

A close-up photograph of a large number of honeybees gathered around a dark, circular entrance in a piece of rough, textured bark. The bees are shown in various positions, some entering the hole and others standing on the bark. Their bodies are yellow and black striped, with translucent wings. The background is the dark, textured interior of the hive.

# North Carolina **Bee Buzz**

The Official Magazine of the NCSBA

**2022 Conference Highlights**

Fall 2022



# GOOD BEEKEEPING STARTS WITH GOOD EQUIPMENT

PROUD TO BE LOCALLY MADE



MIDNIGHT  
**BEE**  
SUPPLY

Your one stop shop for beekeeping essentials and accessories  
120 E Maple St Vass, NC 28394  
(910) 245-3188  
[midnightbeesupply.com](http://midnightbeesupply.com)





Photo by: Bill Sheppard

**Features**  
**2022 Summer**  
**Conference Highlights**



Photo Highlights



Cooking With Honey



Beekeeper's Choice

North Carolina  
**Bee Buzz**  
Fall 2022



North Carolina State Beekeepers Association  
*~ Since 1917 ~*

NCSBA Information	4
Message from the President	5
BeeFeeders	7
Meet Bridget Gross	9
In the Apiary	11
NCSBA Speaker Program	12
Master Beekeeper Program	13
Wolfpack's Waggle	15
NCSBA Library Update	15
Telling the Bees	17
Honey Bees at the NC Fairs	26
"Beepalooza"	28
NCSU Bee Lab Update	30



On the Cover:  
Christina Wuerker



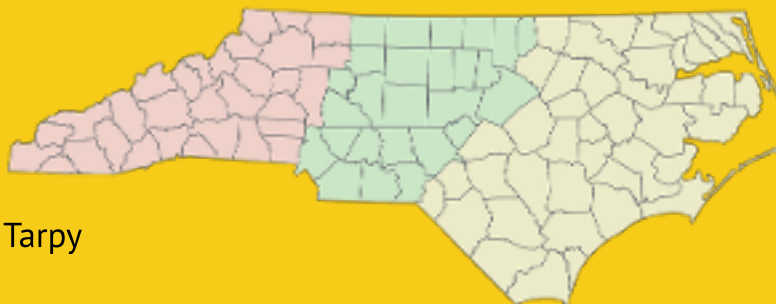
# North Carolina State Beekeepers Association



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.

## 2022 Executive Committee

**President:** Doug Vinson  
**1st Vice President:** Rick Coor  
**2nd Vice President:** Burton Beasley III  
**Secretary:** Dawn Rogers  
**Treasurer:** Libby Mack  
**Membership Secretary:** Todd Walker  
**NC Extension Apiculturist:** Dr. David R. Tarpy  
**State Apiarist:** Don Hopkins  
**Past President:** Paul Newbold



## Regional Directors

### Mountain Region

**Senior:** Scott Davis  
**Junior:** Johnny Thompson  
**Sophomore:** Karen Speer  
**Freshman:** Michelle Mejia

### Piedmont Region

**Senior:** Christina Henthorn  
**Junior:** Randall Austin  
**Sophomore:** Bryan Fisher  
**Freshman:** Darryl Gabritsch

### Coastal Region

**Senior:** James Dove  
**Junior:** Stacey Marriner  
**Sophomore:** Jackie Hough  
**Freshman:** Will Johnson

*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.

**Bee Buzz Subscriptions:** Please direct subscription questions and address changes to [membership@ncbeekeepers.org](mailto:membership@ncbeekeepers.org)

Jody Moore, *Technical Editor*  
[beebuzzeditor@ncbeekeepers.org](mailto:beebuzzeditor@ncbeekeepers.org)

Dr. Lane Kreitlow, *Content Editor*  
[beebuzzcontent@ncbeekeepers.org](mailto:beebuzzcontent@ncbeekeepers.org)





## Message From The President

by: Doug Vinson, NCSBA President

**As winter approaches,** as a beekeeper you should be well into winter management mode. Proper feeding, treating and colony size reduction are all part of that preparation. Your overwintering success will depend on how well and when you were able to accomplish all three.

