

CLINCH VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

newsletter

CVBA Newsletter

Volume 13, Number 11

December 1, 2022

Sherri Hudson, editor

 [EMAIL](#)
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Clinch Valley Beekeepers
meet every 3rd Thursday
at 7:00 pm at:
Treadway Fire Hall
189 Highway 131
Treadway, TN 37881

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Save The Bees:
They Help Keep
The World Sweet.



Happy Holidays

**“KEEPING OF BEES IS LIKE THE
DIRECTION OF SUNBEAMS”**

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

NEXT MEETING

Date

December 15, 2022 - 7pm
Treadway Fire Hall
189 Hwy 131
Treadway, TN 37881

Please note that if School is cancelled in Hancock County, we will NOT have the meeting.

Speaker

There will not be a guest speaker for December's meeting. Instead, we will be having a Christmas party. There will be a carry-in dinner, fellowship with other beekeepers, and a holiday game called Dirty Santa. What better way to get into the Christmas spirit than with some gift giving and stealing? If you don't know what Dirty Santa is [click here](#) to learn more.

Food Theme

Christmas Dinner

It's the most wonderful time of the year for family, friends, and beekeepers and with Christmas right around corner, it's time to share your favorite main dish, sides, bread, &/or dessert with others.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board Meeting

December 8 at 6:30 PM : The CVBA Board will meet at Lynda Eskola's home. As always, any member may attend, however only board members can vote. If you have a topic for discussion, please call Jr. Snelson (President) whose number is on the last page of the Newsletter prior to the meeting.

NEWS from

NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting opened with prayer by the President, Lloyd Snelson Jr.

There were 23 members and guests in attendance.

The current financial report was given by club treasurer Linda Eskola. It was then approved.

Jr. thanked the members who helped at the festivals in October.

Beekeeper of the year was announced as Candy Halford.

Discussion about having a Dirty Santa game at the next meeting. It was agreed upon. To find out about Dirty Santa [click here](#). Bring a wrapped gift new or used if you want. This is an option since there will be plenty of gifts for all so if you can't bring one that's no problem. No \$ amount specified and no theme, but beekeeping is always appropriate for our group. Bring your family!!!

There will be a board meeting Dec. 8th. Upcoming Events.

Jr. announced that Sherri will be applying for a small grant from Walmart. Terry Bush the Tazewell store manager donated a case of water to the club. Thank you, Terry.

We were reminded that [membership dues](#) are payable at the Jan. meeting.

David asked for speaker ideas and suggestions.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned, and we enjoyed a very nice meal. Thank you to all who brought dishes and those who served and cleaned up after the meal.

Hope to see you December 15th.



Message from the Secretary

Hello Everyone,

I want to remind all of you that **membership dues** are payable the 1st of the year. Dues are not pro-rated.

Needed - **Committee Members**

We need motivated individuals to help us with our membership, mentor, & festival committees for 2023. Join one or more of our committees today and help make it the best **Clinch Valley Beekeeping Association** yet. Be sure to invite your friends to do the same! Click on the link to find out more about our **Committees**.

Needed - Librarian

CVBA has a selection of books and DVDs available for check out by our members. We need a volunteer to manage this easy position of checking items out and in. Please see the secretary for more information.

Apiary of the Month is

searching for members who want to display their apiaries in our newsletter. This is a way of inspiring others and for others to recognize your hard work. Please submit a photo of your hive (you can include yourself in the photo) to: cvbanewsletter@gmail.com.

Swarm List - If you would like to be notified of a swarm in your area, we would like to add a page to our website that list anyone who removes swarms. Please see or email the secretary. cvbanewsletter@gmail.com.

Library - If you have check out an item from our library, please remember that check out is until the next meeting. Please bring the items you checked out back to the next meeting as others may want to check them out as well.



NOTES from the SPEAKER

November's presentation was given by vice president, David Sams.

David reported on the East Tennessee Beekeepers Conference that was held in Greenville in October. He mentioned one of the speakers Kent Williams, master beekeeper, who hosts a free bee school on his farm in Wingo, Kentucky. You can read more about Kent's school by [clicking here](#).

David said that it was nice to meet with others and that they are considering having another conference in the spring. He noted that the club made around \$180 which was donated to the church for providing the facility.

David mentioned that he would be talking to a member of the Davy Crocket Beekeepers club about speaking on creating natural products from beeswax and honey. *Personally, I won't be missing that presentation. (Sherri)*

David mentioned visiting other bee clubs and taking field trips. Your input/suggestions/ideas would be appreciated.

David's Recipe for Sugar Bricks

25# cane sugar
3 Tbls. pd. citric acid
1 - 1½ apple cider vinegar with the mother
3 Tbls. Honey Bee Healthy
Mix together and pat out to make a brick.
Add above the brood box.

