

## **Cleveland County Beekeepers Association Meeting** **January 28, 2019 Meeting**

- First meeting of 2019 led by Regie Endsley
- Opening Prayer
- Elections;  
  
President- Regie (re-elected)  
Vice President- Emanuel Hunt (newly elected)  
Treasurer- Judy Gibson (re-elected)  
Secretary- Valerie Singalevitch (newly elected)
- Proposed Budget for 2019 discussed and accepted  
Points of discussion were adding funds to pay for outside speakers to come to the meetings (to pay for gas, etc) – Steve Gibson said he believed that had been mentioned before and previously approved.
- Regie wanted everyone to know that there is a gentleman in Albemarle that has packages available for sale, \$110 with a \$60 deposit. Ray Maxwell will also have some nucs available a little later for \$150 each.
- Fair cabin  
We need to come up with a better system for volunteers at the cabin before and during the fair. Last year only a few members worked most of the shifts and we need to come up with a better system to spread the shifts around.  
Ideas were:
  - to reduce the hours it is open during the fair to shorten the shifts.
  - advertise the cabin/bee house to get more visitors
  - extend the invitation to surrounding county beekeeper groups to volunteer
  - put an ad in the Shelby Shopper
- Ray Maxwell wanted to make everyone aware that we (Cleveland Co Beekeepers Association) have a table that is paid for at the Foothills Farmers Market if you have honey you want to sell.

## **Steve Gibson took over the meeting**

- He requested topics to speak about related to honey bee management or colony management that the whole group could discuss.
- Hive Ventilation- Reducers – who uses them/who doesn't? Solid or screened bottom boards. When? Why? How Long? It was determined that there are various pros & cons to using each and you have to determine what works best for your colony/situation.
- How to know if your colony needs food?
  - Weigh it
  - Put an entrance feeder on and see how fast it goes down- if it's mostly gone in a few hours then that hive needs to be fed.
  - Best way to check on a colony is to go into the hive (do a hive inspection) and see what they have/what they need.
  - Steve started feeding in August if they needed it. He used dry sugar with a spacer on a piece of paper directly over the cluster.
  - Pollen substitute? To quote Lewis Cauble "There is no substitute for pollen." Most people do not need to give pollen to their hives. If you see your bees bringing in pollen then a substitute is not needed.
- 3 things that sometimes throw new beekeepers
  - Mites
  - Managing queen events
  - Feedings – if feeding too much you can push your colony into a swarm/queen event
- Getting Ready for Spring
  - Find a warm day, (60\* plus), inspect, pull a box off and clean.
  - Make sure they don't starve
  - Varroa mite check once they come out of winter and once the weather warms up.
- Swarming
  - Try to keep a colony from swarming by keeping space in the brood chamber so the queen has room to keep laying.
  - Best thing is colony management- keep a check on your colonies and how full they are then add frames and/or drawn comb as needed.
- Field Days for future meetings- typically the last Saturday in March then again in April- weather dependent.
- Next meeting will be Monday Feb 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm