



CVBA Newsletter
Volume 13, Number 4
April 1, 2022
Candy Halford, Editor
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Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 7 pm

April meeting theme is Spring Chicken night! Please bring something to share. Any dish that is chicken, goes with chicken or dessert.

Speaker:

Upcoming Events:

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 do bees and husbands have in common? (Answer on the last page)

Minutes March Meeting and notes since:

The March Meeting opened with prayer. 41 persons were present. It was a busy meeting.

We have lots of new members! We have package bees and nucs that are being paid for. Packages are still available at this writing.

The Financial Report was given and approved.

Bee Inspector class is scheduled for May 9 & 10. From 6-10 each night at the Fire Station. Sign-up sheet is available, see Candy, but even if you do not sign up please come and learn all you can from Mike Studer our State Apiarist.

The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved.

Jr. and Tom Rison are still working on the Master Beekeeping Class which qualifies you for TAEP over a 3-year period. They are working to get several speakers. The tentative dates are June 9-10.

The New Beekeeper Short Course was taught by David Sams and was a great success. 14 persons were present. We drew for the grants and the results were:

Youth/Collinsworth-Dylan Morris
Regular- Dave Jackson and Gregg Hahn
Equipment: Stephanie Griffin, Sam Osborne, and Starla Thompson

Work Day at the Club will be April 2 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

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CVBA has a library! We brought it in for the meeting and several items were checked out. Check out is until the next meeting. Please bring the items you checked out back to the next meeting as others may want to check them out as well. We need a volunteer for each meeting or a Librarian to take care of check out and check in. If you would volunteer to help or be the Librarian, please see any officer. We need your help to improve CVBA.

The difference between a package bees and nucleus colonies was explained as questions were asked.

The new rules for TBA Grants were brought to the clubs attention. Also, a representative should be elected to attend the Regional meeting that will come up. Please be thinking of who you would like to fill this position.

The meeting was adjourned to the meal. The presentation by David Sams followed.

David Sams spoke about Swarm traps and Trapping. He has a lot of experience and loves to share with others.

A slide presentation was given, and he brought various traps he has used in the past. He discussed the pros and cons of the various traps and lures and pointed out that traps do not need to be put 10-20 feet in the air. It is fine to keep them at eye level for whomever you are. He also discussed wax moths and viruses.

Beekeeping Calendar

April

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

Beekeeping begins in earnest by April – you should be doing regular inspections to monitor hive conditions. We are frost free many years by the 15th most years by May 1.

Early blooms such as fruit trees make ample forage available when the weather is fair – but hives can still starve during extended cold or rainy weather, because large amounts of brood can quickly eat through all available stores. But this becomes increasingly unlikely as April progresses. Swarms however become increasingly more likely throughout the month.

Wax/comb production ramps up in April.

Our main flow consisting of black locust and tulip poplar may begin later in the month.

Main beekeeping tasks are to keep supers going on and try to prevent swarming. You might even try to collect a few swarms. April is a great time to make splits or begin rearing queens.

If you are a beginner – April or May is probably when you will get and install your bees – hereafter known as the happiest day of your life.

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.

Recipe of the Month

(adapted from https://www.dinneratthezoo.com/wprm_print/28223)



This honey chicken is crispy pieces of chicken breast that are fried to golden brown perfection, then tossed in a sweet and savory honey sauce. A homemade version of the takeout classic that tastes even better than what you would get at a restaurant!

For the chicken

- 1 1/2 pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 eggs
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup cornstarch
- oil for frying canola or vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup green onions thinly sliced

Place the eggs, salt and pepper in a bowl. Stir to combine.

Place the flour and 1/2 cup corn starch in a shallow bowl or on a plate. Stir to combine.

Dip each piece of chicken into the egg mixture, then into the flour. Repeat the process with all of the chicken.

Heat 3 inches of oil in a deep pot to 350 degrees F.

Add 7-8 pieces of chicken to the pan. Cook for 5 minutes or until crispy and golden brown.

Repeat the process with the remaining chicken.

Drain the chicken on paper towels.

For the sauce

- 1/2 cup honey
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons water divided use
- 1/2 teaspoon toasted sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon corn starch

While the chicken is cooking, make the sauce. Place the honey, soy sauce, 1 tablespoon of water, sesame oil and apple cider vinegar in a small pan. Bring to a simmer.

Mix the corn starch with the remaining tablespoon of water. Pour the corn starch mixture into the honey mixture.

