



Henry County Beekeepers Newsletter December 2009

Volume 2

News Editor ~ Mike Close pmclose1@bellsouth.net



Billy Engle

Billy Engle will be the guest speaker at our Tuesday, December 8, 2009 Henry County Beekeeper meeting. Billy will be speaking about “One Year in Hive Management – Month by Month.”

The Henry County Beekeepers club is fortunate to have a veteran member beekeeper like Billy Engle and his wife Ernestine.

Billy grew up in Georgia sharing time between Thomaston and The Rock. Billy’s father and Allen Oliver are responsible for getting him into beekeeping which he has been doing for over 20 years.

Billy belongs to the Assembly of God Church, Georgia State Beekeepers Association, Florida State Beekeepers Association, Henry County Beekeepers, Heart of Georgia Bee Club and the American Honey Producers Association.

The largest number of hives he’s ever owned in 650 and is now running about 500.

The most interesting beekeepers Billy has ever met are Richard Adee and Martin Braunstein. So when you are in a conversation with Billy, get him to tell you about them.

Henry County Beekeeper meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Public Safety Building Community Room, 7:00 P.M., 116 Zack Hinton Parkway South, McDonough, Ga. Come and help us grow, guests are always welcome and you do not have to be a member to attend our meetings.

More information can be found at our website: www.henrycountybeekeepers.org

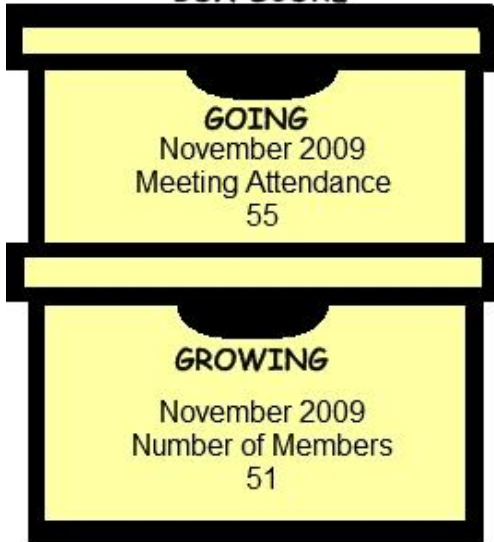
President Bees-ness:

Thanks go to all our beekeeping members for keeping our club going and growing. The second meeting, even though we needed hip boots and umbrellas, was a success with Dr. Keith Delaplane as the speaker. The November meeting attendance number was fifty-five (55) and our membership number is now fifty-one (51).

We are soon to find out about the knowledgeable veteran beekeepers within our membership and I am looking forward to being at their presentations. Hope to see you at the December 8th meeting.

President Tom Bonnell (Work 770-473-5434 ~ Home 770-707-2110 ~ Cell 678-983-7698)

BOX SCORE



Henry County Beekeeper Club Officers

Tom Bonnell	President
Ethan Hildreth	Vice-President
Debbie Bonnell	Secretary / Treasurer
Howard Emory	Director Three (3) Year 2010 through 2012.
Steve Loftin	Director Two (2) Year 2010 through 2011.
Tony Bradley	Director One (1) Year 2010 through 2010.
Mike Close	News Editor

2009 Programs

December 8, 2009 “Christmas Party”, “Membership Sign-Up” and “One Year in Hive Management – Month by Month” – Speaker Billy Engle

2010 Programs

January 12, 2010 “Hive, Frame and Foundation Assembly & Information for New Beekeepers” – Speaker Richard Upchurch

Club Needs Help with the following:

(email tombonnell@bellsouth.net if you can help)

- Help teach a beekeeping short course
 - 2010 Christmas Party Committee
 - Web Master
 - Promotional items and raffle
 - 2010 Summer Picnic Committee
 - News Editor (filled by Mike Close)
- We have a News Editor now, Mike Close, and if you will help him compile the monthly newsletters by sending information, recipes, etc.. it will be a great help. Mike’s email address is pmclose1@bellsouth.net and he will start with the January 2010 newsletter.

