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The Official Magazine of the NCSBA



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"Bee Beard"  
Photo by Lucy Raynor Age 7  
First Place Junior Color Photo

# North Carolina Bee Buzz Winter 2021



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ABF Annual Conference

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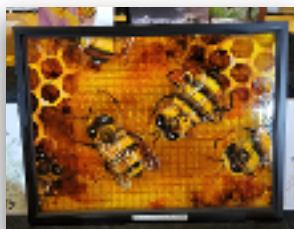
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## North Carolina State Beekeepers Association

~ Since 1917 ~

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On the Cover:  
"The Smoker: A Beekeepers BFF"

Photo by Heath Kreitlow  
Age 11  
First Place Junior B&W Photo

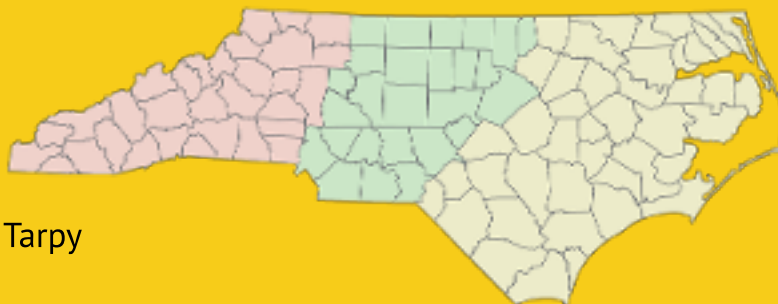
# North Carolina State Beekeepers Association



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.

## 2021 Executive Committee

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*Contact information for the NCSBA Officers and Regional Directors can be found in your Yellow Book Directory and on the NCSBA website [www.ncbeekeepers.org](http://www.ncbeekeepers.org)*

Webmaster Todd Walker [webmaster@ncbeekeepers.org](mailto:webmaster@ncbeekeepers.org)

## From the *Bee Buzz* Editors:

**Bee Buzz Story Submission Deadlines:** Spring : Jan 7 - 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.

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## Message From The President

by: Doug Vinson, NCSBA President

**It is difficult to believe** that I am drafting an article for the “winter” edition of the Bee Buzz with the weather is as beautiful as it has been lately. The poet, Helen Hunt Jackson, surely experienced a September like what we had this year when she penned her wonderful poem “September.”

***“The golden rod is yellow,  
The corn is turning brown,  
And asters by the brook side  
Make asters in the brook.”***

Our fall flow - when it is significant – is primarily centered around goldenrod and aster bloom. My area and others with which I am familiar have had particularly good bloom from both. The goldenrod has indeed been yellow! Late summer rain was, of course, a major contributing factor. Hopefully, this has added to winter stores for our bees, but I encourage you to continue to be diligent in checking your colonies for food sources.

Poetry aside, the NCSBA is working hard to resume in-person gatherings at state and chapter levels. Our 2021 Summer Conference – forwarded to November – will be in the archives by this publication. A recent survey of the membership indicated that attendance would be sufficient to support a successful conference. Also, the decision to move forward with this event was tied to the NC State Fair Committee’s decision to do. It is fully understood that gatherings of this size have certain public health risks and for those that consider the risk too great for their comfort level, we support your choice 100%. Along that line, vaccination is not required, masks are recommended.

As health threats lessen, we are hopeful to return to our normal conference schedule which includes workshops, apiary activity, honey contests and awards dinner.

Looking ahead, our Spring Conference will be held at the Riverfront Convention Center in New Bern March 3 – 5, 2022. The Hickory Metro Convention Center will host the Summer Conference July 28 – 30, 2022. See more info on these events elsewhere in this Buzz edition and on the webpage.

Online registration for these events is extremely helpful in planning in that we can better adjust the program content and schedule for the enjoyment and convenience of attendees.

After four years of dedicated service, the chairperson of the Master Beekeeper Program, Doug Galloway, has stepped down along with other members of that committee. Their commitment to the hours required to maintain the program at its highest level go well beyond normal responsibility. Make an opportunity to thank them! Fortunately, there has only been a slight lapse in MBP activity due to this turn of events. The vacated positions have been filled and those persons are awaiting BOD confirmation. Testing will continue as usual at statewide meetings as well as regional sites throughout the year. Please use the MBP email to communicate with the new committee.

Additionally, there are a couple of Regional Director vacancies that must be filled, and those confirmations will also be made at the BOD meeting in November. Those chapters affected will be contacted by their new Director soon.

Local chapters typically do officer elections and membership renewals each fall so please report those changes to the Membership Secretary or your Regional Director. This information is critical to having an accurate and up-to-date membership directory.

We continue to anxiously await a budget decision from the state legislature regarding the state budget which contains a line item providing funding for a field laboratory at NCSU. My understanding is that the budget will be in the governor’s hands shortly. Hopefully he will not exercise his veto power again.

