

Bee Newsletter

4 March 2025

Welcome to March Merry Beekeepers

This is not the same as “the merry men in tights”. Get your bee suits out.

By now you should have treated all your surviving colonies for varroa mites. This aids the new expanding colonies to be as healthy and mite free as possible. You might want to plan on one more mite treatment before honey collection starts with the blackberry bloom.

Remember, everything is scheduled against the bloom cycle. The tulip poplar is our spring (annual) honey volume producer. It should start 2nd or 3rd week of May and go for at least 4 weeks. Gosh, that is the start of tornado season.

Don't forget, the packages are scheduled for 30 March. Pick up starts at 8AM at my front gate. 338 Epps Mtn Ln. Blairsville GA 30512. My Cell phone is 404 290 1311. I will be on the road starting the 27th picking up the packages so don't call my office phone.

Go to our web site (mtnbeekeepers.org) and read the appropriate hints that pertain to the current activities in the bee hive. They are a great review to refresh you on what tasks need accomplished at what phase of colony life.

Apis Esoteria is random thoughts on Honey Bee life. Getting started is what you “need to know” in more specific step by step guidance on what to do. The Bee Chronicles are past year observations on blooming and bee activities by month. Quizzes are timely questions and answers. All of these are oriented some what chronologically. Articles at the top of each list pertain to first activities in the colony as the year progresses.

Check out the want add page. Don Clark is changing out all his hives to another style instead of Langstroth hives. Hence, lots of complete hives. I don't know the status of the Brasstown availability. I have some deep hive bodies and lots of shallow supers. All of my supers have frames but no foundation.

Everyone settles in on what size box they want to work with. Here is quick review for each box size.

Deep hive body brood chambers give the queen more space to expand the colony which slows down her desire to swarm. They weigh about 90# full. But you don't move them much.

Medium boxes can be used for brood boxes but it takes more boxes to equal the same cubic space as a deep. They weigh about 45# full so can be used as honey supers.

Shallows can be used for any activity, but you have a lot of one-inch gaps above the top bars that the bees must cross frequently to conduct their work. They weigh 30# full. They make great honey supers. The biggest advantage is the bees will fill them fast and cap off the honey making complete honey supers ready to extract faster than the larger boxes. If the nectar collection is erratic the shallows are the best.

Get ready for your packages and have syrup ready before they arrive. They will need to be fed to get the brood areas with drawn out wax and stored food so the queen can start laying eggs. Most of your package bees are nurse (young in hive) bees vs. foragers. Feeding in or near the hive boxes will expedite honey storage and wax making.

Hope everyone can make the meeting at the N. GA. Tech College in Blairsville.
Tuesday 4 March 6-8 PM

Glen