

CLINCH VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

CVBA Newsletter

Volume 14, Number 1
January 1, 2023
Sherri Hudson, editor

Save The Bees:
They Help Keep
The World Sweet.

 [EMAIL](#)
 [WEBSITE](#)
 [FACEBOOK](#)

Clinch Valley Beekeepers
meet every 3rd Thursday
at 7:00 pm at:
Treadway Fire Hall
189 Highway 131
Treadway, TN 37881

IN THIS ISSUE

[Next Meeting](#)
[News from Last Months Meeting](#)
[Notes from the Speaker](#)
[Message from the Secretary](#)
[Upcoming Events](#)
[Bee Calendar](#)
[Membership](#)
[Bee Store](#)
[Mentoring](#)
[Education](#)
[Reminders](#)
[Bee Insights](#)
[Bee Funny](#)
[Answer to Bee Funny](#)
[Bee Quotes](#)
[Video Showcase](#)
[Buzz Art Gallery](#)
[Poets' Stage](#)
[Bookshelf](#)
[Cooks' Kitchen](#)
[Kids' Corner](#)
[Apiary in the Neighborhood](#)
[CVBA Board Members & Officers](#)
[Club Addresses](#)
[Bee Inspectors for CVBA](#)



Happy New Year

“THE HUM OF BEES IS THE
VOICE OF THE GARDEN ”

ELIZABETH LAWRENCE

NEXT MEETING

Date

January 19, 2023 - 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

January's speaker will be Leigh Ann Brink. Leigh Ann Brink loves to spread her passion for bees — as well as the sweet honey that they generously provide to her. Leigh belongs to the Davy Crockett Bee Club in Greenville.

She will be speaking on 'value added' products from beekeeping. The major primary products harvested from beekeeping are



honey, beeswax, pollen and propolis. These products can be used or consumed in the state in which they were produced by the bees, or they can be used as ingredients for other products, thereby adding value to these.

Food Theme

Chili Time

January brings cold weather and a time for the warmth of chili! This month we ask for



Chili, corn bread, crackers, cheese, all chili related dinner items. Please bring something and someone to share our meal and fellowship.

NEWS from DECEMBER's MEETING

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

There were 21 members and guests in attendance.

The current financial report was given by Lloyd Snelson and last months minutes were read by club secretary Sherri Hudson. They were both then approved.

Orders are being taken for Nucleus Colonies in the Spring. The deposit is \$20 per colony or package payable by the February meeting. Nucs of Caucasian bees for \$145 and a limited amount of 20 packages with 3# of bees and a queen for \$130. These are member prices. For non-members, the prices will be \$155 for a nuc and \$140 for a package. So, non-members are encouraged to join the club for \$10 and get the bees at club prices. The new members will then receive the same benefits of club members. The bees will be coming from David Winters. He also has an old line of Italian bees at \$140 for a 3# package and a queen. These are very limited and must be ordered early in the spring. Sherri asked if marked queens were available and David said he would find out. An extra charge would be added.

Important Notes: . We would like all deposits of \$20 turned in to Junior by the end of the February meeting. You must pay the total by the pickup date. If you are ordering and haven't done so, please call Junior by February 17th, so we can reserve enough!

It was announced that a \$1000 check was received from Mr. Collinsworth for the [Collinsworth Youth Grants](#) to be given at the March 18th New Beekeeping Short Course. Youth are encouraged to apply for a grant. More about this grant can be found in the [Message from the Secretary](#).

David reported that Bobbi Smith is looking into getting the cookbook reprinted.

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

MESSAGE from the SECRETARY



Hello Everyone,

Mr. Collinsworth has given the grant money for 2023. This grant is to be used for first time youth beekeepers if possible. Please think of youth to get the grant(s). A grant will include: 1 bottom board, 1 deep super, 10 deep frames, 1 inner cover, 1 top cover, 1 vale and jacket, 1 hive tool, 1 smoker, 1 brush. Applicants are responsible for purchasing their own bees.

NOTES from the SPEAKER

Nothing says "Merry Christmas" like a good old-fashioned game of scheming and stealing! I'm not sure where the name "Dirty Santa" originated, but it's meant to refer to game participants, the "Santa's," stealing desirable gifts from each other. As opposed to Secret Santa, where participants are trying to guess who their personalized gifts are from, Dirty Santa adds a fun, competitive twist.