Again, mark your calendars for next year’s conferences and plan to attend!

Bee safe!

## Know Your Numbers



Using the 25 bees per square inch statistic, it is possible to determine the number of bees found in the developing frames of brood of a colony, and to predict the number of bees that will emerge from such a frame over the next few weeks.

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# BeeFeeders

## North Carolina Pollinator Plants

by: Ulana Stuart, NC State Extension Master Gardener Volunteer

**I wrote two articles** for this column about planting bulbs for bees back in 2016 and 2019. Both articles received positive reader feedback, which inspired this article. With a few minor exceptions, North Carolina is a warm climate state, so it is best to plant bulbs beginning around Thanksgiving through December. During this period the weather and soil have cooled from the summer heat. Bulbs can be stored in paper bags in a cool dark area until you are ready to plant.

**Nodding Onions (*Allium cernuum*)** are native perennial bulbs which grow throughout North Carolina and are fairly drought tolerant. Nodding onions grow grass-like leaves rising from the base up to 1-foot tall and bloom in summer. The fragrant 1/2" pink or white starlike blooms form a cluster head. As the top of the stem bends the blooms hang down, hence the nodding name. The blossoms produce plenty of nectar and orange pollen pellets. You can find these bulbs growing in pots already sprouted and growing in spring at many garden centers. The entire plant is edible for humans but not for deer.



Photo: Linda Snider

*Allium tuberosum* 'Garlic Chives'

**Garlic Chives (*Allium tuberosum*)** are perennial herbs which form bulbs but are typically sold as potted plants in the spring. They grow one to two feet tall with long linear leaves throughout most zones in North Carolina up to zone 8b. Garlic chives produce fragrant, tiny bell-shaped white flower heads which form a cluster up to 2 inches across. They bloom for a long time starting in the summer and sometimes lasting into the fall. Garlic chives provide plentiful brownish-green pollen pellets and produce even more nectar. They prefer full sun, good drainage, and moisture. Garlic chives are big self-seeders so deadhead before the plants seed to control them. One final note, they are very deer resistant!

**Spanish Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*)** are perennial bulbs that do well in most of NC up to Zone 8a. They are 15-20 inches tall with lance-shaped leaves that are 1" wide and 6" long. The showy late-spring blooms are blue to purple and last about 2 weeks. Honey bees form blue or greenish blue pollen pellets and obtain nectar in the spring from these bluebells. They tolerate clay but do need some drainage. Moist soil is preferable. They are clumpers that will spread but are not considered invasive. Once established, bluebells are very low maintenance. All parts of this plant are poisonous to humans and are deer resistant.



Photo: HGTV

*Muscari armeniacum* 'Grape Hyacinths'

**Grape Hyacinths (*Muscari armeniacum*)** are early spring bloomers that grow 6 to 8 inches tall with narrow lance-shaped leaves in all NC zones, up to 8b. They bloom for up to two weeks with fragrant, deep violet-blue, bell-shaped flowers. Honey bees harvest yellowish green pollen pellets and a significant amount of nectar from these little blooms. Grape hyacinths grow best in full sun to part shade in cool, moist conditions. They tolerate average soil but prefer well-drained soils. They are unusually tolerant of summer drought conditions. Grape hyacinth will naturalize but are not considered weedy. The best maintenance routine is to divide them every 4-5 years. They are very low maintenance but sometimes damaged by deer predation.

All these bulbs are best in mass plantings for beekeeping. The easiest way to increase the number of plants is by division after they are well established, 3 years after initial planting. An easy way to control prolific self-seeders is to dead head them.

For more information on gardening use the North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox at [plants.ces.ncsu.edu](http://plants.ces.ncsu.edu).





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## In the Apiary: Winter 2021

by Nancy Ruppert, Apiary Inspector, NCDA & CS

**We are entering** the most difficult time of the year for honey bees. Winter brings not only cold nights but also a dearth of nutritional forage for our bees. So, if the beekeeper has not taken care of the primary factors in colony survival (enough good food, enough bees, enough effective varroa mite management) before late October, there may be no hope for rescuing those sick/weak colonies, even with the most heroic efforts.

Nutritional needs for colonies during the winter include carbohydrates for energy (which includes energy to heat the cluster on a cold night) and protein. Most colonies need help accumulating enough honey or other sugars to last them through the long winter dearth; during the cooler months, many beekeepers add candy boards to their hives to supplement energy stores. Candy boards not only provide food that is easily accessible and easily digestible, they also help to absorb unwanted extra moisture that rises from the cluster as they generate heat.

Photo: beverlybees.com



***Candy boards can make the difference whether a colony survives winter or succumbs.***

While most of North Carolina has pollen available for at least ten months out of the year, some beekeepers provide supplemental protein during December or January, when there is very little if any pollen naturally available. This can help stimulate earlier egg-laying by the colony's queen (who in most areas takes a 6 to 10-week vacation from egg-laying during late fall-winter), and thus help build up the colony's population more quickly for a more productive spring.

