



North Carolina **Bee Buzz**

The Official Magazine of the NCSBA

**Why Teach Beekeeping?
Honey Sensory Analysis
Summer Conference Highlights
And Much, Much More...**

Fall 2019



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North Carolina **Bee Buzz** Fall 2019



North Carolina State Beekeepers Association

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ON THE COVER:

"Focus, Ladies"

Photo: Phil Uptmor

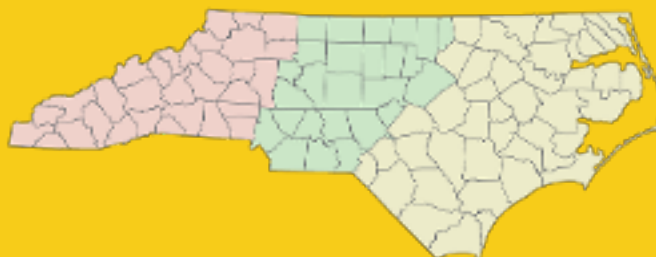
North Carolina State Beekeepers Association



The mission of the NCSBA is to advance beekeeping in North Carolina through improved communication with members, improved education about beekeeping, and support of science enhancing the knowledge of beekeeping.

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can be found in your Yellow Book Directory and on the NCSBA website www.ncbeekeepers.org*

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From the Bee Buzz Editors:

Bee Buzz Story Submission Deadlines: Spring : Dec 21 - Summer: Apr 21 - Fall: July 21 - Winter: Oct 21

We enthusiastically accept article and photo submissions! Please send us your articles and photos of news and information you'd like to share about your local association's latest events, successes and failures, a biography on a long-standing NCSBA member you would like to honor, or a young beekeeper you'd like to see highlighted. All honey bee-related topics will be considered for publication. While we regret that we cannot always include every submission, we will do our best to print as space permits. Submit your article in .doc or .docx format. Photos should be high quality jpg or tiff format. Please include a caption for photos. Do not embed captions in your photos or photos into your news article, but submit these as separate files. If you do not have access to a computer, we will accept typed or clearly handwritten articles. Mail written submissions to: *Bee Buzz* Submissions PO Box 1771 Pittsboro NC 27312.

Bee Buzz Subscriptions: Please direct subscription questions and address changes to membership@ncbeekeepers.org

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NCSBA Communications - Stay Informed!

Beekeepers, please reference the text portions for the following announcements at www.ncbeekeepers.org

5/8/19	North Carolina State Fair, October 17 thru 27, 2019
5/18/19	Certified Honey Producer Featured in Edible Asheville Article
6/4/19	NCSU Field Honey Bee Laboratory Update – NC Senate budget
7/17/19	NCSU Apiculture BEES Academy



Message From The President

by Paul Newbold NCSBA President

Summer is slowly passing, and fall is on the way. It's time to turn our thoughts toward what our bees are doing, and that winter preparations are well on the way. It's also time to make plans to attend the NC State Fair held in Raleigh.

Preparations should be made to enter every possible competition you can. Check out the competition section to see all the different categories there are for Bees & Honey. There's a lot more than just honey competitions. Other categories include wax, photography, creamed honey, mead, and so much more. You can find information at: <https://tinyurl.com/honeycomp>

When you're at the Fair check out the NCSBA Honey Booth. It's a major fundraiser each year and another way we are working to keep membership dues as low as possible. This year we tried something new; we're having chapters sponsor a "Day at the Fair" where individual chapters are staffing the honey booth each day. The response was unbelievable. Quickly eight of the eleven days were filled. The remaining three days were offered up to the general membership. Hopefully this will be something we will try again next year. So, stop by and take a look and next year get your chapter involved. Remember that volunteering at the Fair counts toward MBP service credits, too.

The Yellow Book has been published and likely in your hands long ago. This is not at all like a *Bee Buzz*. This is a directory of the members of the NCSBA, and includes information about the many programs offered by the

Association, contact information for Regional Directors and Apiary Inspectors, and more.

It is expensive to assemble, print and distribute. Do you care to receive it or not?

The thinking is that we might offer it as an option in the future.

Let me know your thoughts:

President@ncbeekeepers.org

Grant money is available to help 4-H learn about beekeeping. We did a couple of past articles but have had very little response. Only three chapters responded and very little of the grant money was used. It's not too late to start planning for how your chapter can introduce 4-H to beekeeping. These young people can possibly be our next generation of beekeepers. Get them started early. We still have grant money available and will ask for money for next year. This is *your* NCSBA money and a way we can give back to you.