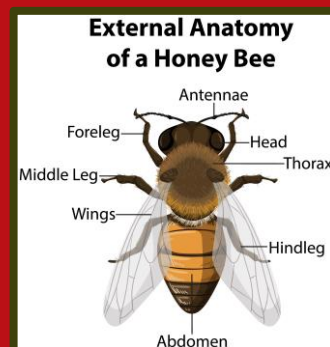
Don't feed liquid syrup during wintertime because the bees won't have time to get the moisture out creating high humidity.

Protein patties will stimulate brood building. This should be done in late July/Aug then again in Feb/March.

Watch carefully for swarming.

Wintertime is a good time to move bees.

There was a very informative question/answer/discussion session.



BEE CALENDAR

December has quite a lot of fair weather here in the South. Watch the weather predictions and plan to do a varroa mite treatment on one of those fair-weather days. You can do this last treatment any time after brood is no longer present in the hives - usually by Thanksgiving. Oxalic acid - either vapor or trickle - can be done almost any time regardless of the temp. MAQS requires a day warm enough for the bees to fan - preferably 2-3 in a row. OA vapor doesn't even require opening the hive. If you plan to do Mt Camp sugar as an insurance action after you do your mite treatment is the ideal time.

MEMBERSHIP

Renewal Dues become payable January 1st of each year. Dues are not pro-rated.

Single membership \$10
Family (one vote per family) \$15
Youth Single (No vote) \$5

See a CVBA officer to complete a new membership form or click here to download a form.

Checks should be made payable to CVBA. You can mail checks to the address on the last page. Please let us know if any of your information has changed. We want to make sure you can stay connected with the club to help you get the most out of your membership!

BEE STORE

T-shirts are available;

S, M, L, XL sizes - \$10

XXL and larger sizes - \$12

Hats - \$8

Cookbooks - \$10

2023 Calendars - \$5

Available at regular meetings.

BEE INSIGHTS

50 FACTS ABOUT AMAZING HONEYBEES

Adapted from: [HoneyBee Facts - 50 Things You Never Knew About Hone Bees! \(buzzaboutbees.net\)](http://HoneyBee Facts - 50 Things You Never Knew About Hone Bees! (buzzaboutbees.net))

Here are lots of honeybee facts, including quick snippets of information to get you started, general facts, scientific research, historical points of interest plus a couple of quirky facts about honeybees.

Interesting General Facts About Honeybees

- The honeybee is also known as *Apis mellifera*. *Apis* is a very old word probably with Egyptian roots but is also related to the Greek word for 'swarm'. *Mellifera* means 'honey-bearing' in Latin.
- Only female honeybees can sting, the males (drones) are not able to sting, but if you are stung it will probably be by a worker. Queen honeybees can sting, but they remain close to the hive, and so a sting from a honeybee queen would be very rare.
- If the queen honeybee is removed from the hive, within 15 minutes, the rest of the colony knows about it!

cont.

VIDEO of the MONTH

Fascinating Bees Facts



MENTORING

We encourage everyone to have a mentor, especially if you are new to beekeeping. If you need a mentor, please let Jr. Snelson or David Sams know at the next meeting and they will try to find one. Please consider being a mentor for our club! See the secretary to be put on the list

EDUCATION

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.

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.

REMINDERS

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>

BEE FUNNY

What's black and yellow and flies at 30,000 feet?
(answer on last page)



BEE INSIGHTS cont.

- The queen honeybee is about twice the length of a worker.
- A honeybee queen may lay as many as 2000 - 3000 eggs per day as she establishes her colony.
- Honeybees communicate through pheromones.
- Drones (male honeybees) die after mating.
- Foraging honeybees must fly about 55,000 miles to produce a pound of honey, visiting around 2 million flowers.
- Honeybees may typically fly between 1 - 6 km on a foraging trip, but also up to 13.5 km.
- Honeybees fly up to 15 mph and beat their wings 200 times per second or 12,000 beats per minute!
- Each honeybee makes about 1 twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.
- The honeybee is the only insect that produces a food (honey) eaten by man in significant quantity.
- The antennae on honeybees are very sensitive and important for tasting things. The tips of the antennae have more than 300 taste sensors!
- The honeybee is one of the most scientifically studied creatures in the world after man!
- Scent is important for bees. A study has found that bees are better at learning new odors (smells) in the morning.
- Honeybees eat nectar and pollen, but there are times when food is scarce, and they may eat insect secretions. They are also known to eat a little fruit, such as plums and grapes.
- The honeybee queen should certainly live 2 years, but may even live 3 or 4 years, whilst drones live for 55 days on average, and worker honeybees raised in the Spring may only live 6 or 7 weeks (those raised in the autumn may live 4 - 6 months).
- The 'Waggle Dance' or 'honeybee dance' enables worker honeybees to inform her sisters about great locations of food and water, or a new home.
- Like other bees, honeybees cannot see the color red. However, they may visit red flowers because they are able to see the U.V. patterns in the flowers.

cont.



