

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 15th at 7 pm

Speaker:

Howard Kerr

Upcoming:

April 3 – Work Day

April 15 – Howard Kerr

April 22- (Thursday's Zoom from UT)

July 8 Master Beekeeping Course online

See page 7 of Newsletter for information

May 20 – Harlen Breeden

The Clinch Valley Beekeepers Association
meets every 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm at:

Treadway Fire Hall
189 Highway 131
Treadway, TN 37881

Website: <http://clinchvalleybeekeepers.Org>

Email: clinchvalley_beekeepers@yahoo.com

Also find us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/clinchvalleybeekeepers

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April 1, 2021
Candy Halford, Editor

April Meeting

We will meet in April as scheduled. If you are sick please stay home. Masks are optional but highly recommended. No food will be served.

Please help clean up after the meeting.

Notes from March Meeting:

Joel White was the speaker for the March Meeting. He comes from the Nashville area. He is first and foremost a honey producer. Utilizing a lot of bee equipment to show us his set up, his presentation was most interesting. Noting his mentors and his work time with the bees he began his discussion allowing questions during the presentation.

The fall makes the bees for the spring so he feeds in the fall to make them build a little longer. He uses 2 brood boxes per hive. Reversing the brood boxes-early spring to help in swarm prevention keeping the queen laying in the bottom. April 1-15 he adds one super box of foundation for honey. He reverses to keep queen on bottom all through. He also noted that to make comb takes away about 8 lbs honey production. So make sure you keep the drawn comb and check often to make sure they are not ruined by moths or beetles. He always uses all drawn comb in the first honey box. That way if the queen does get crowded she will lay there. In the deep brood box, as he looks through, any older (bad) comb is put on outside to be cycled out later. After the flow is going on, he puts foundation only in the middle of the brood box and takes out the old from the side to cycle out.

When the honey super is about half full or better, don't just add another box, checkerboard the two boxes. Put a full frame on the outside, an empty frame next, full, empty and so forth. This motivates the bees. If you use foundation only do it the same way. He doesn't use a queen excluder and says as the honey flow progresses the bees will move the queen down naturally. As he is adding boxes and looking in the hive he suggests marking the full boxes with an X on the outside, this way he doesn't have to look through it again.

Notes from the March Meeting Continued:

Check for queen cells every 3-5 days. He uses a double screen board if he sees a lot of started or any capped queen cells. The double screen board is his last resort to keep the queen from swarming.

To do this he separates the two brood boxes (using a third box) into queen cell frames and non queen cell frames. Putting the queen in the non queen cell frame box. (If not found check in a few days to see where egg laying is taking place with an excluder between the two. She has to be in the no queen cell box to continue. Marking a queen is recommended.)

He then puts the queen cell box on the bottom board of the hive and hopes for a hatch and return mated queen, the supers on top of it, then a double screen (open the back top door), and the old queen on top. The workers return to the front leaving the queen with only young bees so she doesn't swarm.

After a couple of weeks, he closes the back top door, opens the back bottom door and opens a side top on the double screen so again the queen will be left with the young bees and will not swarm. Now he has all the work force making honey. He continues to add supers (checkerboard) as needed below the double screen board.

He only pulls the honey one time in the season, toward the end of June, when flow is finished, but marks the full supers as he goes through the season. After he pulls the honey supers off, he immediately puts on his apiguard for mite treatment. Then he can separate the two queen boxes creating a separate hive if desired. By August he requeens those needing requeening and feeds to keep her laying longer, building a good winter cluster.

Beekeeping In April

From: <https://cookevillebeekeepers.com/tn-beekeeping-annual-calendar/>

Beekeeping begins in earnest by April – you should be doing regular inspections to monitor hive conditions. We are frost free many years by the 15th most years by May 1.

Early blooms such as fruit trees make ample forage available when the weather is fair – but hives can still starve during extended cold or rainy weather, because large amounts of brood can quickly eat through all available stores. But this becomes increasingly unlikely as April progresses. Swarms however become increasingly more likely throughout the month. Wax/comb production ramps up in April.

Our main flow consisting of black locust and tulip poplar may begin later in the month.

Main beekeeping tasks are to keep supers going on and try to prevent swarming. You might even try to collect a few swarms. April is a great time to make splits or begin rearing queens.

If you are a beginner – April or May is probably when you will get and install your bees—hereafter known as the happiest day of your life.

Bee Funny

Where does the bee keep it's old hive? Answer on page 8.

