



Bee Line

www.cherokeebeeclub.com

MAR/APR 2011

The Presidents' Corner

by Mike Elliott

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new members and their families to the Cherokee Beekeepers Club. I know we had several individuals and families that recently joined at our Bee School on February 19th. You are probably aware, a one year's membership was included with your registration and I encourage you to take full advantage of it. As most experienced beekeepers will tell you, the learning process never ends and the Club offers technical help, assistance and advice in many ways.

Speaking of Bee School, I think we had an outstanding, well run day of classes, demonstrations and an opportunity for "hands-on" with the students to go into the hives – most for the first time. We had an excellent turnout with 96 participants and the weather could not have been better – sunshine and temperatures near 70 degrees. Everyone, including the bees, enjoyed the day. Thanks to BJ Weeks and his team of over 42 volunteers that made the day such a success.

The spring like weather of the past few weeks has jump-started many of the colonies that made it through the winter with queens starting to lay again and with workers out gathering pollen and nectar the populations are starting to boom. We can only hope that we don't have a return of sustained, below freezing temperatures that could kill off the young brood. For you beginning beekeepers, now is the time to get all your equipment ordered and assembled (if you haven't already) as you anxiously wait for your packages or nucs of bees. For the experienced beekeepers, you may need to be thinking of swarm prevention and the possibility of doing splits.



Continued....

Beekeeping can be at times very frustrating – even for the experienced beekeeper. To help minimize this frustration for the beginner and avoid some of the pitfalls, the Club is offering a mentorship program. It will match a beginning beekeeper based on geography skills and needs with an experienced beekeeper who has agreed to serve as a volunteer mentor. We are hoping to have everything finalized in the next few weeks and be able to get all the details out to everyone.

Looking ahead to our calendar for the month of March we will not have our normal monthly meeting, but instead will have our annual spring outing on March 19th. We will demonstrate the installation of packages of bees, marking of queens and many other interesting and informative things as well. And if that were not enough, Mike Cline, our host, is planning on barbequing. Details for this event will follow. On April 21st at our monthly meeting Bob Behrman will talk about Spring Hive Management. On April 30th I will host a Queen Rearing Co-operative Workshop where we demonstrate both grafting and non-grafting methods of raising queens. I would encourage anyone who has what they consider to be a "superior" queen to get involved in this program to share and preserve these genes. Again, more information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date.

I hope to see you soon at one of our upcoming events.

Mike Elliott

2011 Calendar of CBC Meetings
(Tentative)

- March 19* Spring Field Trip – Setting Up Packages
- April 15 Hive Maintenance & Swarm Prevention
Bob Behrman
- April 30* Queen Rearing Coop
Mike Elliott
- May 11-14* UGA Bee School
Young Harris
- May 14 & 15* Canton Arts Festival
- May 19 Swarm Collection
Bud Champlin
- June 11* Summer Field Trip – Family Picnic
- June 25* Choosing Green Festival
Canton
- July 21 Guest Speaker – Robert Brewer
Honey Show Handouts – Michael Blackwell
- August 18 Honey Judging, Sampling & Collecting/Fair
Michal Blackwell
- Sept. 11-17* Cherokee County Fair
The McKenzies, Bud C. & Michael B.
- Sept. 15 Winter Prep
Gerald Phillips
- Sept. 16 & 17* GA Beekeepers Meeting
Pine Mountain, GA
- October 20 Guest Speaker – Jennifer Berry
- November 18* Holiday Banquet
John Tackett
- December* No Meeting - Happy Holidays!

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

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

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

Quote of the Month

I am come to my garden, my sister, my spouse:
I have gathered my myrrh with my spice;
I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey;
I have drunk my wine with my milk;
Eat, O friends;
Drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.

Song of Solomon 5:1

AskProfessorBee@cherokeebeeclub.com
is still available to answer your questions.

Send an email when your issues arise.
Don't wait until the next meeting to have
your questions answered.

