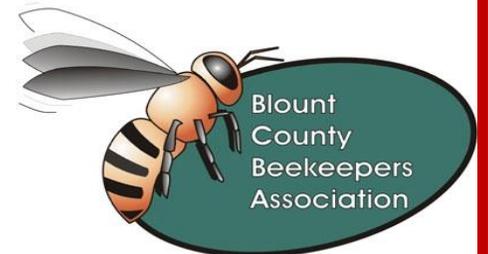
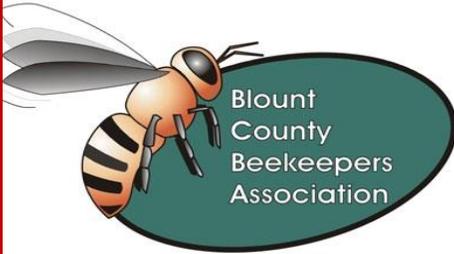


BCBA

BLOUNT COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION JUNE- 2018



BCBA

JUNE

NEWSLETTER

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE JUNE 11TH AT 6:30 PM AT THE MARYVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST. CHUCK DAVIS AND LUKE NEWMAN WILL BE SPEAKING AND DEMONSTRATING TAKING OF HONEY AND EXTRACTING HONEY. (Tasting will be available). OUR CLUB HAS EXTRACTING EQUIPMENT THAT CAN BE CHECKED OUT TO OUR MEMBERS. A \$25.00 FEE WILL BE CHARGED AT CHECKOUT TO BE RETURNED IF THE EXTRACTOR EQUIPMENT IS RETURNED CLEAN.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS THAT HAVE LOST LOVED ONES THIS PAST FEW MONTHS. THIS IS A HARD ADJUSTMENT FOR THEM.

IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IN OUR NEWSLETTER SEND IT TO ME AND I WILL INCLUDE IT IN OUR NEWSLETTER (Pictures or articles)

June 2018 - Chuck's Corner

I'm sure by now you have seen the massive hoard of bees traveling at high rates of speed to and from their hives. These are the weeks that makes beekeeping exciting. Those with new and developing hives get to see how quickly a colony can grow. You may also get to see some difficulties such as a poorly mated queen or some type of colony kill – BUT hopefully you will see fresh white comb being built, eggs being laid, capped brood then the exciting orientation flight of a new batch of bees.

But of course, we are all in this for the honey (or at least originally most of us were) and soon we will be able to take our excess honey off and begin to reap the pleasures of beekeeping. At the June meeting Luke Newman and myself will be talking about methods to remove the honey from your hives and then how to extract the honey. Tasting, of course, will be available!

Please remember the topics I mentioned last month. Please indulge me as I list them again. All of these items are important and so we can continue to have a fun and smooth-running organization, your input and suggestions are greatly desired.

- 1) Our annual fund raising auction will be in October – please be thinking of items you could donate to help in our fund raising efforts. If you know an auctioneer, let me know (although it is possible we may be able to get the same auctioneers as last year).
- 2) Participation at the TN Valley Fair Beekeeping Booth would be great. In fact, if you would like to help design or work on the design of our booth, please let me know.
- 3) Our Annual Christmas Dinner will be here before we know it and planning is critical. Was the entertainment last year acceptable and should we ask them back or would another entertainment venue be preferred.
- 4) What about the menu selection and location for the Christmas Dinner.
- 5) Within the next few months we need to consider new officers for BCBA. The By-Laws state that the President cannot serve more than 2 years so new nominees need to be suggested for the various offices of BCBA. If you would consider yourself as an officer, please let me know.

See you at the June meeting!

SEASONAL MANAGEMENT:

Well, it is the first of June and the spring honey flow is starting to wind down, though you still have a couple of weeks, continue to add supers of drawn comb as needed until the honey flow ends. Tennessee has two major honey flows during the spring and summer months.

Spring Flow: The major spring flow occurs between April 25 and June 15 at lower elevations across the state.

