TARA TIDINGS

APRIL 20TH, 2015

Meeting @ 7:00 PM

Margo Wimbish

Children's Education

Tara Beekeepers Association

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out the web site
Tarabeekeepers.org

Need Donations For
Monthly Prize Drawings

Follow Us @ Facebook.com/TaraBeekeepersAssociation

ADDITIONAL WEBSITES

Tara beekeepers Association

www.tarabeekeepers.org

Georgia Beekeepers Association

www.gabeekeeping.com

UGA Beekeepers

www.ent.uga.edu/bees

Tool Talk April 2015

Humble. That is the word that I am using this month. This is the first year (after 8) that I feel like I am well prepped and know what to do to stay ahead of the bees. I have a plan. I am prepared. I have all the equipment. I thought I was really doing a good job and going to prevent swarms. Several years ago I had 7 swarms that I caught out of my 9 hives. Hmmmm.

Last week I went to check again the hives and lo and behold found queen cells. I searched the hive for the queen and could not find her. The cells were capped and I assumed they swarmed. I came out of winter with 8 hives, and now have 10. I caught 1 swarm and I made a split of extra queen cells.

Now the problem is the rain. The queen cells are due to hatch at any time and all we have is rain here in Mableton. I talked to another beekeeper about her experiences and she had said that in March they had 22 days of rain. I have been keeping count in April and we have had 15 days of rain.

So, are my 2 hives that are hatching queens going to be ok? Don't know, since the bees that she lays will be coming out in Mid May and that means a decrease of foragers. Which means a decrease in honey production.

Well I wasn't planning on a lot of honey this year. I am working on increasing my hives. Last year at EAS, I went to Jennifer Berrys' class and was intrigued about producing queens that produce really strong drones or droning. Everyone agrees that we need lots of drone saturation when our queens are on their mating flights. I intend to really raise strong queens that produce a lot of strong drones. Half of genetics come from the drones and I have a couple of ideas about producing healthy queens that will produce healthy strong fit drones. I have been looking into the research and have not found much.

I will keep you up to date as in June I will do some queen rearing for droning!

TOOL TALK

Tool Talk April 2015

Busters Bees or (BB) as I like to call it is very busy this time of year. With promises of trying to deliver over 500 nucs Buster is diligently working the yards. Buster is spending his time between his full time job at Delta and his full time job with BB. Buster is bringing nucs up and starting the long journey of supply.

The weather is not cooperating again this year. If everyone remembers 2 years ago 2013 we had a very wet spring. The bees were not producing the way we needed them too and the honey flow was kaput since all the nectar was washed away. Weather is the apiarist friend or foe. We work hard on keeping our bees alive, go to conferences, educate ourselves, make equipment and even try things into our hives, but then the weather, is cold or wet. Funny isn't it. When I look at the weather, I think of all the farmers a hundred years ago or so, who could not control it and had feast or famine. Even with our wonderful technology today, we still are at the mercy of the weather.

If you understand the biology of reproducing honeybees then you can understand that the bees take time. The queen must mate. The queen must lay. The bees must hatch, go thru larval and pupa stage and become bees. From the time the egg is laid it is on average 21 days. From the time that the queen is mated too laying is about 10 days. If the queen cannot

2015 TARA CALENDAR

April 18th, 2015 - Board Meeting- 9:00am coffee and donut PN and Evelyn Williams Home

April 20th, 2015 - Meeting @ 7:00 pm- Margo Wimbish Children's education

May 18th, 2015 - Meeting @ 7:00 pm- Mary Cahill Roberts Hive inspection

May 30th, 2015 - Children short course Reynolds Park - 9:00 am until noon

June 15th, 2015 - Meeting @ 7:00 pm- Jim Quick

June quarterly raffle prize Complete hive unassembled

July 20th, 2015 - Meeting @ 7:00 pm- Speaker

July 21st, 2015 - Board meeting @ 6:00 pm- Pot luck Dinner

August 17th, 2015 - Meeting @ 7:00 pm- Bear Kelley Ga. State Beekeepers

September 5th, 2015 - Short course @ 8:00 am until 4:00 pm- Kiwanis club Building

September 21st, 2015 - Meeting @ 7:00 pm- Speaker

September quarterly raffle prize uncapping tank

October 10th, 2015 - Annual Tara Picnic at Rick & Joann Minters Farm @ 11:00 am

October 19th, 2015 - NO MEETING THIS MONTH

October 20th, 2015 - Board meeting @ 6:00 pm - Pot luck Dinner

November 16th, 2015 - Meeting @ 7:00 pm - Speaker - Officer Elections and Honey show

December 7th, 2015 - Annual Christmas Party @ 6:00 pm - Kiwanis club building

December quarterly raffle prize $250.00 A Hive donated by P.N. Williams

2015 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Melanie Maxwell
President@tarabeekeepers.org

