

ACBA
August 10, 2017
Regular Meeting Minutes (Actual)

1. Welcome
 2. Announcements:
 - New member: Floyd Barker, Onslow County...has over 100 hives. Problems? SHB, varroa mites still #1 concern
 - New member: Deborah Baldrige - 2 hives
 3. Maggie McClelland provided treats but had to return home.
 4. Bill Naser available to take dues.
 5. Raffle tickets are on sale for the mini hive (#7 of 250) donated by Hidden Happiness Bee Farm. The mini hive is a limited-edition (250 total) commemoration of the state bee association's centennial... ACBA is in our seventh year of formation. Tickets for the hive, valued at \$39.95, are \$1/ticket, or 6 tickets/\$5. The drawing will be held at the October meeting. All proceeds will benefit ACBA.
 6. Winner of the cabin stay and gift basket in the silent auction at the state meeting has already claimed her prize and loved it! Melodie is a beekeeper in Taylorsville but belongs to the Caldwell bee group.
Gift basket donations, which came from ACBA and the Watauga bee group, included:
 - a. Taper beeswax candles (Doug Galloway)
 - b. Beeswax cloth wrap and black raspberry jelly (Maggie McClelland)
 - c. Two soaps/2 soap nets, 2 jars hand & body lotion, large bottle lavender hand soap (Tina Roberts)
 - d. Gift certificate (The Honey Hole)
 - e. Linda Katsoudas hemmed the bee fabric for the basket.
- Thanks to all for helping make this a great prize!
7. The 'How-To-Fest' at the library on July 29 was deemed a success, even with the crazy wind. Many visitors, including several young people, asked numerous thoughtful questions about bees and beekeeping, and all enjoyed the honey straws, honey samples, bee stickers, comb samples, and calendula lotion bar samples Maggie made. A few of the young visitors donned a veil and gloves to get the feel of being a beekeeper. Thanks to Maggie, Linda Katsoudas, Raven Pruitt, Liam Jerkins, and Helen for representing ACBA.
 8. The US Postal Service now has 'Protect Pollinators' 49¢ Forever stamps. If you can't find them at the post office, go to usps.com to order online.
 9. Doug Galloway - 'Treatments for Hive Health'...Doug has been studying treatments for about 2-3 years. Appreciate Doug being our speaker tonight.
 - a. NCSBA Master Beekeeper, Summer 2017
 - b. The "Taste of Honey" recipe book is excellent...put together by a number of wives of state beekeepers and Doug has 8 recipes in it!
 - c. A lot to cover...talk until we run out of time.
 - d. Condensed information from spring beekeeper class.
 - e. Spend more time on varroa than anything else...Got his master beekeeper last spring; also got his pesticide applicator license.
 - f. Plan talk about Personal Protective Equipment also
 - g. Using pesticides...don't read the instructions? If not, probably not legal. If it is on the label, it is the law!
 - h. www.ncagr.gov - NC Dept. of Agr. & Consumer Services Pesticide Division. Pesticide Applicator Core Manual
 - i. Using oxalic acid...gas mask, either full or half with a magenta cartridge.