At least that's the idea. But if you steadily supplement your bees during early winter, you may have to split some colonies before spring's official arrival in order to keep them from splitting themselves (AKA swarming). For more tips on nutritional support for bees, contact your area's experienced beekeepers and/or horticultural agents.

Varroa mite management in winter might include a dose of oxalic acid vapor, which provides an excellent cleanup option for any residual mites that may have survived the fall. Due to the usually-broodless period between mid-December and mid-January, a single dose of this miticide during that window of time should take care of most or all varroa and thus help your colony get a stronger start coming into spring. Sadly, varroa mite management doesn't really have an off-season anymore.

Much of the beekeeper's work during winter is actually not within the beehives: this is one of the best seasons to catch up on acquiring/repairing equipment, reviewing the past year's management and results to learn from our mistakes (and yes, this requires keeping records!), ordering bees if needed, and continuing to learn our craft via classes and/or other reliable sources. Active beekeeping clubs do much of their program/activity planning for the year during the winter and may need your input or other assistance.

Winter months tend to have more death and destruction of beehives as results of lapses in management become evident; this is almost always after weeks or months of bees struggling to survive despite lacking something necessary, such as food or reduction of parasites. One of the most valuable learning tools for beekeepers is to understand why certain colonies died out or left the hive, so don't let pride keep you from getting help to understand this if you aren't sure what happened to the dead or absconded colony. It's sad enough when we lose a colony, but we add insult to injury if we make no effort to seek answers and learn from a bad outcome that might have been prevented. Consult your area's experienced beekeepers or apiary inspector as soon as possible after a colony dies or absconds, while the evidence is still fresh.

Otherwise, bee ready for the wild ride that constitutes late winter in NC beekeeping!

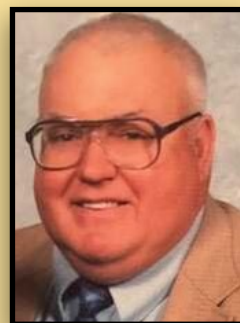


## Bee Buzz

**Correction:** In the article, *Queen Rearing With a Double Screen Board*, on page 29 of the Fall 2021 issue of the *Bee Buzz*, Step 5 should read: Twenty-four hours later, disassemble the hive. Leave the box with all the capped brood on the bottom with the queen, and an excluder over that box. Make sure to leave a frame or two of open comb for the queen to lay in.



## Telling the Bees



### Kermit Wayne Holshouser

(January 27, 1945 - October 22, 2021)

Kermit Wayne Holshouser, 76, of Connelly Springs, passed away Friday, Oct. 22, 2021. Kermit was a member of Burke County Beekeepers and longtime active member of NCSBA, including former district director of the mountain region. He is survived by his wife Sharlene, three daughters and their families.

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# The American Beekeeping Federation Annual Conference

by Burton Beasley EAS Master Beekeeper

## The American Beekeeping Federation

(ABF) is a national beekeeping organization working in the interest of all beekeepers, large and small, and those associated with the beekeeping industry to ensure the future of the honey bee. The ABF holds one yearly conference and the location varies from year to year. In 2022, the ABF will hold their annual conference and trade show from **January 5 - 8** in Las Vegas, Nevada.



The 2022 conference will include several general assembly sessions offered by keynote speakers such as Dr. David Tarpy from North Carolina State University, Dr. Jamie Ellis from University of Florida, and Dr. Judy Wu-Smart from University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The conference will also offer several break-out sessions for beekeepers of all levels with topics focused on small scale, sideliners, queen producers, honey packers and commercial beekeepers. The final schedule will be packed with educational programs that will provide great value for any beekeeper facing the challenges relevant in today's beekeeping industry.

For those interested in attending the 2022 ABF conference, please visit [www.abfnet.org](http://www.abfnet.org). In 2023, the ABF annual conference and trade show will return to the East Coast.

Another program for which the ABF has recently extended their support is the anti-dumping cases of raw honey into the United States honey market. Continuously, honey is being brought into the US market from foreign countries such as Argentina, Brazil, India, Ukraine, and Vietnam. When honey from these countries hits the store shelves, it is sold at extremely low prices, hurting the overall sale of honey for of beekeepers at all levels.

The anti-dumping case is prepared by Kelley Drye & Warren, ABF's outside trade counsel. The case is also being supported by the Sioux Honey Association, the American Honey Producer's Association and other domestic commercial honey producers.

Additional information on this case including how to support with a donation, can be found on the ABF website and/or the Honey Defense Fund.

### Dr. Judy Wu-Smart

*University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln*



### Dr. Jamie Ellis

*University of  
Florida*

### Dr. David Tarpy

*North Carolina State  
University*



# Wolfpack's Waggle: The Importance of Good Notetaking

by Dr. David Tarpy NC State Extension Apiculturist



NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**APICULTURE PROGRAM**

**Whether you admit it or not,** all beekeepers are biologists. Sure, we come from a complete cross-section of American society with all the diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise that come with it, but the one thing that we all have in common is that we're the stewards of highly complex living superorganisms.