Hopefully your experience at the summer conference was positive. A lot of time and planning go into these events. We are planning for the next three years and looking at different venues that are available to us. Finding a suitable location is getting more difficult, since we must plan for 700 participants and breakout rooms that can accommodate a crowd of that size. We'll be back in New Bern in March for our spring conference, so mark your calendar now for March 5 thru 7, 2020.

- Paul Newbold, *President NCSBA*



N.C. Mountain State Fair

September 6th - 15th

Fletcher, NC

<https://tinyurl.com/ncmntnstfair>



Dixie Classic Fair

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www.dcfair.com



North Carolina State Fair

October 17th – 27th

Raleigh, NC

www.ncstatefair.org

In the Apiary: Autumn 2019 in North Carolina

by Nancy Ruppert, Apiary Inspector, NCDA&CS



While the autumn season brings us much-needed relief from the hot summer, it is also the last chance we have to help our bees prepare for the difficult winter season. Sometimes honey bee colonies are able to go through fall and winter without our help, but in current times of beekeeping, those self-sustaining colonies are more the exception than the rule.

One critical element of colony survival through colder seasons is population: are there enough bees in the hive to generate warmth on those cold nights of November, December and January? A primary factor in ensuring adequate population during fall/winter is a productive queen during the summer and fall. If the queen has not been laying eggs adequately, the hive's adult population will drop even more rapidly than its normal autumn decline, possibly causing the colony to freeze to death during late fall or winter.

Another element of colony survival through the fall and winter is adequate food supply. Pollen is still available during most of the autumn in virtually all of North Carolina, but nectar supply tends to be rather scarce, unless the hives are near large fields of aster and/or goldenrod (and even then the nectar may not be adequate to last all winter). Those colonies that need feeding can be supplemented during the fall with sugar syrup at a 2:1 ratio of sugar: water to enhance storage; when temperatures drop to 50°F or below, solid carbohydrates such as fondant or candy boards are preferable. Consult your experienced local beekeepers for more details on feeding bees in cool temperatures. Many of us prefer to feed as much sugar syrup as the bees will take during early fall, when it's warmer, so they've got plenty of stores to get them through most of the colder season. The ultimate carbohydrate for sustaining bees through fall and winter is the honey they made from real nectar, but we often don't leave enough on the hive as we succumb to pressure to harvest and bottle honey for ourselves and others. During late fall and early winter, minimal pollen is available, so consider supplementing with pollen substitute during late December and through most of January, to help stimulate brood-rearing.

The final major factor in honey bee survival through fall and winter is pest pressure, especially from varroa mites and the viruses that they bring into the hive. In current beekeeping, most hives that have excess mite

populations will not survive the winter, and if the beekeeper is too late in addressing this—i.e., after mid-October—the hive might not survive even with the proper anti-varroa intervention. Consult the Honey Bee Health Coalition (www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org) for videos and other reliable information on this; your area's NCDA&CS apiary inspector should also be able to guide you on accurately assessing and managing varroa. No matter how small or large your apiary, simply treating for varroa without assessing the varroa mite levels is NOT an acceptable strategy for pest management. Varroa mites have gotten tougher during the past decade, so we must take appropriate action by following accurate guidance and using miticides **according to label instructions.**

The beekeepers who have correctly managed their hives to ensure adequate food and populations of adult bees, and have worked to keep pest levels below thresholds, are much more likely to have overwinter survival of their honey bee colonies—this is working smarter, not harder! They are also more likely to have time to enjoy the North Carolina State Fair in October as well as the fall/winter holiday season and some of the many fall festivals that take place in our state. Get your bees in shape, and go out and have fun!

EAS Black Jar Honey Award



Photo: Jody Moore

EAS North Carolina Director Doug Vinson Presents Burton Beasley with the 2019 Black Jar Honey Award. Burton won 1st place out of over 75 entries from all over the Eastern US and Canada. The Black Jar contest was based solely on best flavor. Way to represent North Carolina, Burton! Congratulations!

I just returned from the 2019 Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) conference held in Greenville, SC. This column was inspired by two prominent honey bee researchers that emphasized the importance of beekeepers providing access to trees for their bees. These trees supply sustainable nutrition which will improve the overall health of your bees. In North Carolina, trees and shrubs can provide your honey bees pollen and nectar well into the summer dearth that arrives after the spring blooms are gone and hot summer temperatures begin.

Fall is an ideal time to plant flowering trees and shrubs, as cooler temperatures and better chances of rain provide an easier transition for these large transplants to adapt to their new location.

to 10 feet in height with a 4 to 6-foot spread. It can tolerate poorly drained areas or even soggy soils very well but thrives in average soils. Buttonbush does well in full sun to part shade. The interesting round-headed flowers are white and fragrant. They bloom from June into September producing plenty of nectar and also yellow pollen, a real plus when there is a dearth.



