

Ashe County Beekeeping Association  
Regular Meeting  
October 9, 2014

1. Officers present: Harry Galer, Helen Baldwin, Joy Lewis, Fowler Bush and Doug Ehrhardt.
2. The new ACBA T-shirts and hats are available: shirts - \$12/Hats - \$18
3. Harry welcomed everyone...17 total beekeepers were in attendance.
  - a. Tonight's program - Randy, Joy and James will lead a discussion regarding preparing hives for overwintering.
  - b. Dues - pay tonight state and local or just local - drawing for a shirt and hat to be drawn at the November meeting.
  - c. Harry made everyone aware of the availability of shirts and hats.
  - d. Bob Cole donated 12 samples of "heather honey." Will be giving out to tonight's attendees.
  - e. Sign up for the booth at the old courthouse on the 18th of October. Sell honey or bee related produces (no fee)...pass out information re: bees and the ACBA.
  - f. Sign up for next month's pot-luck dinner. ACBA will pay for meats. Side dishes and desserts are desired. November 13th...
  - g. Officers for 2015 - President, Treasurer and 2-yr. BOD member still remain unfilled.
4. Randy, Joy and James will lead a discussion:
  - a. Randy – reported that he has a unique situation as hives are in a location where he has to battle heat, cold and wind. Wind warnings are a significant problem.
    1. Keep lids and bodies from blowing over.
    2. Have a short distance to 2 ponds and a creek behind the hives. Fog and moisture...put down mat and pebbles - spread around hives and the rocks dry out rapidly.
    3. Info from others with moisture, moved away from ponds.
    4. Get a reducer and reduce entrance using the small hole.
    5. Use cookie sheet and add pine shavings and slide into hive where the IPM board in the back goes.
    6. Moisture prevention from top...use a shallow top with duck cloth or hardware cloth and place directly on top of the hive, then inner cover and lid. Place pine shavings in the shallow top. Have holes bored in the cover to reduce build-up of moisture.
    7. 1 ½ inch shim on top of the brood chamber and this allows area for pollen patties, etc.
    8. Wrap at Millers to go around hive for \$9.75...get styrofoam with silver on the exterior...cut to surround hive but leave front porch free. (See pix) Use primarily as a wind break.
    9. Cookie sheets at Rose's are the cheapest...\$4
    10. Remove top feeders. If you need to feed, use inside space feeder.
  - b. James
    1. Re: food, beekeeper at the Watauga Market says goldenrod not prevalent. Only 2 days that it was out.
    2. Feed, feed, feed!
  - c. Joy
    1. Screen bottom board and ¼" plywood. Most have solid bottom board.
    2. Use year round as inner cover. Fill with cedar chips.
    3. Puts a few sticks in with cedar to provide air and ventilation.
    4. Uses a 1 1/2" spacer and uses the space for the sugar brick.
    5. Fed 2:1 sugar syrup.
    6. Use ½" hardware cloth and staple over entry on reducer and it will allow bees to enter/exit but keeps mice out.
    7. Use 1 lb. zip lock baggie and put heavy concentration of sugar and make a slit with a razor blade and lay on the top.

8. Ted's Mush - 5 lb. bag of sugar and add water to make it mushy and use in the spacer at the top of the brood chamber or above the shallow super.

d. James

1. Minimalist due to the number of his hives.
2. Two most important is to reduce moisture and plenty of food.
3. Bee problems with wind and cold are secondary.
4. Feed going into winter...use sugar water. Stop when it gets too cold or the bees stop taking...lower than 50 degrees!?
5. If they cluster, too cold and they won't break.
6. Placement of hives.
7. Has hives just below a hill and face SE so they get sunlight right on the entrance.

Heat helps with moisture.

8. Don't typically use a moisture blanket.
9. Entrance reducer is essential.
10. Run a deep and a shallow or a deep and a medium.
11. Has run a single deep through the winter.
12. With 15 years and 40+ hives, only 1 year were the hives have run out of food.

Usually something else beside starving.

13. Use of a bottom board...use half screen and half open. It is in the cluster where the bees regulate the temperature. If you look at the temperature right outside the cluster, it will be the same as the exterior climate. Not super important to try to keep inside of hive warm, but you MUST reduce the moisture. Air flow helps to keep moisture low...vent off the moisture.

14. Feed sugar water any way you can...hive top, front feeder, inner frame feeder, bucket outside with straw...

15. Reducer is good to help prevent robbing.

Comments:

1. Brown pollen? What is it? No answer from the group, but it could be pines or off a Christmas tree.
2. Help to understand problems with wax moths. If you have a strong, active hive, they are there. If a hive gets weak they will proliferate. Round of brood, the moths are looking for fresh comb. The dirtier the comb, the better. Frames in sunlight with airflow, will help treat.
3. Joy recommends use of black bag with cotton ball of cedar wood oil, thyme, patchouli oil.