



CVBA Newsletter
Volume 13, Number 3
March 1, 2022
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Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 7 pm

March meeting theme is Spaghetti/Pizza night! Please bring something to share. Main dishes, sides and breads are great!

Speaker: David Sams will speak on Swarm Season and Trapping Swarms.

Upcoming Events:

March 8: Board Meeting 6:30 PM @ Lynda Eskola's home.

March 17: Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

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

April 2: Work Day 11 AM – 2 PM.

April 21: Regular meeting. Last day to pay in full for bees ordered. Note: Package bees are still available. \$20 deposit.

May 9 & 10: 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:

Treadway Fire Hall
189 Highway 131
Treadway, TN 37881

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/clinchvalleybeekeepers

Website: <http://clinchvalleybeekeepers.org>

Email: cvbanewsletter@gmail.com

Bee Funny: What did the bees do after the hive was built? (Answer on the last page)

Minutes January Meeting:

The February Meeting opened with prayer. 34 persons were present.

The minutes of the December meeting and current financial reports were given and approved as read.

Jr. and Tom Rison are still working on the Master Beekeeping Class which qualifies you for TAEP over a 3-year period. Right now the dates of June 9-10 are possible for this class.

Bee Inspector Class has changed once again. Expected dates are now May 9 & 10. There is no cost for the class. These dates were confirmed from Mike Studer.

New Beekeeping Short Course: March 19 has been set aside for this 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.

A member announced that several pieces of equipment were available for sale for a great

Minutes continued:

price including a 20-frame extractor, a 50 lb. syrup mixer and a wax melter. All for \$1000.

Farm Field Day: at a school will be May 12 possibly. Please see Jr for more information.

Bee Orders: We still have package bees available, but nucs are sold out. \$20 deposit when you order the package bees. Call our President, Jr. , to order. Deposits can be mailed to us or taken at the next meeting.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned, and we enjoyed our meal. The speaker, David Winters, gave his presentation after the meal.

Presentation:

David Winters spoke about Spring Build-up and Bee Care. Feeding your bees at this time is very important. But if there is a cold snap after brood has been laid the bees will try to keep the brood warm and can starve to death even with all the food in the hive needed. He uses 2-1 syrup in December but by February he changes to 1-1 syrup. 1-1 is closer to nectar and will stimulate the queen to begin laying. If you start feeding do not stop! Generally, feed until the flow begins. He is not a honey producer. He is a bee producer.

Various feeders were discussed, including quail feeders. Only open the hive on warm days.

Bees do what bees do and we cannot control nor explain all their behaviors.

As far as swarming goes there are many variables including the age of the queen. Clipping or marking a queen is considered good practice so you can tell if she has been superseded.

April and May for Italian bees, not Caucasian or Carney bees, give lots of room for honey. Have all treatments done before the honey flow as most cannot be used with the flow. If you have Russian bees, the bee books do not usually apply. If they fill the outside frame, regardless of the remaining frames, they will swarm.

A sign of tracheal mites is the bees crawling around on the ground. Be careful what you use and how you use it to treat your bees. The computer may not be the best advice giver.

Beekeeping Calendar

March

(Adapted from: <https://cookevillebeekeepers.com/tn-beekeeping-annual-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 for the treatment you use. Starvation remains an issue during cold snaps. March and early April may be the time when the most hives do starve. 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, 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.

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. Mailing of checks can be made (see last page).

Other Items

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

If you would like to be notified of a swarm in your area that is turned in on the website or email, please have your name put on that list! See or email Candy to be put on the Swarm List.

Recipe of the Month

(adapted from <https://www.insidetherustickitchen.com/struffoli/#recipe>)



Italian Honey Balls

Struffoli

also called Cicerchiata , Scalilli , Pignolata

3 cups all-purpose flour
1/3 cup sugar
½ teaspoon baking powder
3 large eggs lightly beaten
1 zest of one orange
2 tablespoon dark rum
4 tablespoon melted butter
1 pinch of salt
Vegetable oil for frying

For Coating

1 cup honey
Sprinkles

Put all the dry ingredients (flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, and orange zest) in a large mixing bowl. Stir to combine.