In that light, beekeeping can be immensely improved through some basic principles that are common to all scientists. Key among these, are taking good notes and, importantly, learning from them. Just think of every time you go to the doctor, or every time you bring your pet to the veterinarian. They have a thick folder of all your past visits, conduct basic measurements on you (like taking your weight, blood pressure, and temperature), and refer to them to infer trends and changes in your health. These records are therefore very important for both doctor and patient, since it places one's current status into a much broader context that provides infinitely better perspective.

I don't know of a single successful beekeeper who doesn't keep good records on their colonies—the more meticulous the better. Conversely, most beekeepers who don't take notes on each colony have a much higher likelihood of failure, and more importantly they rarely if ever learn from their mistakes. Sure, you can tell yourself that since you only have one or two hives that it doesn't matter, but I have found that to either be self-delusional or an excuse to be lazy.

Good notetaking doesn't have to be lengthy, complicated, or onerous (although, usually, the more data the better), but it does help to be consistent. A good basic inspection sheet covers at least three categories: colony population, food stores, and health measures. Think of these as your doctor taking your weight, blood pressure, and temperature, respectively. You can score different subcategories in each on a simple scale (e.g., 1-5), number of frames, or even present/absent. In the end, you want to get a good sense of colony strength, nutrition, and disease every time you go into each hive.

There are any number of datasheets you can find or develop yourself, but the best one is the one that you will use consistently. Here's one such example,

which is very basic and therefore easy to use. I find it very helpful to print out a stack of these sheets, one page per colony inspection, and have them on a clipboard in the bee truck. Every time I do an inspection of a colony, I quickly fill out the sheet before moving onto the next one. Once back from the apiary, I keep them on file in a large three-ring binder organized either by inspection date (for large apiaries or mating nucs) or by colony (for smaller apiaries). This then enables me to quickly check to see the history of each colony, how things have been trending, and (most importantly) the best course of action going forward.

If you want to get really fancy or are otherwise so inclined, you can get digital. For years I used to enter in all the hive-inspection records into a simple MS Excel spreadsheet so that I could more accurately track changes over time or even make plots of the various datapoints. Today, I prefer HiveTracks to take advantage of their very sophisticated notetaking capabilities. The nice thing about digitizing your notes is that you can more easily go through them when things go wrong—when a colony dies, you can learn a lot about what you did (or perhaps didn't do) by going through your inspection records so that you don't make the same mistake again.

I get a lot of emails from beekeepers asking for me to diagnose why their colony died or other problems. Just like a doctor, the first thing I ask is for their records and a detailed history of their management (especially mite counts). All too often they have none, and thus I have very little to go by, resulting in a very hand-wavy answer that is neither fulfilling nor altogether helpful. For those who do have detailed notes, it's usually much more effective to get to the root of a potential problem and the means to mitigate it.

In the end, we do a disservice to the bees if we do not maintain good management records of our colonies. Tracking their progress and health over time is arguably the best way to stay ahead of any problems that might arise, maximizing their productivity and minimizing their losses. If you don't already have an effective means of notetaking, use this beekeeping off-season to come up with a good plan on maintaining good records of your colonies, and I promise you that it will be well worth the time and effort.





NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**APICULTURE PROGRAM**

Colony Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Subcategory	Measure
Colony population	Adult population	(frames)
	Open brood	(frames)
	Capped brood	(frames)
	Queen/eggs present	Y/N
Food stores	Honey	(frames)
	Beebread	(frames)
	Helt weight	(scale 1-5)
Health	Brood diseases	(AFB, EFB, chalkbrood, sacbrood)
	Mite count	(# mites / 300 in 1/2 cup)
	Temperament	(scale 1-5)
Comments	Management changes	(e.g., requeened, added honey supers, swarm control)
	General assessment	(e.g., growing well, need mite control, swarmed)



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### NCSBA Library Update

#### More about *Keepers of the Bees*! And lots of Initialisms

In the last article, I talked about a video that I had seen on PBS. It is about the beekeeping club at UNC-Wilmington, and it contains segments featuring the NCSBA and NCSU. Sometimes PBS will offer their programs for sale on DVD. That does not yet appear to be the case with *Keepers of the Bees*.

The good news is that Mike Watson of the Mecklenburg County Beekeepers Association emailed me and mentioned that he had found an easy way to see the video. Google the name (being sure the "s" is on Keepers). It will bring up a PBS link with a time stamp of 56m 46s. Select the icon and you will be able to watch the program on your computer.

What happens if you leave the "s" off of "Keepers"? You will get information on *Keeper of the Bees* by Gene Stratton-Porter written in 1925 and made into a movie in 1947. It's an interesting movie and shows tidbits about how beekeeping was done in the past.

