



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

August 2012

It is time to select a Coweta Bee Keeper of the Year so please give this issue serious consideration. Per tradition the previous year's winner stages the procedure so Steve Page will be directing the committee. If you would like to help, please let him know.

The next important event is election of officers for the upcoming year. Let me know if you are interested on serving on the committee. This is my final year as president so please give this office extra attention as it is an important decision that affects the success of the club.

I will not be at this month's meeting as I am attending the EAS in Burlington, VT, so please support Mary when she presides at the meeting.

Don't forget the upcoming honey contest both at the club's October meeting and at the county fair. Three jars of honey are required for each division that is entered.

Rules and regulations are as follows:

COWETA BEEKEEPERS

HONEY CONTEST RULES 2012

Etiquette at Honey Contests

Once honey or other items have been accepted into the competition by the Steward, it is the responsibility of Coweta Beekeepers Association to protect the entries from tampering. After

submitting entries to the Steward, competitors may not enter the area where the entries have been placed. All entries must be blocked off from contact by anyone except the Steward. When viewing entries in a honey contest, before, during, or after the competition, do not touch any item.

General Rules

All entries must be produced by the contestant.

All entries of honey, wax, and mead must be from bees belonging to paid members of the Coweta Beekeepers Association or members of their families, and from the current year's production.

Each member may make one entry only in each class.

The classes are:

Extracted Honey, All Forms

Extracted honey is judged in three classes: light, medium, and dark. Members of Coweta Beekeepers who are participating in the contest may submit one entry in each of these three categories.

An entry of extracted honey is three (3) one pound jars. These jars must be either one pound classic jars that have a 48mm diameter mouth, or one pound Queenline jars that have a 58mm diameter mouth. The jars may have either metal or plastic lids. Do not use tamperproof seals. There must not be any type of label on the jars.

When judging extracted honey, the judges consider the following characteristics of each entry:

Cleanliness of the jar and lid

Correct fill level (See photograph below)

Uniformity of the three jars that comprise the entry

Cleanliness and clarity of the honey

Moisture content

Aroma and flavor



This is a photograph of a one pound classic honey jar that has a 48mm diameter mouth. The purpose of the picture, however, is to show clearly the correct fill level. It also shows some things that are more difficult to see: The inside rim of the mouth of the jar above the honey has bits of 'stuff' adhering to it that should be wiped off before placing into the competition. The outside of the jar also shows numerous smears that must be removed. This jar is not competition ready! Keep in mind that a wonderful honey can be eliminated if the technical details haven't been

tended to. Information about preparing entries follows this section about the Rules.

Black jar

Coweta Beekeepers Association will provide the black jars. An entry is one jar. The honey will be transferred into the jar by the exhibitor.

Black jar honey is judged on flavor only.

Chunk honey

An entry of chunk honey is three (3) jars. Chunk honey must be displayed in three glass, straight-sided, wide-mouth pint jars, such as Ball or Kerr canning jars.

The same criteria cited above for judging extracted honey applies to chunk honey.

The chunk of comb must be in one piece.

The cuts should be clean and uniform.

The chunk of comb should fill fifty percent of the volume of the jar, the other fifty percent being honey.

Creamed Honey

An entry of creamed honey is three jars. Creamed honey must be displayed in straight-sided eight ounce jars with solid lids.

Creamed honey is judged on the fineness of crystals, uniformity and firmness of product, cleanliness and freedom from foam, flavor and color.

Cut comb

An entry of cut comb honey is three boxes. These must be boxes made for displaying cut comb and may be either square or round, and must be transparent on all sides.

Section comb honey

An entry of section comb honey is three boxes. Ross rounds and square section entries must be displayed in the frames. Square sections must be in a cellophane bag and placed inside a window carton made for the display of section comb honey. Round sections must be in clear plastic boxes made for the display of section comb honey.

Section comb honey entries are not judged for flavor. Some of the judging criteria are uniformity of appearance and color, cleanliness, absence of uncapped cells, freedom from granulation and pollen, uniform weight of each section, and total weight of the entire entry.

Beeswax

Wax is judged based on cleanliness, uniformity of appearance and shape, color, aroma, and absence of defects such as cracks and shrinkage.

An entry of beeswax may be any one of the following:

Wax block

The block must be at least one inch thick but not more than two inches thick. The block must weigh a minimum of one pound.

Three molded or dipped tapers

Minimum length is eight inches.

One of the candles in each entry will be burned.

Molded tapers must have flat finished bases. The wicks must be trimmed to one-half inch in length.

Dipped tapers should have the last drip left on. The wicks must be left joined.

One molded form

The form must have a flat finished base.

Mead

Classes are sweet mead, dry mead, melomel (Fruit Mead), and cyser (Mead made with Cider). A member may enter one bottle in each class.

A 3" x 5" white card on which is written the type of mead must accompany each entry.

Mead is judged based on the cleanliness of the bottle and the cork, color, clarity, lack of sediment, aroma, body, and flavor.

An entry of mead is one clear glass 750ml bottle. A 3"x5" card on which any added fruit is listed must accompany each bottle.

Corks may be either cork or plastic

Mead should be filled to within one-half inch of the bottom of the cork.

Photographs

Each member may enter one photograph.

A 3" x 5" white card on which a brief description of the photograph is written must accompany each entry.

Art work

Each member may enter one art work.

A 3" x 5" white card on which a brief description of the art work is written must accompany each entry.

Crafts

Each member may enter one craft item.

A 3" x 5" white card on which a brief description of the craft is written must accompany each entry.

Awards

Ribbons will be given in all classes even if there is only one entry in the class. That entry, however, must be deemed worthy of the award by the judge or judges. Award categories are:

First Place: Blue

Second Place: Red

Third Place: White

Best in Show: Purple

Cash prizes will be awarded to Best in Show and First and Second place winners in each class provided that the class has at least two entries.

The contest date is October 2012.

The decisions of the judge or judges are final.

GOOD LUCK

Meeting

Our next meeting will start at 7:00 pm at the Asa Powell Expo Building. Meeting date is August 13, 2012. Refreshments are being supplied by (Lynn McElreath will get in contact with you!!). **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

You are invited to the 2012 EAS Conference to be held at University of Vermont and hosted by Vermont Beekeepers.

Georgia Beekeepers Association Fall Meeting September 8 - 9, 2012 8:00 AM
McDonough, Georgia

Massive bee swarm delays Delta flight in Pittsburgh

IMPERIAL, Pa. -- A beekeeper says he had to be called into gather up a swarm of thousands of bees that delayed a Delta Air Lines flight from Pittsburgh International Airport to New York. Master beekeeper Stephen Repasky told KDKA-TV he was called out on Wednesday when the bees gathered on the wing of the plane as crews were getting ready to fuel the plane. Repasky says such swarms form when colonies become too large and the queen leaves half of her bees behind to find a new home. Some swarms can contain 25,000 to 30,000 bees. Repasky says it's likely there's a wild honeybee colony at the airport somewhere. The beekeeper was called to remove the insects because they're a protected species that cannot legally be killed.