



CVBA Newsletter

Volume 14, Number 3

March 9, 2023

Sherri Hudson, editor

EMAIL

WEBSITE

FACEBOOK

Cinch Valley Beekeepers
meet every 3rd Thursday
at 7:00 pm at:

Treadway Fire Hall

189 Highway 131

Treadway, TN 37881



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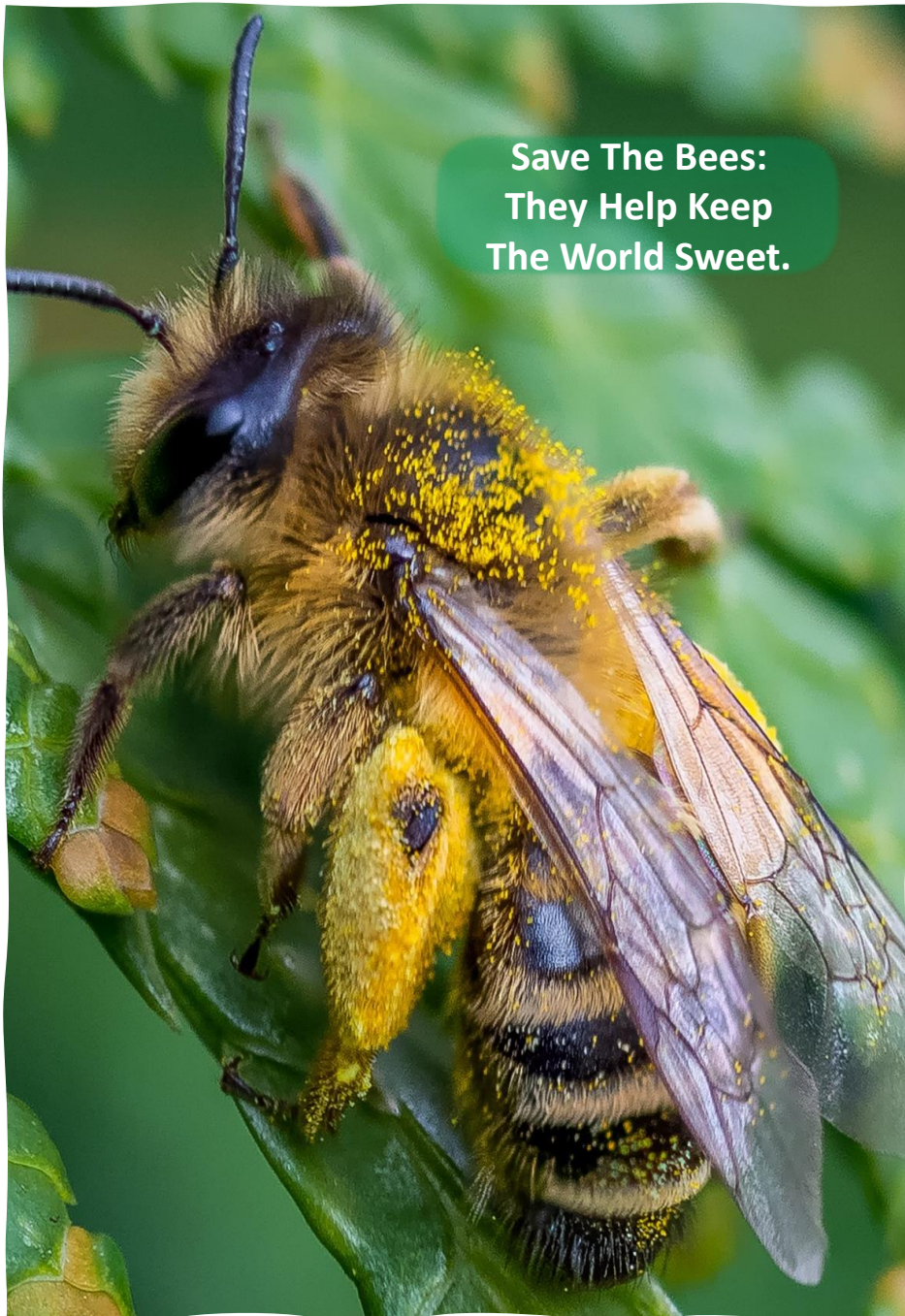
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**Save The Bees:
They Help Keep
The World Sweet.**

