



# Bee Line

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

March/April 2007

## The Presidents' Corner

by Randy Tudor

I'm out working in the Apiary, Hope you are too!  
It's a critical time of year to keep our wintered-over hives strong and growing. Also, getting ready for those new packages! See you all on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Here's a very interesting article from UGA, on a topic we've all been hearing about.

### Mystery Malady Killing Colonies

By Stephanie Schupska - UGA

Honeybee experts Keith Delaplane and Jennifer Berry often get calls about dead bees. They both say that in the winter, bee death in the 10 to 15 % range isn't unusual.

It's the 50-percent colony losses that catch their attention.

"Every winter, beekeepers will lose a portion of their colonies due to bee starvation, mite problems or disease," said Berry, the apicultural research coordinator with the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

"This year, what's different is the number of colonies," she said. "When you have beekeepers who have lost 90 percent of their colonies, and they're commercial and good beekeepers, we know something's wrong. We've had several people that I know have lost thousands of colonies."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture came up with a name for this phenomenon, discarding last year's "fall dwindling disease" for the term "colony collapse disorder."

"I sometimes feel like the only tool I have in my bag is a hammer and therefore everything I see is a nail," said Delaplane. "A handful of diseases are easy to diagnose. When we run through all the

normal lists and still don't have the answer, we're left with colony collapse disorder."

For beekeepers nationwide, CCD is causing quite a headache this winter. The disorder has been identified in 22 states. The most extensive damage is in the South.

"I think what it is is all of the same problems we've been seeing in beekeeping, but more acute in last few months," Delaplane said.

Beekeepers move bees for different honey crops, such as orange blossom in Florida and gallberry and tupelo in south Georgia. These migrating bee colonies, Berry said, have seen the most damage from colony collapse disorder.

She and Delaplane speculate that they may be picking up a protozoan disease called *Nosema ceranae*, which can kill a bee within eight days of infection. Its sister disease, *Nosema apis*, is a common bee disease in the United States. It usually just weakens a colony and isn't generally a problem in the South. But there's not enough information to pin CCD on any one disease.

"We still feel there are other things in combination: weather patterns, food amounts, contaminated equipment, overuse of pesticides and mite loads," she said.

Delaplane's laundry list of possible causes is similar. Some of the problems, he said, could be traced to beekeeper management.

"There is some pesticide misuse in the beekeeping industry," he said. "It's important to remember that in-hive pesticides can be hazardous to the very insects they're intended to protect. This is especially true when an individual uses a home remedy or other pesticide product not approved for use in bee hives."

Another problem is a tendency to use honeycombs longer than they should, because modern hive parts are so durable.

*Continued on page 2*

**2007 Calendar of CBC Meetings**  
(tentative)

- \*March 17      Spring Field Trip – Setting Up Packages  
                    Ryan Sarkis
- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 \*.

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Mystery Malady.....

"In nature, a bee colony lives only about five years. Then scavengers eat the combs, making the cavity clean for the next bee occupants," Delaplaine said. "You can think of honeycomb as the liver of the colony: it filters out toxins. The health of a managed colony suffers when bees are forced to live on combs that are decades old."

Stephanie Schupska is a news editor with the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

***Quote of the Month:***

**Bee Days**

**Anyone starting beekeeping should begin with three hives, the sacred number. - an old Central European belief**



Kelly's Brood Foundation, #120, by the box or sheet. And, a Dadant, 4 frame motorized Extractor. Contact Bill Posey @770-386-3311 or [billsbeefarm@yahoo.com](mailto:billsbeefarm@yahoo.com).

***Recipe Corner***



**Honey Beer Bread**

This unusual bread is as quick and easy to make as it is tasty!

- 1 TBSP Honey
- 3 Cups Self Rising Flour
- 1 12 oz bottle of Beer
- ½ cup Melted Butter

Mix honey into self-rising flour. Add beer, 4 ounces at a time, stirring well as you mix in the brew. Pour the batter into two well greased 3" X 6" loaf pans and drizzle butter over the top. (The butter should form a 1/8" – at least – layer over the dough.) Bake for approximately 50 minutes at 350 degrees.

# Minutes of 1-18-07 CBC Meeting

## Attendance

Meeting began promptly at 7:00. Approximately 30 members were in attendance.

## Guest Speaker

Tonight's guest speaker was BJ Weeks. The topic of BJ's presentation was "Strategies for Growing Bees". When do you start growing bees? The spring of the previous year that you want to grow bees! There are three reasons to grow bees: 1) to replace your losses 2) for expansion and 3) for honey production. In order to grow bees, two situations must come together: a high volume of flowers with a high volume of nectar and a high volume of bees of the right age. The trick is to achieve this without swarming. BJ presented a very thoughtfully prepared and effectively presented outline for our benefit. The writer of the minutes will not attempt to reiterate BJ's presentation.

