



Volume 15, Number 11

November 2024

George Martin, Editor

 **Next Meeting** : Thursday, Nov. 21st, 2024

Location : Treadway Fire Hall  
189 Hwy 131  
Treadway, TN 37881

Doors open at 6:30 pm

Meeting starts at 7:00 pm

Potluck dinner 7:30 pm

Lesson/presentation 7:45 pm

**Meeting Food Theme** : Giving Thanks Potluck.

Turkey and ham are already taken care of, but would be boring without traditional Thanksgiving side dishes, accompaniments, condiments and desserts so we ask you to contribute your favorites for all to enjoy.

**Beekeeper of the year** : Three members have been nominated and we will hold a vote. Ballots will be provided, votes will be counted and the winner will be announced at our next meeting in December.

**Scheduled Speaker** : This month David Sams will moderate a roundtable discussion (assuming we can pry that drumstick away from him) on overwintering hives. The weather has been warmer and dryer than usual in our area and we encourage everyone to participate with questions, comments and observations about their colonies.

 **Last Meeting**

Club president Lloyd Snelson opened the meeting with a prayer and summarized the treasurers' report which was accepted.

Visitors and new members were introduced.

Lloyd thanked everyone who had helped out at the festivals in early October. He recognized the Gladson family who auctioned off a swarm trap at the Hancock Fall Festival and donated the proceeds to our club.

He then discussed acquiring bees for next spring.

We are no longer doing the 3lb. packages because Winters Apiaries is winding down that side of their business. Additionally, members have been reporting a 50%, unexplained failure rate in general for the colonies.

Everyone generally agrees colonies started from NUCs fare better and ramp up faster, even though they are more expensive. However, bees have become invisible casualties of recent

hurricanes. Hundreds of landslides devastated communities throughout Appalachia. The storms damaged or destroyed 200,000 commercial beehives—a vital resource for pollinating U.S. crops—in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. The hurricanes killed more than 250 people in six states and, according to Moody's RMS Event Response, caused total insured losses between \$35 billion and \$55 billion.

Across northern Florida, beekeepers are scrambling to repair hives and replace millions of bees wiped out by Hurricane Milton that are critical for the state's \$3.3 billion orange crop.

Mike Sadler lost 505 of his 1,800 beehives after Milton dumped 15 inches of rain on his operation in Lakeland, Fla.

Sadler said the storm damage cost him about one-third of his annual beekeeping revenue of \$600,000.

While we have 2 sources for NUC's, we are not sure yet about pricing or availability and expect getting them in the spring will be challenging. Lloyd and David are working to secure an adequate number of NUCs for our club at reasonable prices and delivered in a timely fashion. We encourage anyone wanting NUCs to place their orders as soon as possible, *do not wait till the last minute*.

Guest speaker Wade GeFellers of [Heritage & Habitat](#), gave a great presentation focused on reclaiming and managing fields and meadows for native flora and fauna. His experience has shown that judicious, careful application of herbicides are safe and cost effective in eliminating non-native species like fescue and johnson grass. This allows native plants, whose seeds can survive in the soil for decades, to sprout and reclaim the land which can then nurture bees and other native insects and animals.

We are hoping to get Wade back for a future meeting to discuss best practices for managing woodlands and forests.

See you all on the 21<sup>st</sup>!



## BOARD MEMBERS and OFFICERS

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### Board Members

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## MEMBERSHIP

Dues are payable upon membership application and renewable January 1st of each year you want to continue being a member.

Regular membership \$10  Family (one vote/family) \$15  Youth Single (No vote) \$5  
See a CVBA officer to complete a new membership form.

Checks should be made payable to CVBA.

Please let us know if any of your information has changed.

We want to make sure you can stay connected with the club and help you get the most out of your membership!

*Dues are not prorated. New member dues paid in or after October in any calendar year shall count for the following year. Renewal dues are payable January 1 of each fiscal year. Members who fail to renew before April 1 will be dropped. Only members in good standing prior to August 1 may vote in the October election.*



#### **CLUB MAILINGADDRESS**

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#### **CVBA BEE INSPECTORS**

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