



**President's Message
Coweta Beekeepers Association
President Bobby Torbush
March 2014**

We are very proud of the accomplishments of the Junior Beekeepers but especially one in particular Mattie Hillebrand has won the Georgia 4-H beekeeper essay contest and her essay will represent Georgia in the National 4-H essay contest. Mattie did a fantastic job describing how beekeeping influenced colonial Americans.

The maple trees in my back yard budded out on February 20th, and the bees continue to find pollen for that all important spring build-up, We all should continue to check on the progress on hive build-up and make sure all the bees have what they need to succeed when the nectar starts to flow.

We are expecting a good turn-out of young Beekeepers. Our topic is hive management, fall and winter in the hive at the 4-H class this week.

Karen Torbush will be taking preorders for polo shirts, T-shirts and name badges at the March meeting. Available will be navy, white or gold polo shirts (\$25.00), gold or navy embroidered t-shirt (\$18.00) and gold or navy screen print (\$15.00). Hats are still available for purchase at \$15.00. Past pre-ordered name badges should also be available.

The registration for Young Harris Bee School will open on March 5th for 2014. I

encourage all who are able to go get that next certification and learn all about these fascinating insects. The school is scheduled May 15-17. The web site is:
<http://www.ent.uga.edu/bees/young-harris/>

2014 dues are now \$20.00 for the year, in case you missed the deadline. Mike Copeland will still be collecting.

Our speaker at this meeting will be Ray James. He will be speaking on swarm prevention.

Upcoming Beevents:

- 🐝 Regular March 10th meeting at the extension office at 7:00 P.M.
- 🐝 Our members-only workshop on hive inspection is being planned for April.
- 🐝 Our quarterly prize for March is a Nuc colony.
- 🐝 Board of Directors meeting is April 9th at 6:30 at the extension office. Please bring a covered side dish. Meat will be provided. All members are invited to attend.

Here are some interesting links for you to check out;

[The Sustainable Apiary by Mike Palmer](http://www.beesource.com/point-of-view/walt-wright/tennessee-early-spring-management/)

<http://www.beesource.com/point-of-view/walt-wright/tennessee-early-spring-management/>

See you soon Bobby Torbush

Meeting

Our next meeting will start at 7:00 pm at the County Extension office at 255 Pine Road. Meeting date is March 10, 2014. Plenty of parking behind the office!! Refreshments are being supplied by ?? **Drinks and ice will be supplied by the club along with paper products!!!**

2014 Dues

You can pay your dues for 2014 to Mike Copeland at a meeting or by mailing them to him at PO Box 159, Luthersville, Ga 30251. Dues for the 2014 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 meetings, and the Christmas Party. If your dues are not paid by the printing of the April newsletter you will be purged from the system, so please pay your dues now, the club depends on it members!!

Sustainability

Steven Page

We must become sustainable beekeepers. Many experts tell us we need to be sustainable and they have told us how to be sustainable.

Why do we all rely on the nuc, package and queen producers each spring to replace our dead, weak or queenless hives? We know last minute orders of queens, packages and nucs are not available.

Dr. Jamie Ellis in Florida and Mike Palmer in Vermont both encourage us to make splits and keep nucs in our bee yards. We can become sustainable by simply overwintering nucs. For every two hives keep at least one nuc.

Nucs enable sustainability. If an inspection reveals a queenless hive, a nuc can be combined and the problem is solved. A weak hive can be helped by moving a frame or two of capped brood from a nuc to the hive. A dead hive can be fixed by moving a nuc into the hive. Nucs enable us to fix every problem we encounter early in the year.

Splits can be made anytime from spring to fall. I prefer summer splits just after the nectar flow when there are many workers in the colony. First year beekeepers should split their brand new hive and overwinter a nuc the first winter.

If a beekeeper overwinters four hives and four nucs and fifty per cent of the colonies die leaving two hives and two nucs the beekeeper simply moves the two nucs into the two dead hives increasing the hive count to four again. Later the four hives can be split creating four nucs.

Extra nucs can be sold or add supers and make honey with a nuc in spring.