Bring the sauce to a boil. Cook, stirring constantly, for 1-2 minutes or until sauce has thickened.

Toss the honey sauce with the chicken. Sprinkle with green onions, then serve.

Bee Insights

(adapted from: <https://carolinahoneybees.com/too-many-beehives/>)

How Many Hives Can One Beekeeper Manage

Beekeepers love their bees and in the beginning it seems we just can't have enough. The idea of expanding our apiary is a noble one and filled with much excitement. However for most beekeepers, the question eventually arises – how many beehives can 1 person manage – well!

Can you have too many beehives?

The key to our dilemma of deciding how many hives to have in our backyard is remembering the primary goal. Beekeepers keep bees in a desire to reap the benefits of having a hive. However, we also understand the need to have healthy productive hives.

Keeping honey bees is much different than managing other forms of wildlife. If you put out 5 bird houses, you may have 5 bird families take up residence. And with livestock, if you only have room for 10 cows, you simply avoid breeding more.

However, managing honey bee colonies is quite different. Unlike the bird families that raise young and leave, the bee colony maintains a year round home in one spot. Also, modern bee colonies require periodic inspections.

Queen loss or pest problems are two major concerns for the beekeepers of today. If you are unable to “tend” to your bees in a reasonable manner, most hives will die within a year or two.

Swarming Contributes to Apiary Growth

The population of a honey bee colony is cyclic. It ebbs and flows with the season. Going from a smaller population in later Winter to a raging hive of 50,000 or more during the height of Summer.

How do bees control this crowding situation? They often cast a swarm. Honey bee swarming is natural reproduction on the colony level.

This is how bees spread colonies across an area. About half the hive population leaves to form a new home elsewhere.

While beekeepers often attempt to prevent honey bee swarming, it is a true fight against nature. The colony that swarms may produce less or no honey that year – depending on local conditions. Many beekeepers have bees solely for honey production so swarms are not so desirable.

In spite of our best efforts, the colony often does swarm. And being beekeepers, we have to try to catch it right? Not every swarm is retrieved but many are and it can be quite entertaining to harvest a swarm from a tree.

Beekeepers also put out swarm traps or bait hives to catch wayward swarms. And, aren't we delighted when we catch a wild swarm that didn't come from our hives!!! Yay, we have another hive of bees.

All of this is very exciting and wonderful until you look out there and think – hmmm do I have too many hives in my backyard?

How Many Colonies Should a Beekeeper Have?

In most beginner beekeeping classes (for sure in my class), we encourage beginner beekeepers to start with 2 hives. In spite of the extra expense, there are many reasons to have more than one colony.

The biggest advantages are that it allows resources to be shared between the two hives and if one dies, the new beekeeper is not left without any bees.

However, it can be just as big a problem for a beekeeper who only wanted 2 hives to end up with 12. We good-naturedly joke about this phenome of having too many hives.

But, it happens to most beekeepers at some point. We can quickly go from – I wish I had another to OMG what am I going to do with these bees.

So what is the perfect number beehives to keep on your property? That number is different for each beekeeper. It is mostly calculated using your allotment of time and money to care for the bees. And also, your beekeeping goals.

If you want to start a bee farm or beekeeping business with hopes of selling a bit of honey and bee products, you need a plan for managing more hives. A backyard beekeeper wanting to produce honey for the family or aid in pollination only needs a couple. Take it easy in that first year or two until you have a better understanding of colony needs.

Too Many Hives in One Location

Experienced beekeepers understand the dynamics of honey bee life. Larger beekeepers have employees to help maintain the hives. Yet, labor is not the only concern. They still must consider the amount of forage available.

If the bees must fly for long distances to gather food, this “costs” the colony a lot in expended energy. When the goal of having bees is only for pollination, migratory beekeepers temporarily place many boxes in one area. But, this is just for a short term – as determined by the needs of the crop.

How Many Beehives per Acre?

Well, it depends on where that acre is located. In the middle of hundreds of acres of sweet clover in bloom – the area would support a good number of bees.

Because the nectar sources of each area are so diverse, we must go with a generalization. For non-commercial beekeepers, the number I hear most often is 2-3 hives per acre.

A reminder to the small scale beekeepers, this is in reference to the foraging area for the colonies – not the space where the hives are actually sitting.

Problems When One Beekeepers Has Too Many Hives

While it might seem that more is always better – that is certainly not the case in reference to bees. If your hive numbers get out of hand you may experience a myriad of problems.

