



February 25th, 26th & 27th

Bees on the Bern! Onward and Upward to Better Beekeeping!

Our conference will be held at the New Bern Waterfront Conference Center. It's a beautiful facility, with all of our classrooms under one roof! We are excited to welcome you to New Bern and excited about the program and workshop offerings.

[New Bern Convention Center, New Bern, NC](#) Hosted by the [Craven-Pamlico Beekeepers!](#)

Registration

Advance registration has ended. You may register on arrival at the meeting.

Registration begins at 8:00 AM each day of the conference (except Thursday, when registration starts at 10AM).

Rates:

Individual Registration (NCSBA member): \$45

Family Registration (NCSBA member): \$55

Individual Registration (Non-NCSBA member): \$60*

Family Registration (Non-NCSBA member): \$70*

*Includes 2016 Annual NCSBA membership for the primary registrant. South Carolina & Virginia Beekeepers do not need to join the NCSBA to attend the 2016 Spring Meeting but are welcome to do so.

Conference Schedule

[2016 Spring Conference Schedule](#)

Workshop Schedule

[2016 Spring Conference Workshop Schedule](#)

You will notice that workshops are labeled 'Onward' or 'Upward'. Onward classes are for those with less experience, or less knowledge on this subject. Upward classes are for those who have been keeping bees long enough to be comfortable with the basics and hungry for more in depth information on the subject matter to be covered. You encouraged to move back and forth between the two levels as they appeal to you and fit your needs.

Speaker Profiles

[2016 Spring Conference Speakers](#)

Vendors

We have over 20 vendors scheduled to attend. Check out the [vendor page](#) for a complete list.

Lodging

Several of the hotels and B&Bs are offering discounts to our conference attendees.

[2016 Spring Conference Lodging Recommendations](#)

Food

There will be concessions available for purchase during the breaks and at lunch.

Thursday Happenings

Registration in Lobby 10:00 until 4:00

9:00 -12:00 Master Beekeeping Testing (no tests issued after 11)

12:00 Vendors area open from 12:00 until 6:00

Call to order: Rick Coor, NCSBA President

12:45 – 1:15 Invocation: Bob Gaddis, NCSBA Treasurer

Dana E. Outlaw, Mayor

- 1:15 – 1:30 MBP Presentation – Paul Newbold
- 1:30 – 2:30 Breeding of the VSH Trait at Mississippi State University – Jeff Harris
- 2:30 – 2:50 NCSU Apicultural Fund Raising – Charles Heatherly
- 2:50 – 3:20 Break
- 3:20 – 3:30 Door Prizes
- 3:30 – 4:30 State of beekeeping in NC – NC Bee Inspectors
- 4:30 – 5:00 NCSBA History – Charles Heatherly
- 6:00 Vendor area closes
- 6:00 – 9:00 Executive Committee Meeting

Berne Room – Master Beekeeping Testing

Thursday, 9:00 – 12:00 (No tests issued after 11)

Friday, 12:00 – 3:00 (No tests issued after 1:30)

Saturday, 9:00 – 11:00 (All tests issued at 9:00)

Bee Buddies for school groups

Ballroom B and C Thursday 9:00 – 1:00 Will Johnson

Bee Buddies – Special for the registrant's children

Ballroom B and C Thursday starts promptly at 11:00 – 1:00 Buck Lewis

Due to program length no children after 11:00. Allow 1½ hrs. to 2 hours for the program.

Friday Happenings

Registration in Lobby 8:00 until 3:00

- 8:30 – 6:00 Vendor area open
- 8:15 – 8:30 Welcome and announcements – Paul Madren, 1st VP NCSBA
- 8:30 – 8:40 Allana Ross, President Craven-Pamlico Beekeepers
- 8:40 – 9:20 Record Keeping is for everyone – James Wilkes, Hive Tracks
- 9:20 – 10:10 Regulation of Varroa Mite Reproduction – Zachary Huang, Michigan State University
- 10:10 – 10:30 Break
- 10:30 – 10:40 Door prizes
- 10:40 – 11:30 Seasonal Management of Honey Bees – Jeff Harris, Mississippi State University
- 11:30 – 12:00 Pollinator Protection Update – Patrick Jones
- 12:00 – 3:00 Master Beekeeping Testing (no tests issued after 1:30)
- 12:00 – 1:15 Lunch
- 1:15 – 1:25 Door Prizes
- 1:25 – 1:45 Certified Honey Program – Kim Underhill
- 1:45 – 1:50 Intro to workshops
- 2:00 – 3:00 Workshops
- 3:00 – 3:20 Break
- 3:20 – 4:20 Workshops
- 4:30 – 5:30 NCSBA General Membership Business Meeting