Summer Flow: The major summer flow occurs between June 25 and August 15

at higher elevations. Though there is a milder flow July through September (primarily the late summer wildflowers) in the lower elevations. You should start making plans to remove your excess honey for extraction. Uncapped honey can be removed two weeks after the honey flow ends, but usually no earlier than June 15. This is also time to prepare to move your bees to another area (i.e. higher elevations for sourwood) if you want maximum honey production for this year.

With the assumption that you have excess honey for extraction, you need to make plans as to how and when you are going to remove all those full supers. The first thing is that you want to have a clean, dry and bee proof area to place those supers and perform the extraction. Ideally your “honey house” should be dust free and have a temperature of about 90° F. You want your honey warm for extraction so that you get as much honey as possible from each cell.

Once you have your “honey house” setup, now is the time to decide when to take the supers off. You would like to remove the supers when the humidity is low. Honey is hygroscopic, so it absorbs moisture. A colony of bees is able to regulate moisture in the hive very efficiently, however when you remove the supers you lose this regulation and honey will absorb moisture, especially if it is uncapped. Ideally, you would like to only remove those frames that have at least 3/4 or more cells capped but this is fairly labor intensive to look at each individual frame, so most commonly you remove the entire super(s). You also want to wait until mid-day to remove the supers. The majority of the bees are out foraging so that there are fewer bees to have to deal with when you remove a super.

So how do you get the bees out of the super before you take it into the honey house? There are several methods. The first is to use a bee escape. This piece of equipment allows the bees to get out of the super(s) but they can't get back in. The disadvantage of this is it takes several hours to a day or two, thus requiring two visits to the bee yard (one to place the bee escape and the second to remove the supers). The second method is to brush the bees off of each individual frame. This is OK if you only have 1-2 supers but is not very realistic with a large number of supers. The third method is to use a bee blower. A leaf blower works well. You set the super on its end and direct the air between the frames. Make sure that you do not blow the bees toward anyone. If there are a large number of bees in the super, it does not take long to have the air full of bees. The fourth method is to use a fume board that you have applied a bee repellent on to. There are a few on the market (Bee Go, Honey Bee Gone and Fisher's Bee Quick). I prefer the Fisher's Bee Quick (smells better). You apply the repellent to the fume board and then place it on the top super. It drives the vast majority of the bees down into the lower supers in about 3 to 4 minutes. As soon as you remove the super you put the fume board on top of the next super and brush or blow the remaining bees out of the removed super and transport the bee free super to the honey house. If you can't take it immediately to the honey house, you need to cover it to prevent bees from returning or robbing. I find that if I turn an outer cover upside down, place the super in it and then place another outer cover on top, the bees usually stay out. The main thing is to work quickly.

Once you have the supers moved to the honey house, it is now time to extract. You would like to do this as soon as possible and make sure it is a day with low humidity. There are 2 reasons for this – you do not want to let the honey pick up

moisture and you do not want to run the risk of getting an infestation of wax moths or hive beetles. So, how do you determine if your honey is ready for extraction? The most scientific method is to use a refractometer and check the moisture content. Ideally you do not want to extract honey that has moisture content greater than 18 %. Honey that is greater than 18% moisture is more likely to ferment. You can also use the sling technique. This is where you take an uncapped frame and sling it towards the ground very quickly and then stop quickly. If honey slings out it is probably too wet. We all make the assumption that capped honey is less than 18% moisture content, while this is usually the case it is not a given.

If you are concerned or know the moisture content is too high, you can stack your supers in a small warm room and place a dehumidifier in it. Make sure you stagger the supers so that air can move through them. It is much easier to get moisture out of honey that is still in the comb rather than waiting until it is extracted. Another option is to cover the supers and dehumidifier with plastic. Make sure the back of the dehumidifier sticks out from under the plastic. Moist air usually blows out the back.

There are several methods of extraction. It is beyond this article to describe each. The basic equipment includes an uncapping knife, extractor, uncapping tank and settling tanks/buckets. However, you can cut the comb out of the frames, crush the comb and allow the honey to drain through a strainer.