As an aside, I talked with Dr. Andrew, administrator of the NCSBA Fred Deer Collection at Wayne Community College, who said that during National Honey Month in September she and her staff set up a Honey/Honey Bee display in the library for the students to see as they returned to school. Thumbs up!

Do you have a favorite DVD that you would like to comment about? Send me an email!

Also, due to some recent concerns, patrons will be limited to checking out one DVD at a time.

**Bob Kemper, NCSBA Fred Deer Librarian**

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# Eastern Apiculture Society 2021 Conference Recap

**EAS's 2021 conference** was their first in-person conference since 2019. It was a shortened 3-day conference from its normal 5-day format. This year it was held in Shepherdsville Kentucky, which sits square in the path of Kentucky's aptly named Bourbon trail. The conference took place August 11–13th. Despite the shortened event, the conference hosted around 300 attendees, vendors, speakers, and presenters. For those unfamiliar with EAS, it is a regional bee organization made up of US states along the eastern seaboard, northeastern US, southeastern US, and some Canadian Provinces. Did you know the NCSBA even has a state representative on the EAS's Executive Board? We do, in fact, and many of our NCSBA members volunteer time to help at EAS events.

This year there were lots of great presentations from presenters from Jamie Ellis, Debbie Delaney, Juliana Rangel, Cindy Bee, Tammy Potter, Cameron Jack, Kent Williams, Jon Zawislak, and more. Many vendors with all their beekeeping wares were a welcomed site for sore eyes to have back at conferences in person. Even with a shortened event EAS was able to capitalize on its year plus of planning from bluesgrass music in the evenings, Kentucky style BBQ, live auctions, and social hours with ice cream sundaes. It was a well-oiled machine and successful event. It was great to be back in fellowship with other beekeepers. Lots of our NC beekeepers were there in attendance. Many of our NC apiary inspectors were there as well and helped with the apiary sessions at the event. Our very own NCDA&CS apiary team department head Don Hopkins was presented an award for his years of service in helping with EAS, as was NC State Apiary Technician Jennifer Keller.

The EAS also boasts one of the most prestigious master beekeeping programs around. It is a very difficult task and not an easy undertaking to pass! Those who have achieved their Master Beekeeper through EAS should be very proud. Their program consists of 4 parts: written examination, laboratory examination, practical field/apiary examination and a rigorous oral examination. They want to make sure any successful candidate is going to go forth and be an ambassador for honey bees and beekeeping as well as present information to the general public that is factual and presented in a professional manner.

Our former 1st VP of NCSBA Freddy Proni as well as former MBP chair Doug Galloway have been successful in reaching their master beekeeper credentials through EAS in prior years. This year the EAS tested around 23 candidates in Kentucky. That said, it is our privilege to announce that Burton Beasley our current 2nd VP of NCSBA & NCSBA Master Beekeeper, has completed and been presented with his EAS Master Beekeeper Award. We are certain it was no easy feat and so a big congrats to Burton on his achievement!

Next year's 2022 EAS conference planning is well underway. It will be held August 1-5 in New York at either Cornell University or Ithaca College and will be in Ohio in 2023. If you've never been to an EAS event you should plan to attend one. They are wonderful events and usually jam-packed with speakers, workshops, and vendors. They typically have a huge honey show/competition, beehive art competition/auction, and much more.



*EAS Master Beekeeper Burton Beasley*



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# Winning Honey Recipes

1st Place Lot 53  
Muffins

## Honey Zucchini Nut Muffins

Boonma Graham



### Ingredients:

2 cups shredded raw zucchini

3 eggs

½ cup honey

¾ cup sugar

¾ cup canola oil

2 cups flour

¼ tsp baking powder

1 tsp baking soda

2 tsp cinnamon

1 tsp salt

2 tsp vanilla

1 cup chopped nuts of choice

Put zucchini in strainer and press or squeeze with hands to get out excess liquid. Beat eggs, sugar, and oil together. Add flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, salt, vanilla, nuts. Mix together. Add drained zucchini. Mix well. Pour into greased and floured muffin pans. Bake at 325°F for 40 – 45 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

1st Place Lot 66  
Snack Foods

## Haystack Snacks

Catherine A. Godwin



### Ingredients:

½ cup honey

½ cup peanut butter

1 tsp vanilla

2 cups honey graham cereal

1 cup pretzels

½ cup honey roasted peanuts

*\*may substitute with other kinds of cereal and nuts*

In a nonstick saucepan, stir together honey and peanut butter. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat. Add vanilla. Add cereal, pretzels, and peanuts. Stir until coated. Drop mixture onto wax paper. Let cool in refrigerator until firm, about 20 minutes.

