



# Bee Line

[www.cherokeebeeclub.com](http://www.cherokeebeeclub.com)

MAR/APR 2009

## The Presidents' Corner

by Ryan Sarks

Mysterious streaks of dried mustard on your car that the wipers just won't wipe off? Spring has sprung...well at least some of the bee hives think so. If you don't know, the girls have done a flyby for a spring colon cleansing...yep...you guessed it...on your car! Think that's gross? Bee-it ever so humble, it is much better than the bigger ones left by the other critters and hey, at least they didn't leave the deposit INSIDE the hive!

Moving along, the bees are busy buzzing around with excitement, raising brood and bringing in pollen by the "baskets" full; burning the stored sugar water and honey faster than a kid holds out his hand at Halloween. I have already heard reports of huge colonies collapsing from starvation. Need I say?...Get in there and make sure your girls have plenty to eat. Now is the time that many hives starve to death. Just think, there is barely, if any, nectar coming in and they are using winter stores for their pollen scouting, cleansing flights, and brood food concoctions. Also, you need to check your hives to make sure that they are "queen-rite!" I know, "queen-rite" sounds like a name on a Proctor and Gamble product, but it is actually an in-depth observation about the health and productivity of the queen mother.

*Continued....*

Is she laying a solid pattern, or is she laying eggs at all? Is she missing legs or wings, or is she missing in action? Do your hives have enough brood on the way for all of the work yet to be done? Take notes and watch closely in the next few weeks as you might have to replace her if she is failing and if you strive for loads of liquid gold this summer.

If you are not sure of something and you have a question, send an email to [AskProfessorBee@CherokeeBeeClub.com](mailto:AskProfessorBee@CherokeeBeeClub.com) or call a beekeeping associate.

Make sure that you don't miss our March field trip on the 21<sup>st</sup>, at Laney Cagle's farm, just this side of Dawsonville. (Remember – no regular monthly meeting in March.) Last year people were blown away with the deluge of information regarding installing packages, making splits, replacing and painting queens, and determining the health of the hive. We had a blast even though we thought we were going to bee the sequel to *Gone With the Wind*. Tornados may have graced our path overhead, but workin' with the bees was a breeze and a great opportunity for some hands-on experience!

In addition, don't miss our "Swarming Forum" at our regularly scheduled meeting in April. It is sure to be a hive of excitement!

Bee – seein' you soon!

Ryan A. Sarks

**2009 Calendar of CBC Meetings**  
(Tentative)

- \*March 21st Spring Field Trip – Setting Up Packages  
Laney Cagle  
(No regular monthly meeting in March)
- April 16<sup>th</sup> Swarming/Queen Jeopardy  
Trina Barron and Pat Sarks
- \*May 14-16 UGA Bee School  
Young Harris College
- \*May 16 & 17<sup>th</sup> Canton Arts Festival
- May 21<sup>st</sup> Queen Breeding Cooperative  
Mike Elliott
- \*June 20th Summer Field Trip – Family Picnic  
Debbie Lomax and Candler Ward
- July 16<sup>th</sup> To Med or Not to Med  
Dr. Keith Delaplane, UGA
- August 20th Honey Exchange/Judging  
Joe Schepers and Randy Tudor
- \*September Cherokee County Fair
- September 17<sup>th</sup> Swarm Captures  
Cindy Bee
- \*Sept. 25&26th<sup>st</sup> GA Beekeepers Assoc. Bi-Annual Meeting  
Walker County Ag Center
- October 15<sup>th</sup> Russian Queens  
Carl Webb
- \*November 20<sup>st</sup> Holiday Banquet  
John Tackett
- \*December\* No Meeting - Happy Holidays!

Regular meetings held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Cherokee Arts Council building in Canton, except those noted with \*.

*Subscribe to*

***Bee Culture &  
The American Bee Journal***

at reduced rates (25% off),  
as Association Members through the club.  
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***Quote of the Month***

To the bee, a flower is a fountain of life,  
& to the flower, a bee is a messenger of love.

*Poet, Kahlil Gibran*



5 Frame Nucs, with new queen, brood, and drawn comb; Screen bottom boards; Treated hive bodies, and treated nucs; Queen excluders; Plastic brood frames, and foundation; & Miscellaneous equipment to get started bee keeping.

