



Bee Line

www.cherokeebeeclub.com

Jan/Feb 2007

The Presidents' Corner

by Randy Tudor

Happy New Year !!!

I hope all of you had a great holiday season. I am looking forward to a new year with the Bees and with the CBC.

The CBC Officers held a planning meeting on December 13th to prepare the calendar of events for 2007. We have a lot of good programs on the schedule that should be very beneficial to everyone. Over the years I have seen that January has generally been a low attendance month. Please notice that we have a very good program planned for January. "Growing Bees for Honey Production" is scheduled to start off our new year of club meetings. Our presenter will be B J Weeks. I want to encourage all of you to attend and take advantage of BJ's vast knowledge on this subject.

I hope we will all have a very productive year with our bees. Our goal will should be to learn something new about our bees every time we open a hive.

See you at the meeting.

Randy

US Military Trains 'Air Force' of Bomb-Sniffing Bees

US military defense scientists have found a way to train the common honey bee to smell explosives used in bombs, a skill they say could help protect American troops abroad. Scientists at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico said in an online statement published Monday they had developed a method to harness the bee's exceptional olfactory sense.

"The new techniques could become a leading tool in the fight against the use of improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, which present a critical vulnerability for American military troops abroad and is an emerging danger for civilians worldwide," the research laboratory said. The scientists used Pavlovian techniques on the bees' natural response to nectar, a sticking out of their tongue, or proboscis extension reflex.

By rewarding them with sugar water, the scientists taught bees to give the same reflex action when they were exposed to vapors from explosives such as dynamite, C4 plastic and TATP (triacetone triperoxide), often used by suicide bombers. "Scientists have long marveled at the honey bee's phenomenal sense of smell, which rivals that of dogs," said Tim Haarmann, principal investigator for the Stealthy Insect Sensor Project. "But previous attempts to harness and understand this ability were scientifically unproven. With more knowledge, our team thought we could make use of this ability."

As part of the research, the scientists sought to isolate genetic and physiological differences between those bees with good an acute sense of smell and those without it.

Breitbart.Com 11-28-2006

2007 Calendar of CBC Meetings
(tentative)

January 18th	Growing Bees for Honey Production BJ Weeks
*February 10	Bee School (Cherokee High School)
*March 17	Spring Field Trip – Setting Up Packages Ryan Sarks
April 19	Thursday Night at the Forum – Swarms Trina Barron
May 18	How to Market and Sell you Hive Products Laney Cagle and Bill Posey
*June 16	Summer Field Trip – Family Picnic Worth Green & Jim Driggers
July 19	Products of the Hive & Cooking with Honey Trina Barron
August 16	Preparing for Honey Show & Honey Tasting Joe Schepers
September 20	Fall Preparations & Wintering Over Bill Posey & Jerry Floyd
October 18	Observation Hives Bud Champlin & Trina Barron
*November 16	Holiday Dinner
December	No Meeting - Happy Holidays!

Regular meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Jury Assembly Room of the Cherokee County Justice Ctr in Canton, except those noted with *.

Quote of the Month:

The Chill of Winter – “Yes it’s a very good bee hive,” the knight said in a discontented tone, “one of the best kind. But not a single bee has come near it yet. And the other thing is a mousetrap. I suppose the mice keep the bees out-or the bees keep the mice out, I don’t know which.”

- **Lewis Carroll,
Through the Looking Glass**

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Recipe Corner



Honey Gingerbread

- 1 cup Butter, softened
- 1 ½ cups Honey, divided
- 1 Egg
- 2 ½ cups Flour
- 2 tsps Ground Ginger
- 1 ½ tsps Baking Soda
- 1 tsps Ground Cinnamon
- ¾ cup Boiling Water

Preheat oven to 350. Grease two 8 ½ x 4 ½ loaf pans. In a bowl, cream butter and ½ cup honey. Mix in egg. In a medium bowl, blend flour, ginger, baking soda & cinnamon. In a small bowl, blend remaining 1 cup of honey with boiling water. With mixer running, add 1/3 dry mixture to butter mixture. When dry mixture is blended well, add 1/3 liquid mixture. Continue adding ingredients in batches, alternating dry & liquid. Turn batter into prepared pans, dividing equally. Bake until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, 40 to 50 minutes.

