi-monthly. The next issue will go out in October. Trina Barron volunteered to provide an interview with one of our local beekeepers in each issue. The next issue will include the calendar for the upcoming year.

New Business

Web Master

Motion was made to elect Ryan Sarks as our new Web Master. Motion was approved. Thanks Ryan!

Nominating Committee

A nominating committee is needed to elect nominees for the upcoming elections. The nominating committee will consist of two persons selected by B. J. who currently serve on the Board and three people not on the Board from the membership.

Elections will be held at the dinner in November.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn. Motion was approved.

Minutes of 09-15-05 CBC Meeting

The topic for tonight's meeting was "How to Market your Honey Products". BJ Weeks was our speaker for the evening. BJ spoke of the many things to consider before attempting to package and market our bee products. He explained the differences in requirements when selling from your porch versus selling to public stores to be resold. Thanks to BJ for sharing his knowledge and experiences.

Old Business

Reading of Minutes

Minutes from prior meeting (August 19, 2005) were read by Laney Cagle. One note of clarification, the next Bee Line will only include the calendar for the current year (not the upcoming year). Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion approved.

Cherokee County Fair

Hoyt Rodgers shared the results of the prizes for the Cherokee County Fair entries.

Nicholas Weaver from the Forsyth Bee Club was the presiding Honey Judge.

John Tackett apologized for the miscommunication regarding not being able to sell honey at the Fair.

New Business

Checking Account

An Audit Committee is needed to assist the President in verification of the treasury. Motion was made to nominate Ryan Sarks and Rod Larson to act as Audit Committee along with BJ Weeks. Motion approved.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is in place. They will make their nominations for next years officers at the Annual Banquet on Friday, November 18.

Annual Banquet

This year's Annual Banquet will be held on Friday evening at 7:00pm on November 18, 2005 the American Legion Hall in Canton. All CBC Members and their significant others are encouraged to attend.

Cherokee Bee Club Website

Ryan Sarks, Cherokee Bee Club WebMaster, explained our web hosting options. Motion was made to select one of the options offered. Motion was approved. Nominations of both Cherokee Bee Club.Com and Cherokee Beekeeping.Com were made to be used for the club's new web site domain name. A motion was made to select Cherokee Bee Club.Com as web site name. Motion was approved.

Adjourn

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

Interview with a Beekeeper

CBC Newsletter Interview Reporter, Trina Barron recently met with Ryan Sarkis as the first Interviewee for our new column. Their discussion went as follows:

TB: Ryan, what made you interested in beekeeping?

RS: My grandfather was a beekeeper in Indiana. I used to spend summers with him when I was a little boy. I was always interested in them, but he never let me near them. He sold his hives a few years ago when he was about 75 years old. He worked them up until my grandmother died. Aside from being very interested in bees, I wanted to carry on the family tradition. As far as I know, he never lost a colony. Beekeeping in Indiana is different than it is here. They don't have as many diseases, mites, etc.

TB: How long have you been beekeeping?

RS: I got my first two hives on April 2, 2005. I went to South Georgia with B. J. to help him shake his hives. It was a wonderful experience.

TB: How many hives do you have?

RS: Along with my first two hives, I have been called to collect four swarms since the beginning of May. Two of the swarms were small, and I have since combined those into one colony. So, I now have five colonies. (One of the swarms that Ryan collected was high in a tree. He climbed a 30 foot extension ladder, held onto the box and brushed the bees in. Be careful there Ryan. Beginners don't try this at home!!)

TB: How many hives do you want to have?

RS: I am "playing around" with the idea of reaching commercial beekeeping status some day. Colonies of 50 or more are considered the small end of commercial.

TB: Have you lost any hives, yet???

RS: No, but I did have to combine two swarms into one. One of them was not queen right.

TB: You are very knowledgeable for a beginning. Where have you gained your knowledge?

RS: I attended the Beekeeping School at Appalachian Tech last winter. This is a six week course that I highly recommend to any beekeeper. I also attended the Cherokee Bee Club's one-day class. I read a lot. Any question I have I research on-line. I also read the American Bee Journal and any bee-related books I find. I also enjoy picking B.J.'s brain. He has been very good to answer all of my questions! I have learned a tremendous amount from B.J.

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

RS: In collecting the swarms, I have found that spraying them good with sugar water, shaking them into boxes and sealing them up works great. One call I got I took the time to collect my hive parts and by the time I got there the swarm was gone. So if I have a cardboard box handy, I grab it and go. Also, when I realized the two small swarms were not doing well, I combined them. Of the two small swarms, I was able to get about eight frames of bees and brood or drawn comb.

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

RS: When I combined the two small swarms, I did not replace the remaining queen. Although she was still alive, she was only laying about five eggs per day. The hive continued to get weaker. I finally did get a new commercial queen. That was about two months ago. The hive is getting stronger, but it is still struggling. I am pulling frames from my two strongest hives to keep it going. I hope it makes it.

TB: What are the benefits you receive from beekeeping?

RS: I used to have some hip pain and thumb pain. Who knows, but since I started keeping bees, these pains have gone away. (I will note that Ryan does not wear gloves or veil typically when he works his bees. He says he gets stung once or twice every couple of weeks.) I am very gentle when I work my bees. I also find that after a day in the office, it is very relaxing and peaceful to work with the bees. Sometimes I'll just sit and watch them work and wonder at it all.

TB: Do you eat pollen?

RS: Not yet.

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

RS: Last spring Worth Greene and I represented the Bee Club at Cagle's Farm Days Event. We were in a screened-in enclosure with a live hive. About every thirty minutes we would open the hive up. There were five to ten people that got into beekeeping that day. It was a lot of fun. (Ryan says he didn't wear gloves, veil or anything. He said he got stung about 15 times and his hands were very swollen by the end of the day. I asked him if his audience knew he was getting stung. He said no. He just pulled the stingers out and kept on going!)

TB: How's the new website coming along?

RS: It's coming along great. It is a time-consuming process because you really need to have original work on your website. If you copy or use something off of the web or from another website, you have to give credit for it, which is difficult. So, I'm trying to be original. I hope to have a member section where Cherokee Bee Club members can log on for additional support.

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

RS: If you are fascinated with insects and nature, you should seriously consider beekeeping.

TB: We very much appreciate Ryan taking time to give us this interview. It is very impressive at how much Ryan knows about beekeeping. Thanks for volunteering to be our new Webmaster, also. It'll be great!