*"The lovely flowers embarrass me,
They make me regret I am not a bee."*

Emily Dickinson



NEXT MEETING

Date

March 16, 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

Charlie Parton will speak on honey production. Parton Apiaries began 36 years ago, in Maryville Tennessee with two hives, in owner Charlie Parton's back yard.

Over the years Parton Apiaries has grown to an operation which runs 80 plus colonies and sells nucs, honey, beeswax and has done small scale pollination.



Food Theme

Anything Irish

Every March 17, people across the country get dressed in their favorite green clothing to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. This day commemorates Ireland's foremost patron saint, who is

said to have driven out all the snakes from the Emerald Isle. Food is one of the most popular parts of this traditional Irish holiday. Share your favorite Irish vegetable, side, bread, or dessert with us.



LAST MONTH

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

There were 28 members and guests in attendance. The current financial report was given by the club Treasurer Lynda Eskola. Approved.

Mr. Collinsworth Youth Grant: 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 hat & vale 1 hive tool, 1 smoker, 1 brush. Applicants are responsible for purchasing their own bees.

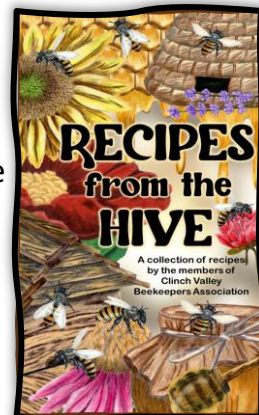
Applicants will need to become a member of CVBA for a minimum of 2 years. They are also required to attend the meeting March 16th (next Thursday) and also, the short course March 18 from 10-4 to qualify.

Deborah Holman representing the [Upper East Tennessee Bee Association](#), joined us. She presented CVBA with a check to cover a new printer and paper. They will be sponsoring courses UETBA.

1. New Beekeeping Short Course – CVBA March 18th Treadway.
2. New Beekeeping Short Course – March 18th – Appalachian Fair Grounds in Gray. \$25 to attend.
3. Experienced Beekeeping School - March 25. Greenville at the Towering Oaks Baptist Church.
4. Queen Rearing by David Winters – April 29 – location to be announced. Preregistration due to limited availability, Clinch Valley Beekeepers has 5 spots for hands on grafting see Junior for sign up.

Bobbi spoke about the new "Recipes from the Hive" book that we will be printing. She urged members to participate by submitting their favorite recipes that use honey, propolis, bee pollen, bee bread, royal jelly, beeswax and bee venom.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned. We enjoyed some great Mexican flavors from our potluck supper. Thank you to all who brought dishes and those who served and cleaned up after the meal.





UPCOMING EVENTS

New Beekeeping Short Course:

March 18, 2023. 10-4. 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.



MESSAGE

Hello Everyone,

Just want to remind everyone that we still need a Librarian. CVBA has a nice assortment of books and videos. We need someone to open up the box and set them out on a table so that members can check them out. It's not a hard job and if you need to miss a meeting just let me know and I'll see that the job is filled for the night. PLEASE VOLUNTEER! WE NEED YOUR HELP.

"Recipes from the Hive" recipe book is coming right along. I have the artwork completed and Bobbi has the recipes entered. Hoping to send off for proofing by April 1st.

Hope to see you all at the meeting next week.

Sherri



SPEAKER NOTES

David Sams talked to us about **Hive Management**.

