



www.forsythbeekeepersclub.org

FBC's NEXT MEETING: 26 MAR 2015 @ 6:30 PM.

Sawnee Mt. Preserve Visitor Center

4075 Spot Road, Cumming GA, 30040 (770-781-2217)

GUEST SPEAKER

Master Craftsman Beekeeper Bill Owens – Topic: Nectar Management



Bill was the first beekeeper to have achieved the fourth and highest level of Beekeeping in the Georgia Master Beekeeping program. There are now two, the second one being Amy Weeks who lives in West Monroe, Louisiana. One must have and use a complete knowledge of the scientific approach for solving all beekeeping problems and an understanding of the value to the natural ecosystem of these crop pollinators. Bill operates 'Owens Apiaries' as well "Georgia Bee Removal' which removes infestations of all kinds of bees. He has worked at the UGA Bee Lab, done research that has been published in numerous articles and magazines.

CLUB BUSINESS

On 7 MAR we conducted 'Day 1' of our annual 'Beginners Beekeeping School'. Over 20 new beekeepers attended and are now members of our club. Remember, the learning process does not stop after the first class, so be prepared to ask and answer any beekeeping questions you may encounter. Article II in the club's By-Laws states our purpose is to improve the knowledge and skills in beekeeping for anyone that is interested. The school could not accomplish this if it were not for our **club members who volunteer their time**. Special thanks to our lecturers: Kelly Campbell, Jay Hendrix, Teri Meyer, Randy Suggs, Hoyt Rogers and Andy Bailey. Also thanks to all who helped with the many administrative necessities.

The monthly meetings will continue to start at 6:30 PM. However, a few 'expert' club members will be there 30 minutes prior to the start of each meeting for the purpose of answering beekeeping related questions as well as trying to help solve any individual member's bee related problems. It will be a monthly one-on-one Q&A session.

The 170+ NUCs we ordered are scheduled to arrive in about four weeks. Make sure all the equipment you will need at that time is ready to go: brood supers, honey supers, frames, foundations, screen bottom boards, tops, telescoping tops and sites prepared for hive placements.

In the Georgia Hive

NUC: (Pronounced 'newk') The NUCs we are getting from Bob Binnie will be the nucleus of what will soon be a big healthy colony. These NUCs each consist of a laying queen, several pounds of honey bees, and 5 drawn-out frames with honey, pollen, and brood created from a larger colony. You will need to feed the bees at first because the bees in a NUC are usually nurse or baby bees that stay in the colony and take care of the queen and brood. Feed them inside the hive, or with an entrance feeder. Once the nurse bees have reached about 3 to 4 weeks of age they start leaving (and returning) the hive as foragers – in search of pollen, nectar, etc..

Sue and I had more of our colonies make it thru this winter. It does increase the winter survival rate if in the fall you help prepare the bees by: leaving the hive at least 30 pounds of honey, provide a supplemental food source, downsize the hive, replace or cover the screen bottom board, and provide sufficient insulation. At \$125 replacement cost, it is monetarily efficient and 'good' beekeeping to help the colony survive the

winter. In addition to saving the replacement costs a hive that successfully makes it through the winter will provide a lot of honey before bees in a new NUCs even get started foraging. This is another reason why good hive management is rewarding.

Beekeeping Seasonal Responsibilities for now & APR

1 - CONDUCT VISUAL INSPECTIONS

Every 10 -12 days - look for queen cells (prevents swarming).

Look for foraging bees carrying pollen – an indication of brood rearing.

Look for overcrowding - adding supers can also prevent swarming.

2 - EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Prepare equipment for hive expansion and/or arrival of new NUCS.

3 - DEWINTERIZE

De-insulate and begin adding honey supers when the 'honey flow' starts.

4 - CONTINUE FEEDING

Honeybees will only consume the 1:1 sugar water mix **if** they need it.

5 – SITE PREPARATION

Chose and prepare locations for new (or old) hives.

KEEPING IT LOCAL!

Any club members who have a bee related product to sell, may list their items here.

Swarm Removal: Mark Hughes, 770-356-7025

Honey and Honey bee products – Bill Dunn,

2015 BEEKEEPER EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL

- **18 APR, 9AM – until 3 or 4 pm FBC's bee school DAY 2* (workshop)**
- 23 APR, Club meeting

MAY:

- **2 MAY, FBC's Certified Beekeepers Exam* (May 9 backup)**
- 15 – 17 May, Young Harris Beekeeping Institute.
- 16 MAY, Journeyman exam at Young Harris
- 28 MAY, Club meeting
- **30 MAY, FBC's Queen Rearing Class* (alt date MAY 31)**

JUNE

- 25 JUN, Club meeting

JULY

- **18 JUL, Honey Bee Disorders School* (rain day 25 JUL)**
- 23 JUL, Club meeting

AUGUST

- 27 AUG, Club meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 12 SEP, (?) Honey Bee Festival, Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center*
- 24 SEP, Club meeting, FBC's Annual Honey Show

OCTOBER

- 1 – 12, Cumming Country Fair and Festival*
- 22 OCT, Club meeting

NOVEMBER

- 6 – 8 Nov, Hemlock Festival*
- 19 Nov, Holiday Dinner, installation of officers.*

*** Opportunity to Volunteer**

2015 Forsyth Beekeepers Club Officers	
<p>President: Mark Hughes MTHughes04@yahoo.com 770-356-1025</p>	<p>Vice President: Butch Shelton butchshelton@bellsouth.net 770-889-1319</p>
<p>Secretary: Camille Frix farleygirl13@yahoo.com 678-516-0903</p>	<p>Treasurer: Hoyt Rogers 770-479-1731</p>
<p>Web Master: Joe Bannister joeban1@bellsouth.net</p> <p>FaceBook: Kelley Campbell Kelleygirl53@hotmail.com</p> <p>Librarian: Joanne Bradley joannebradley@bellsouth.net</p>	<p>Letter Editor: Marc Conlyn rmarshallc@mail2marc.com 770-888-9652</p> <hr/> <p>Board Of Directors: Bill Dunn Andy Bailey</p>