



Tennessee Valley Beekeepers Association

tennvalleybeekeepers.org

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January 2012 Newsletter

Fellow members and guests of the TVBA,

Our new year is off to a rousing start!

The January TVBA meeting will be presented by Charlie Parton. Charlie is a beekeeper from Blount County and has been a beekeeper for over 30 yrs. He is active in the Blount County Beekeepers Association having served two terms as president. Charlie has been member of TBA since the merger in 1999 he now serves as East Tennessee Vice President, Charlie was also selected as Tennessee Beekeeper of the year for 2011. Charlie has shared his love of beekeeping by mentoring numerous new beekeepers through the years. Charlie speaks to school groups and to other organizations of his love for the craft of beekeeping. Charlie currently runs around 70 colonies and sells honey, nucs and pollinates pumpkins. The meeting will start at 6pm. This is an earlier start time so please make note. See you on the 23rd!

CHANGE OF MEETING VENU NOTICE! The January, February and March meetings will be held at Outdoor Chattanooga, 200 River St., Chattanooga, TN. So, why are we doing this? Well, we share the Ag building resources with our sister group the Master Gardeners and they're having their class in the big room downstairs. Our group has grown to the point where the upstairs room gets more than a bit crowded and standing room only for meetings. So to make things work all around we've opted to run the next three meetings at OC. The Meetings will also start at 6pm. This is earlier than our current start time, so please make notice of the new time.

The TVBA Beekeeping Mentorship class will have its first meeting on February 27. Many have asked about this class as it's an incredible opportunity to not only learn from seasoned and experienced beekeepers, but you also get a full hive and colony to take home with you when you're done! The cost of the class will be \$350. We're doing all

we can to keep the cost down and give you a high quality product. A deposit of \$150 is required prior to February 10 with the remainder due at or by the first class. Contact Ken Dale at 423.339.7342 or kdale@kadway.com with any further questions.

We also have a new slate of TVBA officers as of the November election:

President - Ken Dale
Vice President – Steve Smith
Secretary – Aaron Bryant
Treasurer – Larry Davis
Media Director – Don Rima
Program Director – Karen Dewhirst
Past President – Chad Poole

We've been talking about having Professor John Skinner from UTK to present a **Master Beekeeping school class**. Well, we've got some really good news. Professor Skinner will be teaching the class in Chattanooga on April 12-14. The cost will be \$50 per person. We'll have the application forms on the web and a notice will be sent out once they're available. But if you're interested please put this date on your calendar. I don't have all the meeting time details yet, so stay tuned and they'll be passed along just as soon as we know them.

It's also time to renew your membership. Annual dues are still only \$10 per person, so please send in your renewal form and you check. Better yet, bring it with you to the January meeting. The membership form can be found at <http://tennvalleybeekeepers.org/Membership.aspx> I suggest you renew like they vote in Chicago, early and often.

Some bee news item(s) you may find of interest:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/45862883/ns/technology_and_science-science/#.TwPnEWBSMeU

Feel free to email me links to newsletter inclusion and I'll pass them along in the monthly missive.

A bit of buzzing from the President:

As we enter into a new year of beekeeping we hope that this year will be better than the previous year. From the reports that I have read, most of us did not get a good honey harvest in 2011.

The TVBA has new officers this year and we have already been brainstorming to come up with new ideas to make TVBA a better and stronger association. From time to time we will be presenting some of these ideas to the membership to get your input about

them. We also encourage you to contact any of the officers with ideas or concerns that you might have. Some of these changes are requests and/or ideas that came from the membership. We are also working on a survey form to send out to the membership asking for some information that we will use to help guide us to better serve you. We have already made some changes to the web site and the g-mail account. We have cleaned up a lot of things in the member and mailing lists as a start. We are working to get the newsletter (that you are now reading) started again. If you have something that you would like to see covered in the newsletter, contact Don Rima(DR2@DLR2.NET), our Media Director, or any officer. We are working hard to make TVBA the best and strongest beekeeping association in Tennessee. We need your help to do this and hope that you will join us in that goal.

For those of you that get the Hivetool newsletter from the TBA, look to see a small blurb about us in one of the upcoming issues. We will keep you updated as to when it comes out.

You may or may not have heard by now that we will be having a Tennessee Master Beekeeping course taught by Dr. Skinner from UT. The dates have been set for April 12, 13 and 14, 2012. Class size is limited to a Maximum of 50 people and a minimum of 35 people. From the request that we have had for this program, I don't think that the minimum will be a problem. We are waiting for the registration forms and course description templates to arrive and we will advise you when we have them in hand.

Ken Dale
2012 TVBA President

We hope to see you at the January meeting.