I have heard all twelve months mentioned as the beginning of the beekeeping year and a convincing argument can be made for each. I have my favorite as you do as well. We all may have to adjust because of recent changes. Population buildup keeps creeping back into late winter. The honey flow begins earlier each year. Supplemental feeding may be required in mid-summer. Considering all that, winter preparation should start earlier than ever. This is not the place for detailed instruction regarding that preparation, just a reminder that certain summertime efforts are necessary for bees to be healthy and reproductive to have fat, mite free (as much as possible) bees of sufficient numbers going into winter. Bottom line, frantic efforts in fall will never be as successful as much earlier preparations.

I visit local chapters and I see some thriving and some not doing so well. The pandemic took its toll with mandated shutdowns and other restrictions. Many chapters have rebounded, and some just cannot get back up to speed. Hopefully, we can assist these weaker groups with better Association and Regional Director involvement.

In one of my PowerPoint presentations, I list characteristics that healthy, overwintered bees share. Similarly, there are characteristics that healthy, active local chapters share. I will not shoot you with a bulleted list but things such as bee schools (huge) chapter events, youth activities (4-H for example), fairs that invite the public are examples.

As we all know, the disruption of the pandemic damaged a substantial number of local chapter's attendance and activities therefore each must develop its own recovery strategy.



scan for website



Plants, products and gifts! Your one-stop garden shop for bees, beekeeping supplies and more!

1421 Old Apex Road, Cary, NC 27513



[www.gardensupplyco.com](http://www.gardensupplyco.com)  
[@gardensupplyco](https://www.instagram.com/gardensupplyco)







# Bailey Bee Supply

Only 8 minutes from  
Durham via I-85 - Exit 164  
Or 30 minutes from Raleigh via I-40 Exit 261

Walk-in - Order Online - Call



**Reserve  
Your 3 lb.  
Spring Packages  
or NUC  
Today!**



**baileybeesupply.com**

**919-241-4236**

**147 Boone Square Street  
Hillsborough, NC 27278**

**Monday - Friday 9am - 5:30pm  
Saturday 9am - 2pm**

- Knowledgeable Customer Support
- Beekeeping Tools and Accessories
- Queen Rearing Tools and Supplies
- Woodenware/Pine and Cypress

- Free Educational Newsletter
- Extraction Equipment
- Varroa Treatments
- Protective Gear

*We Have All Your Glass and Plastic Needs!*







# BeeFeeders

## North Carolina Pollinator Plants

by: Ulana Stuart, NC State Extension Master Gardener Volunteer

**I began observing** bee visits to culinary herbs in my garden while preparing for the BeeFeeders column that was published in the Fall 2016 *Bee Buzz*. This summer I saw several culinary herbs attracting many bees and pollinators that I want to share with you.

Culinary herbs are low maintenance and highly resistant to deer and rabbit grazing.

Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*) is a perennial herb that grows in USDA Zones 5 to 9\*. Thyme is a small, woody, fine-textured evergreen sub-shrub with a maximum height of only 6 to 12 inches. It is extremely fragrant and can bloom from May through July depending on location. The flowers are quite small and tubular, forming terminal heads when planted in 6 hours of full sun. Flower color can vary from white to pinkish lavender. Thyme flowers are very rich in nectar and the pollen is greenish yellow in color.



Photo: CT Aizneimittel

**Thyme** (*Thymus vulgaris*)

Sage (*Salvia officinalis*) is a perennial herb in the mint family with fragrant flower spikes that resemble mint flowers. Otherwise, the plant looks very different from mint. Sage has soft, velvety leaves that grow 3 to 6 inches long and are strongly aromatic. It grows in USDA Zones 4 to 8\*. Sage plants can grow 24 to 32 inches tall when planted in 6 hours of full sun. One of the best sage cultivars that thrives in North Carolina humidity is 'Berggarten'. Sage is a great source for nectar and provides creamy-white pollen pellets.



Photo: Anne Heathen

**Sage** (*Salvia officinalis*)

Spearmint (*Mentha spicata*) is a rampantly growing perennial herb. Many gardeners grow spearmint in pots to control its spread. Spearmint can reach 1 to 2 feet in height and width when grown in full sun. The pink or white tubular flowers form flowering spikes that are 1 to 6 inches long. Spearmint flowers bloom in summer and into fall providing very high amounts of nectar with white pollen pellets.



Photo: Lloyd Fyfeend

**Spearmint** (*Mentha spicata*)

Marjoram (*Origanum majorana*) is a mounding sub-shrub annual in North Carolina (perennial in USDA Zone 9a-10b\*). Marjoram grows 9 to 24 inches high and 1 to 2 feet wide in full sun. It is very heat tolerant and somewhat drought tolerant. The small white to pink tubular flowers bloom on spikes from July through August. Marjoram flowers are high in nectar production and provide light green pollen pellets.