**1st Place Lot 67**  
**Pies**

## Pumpkin Pie

Fred Tarver

### Ingredients:

1 ½ c. canned pumpkin

½ c. honey

2 eggs, beaten

½ c. evaporated milk

2 T butter

½ c. hot whole milk

1/4 c. brown sugar, firmly packed

½ tsp salt

1 ½ tsp ground cinnamon

½ tsp ground nutmeg

¼ tsp ground ginger

1/8 tsp ground cloves

1 unbaked 9" pie shell:

1 ½ c. all-purpose flour

½ tsp salt

4 T shortening

5 T cold, unsalted butter

3-5 T ice water



Combine pumpkin, honey, eggs and evaporated milk. Stir butter into hot milk. Combine brown sugar, salt and spices. Mix until well-blended. Combine all three mixtures; pour into pastry-lined pie pan. For pie shell: combine flour and salt; add shortening and work in until crumbly; add butter and work in until chunky; add 2 T water and toss to combine; add additional water until dough barely holds together. Press by hand into pie pan.

Bake at 425°F for 15 minutes, then reduce heat to 360°F and bake 25 minutes longer or until knife inserted into center comes out clean.

Adapted from: Farm Journal's Country Cookbook (N.B. Nichols, ed. 1959)

**1st Place Lot 64**  
**Fudge**

## Chocolate Fudge (Honey)

Katie Lallo

### Ingredients:

1 ½ cup sugar

1 jar marshmallow creme

2/3 cup evaporated milk

¼ cup honey

¼ cup butter

2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

½ cups milk chocolate chips



Combine sugar, marshmallow creme, milk, honey, and butter. Boil for 5 minutes. Stir constantly. Remove from heat and stir in chocolate chips until melted. Spread into 8x8 inch pan. Cool. Cut into squares.



**1st Place Lot 68**  
**Barbeque Sauce**

## Howlin' Honey Berry BBQ Sauce

Katie Lallo

**Ingredients:**

- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 cup water                    | 2/3 cup honey               |
| 4 tsp cornstarch               | 2 T red raspberry preserves |
| 1 tsp minced garlic            | 1/2 cup ketchup             |
| 6 T green onion, thinly sliced | 3 T hot sauce               |
| 6 tsp jalapeno peppers         |                             |

Mix water and cornstarch. Set aside. Spray pan with nonstick spray. Sauté garlic, green onion, and jalapeno for 2-3 minutes until softened. Add honey, raspberry preserves, ketchup, and hot sauce. Stir well. Cook 1-3 minutes. Whisk in water and cornstarch until thickened.



**1st Place Lot 69**  
**Salad Dressing**

## Lime-Honey Salad Dressing

Fred Tarver

**Ingredients:**

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1/2 tsp grated lime rind | 1/2 tsp paprika       |
| 1/3 cup lime juice       | 1/2 tsp Dijon mustard |
| 1/4 cup honey            | 3/4 cup canola oil    |
| 1/2 tsp salt             |                       |

Combine all ingredients in a bowl; beat thoroughly with a rotary beater. Store in a jar with a tight-fitting lid. Chill. Beat before serving. From: Farm Journal's Country Cookbook (N.B. Nichols, ed. 1959).



**1st Place Lot 51**  
**Whole Wheat Bread**

## Honey Whole Wheat Bread

Marci Blight

**Ingredients:**

- |                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| 2 c warm water | 1 1/2 tsp salt             |
| 1 1/2 T yeast  | 5-6 cups whole wheat flour |
| 1/4 cup oil    | 2 T gluten                 |
| 1/3 cup honey  |                            |

Combine water, yeast, gluten, and two cups flour. Let rise to double in size. Add oil, honey, salt, and remaining flour. Knead well. Let rise to double in size. Form into two loaves and place in greased pans. Let rise in pans. Bake at 350°F for about 30 minutes.



1st Place Lot 62  
Candy (Caramels)

## Honey Caramels

Katie Lallo

### Ingredients:

2 cups honey

2 cups sugar

Pinch of salt

½ cup butter

1 cup evaporated milk



Cook and stir honey, sugar, and salt to 250°F. Add butter and milk to keep boiling and bring to 250°F again. Stir constantly. Pour onto a buttered 8x8 container. Cool thoroughly and cut into squares. Wrap in waxed paper.

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## 2021 NC State Fair Photo Highlights













# Are you looking for a Speaker? Do you want to be on the Speakers List?

by Suzy Spencer NC Master Craftsman

To help Chapters and other groups find speakers for their meetings, in 2020 the NCSBA created a list of people who are willing to give presentations by either Zoom (video conferencing) or in-person (pending Covid-19 virus restrictions and safety recommendations). This list is posted on the NCSBA website on the "Speaker List" webpage under "Chapters" along with more information about this project.

Chapters should already know that Dr. David Tarpy (NC State Extension Apiculturist) and his team also have a wide range of high-quality presentations available. Some can be presented in real time (via Zoom or in-person). Others are recorded and can be streamed during an in-person or Zoom meeting. See the first page of the posted "Speakers List" to see more about these offerings and instructions on how to request them.

