

Bee newsletter

3 June 2025

Jubilant Beekeepers Unite!

Half way thru the year and what do we have to show for it. I am not hearing many great reports. Seems like the best we can say is, "my bees are still alive". Some honey collected, but not as much as should be.

It is the rain! We have had a fabulous spring bloom. But' every rain storm kept the bee home and knocked the nectar out of the blossoms, then it too 3-4 days for the nectar to build back up.

All the nectar brought in went to raising brood.

Looking ahead, get ready for sourwood bloom. These currently cool days are good. The colonies can raise more brood.

Balance your colony populations. This will prevent swarming and speed up expansion in the weaker colonies.

I use a felt tip pen. Just as the sourwood starts to bloom, I mark the empty frames as "S" for sourwood. The bees will go ahead and cap the end of spring honey with a mix. This allows you to get a purer sourwood honey when extracting.

July meeting is the 1st. Usually, the school is on break for the fourth and fireworks. We will meet at the Senior Center picnic pavilion right next door.

I am attaching the May newsletter which did not get published due to computer problems that lasted 4 weeks. You will have it for reference next year for comparison.

Be sure and check out appropriate helpful hints from the web page.
Mtnbeekeepers.org

As I balance my colonies I am checking the quality of my queens. Are they there? Are they laying mixed worker and drone brood? Less drone brood is better. Do I need to add bees to get the queen to lay more eggs daily? Is there pollen stored near the brood area? If not, I may need to feed pollen substitute. Is there enough

honey stored to raise brood? If not, move a frame of honey from another colony or feed syrup.

Check with your Bee Buddy to see if there are spare nucs (from swarm control) that you might be able to add to your apiaries.

See everyone at the meeting

Glen