

ORANGE CO

Beekeepers



BEE School Continues

Our February Meeting, was a great success with our wonderful inspector, Will Hicks. He spoke to us about getting started with bees. He covered packages, swarms and nucs, discussing the pros and cons of each. He then went over how to install your packages and how to check to see if your queens had been accepted and were laying well. His talk dovetailed into what Jenn Keller was telling us about keeping track of developmental times of bees. If your queen has been accepted after 3-5 days and begins laying, you should be able to see eggs [if you can spot them]. After 6-9 days you should see larvae. After 13-15 days, you should begin to see capped brood which will begin hatching after 24-27. The main thing is to check only enough to ascertain that the hive is okay so they can start growing.

Highlights



Bee Buddies

Our new beekeepers will be graduating from bee school and getting their bees. They will need a lot of help from more established beekeepers. If you would be willing to show them your hives or help them install their packages, please let them know through the OCBA listserve.

Budget Report

Our treasurer, Dick Merritt at dickmerritt@mindspring.com gave us a summary of our current accounts. He has caught up our records and we are doing well with our money so far.

Winter Meetings

Our March Meeting is on Thursday the 10th, at 7 pm at the New Senior Center next to the Sportsplex. For more directions, please call Geneva 919 475 7668.

State Meetings in 2010

Spring Meeting in Lumberton on March 4th and 5th.

Summer Meeting in Salisbury on the 2nd week of July.

Eastern Apicultural Society Meeting in Boone on the 1st week in August.

	workers	queen	drones
egg	3	3	3
larvae	7	5	10
pupa	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>
adult	21	16	24

Workshops at the Warehouse

As part of our bee school, Lewis sponsored three workshops out at the Bee Works Shop. Many of our members including: Jerome Schiro, Jack Tapp, Randall Austin, Angie Frizzel, John Wallace, Brian Taylor, Charles Fleckenstein, and others came to help demonstrate building hive equipment. We looked at different sizes of boxes including deeps for brood production, medium for brood and honey, and shallows for honey. We compared different forms of foundation and their various pros and cons. Then we practiced assembling frames, installing foundation, wiring foundation, and prewaxing plastic frames.

Although it was bitter cold, everyone worked hard and had a good time. All of our students seem very excited to learn all they can about bees, so be sure to help them whenever you can.



Workshop!

Shari and Michelle Metzger examine a frame of honey.



Jerome Schiro shows us how to assemble a hive body.



Randall Austin holds forth.



Charles Fleckenstein councils our new 4H student beekeeper.



Lewis Cauble snaps some plastic foundation in to a frame.