- Increased feeding due to forage competition
- Violation of local regulations
- Complaints from neighbors
- No budget for needed equipment
- Unable to give bees health treatments due to time or money
- Weaker hives with sick bees

The area surrounding your bee yard has a certain level of available pollen and nectar. Hopefully, many plants bloom over a long period of the season. The more hives in one spot, the more competition for the workers collecting resources needed by the colony.

Having a large apiary with too many hives to be supported by local flora means the beekeeper will need to feed more often.

Some beekeepers live in areas where they are only allowed to have a maximum number of beehives in their backyard. If your local regulations call for no more than 2 and you have 10, this could lead to trouble and the possibility of being asked to move all your beehives.

The more colonies you have, the more bees will be in the local vicinity, this means more bees looking for water, bee pooping on vehicles, swarming issues etc.

Beekeeping equipment is not cheap-especially when you need to purchase extras for more hives. This is an item that needs to be budgeted. In addition to the basic hive configuration, you need honey super boxes for a harvest etc.

All too often, the beekeeper ends up with more boxes than bees. Unless you are queen rearing, you probably don't need a lot of small colonies.

Lack of time to give each colony the attention it needs may result in hives that are not productive and growing. This is the syndrome of having 10 beehives with only enough bee population to make up 5 good hives. It is a waste of your time and resources.

Also if the beekeeper has more hives than one person can manage properly, sickness and poor health is sure to be a factor. Sick mite infested colonies can cause the infection of the healthy hives in the bee yard. This leads to overall poor apiary health. No good for anyone.

Preventing Bee Colony Overload

At times, most beekeepers do end up with too many colonies for their space, time or budget. In this case, it is best to sell the extras.

Or if Fall is approaching, keep your best colonies headed by the best queens and combine the smaller healthy ones together. Reduce your hive numbers.

Because colony population will rise and fall seasonally, try some swarm prevention techniques to at least reduce swarming in your bee yard. When colonies do swarm, you have 2 options.

Let the swarm go (very difficult for beekeepers – I know) or call another beekeeper to collect it. Then, watch the mother hive to make sure they are able to successfully requeen themselves.

Or the second option, catch the swarm if you can safely. Place it into a small nuc box (if it is not too large) and care for it for 3 weeks or so. Feed the swarm and give the colony time to get a start with new brood to be emerging.

Now, sell this small starter colony. Set a price that is fair in your area for a started swarm with some frames of comb, brood and a laying queen. Be sure to cover your costs of frames, foundation, feed etc – but don't price it too high, if the swarm had gotten away you would have made nothing.

In addition to space, foraging area, legalities etc, consider your personal schedule. If you have a full-time job, a couple of hives in the backyard may be all that you need.

A retired person or someone with a lot of help from family or friends, can take care of my hives. Don't overload yourself and have this wonderful experience become a dreaded chore.

Now I know you are going to say, you can never have too many. We all feel this way to a degree. However, the issue is – how many beehives can 1 person manage – “well”. Providing proper management requires physical effort and time.

And, having too many beehives in one location does make more work for the beekeeper. In the world of beekeeping, our major goal should always be to be a good keeper of the bees.

Master Beekeeper, Charlotte Anderson shares her love of all things honeybee. She helps others become better beekeepers and teaches new beekeepers how to get started. Her mission is spreading awareness of the importance of honey bees. She is a former Beekeeper of the Year in South Carolina.

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

Bee a Mentor-Please consider being a mentor for our club! See Candy.

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.

Recommended You-tubers for information:

Kamon Reynolds, Barnyard Bees, Bob Binnie, and Fredrick Dunn



An email about Master Beekeeping Class that qualifies for TAEP (This is not the one we have been talking about with Jr. and Tom) It is another option: From Jenifer Tsuruda, PhD (She is with UT)

I wanted to send you a heads up/update about dates and locations for 2022 Master Beekeeping Program classes so you can start planning.

May 5-6: Van Buren County – Spencer, TN
May 12-13: Madison County – Jackson, TN
May 26-27: Blount County – Maryville, TN
June 23-24: Fentress County – Jamestown, TN
July 14-15: Washington County – Jonesborough, TN
July 21-22: Maury County – Spring Hill, TN
(all classes are 8:30am-5:00pm, local time, each day)

This information has been posted on <https://epp.tennessee.edu/masterbee/> but is taking longer to update than expected. I anticipate the registration site to be set up soon.

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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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- A Honey Do list!