*Randall Cagle 770-630-7150*

**BE A LOCAVORE!!!**

Support your Local Farmers Markets...  
they'll be opening soon!

**RECIPE CORNER**



**Honey of a Latte**

- 1 TBLSP Honey
- 1 TBLSP Cocoa Powder
- ¼ Cup Espresso Coffee, hot
- ¾ Cup Steamed Milk

In a Latte Coffee Cup, Stir together Honey and remaining ingredients. Enjoy!

## What The Co-operative is doing for bees:



**The Co-operative has launched Plan Bee, a new campaign and 10-point plan to help reverse the worrying decline in the British bee population.**

### **Through Plan Bee:**

1. The Co-operative Food will temporarily prohibit the use of neonicotinoid-based pesticides on own-brand fresh produce. These are Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Fipronil, Imidacloprid, Nitenpyram, Thiacloprid and Thiamethoxam. To find out about The Co-operative's market-leading policy on pesticides, please see our latest [Sustainability Report](#) (p.95).
2. £150,000 will be made available to support research into the demise of the honeybee, with a particular focus on UK farming, pesticides and gene-diversity. This is the largest ever private contribution to bee research in the UK.
3. Over three years The Co-operative Farms will trial a new wildflower seed mix that will be planted alongside crops on our farms across the UK.
4. The Co-operative Farms will invite beekeepers to establish hives on all our farms in the UK.
5. The Co-operative will engage our three-million members in a campaign to protect and nurture the bee population in the UK, with advice and tips featuring on our website.
6. Members were invited to attend one of 40 screenings of a special preview from a forthcoming film that addresses the decline of the worldwide bee population and the significance of the bee in food production. In addition, The Co-operative has also commissioned a new bespoke documentary on the decline of the bee population in the UK.
7. The Co-operative will partner with RSPB's 'Homes for Wildlife' team and empower members to garden in ways that are honeybee-friendly.
8. An initial 20,000 packets of wildflower seed mix will be made available to members free of charge.
9. Bee boxes are being sourced and made available to The Co-operative members at discounted prices.
10. The Co-operative will support our members and colleagues to find out more about amateur beekeeping and will encourage links between local beekeepers and members.

*\*\*\* The Co-operative is the largest retail grocer and the largest retail grower in the UK. Find more info on Plan Bee at <http://www.co-operative.coop/ethicsinaction/takeaction/planbee/what-The-Co-operative-is-doing-for-bees/>*

# Cherokee BeeKeepers Club

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

01/22/2009

The January monthly meeting was held at the Canton Arts Council building in Canton on Thursday, January 22, 2009. Approximately 46 members and guests were present. The business meeting was opened by President Ryan Sarks at 7:05 pm.

### Old Business

- Reminder that our 2009 Bee School will be held at the historic Old Cherokee County Courthouse on February 28.
- The Treasurer reported that our Club bank account has a balance of \$2,583.20.

### New Business

- The Treasurer provided a brief overview of the Club's 2009 budget. In 2009, we plan on having several more speakers than in 2008; with the net result reducing our end of 2009 bank account balance to approximately \$2,000 which is approximately one year's operating expenses.
- Ryan Sarks provided an overview of the Committees established for 2009 and called for additional volunteers.

**Education Committee (Bees in the Classroom):** Bob Behrman, Randy Tudor, Trina Barron

**Bees School Committee:** BJ Weeks, Ryan Sarks, Bob Behrman, Mike Elliott, Bud Champlin, Gerald Phillips

**Field Trip Committee:** Laney Cagle (Food Coordinator), Carol Phillips, Debbie Lomax, Pat Sarks

**County Fair Committee:** Bud Champlin, Bob Behrman, Ryan Sarks

**Advertising/Recruiting Committee:** Debbie Lomax, Melissa Flock

- Pat Sarks, Librarian, gave an overview of several books that the Club could purchase and solicited input for additional media for the Library.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm to open the floor for a presentation on current bee research by Dr. Jamie Ellis for the University of Florida. Dr. Ellis is an Assistant Professor of Entomology and Director of the University's Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab.