Photo: Bob Peterson

Buttonbush

Glossy Abelia (*Abelia grandiflora*) is an evergreen, semi-evergreen or deciduous woody shrub depending on the plant hardiness zone where it is planted (<https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>). It grows best in Zone 6 up to Zone 9 at a medium to fast rate. You can often see flowers in November and even into December in Zone 7. The shrub can grow from 3 to 6 feet in height and/or width depending on which cultivar you have chosen to grow. Note that there are 30 or more cultivars from which to choose.

Glossy abelias can make a great addition to your landscape because of their smaller size. You can consider them as foundation plantings around your home. Abelias can be also be used as a bank cover or a hedge that is easily pruned. The ¾ to 1-inch slightly fragrant flowers are white with a flush of pink that flower on new growth of the season. These flowers produce mostly nectar for bees with some pollen. Abelias prefer acid, well-drained, moist soils with full sun up to half shade.

Continued on Next Page

Photo: Mary Keim



Sweetbay Magnolia

Sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) is a semi-evergreen tree (occasionally drops its leaves) that can reach a height of more than 20 feet throughout North Carolina. It is a lovely, small specimen tree with large, fragrant, white flowers and leaves with silvery undersides. It should not be confused with the huge Southern magnolia. Sweetbay magnolia produces nectar with some pollen. This native tree's size makes it perfect for a smaller property. Sweetbay magnolia is also unusual in that it does well with wet (even swampy) acidic soils and can tolerate some shade. The flowers attract honey bees for nectar and pollen from May into June. There are over 30 cultivars that are available, too many to list here, but be ready to ask questions at your local trusted nursery source.

Buttonbush or Honey Bells (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) is a rounded, opposite-leaved, deciduous shrub that is 6



Glossy Abelia

Planting trees and shrubs can be an expensive but valuable investment. To maximize your planting success, NC Cooperative Extension provides a planting guide which is available online at <https://tinyurl.com/yxmbc7zj>.

Fall is also the traditional time to plant bulbs so here are a few suggestions to consider as BeeFeeders. These bulbs are all good sources for pollen and nectar:

- Crocus
- Siberian Squill (*Scilla siberica*)
- Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*)
- Glory of the Snow (*Chinodoxa luciliae*)



Glory of the Snow



NCSBA Library Update:

We're Back! The loss of the library link under **Resources** in the new NCSBA website has been corrected. Now it's easy to see what videos we have in the library and to check them out by going to that link.

I talked with Dr. Aletha Andrew at the NCSBA library recently and found out that October was the month of the most requests. The glitch with the website may have affected library use this spring, so it's good to be back on track. We look forward to fulfilling your requests for videos. And, thanks to the webmaster for making access simple.

If you know of a good beekeeping video that we should add to our collection, please contact me at the following email address or phone number:

Bob Kemper NCSBA Fred Deer Librarian kemper27530@gmail.com 919-731-2146

Have you heard the BUZZ?

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Wolfpack's Waggle: MITE CONTROL DEPENDS ON MITE MONITORING—IT'S NOT OPTIONAL!

by Dr. David Tarpy

Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology, NC State University



One of the things that I dislike about being middle-aged is that I'm going to the doctor more than I used to. Nothing serious, thankfully, just being proactive and preventative like we all know we *should* but that doesn't mean we always *do*. Regardless, something that I've always found peculiar about a standard doctor visit is that they always take my height, weight, and measure my blood pressure. I understand taking my weight since, like many of us, I fluctuate a lot and know how critical it is for many other health issues. But my height?! As if I've grown vertically since the 10th grade! Taking my blood pressure, on the other hand, is something that I used to think was pretty benign to something that I now think is quite important. Seeing how it changes over the near-term can be very helpful to better understand stress and overall health so that I know if I need to do something about it.

It's a lot like doing something about varroa mites, particularly this time of year when the colony population starts to dwindle but the mite population really ramps up. That makes the late summer and early fall the peak season of varroa problems, and when we need to be proactive and do something about them. I often hear from beekeepers that they don't have varroa because they don't see them. Well, recent studies have shown that (a) 50-75% of mites within a colony are hidden in the brood (reproductive phase) rather than clinging to adult bees (phoretic phase), (b) >90% of phoretic mites hide really well on the underbellies of adult bees, so you rarely see them by just looking at the bees on the combs, and (c) if you see one or more signs of varroa problems (e.g., crimped wings from Deformed Wing Virus, lethargic behavior of the workers, spotty brood pattern, etc...) then it's pretty much already too late to save your bees.

