The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

February 2, 2026

Program

Lion Randy Kraft introduced our speaker, tonight, Lion Phillip Garrison. Lion Phillip is a 3rd generation beekeeper, who spoke as a true beekeeping craft expert. He is from Fairview, now living in Vinemont. He has served in several officer positions within the Alabama Beekeeper Association, including it's President for two terms.

Lion Phillip Garrison explains typical bee keeping equipment as Lion Randy Kraft (who has been stung many times and can't figure out why) listens intently.

The last time I saw such interest in bees, was a couple decades ago when some of our Lions, dressed as wild African bees, put on a skit.

Lion Phillip explained that when he was younger he maintained 160 hives, but these days he manages 60 or 70. He talked about his dad who generally just wore a hood & gloves around his bees. He said that he generally gets by like that except when he is collecting honey. Both used a smoke pot to quiet things down when required. He said that he usually allows himself to get stung a few times in the spring to make sure that his general immunity is sound and that he would be unlikely to have an adverse reaction to an incident of multiple stings at once. Lion Phillip talked extensively about the equipment required to run a successful commercial operation, saying that a single hive can contain as much as 100 lbs. of honey. He believes that honey is good for your health and eats it every day. He talked about different types of hives and methods of extracting honey and the specialized equipment involved. He mentioned that he purchases queen bees, rather than developing his own. He also may buy regular hives or get them free if he is contacted by someone who has an unwanted swarm of bees showing up on their property.

He explained that there are 3 types of bees in a hive: the drone who eats a lot and who fertilizes the queen; the queen (who is bred only once in her entire life, which is sufficient for as much as 2 years, possibly 3, and rarely 4), and workers who are female and really do all the work. Each worker can make up to ½ teaspoon of honey during her life. The drones are produced at breeding time each year and are usually forced out of the hive after breeding the queen. Queens can lay up to 1500 eggs in a single day; all the queen does after breeding is eat, get fed & groomed by the workers, and lay eggs.

Lion Phillip also discussed various types of honey, primarily categorized by the different pollinated plants. He stressed how important bees are in pollination of the plants and vegetables that end up on our tables. He said that tulip popper trees are the favorite source of pollen and nectar for bees. He sells honey and rarely, beeswax candles.

The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

Lion Phillip answered many questions, after giving us an informative, entertaining, and educational program.

Other Business

Lion Javon Daniel's heart condition continues to restrict his activities

Lion President Delane Ray announced years-of-service anniversaries for Lions Raymond Williams – 45; Charlie Powell – 33; Jeff Byrd – 17; and Jeff Lawson – 4. Lion Delane also read thank-you notes for our donations from The Link, Alabama Lions Sight, and from Master Gardners, who named our Club as a "Key Partner."

Lion David Bussman reminded newer members that a Roundtable Discussion was being held tonight with Lion Richard Gurley as group leader discussing the Club's Constitution & Bylaws.

Lions David Bussman encourages new Lions to attend Roundtable Discussions at Freddie Day's Catering.

Future Roundtable (RT) dates and subjects are as follows:

RT2-Feb 23 — Events and Projects.
RT3-Mar 16 — BOD & Operations.
RT4-Apr 20 — Beyond our Club: District, Multi-District, & Global operations.

Lion Carey Thompson reminded Lions of the Fish & Ham Dinner coming up in about 3 weeks. Due to the fact that we could not get tickets due to MLK holiday closure and the cancelling of last week's meeting due to a winter-weather warning, we have less time to sell and prepare that we have ever had. We really need our Lions to go the extra mile this year to succeed. Lion Carey had included assignments in last week's Tale Twister and brought copies tonight.

Lion Steve Cartee had tickets available for Lions to sell and will continue to do so, going forward; he will also be taking in payments for those tickets, starting at the next meeting. Lion Steve reminded Lions not to tear off the ticket-stub when passing tickets on to customers. Ticket price (donation) remains $15 each. Lion Steve says to get more tickets that you think you may need from the start – you can get a refund on any remaining unsold. Do not get extra tickets from another Lion – only from Lion Steve or his team. You can pay with a check or cash to Lion Steve and his team, or else pay with a card through Lion Don Smith. In any case, you will receive a receipt in order for Lions Steve & his team to maintain accurate records.

Lion President had earlier encouraged Lions with business manager contacts to approach these managers about offering our Fish & Ham tickets for sale or as gifts at their businesses; details could be negotiated or worked out with Lion Steve Cartee if necessary. This approach was basically how the late Lion Mike Ponder always had the

The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

highest number of tickets sold each year. Lion Sam Roberts has already planned to use tickets through his business; you can see him for details. Lion Craig Gadow is ready to accept 20 tickets from our Lions to give to Child Haven.

Lions Danny Ray, Steve Cartee, and Claude Clay let Lion Craig Gadow sign for his tickets as Lion Jeremy Bryant stands ready to get his.

<u>Upcoming Programs and Events</u>

<u>February 9</u>: Mr. Wayne Reed will speak about Patriot Catfishing, Inc.

<u>February 16</u>: Empty Bowls Dinner at 1st Methodist Church. Lions and one guest/per Lion eat for free (must sign-in at event).

<u>February 19-22</u>: Alabama Association of Fairs Convention at Fairgrounds

<u>February 23</u>: Ms. Amanda Trawick, Executive Director of Alabama Lions Sight, will speak.

<u>February 27</u>: Prep for Fish & Ham Dinner at Cullman Middle School at 3:30PM.

<u>February 28</u>: Annual Cullman Lions's Club Fish and Ham Dinner at Cullman Middle School cafeteria.

<u>March 2</u>: Ms. Cathy Sloss will be speaking about the Rails to Trails Conservancy.

The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

March 7: Hanceville Lions Club Bingo Night fund raiser at Hanceville Civic Center (just past Hanceville High School). Doors open at 5:00PM with drinks and snacks and featuring many door prizes valued in excess of $100.

March 14: District 34-A Convention at Cullman Church of Christ.

. ***Tale Twister* Input**

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister,* see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).