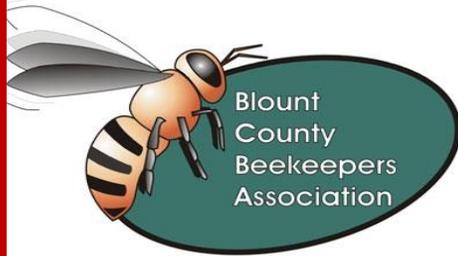


# BCBA

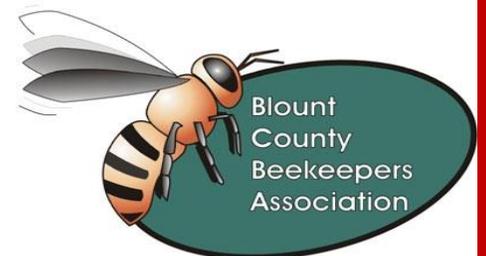
**BLOUNT COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

**FEB- 2018**



**FEB**

**NEWSLETTER**



Our next meeting will be the 12<sup>th</sup> of February at The Maryville Church of Christ at 6:30pm. As always, our meetings are free and open to the public. Our speaker will be our own Howard Kerr speaking on Biology of the Honey Bee. Howard is a great speaker and very knowledgeable about honey bees and you won't want to miss hearing his presentation.

Our short course for new beekeepers will be Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Maryville Church of Christ. Bring a lunch or there are several fast food places in the area. There will be a break for lunch. Topics include Bee Biology, Setting up an Apiary, Tools and protective gear, Installing bees in your hive, Where to get bees, Extracting honey and tips from the experts. Members if you know anyone that might be interested in beginning beekeeping please help us get the word out. Kelley Beekeeping Supply and Dadant Beekeeping Supply and Smokey Ridge Apiaries Beekeeping Supply will be set up for your convenience. Any members that would like to order supplies and pay for them in advance the Supply Companies will bring your order to the meeting with no shipping charge.

**NEW BEEKEEPERS CLASS:** BCBA will be having a class for new beekeeper's March 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9am at The Maryville Church of Christ. This class is required to be eligible to receive one of the 5 grants given by BCBA.

## **INSPECTORS CLASS**

**INSPECTOR CLASS** TAUGHT BY MIKE STUDER, THE STATE APAIRIST, WILL BE 2 NIGHTS, **FEB 26<sup>TH</sup> AND FEB 27<sup>TH</sup> FROM 5 PM to 9 PM.** IT WILL BE AT THE MARYVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 611 SHERWOOD DRIVE ACROSS HWY 129 FROM FOOTHILLS MALL. THE FEE WILL BE \$10.00 PER PERSON. BRING A NOTEBOOK TO TAKE NOTES.

REQUIREMENTS TO ATTEND THE CLASS IS A MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS AS A BEEKEEPER AND PREFERABLY TO HAVE ATTENDED Dr. JOHN SKINNERS "MASTER BEEKEEPING" CLASS. THE DEADLINE FOR BCBA MEMBERS TO SIGN UP IS FEB 6TH. ON OR AFTER THAT DATE THE COURSE WILL BE ADVERTISED TO OTHER CLUBS IN THE AREA. MIKE HAS SET A LIMIT OF 20 PEOPLE IN THE CLASS.

STACY ADAIR IN THE CONTACT PERSON TO SIGN UP FOR THIS CLASS. HER EMAIL IS [blountbees@charter.net](mailto:blountbees@charter.net) OR HER CELL # IS (865) 254 2500

## **SEASONAL MANAGEMENT**

Our queens are beginning to lay and brood rearing has begun. Adding pollen patties at this time will stimulate and promote brood rearing. This is a critical time so make sure your colonies have sufficient food supplies. As it warms up, check for brood patterns. Most of the brood will be located in the top brood box this time of the year. Reversing of brood boxes should be considered around the last of February being careful not to split the brood. If applying medications, it should be done by the end of the month for honey supers will be going on in March. Its time to make sure that your honey supers are ready to go on the colonies anticipating the Honey Flow. Happy Beekeeping and let the professionals (BEES) do the work.

## CHUCKS CORNER

We are starting to see some evidence of early flowers blooming, maples will be producing pollen and nectar soon and before you know it, dandelions will be blooming! Are you ready? If you haven't already, on the next warm day, you should check your hives. Also, check for food stores and if necessary, consider rotating your brood chamber (but be aware not to split your brood cluster). Now is the time to get all your hives and potential new growth ready. Swarms will be happening soon and maybe you can catch a swarm or 2 this year! But be aware that there will be a cold snap again. There could even be snow as late as April!