This means that proactive monitoring of varroa is critical to stave off problems before they happen. The best way to ascertain mite levels within a colony is to do a *sugar shake*—a non-destructive means of sampling ~200 workers from the brood nest, covering them with powdered sugar so that the mites lose their grips, then shaking them off the bees through a screen to count the mites. The Honey Bee Health Coalition has a very nice guide about how to monitor for mites and what levels are considered acceptable depending on the

phase of the colony (*see below*). This time of year (either at peak population or even population decrease), that means if you have more than 3-5% mite prevalence you have to take immediate action in order to save your bees, otherwise they likely won't make it through the winter.

A lot of beekeepers equate "control" with "treat"—that is, the application of a synthetic acaricide to kill the mites—but they are philosophically opposed to using harsh pesticides. I have no problem with that approach, but it also means that you have to work three times as hard to keep the mites under control. There are plenty of alternatives out there that can be used to reduce mite prevalence in colonies without resorting to chemical pesticides, so as long as you're using a systematic mite-control strategy then that's fine. If you don't monitor for mite levels, however, you'll never know how urgent it is to do something about them.

Just like by taking one's blood pressure at every doctor's visit, **we need to get accustomed to taking a sugar shake each and every time we go into each colony**. So just like it's crucial to bring your veil, smoker, and hive tool into the bee yard whenever you check on your bees, you need to bring your sugar-shake jar every time as well. Keeping track of the mites over time is the best way to prevent the problems that they cause, so make it part of your standard inspection protocol so that you can be sure your bees are on the right track.

When using the recommended powdered sugar shake or alcohol or soap wash sampling methods we suggest using the following guidelines (Figure 2) to determine when a colony needs treatment and to evaluate treatment.

Figure 2: Treatment Thresholds by Phase (%=Number of mites/100 adult bees)

Colony Phase	Acceptable Further control not needed	Caution Control may be warranted	Danger Control promptly
Dormant with brood	<1%	1-2%	>2%
Dormant without brood	<1%	<2-3%	>3%
Population Increase	<1%	<2-3%	>3%
Peak Population	<2%	<3-5%	>5%
Population Decrease	<2%	<2-3%	>3%

Acceptable: Current mite populations are not an immediate threat.

Caution: Mite population is reaching levels that may soon cause damage; non-chemical control might be employed while chemical control may be needed within a month; continue to sample and be prepared to intervene.

Danger: Colony loss is likely unless the beekeeper controls Varroa immediately.

Chart: Honey Bee Health Coalition

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NCSBA Born & Bred Program Update

by Etienne Nadeau Born & Bred Committee Chairman



The NCSBA Summer Conference

provided another great opportunity for the Born and Bred (B&B) Program. Sixty individuals took advantage of two hands-on grafting workshops offered in Hickory. The grafting workshops are supplemental training for those who attended the B&B clinics earlier this year.

During the workshops, attendees were presented with a short grafting video, a frame of larvae to graft from, a grafting cell bar to deposit the larvae into and various types of equipment on the market. Each participant had the opportunity to graft larvae with the help of a mentor when needed. Overall, we believe that the workshop went well and was enjoyed by those in attendance.

A special thank you goes out to the individuals who took time out of their day to help assist in the workshop by providing their expertise to those in attendance. The B&B Program would also like to thank Carolina Bee Farm for bringing colonies to Hickory in support of the workshop.

Looking ahead, the B&B Program is beginning to plan another day-long clinic for the spring of 2020. This clinic will teach the basics of queen rearing using the B&B curriculum focusing on the reproductive instinct of the honey bee, specialized equipment for queen rearing, the importance of grafting, the timing of cell production, as well as establishing and managing mating colonies, to name a few. When a class date is identified, it will be posted on the NCSBA website for those interested.



Photo: Etienne Nadeau



Cabarrus Beekeepers Present:

Dr. David Tarpy & Jennifer Berry

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Master Beekeeper Program

Planning Ahead!

by Doug Galloway Master Beekeeper Committee Chairman

Planning Ahead! Likely a good motto for life, but for a beekeeper it is the difference between success and, at best, frustration. I am writing this in early July and have already ordered varroa treatments for later this summer, identified a growth plan for my apiary in 2020, monitored my colonies for pest and diseases and organized a plan for reducing management challenges. What's the hurry? It seems to make life a bit easier to have a plan despite the fact that there are always surprises in apiculture, or any type of animal husbandry. Not having woodware ready when that early summer swarm appears means running around trying to get a bottom board, brood box, top, feeder and whatever else ready, and not having time to celebrate the joys of receiving a free colony of bees (unless of course, it was a swarm from one of your colonies, then thank goodness your neighbor didn't get them!).