The gifts were completely unexpected, hilarious, and impractical.

A tip to getting that gift you most desire, that we all soon learned, is that Dirty Santa is about paying attention to how many times your favorite gifts have been stolen, especially if you're the lucky participant who drew the #1 slot. Remember that the main point of Dirty Santa is creating holiday cheer. There was so much laughter and fun it was hard to stop. Great memories were created.



UPCOMING EVENTS

New Beekeeping Short Course:
March 18, 2023. This course is basic information and hands on experience. All are welcome to come.

The course is a requirement for the Collinsworth Youth Grant.

Workday at the Club will be April 1st from 11 AM -2 PM. This is a day you can pick up beekeeping equipment, put hive parts together with other members, and have a great time. Please volunteer and support your club.

BEE CALENDAR

The Bees will be clustered during cold weather, but it is common for there to be several days when the weather is warm enough for the bees to fly and cleanse - although little if any forage is available most years.

A small amount of brood production re-starts around mid-January. If hives are light - or if it is your regular practice - Dry sugar, sugar candy, or pollen sub can be fed on top bars in almost any decent weather.

Order bees, maintain equipment. Don't let your bees starve - this goes for every month of the year. If you plan to do a pre-season varroa treatment you need to plan it now - depending on the specific treatment it may need to be completed long before honey supers go on.

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

What Do Honeybees Do in The Winter?



Honeybees are social creatures. They live in a nest of tens of thousands of bees and this nest is their key to survival.

In order to understand how bees, survive the winter, let's first look at how honeybees prepare for winter. Then, we'll look at how they withstand the cold, the common reasons why colonies don't survive the winter and what the beekeeper can do to help.

How Honeybees Prepare for Winter

Winter preparation begins in the late summer/early fall. It starts when the bloom season ends. The lack of flowers blooming (which also means lack of food for bees) causes somewhat of a frenzy. This is often a time when your bees will be a little cranky and you may see them frantically visiting the few flowers they can

find as well as robbing other beehives.

Yes, honeybees rob each other! The amount of robbing that goes on depends on how many flowers there is available. That's why planting flowers that bloom in the late summer and early fall is a great way to help the bees.



CHECK ON YOUR HIVES DURING THE WINTER

Winter Bees & Decrease of Population

The next step to preparing for winter is making the winter bees. Not only will the queen stop laying so many eggs, but the eggs she does lay will grow up to be the winter bees. Winter bees have a higher body fat content and larger hypopharyngeal glands. They will take the hive through the winter.

cont.

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.

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. 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 INSIGHTS cont.

Kicking Out the Drones

Although it's not the nicest part of the winter preparation, the hive will also kick out the drones (male honeybees). The worker bees may bite them or sting them or simply not let them back in the hive. I've seen sad little piles of drones just a couple of feet from my hives on an autumn day.

It's sad to think that the poor drones are kicked out just because they're male, but the hive works solely for the benefit of the hive's survival, not each individual bee. Since the drone's primary purpose is to mate with a queen, and there is no mating done from fall to early spring in cold climates, they are eating the hive's food storage and decreasing their chance of survival.

What Bees Do In Winter When It's Cold Out In the Late Fall / Early Winter

Once it is around 55-58F (12-14C) outside, the bees will form a cluster inside the hive. This cluster is loose and allows air to flow through. As it gets colder out, the cluster will tighten, and the bees will vibrate the muscles in their thorax to produce heat. Since there is no brood present in the late fall and early winter, the cluster does not have to produce as much heat. They only must keep the adult bees warm enough to stay alive.

What Bees Eat In the Winter

Bees still must eat! The cluster usually forms at the bottom of the hive, and it will move up over the course of the winter, eating the honey stored in the cells of honeycomb. If necessary, the bees will move to the very top of the hive where the beekeeper has left them dry, white sugar or a hard candy.

Mid-Winter to Early Spring

Once it is early to mid-winter, the queen will start laying eggs and the cluster will tighten to keep the brood (baby bees) warm. The brood needs to be kept at a temperature of 93F (33C). The walls of the cluster will be about 3" thick with the bees' heads facing toward the center of the cluster. The very center of the cluster is loose so that bees can walk around and take care of the brood and the queen can lay eggs.

cont.