- j. *Varroa destructor/jacobsoni* - Asian species. Now, adapted to our US bees, called *varroa destructor*
1. Sugar shake method. Get about 1/2 cup of bees = 300 bees. Place in a jar with the lid adapted with a screen cloth cover. Shake a # of bees from a frame into a plastic bowl, then scoop out and put into a measuring cup. Put them into the jar with a cover, shake and then pour the mites that have been dislodged...for 300 bees, the mite count should be less than 6
 2. Alcohol wash...*Varroa easyCheck* by Veto-pharma (pictured). Essential tool for your apiary. Put window washer fluid - under 30 degree formula...blue in color. Pour in to the cup to the bottom of the screen cup. Put the 300 bees into the basket chamber and shake. The mites fall into the alcohol and can then be counted. Same # count. Cost is approx. \$14.
 3. Treat for *Varroa*...interrupt the brood cycle; capture the queen. Interrupt for just 2 weeks and that will lessen the *Varroa*.
 4. Finding the queen - shake the frames over a queen excluder, smoke the bees, and the bees will go through the excluder back into the hive and the queen will remain on top of the excluder. Guaranteed to find your queen.
 5. IPM: Install a frame of drone foundation. *Varroa* prefer drones...drone frame (have to be green, by law) - larger cells. Queen measures the cell size and only lays drones. *Varroa* prefer drones as they take 3 days longer to emerge. Prior to emerging, pull the frame and put in freezer.
 6. Two chemical treatments: *CheckMite* (coumaphos) mite but showing some resistance and *Apistan* (fluvalinate) mite, also resistance. Not useful due to resistance.
 7. *Apivar*, amitraz based treatment (hard). Has a hole in the strip...use a finish nail or toothpick and place between frames. Keeps from falling down in the hive. 2 strips in 3 frames mounted away from edge. *Apivar*: remove honey supers. 2 strips for 42 days. No temperature restrictions.
 8. Commercial beekeepers have used *Taktic*. Active ingredient, Amitraz since the early 2000's. Pulled from US and Canada markets.
 9. *Mite Away Quick Strips* - formic acid. Installed 7 days, 50-92 degrees F. Place on the top of the frames in the hive.
 10. *Api Life Var*, thymol based, menthol and other essential oils. Treatment (soft). One tablet broken into 4 pieces placed at each corner of brood box for 7-10 days. Then repeat. Then repeat for 12 days. Avg. temp. 59-69 degrees F. and max 90 degrees F. No harvest for 30 days after treatment. Make a tent of wire to place over the tablet to keep bees from eating.
 11. *Apiguard*, thymol based treatment (soft). Box of 10 trays for \$35. Take a tray out and place on top of frames...have to use a Imrie shim to provide space. Place entire tray - pull the top cover and place and the bees will carry it around. It is a fumigant. Two applications for 52 weeks each, treat above 59 degrees F. Up to 100 degrees F. All natural, no chemicals.
 12. *HopGuard II* - hops beta acids. Looks like molasses...have to wear gloves. For broodless colonies. Bend strip and place over the frame. Installed 2 strips per 10 frames. Left in place for 30 days. Repeat as needed up to 3 times per year. No temp restrictions.
 13. Essential oil patty...put into a patty and put in the hive.
 14. Oxalic Acid Dribble Method: 1.75 grams oxalic acid/50 ml of 1:1 water/sugar solution per brood chamber. Dribble being applied @ 5 ml between each frame. Treat in winter time when no brood present.
 15. Oxalic Acid vaporizer. *Varrox*. 1 gram oxalic acid vaporized per brood chamber. Hook to a 12. V battery. 3 minutes to vaporize and 1 minute to cool. Close hive front with a damp towel.
 16. Good YouTube video on "Techniques for using oxalic acid to reduce *varroa* populations" by Marion Ellis, Professor Emeritus, Univ. of Nebraska.

- k. Tracheal mites...Mite-A-Thol (menthol fumigant)
- l. Nosema apis/ceranae, fungal disease. Fumagilin-B (antibiotic) presently, no prescription required. Read label carefully. Can be fed or applied as drench spray.
- m. SHB - there are a dozen varieties of SHB traps. CheckMite (coumaphos). One strip cut in half, stapled under corrugated cardboard place on bottom board.
- n. Wax moths...Certan, B 401: Bacillus thuringiensis, prevents wax moth larvae growth. Follow label. Apply as preventative spray to drawn comb before storage. Another way to treat is ParaMoth (PDB) crystals, NOT MOTH BALLS! Kills larvae and moths, but not eggs.

10. Next meeting - Sept. 14; topic is 'Making Stuff' - items our members have made (lots of samples!), including honey tasting (tasting spoons to be provided).

11. Closing

Door prizes:

- a. Potholder (Hidden Happiness Bee Farm)
- b. Cap (Paulette Lawrence)
- b. Frame dividers
- c. Queen catcher
- d. Frame lifter