



www.forsythbeekeepersclub.org

FBC's NEXT MEETING: June 27th, 2013, 6:30 PM

@ the Sawnee Mt. Preserve Visitor Center

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

GUEST SPEAKERS

June: Rodney Garner is a Journeyman beekeeper, and Vice President of the Forsyth Beekeepers Club. Rodney will be presenting a program about why and how to keep records, and documentation of your colonies.

July 25th: The Forsyth Extension agent , speaking about new Uganda discoveries

August 22: Julia Mahood talking about creamed honey.

Sept 26; Honey Show

FORSYTH BEEKEEPERS CLUB BUSINESS

The Cumming Country Fair and Festival is October 3 - 13, 2013. Our Honey show will be during the September meeting, and the winning entries will be on display in the Forsyth Beekeepers Club booth. The rules for the honey show are at the end of this newsletter. There are many opportunities to be involved at the FBC booth, and if you like talking to people you might enjoy it. The schedule is very flexible, and is usually broken up into 2 hour "shifts".

The Forsyth Beekeepers Club Facebook Page is up, and running. It is a great resource, and club members are asking great questions, and getting great answers. Thanks to Kelley Campbell, and Frank Huggins for this great idea, and their management of the page.

Saturday, July 20th will be our annual field trip to learn how to check for hygienic behavior. Details to be announced, and emailed.

We are sponsoring a break at the GBA fall meeting. This year the meeting is relatively close to us, at the Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center. It would be great if FBC is well represented., Save the Date, Sept. 20 - 21.

In the Georgia Hive

June & July - The nectar flow begins to decline in June. The plants that are blooming are sumac, and sourwood in the Mountains. The primary resource for the bees from these two plants is nectar. If you do move your bees north for the sourwood, it's a good idea to rob all of the spring honey before you move them.

- **Prevent Swarming** - It's not too late for a hive to swarm, but the chances it surviving are slim. You still need to look for swarm queen cells, and have a plan for what to do if you find one. If you have a colony that is queenless, you may use a swarm queen cell to requeen a colony. A split made now is not a good idea because it would require a lot of feeding and would not have enough time to do much more than draw out comb.
- **Check the queen's laying pattern.** If it isn't good, replace her if you can.
- **Water:** The heat of our Georgia summers begins soon. The bees will be scouting for [water](#), make sure they can find it close by. A simple method of providing water can be a birdbath, with pebbles or rocks in it to help them not drown. By the way, as the heat increases, so will the small hive beetles.
- **Small hive beetles** - Treat the soil surrounding your colonies with nematodes, *Steinernema riobrave* and *Heterorhabditis indica*, which are available from organic gardening catalogs. Hive beetle traps are available from catalogues.
- **Fire Ants.** They can be aggressive during the summer - have you noticed? There are several techniques to keep them out of your colonies. They generally won't crawl through oil. If you have a stand with legs you can put the legs in tin pans of oil.
- **Treat for varroa destructor**, now and forever if you want to have your colonies live longer than 3 years.
 1. **Dusting with Powdered sugar** doesn't harm the bees, and interferes with the *Varroa* mite's ability to maintain its hold on the bee. It also increases the bees' grooming behavior. This causes a lot of *Varroa* mites to become dislodged and fall off through the screened bottom board. If you aren't using screened bottom boards, this method won't remove the mites from the hive. The most effective way to use the powdered sugar is to treat them every other month, by doing a shake four times, every three days.. In other words, sugar shake on July 1, 4, 7 and 10. Skip August, and repeat the sugar shake on September 1, 4,7 and 10, then again in November and January if it is warm enough to open your colonies.
 2. **Freezing and replacing drone comb.** The varroa mites prefer drone comb because they get 2 - 4 more days in the cell than they do in a worker bee cell.
- **Harvesting your honey: Now** is a good time to harvest your honey. You may take full capped frames. Once you have extracted the honey, you can let the bees clean the wet frames by replacing them in the hive.. You can also leave the wet frames outside for the bees to clean, but make sure they are well away from your colonies. You do not want to invite other bees to rob your colony. Our club has two extractors that are available for the use of all club members. Finding them may take several phone calls. The first time you "rob" your colonies is easier if you experience it with someone who has taken honey before. Call your mentors and ask for help if you are uncomfortable with the process. Mentors - make sure your phone numbers are good on the mentor handout.
Manage your colonies to ensure they will have at least 30 lbs of honey per brood chamber for the winter. There is one more nectar flow before the winter dearth, but if they do not have *at least* one full capped super per brood chamber at the end of the summer, you must be prepared to feed them. They will take the sugar water as if it were nectar, store it, and cap it. Expect more about getting your colonies ready for winter next month.
- **Relocate hives for sourwood flow:** Many beekeepers in our area take their hives up to higher elevations in north Georgia for the sourwood nectar flow. I have seen several sourwood trees in bloom in Forsyth County this month so the bloom further north is just getting started.
- **Reserve/order queens** If you are going to requeen in the fall.

KEEPING IT LOCAL!