Randy thanked BJ for all of the knowledge that he so willingly shares with the club. BJ's love of his bees, endless enthusiasm and tireless efforts to educate the community about honeybees is greatly appreciated.

## Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Worth, Ryan presented a very carefully planned and detailed budget for 2007. An amount for general expenses has been added to cover small operating costs, such as postage, printer ink, etc. After some discussion, a motion was made to approve the budget. Motion approved. Ryan reported that there is currently \$983.80 in the checking account. On November 21, 2006 the checking account signatures were changed to include Worth and Ryan.

## Secretary's Report

Motion was made to approve the minutes as printed in the January/February 2007 edition of the Beeline. Motion approved.

## New Business

BJ has arranged to have the club provide honey to juror's in the break room off of the jury meeting room, which we use for our club meetings. Ryan has agreed to keep an eye on the supply. If you would like to donate some honey, please give it to Ryan or BJ.

Trina passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to provide a recipe using honey for the tasting table. Trina also handed out fliers and asked several members to distribute them in their communities.

Spring Field Trip: Locations were discussed. Any suggestions let Ryan know.

Next meeting in the juror's room will be in April. Randy announced that we still need someone to chair the Fair Committee.

## Old Business

BJ presented the newly refurbished club extractor, which he took to Kelly's recently and had it converted into a 9 frame. Many thanks to BJ for getting this done. A proposal is being prepared which will possibly increase the rental amount for the extractor in efforts to help pay for the upgrade. Any increase in the rental fee will be brought to the club for approval.

It was decided not to renew our membership in the American Beekeepers Federation.

## Other

Randy donated a beautiful jar of creamed honey which was raffled and given away to the winner, Suzanne Pinson!

## Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn promptly at 9:00 pm. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

## *CBC Library*



**This is the list of the books in the CBC Library. All club members are encouraged to check out any of the material.**

A Year in the Life of an Apiary	How to Keep Bees and Sell Honey
Beekeeping - A Complete Owner's Manual	Increase Essentials
Beekeeping - A Practical Guide	Observation Hives: How to Set Up, Manage, and Use an Observation Hive
Bees - Lectures By Rudolf Steiner	Queen Management
Bees in America - How The Honey Bee Shaped a Nation	Queen Rearing and Bee Breeding
Bees Were Their Business	Setting Up a Package Swarm
First Lessons in Beekeeping	Small Scale Honey Harvesting
Following The Bloom - Across America w/ Migratory Beekeepers	The Candle Maker's Companion
Health and The Honey Bee	The Class Room
Hive Management: A Seasonal Guide for Beekeepers	The Healthy Taste of Honey
Honey - From Hive to Honey Pot	The Joys of Beekeeping
Honey Bee Biology & Beekeeping	The Life and Times of the Honeybee
Honey Bee Pests, Predators, & Diseases	The Queen Must Die
How Do Bees Make Honey	

### *Notes from the Editor*

Happy Spring....Well, almost! I'm SO ready for some warm weather!!! Hopefully we will have a nice day for our Spring outing to install new packages on Saturday, March 17. Don't forget to mark your calendar.

Thanks to all who made Bee School '07 a very successful event. We had several new members sign up and hopefully the school provided the encouragement needed for them to decide to become new Beekeepers. The Honey Judging was fun for everyone, old and new. My hope is that we will be able to make it a standard event for future Bee Schools. Also, the "Honey Treats" were enjoyed by all. The Recipe Corner column will feature the recipes for those treats made by club members. This month's Honey Beer Bread was brought by Vickie Champlin. Everyone loved it and Vickie says it's really easy to make.

We've changed the format for the Interview with a Beekeeper article. Let us know what you think.

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\**

## **Interview with a Beekeeper**

CBC Newsletter Interview Reporter, Trina Barron recently met with long standing CBC Member, Hoyt Rogers. Their discussion went as follows:

Hoyt is a native Georgian. There are not many of us left in the Atlanta area. He was born in Blairsville and spent only about one year of his youth outside of Georgia while his father served in the Navy in South Carolina. As a young man, Hoyt served in the Army and spent 18 months during World War II in Germany, near Stuttgart. He was there when the Berlin wall went up. After his stint in the Army, Hoyt returned to Georgia, having lived in Marietta for many of those years.

His boyhood days were spent on Lake Allatoona, where he, his brother, his brother-in-law and other friends would practice and fine tune their water skiing abilities. Hoyt described first hand exactly how one goes about being the top man of a water-skiing pyramid! Yes, I can see him up there now. They would ski right through the winter – you see they were so good they never got wet! In order to save time, they would carry a 55-gallon drum of fuel with them in the boat so they would have to waste time refueling!! I get the picture that whatever Hoyt decides to do he does it well.

I asked Hoyt how he became interested in beekeeping. Hoyt and his wife Jean are avid gardeners. Around 1998 they noticed that their garden wasn't receiving enough pollination. That was the beginning of Hoyt's beekeeping.

