



Bee Biz

Monthly Newsletter of the Coweta Beekeepers

Message from President Jerry Edwards

2011 will be a great year for Coweta Beekeepers even though we missed our first meeting of the year. I hope all of you will celebrate Valentine's Day with your special "honey" and attend the February meeting to join us as we discuss beekeeping and share ideas and friendship. Stephanie Butcher- Changes at the Coweta County Ag. extension office and it's interaction with the Coweta Beekeepers plus Buster Lane - Installing nucs. For many the highlight of the meeting may be the raffle drawing that was scheduled for January. Please remember that only those people who attended the Christmas party will be eligible to participate in the drawing for the extractor which was the item supplied for the quarterly drawing in 2010. Other items will be available for the February drawing. Club members are welcome to donate items for drawings.

Late winter and early spring are busy seasons for beekeepers. Some of you may have attended the state meeting at Jekyll Island February 11th and will share information you received at the meeting with our club. The 20th Annual Beekeeping Institute at Young Harris College is May 11-14 and hopefully our club will be represented at this event as well. At the local level, our Coweta Short Course will be held March 12 and the cost is \$50. Volunteers are needed to help this session to be our most successful ever so please contact Steve Page or me if you want to help with either instructing or working with non-instructional activities during the course.

One of my goals as president is to encourage all members to "Help Save the World, One Bee at a Time." We can do this by participating in formal speaking engagements at

various clubs, county functions, scout troops, and school lectures or by participating in informal settings like one-on-one conversations with people who are interested in bees/beekeeping or mentoring other beekeepers. All of us need to spread the word about the most important insect in our lives, the mighty honeybee!

Meeting

Our next meeting will start at 7:00 pm at the Asa Powell Expo Building. Meeting date is February 14, 2011. Refreshments are being provided by Tracy Sweet and Mark Prater. **Drinks and ice will be supplied by the club!!**

2011 Dues

You can pay your 2011 dues to Mike Copeland either at our meeting or by mail to 1071 Luthersville Road, Luthersville, Ga. 30251. Dues are for the 2011 calendar year starting January 1st thru December 31st, and they are still \$15.00 per family. If you would like to receive your newsletter through e-mail please inform Donna, and give her your e-mail address. Dues are used in the following manner: for the postage of this newsletter, supplies for our meeting, the annual picnic and the Christmas party.

Up coming Events

The 16th Annual Auburn University Beekeeping Symposium **DATE IS TENTATIVE** for Saturday, February 5, 2011 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Auburn University -- Lowder Business Building College of Business 415 West Magnolia Ave. The Georgia Beekeepers Association's spring meeting is February 11-12 2011. Location: Jekyll Island, GA Details soon more information at the Georgia Beekeepers Association web site. The Coweta Beekeepers Association is offering a beekeeping course February 26, 2011 at 8:00 AM, at the Asa M. Powell, Sr. Expo Center, 197 Temple Avenue, Newnan, Georgia.

Hello GA bee Clubs,

I am sending this to all clubs if I could figure out their contact information. Many GA beekeepers are contacting me for Russian nucs. Demand is greater than I can supply. There is another source however:

Steven Coy
54 Jordan Rd
Perkinston MS 39573
(870) 275-2414
Coyshoneyfarm@bellsouth.net

Steve is a certified member of the Russian Honey Bee Breeders Association and has pure Russian bees and queens.

Steve would like to sell them in groups of 50-100. He is charging \$125 each for small orders but may make allowance for larger orders.

Carl Webb

An interesting article:

<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2011/01/widespread-decline-of-north-american-bumblebees/1>

Dear Beesource Member,

I am taking the unusual step of emailing the members of Beesource forums because I need to ask for your help on an important project.

As you may be aware, Christopher Stowell, a Boy Scout and 14 year old beekeeper from Oklahoma, recently led a campaign to reinstate the Beekeeping Merit Badge.

BSA recently announced its response to Christopher's request, and the news is mostly good. While BSA is not agreeing to reinstate the Beekeeping Merit Badge, it is agreeing to incorporate beekeeping activities into several different existing merit badges. Emphasis of the importance of bees and beekeeping will be added to or enhanced in eight existing merit badge pamphlets: Bird Study, Forestry, Gardening, Nature, Plant Science, Pulp and Paper, Environmental Science, and Insect Study. All of this will be accomplished by the end of 2015. One of those badges, Environmental Science, is needed for a scout to attain Eagle rank. Although the BSA is not reinstating a merit badge specific to beekeeping, it is making changes that provide opportunities to expose over 100,000 boys a year to the joys of beekeeping.

BSA is considering adding beekeeping projects, such as working with a colony or harvesting honey, to one or more of those merit badges so that interested scouts can earn advancement recognition for their beekeeping activities.

HOWEVER WE AS BEEKEEPERS NEED TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT!

BSA does not want to add activities to the merit badges unless it is sure that beekeepers will be there to teach the scouts. The beekeeping community needs to demonstrate that it will provide mentors to boys who want to learn about beekeeping.

RIGHT NOW, there are three things that you can do to help.

First, BSA has invited all associations and experts in the beekeeping community who are interested in helping with this project to e-mail us at merit.badge@scouting.org. Please put "bees" in the subject line.

Second, if you are interested in serving as a merit badge counselor, contact your BSA local council to initiate the process.

<http://www.scouting.org/localcouncillocator.aspx>

Finally, if you are willing to be a mentor, please contact BSA directly and let them know you are willing to be a mentor. BSA has requested that interested beekeepers e-mail them at: merit.badge@scouting.org and please put "Honey Bees" in the heading. Just write a few words letting them know that you are willing to act as a mentor, and please give BSA a way to contact you and let them know what states and counties you are willing to mentor in.

If you have any ideas about this project, feel free to post them in the forum on Beesource that is dedicated to the Beekeeping Merit Badge Project (<http://beesource.com/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=284>). If you have contacted BSA, please leave a post on Beesource. Showing your support helps to draw attention to this project and helps to get other people to act.

Thanks for your support,

Barry Birkey
Beesource.com

