



CVBA Newsletter
Volume 13, Number 5
May 1, 2022
Candy Halford, Editor
Email: cvbanewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 7 pm

May food theme is the Big S! Soup Sandwiches and Salad! Bring to share.

Speaker: David Winters

Upcoming Events:

May ?: **Package Bees should arrive.** Jr. will call each person who has ordered when the date is set.

May 9 & 10: Bee Inspector Class 6-10 PM (Must attend both nights) This is a very good class even if you are not becoming an inspector. It will show diseases and many concerns beekeepers have.

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

Think on It: Friendships and honey bees have a lot in common; when the stinger comes out the bee dies.

Bee Funny:

What do bees use to build roads? (answer on last page)

Minutes April 21 Meeting and notes since:

Our President, Lloyd Snelson Jr., opened the meeting with prayer. 43 persons were present. Jr. read the minutes of the March meeting and they were approved as read. The treasurer's report was given and approved. Recognition of first-time visitors was conducted.

Inspector class for May 9 and 10 is still on.

The work Tom and Jr. were doing to get a Master Beekeeper Course in our area was shot down. A Master Farm Manager Class is an available option that will allow you to qualify for TAEP. Tom and Jr. will have this information for you. The classes UT are offering for Master Beekeeper in various areas are listed in the Newsletter. They are filling fast. Some are already full. Some of the qualifications for TAEP were discussed. See the link below for Farm Manager (deadline for zoom in June 4):

<https://arec.tennessee.edu/extension/manage/tennessee-master-farm-manager/>

The nucs ordered will be coming in one day next week. Payment must be made. Possibly pick up on Tuesday or Saturday about 10 AM. Jr. will call when it is definite. Packages will be a couple more weeks. Usually on a Saturday. (Nucs were in April 30th.)

Paul announced the Hillhippy Hollow Arts and Craft show on May 7. He will be doing blacksmith work there. He also had flyers for those interested.

Questions about the inspector class were answered.

We dismissed to the meal and then reconvened to hear the speaker, Charlie Parton. Charlie talked about Bee Pest and approved treatments. It was a very insightful. Varroa mites are the main concern, but many others were discussed as well. His slide presentation was very informative.

Beekkeeping Calendar

May

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

May is normally when our main honey flow happens – If you and your hives aren't ready to take advantage of it by May 1 you are going to miss it. Everything blooms in May. Hive populations will be at or near maximum.

You should be doing inspections, supering, swarm management, making increase – all the fun, hard work of beekeeping this month. By the way – do you know how to tell if a hive has swarmed or not?

Beginners – feed 1-1 syrup as long as they will take it, give them a new box when all but 2 frames are drawn out, and do your inspections!

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. Please see Jr. or Candy or David.

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)

Recipe of the Month

Honey Ice Cream

(Adapted from <https://www.yummly.com/recipe/Honey-Ice-Cream-632115>)



2 1/8 cups whipping cream
1 cup whole milk
2/3 cup honey
3 egg yolks

Heat the cream, milk, and honey together just to simmering.

Beat the egg yolks, add to the hot cream mixture little by little stirring constantly.

Use low heat to thicken, stirring constantly.

Let cool and refrigerate overnight.

Place in freezer and stir every 30 minutes until creamy or place in an ice cream maker and follow instructions instead.

Festooning Bees: Unique Honey Bee Behavior

(Adapted from: <https://carolinahoneybees.com/festooning-bees/>)

One might think that after all these years we know everything about honey bees. Alas, this is not true. There are still some mysteries we have yet to unravel. One such behavior is festooning bees. While we understand some of the reasons for this action, much of it is simply educated guesses. There is still more to learn.



Festooning bees is a behavior where honey bees hang in a line or chain making a lace type pattern between frames inside the hive. They are attached to one another by each other's legs – it looks like the bees are holding hands. When the beekeeper first notices festooning inside a hive, it is a very exciting experience. It is obvious that the bees are doing it for a special reason, and it looks so organized.

How do they communicate in a way that lets everyone know what to do? This is one of those mysteries we still do not understand completely.

Why Bees Festoon? Honestly, this behavior continues to be somewhat of a mystery to beekeepers and research scientists. We are not exactly sure why they festoon but we do have some ideas.

One idea, the function of the living chain may have something to do with comb construction. Researchers have hinted at this as a possibility. Yet, bees have been known to festoon in other areas of the hive. Perhaps there are more than one purpose for this type of bee behavior. These chains of hanging worker bees can create new comb or repair old comb that has been damaged. Colonies with a small amount of wax moth damage must repair the wax cells. Cleaning and repair is a constant job for workers. Anything that makes the job easier would be a plus.