The NCSBA Master Beekeeper Program (MBP) has been blessed these past 7 years by folks taking on a program that needed guidance, looking ahead and designing a plan, following through with that plan and then looking to the future to sustain what they had accomplished. Cheryl and Paul Newbold, DJ and Bill Moran, have given countless hours of their time and energy to create a better MBP from which we have all benefitted. Paul and Cheryl started stepping back from the program in 2017 but remained active to organize and guide the next administrators. Bill and DJ are

taking that step this year, still remaining available to assist when needed, but passing the baton to the next group of committee members. They all have shared their knowledge and wisdom while establishing a remarkably high standard that we hope to follow. They continue to be available to counsel and support not only the MBP Committee but all beekeepers aspiring to become more effective stewards of our beloved honey bee. It is hard to find words that feel adequate to express my appreciation for what they have done, and I hope when given the opportunity, you too will let them know you appreciate their contribution not just to the MBP, but to all our association's beekeepers.

As our NCSBA continues to evolve, remember, you too can take part in the shape and direction this organization takes. If you care to volunteer in any area of our association, and don't know where to start, contact any member of the Executive Committee or a Committee Chairman. We can have a conversation about the amount of time you have to volunteer weekly, your areas of interest, skills and preferences. This organization has been around for over 100 years because of people just like you, giving of their time and energy.

The NCSBA MBP Committee will again offer Fall Testing at the Alamance County Center in Burlington, NC. Testing will be on Saturday, October 26, 2019, running from 9:00 am till 12:00 noon with no written test given out after 10:00 am. While enjoying the beautiful fall weather here in North Carolina, organize a plan for supporting your apiary in 2020. It will make life a bit easier.



Master Beekeeper Program Testing

Where: Alamance County Center
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Honey Sensory Analysis in the U.S.

by: Stan Holt, PhD

She was right, you could see the barn from the road. As we followed directions given to us by our host, Marina Marchese, I didn't know that we would be arriving at an urban bee farm in Connecticut. Marina is the founder of the American Honey Tasting Society (AHTS), a member of the Italian National Register of Experts in the Sensory Analysis of Honey, and co-author (along with Kim Flottum) of the book, The Honey Connoisseur. She hosted the first United States-based training using the curriculum sanctioned by the Italian National Register of Experts in the Sensory Analysis of Honey that Suzy Spencer, Terry Wilson and I had the chance to take in July.

The barn is a two-story structure. The first floor is where she sells honey (including 22 unifloral varieties) and bee equipment. The second floor is devoted to training. Eighteen of us, including folks from Australia, the Dominican Republic, and Canada, had the opportunity to meet and study with our host, Marina, and Gian Luigi Marcazzan.

Gian Luigi came from Italy to teach the Introduction to Honey Sensory Analysis, which is the same curriculum they use in Italy. Gian Luigi is the leader of the Honey Sensory group within the International Honey Commission, the leading organization to develop methods for honey quality evaluation. He is the President of the Italian Register of Experts in the Sensory Analysis of Honey with more than 25 years of experience as a teacher and professional honey taster.

Sean Collinsworth recently wrote about his experiences in Italy in the *Winter 2018 Bee Buzz*; it was the first time the curriculum was taught in English. The three of us had a very similar experience to Sean here in the United States. We learned about the differences between taste and flavor, profiled 18 different unifloral honeys from Italy, and began to identify unifloral honeys through our senses. We discussed the importance of *terroir*. One of the fun activities was a pairing of honey with cheeses. It was amazing what happened to blue cheese when you dipped it in buckwheat honey.

All three of us marveled at what the Italians do to certify unifloral honeys. In addition to sensory analysis, they do a microscopic analysis and a physio-chemical analysis. In the microscopic analysis they look at pollen sources, reminding us that the pollen source is not the same thing as the nectar source for honey. In the physio-chemical analysis they look very closely at moisture content and subsequent crystallization, and

the types of sugars that are in the honey.

We started profiling some of our own US honeys from five samples Marina had collected. We tasted and discussed Buckwheat, Orange-Citrus, Sourwood, Goldenrod and Buckwheat. Hints of cinnamon can be found in Clover honey. There was a slight hint of anise in the Sourwood. The strength of Buckwheat was something we all remarked about. There are so many words for the diverse sensations, aromas and tastes, so it became a challenge to find more words than "sweet" to describe honey.

We walked away wondering what would motivate a group of us to begin to build profiles of US honeys. The Italians do this to prevent fraud and to promote the marketing of artisanal honeys. Recent EU regulations also require labeling to be accurate. Would it benefit us to do this in the US? We also wondered about what might take place here in North Carolina as more of us become trained in sensory analysis.

