



Bee Biz

**President's Message
Coweta Beekeepers Association
President Bobby Torbush
January 2013
President's Message**

I am looking forward to an exciting new year with the Coweta Beekeepers Association in our new location at the Coweta County Extension office. I feel the best way we can help our community is to educate ourselves and the public in the value of Honey Bees. Jerry Edwards, and many others, have provided a great foundation in this endeavor, but I believe we need to do more. I hope all of our members will support and get involved in several educational opportunities offered throughout the coming year.

We have our introductory bee school January 26, where many of us will need to mentor our Newbees. We have BJ Weeks scheduled to talk this month and I have looked forward to meeting him for some time. We will raffle a top bar school admission at this meeting. Don't forget the Georgia Beekeepers spring meeting at Lake Blackshear. I will be there and hope to see you there the weekend before our **February** meeting.

Meeting

Our next meeting will start at 7:00 pm at the County Extension Office at 255 Pine Road. Meeting date is January 14, 2013. Refreshments are being supplied by 2 different members, whom Lynn McElreath will get in contact with. **Drinks and ice will be supplied by the club along with paper products!!!**

2013 Dues

You can pay your dues for 2013 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

Members of Coweta Beekeepers invited and Board members expected to meet Thursday January 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Coweta county extension office address is 255 Pine Road, beside the entrance to the fair grounds. Come check out the new location! and discuss "A year of Learning"

The Coweta Beekeepers Association is offering a beekeeping course January 26, 2013 at 8:00 AM, at the Asa M. Powell, Sr. Expo Center, 197 Temple Avenue, Newnan, Georgia. This course is an introduction to beekeeping and includes the knowledge required to become one.

18th Annual Auburn University Beekeeping Workshop Saturday, February 2, 2013 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Auburn University -- Lowder Business Building College of Business 415 West Magnolia Ave. Auburn University, Alabama

Georgia Beekeepers Association SPRING MEETING February, 9 - 10, 2013

The Coweta Beekeepers Association will offer a **Weekend Intensive Top Bar Beekeeping Class** on March 9th and 10th 2013. The class will be held at the Coweta Extension office 255 Pine Road, Newnan, GA. Class starts at 8:30 AM Saturday March 9, 2013. Cost is \$200 with a \$25 discount for early registration. Register early, space is limited.

Management Calendar

Due to above average temperatures experienced so far this winter, your colonies are most likely devouring their honey stores much sooner than usual. During a warm day (above 50°F), when the sun is shining and there is little to no wind, check your colonies' food stores; however, try not to break apart the cluster. Hopefully, you left adequate honey on your hives after harvest or have been feeding syrup, accordingly. In any case, you need to inspect your colonies to make sure they are in good shape. If you find one with little honey, feeding a 2:1 (sugar : water) syrup solution is recommended. This time of year, since temperatures can fluctuate back and forth, feed colonies with inverted plastic pails, buckets or jars. Do not rely on Boardman entrance feeders, division board feeders or even baggies since the bees are unable to travel far from the cluster when temperatures drop. Avoid feeding your colonies poor quality food like brown sugar, "mystery" feed, re-melted candy, pancake syrup, molasses, fermented honey and corn syrup with industrial food additives. These contain indigestible components that can have unknown and negative consequences on bees, including dysentery. Stick to pure, cane sugar. It may be a little more expensive on the front end, but you can pay now (quality feed) or later (replacement bees).

Hive protection is another consideration. During times of colder weather, mice love the warm accommodations provided by honey bee colonies. To keep out these trespassers, it is suggested to use an entrance reducer or mouse guard. Usually, guards made of metal provide the best

protection since mice cannot chew through them. These entrance reducers also provide protection from cold drafts.

Once February arrives, don't forget to re-check colonies for honey stores and queen viability. Colonies will be gearing up for the upcoming nectar flow by rapidly increasing their populations; therefore, resources may dwindle. And, if pollen supplies are low, it will be a good idea to introduce pollen supplements.

In the mean time, don't slack off! This is an important time to repair your worn woodenware, as well as order and build new equipment for this spring.