1. Varroa Mite Treatment – Dec. Jan. Feb.
2. Entrance reducers until good nectar flow.
3. Robin Hood, take from rich & give to poor, equalize your colonies stacking. March 1st-15th. Small colonies will make honey and it will help keep strong colonies from swarming.
4. Having over wintered nucs on hand are great for spring problems ex. queen right problems.
5. Have 2-3 supers on hand per colony preferably with drawn wax but foundation will work.

Feeding

1. If you feed too much sugar syrup the bees can back fill cells and then the queen may not have enough area to lay.
 - * warning – this could encourage swarming early.
 - * if sugar syrup is fed it can be stored and held over until summer.
 - * sugar bricks are less likely to be stored in cells.
2. Pollen Supplement.
 - * don't feed pollen until maples start blooming.
 - * great to keep your bees building during those very low temperature day periods that they are not able to get out due to bad weather.
 - * needs to be placed right above the brood nest.

Swarm Prevention

1. Equalize colonies as discussed above.
2. Create splits
3. Find queen cells that are uncapped and make multiple splits.
4. Take a frame or two of capped brood from a strong hive and give to a weaker hive, forager bees will return home while the young bees will stay which makes the donor hive think they have swarmed (not the queen!).
5. Reverse brood boxes.



These are just notes from the presentation.



BEE CALENDAR

Maple blooms in earnest – with sufficient fair-weather honey may be stored, but usually, maple nectar is mostly consumed by increasing amounts of brood. Populations increase a lot in March. By the time Dandelions bloom later in the month is the traditional time to start swarm prevention such as reversing hive bodies or adding honey supers. Note the date of the main dandelion bloom – fruit trees and swarming usually follow about 3 weeks later.

Complete early mite treatments before adding honey supers as per directions or the particular poison.

Starvation remains an issue during cold snaps. March and early April may be the time when the most hives do starve. Fortunately, there are usually fair days with upper 50 F temps when thorough inspections can be performed, and countermeasures can be taken. It is warm enough in March to begin feeding syrup – but be careful lest ye aggravate swarming later.

The appearance of drone brood in March signals the beginning of the reproductive season – splitting or queen rearing may begin when drone brood is at the purple eye stage.



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 INSIGHTS

How to Attract a Swarm of Honeybees

Catching or luring a honey bee swarm is a fine art. The spring season rolls in, and the anxiety comes with it. If it's your first time catching a swarm, we have some valuable advice and insights for you.



[Dan Greenwood](#)

If you're an experienced beekeeper, but your luck has been pretty bad, there may be some things you're unaware of. Bees are picky creatures and look for specific characteristics in their new home. Let's delve deeper.

What Is a Swarm?

A swarm is a group of honey bees that recently separated from a mother colony to start a new hive elsewhere.

Swarming is the natural method honey bee colonies use to reproduce and remain healthy.

Swarming begins by the mother colony replacing the old queen and her subsequently leaving with half of the worker bees and as much honey as they can take with them. The swarm then lands on some type of stable structure near the mother colony's location.

There, they cluster themselves while scout bees leave in search of a new, ideal nesting location.

This is the ideal stage to attract and capture swarms, to then transfer them to a new and empty hive.

Once transferred to their new hive, they immediately begin building their comb and populating their new home. Keep in mind that swarms are local to the areas they're captured from. That means they're strong enough to survive the winter in that climate. This method of obtaining bees helps promote strong genetics for the local honeybee population in your area. Yes, it might be easier to simply purchase bees and have them shipped to you, but they be able to survive in your area's climate.



BEE STORE

T-shirts are available;

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

XXL and larger sizes - \$12

Hats - \$8

Cookbooks - coming soon

2024 Calendars - coming soon

Available at regular meetings.





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 do you call a bee with messy hair?
(answer on last page)



When Does Swarming Occur?

Swarm season usually takes place when the weather begins to warm up. This is usually during spring. That should be when you begin your swarm-catching activities. This depends on the duration and severity of the winter season. Sometimes, winter ends earlier, allowing bees to swarm at the very beginning of the spring season. When you begin to notice swarm cells in your hive, this is a good indicator of the beginning of the swarming season. This means it's time to put out your bait hives and swarm traps.