Would you like to be on the Speakers List? If so, email the following information to Suzy Spencer at [presentations@ncbeekeepers.org](mailto:presentations@ncbeekeepers.org). You can refer to the currently-posted list to decide how best to phrase your information. **The deadline for submissions for the 2022 list is December 31, 2021.**

Speaker's name

Presentation title(s)

Contact information (email address and/or phone number)

Local Chapter

Format (by Zoom, in-person, or both)

Reference (a group that has heard the presentation)

Additional information (optional)



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# NCSBA 4-H GRANT PROGRAM

By Robert Smith



**The 4-H Grant program** is one of the contributions that NCSBA offers to the youth of North Carolina. Many children have been able to learn about beekeeping because of the money that we are providing through the local chapters. Most times the funds are used to purchase protective clothing for the 4-H members; however, the grant program does not limit the use of the money to any one thing. The 4-H Grant Committee will consider any worthwhile need so long as it benefits the children and furthers the bond between the local chapter and the local 4-H club. These grants have helped many 4-H clubs get started in beekeeping and caused their members to develop lasting interest and respect for the honey bee and its importance to us all.

Another positive effect from these grants is the positive interaction between mentors from the local chapters and the 4-H students. Often these young beekeepers (along with their entire family) become members of the local beekeeping chapters.



*Levi and Sarah Baucom check out their livestock*

Any chapter can apply for a grant for up to \$500 to help with a 4-H beekeeping project. The most important stipulation is that the local chapter be involved with the project. Details on applying for a grant can be found on the NCSBA website. When seeking a 4-H grant, along with the application, a cover letter explaining how the funds will be used, and an overview of the project will help the 4-H grant committee determine if a grant can be issued. The money for these grants is provided by NCSBA and not from any outside sources. Because of the recent pandemic, the revenues of NCSBA are very limited and funds for the 4-H grants are also very limited. Any chapter seeking a grant should apply as early in the year as possible. Applications may be submitted at <https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/programs/4h>.

As part of the 4-H committee, I have gained more enjoyment than I have put forth effort. It is a pleasure to see these young people awakened to the wonders of honey bees. After all, isn't our main mission to educate?



## *Previous Projects*

### **2019**

Franklin County Beekeepers Association is working jointly with their local 4-H program. They will offer a two day bee school which involves one day of classroom education and activities and one day in an actual apiary.

### **2018**

Union County Beekeepers and the NCSBA donated money for beekeeping equipment and foundation colonies to the Hidden Meadows 4H. Hidden Meadows 4H now maintains a teaching apiary and donates colonies to members of the 4H.





## Letters From Hawley Prindle

### Letter to the Editor

**I am still kicking** and Bernice is still complaining about how much I am spending on the bees. This has been a tough year. I am not sure about you all, but my bees did little this year. I am working on what I can do to be prepared for this coming year.

I am not an expert. Looks like a lot of people are getting into beekeeping these days. At one time I was the only beekeeper in this area, but I now have several beekeepers living nearby. I think this explains why my bees get less honey each year and contribute to all the problems my bees seem to be having.

George, one of my friends, told me that package bees are going to be selling for \$160.00 and he thinks nucleus hives are going to be selling for over \$200.00 because another friend that sells package bees is already advertising them for \$225.00. Like everything else, bee supplies are going up in price!

Let me share an experience I just had. A little over two weeks ago, I had a strong hive full of honey. The hive seemed to be doing great. I treated all my hives for mites in early October. I took a mite count using powder sugar. It appears that the treatment did little. I still had a lot of mites; the sugar test is not the best way to check for mites, but I find it gives me some idea of how bad they are. I then used oxalic acid using the drip method. This was a suggestion from a friend that knows all about Scientific beekeeping.

I did my final bee check this week. I started the year with ten good over-wintered colonies. I am now down to six. Robbing was a real problem in late summer. I am not sure where all the robbing bees were coming from, but I don't believe they were all from my hives. Those robbing bees went home with more than honey from my hives.

One hive out of the six is not going to be making it through the winter. As I checked my hives this one stood out! I saw a lot of dead bees blocking the reduced entrance I put on my hives several weeks ago.

This hive was a double deep hive with no bees in the upper box with several full capped frames of honey. As is my practice, I took off the top box thinking I would put frames of honey in the bottom box. What I saw was disturbing. I found the queen and some frames of capped brood and a hand full of bees. The bottom board was covered with ½ inch of dead bees. There were so many bees that the live bees could not get out of the front entrance!

My first thought was I was experiencing CCD. The queen looked fine. The live bees looked fine. Some of the larvae looked like European foulbrood. This is the first time I have ever seen a hive with a robust bee population two weeks ago to end up like this.