Minutes of 10-19-06 CBC Meeting

Attendance

Total members in attendance were approximately 40. There were about 15 special guests, including firefighters, EMTs. Cherokee County's new extension agent, Paul Pugliese was in attendance. Three new "beekeepers" or "potential" beekeepers were present tonight. We welcomed everyone.

Topic of Meeting

Tonight's very special meeting, "Africanized Honey Bees", was hosted by Dr. Keith Delaplane from the University of Georgia. Local emergency responders were invited to this meeting to hear information regarding the Africanized Honey Bee and its' possible migration into Georgia, from Florida, in the future.

The following information is not an attempt to summarize Dr. Delaplane's wonderful presentation. I will only mention highlights of the program (or what I can remember).

The focus on getting the word out regarding the Africanized Honey Bee is through three sectors: 1) Beekeepers 2) The Ordinary Public (via news releases, etc.) and 3) Emergency Responders.

The Africanized Honey Bee (AHB) (*Apis mellifera scutellata*) was introduced into the tropics of Brazil in 1957. It rapidly spread throughout all of the countries in South America except Chile, which is protected by the Andes, and Southern Argentina, with its cold climate. By 1990, the AHB was found in Hidalgo, Texas. In 2005, the AHB had a certified presence in the state of Florida. Elevation and latitude are indicators of the spread of the AHB. There is strong evidence that the AHB already has a presence in Jacksonville, Florida and maybe in Alabama. The AHB is present in all regions south of Tampa.

AHB is not more toxic than European honey bees. It is the number of potential stings that is the problem. It is the dose, not the toxicity that is an issue. Bees in flowers are not a risk. Danger arises only when the AHB nest is threatened.

Nesting habits of AHB are different that those of the European honey bee. They will nest in much smaller containers/areas, such as trash, tires, and holes in the ground. Those individuals operating heavy equipment, such as tractors, are at high risk because they cannot hear over the loud machinery noise.

The behavior of AHB is very unpredictable. They exhibit a "hair-trigger" response. We are likely to experience an increase in feral bee populations in neighborhoods. The small number of colonies (27) that were released in 1957 overwhelmed an entire continent. The queen takes over the colony and kills the European queen.

continued....

Things we as beekeepers can do to work with AHBs:
Use single stands instead of pallets with multiple hives
Wear white-faced veils
Use jumbo smokers (AHB responds terrifically to smoke)
Smoke all hives before working any
Build hedges around our bee yards to force the bees to fly up and out and away from people

The good news for beekeepers is that AHB is resistant to EVERYTHING – varroa, small hive beetle, and foulbrood.

The best way for the public to begin viewing AHB is liken to that of the fire ant. Know where to stay away from.

How to react if you do encounter AHB:

- DO RUN and KEEP ON RUNNING. AHB have been known to follow people for up to one mile
- DO NOT SEEK WATER
- Get inside and STAY inside

Some things emergency responders can do to prepare themselves:

Invest in complete bee suits
Establish a list of local beekeepers
Establish perimeters (AHB will continue "looking" for victims). Responders should suit up well outside the perimeter. Medical responders should be suited up. AHB will be clinging to clothing, be in pockets, etc.
Know how to subdue the bees. Water hoses work well. Create a curtain of water around the victim.
The time factor that the bees will continue to be aggressive is the rest of the day. The area should be avoided for the rest of the day.

On November 9, 2006, Dr. Delaplane and other beekeepers will present a statewide AHB workshop at the Farm Bureau in Macon.

Cherokee Beekeepers Club is greatly appreciative of Dr. Delaplane's time and wonderful presentation.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was called to order at 8:25.

Secretary's Report

Trina Barron presented a list of five books that she would like to purchase for the club's library. A motion was made to allocate \$150 towards the purchase of those books. Motion passed. A list of the books is attached to minutes for reference.

Treasurer's Report

Ryan Sarks reported that we have \$1,485.84 in the club's checking account. A check was given to Dr. Delaplane payable to UGA Honey Bee Program in the amount of \$90.00. Of this amount, \$69.00 was direct donations from members. A motion was made to allocate an additional \$21.00 to the program. Motion passed.

Ryan requested reimbursement for \$50.49 which he paid to renew the website subscription.

Old Business

Holiday Dinner: The holiday dinner will be on Friday, November 19th, at 7:00 pm at the Legion Hall in Canton. A menu was passed around for people to sign up.