Bait Hives/Swarm Traps Specifications

A bait hive is simply an empty hive — usually, a wooden or plywood box — that's set up to attract a swarm. The most important bees to attract are scout bees as they're the ones who go out and search for the ideal nesting location. In a new home, the scout bees usually look for:

- Places where bees have resided in before
- Large cavity to store food through the winter
- Space that's easily defendable
- Shady and dry location

These are the main criteria that scout bees use to assess the suitability of a new home.

Open Mesh Flooring

Use a solid floor instead of an open mesh floor.

Bees are more likely to stay away from open mesh flooring (OMF) because they don't think they can defend it. There are some beekeepers who think that bait hives should be placed above head height. Yes, it does make things more difficult for the beekeeper. However, keep in mind that bees tend to fly overhead, not at ground level.

A site that is 2–4 meters off the ground is ideal.

Old and Used Containers

Another good trick is to utilize an old brood box and crown board that haven't been cleaned. The reason you don't want to use cleaned ones is that swarms are more attracted to the wax and propolis that's found on them.

The smell of wax encourages scout bees to check out the place. You can also use a commercial swarm lure to attract honeybee swarms if you don't have used honeycomb.





Get the Sizing Right

Swarms like nesting cavities that are approximately 40 liters in size (approximately 10½ gallons. In terms of the entrance, keep it small.

It should be about 2 square inches and towards the bottom of one wall.

This mimics the size of entrances commonly found in natural tree hollows.

Baiting for Success

Baiting your hives is critical for attracting a swarm.

A good swarm trap is only part of the story.

The Power of Scents

You can use an old brood comb, or you can use lemongrass essential oil.

There are a variety of scents that lure swarms. You can try mixing lemongrass with beeswax or utilizing a pheromone lure in a small vial.

You can even rub all of the interior surfaces with propolis — if the box wasn't previously occupied by bees.

This really helps lure them in.

Enticing Sugar Water

If you haven't seen any bee activity, you may want to consider placing a sugar water feeding station nearby the swarm trap. This can help attract those foraging scout bees to your swarm trap.

Summary

Successfully attracting a honeybee swarm takes time, patience and experience; this is why most beekeepers prefer to just buy their bees. Proper baiting and trap placement are essential for luring in a swarm looking to relocate. The scent is one of the most important factors for attracting honeybees.

Scent your swarm trap with propolis or lemongrass essential oil.

These smells are highly attractive to swarms.

Apart from the scent, make sure, the actual cavity is the ideal size and at the perfect height for swarms. Place them up high and keep them in the shade. It can be frustrating when your swarm trap remains empty throughout the season.

Follow these simple criteria and you should have swarms populating your bait hives in no time.



VIDEO SHOWCASE

How to build a Honeybee Swarm Trap



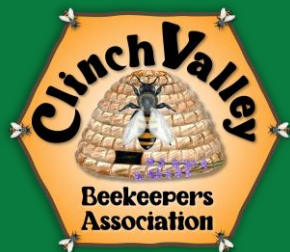


POETS' STAGE

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.



APIARY in the NEIGHBORHOOD

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.