The Role of the Beekeeper in Winter

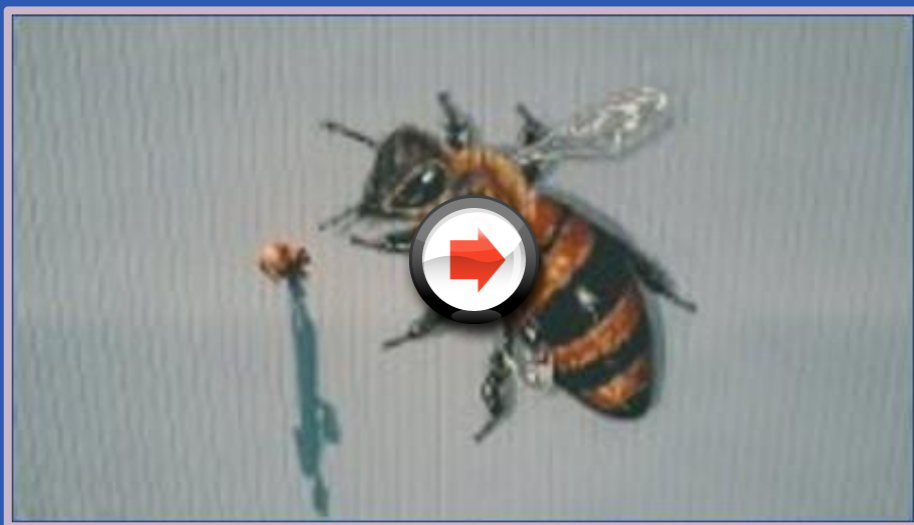
Late Summer Preparation

The beekeeper usually harvests honey from the hive in the late summer, or whenever the hive slows down and stops bringing in a considerable amount of honey. Once the harvest is over, that is when most beekeepers will treat their hives for varroa mites if it has a mite level of 2 or more (a simple mite test is done to calculate the level).

Additional things the beekeeper will do in the late Summer is:

- Reduce robbing by blocking up all the entrances except one and reducing the one remaining entrance.
- Put a feeder with 2-to-1 sugar syrup in the hive if it does not have enough food for winter.
- In late summer or early fall (depending on the daytime temperature), the beekeeper will put a mouse guard on the hive's entrance.

cont.



BUZZ ART GALLERY

The Good of the Hive

The Good of the Hive is a global art project and organization founded by artist Matt Willey on his personal commitment to hand-paint 50,000 honeybees - the number in a healthy, thriving hive - in murals around the world.

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 do you get when you cross a ghost with a swarm of honeybees?
(answer on last page)



The Bees

by Thomas Hastings

Oh, mother dear, pray
tell me where
The bees in winter stay?
The flowers are gone
they feed upon,
So sweet in summer's day.
My child, they live within the
hive,
And have enough to eat;
Amid the storm they're clean
and warm,
Their food is honey sweet.
Say, mother dear, how came it
there?
Did father feed them so?
I see no way in winter's day
That honey has to grow.
No, no, my child; in summer mild
The bees laid up their store
Of honey-drops in little cups,
Till they would want no more.
In cups, you said—how are they
made?
Are they as large as ours?
Oh, no; they're all made nice and
small,
Of wax found in the flowers.
Our summer's day, to work and
play,
Is now in mercy given,
And we must strive, long as we
live,
To lay up stores in heaven.

**The Beekeeper's Fall Preparation**

In fall, the hive population has decreased and there may be very little brood or none. This is when the beekeeper gets ready to close the hive for the winter. They will make sure the bees have adequate ventilation, something to absorb moisture and prevent condensation from dripping onto the bees, plenty of food, a warm, sunny spot, insulation and an upper entrance. They will also take the sugar syrup out.

The Beekeeper's Duties Throughout the Winter

The beekeeper should check their hive every 1-2 weeks and use their hive tool to scrape any dead bees out of the hive that are blocking the lower entrance as well as shovel any snow that might be blocking the entrance. The beekeeper's second task is to make sure the colony has enough food. This can be done by simply tipping the hive to see how much it weighs or on a warm, sunny, low wind day, when it is at least 50F (but preferably 55F+) the beekeeper can peak under the lid to see if there are any bees eating the sugar, they have stored for them under the lid. If the beekeeper sees bees in this area, that means they will want to add more food.