Saturday Happenings

Registration in Lobby 8:00 until 12:00

Vendors area open 8:30 – 3:15

Master Beekeeping Program Testing (Berne Room) – All test issued at 9:00am

Silent Auction ends 10:30am

- 8:00 – 8:15 Welcome/Announcements
- 8:15 – 8:25 Final Door Prizes
- 8:25 – 9:15 Yard and Bench View of a Bee Breeding Business – Adam Finkelstein / VP Queen Bees

9:15 – 10:15 Speaker Forum (Harris, Huang, Finkelstein, Hopkins, Coats)
 10:15 – 10:40 Break
 10:45 – 11:45 Workshops
 11:45 – 1:00 Lunch
 1:00 – 2:00 Workshops
 2:00 – 2:15 Break
 2:15 – 3:15 Workshops
 3:15 – 4:00 Quality Queen Bees: The Biology Behind Queen Rearing –
 Adam Finkelstein / VP Queen Bees
 4:00 Closing remarks

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change

You will notice that workshops are labeled 'Onward' or 'Upward'. Onward classes are for those with less experience, or less knowledge on this subject. Upward classes are for those who have been keeping bees long enough to be comfortable with the basics and hungry for more in depth information on the subject matter to be covered. You encouraged to move back and forth between the two levels as they appeal to you and fit your needs.

Friday Workshops

Session 1: 2:00 – 3:00

Ballroom A	Honey Bee Pheromones	Zachary Huang	Upward
Ballroom B	Varroa Mite Migration into Colonies: Effects on Population Growth and Control Strategies (video conference)	Gloria Degrandi-Hoffman	Upward
Ballroom C	Honey Bee Anatomy	Greg Farris	Onward
Tryon A	The Winner Is... The Tricks of the Trade When Preparing Honey for Show	Virginia Webb	Upward
Tryon B	<u>Microscopy</u> . (One 2hr Session, seating limited to Number of microscope stations. Pre-registration required. Sign up at Registration desk.)	Don Coats	Upward

Session 2: 3:20 – 4:20

Ballroom A	Do I need a Queen? Let's do The Math!	Jennifer Keller	Onward
Ballroom B	Brood Interruption Strategies	Adolphus Leonard	Onward
Ballroom C	Understanding NC Honey Show Rules	Joe Smith	Onward
Tryon A	Equipment Confusion, an Open Discussion and Demonstration of Equipment	Lewis Cauble	Onward
Tryon B	Microscopy (continued)	Don Coats	Upward
Berne	NC Zoo Honey Bee Exhibit	Janno Lewis and Judy Pick	Onward/ Upward

Saturday Workshops

Session 1: 10:45 – 11:45

Ballroom A	Biology and Management of Small Hive Beetle	Jeff Harris	Upward
Ballroom B	African Honey Bees	Greg Farris	Upward
Ballroom C	Late winter/Early Spring Beekeeping	Nancy Ruppert	Onward
Tryon A	How to Design a Honey House	Ann Harman	Upward
Tryon B	<u>Microscopy</u> . (One 2hr Session 10:45 – 12:45, seating limited to	Don Coats	Upward

Number of microscope stations. Preregistration required. Sign up at Registration desk.)

Berne	Interpreting Colony Conditions	Will Hicks	Upward
Session 2: 1:00 – 2:00			
Ballroom A	Setting up a Localized Bee-Breeding Program and Bee Strains	Adam Finkelstein	Upward
Ballroom B	New Mite on the Block – <i>Tropilaelaps</i>	Don Hopkins	Upward
Ballroom C	Making Splits	Adolphus Leonard	Upward
Tryon A	Mead Making	Michael Senn	Onward
Berne	New Approach to Swarms	Barry Jones	Onward
Session 3: 2:15 – 3:15			
Ballroom A	Honey Bee Glamour Shots	Zachary Huang	Onward
Ballroom B	New Mite on the Block – <i>Tropilaelaps</i>	Don Hopkins	Upward
Ballroom C	Bee as Social Insects	Todd Walker	Onward
Tryon A	Cooking Up a Winning Entry, (How to enter and win at the Cooking With Honey Competition)	Elaine Styers / Nora Fain	Onward
Tryon B	Late Winter/ Early Spring Beekeeping	Nancy Ruppert	Onward
Berne	Harvesting and using Hive Products	Shannon Baxter	Onward

2016 Spring Conference Speakers



Adam Finkelstein owns and operates VP Queen Bees; producing artificially inseminated queens used as breeding stock by commercial and hobbyist beekeepers throughout the USA and abroad. VP Queen Bees collaborates with the USDA at Baton Rouge and other migratory outfits to select for mite resistance and productivity. All VP Queen Bees colonies are treatment free and have been for 18 years. Helping others (groups and individuals) design and plan breeding programs is Adam's greatest joy and interest. Eating honey ranks up there for him, too.



Adolphus Leonard is a former commercial beekeeper and queen breeder. He has been an apiary inspector for over 20 years for NC Dept. of Agriculture and has a keen interest in Bee Breeding and healthy bees.



Ann Harman's lifelong interest in honey bees turned her career as a research chemist to beekeeping. With her background in apiculture, from being a student of Dr. Dewey Caron, Ann became a volunteer to teach beekeeping skills in Third-World Countries. She also writes monthly articles for Bee Culture, each issue of Beekeepers Quarterly and occasionally for BeeCraft. She is an Eastern Apicultural Society Master Beekeeper and teaches beekeeping in the U.S. Ann is a member, and has been an officer, of numerous beekeeping associations. She has been a Honey Show organizer and judge for national, regional, state and local honey shows. Most recently she was a honey judge at Apimondia 2015 in Seoul, South Korea. Ann's hives are a teaching apiary on a youth facility near her home in Virginia.



Beekeeping has been in **Barry Jones'** family for generations. After returning home from serving in the Air Force, he began a serious passion of keeping bees. An NC Master Beekeeper, Barry manages approximately 50-60 hives. Barry teaches a class every Tuesday night at no charge at his "man cave" near his home, where he has approximately 10-15 students each night. "I really enjoy and watching the "newbees" get excited about keeping bees," says Barry.

He has been a director for the Neuse Regional Club in Lenoir County and past President for 3 years. Barry, also along with my wife, Marian, friends, Steve and Melinda Miller formed the Duplin County Bee Club.



Charles Heatherly has been a hobbyist beekeeper for more than two decades and active in the North Carolina State Beekeepers for most of that time, first as editor of the Buzz, then NCSBA President 2006-08. Charles served as Chair of the Legislative Committee for a number of years and then co-chaired the Honey Board with Dr. John Ambrose where they developed a state honey standard and a certified label program for participating members. Last year, Charles was appointed Historian by President Rick Coor and in that capacity was asked to coordinate our 100th Anniversary Celebration which will take place next year (2017). Charles has been NCSBA Beekeeper of the Year twice (2005 and again in 2013 jointly with Dr. Ambrose for their work establishing the honey standard program. In 2011 he was awarded the NCSBA McIver-Hass Award for Lifetime Achievement.



Dr. **Don Coats** DVM, is a retired veterinarian and beekeeper with 20 hives, is devoting study and personal resources to exploring the hidden world of beekeeping – anatomy, diagnostics and pollen. Introducing other beekeepers to the exciting, often basic, discoveries provided through microscopy has been a personally rewarding experience over the past three years. Don has accumulated a substantial number of pollen images for eventual publication. Monitoring Nosema and its enigmatic relationship to hive health has been a major focus this year. Searching for a clinical approach to evaluating colony health, he is developing a score sheet that applies number values to hive inspection elements. Using this protocol, he has organized a list serve “field seminar” program with other beekeepers, tracking key health indicators. Applying methods and concepts used in clinical practice of small animal medicine, he hopes to build on existing knowledge base for evaluating hive health and improving survival

rates.



Don Hopkins became interested in bees at the age of 5, when beekeeper Dave Pruden was also the bread delivery driver in his hometown. He didn’t get a hive until he was nine or ten, but he has kept bees almost continuously since then. As a youth beekeeper in the Morris County (NJ) Beekeepers Association he was inspired by New Jersey State Apiarist Jack Matthenius. Don later served as president of that same organization. Don started working for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture in 1989 as a bee inspector. In 1994, he became the State Apiarist. Don has been president of Apiary Inspectors of America twice: in 2000 and 2010. At EAS, Don is sometimes known as the Chief Bee Wrangler and has presented several workshops, primarily on bee diseases. His primary interest is honey

bee health and biology, as well as the interactions between the bees and other organisms. Don has been on many volunteer projects to educate and learn from beekeepers in other countries. His trips to Bolivia have given him experience with Africanized Honey Bees and insight as to how the beekeepers there manage the bees.

Elaine Styers is a member of Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph and Rockingham County Beekeepers. A Master Beekeeper since 2012, Elaine has been keeping bees for 14 years. She is past Secretary/treasurer Rockingham County Beekeepers and sets up of the meals for Forsyth County Beekeepers. Elaine is the chairperson of the Cooking with Honey for the NC State Beekeepers and a judge for the Honey Exhibits for the Stokes County Fair. Elaine also enjoys presenting cooking demonstrations for the State Association and for local association. She has been a volunteer at the NC State Zoo bee exhibit for 6 years.



Dr. **Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman** is the research leader and center director of the U.S.D.A. Agricultural Research Service’s (ARS) Carl Hayden Bee Research Center in Tucson, Ariz. With nearly three decades in bee research, she is considered a world- renowned expert in her field.

Gloria works to ensure the health of honey bee colonies, especially those used for commercial pollination. Her research includes studying the biology of African bees, controlling the Varroa mite, and investigating the phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder. Her research has been featured in documentaries on the Discovery Channel and PBS.

She has published more than 100 articles and book chapters, as well as nine mathematical models. She has received grants for her research in excess of \$6 million and has led the ARS research efforts in the production of two

commercially available products for beekeepers: a protein supplement diet (MegaBee–the Tuscon diet) and a miticide to control Varroa mites (HopGuard).

Awards she has received include the J.H. Comstock Award from the Entomological Society, of America, the J.H. Hambleton Award from the Eastern Apiculture Society and most recently, the Federal Laboratory Consortium Technology Transfer Award for her work on HopGuard. At Penn State, Gloria received the 2007 Outstanding Alumna Award from the College of Agricultural Sciences and was inducted into the Armsby Honor Society in 2008.



Gregory Fariss has managed hives in multiple states since his early twenties. A former bee inspector for the Maryland Department of Agriculture, he is now a bee inspector for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Greg enjoys speaking at state and local meetings and has taught a number of beginner and intermediate bee schools in his inspection region. He has served on the Executive Board of Maryland State Beekeepers Association, North Carolina State Beekeepers Association, American Bee Federation, Eastern Apicultural Society and Davie County Beekeepers Association. Greg is also one of the five Eastern Apicultural Society Master Beekeepers located in North Carolina. His main focus is helping others keep healthy bees.



James Wilkes is a beekeeper, farmer, college professor, and entrepreneur. He owns and operates Faith Mountain Farm, a family farm (wife and eight children) that includes about 100 honey bee colonies, a baking operation, cut sunflowers, pastured poultry, eggs, and produce. His paying job is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Computer Science at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. In this role he is also the Information Technology Lead for the Bee Informed Partnership. Lastly, James is co-founder of Hive Tracks, a record keeping software system for beekeepers.



Janno Lewis started beekeeping in 1994, joining the Stanly County association and soon after, became a member of the committee for a permanent honey bee exhibit at the NC Zoo. Janno completed the Master Beekeeper level in 2000. She was appointed to the board of directors in 2001 and is the past editor of NC Bee Buzz. Since 2009, serving jointly with Judy Pick, Janno is the volunteer coordinator of honey bee exhibit of the NC Zoo. She is a Troy, NC resident, and current member of Montgomery County Beekeepers Association



Dr. **Jeff Harris** is the extension-research apiculturist for Mississippi State University. He serves the beekeepers in the state with educational workshops and presentations about all aspects of bee biology. He also helps beekeepers

in evaluating problems and diseases in their bees and offers advice on various management strategies for dealing with parasitic mites and small hive beetles. He also continues to breed and study the biology of VSH bees.



Jennifer Keller is the Apiculture Technician at NC State University. Her multiple responsibilities include coordinating all of the field research in the Apiculture program (including queen rearing and instrumental inseminations), maintaining the Lake Wheeler Honey Bee Research Facility south of NC State's main campus, and conducting numerous extension activities all across the state.



Joe Smith joined the NCSBA in 1986 and became a permanent member in 1989 —He has kept bees since 1984— Joe joined Stanly County Beekeepers in 1984—He has shown honey and products in local and state contest and fairs for over 12 years. Mentored under former NCSBA honey judge Jennifer Keller, he learned how to grade bottled honey, wax and novelties.



