



Volume 15, Number 12

December 2024

George Martin, Editor

 **Next Meeting** : Thursday, Dec. 19th, 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 : Holiday Festival Potluck.

The club is supplying ham this year! Members and guests are asked to bring their favorite, festive, holiday side dish, casserole, vegetable, bread, salad, or desert to complement the meal.

Beekeeper of the year : The votes have been counted and we will be announcing which of our 3 nominees has won this year's award.

Scheduled Speaker : None this month (unless you count Santa Claus) since we are having our traditional holiday party, but we will have "bee talk" as usual. We will once again have a "Dirty Santa" game. If you don't know what that is [you can read about the origins and rules of the game here](#). Participation is not required, all family members will have fun just watching the game. 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. Nothing over \$20.00, and no theme, but beekeeping is always appropriate for our group.

 **Last Meeting**

Club president Lloyd (Junior) Snelson opened the meeting with a prayer. Our treasurer was not in attendance as there were no substantial changes to last month's report.

Visitors and new members were introduced.

Lloyd discussed acquiring bees for next spring.

He confirmed we are only doing NUCs next year and that we have 50 reserved so far.

At this time, we are not sure about the exact price, but don't expect it will be unreasonable and do not expect any delivery delays. A \$20.00 deposit per NUC is required and will apply to the final purchase price. Anyone wanting NUCs should speak with Junior so he can make your reservation. *Do not wait till the last minute.*

With no further business, the meeting adjourned and we then enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving meal of Turkey and Ham.

There was an abundance of tasty food for everyone to enjoy and we give thanks to all the members who brought sides and desserts and those who helped serve and clean up afterwards. Thanks also to the folks who brought the delicious, home grown tomatoes and peppers for us all to take home.

David Sams then held a general Q&A session.

One of the questions asked was about what time of the year is best for moving hives and as it turns out winter is probably it.

David recommends waiting until there are a few cold (45 degree daytime temperature) days in a row, when you know the bees won't want to be out flying. Once they are all inside at dusk, block the hive entrance to keep them in, then carefully move the hive to its new location (make sure to strap it so it doesn't come apart). Distance is not an issue at this time of the year.

Don't open the entrance for 3 to 4 days, the bees won't be stressed since it's too cold for them to want to venture out.

Open the entrance on the fifth day. By the time any bees decide to go out on the next warmish day, they will notice the new surroundings and start to reset their "GPS", they won't be going far anyway because there is no forage so it will be easy for them to find their hive.

If you do this carefully it's unlikely you'll lose any bees. The most important thing is for the weather to cooperate and make the bees want to stay in the hive.

Concerns about protecting hives from the worst of winter weather are always top of mind this time of year and David was asked about cheap and easy ways to protect hives from the cold and gusty winds.

Ordinarily you want your hives to get as much sun as possible year round, but the best locations may leave them exposed in the winter. There were a number of good suggestions, but one of the simplest ways to shield them is to use unwanted brush or small cedar trees around your hives.

If you trim bushes or remove/prune cedar trees in the fall, you can keep some branches around to surround your hives.

Careful placement will shield the hives, but still let you have easy access for feeding/inspection. In the spring you can easily remove the dried brush/trees and dispose of them as you normally would.

Below are pictures of how one of our members implemented David's advice.



As you can see from the front, cedar trees and branches have been stacked behind the hive to block prevailing winds.



The hive is now protected from winds directly hitting its back, left and right sides, or rushing underneath its metal stand, yet there's plenty of space on front and sides for working with it.



From the back you can see how well the pile of cedar acts to shield the hive.

There were other questions, sadly we don't have room to publish all of them here.

See you all on the 19th!

**BOARD MEMBERS and OFFICERS****President**

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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.

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