

Bee Newsletter

6 May 2025

Dear all!

I hope everyone is recovering somewhat from my big "Bee Shipment" debacle!

I appreciate everyone's concerns. I messed up big time and apologize for that. I transported the bees the same way I have for 15 years. Go figure.

I hope everyone is finding bees to get their colonies going. Those of us in the club who had colonies make it through the winter and are now doing active swarm management are creating nucs. Please share any excess colonies with members, especially folks just starting out.

I keep feeding syrup to my strong hives even though there are plenty of flowers for two reasons. 1. Lots of bees can make lots of honey which stimulates the queen to lay more eggs. This can result in swarming which creates worker bees I can split off for more colonies. Then I am growing my own queens to go into these nucs. 2. When the nectar flow which I want for honey to rob starts, all the brood area is full of honey for bee food. That causes the bees to start storing the nectar honey that I want into the honey supers. Not storing it in the brood area. Yes, it costs money for the sugar syrup, but my honey is worth it.

I am hoping we stay on the cooler side for the next month. This will make the blooms linger and stay full of nectar. Watch the wild black berries to tell you when the good nectar flow is starting. It is supposed to be before tulip poplar.

28 April: the tulip poplar nectar is dripping down on the windshield of my truck. Looks like big "snot buggers" slowing sliding down the glass. I hope the bees are working overtime. I will check the hives this week. Three colonies have honey supers on.

I can still see black locust blooms. Blackberries in the sun by the highway may be opening. This is early, bee populations still are not at maximum. Temperature tomorrow is supposed to be 75°. Not too bad yet, still enough moisture in the ground to produce tree nectar. Blue berries just starting to open. Not an optimal

flower for honeybees, but the bumble bees drill holes at the base of the bloom and the honeybees use the hole to steal nectar.

Thoughts for the meeting are

The different kinds of frames and foundation

Shallow vs. Medium vs. Deep supers, advantages and disadvantages.

When is it time to add honey supers? Top supering vs. bottom supering. "Back door" holes in supers.

When is it a good time to make a split? Before honey flow, after honey flow, to grow new queens.

When is it time to add hive bodies?

Mite control during nectar flow?

Bring your questions.

See everyone at the meeting

Glen