Support The Club

2021 Bee Packages and Nucleus Colonies

We will be getting packages from Winters Apiaries again prices will be \$110 for Italians and \$135 for Caucasians. All the nucs have been reserved. All money must be turned in by the April 15, 2021 meeting. We will call if the nucs come sooner or announce the expected dates during the next meeting.

Please call Lloyd "Junior" Snelson 432-626-5538 for more information.

2021 Calendars

Cindy Barnett has a few of the new calendars available. She will print more as needed.

Hats, T-shirts, and Cookbooks

We have Clinch Valley Beekeeper Association hats and t-shirts available. T-shirts are \$10, \$12 for XXL+ sizes, and hats are \$8. Also we still have Clinch Valley Beekeepers Association cookbooks. They have recipes from past and current members. Many of the recipes feature different ways to use honey! They are available for \$10.

Club Membership

CVBA membership dues are due between now and the end of March. CVBA dues are still \$10 a year for a single and \$15 for a family. See a CVBA officer to complete a new membership form. You may pay your dues directly to one of the CVBA officers. You may also mail your membership dues (please include your phone # in case we need to reach you) to the following address:

Clinch Valley Beekeeper Association
C/O William Barnett
4853 Highway 31
Sneedville, TN 37869

If any of your information (address, phone#, email, etc.) changes, please let us know. We want to make sure you are able to stay connected with the club to help you get the most out of your membership!

Clinch Valley Beekeepers Library

We have several books checked out that need to be turned in so that others can have a chance to use them. Check out the selection of books and DVDs we have available. It's wonderful to have so many taking an interest in reading and viewing DVDs that will expand their knowledge about beekeeping. If you have a book or video checked out, please return it at the next meeting. There may be someone else patiently waiting. If you have an idea for a book or dvd you think would be good for our library let us know. We are always looking for great material for the library. If the librarian is not at the meeting and you have a book to return, please see Jr. Snelson the club president, or Cindy Barnett the club secretary.

Recipe of the Month

Apple Quick Bread

3 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon salt

1 ½ cups milk

1 cup honey

2 eggs

1 tablespoon vanilla

2 cups peeled and finely diced Granny Smith apples (or other tart apple)

1 cup finely chopped pecans

Heat oven to 350°F.

In a medium bowl, combine flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk together milk, honey, eggs and vanilla. Fold in dry ingredients until just blended. Stir in apples and pecans.

Divide batter between two greased 9-by-5-inch loaf pans and bake for about 45 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Cool in pans for 15 minutes, then turn out and cool completely on a wire rack. Serve with butter and honey, if desired. Store in a plastic bag. Yields 2 loaves.

Originally Published: GRIT's Guide to Backyard Bees and Honey 2011

How to Find Your Honey Bee Queen (published on Mother Earth News website)

Your honey bee queen is the most critical member of the colony. She is the egg layer, work director, and it is through her pheromones the colony knows they are a cohesive unit. Without her the hive dies. Periodically, it is good to have a queen sighting just to know she is alive and well. If you have trouble spotting the queen, you can always tell by larvae and eggs that she is present. But it is much more fun to spot her yourself.

Check the Brood Boxes

Most of the time, the queen is on a frame in a brood box. Remember the brood box is exactly what it sounds like: where the colony is raising brood. To examine the frames, start on one side, pull out the first frame and inspect both sides closely. Handle frames gently and complete the inspection over the open box. If the queen does happen to be on this frame and drop off, she will fall back into the hive.

Do you see capped cells in an arch pattern? If so, your queen has been there. You may see open cells with a small "c" shape in the bottom. Congratulations. You have spotted an egg. You will also note developing larvae in uncapped cells. It is helpful during these thorough inspections to have a frame holder on the outside of the box. As you inspect the hive, place the first two frames on the holder after you ensure the queen is not on those frames. As you move through each frame after the first two, simply slide the next frames to the empty space. After inspection return the frames to the original positions.

Look for a Retinue

Another clue that the queen is in the vicinity is a "retinue". This is a small contingent of attendant bees who follow her in a semicircle with a space between her and the rest of the colony. I find it easier to spot the queen directly than the retinue and notice the retinue after the fact. If you have the opportunity, snap a photo when you do spot the queen. Studying pictures helps you learn what to look for the next time.

Marked Queens

If you know you have a marked queen this will make finding her bit easier. A dot of paint is placed on the queen's thorax. Once you find the dot of paint you are assured this is the queen. You will also know her age by the color of the paint. An international marking system specifies the color used to mark honeybee queens by the year of birth. Since queens are typically viable for only 2-3 years, five colors are used.

