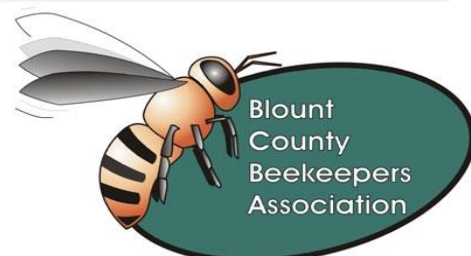
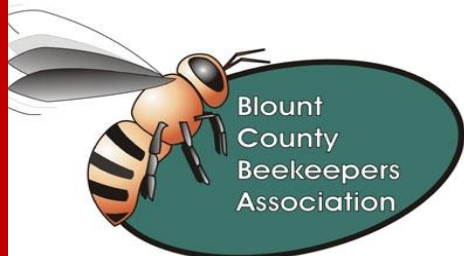


BCBA

BLOUNT COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

DEC- 2017



NEWSLETTER

WE WILL NOT BE HAVING A REGULAR MEETING THIS MONTH. WE WILL BE HAVING OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AT ST. JOHNS LUTHERN CHURCH ON SANDY SPRINGS ROAD STARTING AT 6:00PM. OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 8TH AT THE MARYVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST 611 SHERWOOD DR. STARTING AT 6:30PM.

IF YOU ORDERED T-SHIRTS FROM AMY CHAMBERS, SHE WILL HAVE THEM AT THE CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR PICK-UP. IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO THE DINNER YOU CAN CALL HER AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PICK THEM UP. [\(865\) 983-2114](tel:8659832114)

IF ANYONE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A DEMO ON HOW TO USE THE OXALIC ACID VAPORIZER FOR THE TREATMENT OF VARROA MITES, CONTACT CHUCK DAVIS OR HARLEN BREEDEN AND WE WILL SET A DATE TO DO THIS. THE CLUB HAS THREE VAPORIZERS TO LOAN OUT. CALL **NOWELL CLEVERLY TO RESERVE ONE AT 865-389-0160.**

If you know of anyone that isn't getting the BCBA Newsletter please have them call me, Harlen Breeden at 865-719-1828 or email me at harlenbreeden@gmail.com I want everyone to get the Newsletter for it is our way of communicating with the membership.

FROM THE OFFICERS OF BCBA

**SINCE THIS WILL BE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER IN 2017
WE WANT TO WISH EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A BLESSED 2018**

December - Chuck's Corner

This calendar year is coming to a close as we all begin to think about the holiday season and Christmas. Since your bees are pretty much “put away” for the Winter, I trust that many, if not all, of you will be able to spend some time with your family.

It certainly has been an interesting year regarding our bees. Seems the bees behave a bit different each year. For example, when you don't really expect swarms in the late Fall, I experience 2 swarms this past November (and it seems that one of them is doing quite well). Just when you think you've got them figured out, honey bees do something to surprise you.

At our last meeting in November, you all re-elected me as President for our group. I appreciate everyone's support and participation in our various activities. I look forward to working with you all again this coming year. Below are the officers you elected to serve for 2018.

Those elected to serve in 2018 were:

- President – Chuck Davis
- Vice Pres – Mark Evans
- Secretary – Mark Ford
- Treasurer – Bernie McGraw
- Member at Large – Doug Carnathan
- Member at Large – Laura Atwood
- Member at Large – Josh Chambers

In a few days we will have our Christmas Dinner in lieu of a regular meeting. Looks like we will have a great turn out this year. If for some reason you were not able to come to the Christmas Dinner this year, hopefully you will be able to arrange your schedule so that you can come next year.

We have a great year in the plans for 2018 and hope to see all of you at the meetings during the next year. We will also be having the Blount County Beekeepers Short Course February 17, 2018 and I hope that you will spread the word and attend.

I hope to see you at the Christmas Dinner, and if not there, I will see you at the January meeting!

~Chuck

SEASONAL MANAGEMENT

BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS NEWSLETTER COLD WEATHER SHOULD BE HERE. HOPE ALL HAVE THEIR BEE'S PREPARED FOR WINTER. YOUR COLONIES SHOULD HAVE PLENTY OF STORES TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE WINTER. IF YOUR HIVES ARE LIGHT YOU CAN AD SUGAR IN DRY FORMS (CANDY BOARDS, A 3-2-1 MIXTURE OF SUGAR, POLLEN AND WATER MIXTURE, OR A SHIM AND A 4LB BAG OF SUGAR LAID RIGHT ON TOP OF THE FRAMES). ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE GOOD WAYS TO FEED IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

IF FOR SOME REASON YOU THINK YOU NEED TO PEEK IN YOUR HIVES THRU THE WINTER, DO IT QUICKLY IN MID MORNING SO THE BEES CAN GET THEIR HOME HEATED BACK UP BEFORE NIGHTFALL.

NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR. IT'S BEEN SAID THAT "NO PLAN IS A PLAN FOR FAILURE" THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH WITH YOUR BEE'S NEXT YEAR AND FORMULATE A PLAN TO GET YOU THERE.

DECEMBER AND JANUARY IS A GOOD TIME TO GET EQUIPMENT READY FOR YOUR NEXT YEAR OF BEEKEEPING. BUILD BOXES, ASSEMBLE FRAMES AND PAINT EQUIPMENT. THIS TIME OF YEAR, I SEEM TO WANT TO LAY BACK AND TAKE IT EASY AND ALL OF A SUDDEN SPRING IS HERE AND I AM WORKING MYSELF TO DEATH TRYING TO GET READY FOR THE SPRING HONEY FLOW. THE WINTER MONTHS IS A GOOD TIME TO READ AND CATCH UP ON SOME GOOD VIDEO'S. BE CAREFUL WITH U-TUBE VIDEO'S AND MAKE SURE THAT THE ONE'S YOU ARE WATCHING ARE BY EXPERIENCED BEEKEEPERS.