Benefits for comb construction: Makes comb building easier, useful for measuring spaces, and heat provided promotes wax production.

It is believed that festooning bees are able to recreate sections of comb faster than would be possible by individual bees doing their own thing. The ladder of bees serves as a sort of scaffolding. Though they don't always get into festooning position for comb building.

Each bee secretes small flakes of wax (called scales) from wax glands on their abdomen – the underside of a worker bee. Then, it is shaped and used to build hexagonal cells on the frame in the proper position. In this way, honey bees form comb to create their nest in the hive. Isn't it a good thing that honey bees have 6 legs. They need some to manipulate the wax and some to hang onto their sisters in the chain.

Honey bees are quite particular about where they place frames of comb. We know that they are able to measure spaces inside the hive. Combs are built in any space larger than $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch "bee space" – perhaps festooning helps bees keep the proper spacing between combs. The colony attempts to fill any open spaces with comb.

Young worker honey bees are the most efficient wax producers in the colony. Those in the 14 to 18 day old age group are just entering their peak production. In a hive where thousands of wax cells are needed, wax production is important.

These cells will be used to hold honey and pollen. Some become brood cells and serve as a place to rear young or bee brood. The colony needs plenty of cells to provide space for all these needs.

The best temperature for secretion of wax and manipulation is over 91°F. One possible theory on the purpose of festooning is that the chain of hanging bees create more heat. However, despite these great examples of why bee festooning is beneficial – it is not required. We know that honey bees can build comb without hanging in chains with their sisters.

Why do it in some areas and not others? Unless it involves the “size” of the construction area – we just don’t know.

Jürgen Tautz is a world-renowned German bee biologist. His book – Buzz about Bees Biology of a Superorganism is fascinating for anyone truly interested in honey bee life. It is one of my favorites. In one of his latest books – he submits the idea that the chaining bees we see in festooning – may indeed be a carry-over behavior from wild bees. Wild bees hang in groups around the construction area – forming a kind of net structure. The net does not necessarily have anything to do with actual comb construction but serves other functions perhaps.

If you want to learn more about his thoughts – read : Wild Honey Bees. This is not a how-to beekeeping book, but it is a treasure for any bee lover. The photography is outstanding.

If most researchers are unsure – I can’t hope to give a better answer. We do know that this a common behavior in hives during the warm season. One thing is certain, festooning bees are a delightful sight to see in the hive. This is one of the joys of being a beekeeper. We get a unique view of the life of the honey bee – even if we do not always understand why they do things.

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.

Other Items

Bee a Mentor-Please consider being a mentor for our club! Talk to Jr or David.

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 on the list, talk to Jr. or David as well.



Recommended You-tube channels for information:

Kamon Reynolds, Barnyard Bees, Bob Binnie (Blue Ridge Honey Company), and Fredrick Dunn



TAEP News:

Master Farm Manager Classes with zoom must be registered for by June 4. Go to the following link:
<https://arec.tennessee.edu/extension/manage/tennessee-master-farm-manager/>

Also talk to your local Farm Extension Agent if you can’t do it by zoom. They may allow you to see it at their office. Tom at the Tazewell office will allow it, just call him. Jr also has his information.

In Person Master Beekeeping Classes: (many are already full)

With Jenifer Tsuruda, PhD (UT)

Dates and locations for 2022 Master Beekeeping Program classes:

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/>

CVBA Board of Directors and Officers

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

Vice President: David Sams 423-693-6846

Board Members: Tim Andrews 423-272-5492

William Barnett 423-754-8523

Bobbi Smith 865-360-7373

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Bee Inspectors for the CVBA

Claiborne County

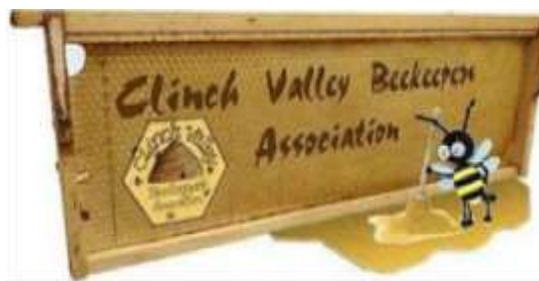
Lloyd "Junior" Snelson 423-626-5538

Debbie Clayton 865-310-2421

Bill Clayton 423-626-8786

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- Nec-Tar!