We are planning for a great 2018 schedule for our monthly BCBA meetings and I hope to see all of you there! Howard Kerr will be our speaker at our February meeting and I am looking forward to his interesting topic. If you know of a potentially new beekeeper, we will again promote the New Beekeeper Grant and the requirements for a potential grant recipient.

The BCBA Beekeeping Short Course will be February 17<sup>th</sup> here at Maryville Church of Christ (the Saturday following our next meeting). A lot of great information will be discussed and of course is required attendance for potential Grant recipients.

Have you ever thought about being an inspector for BCBA? If so, Mike Studer will be teaching a 2-day course February 26 & 27 from 5:00pm til 9:00pm (light snacks will be provided). There will be a cost of \$10. To attend you should have been keeping bees for at least 5 years and have attended one of Dr. John Skinner's intro to Master Beekeeping Courses.

Also, The Tennessee Beekeeper Association will be conducting its Spring meeting the 24<sup>th</sup> of February in Lebanon, TN. If you are interested in attending or even being a delegate for our club, please let me know. Seems like we had over 5 BCBA members attend last year.

Hope to see you at the February meeting!

Chuck

## 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



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## 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-© **Wintertime at Bell's  
Bees** by Ester Roberts

## 2018 DUES ARE DUE

**WE ARE STARTING A NEW YEAR IN BEEKEEPING AND AS ALWAYS IT IS THE TIME OF YEAR TO PAY OUR DUES. 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 INTERRUPTION OF THE NEWSLETTER PLEASE PAY BEFORE APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>.**

Thus far this winter, we have been very fortunate. All three of our hives are thriving. Greg made candy boards in December and the bees have been eating the candy and doing well.

As new beekeepers, we are taking a very conservative approach to opening the hives during winter. Greg waits until a warm day and then opens the top of each hive for just a few seconds – just long enough to check the candy boards and take a few photographs.

We have ordered several new supers for the coming year. Last year, we only put two supers on each hive, assuming the bees would not produce much honey because they were all brand new hives. Now we know at least one hive turned into “welfare bees” due to lack of supers, so this year, we’re going to be ready!

We have also decided to transition to shallow supers for honey production instead of the mediums we used last year. To save time, we purchased shallows that have a base coat of white paint on them, so all we need to do is paint them with a cheery yellow final coat and stencil flowers and bees on the shallows.

Because we prefer comb honey, last year we used wax base. This year, since we were changing to shallow supers and thus had to also buy new frames, Greg decided to buy frames that require only a strip of wax at the top for the bees to start building from. We are hoping this eliminates the thick mid-line wax base we had in our harvested honey last year. We are excited to begin the 2018 season of beekeeping!



## The Beekeeper's Year

Charlie Parton gave an excellent lecture at our January meeting and, with his permission, here are some highlights from his slides.

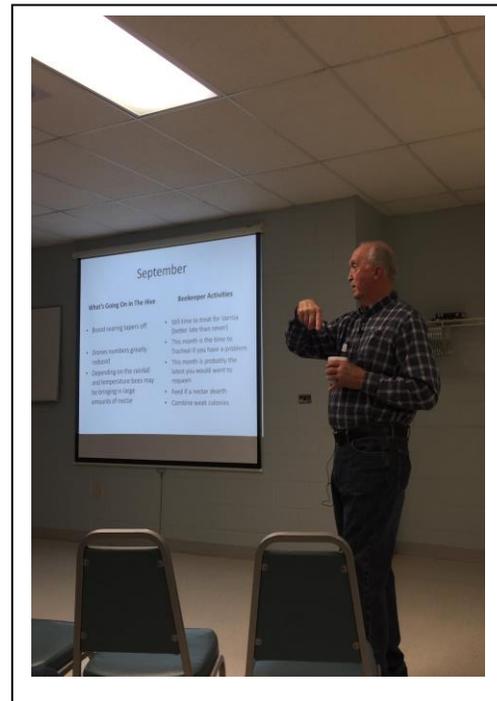
If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

### January

In the hive: The queen begins to lay eggs and brood rearing begins in healthy colonies. January is typically our coldest month but the bees will survive if they have a large cluster and plenty of food.