~HARLEN BREEDEN

BCBA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: DOUG HARDWICK

Doug Hardwick has been a steadfast supporter of BCBA for a very long time, and we are delighted to spotlight him as he heads into a more leisurely pace of life. We are grateful to your dedicated service to BCBA and beekeeping, Doug!

Doug remembers his grandfather keeping bees and how good the honey tasted. Years later, as an adult, Doug first got interested in beekeeping after his home was completed and they had the space. Doug talked about “getting some bees” for several years; for Christmas 1986, his sister gave him a beekeeping starter kit.

Doug spent the winter months of 1987 assembling the equipment, the boxes, and the frames. When spring arrived, a colleague suggested he get some bees from Howard Kerr. Howard knew of a wild hive in a wall space at Memorial Funeral home and when the time was right, Howard and Doug extracted that hive from the building and that was Doug’s first hive. His second hive came a little later in the spring, when Howard and Doug captured a swarm together.

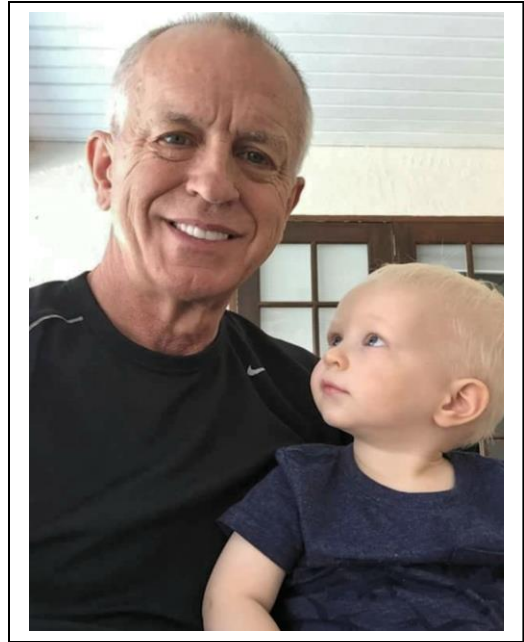
Howard became Doug’s mentor and encouraged Doug to join BCBA. Doug remembers, “as busy as Howard was, he always made the time to help me with my bees and answer my questions. He was – and is – a great mentor.”

Doug has always kept his bees at his home in Louisville, Tennessee. He kept 8-12 hives for many years and would produce about 1,000 pounds of honey regularly. At one point in time, Doug had 20 hives, but, these days, he has four hives. As he retired recently from Anderson Lumber, Doug is considering taking on a few more hives.

Doug’s favorite type of bee is the Italian, but type, “is something that has really never concerned me that much. If they will produce some honey and stay alive, I am happy. I only extract once a year, usually in late June or early July, so my honey is a wildflower mix that I have been told is really tasty. It's usually fairly light so it has a good bit of clover, but also locust, blackberry, and tulip poplar when we're lucky.”

One of Doug’s favorite things about beekeeping is, “my fascination with the honeybee. Their division of labor, communication, their reproduction, it's all amazing to me. And, we humans think we're advanced? It's just another lesson to me that we're not the ones in control down here.”

Doug has been very active and supportive of BCBA, including mentoring several new beekeepers through the years. “I have enjoyed mentoring new beekeepers, however most of them have become better beekeepers than me in a short time. I have never been a great “student” of beekeeping. Seems like most of what I have learned has been by doing and making mistakes and not reading and research. I think that our beekeeper’s association is such a great resource. My first office was alternate officer. I was basically a substitute for any officer who couldn't make a meeting. I was later vice president for two years and president for two years. I've been a director for the last few years. I would like to encourage everyone in our association to



A GOOD REASON TO RETIRE

step up and volunteer for speaking and leadership roles. I know that our club is full of smart capable people that have talents that they can share.”

Doug encourages regular attendance at BCBA meetings, as well. “I tell people over and over that I don’t think I have ever attended a meeting that I haven’t learned something.”

As Doug transitions into a more relaxed role at BCBA to go along with his retirement, we wish him all the best and we are all extremely grateful for his dedicated leadership and service to BCBA!

~ESTHER ROBERTS

Bee Inspectors

It’s the state law to have your beehives registered, so don’t neglect this important duty.

If you want them inspected, below is a list of association bee inspectors. There is no cost for this service. If you are planning to move hives, they must be inspected.

Stacey Adair, 983-6223

Ricky Baily, 250-8123

Dennis Barry, 414-2116

Harlen Breeden, 719-1828

Charlie Parton, 776-1875

Stephanie Tarwater, 293-6229

BCBA OFFICERS

Chuck Davis, President
865-566-3690

Mark Evans, Vice President
865-556-6191

Bernie McGraw, Treasurer
865-984-1005

Mark Ford, Secretary
865-603-2016

Harlen Breeden, Alt. Officer
865-719-1828



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Dr. Kathryn O. Newman, D.D.S.
Knoxville Dental Group PC
10652 Deerbrook Drive
Knoxville, TN 37922

ANDERSON LUMBER
COMPANY & HOME CENTER

Doug Hardwick
Store Manager

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c/o Mark Ford
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