Once you have extracted the honey you need to return the extracted supers to the colonies for cleaning. Do this late in the evening to prevent robbing and place them above the inner cover. The bees should have them cleaned out in a day or 2. Remove them just like you did for extraction. At this time, it is also a good time to clean propolis and burr comb from the supers and frames. Also check for old or damaged frames and discard them. Place the cleaned supers in a suitable storage area (pest free). Place a shim on the top super in the stack and then place moth crystals (Paradichlorobenzene crystals) on newspaper on the top super in the stack. Then cover with an outer cover. This prevents wax moth infestation. Check the crystals frequently and replenish as necessary. If you plan on a second harvest (i.e. sourwood) you do not need to do the storage at this time.

Good luck with your extraction and I hope each of you has had a good honey year!

Steve Adair

MEMBERS WITH BEE RELATED ITEMS FOR SALE

Charlie Parton Is taking orders for queens to be here in June. Call 865-776-1875

Ricky Bailey has Nuc's for sale. Call and Reserve. Call 865-250-8123

Coley O'Dell Will have Queens, through October. Call 865-984-5393

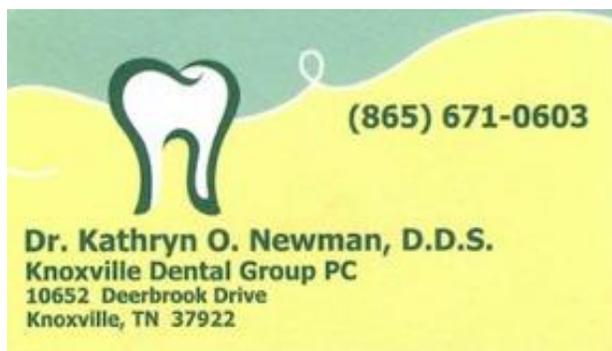
Howard Kerr Will have queens and HFC syrup for sale. Call 865-982-6750

Harlen Breeden has quarts of 65% Formic Acid for sale. Call 865-719-1828

PLACE AN AD

If you would like to place an ad in the BCBA newsletter, please call one of our officers listed in this publication.

Business card ads are \$32 for a paid member or \$40 for a non-member



Smokey Ridge Apiaries

Judy O'Dell

Owner, Manager

368 O,Dell Rd. Maryville, Tn 37801

info@smokeyridgeapiaries.com

865-984-5393

Beekeeping Equipment and Supplies

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

2018 DUES ARE DUE

IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR 2018 DUES IT IS TIME TO DO SO. AS OF MAY 1ST WE WILL ONLY BE SENDING TO PAID MEMBERS. BERNIE HAS ASK THAT WE MAIL OUR DUES IN TO AVOID STANDING IN LINE AT THE MEETING. DUES ARE \$20.00 AND MAIL THEM TO BERNIE MCGRAW, 1220 HAVENWOOD DR. MARYVILLE, TN. 37804. HE WILL BE TAKING PAYMENT AT THE MEETING ALSO. TO AVOID INTERUPTION OF THE NEWSLETTER PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.

A Beekeeper's Legacy

This month as our bees are busily putting up honey stores, we have been reminded of the transient nature of existence by the untimely passing of two of our cherished association members, Amy Chambers and Mike Coulter. Sadly, Jim Wood, a beekeeping friend in New York that I previously interviewed for our newsletter also passed away this month.

In appreciation of the three lives lost this month and their dedication to the art of beekeeping and gardening, I am considering: What is the legacy of a beekeeper? What does this work offer that transcends the short span of their lives?

Much like honeybees, beekeepers like Amy, Mike and Jim work hard and constantly. It is not a hobby for the lazy or impatient. It requires consistent dedication over time with a constantly evolving expertise. Moreover, it demands an understanding of nature from the most fundamental level: plant and insect interactions.

The knowledge our friends imparted did not die with them. They shared their knowledge and skill through the BCBA as well as with their own children and countless others. The plants they planted will also go on to serve, flourish and multiply, providing nectar for a variety of pollinators and creatures whose contributions to the ecosystems of the world are sorely underestimated and not yet fully understood. In short, the legacy of a beekeeper is a lasting one of hope for future generations of bees, flowers and humans.



**Blount County Beekeepers Association
c/o Mark Ford
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Knoxville, TN 37920**