Make a well in the middle and add the melted butter, eggs, and rum.

Mix the ingredients together until it starts to come together. Knead into a smooth ball. Wrap in plastic wrap and leave to rest for 30 minutes.

Once rested, cut the dough in half then cut each half into 3 equal pieces. One at a time, roll each piece of dough into a long sausage shape about ½ inch thick. Cut each log into small roughly ½ inch pieces. Roll each cut piece of dough into balls using the palms of your hands and place on a board or surface lightly dusted with flour so they don't stick. Make sure they are in a single layer and not touching.

Heat oil 2- 3 inches of oil in a large pot to 375°F. Do check you temperature. Fry the balls in batches until golden brown (30-40 seconds). Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on kitchen paper.

Once cool, add the honey to a large pot big enough to hold all the balls and heat it gently just until it is very liquidy (just a few seconds). Add the balls and gently stir until thoroughly coated in honey. Let them soak up the honey for 2-3 minutes.

Arrange the balls in your desired shape on a serving platter and once cooled sprinkle over your festive sprinkles.

Bee Insights

SAVE THE BEES

- February 1, 2022 - Dewey Caron - (excerpt <https://americanbeejournal.com/category/columns/beekeeping-basics/>)



You have likely heard of a new beekeeper starting because they want to “Save the Bees.” Perhaps you are mentoring someone who started for that reason. Or you have had the discussion about honey bee colony losses and been asked the question, *Are bees going extinct?* As we start gearing up for a new spring start-up season, how should we respond to these inquiries and concerns?

Marla Spivak in the October ABJ discussed the “double-edged swords” beekeepers face. One was the conundrum of individuals starting beekeeping to save the bees but then not properly caring for their bees. Some simply don’t know how, but some also have the mistaken belief that by not treating or feeding colonies, bees will be hardier and build resistance to mites/disease. They didn’t really want to keep bees, just save them.

Our best response is to say *No — honey bees are not going extinct.* While we do have high annual colony losses, honey bees will not all die if we take proper care of them. We need to continue to rely on managed honey bee colonies for as much as a third of the food we eat.

Colonies suffering high mite numbers, the syndrome we call Parasitic Mite Syndrome (PMS) or Parasitic Mite Brood Syndrome (PMBS), may have died in the fall and more will die over winter. Such losses are the “new normal,” although losses are double or more what we expect. Individuals who have kept bees for a while, understand that the rate of colony loss in Europe and North America nearly tripled after the arrival of varroa in the 1970s and 1980s. (Ellis, J.D, Evans, J.D, and J. Pettis 2010. *Colony losses, managed colony population decline, and Colony Collapse Disorder in the United States. J, Apic Res 49: 134–136.*)

We realize it is not the mites per se but rather their transmission of viruses, primarily Deformed Wing Virus (DWV), that leads to the heavy loss of honey bee colonies. Without treatments for varroa, honey bee colonies almost always die within two or three years. (Fries I, Imdorf A, Rosenkranz P. (2006) *Survival of mite infested (Varroa destructor) honey bee (Apis mellifera) colonies in a Nordic climate. Apidologie 37: 564–570.*)

We may assume losses in the spring to be caused by starvation or too small a population, but both might actually be indirectly due to varroa mites the previous season. Splits and swarm capture losses, along with feral hive transfer losses, are close to 50%, despite our best efforts to properly start the new colonies. We lose more package- and nuc-established colonies during the winter than we do previously overwintered colonies. I document these percentage differences for the Pacific Northwest region in an annual survey (<https://pnwhoneybeesurvey.com>).

Langstroth in his first edition of the “Hive and the Honey Bee” mentioned the high losses by beekeepers over winter. Introducing his new hive, he advised beekeepers to take losses in the fall by combining weaker units and those with too little stored honey to survive. He said this was especially important with new colonies. Managing bees means heavily feeding newly-established colonies sugar syrup and protein supplements to improve chances of survival.