Beekeeper should: Check food stores in the hives but only on a day when it is above 50 degrees.

Repair and paint equipment to get ready for spring. Decide on spring mite treatments. Order any queens, nucs, or packages you may need.



Each bee brings in 1/12<sup>th</sup> of a teaspoon of nectar/pollen into the hive in their lifetime. If it takes 18,000 bees to maintain the brood nest, and you only have 20,000 in your hive, there won't be much honey. But if you have 60,000 bees, you'll have 40,000 bees out foraging.

### February

In the hive: The queen is stimulated by nectar and pollen coming in. The bees will be out on warm days.

Beekeeper should: Continue to monitor food stores. Put out spring medications by the middle of February. Reverse brood chambers; timing depends upon the weather but generally by the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of February. Use the 80-20 rule; 80% sugar; 20% pollen. Charlie puts food on every colony. "I can't imagine losing a hive because it starves to death."

### March

In the hive: March is a critical time for bees. More brood is being reared; colonies can starve in March if there's a cold spell and they have a lot of brood to care for.

Beekeeper should: Continue checking food stores. Reverse brood chambers the second time – this helps reduce swarming. Make sure all medications are off by mid-March and begin putting supers on. Remove entrance reducers and clean up/mow around the apiary.

### **April**

In the hive: Healthy hives will have a significant amount of drone brood; this just lets you know it's a healthy colony. If the hive is queen-right they don't need much at all from the beekeeper at this point.

Beekeeper should: April is the best month for requeening and making splits or nucs if you plan to do so. Add supers. Watch for queen cells and be ready for swarms. April 1-15 is peak swarm time.

### **May/June**

In the hive: If healthy, the hive is full of young bees – woo hoo!

Beekeeper should: Continue to add supers; this is essential to maximize honey production. **\*\*Add supers while the honey is still *uncapped*\* in the lower supers.** Otherwise, the bees will stop making honey. (welfare bees) Keep apiary mowed and entrances clear. Begin planning for extraction and moving to sourwood if you are going to make sourwood honey.

### **July**

In the hive: Bees are less active because of reduced nectar flow. They will be more aggressive because they have less to do and are more at the hive and will guard the hive. Bees will bring in more water as the temperature rises.

Beekeeper should: Harvest the honey if you didn't harvest in June. Make sure an ample water supply is available. Treat for varroa; presume you need to treat for varroa. You can plant buckwheat for additional forage at this time; it blooms in 30 days.

### **August - September**

In the hive: Bees may begin robbing weaker hives.

Beekeeper should: Leave enough honey in the hive for the bees to have a store for winter. Finish all treatments for pests. Have annual hive inspections. Aster begins to bloom; aster has a distinctive odor.

## Laura's Blurb

Honey Flow, Honey Flu

The health benefits of honey are scientifically proven as well as tried and true in many our homes. This is one of the worst flu seasons in recent memory. My whole family has been wiped out for the past week and we are not alone. Literally thousands of Tennesseans are suffering for a week or longer of body aches, fever, congestion, upset stomach, sneezing and coughing. The good news is that your favorite hobby is about to pay off!

Specifically, dark honey like buckwheat honey has been shown in labs to treat sore throats, coughs and sleeplessness more effectively than dextromethorphan, a key ingredient in over the counter cough suppressants\*. This is great news for children and adults alike since it is a natural remedy that quiets the coughs and allow our bodies to heal while we rest.

Another option for adults suffering from stomach discomfort, cold or flu is Krupnikas. A honey based, spiced liqueur. Served warm and sipped it makes a soothing treat to curb a number of ailments.

For the complete recipe, follow this link:

<http://www.geniuskitchen.com/recipe/quick-honey-liqueur-greitai-pagamintas-krupnikas-230414>

If you try it, give feedback on the BCBA Facebook page.

Bee well!

\*<http://www.cnn.com/2018/01/15/health/honey-healbenefits/index.html>

~LAURA ATWOOD

### MEMBERS WITH BEE RELATED ITEMS FOR SALE

Charlie Parton will have some California Monarchs for sale. Call 865-776-1875

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

Coley O'Dell Will have Queens, Nuc's and Packages Call and reserve. Call 965-984-5393

Howard Kerr Will have Nuc's and Packages Call and Reserve. Call 865-982-6750

**Blount County Beekeepers Association**  
c/o Mark Ford  
3018 French Creek Road  
Knoxville, TN 37920