BEE INSIGHTS cont.

- As with other types of bees, honeybees have 5 eyes: 3 simple eyes on top of its head, and 2 compound eyes, with numerous hexagonal facets.
- Honeybees have hairy eyes!
- Honeybees account for nearly 80% of crop pollination in the United States of America, because of the ease of transporting colonies across the country (although increasingly, some solitary bee species and bumble bees are being reared for pollination). Honeybees are actively pollinating at least somewhere in North America during every month of the year!
- To keep warm in winter, honeybees huddle together in a 'winter cluster'.
- Honeybees are often thought of as living in wooden beehives made by humans, but in fact a honeybee colony in the wild will naturally choose to build a nest in cavities, such as a tree hollow or cave - or around homes, they may even nest in an unused chimney.
- Ever wondered whether honeybees poop? Yes, they do.
- Beekeepers have devised various means to estimate the number of bees in a hive. In any case, typical active honeybee colony may have around 50,000 workers, but could have between 20,000 and 60,000 workers.
- Honeybees are most active between 60 - 100 °F, although they can forage in temperatures as low as 55 °F. For this reason, almond crops in California are dependent on honeybee pollination, because the trees bloom in February, before many wild bee species emerge from hibernation.

cont.



ARTWORK of the MONTH

Bees Get a Big Tribute at the
American Museum of Natural
History

[The New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com)
([nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com))

POEM of the MONTH

The Bee and the Child

by Hannah Flagg Gould

Come here, little Bee,
There are fresh flowers by me;
Come, and just let me see
How your honey is made!
'I can't, for I fear
That, for coming too near,
I should pay very dear,
So, I can't—I'm afraid!'

O, feel no alarm;
Not a leg, nor an arm,
Nor a wing will I harm.
You may here sip your fill.
'Pretty maid, then I'll come
Close beside you and hum,
And you shall have some
Of the sweets I distil.'

Then my trust shall be free
As yours is in me,
And be sure, little Bee,
That you don't use your sting!
'Oh! no! no! — since I flew
From the cell where I grew,
None has known me to do
So ungrateful a thing!'

Then why thus supplied
With a sting, but to hide
And to keep it untried,
Out of sight, little Bee?
'He, who gave me my sting
And my swift gauzy wing,
Bids me not harm a thing
That would not injure me!'

explosive compound,
such that the bees automatically
stick out their tongues in
expectation of a reward when
they correctly sense the
compound!

- Honeybees can be trained to detect illnesses in humans.

BEE INSIGHTS cont.

Interesting Honeybee Facts About Their Behaviors and Characteristics - From Scientific Research:

- Scientists have studied honeybees and have learned that honeybees sleep.
- The honeybee's brain is about the size of a tiny grain of sugar, but researchers have found that it is surprisingly sophisticated. Specifically, honeybees can understand conceptual relationships such as "same/different" and "above/below" that rely on relationships between objects rather than simply the physical features of objects.
- Scientists have discovered that honeybees are able to 'vote' when making decisions about where the colony should create a new nest site! Female 'scout bees' fly out to look for potential sites, and report back to the colony, using the famous waggle dance to inform the rest of the colony about the location of the nest - and the better the potential site, the more enthusiastically the scout bee dances! If other worker bees like the potential nest site, they begin imitating the dance, until eventually a 'critical mass' has been achieved, with enough worker bees in agreement about the new nest site such that a decision is made.
- Honeybees have been trained to act as bomb detectors! Scientists have trained honeybees to react to minute amounts of chemicals found in explosives. Trainers reward honeybees with sugar water when they correctly sense a particular



cont.



A Few Historical Honeybee Facts:

