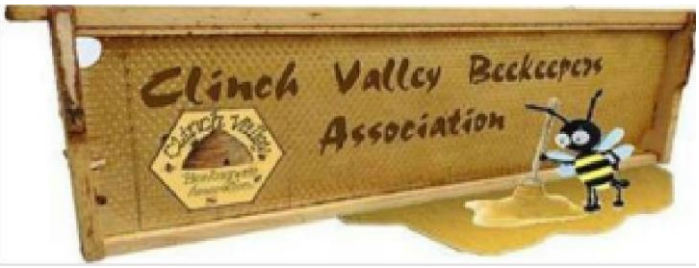

CVBA Newsletter
Volume 12, Number 6
June 1, 2021
Candy Halford, Editor
Email: cvbanewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

Thursday, June 17th at 7 pm

Speaker: David Winters

Upcoming:

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

Treadway Fire Hall
189 Highway 131
Treadway, TN 37881

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/clinchvalleybeekeepers

Website: http://clinchvalleybeekeepers.org

Email: clinchvalley_beekeepers@yahoo.com

Upcoming Speakers

July-Chris Kinser
August-Linda Rizzardi
September-Jim Garrison

Bee Funny

What do you get when you cross a bee and a doorbell?
(Answer on the bottom of the last page.)

Notes from May Meeting:

The May meeting speaker was not able to attend. All was not lost. David Sams and Lloyd Snelson did a very informative question and answer session.
You never know just what will happen when CVBA members get together. Also we welcomed several new members and guests.
Things to remember are that each hive is different, and each yard is different. There is not a one size fits all for beekeeping. The answers are what is recommended by the person's past experience and it is a suggestion not a rule.

Some of the questions were about the package bees hording pollen instead of nectar. Some bees just do that, some do the nectar and not pollen. If the colony gets honey, pollen, nectar or anything bound so the queen cannot lay (no cells available), change them out. Always give her room to lay.

Sometimes the queen goes straight up in two or three frames and refuses to go outward. Move the empty's to where she is and if she just won't go outward, that is when a queen excluder comes in handy.

Honey, put the drawn comb in to save the bee from making comb when it is available.

Swarms are ready to make drawn comb and they are gold to the beekeeper.

Put the wet comb (after straining honey out) back on the same hive.

Regulations if you produce 150 gallons of honey it's required to have a certified honey house. (continued on page 2)

May Meeting continuation:

How often do you check? That is up to the beekeeper. Some "experts" say once a month, some more often. At first packages you should see the eggs and/or larva after about a week. Our president, Lloyd Snelson, says he does not check often if all seems to be well the after the first check. When the bees are going and coming as they should with pollen and nectar etc and all they are increasing in foragers from looking at the landing all is probably well in the hive. Messing with them interrupts them and they slow down production and laying etc. You are also taking more chance on harming the queen. So he watches and checks when needed. During honey flow, supers do need to be added regularly. But messing in the brood chamber can be as needed. It is recommended to have more than one hive and you can compare the goings and comings to give you experience in knowing when to check. Is one a lot different than the other and from last check? If so, get in and see what's happening.

Adding supers? Some keep putting on top that is not recommended. Recommended is to put empty or checkerboard closer to the bottom. Yes, it is a lot of work to pull the full ones off and put back but you get more honey. It saves the bee from going so far with it's load and it keeps them working harder to fill the hive. It's like: "I thought you filled that." "Well, let's get it done now." It is also a good idea to keep record of which hives fill supers faster than others and how much. That way you know what to expect each year or if you need to requeen.

Ants? It seems cinderblocks for bases attract ants more. Most are the tiny ants but the question was actually on carpenter ants. If you have legs that can be put in cans with oil in them it keeps them at bay. David Sams mentioned that ants are full of formic acid which is what we treat for varroa mites with. His are usually in to top cover instead of inside. So he squishes them every now and then. If too much where getting into pollen or brood that is where it gets to be a problem. Put equipment grease on the post if possible put on cinder blocks. Tanglefoot was mentioned to use also.