BUZZ ART GALLERY



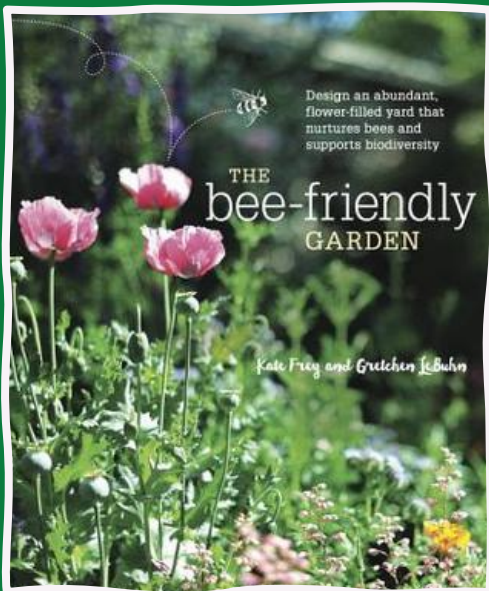
Rose & Honeybee

by Marilyn Whittle – Inspirations Studios

Marilyn Whittle has chosen to honor the honeybee in her latest project that you can enjoy in Inspirations issue #112. Rose and Honeybee is a sparkling embroidery set comprising a needlebook and scissor fob. It is decorated with a brilliant design of a rose with a honeybee at the center.

The needlebook displays more bees on each corner in a satisfyingly symmetrical pattern. However, rather than embroidered in thread, this wonderful set is worked using Japanese-style beading techniques to give the finished piece a texture that is completely unique.





THE BEE-FRIENDLY GARDEN

by Kate Frey (Author), Gretchen LeBuhn (Author), Leslie Lindell (Photographer)

This lovely book is loaded with interesting information about how anyone can create a bee-friendly garden. The cover alone made me want to dive right in. The chapters are informative and well organized. They begin with the importance of bees and moves on to what type of plants one can use to attract bees in a typical garden as well as in an edible garden.



COOKS' KITCHEN

Feast on this traditional recipe that features a unique, delicious honey glaze.

Honey-Glazed Corned Beef

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 cup honey
- 4 lbs. corned beef brisket
- 2 qts. water
- 1 tbspickling spices
- 1 large white onion
- 1 large carrot
- 1 stalk celery
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 3 tbspick Dijon-style mustard
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger

DIRECTIONS

1. Tie pickling spices in a square of cheesecloth (spices may be provided with brisket).
2. In a large stew pot, combine brisket, water, pickling spices, whole vegetables, and garlic.
3. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer 3 hours.
4. Place a cooking rack in a shallow baking dish or pan.
5. Remove brisket from cooking liquid and place fat side up on rack.

For the glaze

1. Combine honey, brown sugar, mustard, and ginger to make glaze, then spoon glaze over meat.
2. Bake, uncovered, in a preheated oven at 350° F for 30 to 40 minutes.





BOARD MEMBERS and OFFICERS

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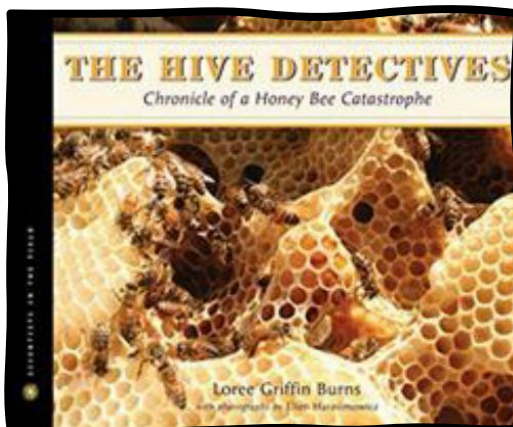
ANSWER to BEE FUNNY

A Frizz-bee.



KIDS' CORNER

The Hive Detectives: Chronicle of a Honeybee Catastrophe



Written by Loree Griffin Burns
with photographs by
Ellen Harsimowicz,
[The Hive Detectives](#)

The Hive Detectives
is an information
packed book.

A great book for older
learners or kids who are
really interested in
learning about colony
collapse disorder.

Written in story form, a great book to read with your kids.
If you are looking for an in-depth informational text for kids,
this is it. Each page has beautiful large real-life photographs
to go along with the information.



Do the Honeybee!

helpthehoneybees

It is a fact of nature: Honeybees perform a series of moves
known as the waggle dance to let their hive mates know the
distance, quality, and quantity of a newly found food supply.
Honeybees are mysteriously disappearing – a crisis known as
Colony Collapse disorder and researchers are working to
determine

the cause. Its alarming considering honeybees are responsible
for pollinating one out of every three bites an American eats.