For more information on the next class coming up in October of 2019 in the US visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/honeytasting101>

If you would like to attend the classes in Italy you can click on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/honeycourseitaly>

Finally, you can find tasting resources on the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association Honey Tasting page (<https://tinyurl.com/NCSBAhoneytasting>)

Stan Holt is a Journeyman Beekeeper and a member of the NCSBA and the Durham County Beekeepers Association.



Photo: Courtesy Stan Holt

Stan Holt, Terry Wilson, Gian Luigi Marcazzan and Suzy Spencer



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Highlights from the 2019 NCSBA Summer Conference!



Congratulations to the 2018-2019 Master Beekeeper & Master Craftsman Class



2019 GAP Award winner: Orange County



Debbie Roos (Chatham County) won the Cooperative Extension Agent of the Year Award



Rick Coor with keynote speaker Rep. McGrady



NCSBA Person of the Year: Suzy Spencer



Lauren Rusert won the NCSBA Ambrose Student Award



HONEY SHOW

30 Entrants - 73 Entries



Honey Show Ribbon Winners



Honey Show Judges



COOKING WITH HONEY



Honey Salsa Dip



**Honey Salsa Dip By Carla Helm
Best of Show and First Place Winner
2019 Summer Conference**



Cooking with Honey Ribbon Winners

16 ounces of cream cheese
1 cup of your favorite salsa
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup honey

Mix honey and softened cream cheese together with a fork. Add salsa and stir together. Server with corn chips.

Stir up again before serving. It is better after having been made for at least a day. Keep in the refrigerator.



Silent Auction

Our sincere appreciation goes out to Jackie Hough (Scotland County Beekeepers) and her team of volunteers for their many hours of work that went into making the Silent Auction a huge success! Thank you to all of the NCSBA members who donated over 55 mostly handmade items to the auction. The impressive assortment that included pottery, gift baskets, a hand-painted beehive, and much more, brought in a total of \$3,166. In addition, direct sales of to-scale bee hives and hexagon puzzles created by the late Bill Sheppard (and donated to the auction by his family) resulted in an additional \$1,233 in income, for a grand total of \$4,399 brought into the NCSBA treasury.

We would like to recognize the volunteers who helped Jackie with this very popular fundraiser: Julia Brown, Kenny Brown, Tracey Carriker, Sara Kennedy, Kit Leithiser, Mitch Mast, Sharon Monday (Caldwell County Beekeepers); Tom Hopkins (Catawba Valley Beekeepers).



NC Honey Tasting

The honey-tasting table was a big success, with 12 people contributing honey and many others stopping by to taste them. Terry Wilson and Suzy Spencer were at the table during some of the breaks to talk about the flavors and answer questions. We plan to continue to do this at other conferences. However, for the 2020 Spring conference in New Bern, we will instead have another "Black Jar" honey contest.



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Why Teach Beekeeping?

by: Darryl Gabritsch NC Master Beekeeper



Why should you teach beekeeping?

Knowledge is Power- SHARE IT! When we teach, we also learn as we prepare for the presentation. Teaching about bees is the next logical step in a person's beekeeping journey. There are many opportunities to share your knowledge of bees and beekeeping, such as presenting at a local beekeeping school or talking to non-beekeeping groups like 4-H or school groups, writing an article on beekeeping, appearing in a local newspaper article or television broadcast, or volunteering at the NC Zoo Honey Bee Habitat. Teaching can also take the form of beekeeping demonstrations during public events such as local and state festivals. Teaching is nothing more than sharing your knowledge with someone else. You don't need to have a college education or be a Master Beekeeper. You simply need to have a learned skill and be willing to SHARE IT!

Photo: Darryl Gabritsch



Service Credits - Kernersville NC Honey Bee Festival 2018

The NCSBA emphasizes teaching as major part of its mission. Programs like the Golden Achievement Program (GAP) and Master Beekeeper Program (MBP), reflect that emphasis. GAP chapter participants receive points for each public presentation at the individual and chapter credit categories. MBP emphasizes teaching as part of the service credits and sub-specialties that are required for the Journeyman, Master, and Master Craftsman Beekeeper levels. Teaching traits are also found in recipients of the McIver-Hass Lifetime Achievement Award, Person of the Year Award, and Cooperative Extension Worker of the Year Award.

OK, I'm interested, you say to yourself. What's next?

