



Bee Biz

Monthly Newsletter of the Coweta Beekeepers

President's Message

Coweta Beekeepers Association

President Jerry Edwards

Saving the World, One Bee at a Time

May 2012

The Young Harris Beekeeping Institutes is May 10-12. Faculty members from the college and UGA host the event which has occurred for the past two decades. A two day event, classes contain up-to-date information regarding healthy hives. Offered classes span interests for the novice beekeeper to the expert.

Certification opportunities highlight the institute. Beekeepers interested in becoming Master Beekeepers are offered extensive training plus the certification test, and beekeepers seeking certification as a Welsh Honey Judge are also able to take a training course and then the test.

The course is full so if you have not signed up, then you may need to look forward to the event in 2013.

One of my favorite meetings is next Monday night as we are having our annual Swap Meet. Formal meeting is cast aside and we all gather in the parking lot to swap equipment and bee stories...one man's or woman's trash can be another's dream! It is equally enticing as we bring delicious homemade goodies from home and have potluck. My wife still raves about the corn casserole from Christmas.

A suggestion for the newsletter was more information regarding life with the hives so if you are interested in another internet article, read below.

Scientists have identified indications that ladies in your hive may in fact have that personality that we have long believed they have.

Since the advent of observing and managing bees ([the earliest known being the 9th century B.C.E.](#)), it's likely beekeepers have noticed personality. Attending local beekeeping meetings today, beekeepers often talk about how excitable, energetic, moody, or mellow their bees are and how those characteristics are easily bread in, or out of the colony with the right queen. A new beekeeper will

stare into their hive for hours at a time to later note how unique each bee left the hive and returned again, like watching a class of kindergartners running in and around the playground.

In the March 9th edition of Science, researchers led by entomologist Gene Robinson of the [University of Illinois](#) at Urbana-Champaign, sought out to clearly distinguish this genetic personality within the hive. Targeting the scout bees, they aimed to identify genetic characteristics that encouraged the 'adventuring spirit' of the scout bees on which the entire health of the colony depends. Marking bees that visited undiscovered 'flowers,' researchers were then able to distinguish between those that seek out new flowers and those that do not. These bees' genetics were then compared, revealing differences in more than one thousand (1000) genes.

Now we know, beekeepers may be nuts, but at least we're justified to believe our bees have personality.

Original article from [Bee Genes May Drive Them to Adventure](#) (online)/Genes Differ In Extrovert Bees (print), [Science News](#), April 21, 2012

Looking forward to seeing you at Monday's meeting.

Steve Page took what he heard about at the State meeting and applied it to one of his hives. This all started at the Georgia Beekeepers meeting in February 2012. Paul Vonk was the last speaker with the best presentation. Paul talked about setting up a hive on a scale with temperature sensors inside and outside the hive. A computer records the weight and temperatures every 5 minutes. The data goes to a server and is used to create a graph that is accessed via the internet.

So.... you're wondering what's the deal with putting a hive on a scale?????

I can tell when the bees leave the hive and when they all get back home at the end of the day. I can tell when the nectar flow starts and when it ends. Right now the nectar flow is strong. The bees are bringing in 6-10 pounds of nectar a day. From sunset to about noontime the next day the bees are evaporating water out of the nectar. Notice how the line each night has the same downward trend. Some time in May the nectar flow will taper off and end. I'll be able to tell when that happens. Once the nectar flow ends they will not make any more honey and I can harvest what's available.

I check the website multiple times a day to see what's happening.

<http://www.hivetool.org/>

Thanks to Scott Griggs for all the help setting up the computer. Thanks to Paul Vonk for getting this whole program up and running.

Let me know if you want a hive scale also.....

Meeting

Our next meeting will start at 7:00 pm at the Asa Powell Expo Building. Meeting date is May 14, 2012. Refreshments are being supplied by who ever attends as it is a covered dish.

Drinks and ice will be supplied by the club!!

2012 Dues

You can pay your dues for 2012 to Mike Copeland at a meeting or by mailing them to him at P.O. Box 159, Luthersville, Ga 30251. Dues for the 2012 calendar year starting January 1st thru December 31st, are \$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 postage of this newsletter, supplies for our meeting, and the Christmas Party.

Up Coming Events

21th Annual Young Harris Beekeeping Institute, date is May 10 - 12th .