Treasurer, Pat Brookshire
treasurer@tarabeekeepers.org

Vice President, Fran Lane
vpresident@tarabeekeepers.org

Secretary, David Brookshire
Secretary@tarabeekeepers.org

Three-year Director, Ed Mellon

Three-year Director, Maurice Rochester

Two-year Director, Jerry Haygood

Two-year Director, Buster Lane

One-year Director, Jim Moye

One-year Director, Doug Clack

Honorary BOD positions:
President Emeritus, PN Williams
President Emerita, Evelyn Williams

July 21st, 2015
Board meeting @ 6:00 pm- Pot luck Dinner

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our Board of Directors is still looking for members to step up and **TAKE OWNERSHIP OF YOUR CLUB.**

Please volunteer to help with any of the club's various
Jobs, committee positions, and service project assignments
The Club needs volunteers to
Take a turn bringing a dish to our monthly meetings in 2015

Please help with this important effort; our socials following the monthly meetings offer opportunities to mingle with your fellow beekeepers and foster cohesiveness in our group.

Here are some other great jobs and positions (to inquire, simply send an e-mail to president@tarabeekeepers.org):

PROJECTS:

- Hive Inspection Leader

JOBS:

- Webmaster
-Website Contributor
-Newsletter Editor
-Newsletter Contributor
-Club Librar-
-Cookbook Contributor

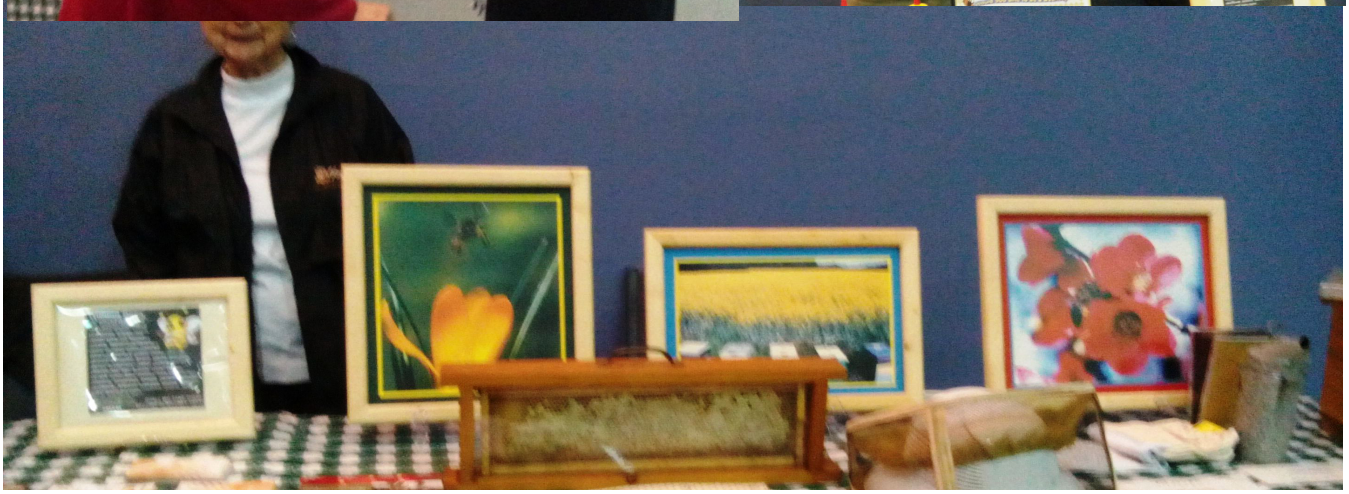
COMMITTEES:

-2015 Picnic
-2015 Audit
-2015 Beekeeper of the year
-2015 Christmas Party

SERVICE:

- Public Speaker in Community

Winnie the Pooh by The Front Porch Players



PN and Evelyn Williams volunteered with "The Front Porch Players" in the production of Winnie the Pooh. They were there and provided "bee" support as well as honey. Enjoy the pictures. It looks like they had a good time, almost as much fun as the kids! Thanks Evelyn and PN for all you do to further the cause of the honeybee.

Sulfoxaflor Gets Its Day In Court

From CVBT

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is scheduled today to hear oral arguments in a case that beekeepers say could shape the future of the insect.

National beekeeper groups say the Environmental Protection Agency was wrong when it approved use of a powerful bee-killing pesticide called sulfoxaflor, which they say has been proven to be "highly toxic" to honey bees and other insect pollinators.

Earthjustice Attorney Greg Loarie is to argue on behalf of the Pollinator Stewardship Council, the American Honey Producers Association, the National Honey Bee Advisory Board, the American Beekeeping Federation, and beekeepers Bret Adee, Jeff Anderson and Thomas Smith in a case that has 9 a.m. oral arguments in San Francisco.