What the Beekeeper Should Not Do In the Winter

It is important that the beekeeper not open the hive and inspect the colony, disturb the bees or pull-out frames when it is below 65F.

I believe the beekeeper shouldn't inspect a hive at all during the wintertime, even if there is a period when it is

above 65F. This is a time when the beekeeper must trust that the bees know what to do and how to stay warm. It is not a time to introduce a new queen, add frames of honey or treat for varroa mites.

cont.

APIARY in the NEIGHBORHOOD

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





Common Causes of Hive Death In the Winter

Unhealthy Queen

Many people think the cold is what kills most hives during the winter. In fact, there are many things that can influence a hive's survival. A young, healthy queen is important for survival. If a hive's queen is not strong enough to survive the winter, they will not have brood reared (baby bees growing) for early Spring.

Lack of Ventilation and Condensation

Bees do not heat the entire hive during the winter. Instead, the cluster produces heat just for the bees in the cluster. It is important that the hive have ventilation. This means giving the bees an upper and lower exit to leave the hive and a way for warm air to chimney up and out of the hive. An upper entrance will cut back on the amount of condensation building up in the hive. Condensation dripping on the cluster can kill a colony.

Lack of Food

It's exciting to harvest honey from the beehive in the summer, but it's more important that the bees have enough food to get them through the winter. The beekeeper will not only leave the colony enough food to go through winter, but also give them an extra box of dry, white sugar or candy up above the honey as a backup.

An easy way for you, as a beginner beekeeper, to see how much honey to leave your hives is to not harvest any honey your first year and see how much is left in the spring. This will tell you how much honey the bees consumed over the winter. Make sure you, first, calculate how much honey is on the hive before you close it up for the winter!

As a backup, the beekeeper should still have a box of sugar up above these frames of honey. This box of sugar is up above the honey and solely a backup feed in case of emergency.

Varroa Mite Infestation

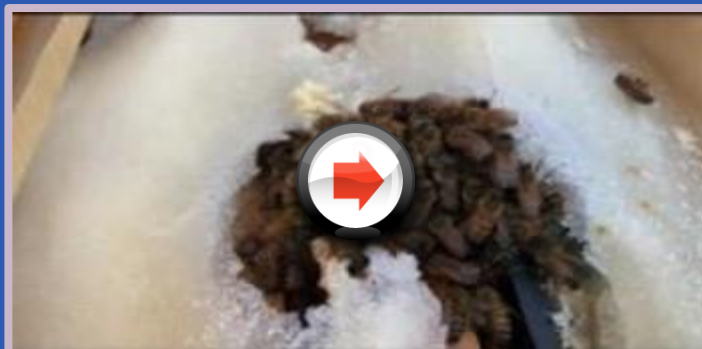
It is important that the beehive have very low varroa mite levels in the late summer and fall. If a hive is tested and has more than 2 mites per 1/2 cup of bees, it is recommended that the beekeeper "treat" the hives with an organic or inorganic chemical to kill most of the mites.

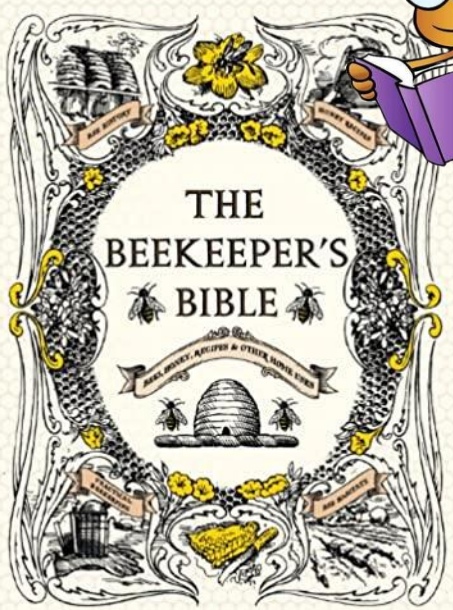
The first varroa mite treatment the beekeeper may have to administer will be in the later summer, so that the winter bees are healthy as pupae. Unfortunately, because a lot of robbing occurs in the Fall, most beekeepers will have to treat again in the late fall before they close the hive for winter. This is often done with oxalic acid which is highly effective when no brood is present.