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

- Hoyt Rogers, wooden ware, 770-479-1731.
- Bill Dunn , Bill's bees, beesnbill@yahoo.com , 7708891423, Beekeeping supplies, nucs and queens, honey and more
- Buster's Bees, www.bustersbees.com, 770-389-0721, bustersbees@yahoo.com, Beekeeping supplies, nucs and queens.
- Andy Bailey, Baileys Bees, baileysbees@gmail.com, 7705306397, Beekeeping supplies, nucs and queens, honey and more.
- Bud Champlin, Buds Mountain Honey, 7703244690
- Marc and Sue Conlyn, Breeze Bay Honey, 770-317-8300, Honey.
- Kellii and Trip Tarrer, Straight From the Girls, fsuchef45@yahoo.com 6789783970
- Lois Dewey, Weedy Soil Farm, loisdewey@bellsouth.net, 7708886207
- Donald Durocher, Gallitrey Enterprises, dduro@charter.net, 7709936410
- Gwen and Michelle hammond, Sugar Tree Farm, gwnhammond@aol.com, 7704498626
- Jay Hendrix, 4 star honey, genjhendrix@comcast.net
- Steven Kelzer, Steve's Busy Bees, llc, steveinroswell@aol.com, 7703124994
- Matthew Kinzer, Kinzer Farms, kinzerfarms@yahoo.com, 4044016051
- Amanda Rose Newton, Bugaloo Ranch Beneficials, amandarosenewton@gmail.com, 8043709489
- Vann Pair, Rocky Ridge Bees, rockyridgebees@gmail.com, 4046933004

If you have an apiary product you would like to add, call or email me, Sue Conlyn, at either - 770-316-8300, or insueciant@gmail.com.

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

This section of the Forsyth Beekeepers Club Buzz is dedicated to club members who would like to share personal experiences, or comments relating to beekeeping.

BEEKEEPER EVENTS

JULY

July 20th, FBC's annual hygienic behavior class. information will be announced at the meeting, and emailed.

SEPTEMBER

September 20-21 2013, The Georgia Beekeepers Association's Fall Meeting at the Gwinnett Enviromental & Heritage Center, 2020 Clean Water Dr. Buford, GA 30519.

September 28, 2013, Tara Beekeeping Short Course, Cost: \$45, Location: Georgia Power Building, 752 Main St, Forest Park, GA 30297

September 26th. Forsyth Beekeepers Club's annual Honey Show. FBC's honey show rules follow the newsletter.

OCTOBER

The Cumming Country Fair and Festival is October 3 - 13, 2013.

2013 Forsyth Beekeepers Club Officers

President: Edward Stowers
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FORSYTH BEEKEEPERS CLUB 2013 HONEY SHOW

There are 13 show classes.

Contestants may enter in any or all classes but may enter only once per class.

1. Extracted honey - light
2. Extracted honey - amber
3. Extracted honey - dark
4. Black Jar
5. Creamed honey
6. Chunk honey
7. Section comb honey
8. Mead
9. Molded Candles
10. Molded beeswax (a single molded piece of two pounds or more)
11. Original bee-related photography
12. Original bee-related art
13. Beekeeping gadget or improvement

General Rules:

- Judges, stewards, and show ambassadors are excluded from competition.
- Contestants may enter in any or all classes but may enter only once per class.
- All jars or containers must be clear with a least one smooth area except for the black jar class. With NO tamper proof lids/seals!
- All honey and beeswax should be pure and unadulterated.
- All entries for honey and candles must be submitted in triplicate (excluding black jar), i.e., three matching jars of honey or three matching candles.**
- Do not label products in any way; an identifying code sticker will be assigned to your entry at the show.
- All honey product entries must have been produced, in 2013, by the person's name in which the submission is under.
- All entries must be submitted by 6:40 PM on show day.
- Gadgets, photography, and original art may have been created before 2013.

Note: All entries will be handled and tasted where applicable. Candles may be burned.

EXTRACTED HONEY

3 identical glass or plastic 1 LB jars. All jars must be clear with a least one smooth area. With NO tamper proof lids/seals! Judging is primarily based on cleanliness of honey, jar and lid, off-flavor and aroma, fill level, and moisture content.

BLACK JAR

Judged only for taste/texture.

Honey should not be visible - (Paint outside of jar black).

CREAMED HONEY

3 identical glass or plastic 1LB jars.

Judging is primarily based on cleanliness of honey, jar and lid, off-flavor and aroma, fill level, and good consistency.

CHUNK HONEY

3 identical glass or plastic 1 LB jars.

One piece of comb.

Judging is primarily based on cleanliness of honey, jar and lid, off-flavor and aroma, fill level, and moisture content. Comb should fill the jar, be up-right, and have a thin mid-rib. Cells should be capped and dry, and of uniform depth. Color of comb should match the color of the honey surrounding it.

SECTION COMB HONEY

Can be in rounds, wood boxes, or plastic cases.

Judging is primarily based on cleanliness of container, moisture content, uniform honey color, smooth surface, dry cappings, thin mid-rib, and uniform cell depth.

MEAD

Judging is primarily based on cleanliness of container and mead, color, aroma, off-flavor, fill level, legs, and cork condition.

MOLDED AND DIPPED CANDLES

Judging is primarily based on clean wax, free of imperfections, well-formed impressions, proper wick, aroma, and purity. Dipped candles should still have the drip on the bottom, and wick not cut.

BEESWAX CAKE

Should be a single piece, 2 lbs or more.

Judging is primarily based on clean and smooth wax, free of imperfections, aroma, and purity.

PHOTOGRAPHY, ART, AND GADGETS

All pieces must be accompanied by a 3" x 5" index card with the title and brief "story" about the piece. Do not include artist name.

Judging is primarily on creativity and close relation to beekeeping. Gadgets are also judged on their usefulness and practicality.