How close to set the bees? They travel for 2 miles or so. Therefore you can put several together to make it easier for you to keep and they will pollenate that far. So putting one hive at each orchard area within a quarter mile may not be needed.

Remember if a queen is not laying a good pattern, it is better to requeen than let her go on being scattered. Also watch to make sure you don't have a laying worker. The cells for drones are larger and raised up, if that is all you have it is a laying worker. If you have flat cells for workers, even if drones are there, it is a queen. Usually when a queen swarms there are up to 3 batches of queens just in case the first one doesn't come back. Yes, she will kill the ones ready to hatch with her but usually there are some behind that batch in the hive. She won't kill them until she returns, and they have matured more. If she makes it back, then they are killed because she is now queen. This is a safeguard that allows a hive to continue when the old queen swarms or when the hive decides they need a new queen.

New beekeepers were recommended to smell their hives when they are out there. Usually all is well. In fall when the goldenrod comes in (most yellow flowers are great bee flowers) the hive smell will not be as pleasant, but it makes good honey too. If you have a really foul smell a bee inspector from our club can come to make sure you have no virus present that will destroy the hive or those around it. Please call them.

If there is a bee tree in the area, that is a great place to put up a swarm trap. Don't take them from the tree, let them keep swarming to your trap. There was some light discussion about traps and plans can be found on https://horizontalhive.com . You can use a box or a nuc box on top of a nuc and leave the bottom one open and frames in the top. You can put lemongrass oil or swarm commander in them. We

will have a program more in depth sometime this winter so information will be there before next spring season. (If you see David Sams is the speaker for the meeting it may be the swarm trap program.) Usually in early spring it is a regular swarm. In the fall it may be bees absconding from a hive for sickness or anything else. So having them away from your main apiary bees (at another yard a couple miles away or more) would be an alright idea.
Note: they aren't making honey when they are swarming.
If your bees are in a swarming mode, you see a lot of queen cells in your hive, you can take the old queen and place her in a new hive and split it out before the swarm starts. Leave the cells in the original hive. Or another way is to leave old queen and shake all the bees in the new hive with the old frame and move it. The old bees will go back to original hive and some will return to being nurse bees so all is well. All the nurse bees you shook out into the new hive will make their own queen. The old queen will begin making brood again.

Bees in the wall of buildings or houses? They can be funneled out but the honeycomb etc will still be there unless you take the place apart. It will take a month or two to get them all out including the queen, but eventually she will depart too.

More information than is written here was given out and more questions that aren't really covered here. That is why we always hope you can come to the meetings. We thank David and Lloyd for giving us their time.

Beekeeping Calendar

June

(Piedmont, NC Beekeeping Calendar)

Main nectar flow starts to dwindle---fewer supers needed, unless sourwood is nearby: if in an area of sourwood, consider harvesting available honey before the mid-June sourwood flow to ensure a more "pure" sourwood crop. If honey is harvested, put "wet" supers back on hives late in day to limit robbing.
Can start late-season splits during last half of June; feed splits initially, even if there is nectar available
Continue measures to control small hive beetle population.
Keep water for bees constantly available.

Recipe of the Month

Honey Garlic Butter Chicken Thighs with Broccoli

12 Oz package Frozen Broccoli Florets Thawed
2 Teaspoons Olive Oil
¼ Teaspoon Salt
¼ Teaspoon Ground Black Pepper
½ Teaspoon Italian Seasoning
½ Teaspoon Paprika
2 Pounds Chicken Thighs with Skin
******
¼ Teaspoon Salt
¼ Teaspoon Ground Black Pepper
¼ Teaspoon Onion Powder
1 Tablespoon Butter
1 Teaspoon Honey
½ Teaspoon Garlic
1 Teaspoon Fresh Lemon Juice

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. In a large bowl, toss together the thawed broccoli, the olive oil, first amounts of salt and pepper, Italian seasoning, and paprika. Arrange the broccoli on a sheet tray lined with aluminum foil, leaving 4 spaces for your chicken thighs in the next step.