A motion was made to allocate \$150.00 towards the purchase of door prizes and paper goods for the dinner. Motion passed.

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee (consisting of BJ Weeks, Trina Barron, Joe Schepers, Hoyt Rogers, Worth Green) met briefly to discuss nominations. An announcement was made to the club for any members that wish to serve in an officer position or on the board of directors should talk to BJ. A major purpose of the board of directors is to help plan the year's activities.

New Business

Paul Pugliese, the new Cherokee County Extension Agent, introduced himself and explained the many benefits the Agency offers to the community. He urged club members to contact him if there is any information we need that they can provide.

Laney Cagle presented the American Beekeepers Federation Directory, which will be kept in the club's library for all to view. Additional copies are available from ABF for \$10.00. There was discussion as to whether the club should renew its membership in ABF next year.

There was discussion regarding establishing a budget for next year, wherein, there would be included discretionary funds for small operating expenses, such as mailing fees, stamps, printer ink, etc.

BJ presented a club flier which he has worked to put together that will be available for all club members to use to promote Cherokee Beekeepers Club. It will be posted on the website.

Other

Thanks to Jerry for sending out the e-mail reminders for the meetings.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:10 pm. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes of 11-17-06 CBC Meeting

Attendance

Tonight's meeting encompassed our annual holiday dinner, annual business meeting, and election of officers and directors for 2007. Total members in attendance were approximately 25, along with approximately 25 guests. Our special guest tonight was Billy Engle and his lovely wife Ernestine.

Topic of Meeting

Special thanks tonight to Billy, Ernestine and BJ for providing an extremely entertaining interview of Billy's Lifetime of Bees. A narrative of this interview will appear in the January Beeline.

Business Meeting

Ballots for 2007 officers and directors were handed out. Two nominations came from the floor: BJ Weeks and Bill Posey. Election results were as follows:

Randy Tudor (President)
Jim Driggers (Past-President)
Laney Cagle (Media-Editor, non-voting position)
Ryan Sarks (Vice-President)
Trina Barron (Secretary)
Worth Green (Treasurer)
Jerry Floyd (through 2007)
Hoyt Rogers (through 2007)
John Tackett (through 2008)
BJ Weeks (through 2008)
Bill Posey (through 2009)
Walter (Bud) Champlin (through 2009)

Secretary's Report

Motion was made to approve the minutes from October 19, 2006, as presented via e-mail to officers and directors. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

The audit committee reported that they had reviewed the financial books of the club for fiscal year 2006 and all records were in order. Motion was made to approve the Audit. Motion passed.

New Business

BJ reported that he has talked with the office of the clerk of superior court for Cherokee County (Patty Baker). BJ suggested to her that the bee club provide honey in the juror's break room, to complement the coffee that is available to the jurors. The bee club is able to use this room free of charge throughout the year. It would be a nice gesture to show our appreciation. Members that want to participate could provide about one quart per month. Ryan said that he would be willing to keep an eye on the supply throughout the month and keep the bottle refilled. BJ will supply the first quart of honey. At the January meeting we will get organized and take names of those willing to provide honey. The honey will be put in one pound plastic queenline squeeze bottles, for ease and cleanliness. Members are welcome and encouraged to put their own label on the bottle.

No Old Business

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at approximately 10:00 pm. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

CBC Library



This a list of the new books acquired for the CBC Library. All club members are encouraged to check out any of the material.

Health & the Honeybee: Written by Charles Mraz, who pioneered the use of bee venom therapy.

Observation Hives; How to set up, manage and use an observation hive. Written by Dr. Tom Webster and Dewey Caron

A Year in the Life of an Apiary: 2006 edition to accompany our videos. By Dr. Keith Delaplane.