Colony Numbers are Growing

The number of bee colonies is actually growing in the U.S., fueled by the demand for colonies to pollinate almonds. That may change as water availability will lead to major changes in almond cultivation. Each tree needs water — a lot of water. It is estimated each almond takes 1.1 gallons of water; to grow a pound of almonds takes 1,900 gallons. Although almond water use has been singled out, other tree crops such as

walnuts, hazelnuts, pistachios, and cashews all use roughly the same amount of water. Animal culture is similar. It is estimated that it takes 1700 gal/lb. of water to raise beef cattle.

We know our colonies have multiple stressors and bees are not as healthy as they need be. Beekeepers across the United States lost 45.5% of their managed honey bee colonies from April 2020 to April 2021, according to preliminary results of the 15th annual nationwide survey conducted by the nonprofit Bee Informed Partnership (BIP). Yet despite annual losses averaging over 30%, colony numbers are increasing in North America, Europe and worldwide.

In part colony loss statistics are related to what time frame you pick. The total number of managed honey bee colonies decreased from an estimated 5 million in the 1940s to a low of 2.4 million in 2006 when the term CCD (Colony collapse Disorder) was coined. Since that period, it has climbed to an estimated 2.71 million today, according to the most recent (2020) USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) survey (NASS, March 2021 Honey).

Statistics Canada reports the total national colony count of colonies in Canada has increased by 26.7% during the period 2007-2020. This is double the U.S. rate of increase. Total colony number currently is estimated at around 725,000 colonies. Globally the numbers of managed honey bee colonies have risen 85% since 1961, mainly with increases in honey bee colonies in Asia.

Loss of diversity in bees

While high seasonal honey bee losses are being replaced, of greater concern is an apparent loss of diversity in native (sometimes termed wild) populations of non-managed bees and other pollinators. We are justifiably concerned expanding the term “bees” to include native or wild bees. Studies of native bee species, their overall abundance and distribution in general, and their ecosystem service of pollination has in some instances documented bee populations that are not as healthy or robust as they once were. (*Zattara, E.E. and Aizen, M.A. 2021. Worldwide occurrence records suggest a global decline in bee species richness. One Earth 4:114-123.*)

One of the challenges in documenting loss of bee diversity is a lack of records of earlier abundance. The media have picked up on declines in insect abundance and coined the term “insect apocalypse” (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/27/magazine/insect-apocalypse.html>). Some readers may recall that after CCD was identified, “bee apocalypse” was used for the plight of the honey bee. The declines appear genuine even if we can’t document them precisely.

There are approximately 4000 species of bees in the U.S. and some of these may be disappearing as flowering plants and habitat that they rely on are removed. This seems to be the situation with documented instances of decreasing populations of bumble bees, the next most common bee recognized after honey bees. Minnesota recently made the rusty patched bumble bee their State Bee to call attention to loss of bees. While once common over a large area, this species is no longer common. Other bumble bees are also apparently less common although some were never common to begin with.

Among other pollinators, the annual migration of monarch butterflies has been cited as evidence of habitat loss. Losses approaching 80% have put monarchs on the waiting list for Endangered Species Act listing. (Center for Biological Diversity: “Eastern Monarch Butterfly Population Falls Again,” February 2021.) To expand from overwintering sites in Mexico and along the California coast, successive generations of monarchs need certain types of milkweeds to grow another generation to move further northward before retreating back southward each fall. Species that have specific plant needs for food or reproduction, or to complete their life, have diminishing chances of continued survival with habitat loss. Honey bees are generalist feeders, although they need a variety of pollen and nectar sources to prosper. The vast majority of other pollinators, like monarch butterflies and native bees, are much more restricted in their diet.

Could our food supply be in danger? A recent survey identified a mere 66 species of insects that are or could be used in planned pollination. Eighty-seven of the 107 leading crops are dependent upon insect pollination. Included are seven species of bumble bees, mainly used for greenhouse production, although commercially-propagated bumble bees may be useful in some field-grown crops like blueberries. Eight species of wild bees are used in orchard and alfalfa production.

Worldwide the growth of pollination-dependent agriculture crops is increasing disproportionately to other non-insect-pollinated crop expansion. Most of the rest of the species listed as useful in agriculture are only identified as potentially useful. (Continued in the magazine.)

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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- They threw a house-swarmed party!