VIDEO SHOWCASE

[What do bees do during the winter?](#)
[Bohemia Bees](#)





Granny Schmidt's Award-Winning Chili

By Hanna Trafford / July 29, 2017

THE BEEKEEPER'S BIBLE

by Richard A. Jones (author),
Sharon Sweeney-Lynch (author)

The Beekeeper's Bible is as much an ultimate guide to the practical essentials of beekeeping as it is a beautiful almanac to be read from cover to cover. Part history book, part handbook, and part T cookbook, this illustrated tome covers every facet of the ancient hobby of beekeeping, from how to manage hives safely to harvesting one's own honey, and ideas for how to use honey and beeswax. Detailed instructions for making candles, furniture polish, beauty products, and nearly 100 honey-themed recipes are included. Fully illustrated with how-to photography and unique etchings, any backyard enthusiast or gardener can confidently dive into beekeeping with this book in hand (or daydream about harvesting their own honey while relaxing in the comfort of an armchair).

INGREDIENTS:

2 teaspoons of cooking oil
3 lbs. of lean ground beef
1-1/2 lb. of mild Italian sausage (casing removed)
2 stalks of celery - chopped fine
1 large red pepper
1 large green pepper
2 medium onions
2 small Jalapeno pepper (seeds removed and chopped fine)
2 large garlic cloves - minced
1 large can of diced tomatoes
2-8 oz. cans of tomato paste
2 teaspoons of chicken bouillon granules
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of honey
2 large cans (15 oz each) of red kidney beans
2 teaspoons of cayenne pepper
1 tablespoon of dried oregano
1 teaspoon of ground black pepper
3 teaspoons of sea salt
4 tablespoons of chili powder
1 tablespoon of brown sugar
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of white sugar
2 teaspoons of cumin
1 teaspoon of cinnamon
2 teaspoons of cocoa powder
1 can of dark beer (optional)



DIRECTIONS

1. For marinade, mix the first 6 ingredients. In a shallow bowl, combine salmon and 2/3 cup marinade; refrigerate 30 minutes, turning occasionally. Reserve remaining marinade for basting.
2. Preheat air fryer to 325°. Place fillet on greased tray in air-fryer basket; discard remaining marinade. Cook until fish just begins to flake easily with a fork, 15-18 minutes, basting with reserved marinade during the last 5 minutes.

CVBA BOARD MEMBERS and OFFICERS

President

Lloyd "Jr" Snelson
432-626-5538
Cell 423-526-7742

Vice President

David Sams
423-693-6846

Board Members

Tim Andrews
423-272-5492
Bobbi Smith
865-360-7373

Secretary

Sherri Hudson
423-921-3140

Treasurer

Lynda Eskola
423-733-2017

CVBA ADDRESSES

CVBA President

Lloyd "Jr." Snelson
PO Box 736
Sneedville, TN 37869

CVBA Secretary

Sherri Hudson
PO Box 736
Sneedville, TN 37869

BEE INSPECTORS for CVBA MEMBORS

Hancock & Claiborne Counties

Lloyd "Junior" Snelson
423-626-5538

Claiborne Counties

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



**ANSWER to
BEE FUNNY**

BOO-BEES!

KIDS' CORNER



Honeybee Life Cycle Rap Song

"It's All About the Hive"

Official Music Video for kids/children

Science Up with the Singing Zoologist

Get "versed" in the intricacies of the honeybee life cycle: larva, pupa, worker bee, nectar & honey: they're all in this rap that's one part ridiculous and one part, well, a pretty rockin' rap song. And if you can read between the lines, there's a little, ecological message underpinning it all.



Hello Honeybees

Read and play in the hive!

by Hannah Rogge (Author),
Emily Dove (Illustrator)

Fly the bees through the story and play along in the hive: The youngest nature lovers will adore this ingenious board book that transforms into a stand-up beehive! Simply "fly" the two bee characters-attached to board book with ribbons-through the beautifully illustrated pages to visit a garden, tour the beehive, and see how honey is made. Full

of playful and informative touches this book is a sweet introduction to the hardworking honeybee that will have young readers buzzing to learn more.

"A great educational book that explains what honeybees do." -Book Riot

