Mapping Beehives in Transylvania County

Thanks to Maryann and Eric for getting a county map that we can use to show the location of the bee club member's hives on. I plan to be at the next meeting and will take a few minutes to explain the process. Please see last months newsletter that provides some of the rationale behind this simple mapping project.

Next Bee Club Meeting

Note that we will meet for an extra half hour!

Monday April 12, 2010 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Transylvania County Services Building, 203 E. Morgan St.

Bee Club Meeting Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<td>12-Apr</td>
<td>Hale/Eric</td>
<td>Installing Package Bees/Swarm Control</td>
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<td>10-May</td>
<td>Kathleen/George</td>
<td>Nectar Flows/Raising Queens</td>
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<td>14-June</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
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Please let George or myself know if you have any suggestions for guest speakers this year.

April Beekeeping Tasks

We still plan to eventually provide a bullet list of basic beekeeping tasks for each month that are specific to Transylvania County (in reality this may not happen until next year). This month we again borrow entirely from the Buncombe County Beekeepers Website:

In preparation of the black locust bloom, blackberry, clover, tulip poplar (in May) it is time to get your supers by the 15th of April. The bees are in brood nest expansion and possible swarming if crowded.

Above 60° mid-day

· Check brood, queen, and pollen stores

· Move empty (not honey-laden) peripheral frames in from outside to expand the broodnest

· Equalize (1 - 2 frames of) brood to boost very weak colonies

· Feed dilute 1:2 syrup via top feeder to stimulate brood rearing only if you have a weak hive or less than 15 pounds of honey. It may increase chance of swarming.

· Clean bottom screen
· Set bait hives to capture swarms and check frequently

· Air out supers (remove from Paramoth) put one or more drawn comb on each hive about April 15. If using foundation, put only one super on at a time until it is drawn out.

· Check brood and queen two or three times for swarm cells along the bottom bars of the frame. (If you see them it is too late to prevent them from swarming but you can still cut out all queen cells, reorganize the brood chamber to make more room or make splits.

· Order queens and make splits or nucs from those strong colonies

· If using two hive deeps, reverse hive bodies to ensure central upper expansion room

· Put a queen excluder between the brood chambers and the super a week after the bees have put something in the super (to coax them through it) or move some honey frames into super in the middle

· Enlarge the entrance mid April

· Super again w/ either foundation or drawn comb if you have it in anticipation of major storage needs

· Meds: take out all Apistan or Checkmite strips, Add Fumidol-B to sugar water (one tsp)

· If no meds, treat varroa with powdered sugar by dusting the top bars of the hives every two weeks for 3 times total

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**Links on Package Installation/Swarm Control**

Below are several links regarding this month’s training topics. I have not vetted them, but wanted to provide at least some idea of what is available on the web.

**Installing Package Bees**

http://www.bees-online.com/PackageBees.htm
http://www.honeyflowfarm.com/beeproject/packagebees.htm
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tr33_feaummU
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sada-Tw-qFt

**Swarm Control**

http://www.slideshare.net/TYBA/swarm-prevention-for-honey-bees
http://www.sohow.com/how_1738_prevent-bees-swarming.html
http://masrec.psu.edu/pdfs/Swarm_Prev_Control_PM.pdf
http://www.thecountrybeespiaries.com/prevent.html
http://londonhonyshop.blogspot.com/2009/06/5-steps-to-stop-bee-swarming.html

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**Purchase Bee Supplies Locally!**

Contact TC Bee Club members Marvin or Sheila Holland at:

BEE COOL BEE SUPPLY
828-883-4140
beecoolbeesupply@yahoo.com