Honey Bee Biology & Beekeeping. Written by Dewey Caron

Increase Essentials: Written by Dr. Lawrence John (Larry) Connor

Hive Management: A Seasonal Guide for Beekeepers. Written by Richard E. Bonney

75th Anniversary Tribute to Walter T & Ida Babin Kelley: *"Bees Were Their Business"*
Written by Mary K. Franklin

Existing Library Material

Beekeeping - A Complete Owner's Manual	Queen Management
Beekeeping - A Practical Guide	Queen Rearing and Bee Breeding
Bees - Lectures By Rudolf Steiner	Setting Up a Package Swarm
Bees in America - How The Honey Bee Shaped a Nation	Small Scale Honey Harvesting
First Lessons in Beekeeping	The Candlemaker's Companion
Following The Bloom - Across America w/ Migratory Beekeepers	The Class Room
Honey - From Hive to Honeypot	The Healthy Taste of Honey
Honey Bee Pests, Predators, & Diseases	The Joys of Beekeeping
How Do Bees Make Honey	The Life and Times of the Honeybee
How to Keep Bees and Sell Honey	The Queen Must Die

"If anyone has outstanding library items, please return them to the January meeting"

Interview with a Beekeeper

Trina Barron turned over her usual Interviewer role to BJ Weeks as he sat down for a chat with his long time friend Billy Engle during the Holiday Banquet. (Trina noted the hi-lights of their conversation.)

BJ: Billy, what made you interested in beekeeping?

BE: My Dad used to keep bees in gums. My two brothers had limited interest in the bees. I would watch my father. We had one veil and he got to wear it.

BJ: What do you think are qualities of good beekeepers?

BE: Ability to reason, a willingness to study and learn, and above all, a love of bees. Be meticulous. Make all of your hardware right; do everything on time. Make beekeeping your hobby horse and “ride it to death”.

BJ: Through the years, how many hives have you kept? I understand you now keep most of your bees 100 miles from home in Wilcox and Pulaski. How has this worked?

BE: I was around bees since my early childhood – age 6 through 12. Then not again until the early 1960’s. I bought 8 box hives and started frame hives and increased to 44 hives. Around 1970 I quit bees and farmed. “I should have stuck with bees”. In 1988 I had farming problems (deer eating crops), and started beekeeping again with 5 hives. I did a doubling process each year and grew to 325 around 2000. Now, in 2006, I have 564 hives. In 2001 Ernestine retired from an accounting position and began helping Billy with the bees, after he had heart surgery.

BJ: How is long distance beekeeping different from beekeeping close to home?

BE: Where the bees are now, which is further south in Georgia than my home at The Rock, there is better wintering with early build up. I keep pollination contracts. There’s better mid-summer and fall honey flows.

BJ: What about the logistics?

BE: Greater expenses. The fuel cost is tremendous. I’m just thankful I have the money to pay the extra cost. I spend a lot more time in preparation – loading for several days away from home. Ernestine and I have a camper so that we can stay close to the bee yards. We move bees all night. The package bee business has been very prosperous. We shake about 2000 to 3000 pounds of bees from March to April. They recover in 2 weeks. I can keep bees on pollination year round.

BJ: How long have you been associated with Georgia Beekeepers and other organizations?

BE: I’ve been associated with GBA since 1988, American Honey Producers since 2000, and American Beekeeping Federation since 1997.

BJ: Tell me about your research and queen projects.

BE: I participated in a UGA research project on tracheal mites.

BJ: What are some things you have done right, given a certain “problem” or situation?

BE: Early spring swarm control. Rotating supers with bees. Using 3/8” entrance reducers and leaving them in. They help to cool the hive.

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

BE: Most home remedies.

BJ: What is the greatest benefit you receive from beekeeping?

BE: Being able to do something I love and it makes me a living!

BJ: What advice would you give to the brand new beekeeper?

BE: “God Bless Them”! Never quit! If you are thinking of growing to commercial, do it gradually. Grow with the business. Prepare ahead. Do not over-extend both finances and ability limitations. Learn all you can. Knowledge is your best investment in beekeeping. Pay attention and learn from the big beekeepers.

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

BE: I love to attend big meetings and learn as I listen to real beekeepers. (Billy is as real as they come!) Also, I love working with the farmers (pollination), being a part of their “farming family” and part of their plan.

BJ: Tell us about some of the humorous things.

BE: My two brother-in-laws were helping me move bees one night. One, who was rather green when it comes to beekeeping, decided it would be a good idea to hold a light for us..... He ended up in the pine trees.

BJ: Tell us about people that you have gained benefits from just by knowing them.

BE: Richard Adey, whom I met at an AHB meeting, is one of the biggest beekeepers in the nation. Dana Stahman, Diane Ravens and, of course, BJ Weeks.

BJ: Tell us about times when things seem to have gotten out of control.

