



CVBA Newsletter
Volume 13, Number 2
February 1, 2022
Candy Halford, Editor
Email: cvbanewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 7 pm

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

Warm up with anything Mexican for this meeting! Please bring something to share. We are doing themed dinners at the meetings for the 2022 year.

Speaker: David Winters will speak on late winter and spring build up.

Upcoming Events:

March 3: Board Meeting 7:30 PM

March 17: Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

March 19: Beekeeping Short Course 10 AM- 2 PM.

March 28 & 29: Bee Inspector Class 6-10 PM
(Must attend both nights) Please let us know if you plan to attend. We would like a tentative head count. (see/email Candy at the address below)

-Clinch Valley Beekeepers Association meets every month on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm. Our meeting place is at the
Treadway Fire Hall
189 Highway 131
Treadway, TN 37881

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/clinchvalleybeekeepers

Website: <http://clinchvalleybeekeepers.org>

Email: cvbanewsletter@gmail.com

Upcoming Speakers: March- David Sams will speak on Swarm Season and Trapping Swarms

Minutes January Meeting:

The January Meeting was cancelled.

Important Notes: All deposits for Nuc and package bees (\$20 each) should be turned in to Candy or Junior by the February meeting. **If you are ordering and haven't done so, please call Junior by February 5, so we can reserve enough!**

Bee Inspector Class has changed. Expected dates are now March 28 & 29. There is no cost for the class. We are still awaiting confirmation on the dates from Mike Studer.

Master Beekeeping Class: We are still working with Tom Rison on this. He hopes to have a class later.

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

New Beekeepers Grant Draw: This will take place on the same day as the Short Course which is a requirement. Also, for the Collinsworth Youth Grant (under 18 years of age and a new beekeeper) a short writing of why you want to become a beekeeper is required. Other requirements for all grants are to become a member of the Clinch Valley Beekeepers Association for a minimum of 2 years.

Work Day at the Club will be April 2 from 11 AM - 2 PM. Please volunteer and support your club

Library: We have one! Please volunteer to be the Librarian! The Club needs you for 2022.

Bee Funny: What would bears be without bees? (Answer on the last page)

Beekeeping Calendar

February

(Adapted from: <https://cookevillebeekeepers.com/tn-beekeeping-annual-calendar>)

Maple pollen and nectar may be available toward the end of the month, but usually bad weather limits foraging opportunities. 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. Populations bottom out during February and start to increase in healthy hives by the end of the month. Increasing amounts of brood increases food demand – hives can easily starve even when food is available in the hive if prolonged cold weather sticks them on brood.

Our state experts recommend a pre-season varroa treatment. If you plan to do this, you need to choose and order treatments so that you will have them when needed.

Clinch Valley Beekeeper Association Hats, T-shirts, and Cookbooks

T-shirts are \$10 and \$12 for XXL+ sizes

Hats are \$8

Cookbooks are \$10.

These can be purchased at any regular bee meeting, they are onsite.

Club Membership

CVBA dues: 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.

Please see Candy Halford, Secretary, to pay your dues at any meeting. Checks should be made payable to CVBA. Please let us know if any information has changed.

Other Items

Please consider being a mentor for our club! See Candy to be put on the list

Fund Raisers at Meetings and Festivals:

Please let your Board of Director Members or Officers know your opinion on the following before the March 3 Board meeting:

Calendars: We are considering making a CVBA Calendar for 2023.

Tee Shirts: We are considering new designs for our club tee shirts.

Cookbooks: We are considering making a new cookbook.

Recipe of the Month

Mexican Chocolate Honey Cake



(Adapted from: <https://recipelands.com/recipe/v/mexican-chocolate-honey-cake-53273>)

Normally, this cake is made in a bundt or tube pan. Today, I chose to make only half the recipe and bake in four ramekins for approximately 17 minutes. While the glaze was still wet, I sprinkled the little cakes with some multicolored nonpareils to make them a little more festive. Feliz Cinco de Mayo!

Yield: 8 Servings

1/3 cup cocoa powder (unsweetened, plus ore for dusting)
1 ¼ cup all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup honey
1 cup unsalted butter (or ½ cup butter and ½ cup margarine)
2 large eggs

Glaze:

3 Tablespoons water
1 Tablespoon instant coffee
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 ½ cup powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350°F

Spray pan with vegetable spray then coat with cocoa powder, tilting pan and tapping out excess; set aside.

In medium bowl, sift together the flour, 1/3 cup cocoa powder, baking powder, cinnamon, cayenne pepper and salt. Set aside.

In a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, melt together the honey and butter. Transfer to bowl of electric mixer and beat on medium-high speed until mixture is cooled to room temperature, about 3 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition. In three additions, beat in the dry ingredients, scraping down sides of bowl between additions. Spoon mixture into prepared pan and bake for 25-30 minutes, until toothpick tests clean. Cool in pan for 15 minutes. Remove and cool completely on wire rack.

For the glaze:

In a small bowl, whisk together the water, instant coffee, and vanilla until the coffee granules are completely dissolved. Gradually whisk in the powdered sugar until smooth. Drizzle over cooled cake.

Bee Insights

How To Manage Bees

(Adapted from <https://glorybee.com/blog/lesson-10-how-manage-bees/>)

When it comes to managing bees, there are three times of the year that require different types of hive management-- Winter, Early Spring and Summer. Each season is crucial to maintaining a strong and healthy colony and requires different bee management skills.