After 35 years with Bellsouth, Hoyt retired in 1991. Well, retired is not really a good description of how Hoyt spends his days. Including beekeeping, Hoyt's other interests and activities include a rather large garden, where he grows just about everything. He has just plowed the garden under and is putting in potatoes this week. Spend some time with Hoyt in his backyard and you will soon hear the cock-a-doodle-doo. Hoyt also raises gamecocks and bantams. The incubator was full of little chicks today. Along with gardening, Hoyt and Jean also enjoy square-dancing together. They are also very active with their church, Orange United Methodist, where Hoyt is a member of the Board of Trustees.

Currently Hoyt has five hives. A couple of years ago when I visited Hoyt he was up to sixteen. He has two empty boxes ready to receive packages tomorrow and has three that are ready to split. That will give him ten hives going into spring. I asked Hoyt what was a good number of hives for him to have. He says that four is a good number for him because he can enjoy them more when there's not so much work involved. Like many of us, Hoyt has realized that in order to maintain four, we should start out with ten (or something close to it anyway), by the time we take our losses.

When asked what is the greatest benefit he receives from his bees, Hoyt responded that he loves to sit and watch them fly and work. He also enjoys the honey!

Another beekeeping related activity that Hoyt enjoys is building beekeeping equipment. He can build it all - hive bodies, nucs, screened bottom boards, feeders, observation hives It seems as if he is quite a carpenter too!

Including the Cherokee Beekeepers Club, where he has served in various functions, including officer ships, numerous committees and currently on the board of directors, Hoyt is also very active with the Forsyth Beekeepers Club, which meets in Cumming. He currently serves as Treasurer for that fine club.

Hoyt is very active with organizing and participating in bee school every year for both clubs. He has also participated in the beekeeping presentations at Funk Heritage Center in Waleska, Cagles Dairy Farm in Canton, and various Farm Bureau related events.

Hoyt and Jean have four children and ten grandchildren ranging in age from four months to 22 years. Although reluctant to brag, Hoyt is very proud of his children and grandchildren. One of his sons is a member of a bluegrass band called the Jot'Em Down Boys, having been the opening band for popular musician Valerie Smith. Look for an upcoming concert at Red Top Mountain this summer. One of his grandsons is a member of a performing arts group in Marietta that will be traveling to Charleston to perform during the upcoming Spoleto Festival.

Hoyt's retirement is making me tired!

Thanks Hoyt, it was fun!!!

# Spring Field Trip

## "How To Grow Your Bees For Honey"

- ✦ Finalize hive equipment preparations, including your "supers"
- ✦ Installing "package-bees" – Two pounds or three pounds?
- ✦ Queen installation – New and replacements
  - Instructions on different types of queen cages and how to install with/without candy
  - When to paint and what colors to use according to the year
- ✦ Spring hive inspections/evaluations/medications
  - What to look for and what to do when you find "it"
- ✦ Feeding
  - Don't let your bees starve!
  - Grow your bees for honey production – help them to pay for themselves
- ✦ Making Splits
  - What is a split and how do you do it?

The food, fun, and learning will be from **10:00AM until 2:00PM** on **Saturday, March 17, 2007**  
at the home of **Trina Barron**:  
**16465 Freemanville Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004**

Follow Highway 20 East from Canton to Free-Home and take a right on Hwy 372. Then turn right onto Birmingham Road (Hwy. 372). Turn left onto King Road/Mountain Road and continue to follow Mountain Road. Turn right onto Freemanville Road and continue almost half a mile to 16465, on the right!



# 2007 Membership Application Form

(For Membership through December 2007)

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

Please Print

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ New or Renew: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

May We Give Your Address Out To Bee Related Vendors? \_\_\_\_\_

Would You Like To Receive The Bee Line As An E-Mail Attachment? \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ How Many Colonies Do You Keep? \_\_\_\_\_

How Many Pounds of Honey Did You Make Last Year? \_\_\_\_\_ (1 gal = 12 lbs)

What Is The Name On Your Honey Label? \_\_\_\_\_

Would You Like to Post any Bee Products For Sale on the Web Site? \_\_\_\_\_

Do You Collect Colonies? \_\_\_\_\_ Do You Remove Colonies? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Free of Charge) (Charge a Fee)

Would You Like Your Name Listed on the Web Site Swarm List? \_\_\_\_\_

Are You A Member of Georgia Beekeepers Association? \_\_\_\_\_

Are You A Member of Any Other Beekeepers Associations? \_\_\_\_\_

If Yes List Others: \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
**Membership Fee: \$12.00 (\$6.00 for NEW members joining after July 1<sup>st</sup>) for Membership thru December. Please make checks payable to Cherokee Beekeepers Club and mail to address below or bring to next meeting.**

Would you like to make a donation to the UGA Honeybee Research Program? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Cherokee Beekeepers Club  
C/o Trina Barron, Secretary  
16465 Freemanville Road  
Alpharetta, GA 30004**

Membership Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Cherokee Beekeepers Club Contacts:**

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