Recipe Corner



Tropical Smoothie

(Serves 4)

- 1 ½ cups low-fat milk
- 2 med ripe bananas, peeled
- 1 cup plain yogurt (greek is really good!)
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Ground nutmeg
- 5 ice cubes

Combine milk, bananas, yogurt, honey, vanilla, cinnamon and nutmeg in blender; process until thick and creamy. Add ice cubes, one at a time, blend until smooth. (For extra protein we add a protein powder - Egg or Soy. Any fruit you like works for this smoothie... thickness might be affected, but it still tastes good!)

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 nd 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 th anniversary Tribute to Walter T. and Ida Babin Kelly

CBC Library Book Review

by
Steve Altom

Title: A Year in the Life of An Apiary (Book and Video) **Author:** Keith Delaplane **Rating:** 3 Bees

This was one of the very first books I ever read about beekeeping. I had no idea who Dr Delaplane was at the time or how old this publication and video was. Well it turned out that many years had passed since the book/video was made in 1992 or so until my viewing in 2008.

If you know nothing about bees and want to peek into the nuts and bolts of beekeeping this is a great way to do it. Dr Delaplane goes through all the aspects of beekeeping for one year from assembly of equipment to extracting and marketing of honey. We follow him out to his hives, to commercial beekeeping operations, and to a mom and pop store. For this I give the content high marks as most of this is still relevant today. One thing I have been wanting to ask him is what happened to that first boyhood hive of bees that he lost.

Times have changed so today's new beekeepers should beware that some things he does I would not do. For example, he mixes up a batch of terramycin and douses a new package of bees. He also coats his woodenware in Copper Napthenate before painting. I followed his advice on the Copper Naph and wish I hadn't. For this I give the content lower marks.

I think this work is long overdue for a second edition that should also include a discussion of IPM (Integrated Pest Management) practices.

The BeeLine will be running a new (actually renewed) article this year called Meet the Members. We will pick board members & new members to introduce you to in each edition. We hope you enjoy a personal insight to some of our fellow members.

Meet the Members!

Meet Steve Altom, CBC Secretary & Certified Beekeeper YH Bee Institute 2009

Steve is the first guy you see when you come in the door to our monthly meetings! He is also a member of the GA Beekeepers Association and the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Club.

How long have you been keeping bees: 3 years

Location: My wife, Lisa and I live in the Marietta/Roswell area, but our bees are on our retirement property in Polk County near Cedartown. I have 32 years with AT&T and am now in the IT department working with LAN/WAN networks.

How many hives do you have now & what's the most you've had at one time:

I presently have 8 hives. The most I've had is 9.

What got you interested in bee keeping: My wife and I are veggie/fruit gardeners and thought bees would be a good thing to have around. We had talked about getting bees several years ago but all I knew about bees was what I saw on TV documentaries. I didn't know anyone keeping bees or to my knowledge had never even seen a honeybee. In fall 2008 my wife attended a beekeeping presentation (with real bees!) and brought home a lot of information that got me seriously going. I decided that I would try the next year and see what happens. I joined GBA to see what I could learn. BJ Weeks was the first Beekeeper I met at that GBA meeting and he invited me to attend Bee School at CBC. The man is everywhere! I went to Bee School in February 2009 and I got my first bees in two hives in April. Then I acquired two more right after that in May. I am now up to eight hives at the start of this year with plans to add two more in April. I think for now I have reached my limit with all my other commitments but once I leave the work-a-day world and get moved next to my bees I would certainly be interested in expanding my operation. I am very interested in Queen Rearing, but happy to open any hive and find bees greeting me! You can find me on the net by Googling "Steve's Apiary", or www.stevesapiary.com

Meet Valerie Nichols, Newbee & Freelance Graphic Designer/Illustrator

How long have you been keeping bees: 1 year

Location: Tucker, GA

How many hives do you have: 2 hives

What got you interested in bee keeping: Avid gardening and a love of insects in general.