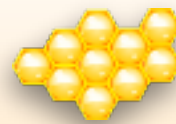
All the other hives seemed to be fine. I thought that this hive might have been poisoned by some chemical since so many bees were dead. But I discounted that because the other five hives were flying and acting very normal. All had been treated with oxalic acid at the same time in the same way. And the strange thing was, this hive produced the most surplus honey of all the hives in the bee yard this year. This hive wasn't killed by robbing bees because it still had frames of capped honey.

I have decided to let this hive die! The big problem was, what do I do with the frames in the hive? Do I combine the hive with another strong hive? What about the frames with brood? What do I do with the queen? When I talked to George, he said to call the bee inspector to come and look at the hive.

I have never had to call upon a bee inspector to look at my hives. Not ever! I don't like strangers poking around. I decided to call for an inspection. I am lucky North Carolina has this service.

I was not sure of what was wrong with the hive, but I didn't think the inspector would have anything good to report. Money is tight but the inspection service is free, and I was up the tree on this problem. Prognosis: Varroa mites. I am thinking that I may put up some swarm boxes this spring to catch some of the bees from those neighboring hives that I am sure were robbing my hives.

### Know Your Numbers



► A Honey Bee can fly about 15 mph

► A Honey Bee can carry about 80% of her body weight in pollen and nectar

► A Honey Bee can produce about 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime

► Bees have been making honey since the time of the dinosaurs: 10-20 million years ago

► Honey Bees have 6 legs, 5 eyes, and 4 wings

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# A Look Ahead: 2022 NCSBA Conferences



## NCSBA Spring Conference - March 3-5, 2022

**New Bern Riverfront Convention Center**  
200 Front St, New Bern, NC 28560

Hotel Accommodations nearby: Springhill Suites, Courtyard, Double Tree, & Bridge Hotel & Marina

New Bern is a beautiful riverfront city near the NC Coast that is steeped in early American History and is the birthplace of Pepsi Cola. There are loads of dining options, shops, & bars and nightlife within short walk of the convention center and hotels. New Bern is a short drive from the coast and other NC coastal towns/cities.

### Main stage speakers:

**Stephen Repasky:** Commercial beekeeper, speaker, author and consultant from Pittsburgh, PA. EAS Certified Master Beekeeper, President of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association, author of "Swarm Essentials" (Wicwas Press, 2014).

**Dr. Brock Harpur:** Assistant Professor of Entomology at Purdue University. Mite-biting genetics and genetic tracing of bees for the advancement of honey bee breeding.

**Dr. Margarita Lopez-Urbe:** Lorenzo L. Langstroth Early Career Professor, Assistant Professor of Entomology at Penn State University. Feral bees projects for bee breeding.

**Mark Gingrich:** Owner/operator of Gingrich Apiaries, 2nd Vice President of Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association. Purdue Leg chewing stock in a commercial apiary, development of queen/bee breeding cooperative, and ongoing grant research involved with Purdue stock.

**Dr. Robyn Underwood:** Assistant Research Professor of Entomology Penn State Extension. Comb project on the comparison of chemical free beekeeping vs conventional beekeeping. Q&A forum with some NC beekeepers who treat and some that do not treat.

Additional speakers and workshop presenters TBA.

## Summer NCSBA Conference - July 28-30, 2022

**Hickory Convention Center**  
1960 13th Ave Dr SE #5186, Hickory, NC 28602

Hotel Accommodations nearby: Courtyard by Marriott, Hampton Inn, Hilton Garden Inn, & Best Western

Hickory is a lovely city in the foothills of NC, adjacent to Catawba, Burke, and Caldwell counties. Hickory has many restaurant offerings, mall/shops close by, and bars/nightlife within a short drive of the convention center. Hickory is also a short drive to Charlotte, Asheville, & NC Mountains.

### Main Stage Speakers:

**Dr. Samuel Ramsey:** van Engelsdorp's Honey Bee Lab, University of Maryland. Fight the Mite initiative. Ongoing research on varroa and the *Tropilaelaps* mite, which is widely regarded as the next global threat to honey bee populations.

**David Burns:** Long Lane Honey Bee farms. Commercial and Master Beekeeper who specializes in tricks, tips, and beekeeping hacks that solve practical beekeeping problems.

**Jon Zawislak:** Apiculture Specialist, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service. Pheromones and their function on communication inside the hive.

**Dr. Cameron Jack:** Assistant Professor Honey Bee Toxicology, University of Florida. Oxalic acid use; ongoing studies on efficacy, dosage, and health of honey bees. Research on new varroa control chemicals and methods.

**Bob Binnie:** Blue Ridge Honey Company. Commercial beekeeper specializing in queens, nucs and honey production. Bob brings a wealth of knowledge gained over many years in the beekeeping industry and is a well-known beekeeping figure in the Southeast US.

**Dr. Medhat Nasr:** Former Provincial Apiculturist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. *Bad Beekeeping* blog contributor. Discusses proactive beekeeping and pests and pathogens – what's really killing our bees.



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**"A Tale of Two Queens"**

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