Arrange the 4 chicken thighs in amongst the broccoli on the sheet tray. Sprinkle the second amounts of salt and pepper, and the onion powder evenly over the tops of the chicken thighs. Please feel free to adjust the seasonings to suit your own personal tastes.

Melt the butter in a small heat proof bowl. You can do this over the stove in a double boiler or in the microwave. Add the honey, garlic, and lemon juice to the bowl with the melted butter. Stir everything together until smooth and well combined.

Using a marinade brush, brush most of the honey garlic butter mixture (reserving 1 tablespoon) all over the exposed chicken thighs. Make sure to cover the chicken evenly in the marinade, coating both the meat and skin. Reserve the remaining tablespoon of honey garlic butter aside for later.

Transfer the tray to the oven and bake for 50 minutes. Halfway through the cooking time, brush the reserved honey garlic butter over the chicken thighs, then return to the oven to finish cooking. This additional coating of marinade is what creates a layer of crispy, sweet chicken skin.

Support Your Bee Club

CVBA 2021 Calendars

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

Clinch Valley Beekeeper Association Hats, T-shirts, and Cookbooks

T-shirts are $10 and $12 for XXL+ sizes
Hats are $8
Cookbooks are $10.

Club Membership

CVBA dues are still $10 a year for a single person and $15 a year 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 or mail them (please include your phone number and email address 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 numbers, email, etc.) changes, please let us know. We want to make sure you can stay connected with the club to help you get the most out of your membership!

Clinch Valley Beekeepers Library

Check out the selection of books and DVDs we have available. If you have a book or video checked out, please return it at the next meeting. Books can be returned to the Club Librarian, President, or Secretary. If you have an idea for a book or DVD you think would be good for our library let us know.

Bee Insights

From: https://carolinahoneybees.com/bees-see-flowers/

How do Bees See Flowers?

May 12, 2021

How Bees See the World

Researchers have long been impressed with the amazing eyesight of bees. In the early 1900's bee scientist Karl von Frisch determined that bees could see color. They were able to differentiate between red and blue. We humans can see more colors than honey bees. However, the bees can see a wider range of color that includes ultraviolet light (UV). This helps bees see flowers and find nectar across a wide area.

Many plants depend on insect pollination in order to make fruit and produce seed. Their existence depends on visiting pollinators. These flowers use scents, as well as different colors and markings to lure in pollinators.

Some flowers have obvious markings, also called nectar guides, to help the pollinators target the spot with nectar. We can see these even with our human eyes.

But bees see flowers much differently than we do. They can find those flowers with nectar guides that are invisible to humans.

Honey Bee Eyes
Honey bees have 5 eyes. These parts of a honey bee have special functions. At the top of the head is a cluster of 3 small eyes called "ocelli". Ocelli are not used to gather images; they are light receptors.

They help the bees measure light and also aid in navigation. It is these small eyes that help bees see the UV colors in some flowers.

In addition to Ocelli, honey bees have 2 large eyes. They are made up of thousands of small facets or lenses. Worker bees have 6,900 facets in each eye and they are all connected to provide a mosaic picture.

Drone bees have even larger eyes with 8,600 facets. Why, you may ask, does the drone bees have larger eyes – they do no work? Because the role of the drone bees is to find a virgin queen and mate.

Honey bees mate while in flight. Those boys need good eyesight to find flying queens. Good eyesight is even more important to drones than workers.

How Bees See Color

Human sight is based on 3 colors – red, blue and green. Honey bees also see three base colors – blue, green and UV.

When honey bees are in flight, their color vision is turned off. The world appears in black and white. But when they approach their target location, the colors come into focus. Jurgen Tautz has some wonderful information about this in his book – The Buzz about Bees.

Bees cannot see red. They do not have photo receptors to intercept the color red. Of course, this does not mean that red things are invisible to bees – instead they look black.

This is why most beekeeper suits are light colors. We do not want to look like a dark predator to the bees.