I am a one year beekeeper and this first year began with a short course and a nuc. Within two months of getting my nuc, I started another hive with a package and a new queen. My first year of beekeeping was filled with challenges and mysteries as I went from queenlessness in the middle of May, to a varroa mite infestation of Biblical proportions in August. Without guidance from my mentor, John Jones - I feel pretty certain my hives would have not made it through the winter months. They seem to be thriving as of now and I am looking forward to what this new season will bring. Bees are amazingly resilient little insects and I hope they keep teaching me about the circle of life.

Meet John Jones, Newbee (to CBC) & Hospital Systems Engineer for Public Safety

How long have you been keeping bees: 5 years & helped my Dad (back in the early 60s)

Location: Stone Mountain, GA

How many hives do you have: 3 hives, and 6 was my most ever

What got you interested in bee keeping: Got back into it as I have always been interested in beekeeping. A fastastic side occupation. I hope to turn a profit in a few years selling honey! Ha!

You can find me by Googling A BEE YARD IN STONE MOUNTAIN or

<http://stonemountaingeorgiabeediary.blogspot.com/> I would like to have more time to beekeep... one day.

Georgia Beekeepers Association Spring Meeting

Steve Altom

The GBA spring meeting was held this past February 11th and 12th in Jekyll Island. The meeting was not as well attended as it could have been probably due to the distance from the Metro area. However for those of us that attended it was a good meeting. There were commercial beekeepers discussing their operations and challenges, and academics discussing queen rearing and Africanized Honey Bees(AHB). The next GBA meeting will be in September at Callaway Gardens. If you have not attended a meeting before this is a great opportunity to meet other beekeepers and see other clubs from around the state as well as get some great information from interesting speakers and vendors. It would be great if we could have a raucous crowd there from CBC this fall!

Notes from the Editor

Congrats on a successful 2011 Beginner Bee School!

Though I wasn't able to make it to Bee School this year, I hear that it was better than ever. Many thanks to all the volunteers; it wouldn't be possible without you! Both Steve Altom and Bo Pollard have provided links to view photos taken at bee school. Have a look : <https://picasaweb.google.com/stevesapiary/BeeSchool> & <https://picasaweb.google.com/bo.pollard/2011BeeSchool?authkey=Gv1sRgCKLU87vkian5hAE&feat=directlink>

Welcome to all the new folks. We have many opportunities for your participation in club activities. It's a great learning tool to assist with the education committee. Maybe you love festivals and would like to spend time helping out with the club's booth. The club is here to help you and the club needs your help too!

Remember NO MONTHLY MEETING IN MARCH. Mike & Lindsey Cline will be hosting the Spring Outing again this year on 3/19. This is a great opportunity for the new folks to get hands on experience before yours bees arrive.

If you missed hearing about the revamped Mentoring program, there is still opportunity for you to sign up. Basically, a long standing member can volunteer to be matched up as a Mentor to a new beekeeper. We will put the own-ness on the NewBee and not the Mentor, in that the NewBee will have to initiate contact, go to the Mentor's Bee yard, etc. See Michael Blackwell, Gerald Phillips, or Mike Elliott for more details.

We are looking for new ideas for the Beeline, or maybe a new editor...? I've enjoyed working on the Beeline, however I feel like I'm getting rather repetitive. If anyone out there has a strong desire to become the editor, or even a contributing editor or columnist Please let me know.

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

You are invited to the CBC SPRING OUTING



MARCH 19th, 2011

10am to 2pm

Hosted by

Mike & Lindsey Cline

We will be installing packages, splitting hives, and enjoying fellow beekeepers company!

BBQ lunch will be provided.

Please bring your own veil, jackets & chairs.

10647 Reinhardt College Parkway, Waleska GA 30183

H (770)-479-7017

C (770) 547-9517

Directions:

From 1-575 take Exit 16. Turn onto Hwy 5 (west). At second red light (Walgreens) turn left onto Hwy 140. Travel 10.6 miles. Going thru Waleska, pass Salacoa Road on the right. Pass Addington Lane on the right. After passing Addington Lane, slow down and look for balloons at the end of driveway 10647. Turn left onto driveway. Bear to the left and go to the top of the hill (you will see a green roofed shed).

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Other Resource Contacts

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