Interesting Stories

Honeybees face new threat in Texas: "Crazy" Ants By Katherine Harmon

Viruses, grueling journeys, monoculture diets. U.S. honeybees have had it rough lately, and millions have perished from the mysterious colony collapse disorder (CCD). But now some of the nation's bees have a new threat to contend with: ants. And not just any ants. These ants are crazy—Raspberry crazy ants (*Paratrechina species near pubens*), to be precise.

Named for their helter-skelter scamper, which contrasts with most ants' standard rank-and-file march, the tiny, invasive ants were first noticed in near Houston in 2002 and have been destroying electronics, pestering picnickers, and gunking up sewage pumps ever since. And now they have started to go after local honeybee hives, according to a recent Associated Press report.

Beekeepers say the omnivorous ants swarming the hives appear to be less interested in the sweet honey inside than they are in the bee larvae there. And once a hive is decimated, the ants will take over and use it to raise their own young. One beekeeper reported that the ants had destroyed about 100 of his hives in the past year. Aside from the crops they help to pollinate, the bees also produce about 4.9 million pounds of honey a year, the AP said.

But these insidious ants have yet to gain state recognition as agricultural pests, which would free up more money for research into their lifecycles and biology. But in order to gain that title, the Texas and U.S. departments of agriculture require more study. And many feel that time is of the essence.

"This is absolutely idiotic," Tom Raspberry, an exterminator and the ants' namesake, told the wire service. "If killing honeybees does not put it in the agriculture pest category, I don't know what does."

These ants are on the march—or scatter, as it were. Local researchers note that they are spreading north at a good clip and are now found in more than 10 Texas counties. They're easily transported accidentally through trash and plant material, according to the information on the University of Texas A&M Center for Urban & Structural Entomology Web site. Bees and electronics don't seem to be the only targets of these crazy ants. They also appear to have a taste for everything from ladybugs to fire ants. But even the experts are frustrated by the lack of knowledge about these new nuisances.

"There are literally thousands of things we need to find out," Raspberry said, "otherwise we're going to do just like we did with the fire ant and wait until it was too late."

Vendor's Page

Vendors who have supported Henry County Beekeeper Club

Bee-Yond Wonderful Bee Farm

Atten: Mike Sorensen
189 Oak Valley Rd.
McDonough, GA 30252
Phone: 404-372-8295
email: mtsorensen@bellsouth.net
www.beeyondwonderful.com

Brenda's Cakes

80 Benton Road
Juliette, Georgia 31046
478-447-3403
email: brendarumney@bellsouth.net

Buster's Bees

3910 Champagne Drive
Jonesboro, Georgia 30236
770-389-0721
email: bustersbees@yahoo.com
www.bustersbees.com

Dadant & Sons Inc.

51 South 2nd
Hamilton, Illinois 62341
Phone: 217-847-3324
Fax: 217-847-3660
Toll-Free Order line: 888-922-1293
email: Dadant@dadant.com
www.dadant.com

Daniels Scientific Inc.

Glass & Plastic Food Containers
1995 Perimeter Road
Greenville, SC 29605
Phone: 864-277-1309
Email: shawn.jenkins@danielsscscientific.com
www.danielsscscientific.com

The Walter T. Kelley Company

807 W. Main Street
Clarkson, KY 42726
Toll-Free Order line: 800-233-2899
email: sales@kelleybees.com
www.kelleybees.com

Pigeon Mountain Trading Company

106 North Duke Street
Lafayette, GA 30728
Phone: (706) 638-1491
Fax: (706) 638-8488
email: info@pigeonmountaintrading.com
www.pigeonmountaintrading.com

Beekeeping Supplies

PN & Evelyn Williams
528 Bridge Avenue
Forest Park, Georgia 30297
404-366-6404
email: honeyman2@aol.com