BE: In 2003 I was moving bees with the preacher. Catching a swarm as a teenager and the swarm that followed.

BJ: Are there things you would do differently now if you were starting beekeeping?

BE: I would focus on time-saving devices. I would get a hand truck for moving hives sooner. I would get into the package bee business sooner.

This two page interview does not do justice to Billy’s Lifetime of Bees. As the writer of this interview, I did, however, pick up on one central theme in listening to Billy. Above all, he is ever thankful. He is thankful for the good times and the ability to overcome the bad ones. He is thankful for each today, each yesterday and the hope for each tomorrow.

Special thanks to BJ for arranging and conducting this interview with his friend and beekeeping partner, Billy Engle. Thanks to Billy and Ernestine for traveling to us and for sharing their story with us.

Trina Barron

Notes from the Editor

Congratulations and Thanks to all of the new club officers. Let's all lend them the support needed to make ours the best Beekeepers club around!

A few weeks ago, a friend of mine was telling me they had heard on the news that the US military was training Honey Bees to sniff out bombs. My reaction was "Yeah, Right". A few days later I saw it on TV also. Then I found this front page article and thought I would share it with any of you that hadn't heard about it. Pretty interesting isn't it?

Check out the new Library Books! Thanks to several members for donations to the library.

FYI - The Metro Atlanta Beekeepers club is having their Bee School at the Atlanta Botanical Garden on Jan 20th.

Looking back over the past year, I'm delighted to see our club continuing to grow. Bee School last year was a great success even though it was on a snowy & cold North Georgia winter day. We had a good turn out and we're hoping for an even bigger crowd this year. Please encourage anyone you've spoken with who has expressed an interest in beekeeping or just learning more about it, to come out and participate. There will be some extra fliers at the January meeting. Please take a few to post around your area. You just never know whose attention it might get. When I went to class in Feb of '05, I was just going to check it out, but left convinced that I could do it! Now it's our turn to convince the next group of new-bees they can do it, too!

I wanted to express my, and the clubs, appreciation for those members who go above and beyond to keep us running smoothly. While I'm sure I haven't captured every detail worth mentioning, here are a few that come to mind:

Thanks to Jim & Sharon Driggers for all their hard work last year. Jim for being our '06 President and Sharon for being the hostess with the mostest. The spring pkg program and the summer picnic were both fun and informative.

Thanks to Trina Barron for setting up and recording all the interviews, for managing the club library with great efficiency, and for all the personal touches with Bee School and our special program with Dr. Delaplane.

Thanks to Bud and Vickie Champlin, Worth Green, and the whole team who did such a great job with the Cherokee County Fair.

Thanks to Ryan Sarks for being our WebMaster. The website looks great and is continuing to grow, as well.

Thanks to Hoyt Rogers for being the keeper of the extractor and dealing with the logistics of getting it to club members wanting to use it. Thanks to Jerry Floyd for sending out our monthly meeting reminders.

Thanks to BJ Weeks for his constant flow of advice and assistance.

I'd also like to say a personal word of Thanks to everyone who helped me and my bees make it thru last fall.

I wish you and your family a Happy, Healthy, & Prosperous New Year!

If you have any articles you'd like to share, or if you would like to list anything for sale, please send them to me or call. Laney Cagle, lane714@tds.net, 770-893-2635

The opinions expressed in articles in the BeeLine are of the writer & not necessarily of the CBC Membership

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Cherokee Beekeepers Club Presents
Bee School 2007

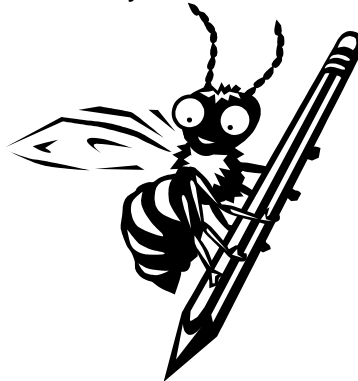


Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

Saturday, February 10th

8:30 am – 4 pm

8:00 am registration and \$30 fee at the door
(Fee includes Workshop, Lunch and Club Membership)
(Additional Family Members \$10.00 each)



Cherokee High School
930 Marietta Highway, Canton, GA 30114
Visit www.cherokeebeeclub.com

or

Call 770-735-3263 for more information