Some interesting highlights of Dr. Ellis' presentation follow – in no particular order:

- On CCD
  - In the 1940's, the US had more than 5 million honeybee colonies; today we have only about half that number
  - In most years, it is normal to experience a 10% to 20% loss of colonies
  - Since CCD was first noticed in November 2006, we still have no definitive cause; some possibilities include:
    - Traditional bee pests and diseases
    - Management (isn't Labor always blaming Management for every problem:>)
    - Queen source
    - Genetically modified crops
    - Varroa mites
    - Inadequate nutrition (from commercial single crop, non-varied pollen / nectar diets)
    - Chemical use in the hive
    - Chemicals in the environment
    - Climate change
    - Undiscovered pathogens
    - Or a combination of the above

- On studies his Lab is conducting:
  - Can bumble bees sustain small hive beetles (SHB) – thus thwarting our efforts to eliminate them from honey bee hives
  - IPM methods for controlling SHB
  - Varroa mites and the pathogens associated with them
  - Nutritional fitness of bees
  - Productivity increases from use of MegaBee and BeePro supplemental feeds
  - Undiscovered bee pathogens such as IAPV and Nosema Ceranae
  - Chemicals in colonies and the environment
  
- Field Guide to Beekeeping – Dr. Ellis and his staff are creating a free visual resource in the form of short IPM training videos tailored specifically for beekeepers but made available to the public through Solutions for Your Life (UFhoneybee.com), YouTube, and other video outlets. The videos will range from informational clips about honey bee pests to detailed instructions on how to treat these pests via IPM. His Lab has already participated in a small pilot program in cooperation with the UF Genetics Department to produce several short videos. Dr. Ellis hopes to release them in March. Until then, you can see several other videos he produced on YouTube. They are titled: “I Heart Honeybees”, “Bee Love”, “Honey, I’m home”, “Show Me the Honey”, “Where are the Bees?”, and “African Honey Bees: Public Enemy #1”. These videos were the inspiration for Dr. Ellis’ upcoming Video Field Guide to Beekeeping (which will be more professionally done).

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.

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## Cherokee BeeKeepers Club Monthly Meeting Minutes

02/19/2009

The February monthly meeting was held at the Canton Arts Council building on Thursday, February 19th, 2009. Approximately 45 members and guests were present. The business meeting was opened by VP- Bob Behrman around 7:00 pm.

### Old Business

- Reminder that our 2009 Bee School will be held at the historic Old Cherokee County Courthouse on February 28.
- Reiterated many benefits of Club membership (bee school, mentors, extractor, bee-man ship, beeline, picnic, etc...)
- Reported on an educational presentation for the Etowah Garden Club by Trina Barron and Bob Behrman (with rave reviews!).

### New Business

- *The minute taker did not capture any new business..... will send correction if oversight....sorry!*

The business meeting was adjourned at around 7:30 pm to open the floor for a presentation by BJ Weeks on proper hive Evaluation and Anticipation. BJ’s presentation is available for review upon request. Here are the evaluation highlights, listed monthly:

**JANUARY – Evaluate Food Quantity and Volume of Bees**  
**FEBRUARY – Feed to protect Brood Quality**  
**MARCH – Brood Volume & Need for Food and Supers**  
**APRIL – Timing – Super for Honey Potential**  
**MAY – Effects of Swarming**  
**JUNE – Queen Status**

**JULY – Final Honey Removal**  
**AUGUST – Need for Food/Nuc Fixes**  
**SEPTEMBER- Queens – Food Storage**  
**OCTOBER – Super Storage & Equipment Protection**  
**NOVEMBER – Finish Feeding**  
**DECEMBER – Package Needs for Spring**

The meeting was adjourned at around 9:00 pm.

