

Tri-County Beekeepers' Association

Club Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2022

Officers: President – Bobby Chaisson, Vice President – Chris Smith, Secretary – Olivia M Menard, Treasurer – David Holloman, Assistant Secretary – (None), Three Member Advisory Board – (None)

Call to Order by the president or designee: The meeting was opened in-person at 7:00 PM by the club president, **Bobby Chaisson**, who welcomed the 17 members present.

Recognize guests and visitors:

John Mitchell retired Banks County Extension agent, long time beekeeper, and one of founders of the [Welsh honey judge program in Georgia](#) just returned from Ireland and Spain with samples of black oak, chestnut, various wildflowers, and Heather honeys for the club to sample and compare. John explained how Robert Brewer and Michael Young together with himself and Dr Keith Delaplane brought the Welsh honey judge program here to Georgia to increase quality of honey sold in GA so beekeepers can charge more for their honey. Bell Heather is Ireland's equivalent honey to sourwood honey in the Southeastern US. Galicia province in NW Spain uses a seal to differentiate their honey. Honey sells for 11€ for 4 oz there!

Program:

- **Jimmy Gatt** spoke on high quality nucs. Encouraged everyone to look for ways to add VSH and "ankle biting" genetics as a way to treat mites in lieu of chemical alternatives. Ankle biting bees literally bite legs off varroa causing them to exsanguinate (Jimmy's word, not mine! – your Secretary had to look that one up), or bleed to death.
- Members discussed merits of having more than one hive. **Jimmy** and **Bobby** recommended 5 hives as the best size to sustain a hobby beekeeping operation.

Reading and approval of minutes from the previous meeting:

- **Bobby** made motion to accept minutes. Seconded. Approved.

Reading of the financial report: David Hollomon

- Regions Bank balance ending 12/31/2021 \$1,199.10
- Paypal balance ending 12/31/2021 \$4,222.84

Discussion of old business:

- **Bobby** gave overview of board meeting. 2022 schedule planned.
 - Feb - Harold Lanier, Swarm Capture
 - Mar - Julia Mahood, Pests & Diseases
 - Apr - Spring Cookout
 - May - Bobby Chaisson, Prep for Young Harris Test
 - Jun - Chris Smith, Harvesting Honey
 - Jun/Jul - Varroa Field Day
 - Jul - Bob Binnie, Double Screen Board uses & overwintering in a double deep
 - Aug - Brutz English, Honey Show preparations
 - Sep - Carter Parsons, Beeswax Products
 - Oct - Olivia M Menard, Preparing Your Bees for Winter
 - Nov - Virginia Webb, Candlemaking
 - Dec - Christmas Party
- **FUNDamentals course**: 2 people registered. **Bobby** reviewed the plans for the upcoming Fundamentals of Beekeeping class to be held Saturday, February 12, 2022, at the Mt Carmel Baptist Church at 2405 GA-51, Lula, GA 30554. The club has applied for grant funds in the amount of \$3,000 to cover all expenses associated with the class including facilities, materials, speaker fees, and lunches for all attendees. "God willing and the creek don't rise we won't have weather like we did last year". Flyer in FB post has qr code on it. Price includes membership in club for year. Speakers include: **Dr Louis Bartlett** from UGA, **Julia Mahood** on pests and diseases, **Harold Lanier** on beekeeping equipment, **THE Bobby Chaisson** will be doing hive inspections, and **Olivia Menard** on A Year in the Beeyard. **Chik-Fil-a** lunch. Always the second Saturday.

Discussion of new business:

- **Club Tshirts**: Red with yellow text same as before. Unisex sizes only. 6 folks interested. **Chris Smith** coordinating order. Let him know your size if you are interested.
- **2022 speaker topics survey** will close 1/14. If you haven't yet completed it, please do so asap so we can ensure your preferences are included in the 2022 plan.
- **Jun/Jul varroa field day**. Classes and hands on time.
- Taking care of **club bees at the park**. Min 2 at a time. 1 must be a certified Beekeeper or above

Members discuss immediate beekeeping concerns:

- **Don "The Fat Bee Man" Kuchenmeister** spoke about [Mini Mating Nucs](#) and how he uses them in his beeyard. Noted he is always looking for help in his beeyard. If you want to learn commercial beekeeping and aren't afraid of a little work, he would like to teach you.
- Harold Lanier [beekeeping bootcamps](#) coming up. [Nucs and packages available](#).

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Upcoming Club Meetings/Events:

- Saturday, February 12, 2022, 9am – 4pm: [FUNDamentals of Beekeeping](#) at the Mt Carmel Baptist Church, 2405 GA-51, Lula, GA 30554.
- Monday, February 14, 2022, 7pm – 9pm: Next Regular Club Meeting: **Harold Lanier** on Swarms. Weather permitting, we will check the club hives at 6:30 before the meeting.
- Saturday, February 18-19, 2022, [GBA Spring Meeting & Artisan Show](#) will be held in person at Middle Georgia University campus (100 University Pkwy, Macon, GA 31206). The Artisan show will begin accepting entries the evening of Friday February 18th at Robert F. Hatcher Conference Center, Middle Georgia State University, Macon, Georgia. Members are encouraged to participate in both the conference and the artisan show. Ref: [Artisan Show Rules](#)
- Dues will be due by the first meeting in March. Dues are \$15 per year and payable by check, cash, or paypal. Dues received after October 1 apply to the following year.

The minutes are respectfully submitted by Olivia M Menard, Tri-County Beekeepers Association Secretary, January 26, 2022.