

Ashe County Beekeeping Association
Regular Meeting Minutes (Actual)
May 11, 2017

New members: Mark Perzel, Jeff Taylor
28 people in attendance...

1. Announcements:
 - a. Nuc raffle tickets - purchased thru break. Drawing at conclusion of meeting.
 - b. Pollen patties - \$3/each, 4 for \$10
 - c. Dues - pay at break or after meeting...\$10/person or \$15/family. Also state dues can be paid @ \$15.
 - d. Honey cookbooks - picked up in mid-July at state meeting. Can pay tonight, at June or July meeting, or when you get them.
 - e. Doug Hayes - looking for someone to check on his hives in Lansing area (he lives in FL)...James Wilkes will look after his hives when he leaves the area.
 - f. Earth Day - several volunteers, new and potential beekeepers visited table...sold \$90 in raffle tickets...
 - g. Drawing for door prizes before the break.
 - h. Judy Absher in Trap Hill...has over 130 swarms! Caught 17 in one day...also saw 5 swarms on one limb.
2. Tonight's topic - swarms. We're privileged to learn more about swarms tonight from Bob Cole, the first southern beekeeper certified as a Master Beekeeper by the Eastern Apicultural Society of North America. He's traveled all over the world in various beekeeping-teaching capacities and has an endless supply of stories. He'll be available for questions at the break, so take advantage of his being here!

Bob Cole - Swarms: How to manage, the capture and use of them...

1. These are the things you need when you run into a swarm...
 - a. Swarm prices range from free to over \$190
 - b. Need a box to put the swarm in...2, 3, 4 or 10 frame
 - c. Screen wire to stop up entrance
 - d. Veil
 - e. Glove
 - f. Hive tool
 - g. Long ladder for tall timber!!
 - h. Good to have a spray bottle of water...sometimes when the swarm starts to take off again, spray their wings.
 - i. Smoker on some occasions.
 - j. Need a sheet in some areas...3X3' piece of old bedsheet
 - k. Rope, 24 - 36' long to lower a limb
 - l. Garden saw to cut off branch
 - m. Clippers

2. If the bees have been clustered, in 3 to 5 days, can go there and capture queen and move the swarm to a box without any difficulty. If you caress a bee or two and it stings you, it has been more than 5 days and the queen has started to lay eggs...get gloves and veil on, maybe use a light smoking.
3. If a bee senses fear and they will get aggressive.
4. Final warning! Gathered up a swarm and boxed it to take home, put them in the trunk! Put into the back of the truck and put a cover over them.
5. Video of 9 different swarms...
6. Questions for Bob?
 - a. 3-5 days, they are gentle and don't care to sting you...
 - b. Be gentle with the bee
 - c. Temperature and humidity...no sunshine makes for ill-tempered bees.
 - d. Swarming normally depends on temperature range...mid to late March until late July
 - e. Won't stay in a congested colony where there is no place to lay her eggs.
 - f. Height of swarm is dependent on the queen...if the queen is heavy, then the swarm won't be located as high on the tree, etc.
 - g. Queen needs 100 cells available to lay her eggs every 2 hours...if not enough, then a swarm is likely.
 - h. First of April to last of May is the most likely season for swarms here in Ashe County.

Draw for door prizes. Thanks to those who contributed prizes:

1. Bob Cole - First Lessons in Beekeeping (this is the book most commonly used for bee classes. We also have a few copies for sale - \$10) - Doug Hayes
2. Hidden Happiness Bee Farm - pliers(?) - Jeff Taylor
3. Harry Bee Healthy (pint) - George Katsoudas
4. Harry Bee Healthy (pint) - Doug Hart
5. We also have swarm lures for everyone, so be sure you get one before you leave. Bill Naser had the opportunity to use a lure last month and was amazed at how quickly the remaining bees on the trunk of a tree went into the box after the lure was placed inside. Bill also called to report that he witnessed a mating session at the Naser Drone Congregation Area.
6. Break - raffle tickets, dues, swarm lures, cookbook money, questions for Bob
7. The summer state meeting this year will celebrate NCSBA's centennial. It will be held July 13-15 at Embassy Suites in Winston Salem.
 - a. Our July meeting is on the 13th, so I'm planning to go on the 14th.
 - b. If you register by June 15 on the NCSBA web site, you save \$15.
 - c. Each chapter has been asked to donate an item for the silent auction. Helen and I are donating 2 nights in our rental cabin on behalf of the group, and we're asking for donations for a gift basket to be placed in the cabin when the winners claim the stay. We've already had an offer of hand-dipped taper candles, which is a great start! Other items can include gift cards, hand-made items (soap, lotion, etc.), honey, etc. Non-bee-related items are also welcomed. We'd like to be able to give the approximate value of the gift package to NCSBA sometime around the first of June if possible.

Next month's guest speaker will be Greg Fariss, who will focus on pests and diseases. The meeting is June 8.

Drawing for nuc. The winner is Jim DeJuneas! Thanks to all who participated by selling and/or purchasing tickets.

Adjourn.