Sulfoxaflor is a new chemistry, and the first of a newly assigned sub-class of pesticides in the "neonicotinoid" class of pesticides, the beekeepers say.

Specifically, plaintiffs are requesting changes in the Sulfoxaflor label, the Biological Economic Assessment Division assessment of the value of pollinators and their established habits, and the EPA's Risk Assessment Process.

CATCH THE BUZZ

Pollen stressed youngsters die younger, are smaller and forage and dance less – all which exacerbate other problems like pesticide exposure.

By Alan Harman

Inadequate access to pollen during larval development has lifelong consequences for honey bees, leading not only to smaller workers and shorter lifespans, but also to impaired performance and productivity later in life.

Research by Heather Mattila, a leading honey bee ecologist and assistant professor of biological sciences at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, shows for the first time a crucial link between poor nutrition at a young age, and foraging and waggle dancing, the two most important activities that honey bees perform as providers for their colonies.

The study published in the journal Plos One was co-authored by Hailey Scofield, a former undergraduate research assistant.

While a number of sophisticated nutrition studies have been undertaken recently, the Wellesley study is the first to show that nutritional deficits early in life can have far-reaching consequences for adult honey bees, including effects on complex behaviors such as foraging and waggle dancing.

"Nutritional stress has long been known to shorten bees' lifespan," Mattila says, "but we've never had such a clear understanding of its impact on the tasks they perform, or known that its effects persist until their last days, even when bees have plentiful food as adults."

The study is also one of the few to be conducted entirely in a natural hive environment, which allowed larvae and adults to function in normal colonies, rather than in the incubators and cages that are more typical of nutrition studies.

This allowed Mattila and Scofield to observe the bees foraging and dancing in a natural context, activities they would not be able to perform in artificial lab conditions.

Foraging and waggle dancing are especially important to the health of a honey bee colony because they are the key means by which honey bees acquire food supplies such as nectar and pollen, and communicate with other bees about the location of food sources and nest sites.

When honey bee larvae were raised with a limited pollen supply, as might happen during periods of bad weather or as a consequence of habitat loss or commercial management practices, there were multiple negative consequences.

The pollen-stressed bees were lighter and died younger, and fewer bees foraged. Those that did foraged earlier, for fewer days, and were more likely to die after just one day of foraging.

Pollen-stressed workers were also less likely to waggle dance than workers that had been well-fed as larvae, and if they danced, the information they conveyed about the location of food sources was less precise.

"Their dances were often visibly inconsistent and almost disoriented in the worst instances," Scofield says.

Importantly, nutritional stress interacts with a number of other stress factors, such as pesticides and pathogens, which are already known to decrease longevity and impair foraging ability, creating a vicious cycle of poor health and population decline.

Nutritional stress is also tied in part to a loss of foraging habitat, which can compound stresses from pesticide use and other commercial practices. Poor foraging and waggle dancing, in turn, could escalate bee decline if long-term pollen limitation prevents stressed foragers from providing sufficiently for developing workers.

"If poor foraging habitats impose nutritional stress in colonies, then our study shows that the average stressed bee cannot compensate for reduced foraging opportunities by working harder to find food," Mattila says. "This likely exacerbates nutritional stress and further limits the colony's ability to overcome food-finding challenges in areas that are no longer suitable for bees."

The study also suggests poor nutrition has the potential to undermine colony health and promote collapse. Conversely, ensuring that honey bees have access to diverse and plentiful forage throughout the year could mitigate the potential for collapse.

"This means keeping bees in areas that are bee friendly, green, and full of flowering plants within the normal foraging radius of a colony, regularly checking colonies' food supplies, and providing supplements when natural forage is not available or colony stores are low," Mattila says.

"Failure to provide these necessities may impose a legacy of dysfunction on colonies."

The project was part-funded by the Essex County Beekeepers' Association of Massachusetts.

Editor's Note

If you have an E-mail address, Please send it to me so we can get it in the directory.
Monthly Tara Newsletters are also sent to members by the Internet.

Send me your articles, classified, comments and suggestions.

Mary Cahill-Roberts
404-388-3427
E-mail: maryc7@aol.com

Membership Dues :

Make checks payable to:
Tara Beekeepers Association dues are $20.00
Per family per year.

Special thanks to the following

WALTER T. KELLY Co.
3107 Elizabethtown Road
P.O. Box 240
Clarkson, KY 42726
Phone: (800) 233-2899

ROSSMAN APIARIES Inc.
P.O. Box 909
Moultrie, GA 31776-0909
Phone: (800) 333-7677
www.Gabees.com

Buster & Fran Lane
3910 Champagne Drive Jonesboro, Ga 30236
770-389-0721 Home
678-492-6007 cell
e-mail BustersBees@yahoo.com