Select the target audience. Whom you do wish to teach? Your teaching methods, materials and

vocabulary need to be tailored to the target audience. For example, descriptive reproductive terms would not be appropriate with a young child age group, or family-oriented periodical; however, descriptive reproductive terms would be appropriate for a professional publication or to a high school FFA class after you clear the words and topic with the school teachers prior to preparing the class. What submission requirements does a publication have? Search online to find out any submission methods (email, hard-copy mail, formats, word counts, and enclosure requirements) for the target publication.

Select a topic. What do you want to teach? Local beekeeping chapters, social groups (4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Master Gardener Chapters, beekeeping and non-beekeeping periodicals, local schools, etc.) are always looking for presenters and articles. Check with the group representative to discuss topic ideas. Ask what they would like to have presented.

a. Ambitious beekeeping chapters try to produce a yearly schedule by the end of December for the following year (a full year's topic plan is awarded points in the GAP competition).

b. Schools have a good idea of topics and specific date ranges that they encourage outside presenters to give classes to their students. Topics often reinforce a subject the teacher is covering with the students.

c. Magazines typically try to plan articles at least two publications in advance. Example: this author submitted articles to the American Bee Journal and Bee Culture magazines around June 2017. The American Bee Journal published the article in the October 2017 edition (printed in early September and shipped by mid-September). Bee Culture magazine printed the article in the March 2018 edition. Note: Most publications hold exclusive rights to the article for 60 days, then release the rights back to the author. Be sure to ask the magazine editor how long they hold the rights to the article before releasing it back to you. Make sure you research the submission method (email, hard-copy mail, etc.). Make sure you research the article requirements such as type of document (Microsoft Word document, text document, etc.). Is it required to be single or double-spaced type, a specific font style and size, photo and enclosure file size and type (pdf, JPG, GIF, etc.)?

Research the topic. Be as prepared as you can. Anticipate questions that will be asked during and after

the presentation. Do your own fact checking. If you don't know the facts then someone in the audience will inevitably ask a question either out of curiosity, or occasionally, to test your knowledge of the subject. You won't know the answer to ALL of the questions, but you should be prepared to backstop almost all answers related to your topic by being able to cite any sources for your answers. The more information that is fact checked, the more competent you will appear. If you don't know the answer to a question, simply state that you don't know the answer. DO NOT give a made-up answer to a question that you can't answer, as doing so will undermine your credibility.

Select the teaching method. How do you intend to teach the class? Will you be doing a formal lecture where you stand in front of an audience, or a less formal where you sit? Will you use a digital format such as PowerPoint, or will you use paper notes? Will you be doing a lecture without digital images where you informally discuss a topic with the audience? Will you do a physical demonstration during the presentation such as assemble a hive body? How will you dress? Will you wear a costume (small children) or will you be dressed in a suit and tie (state conference)? Will you be in sharp casual clothes (dress shoes, khaki pants, polo shirt for men, equal style dress, slacks, skirt, blouse, etc. for women)? Appearances matter and affect the audience's perception of your professionalism and credibility!

Prepare the class.

a. How much time are you allotted to give the presentation? A good rule of thumb is to allow for a two thirds / one third presentation plan. You should plan for 2/3 of the presentation to be on actually giving the class and allow for 1/3 of the available time to be for answering questions. Example: If you are allotted 30 minutes for the class then plan for 20 minutes teaching and 10 minutes of question and answers. One-hour class: 40 minutes of teaching and 20 minutes of questions.

b. What format will you use? Will you be doing a demonstration where you install foundation into a frame and embed foundation wire into the foundation? Will you give a PowerPoint presentation on the topic? Will you simply do a note card lecture without any background graphics? If you choose to do a PowerPoint presentation ensure you choose a font size, font color and contrasting background so that the text can be read at a distance. As a general rule of thumb, I usually try to stick to a blue background, white letters, and font size 20 to 24 for bullets and font size 30 to 36 for slide topic titles. Avoid confusing font types that are hard to read. Use bullet comments as talking points on the

slide and use index cards in your hands with details if you need a memory jog. Avoid long paragraphs on a slide.

c. What equipment must you provide? What equipment will the host provide? Ask what media you need to bring your class on (thumb drive, compact disk, etc.) if the host will be providing a laptop and projector. Do you need to bring portable tables on which to place training aids? Do you need to bring power cords, laser pointer, pointer stick, or other equipment? How much space will you be allowed to use? How many people will be in the audience? What age groups will audience members be?

Create memory jog items. Create memory jogs such as 3"x5" or 5"x7" index cards, or printed bullets and paragraphs on a reference sheet to use to teach talking points in the PowerPoint presentation or during a lecture. Take advantage of any physical training aids as talking points to assist your presentation. Example: I always have a complete hive setup (minus bees) and associated equipment when I teach a beekeeping equipment class. If you have an observation hive, do you have a flashlight to help highlight the queen? Training aids reinforce the talking points, provide visual stimulation, increase audience participation and invite questions and interest during question and answer sessions.

