

Minutes for Mar 13, 2018

5rbc.net

President: Arrie Goodwin (870) 966-3666
Vice-President: Vernon Lamb (870) 886-6669
Secretary /Treasurer Jacque English (870) 856-4987
Member-at-Large: Robin Bowyer and Ronda Lee
Master-at-Arms: Rick Deroiun

Meeting was called to order 6:30 p.m. by Arrie Goodwin at Grandma's Country Cookin' in Hardy, AR.

We had 20 members and 4 guests in attendance. Our guest speakers were Jeff Tatum from TFO (The Fallen Outdoors), Billy Shaver and Troy Spalding from Hillbilly Bees to talk on NUCS vice PACKAGES of Bees, Lonnie Perry on a new top feeder. Thank you all for sharing your knowledge with us.

Arrie gave opening prayer.

Treasurer Report (Books are open for any member to review) FNBC Checking - \$689.82

Memberships – 26 paid members. It is that time, all annual dues are from January to January. Help your club and renew. For the new year, we welcome new and old members.

Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2018 were accepted as read. All minutes are online to read if you missed a meeting.

Activity Report:

We are back at Grandma's Country Cookin for our monthly meetings and it is good to be back.

Time to place your bee order for this spring.

Here is the list of some folks that sell NUCS and PACKAGES:

Hillbillies Bees - Salem, AR - 888.887.4420 - \$165.00 NUCS

Myron Kroph - Bexar, AR - 870.458.3002 - \$ 85.00 PACKAGE

Guest Speakers:

1) Jeff Tatum from TFO (The Fallen Outdoors). A Veterans Outreach Organization that offers free to veterans to go hunting and fishing. Seeking folks with land to volunteer land to hunt / fish for the returning veterans or folks to donate time to hunt/fish with a Veteran. Their Facebook page is: The Fallen Outdoors Southern All Veteran Community at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/167972426943652/> Jeff is located in Cherokee Village and always available to answer any questions at (870) 565-7468. If you have hunting and/or fishing spot that you are willing to let TFO use, please contact Jeff. Thank you.

MISSION STATEMENT

What is TFO? Well we are an all Military, 100% non-profit hunting and fishing organization open to all branches and every Soldier past or present. What does TFO do? Many things but first we have established a network of Military outdoorsmen and women across the nation that is both physical and social. Physical being that we have teams in 39 different states that are all Veterans. These teams range from 3 to 5 personnel all the way to 60, it just depends on the area. These teams go on team hunts whether they are planned months in advance or just spur of the moment. We also work with landowners, guides, outfitters and just regular civilians who want to help out veterans. By doing this we can host more hunts and facilitate hunts to other Soldiers past or present outside the team. We also work with WTU, Soldiers with needs and Gold Star families. But what makes us different is that we are open to any Veteran past or present as long as they have served honorably. Our mission and our goal is to get as many Veterans and Soldiers that we can into the outdoors and share our passion and joy with them in hopes it becomes their passion as well.

If you share our passion for the outdoors and the conservation of it and are interested in becoming a member please contact us at

tfoarkansas2017@gmail.com



2) Lonnie Perry did a show and tell on a new top feeder sold by Barnyard Bees. He bought one to try and it worked so well, he bought 8 more and has no regrets. They cost \$8.50 / ea.



706-581-0473 • 706-508-2257 • 706-508-8605
www.barnyardbees.com • barnyardbees@yahoo.com

Barnyard Bees carries a wide range of items for your apiary, from complete hive kits, nucs, packages, and queens, to the simpler items like hive tools, smokers, and veils. Come see us for all your beekeeping needs.

My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Proverbs 24:13



It apparently goes on the top lid and you build up the sides to make a box. He added vent holes so it does not get too hot inside. Any questions on this design call Lonnie at 870.895.2771

3) Hillbilly Bees out of Salem, AR - Troy Spalding and Billy Shaver. They spoke on the difference from buying a Package vs. NUCS. It made perfect sense to go with NUCS - that cost a bit more in the beginning, but the end result is well worth having an established queen and frames at the beginning. The walkthrough was something along these lines. A package is about 3 lbs of bees with the queen inside a case that she needs to escape from before she can start laying eggs. The life cycle of the honeybee is about 24 days from egg to adult.

A package is like Ellis Island - a bunch of immigrants from different lands (hives) are thrown together, given a queen who's not their mother - and told to build a City. They will do it - but it's not the best way to start. A caged queen will take several days after she's released to resume laying. Her eggs won't hatch for 21 days and it will be two more weeks before newly born bees mature into foragers. Added together it will be six weeks before any new bees bring forage. By then nearly ALL the original bees in the package will be dead! (The average lifespan of a worker is only six weeks!)

They aren't sorted by age - and even if all were one day old when shaken - they'll be week-old when picked up - and it will be six weeks before the first replacement bees are ready to forage. The flowers of Spring will largely be missed while the package isn't strong enough to take advantage. The honey flow will pass them by as the package loses strength every day until at least the fourth week after installation. And if the new colony doesn't like the queen they've been given, they will reject or supersede her - adding another three week delay and seriously jeopardizing the survival of the colony.

If you ever got a package, you will normally already see dead bees in the bottom of the box. With the package they had to start from scratch in the hive and spend a lot of energy building out comb and filling it with brood before they started focusing on filling frames full of honey.