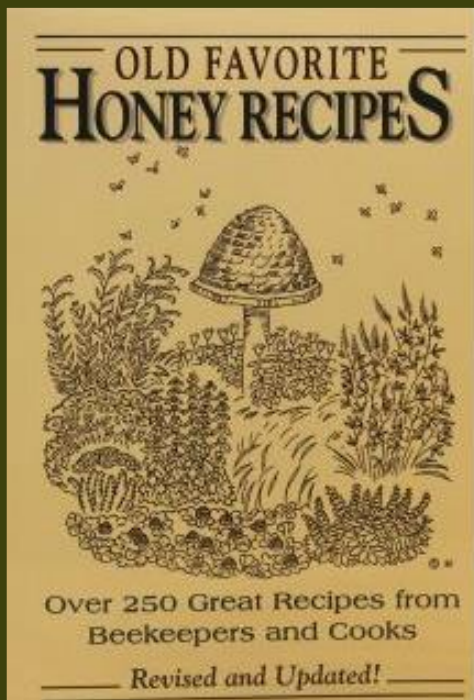
- Honeybees have been around longer than humans - there is fossil evidence from 150 million years ago!
- Different countries have kept bees in different ways. For example, in Europe, people kept bees in straw baskets called skeps, or even in tree trunks adapted for the purpose. In parts of the Mediterranean and Middle East, clay jars were used.
- The ancient Egyptians and other civilizations used honey as food and medicine. It was also used in offerings and for embalming the dead. Beeswax was used in magic rites, for preserving and in medicine. Today, honey is believed to have health benefits. Find out more about the health benefits of honey. Royal beekeeper to King Charles II of England said: "*The bee is an exquisite chemist*".
- It wasn't until 1586 that it was recognized that the head of the honeybee colony is a female queen. This news was popularized by Charles Butler (the 'Father of English Beekeeping') in his book 'The Feminine Monarchie' in 1609. Prior to that, it was assumed the head of the colony must be a male - a 'king'. Even William Shakespeare, in Henry V, refers to honeybees living in a kingdom, with a king as ruler.
- Honey can be fermented to make a type of wine, called 'mead'. The earliest evidence for the production of mead is from Northern China, and dates to back to about 7000 BC.
- In 1791, during the French Revolution, the government demanded a record of all beehives. Honey was used as a source of tax revenue. Many beekeepers who did not wish to pay more tax, destroyed their hives.

A Few Quirky Honeybee Facts:

- When the fictional character, Sherlock Holmes retired to the Sussex Downs in England, where he became a beekeeper. There is even a group called "The Retired Beekeepers" in England who are actually an international group of Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts.
- Honey is loved by fictional characters Yogi bear and Winnie the Pooh.



BOOK of the MONTH



OLD FAVORITE HONEY RECIPES

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION

First published in 1941 by the American Honey Institute, Old Favorite Honey Recipes was expanded in 1945 and reprinted several times between 1958 and 1977. The Iowa Honey Producers introduced The Honey Recipe Book in 1971. In 1991, the two books were combined into one handy volume and published by Meyerbooks under the title Old Favorite Honey Recipes



APIARY of the MONTH

This topic is for CVBA members to show off their apiaries.
Submit a jpeg of your apiary with a short description and we will publish it here.

RECIPE of the MONTH

Even though making baklava can be a bit time-consuming, it's probably not as hard as you think. I've been making Baklava for years. [Listen](#) Baklava is a layered pastry dessert made of filo (phyllo) pastry, filled with chopped nuts, and sweetened with syrup of honey. Baklava makes a scrumptious dessert and is great for gift giving. You can make your own filo (phyllo), or it can be found in the frozen food section (with the pie crusts) of most grocery stores.

Martha Stewart's WALNUT-and-HONEY BAKLAVA

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 cups walnut halves
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 3/4 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup honey, preferably Greek
- 28 sheets phyllo (from a 1 1/2-pound package), thawed if frozen
- 2 1/2 sticks (1 1/4 cups) unsalted butter, melted, plus more for brushing



DIRECTIONS

•Step 1

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a food processor, pulse walnuts, cinnamon, and 1/2 cup sugar until finely ground. *cont.*



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423-921-3140

Treasurer

Lynda Eskola
423-733-2017

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CVBA Secretary

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Hancock & Claiborne Counties

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423-626-5538

Claiborne Counties

Debbie Clayton
865-310-2421
Bill Clayton
423-626-8786

RECIPE of the MONTH cont.

•Step 2

In a medium saucepan, heat 1 cup water and remaining 1 1/4 cups sugar over medium-high; bring to a boil. Immediately reduce to a simmer; cook until slightly thickened and sugar is dissolved, 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in honey. Let syrup cool completely.

•Step 3

Brush a 12-by-2-inch round cake pan with butter. Trim each phyllo sheet into a 13-inch round (cover with plastic and a damp towel as you work). Carefully layer 7 phyllo sheets in pan, brushing butter between each layer. Sprinkle one-third of nut mixture over top. Repeat process twice more, brushing butter between each layer. Top with remaining 7 phyllo sheets, brushing butter between each layer.

•Step 4

Generously brush top layer with butter. Using a sharp knife with a very thin blade (such as a boning knife), cut baklava into quarters, cutting through all phyllo layers. Halve each quarter to create 8 equal wedges. Working within one wedge at a time, make two straight cuts, 1 inch apart, parallel to one side of wedge. Make two more cuts, parallel to opposite side of same wedge, creating a diamond pattern. Repeat process in remaining 7 wedges.

•Step 5

Bake until deep golden brown, 35 to 40 minutes. Remove from oven; pour syrup over baklava. Let cool completely before serving.



ANSWER to
BEE FUNNY

A Bee on an airplane.