Select training aids. Carefully choose physical training aids that reinforce talking points of your presentation. Example of a presentation on how to catch a swarm: On a table in front of the audience you might have a swarm catch box, swarm catch pole, cut branch with simulated bees (painted foam pellets or similar non-threatening items taped together on the branch), frames of comb and anything to demonstrate how to capture and transport the swarm.

Produce any handouts you wish to pass around. Print and/or copy any handouts that you intend to pass around to reinforce any talking points made during the presentation. Be careful to tell the audience which items you want returned to you at the end of the presentation and which handouts audience members may keep. Always make about 25% more handouts than you intend to pass out to sure everyone gets a copy in case more people attend than you anticipated. I usually produce 50% more handouts than I think I will need since I usually teach the same classes and will simply use any remaining handouts during future presentations.

Gather all lesson material in a central location. Gather all lesson material, training aids, and handouts in a central location AT LEAST 48 hours in advance of the class, so you aren't scrambling at the last minute to

find everything and creating undue stress on yourself. I always pack the equipment (minus laptop and high-dollar items) into my car the night prior to the presentation, so I'm not scrambling the day of the presentation. I find this helps minimize stress and nerves on the day of the presentation.

Rehearse the presentation by using the equipment supporting the class. Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse! Rehearse a few times with the equipment, training aids, and handouts and lesson material prior to presenting the class. Doing rehearsals will expose any flaws in your presentation and expose any equipment malfunctions or unknown subject/equipment problems. Rehearsals will also boost your confidence, improve your appearance of competence and professionalism. If possible, do a rehearsal in front of a friend or family members to get used to interacting with people and to provide an opportunity for suggestions. Rehearsals will also help get rid of any potential stage fright for people who get nervous when doing public speaking.... HINT: It's a normal reaction to be nervous when you teach! Rehearsals, memory jogs, index cards, and physical training aids will assist you in getting through any nervousness you might feel.

Get a good night's sleep the night, eat non-greasy food and drink non-caffeinated beverages before the presentation. Doing these simple things will lessen the likelihood of nerves getting to you. A good night's rest will also help keep you from forgetting details during the presentation. Eating something mild such as

crackers, non-greasy sandwich, etc. prior to the presentation will absorb any stomach acids that could contribute to nervousness. Avoiding caffeine will help you get a good night's rest.

Arrive at the presentation site early and quickly review memory jogs prior to the presentation. Arrive at the presentation time early enough to set up and test any equipment, training aids, organize handouts, etc. Allow enough time to quickly review any memory jogs prior to presenting the class. I like to quickly flip through the PowerPoint slides as I set up the laptop and projector, so that I get one last look at the slide order and contents. You should be prepared for equipment failure. I usually have a printout of all slides in case the laptop or image projector fail during the class, so that I could continue the class as a simple talking lecture and use any physical training aids, if needed. This last preparedness step will also help control any nervousness you might feel and make you look professional and calm in the event of an equipment failure.

Why Teach Beekeeping? Teaching is the next logical step in a beekeeper's journey. Teaching others helps us learn forgotten data, processes, and techniques as we prepare for a presentation, mentoring session, write an article, or participate in a public beekeeping awareness festival. Teaching others the skills we have learned is both satisfying and promotes a culture of passing the beekeeping torch to the next generation of beekeepers. In short: **"Knowledge is power... SHARE IT!"**

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A Farewell to Will Hicks

Will Hicks came to NCDA&CS after receiving his master's degree in biology at Appalachian State University and working as a research technician at Savannah River Ecology Lab. He was well-known during his 20 years as an Apiary Inspector for his one-on-one work in the field, as well as his fun and informative public speaking. He served as the president of the Eastern Apicultural Society during which time he and many others brought the meeting to North Carolina for the first time in nearly two decades. Will is an avid competitive runner, completing 8 marathons and numerous other races. In celebration of his 50th year, he accomplished an astounding 50-mile run on that very day!

Will now plans to shift his focus from the tiny honey bee to great whales, as he and his wife prepare to start a kayaking and whale-watching business in the Pacific Northwest of Alaska. He would like to warmly thank the beekeepers of North Carolina for 20 wonderful years.

On behalf of the NCSBA and NC beekeepers, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to Will for his twenty years of service to our industry and to our beloved honey bee. His expertise has helped safeguard the status of the honey bee in NC, and beyond. For that, we are extremely grateful. Will, we wish you the best of luck! You will be greatly missed.



Photo: Corey Hicks