

Ashe County Beekeepers Association  
April 12, 2018  
Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome! Any visitors/new beekeepers/new members? *Introductions of new folks.* We're glad to have you and hope you'll chat with some of our members at the break. Any bee reports anyone would like to share?
2. Attendance: 25. ACBA members: Maggie McClelland, Bill Naser, H.S. Greene, Jeffrey Taylor, Paulette Lawrence and Doug Ehrhardt.
3. Tonight, we're covering hive splitting. Before we begin, we have a few quick announcements:
  - If you haven't paid your dues for 2018, you can pay them at the break or after the meeting. **ACBA:** \$10 - individual / \$15 – family. **NC State Bee Association** (not mandatory): \$15. Can also be paid thru NCSBA - online or mail.
  - Raffle tickets are now on sale for the state-of-the-art hive donated by Hidden Happiness Bee Farm. Tickets are available - \$5 each, or 3/\$10. The hive value is listed as \$250 on the tickets, but this hive is valued at \$290. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the May meeting. All proceeds will benefit ACBA, so thanks to Hidden Happiness Bee Farm! If you'd like to try to sell some tickets, please speak up; we'll be happy to give some to you. Also, Maggie has prepared a number of envelopes with numbered tickets; anyone willing to sell, please see her and she will give you a set.
  - ACBA will have a table at the Farmers Market on Saturday, April 21 (8am-1pm), for Earth Day. Volunteers to man the table are needed for any stretch of time!
  - James Wilkes was here earlier to discuss a special year-long (free) project with Hive Tracks. If you weren't able to get here to talk to him earlier, he'll be available at the break.
  - Next month Bob Cole will be here to discuss swarming. Bob is a walking bee encyclopedia and, like Jim (*Miles*) and James (*Wilkes*), is happy to share what he's learned with other beekeepers, so you don't want to miss it!
4. We'll be drawing for door prizes after the meeting speaker...thanks to those who donated door prizes:
  - James Wilkes - Hive Tracks cap
  - H.S. Greene - hive brush
  - H.S. Greene - frame lifter
5. Micah spoke briefly about a grant which she has applied for as the County Extension Agent that can be used by ACBA members for projects related to beekeeping. See her for more information.
6. James Wilkes discussed a special year-long (free) project with Hive Tracks. He had a slide presentation to inform members about the use of hive tracks. If you weren't able to get here to talk to him earlier, he'll be available at the break.
7. Jim Miles – hive splitting...
  - a. How did everyone do with their bees this year?? Losses...what do you do? Split.
  - b. Hives are building up pretty fast already...one person already had a swarm.
  - c. Lot of bees already in the super...if all the bees are in the super and none in the hive body, need to reverse. Quickest way to get them up is to reverse the hive body and the super.
  - d. If you check hive and have queen cells, call others and share the cells. Queens are pretty hard to find right now.
  - e. Swarm time getting on pretty quick now.
  - f. If you want to split, make cells available to others...split.
  - g. Two or three ways to make a split.
    1. Check hives every 10-14 days...why? Swarm time. Catch before it swarms, you are ahead of the game.
    2. Got 3 or 4, 4 or 5, check every 10-14 days. Queens can develop in 15 days.

3. Walkaway split...come up to a double hive, just move one to the side and walk away...a good double, the walkaway will make its own queen. Come back and put another hive body on each and you have two hives.
  4. Making a split for a nuc, not hard. Got to have brood framers. Don't want to take all the brood away.
  5. Every beekeeper ought to have a nuc...in case you lose one, have a replacement.
  6. Cold spell followed by warming and then cold again...variability is hard on the bees. Bees are use to that.
  7. Two main reasons:
    - i. Mite control
    - ii. Not enough winter bees - keep the hive alive.
  8. Requeen every year? Shouldn't have to, but Jim is convinced you should every year. Put queen in at the right time, with enough winter bees, should be back in good shape.
  9. Two frames of brood...take some with pollen and drop in a new hive. Add a queen.
  10. Cut a hole and put queen in the frame...the bees will take care of the area around the cell.
  - h. Trying to build back up...3 or 4 frames of brood, set another super on top and you'll have another hive good to go...good queens in them, then you'll have enough bees to get through the winter.
  - i. How low a temp to kill a swarm of bees...if you have a good basketball size of bees in the hive, then temps well below 0 will not kill a hive.
  - j. Nuc split...raise nucs to sell?
    1. Virgin queen (4 - 5 days old)...most times, put her on the frame and the bees won't harm her.
    2. Hive splitting is not that hard.
    3. Can split a medium as easy as a hive body.
  - k. Frame - 8 X 16 with 25 cells per sq. In. Two sides of a frame, over 6,000 bees.
  - l. Going to make a split...is it a healthy hive? Main thing is to make sure the brood is good. NEVER want to sell or give away a frame or a nuc with AFB!
  - m. Questions?
8. Thanks for coming tonight - hope to see you next month! Bob Cole will be here to discuss swarming. Bob is a walking bee encyclopedia and, like Jim (Miles) and James (Wilkes), is happy to share what he's learned with other beekeepers, so you don't want to miss it!
9. Thanks to those who donated door prizes:
- James Wilkes - Hive Tracks cap went to David Tanner
  - H.S. Greene - hive brush went to Paulette Lawrence
  - H.S. Greene - frame lifter went to Doug Hart
  - Teri Goodman - dz. eggs went to Bill Naser, Maria Napoleon and Raven
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10. Be sure to leave your name tags on the table!