SPRING MANAGEMENT

Spring is a critical time of the year for the bee colony to grow and strengthen. Special steps are needed to make sure that the colony will grow and get ready for the busy summer months.

Sometime in early February, you will want to check on the bees. Make sure the colony is still healthy and has enough food. If food is running out you may want to feed them some sugar syrup.

February and March are good times to check on the queen bee and see if she will need replacing. You must order your queen around this time to ensure delivery in April/May. As a rule of thumb- it is a good idea to replace the queen every other year.

As Spring-time progress, keep an eye on the colony to see how fast they are growing. Check about every 10 days. If the hive is getting full and 7 to 8 of the frames are covered with bees, you will want to add another brood chamber super.

Finish up your bee disease treatments during the spring and make sure they end at least 30 days before the honey flow begins.

Watch out for swarming. Bees will swarm if they get too crowded. Bees will generally swarm after it has been cold out and a warm day suddenly appears.

If your colony is growing fast, you may want to also think about splitting the colony into two separate colonies. This will require another queen to support the additional colony. The most effective method is to use a nuc. A nuc is a small hive where you will transport two frames of brood with bees on it from a very strong colony along with 2 frames of honey. Do this during the middle of the day when the aggressive worker bees are out gathering nectar. Insert the four frames into the nuc along with a packaged queen bee. Seal the entrance and move at least a mile from the old hive location. Once the nuc is moved you can open the entrance. After about 10 days, check to see if the bees have accepted the new queen then you can move the nuc back. This nuc will be used to replace a queen that has gone bad or can be used when you split a colony to start another one. The nuc introduces the bees to the queen in a stable manner and makes it less likely that when you insert her into the new colony that the existing bees will want to kill her.

HONEY FLOW MANAGEMENT

Management just prior and during the honey flow is crucial. This is the time when bees will need room to store honey and timing is critical. The timing of the honey flow is completely dependent on where you live and the primary plant nectar sources. In Oregon, one of the major sources is the blackberry bush, since there is a massive abundance of it throughout Oregon. Once it starts blooming, you know the honey flow will begin.

10 days to two weeks before the honey flow, (or when the major nectar producing plants begin to bloom) add a honey super on top of the brood chamber.

To keep the queen out of the honey super so she won't lay eggs, you have a couple of options. One is a queen excluder, which is a wire mesh that makes it impossible for the larger queen to pass through. Another option is to use three frames of plain foundation in the middle of the honey super with drawn comb frames on the outside. A queen will always come up to the middle of the super when moving up, and if she sees the plain foundation she won't lay eggs there.

Keep an eye on how full the honey super gets and add another super if it begins to get full. The best method is to add the honey supers even before the flow begins. It is better to have too much space for the bees to store honey than have them run out of room and cause them to swarm. You can add 1 to 3 honey supers on top to give them adequate room. It all depends on how strong your colony is and how much honey you think they can produce. Always err on giving them too much room.

After the honey flow, which is usually sometime around the end of July in areas like western Oregon, you can take off the honey supers to harvest the honey. Honey flow times can vary tremendously depending on location and can even happen as late as August/September, depending on the types of plants in the area and when they bloom.

WINTER MANAGEMENT

If your bees are going to make it through the winter, they need to be well fed and protected against disease. The winter months are when bee diseases are most prevalent. The bees aren't able to leave the hive often, so they are susceptible to more diseases. Below are some steps to help your bees survive the winter months.

Check to make sure your colony is strong enough to winter. There should be a good amount of bees covering at least 7-8 of the frames in the hive. If the colony is not strong, you may want to join two weaker colonies together. First, you will need to kill the queen in one of the colonies. Next, place a newspaper between the supers of each colony and insert a super on top of the other with the newspaper in between. The bees will gradually bite through the newspapers and introduce each other slowly. This makes it easier on the bees and will most likely not invoke problems with the two hives merging.

Make sure they have sufficient sugar or honey stores. 35-50 pounds of honey is a good rule of thumb for a stable, healthy colony. The weather can also affect their food consumption. The colder the weather, the more the bees will eat.

If you are not leaving the bees honey stores to eat over the winter, use a pollen patty or hard candy called a candy board. You can even use dry sugar in some cases. Do not feed bees sugar water during the winter, because it will cause them to create waste in the hive since they can't fly outside due to bad weather. This could prove fatal to the colony. A pollen patty, which is a mixture of sugar syrup, white granulated sugar, soy flour, yeast and bee pollen, is a good food to feed them during winter. You combine these ingredients and shape them into a patty and insert into the hive. The bees will nibble on it all winter and get the nutrition and protein they need to survive the winter.

Early winter (around October) is when you want to do another round of disease control.

Put on entrance reducers. The entrance reducers will keep out yellow jackets that want to rob the hive of food and will also help keep the cold out of the hive.

Tilt hives a bit so that water falls off.

Create an upper entrance in the hive by drilling a small hole. The hole will allow condensation and moisture to escape and keep the hive dry.

From the beginning of October to February, don't bother the bees.

CVBA Board of Directors and Officers

President: Lloyd "Junior" Snelson 432-626-5538

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Board Members: Tim Andrews 423-272-5492

William Barnett 423-754-8523

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Secretary: Candy Halford 865-310-0120

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Bee Inspectors for the CVBA

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Sullivan County

Wayne Yates 423-288-6536



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. We also encourage everyone to have a mentor, especially if you are new to beekeeping. If you need a mentor, please let us know at the next meeting and we will try to find one that is close to you and/or your apiary. 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>

Answer to Bee Funny- Just ears!