# CBC Library



A Year in the Life of an Apiary	How Do Bees Make Honey
An Introduction to Beekeeping –video	How to Keep Bees and Sell Honey
Beekeeping - A Complete Owner's Manual	Increase Essentials
Beekeeping - A Practical Guide	Just Add Honey
Bees - Lectures By Rudolf Steiner	Observation Hives: How to Set Up, Manage, and Use an Observation Hive
Bees in America - How The Honey Bee Shaped a Nation	Practical Beekeeping
Bees Were Their Business	Queen Management
First Lessons in Beekeeping	Queen Rearing and Bee Breeding
Following The Bloom - Across America w/ Migratory Beekeepers	Setting Up a Package Swarm
Health and The Honey Bee	Small Scale Honey Harvesting
Hive Management: A Seasonal Guide for Beekeepers	The Candle Maker's Companion
Honey - From Hive to Honey Pot	The Class Room
Honey and Your Health	The Healthy Taste of Honey
Honey Bee Biology & Beekeeping	The Joys of Beekeeping
Honey Bee Disease and Pests 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition	The Life and Times of the Honeybee
Honey Bee Pests, Predators, & Diseases	The Queen Must Die
Honey Bees and Beekeeping- A Year in the Life of An Apiary	75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary Tribute to Walter T. and Ida Babin Kelly

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

## *Notes from the Editor*

First, Welcome to all new CBC Members and Second, WOW! What a great turn out for Bee School!

Although the weather wasn't the greatest, we set a new record for Bee School attendance. Thanks to all who helped to distribute fliers to get the word out and who helped to make Bee School a huge success. Special Thanks to Debbie Lomax, our newly appointed Advertising Director. Debbie got the info out to a lot of newspapers in the area even though she was out of town for her "Real" job. Looks like it really paid off!

Another sincere Special Thanks goes to Paul Pugliese who made the use of the Old Historic Cherokee County Courthouse possible. We all really liked the venue and hope it becomes our new Bee School Home!

Let me remind the new members of our great library service. All of the books listed above are available for your reading pleasure. Please see our Librarian, Pat Sarks to check them out. I promise you will find something for everyone!

Old members it's time to renew your membership. The Beeline distribution list will be updated after this issue to only include paid members. We realize times are tough all around. The club truly appreciates your support!

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](mailto:lane714@tds.net), 770-893-2635

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

# *You are invited to the CBC SPRING OUTING*



***MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009***

*We will be installing packages, splitting hives, and enjoying fellow beekeepers company!  
Refreshments will be provided. Please bring your own veil and jackets if needed.*

***10am to 2pm at the home of Laney & Harold Cagle***

*178 Amicalola Forest Drive, Dawsonville, GA (H) 770-893-2635 © 404-906-9909*

## ***Directions:***

North 515 to the first red light – HWY 108 – turn right. Go approx 2 miles and you will come to a four-way stop. Go straight and you will be on HWY 53E. Stay on 53E for approx 12.8 miles; you will pass the Foothills IGA and the turn to Big Canoe on your left, then the Handy Corner Store/Cowart Road on the right. Slow down – this is a curvy section of 53! Our road is the only gravel street on the right between Cowart Road and the Amicalola River (if you get to the Amicalola River Bridge you have gone too far!). Turn right onto Amicalola Forest Drive. Look for the 2<sup>nd</sup> mailbox (third drive) on right - #178 / Cagle. Keep coming up the drive until you see the house.

South 515 – HWY 53 E – go thru Jasper to the four way stop at Tate. Turn left. Stay on 53E for approx 12.8 miles; you will pass the Foothills IGA and the turn to Big Canoe on your left, then the Handy Corner Store/Cowart Road on the right. Slow down – this is a curvy section of 53! Our road is the only gravel street on the right between Cowart Road and the Amicalola River (if you get to the Amicalola River Bridge you have gone too far!). Turn right onto Amicalola Forest Drive. Look for the 2<sup>nd</sup> mailbox (third drive) on right - #178 / Cagle. Keep coming up the drive until you see the house.

GA 400 – HWY 53 W – Traffic light north of outlet Mall – turn left. Stay on 53W. 7 miles past downtown Dawsonville, you will cross over the Amicalola River Bridge. Slow down – this is a curvy section of 53! Our road is the only gravel street on the left between the Amicalola River and the Handy Corner Store/Cowart Road (if you get to the Handy Corner Store you have gone too far!). Turn left onto Amicalola Forest Drive. Look for the 2<sup>nd</sup> mailbox (third drive) on right - #178 / Cagle. Keep coming up the drive until you see the house

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