When you get a **package of bees**, you get bees with nothing more than the stripes on their backs! So if you get a package of bees the main advantage is, you'll get them sooner than you would a nuc which is great for those of you who are simply ready to burst because you've been waiting all winter long as it is. However, this may possibly be the only advantage of package bees. You see, since they have absolutely nothing, they have to start from scratch – which means YOU will need to feed them sugar unless you are in the middle of the spring honey / nectar flow. And even if you are, it's still a good idea to plan on feeding just in case of a slow start. Remember bees won't forage if it's rainy and cold, so they will be counting on you to feed them via the many types of feeders available on the market.

What is a nuc? A "nuc" is short for nucleus colony. This is a colony of bees that is relatively small in comparison to a larger production hive. These bees are just getting started, but they are already doing everything that a full production colony does. They have some honey, pollen, baby bees in various stages of development and a queen that is an egg laying machine ready to bring that small colony up to a full scale production colony that will contain upwards of 50,000 – 60,000 bees. If conditions are favorable, this can be accomplished in just a few months, and you could enjoy your first honey harvest sooner than you think.

The advantage of starting with a nuc is your bees have a head start. They have drawn comb – which is a huge plus because it takes approximately 8 lbs of sugar or nectar to draw just 1 lb of comb. The down side to nucs, which in my opinion is not really a down side, is you'll have to wait until mid spring in order to get a one. Obviously they'll need this time in order to build their house, right? But patience can have its reward with a colony that is off to a strong start. The cons to starting a nuc really boil down to just two things: (1) they cost about \$50 – \$100 more than a package and (2) you'll have to wait for a nuc till mid to late spring before they are available.

A nuc in the beekeeping world is basically a small box set up as temporary hive with a couple frames inside, a queen bee and her worker bees to be moved into your own boxes.

By contrast the Nuc has many advantages: their queen is already accepted and laying eggs. She is a proven force. She continues to lay even as the nuc is transported and frames full of brood are transferred into the beekeeper's equipment. Within existing comb are stores and brood of all ages. A balance exists between older bees and an increasing number of replacements. The colony utilizes these abundant resources and builds into a fully established colony Nucs tend to be a little more expensive than a package of bees, but they are well ahead of the game when it comes to production. Which ultimately means the ability to make more honey to harvest from our hives.

They also spoke on the artificial Bee swam using a Taranov Board. Here are some videos - this is amazing way to split hives using a sheet. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7GweGb35tY>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTIFbqnebWU>



Troy and Billy also recommended to follow and read articles by Randy Oliver. to scientificbeekeeping.com or To send Randy an email, [click here](#) .

Beekeepers, go

Perfect Bees offers online classes regarding Beekeeping. A good thing to check out. <https://www.perfectbee.com/beekeeping-course/>

Bob Vandergriff has 10 frame pine brood boxes for sell - \$12.50/ set. His number is 870.892.8336.

June 4, 11 & 18, 2018	Mammoth Spring, AR	Complete Beekeeping Short Course Contact the Fulton County Extension Office to register. Download the class details.
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March

Bees:

Days grow longer and warmer, and hive activity increases. As pollen-collection increases, the queen's egg-laying will increase. Bees will require more food to care for all the brood and to fuel flight activities. In years with a late spring, sufficient flowers may not be available for a rapid build-up. The bees can risk starvation and may require feeding.

Drones will begin to appear in the hive. If conditions are good, early swarms are possible.

Beekeepers:

You may inspect the hive on warm days to estimate food stores and see how much brood is present. Evaluate the brood pattern and decide if re-queening may be in order. If you plan to medicate the hive for varroa mites or nosema, treatments should be timed according to label recommendations so they are finished before the honey flow begins (usually about 4 weeks).

Reverse brood chambers to provide the queen adequate space to lay eggs. If hives were overwintered in a single hive body, consider adding another brood chamber to accommodate the spring population. Remove entrance reducers. Replace any old or damaged combs before the workers turn them all into drone comb.

Keep an eye out for queen cells, which you can use to divide a rapidly increasing colony. Pollen patties can help boost the population in advance of the nectar flow. You can equalize hives by moving frames of capped brood from strong colonies into weaker ones before the major nectar flow begins. This may also delay swarming by strong colonies.

Once adult drones are seen in colonies, it is safe to begin rearing queens.

April

Bees:

Spring is in full swing. Foraging activity and brood production should be in high gear. Crowded hives are likely to swarm. As brood increases, Varroa mite populations may begin to increase. Newly emerged queens will begin mating flights. However, excessively cool and wet weather can keep bees in the hive, depleting their honey stores. Eggs laid during the first part of this month will become the foragers that bring in much of the spring honey crop.

Beekeepers:

For strong, established colonies, feeding should cease as the main spring honey flow begins. Examine the hive every 8-10 days for queen cells and swarming activities. If weather is poor for flying, some feeding may still be required to sustain the bees. If weather is good, and flowers are available, you may need to begin adding supers for honey. Remove all medications as directed before honey supers are added. Mail-order package bees and queens will begin to arrive, and should be promptly installed. Splits can be made from strong colonies.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: 10 APR 2018 @6:30 PM

Place: Grandma's Country Cookin' in Hardy

Minutes submitted by Jacque English