What Colors do Bees Like Best?
Honey bees can distinguish some colors in the red family such are orange and yellow. There is also a special combination of violet, blue and blue-green that is called "bees' purple".

Unfortunately, you will never see bees' purple because it is a combination of yellow and UV light. According to research, bees' favorite colors are purple, violet and blue.

But that doesn't mean they don't visit flowers of many other colors. They forage for food wherever they can find it and color is only one cue.

Navigation Aided by Sight

The honey bee may be very small but they process sight information much faster than humans. Bees can find single blossoms in a group of flowers much faster than we could. Even when traveling fast, bees can single out a desirable flower with amazing accuracy.

When a good food source is found, scout bees return to the hive to recruit their sisters to the site. Using various bee dances to communicate, the location of food resources is shared.

The ability of these remarkable bee eyes to see and analyze polarized UV light must not be overlooked. This enables them to navigate by the sun – even when the sun is not shining. Without the ability to use polarized light, the bees would never make it back to the hive.

Can Bees See in the Dark?

With a few exceptions, you will not find honey bees out at night. They rely on vision and scent to find food sources, And it is difficult for them to avoid obstacles in the dark.

Life inside the hive continues and the queen bee will lay eggs day and night. However, darkness is a time of rest for foraging bees.

Final Thoughts on Honey Bee Sight

As with most aspects of bee life, honey bees are designed with eyes that meet their needs. Large compound eyes that provide visuals and small ocelli to aid in navigation are both important.

Sharing come characteristics with humans, the eyes of honey bees are specialized. They must be able to find millions of flowers efficiently. Along with odor cues, they use their sense of sight to forage for things the colony needs. These busy bees have a lot to do during the warm months of Summer. Winter is coming – always.

Beekeeper Charlotte Master Beekeeper, Charlotte Anderson shares her love of all things honeybee. She helps others become better beekeepers and teaches new beekeepers how to get started. Her mission is spreading awareness of the importance of honey bees. She is a former Beekeeper of the Year in South Carolina.

Non-Affiliated Programs

(just for information)

https://www.hivesforheroes.com

A national organization, divided into local area chapters, focused on suicide prevention and a healthy transition from service. Comprised of veterans, beekeepers, and volunteers, each chapter is empowered to establish and operate independently. Through community partnerships, local area beekeepers, and community engagement, our goal is to connect 1 Veteran + 1 Mentor + 1 Hive

https://www.pollinator.org

Mite-A-Thon is a tri-national effort to collect mite infestation data and to visualize *Varroa* infestations in honey bee colonies across North America within a two week window. (August 14-29) All beekeepers can participate, creating a rich distribution of sampling sites in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Their *Varroa* monitoring data will be uploaded to www.mitecheck.com. The parasitic mite, *Varroa destructor* (*Varroa*), and the viruses it vectors is a significant driver of this honey bee colony mortality. Yet, indicators suggest that many beekeepers are not monitoring honey bee colony *Varroa* infestations and therefore not able to connect infestation to colony loss.

https://horizontalhive.com
referenced for plans in Newsletter.

CVBA Board of Directors and Officers

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

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Website: Cindy Barnett 423-300-2968
Sunshine: Jean Snelson 423-626-5538
Librarian:

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Bill Clayton 423-626-8786
Sullivan County
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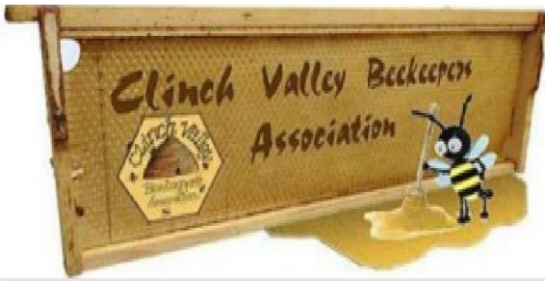

CVBA encourages each person to further their education by reading books, checking out various websites, and watching the videos that are available on bees and beekeeping. You Tube has lots of videos to check out.

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- A hum-dinger!