Year Ending in: Color

1 or 6: White

2 or 7: Yellow

3 or 8: Red

4 or 9: Green

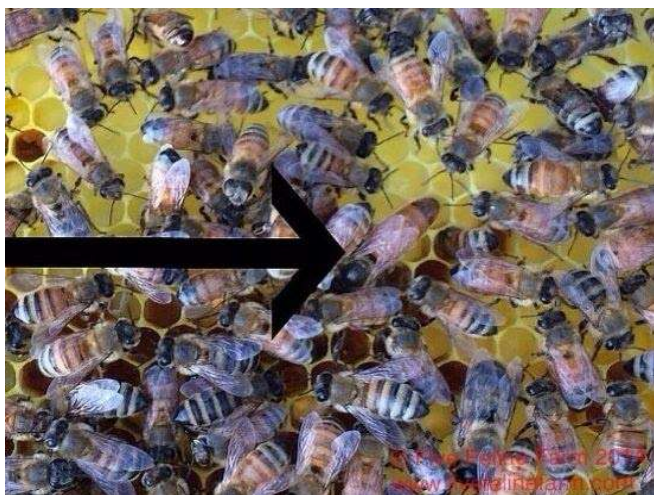
5 or 0: Blue

The key to finding the queen is patience and careful examination. It also takes some practice. The first few times, I was able to spot eggs and larvae but no queen. Now a queen sighting is

How to Find Your Honey Bee Queen continued

much more routine.

Check out these three pictures to see if you can find the queen.



Happy Hunting.

Don't forget to stop by our website www.FiveFelineFarm.com or Facebook page www.facebook.com/fivefelinefarm for more information about this Central Illinois hobby farm. There is always something new on the farm.

Originally Published: 7/2/2014 10:27:00 AM

From an Email received

Fri, Mar 26, 4:49 PM

Our 2021 class will be virtual (zoom) and held on Thursdays from 6-7:30pm CST / 7-8:30 EST from April 22 until July 8th. To receive a certificate you must participate in at least 10 of the 12 sessions. This class qualifies for TAEP credit so long as the attendance and participation requirement is met. We know this is not the same as an in-person class but we are doing what we can to still provide educational programming for beekeepers and bee enthusiasts! Thank you for your understanding.

Early registration is \$125 per person and is open to TN residents right now but on April 12th, registration will also open for non-TN residents. On April 16, the price goes up to \$150 per person, regardless of residency.

More information can be found on my website (tiny.utk.edu/apiculture), which has a link to the registration site. PLEASE READ THE REGISTRATION PAGE CAREFULLY. There is a lot of information there - please review it before sending questions or registering (fees are non-refundable unless the class is cancelled due to low registration).

Thank you, again, for your interest! I hope to see you this spring/summer!

Sincerely,

Jennifer

CVBA Board of Directors and Officers Elected Board Members

President Lloyd "Junior" Snelson 432-626-5538
David Sams 423-693-6846
Vice President William Barnett 423-754-8523
Tim Andrews 423-272-5492
Secretary Cindy Barnett 423-300-2968
Treasurer Lynda Eskola 423-733-2017

Committee Membership

Membership Debra Campbell 865-771-9781
Newsletter Candy Halford 865-310-0120
Website Cindy Barnett
Sunshine Jean Snelson 423-626-5538
Librarian

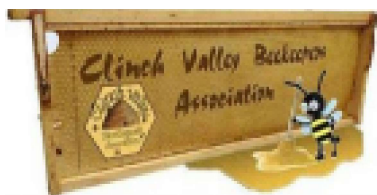
Bee Inspectors for the CVBA

Claiborne County

Lloyd "Junior" Snelson 423-626-5538
Debbie Clayton 865-310-2421
Bill Clayton 423-626-8786

Sullivan County

Wayne Yates 423-288-6536



Clinch Valley Beekeepers Association

Jr Snelson - President
P O Box 736
Sneedville, TN 37869

There are many books, websites, and videos that are available. We encourage each person to expand their knowledge of bees and beekeeping.

We also encourage everyone to have a mentor, especially if you are new to beekeeping. If you need a mentor please let us know at the next meeting and we will try to find one that is close to you and/or your apiary.

Remember all apiaries must be registered with the State of TN. Forms are available at the meeting or they can be downloaded from the internet. <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/bees/forms.html>

We also encourage membership in the Tennessee Bee Association. Forms are available at the club meetings.

Answer to Bee Funny- In a wax museum of course!