Lewis Cauble began his position as Apiary Inspector for NCSBA in July of 2015. Lewis has been a beekeeper for the past 10 years and has managed between 20 and 50 colonies of his own for honey production, queen rearing, but most importantly for fun. Between 2011 and 2015 Lewis worked for contract research organizations in the agrosience sector as a Research Scientist and beekeeper. In this position Lewis managed between 50 and 250 colonies for research. Lewis served as President of the Orange County Beekeepers Association in 2009 and 2010. He also served as Regional Director for The North Carolina State Beekeepers Association (NCSBA) from 2013 through 2014. From January 2015 until July 2015 he served as 2nd Vice President of NCSBA. Lewis has a BS in Environmental Health from Western Carolina University. Lewis earned his NCSBA Master Beekeeper credentials in March of 2011.

Nora Fain is a member of the Forsyth County Beekeepers Association. She has been on the Foods Cooked with Honey committee for the last 3 years and has done demonstrations about cooking with honey at the State Convention and at local beekeepers meetings. Nora love working on recipes that she can either create or alter using honey as the natural sweetener.



Linda Hardison has been a very active volunteer at the Honey Bee Zoo Exhibit since it opened in 2009. She is a member of the NCSBA Zoo Exhibit Committee and is a Journeyman Beekeeper. Along with her husband Ellis, she worked with beekeepers in Guyana through Partners of the Americas. Linda is active in both the Moore and Montgomery Beekeepers Associations.



Nancy Ruppert has been an apiary inspector for the NC Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services since August of 2010, covering 17 counties in south-central/southeastern North Carolina. She has been active in beekeeping for 16 years where she lives in Montgomery County. Nancy has been a registered nurse since the 1980's, and worked almost 20 years as a family nurse practitioner before changing to a less stressful occupation. Her particular apiary interests include hive pests and diseases, honey bee nutrition, and reducing honey bee stress.



Todd Walker is a NC Master Beekeeper who has been a keeping bees for 8 years and currently has around 25 colonies. He attended the Born and Bred Workshops in 2010 and raises queens and produces nucs. He has won blue ribbons for honey at both the NC State Fair and the NCSBA Meetings. He is the current president of Person County Beekeepers Association. He developed the bee school for the Person County and Orange County clubs and continues participate in both schools and gives several of the lectures. The bee schools have been consistently been near or at capacity with over 100 attendees in both schools combined. Todd also gives presentations at other NCSBA chapter meetings, elementary schools, 4H events, and garden clubs.



Following in her father's footsteps, **Virginia Stephens Webb** grew up keeping honeybees. Beekeeping and teaching others about bees is her passion. She and her husband Carl are full time commercial beekeepers in North Georgia, U.S.A. Their beekeeping operation consists of over 350 production colonies as well as their honeybee breeding operation. The Webb's are charter members of the Russian Honeybee Breeders Association. Virginia has competed in honey shows throughout the United States and Europe and has won Best in Show in over 25 different competitions. Including a Gold Medal for Best Honey in the World at 4 different World Honey Shows, sponsored by the World Beekeeping Federation, Apimondia.

Virginia is a sought after speaker, speaking to beekeeping clubs, agriculture organizations and civic clubs. She has worked with beekeepers in almost every state in the USA as well as countries in South America and the Caribbean.

She also writes about the importance of beekeeping in agriculture.

Currently she is a past president of the Georgia Beekeepers Assoc. and has served on the Board of Directors of the American Beekeeping Federation and the Georgia Farm Bureau Honeybee Advisory Committee. In 2014 Virginia was awarded Beekeeper of the Year by the Eastern Apiculture Society and the 2013 recipient of the Pollinator Advocate Award, presented by the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign. Virginia Webb is the only American awarded three master beekeeper certifications; University of Georgia, University of Florida and Eastern Apiculture Society.



Will Hicks started keeping bees in Greensboro, NC when he was about 10 years old. He holds a Master's Degree in Biology from Appalachian State University. Will has been an NCSBA Apiary Inspector since 1999. He is the former president of Eastern Apicultural Society.



Dr. **Zachary Huang** is an associate professor in entomology at the Michigan State University. Zachary grew up in a small village in Hunan and attended an agricultural college in China (first batch of college students after the cultural revolution). During the early 80s, he obtained a national scholarship to study honey bees in Canada. After

obtaining his Ph.D. he moved with his family to University of Missouri at Columbia to work with plant mites. One and half year later they moved to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and returned to honey bees again. November 1st, 1998, he came to the Michigan State University as an assistant professor. He became tenured and was promoted to be an associate professor Oct of 2004. At MSU, his main responsibilities include extension, research and teaching. He is known for developing the social inhibition model (at UIUC), the mitezapper (MSU), his cyberbee.net (started in 1997 but developed mainly at MSU), and award winning photographs. He was awarded the J.I. Hambleton Award for Outstanding Research by the Eastern Apicultural Society of North American Inc. August 2008.