Photo: Pinterest

**African Blue Basil (*Ocimum kilimandscharicum x basilicum*)**

African Blue Basil (*Ocimum kilimandscharicum x basilicum*) is a rapidly growing annual herb in North Carolina. This attractive sterile hybrid has lovely pink flowers that NEVER go to seed. African blue basil is a cross between camphor basil and dark opal basil that

grows up to 3 feet tall and does well in our hot, humid summers. Though full sun is preferred it can take some afternoon shade. The edible green leaves with some purple venation can be used like common basil in recipes but have a stronger flavor from the camphor basil. African blue basil flowers are high in nectar production.

The main key to successfully growing culinary herbs is soil drainage (sufficient sun exposure is also important). North Carolina gardens that have predominantly clay soils must be amended to improve poor drainage which can lead to root rot. The best clay soil amendment is **aged pine bark fines** which are less than ½ inch in diameter. Also called soil conditioner, aged pine bark fines are sold in 1.5 cubic foot bags at your local garden supply stores. This amendment is meant to be incorporated into your existing clay soil at about 20% by volume. Do not remove the clay soil but add the amendment to it. Clay soils contain important minerals that plants need.

\*See [planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/pages/view-maps](http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/pages/view-maps) to determine your zone.

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



# Honey & the Hive

Western North Carolina's  
premier bee supply and gift  
store!

- Complete beekeepers supply
- Nucs, packages, & queens available for local pickup
- Local Wildflower, Sourwood, and infused Honeys
- Beeswax Candles
- Books
- Housewares & Gifts!
- Beekeeping & DIY Classes

23 Merrimon Ave, Weaverville  
828-484-9466  
[info@honeyandthehivenc.com](mailto:info@honeyandthehivenc.com)  
[honeyandthehivenc.com](http://honeyandthehivenc.com)





## Meet Apiary Inspector Bridget Gross

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) recently welcomed Apiary Inspector Bridget Gross to its Apiary Inspection Program. Bridget's territory includes Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Cabarrus, Catawba, Davidson, Davie, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Surry, Wilkes, and Yadkin Counties.

Bridget earned her bachelor's degree from the College of Wooster in Environmental Sciences. She started beekeeping with the Ohio State University Honey Bee Lab, then moved to Nebraska to work for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bee Lab. She has also had the opportunity to travel to the Dominican Republic to work with beekeepers on improving their management skills.

The mission of the NCDA&CS Apiary Inspection Program is to promote and protect the state's beekeeping industry. The Apiary Program provides disease and disorder inspections at no cost to beekeepers. Fumigation services are also available for a nominal fee. North Carolina currently employs six apiary inspectors positioned throughout the state. The service is available to all beekeepers located in North Carolina.

For the latest information on the Apiary Inspection Program, visit: <https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/resources/apiary-inspection-program>



Bridget Gross working with beekeepers in Dominican Republic

# CYPRESS HIVES

TRIAD



BEE SUPPLY

TRINITY, NC

(336)475-5137





# ROSSMAN



## APIARIES

Visit us online  
[www.gabees.com](http://www.gabees.com)

Your one stop beekeeping shop...!



Beekeeping supplies,  
package bees, essentials,  
clothing, gifts, & more!

102 Chestnut Street, Suite 103  
N. Wilkesboro, NC 28659  
(336)-990-9273

Monday - Friday 8 AM - 4:30 PM (EST)

3364 GA HWY 33 N,  
Moultrie, GA 31768  
(800) 333-7677

Monday - Friday 8 AM - 5:00 PM (EST)





## In the Apiary: Fall 2022

by Jennifer Keller, NCSU Apiculture Research Technician

**Late summer and early fall** are perhaps the most challenging times of the year for beekeepers. During the spring and early summer, there is plenty of nectar to keep the bees busy. The bees ignore you and just keep working hard at whatever task they need done. Opening their hive doesn't seem to disturb them much, and beekeeping is fun. Something happens around mid-July to mid-August that causes the bees to behave in a very different manner. The nectar flow dries up and suddenly, that nice calm hive of bees seems more like an Africanized colony on steroids! Robbing begins, Varroa mite populations ramp up, bee populations start having to defend their precious stores, and beekeeping no longer seems as fun. This is the time when problems in the hive are most likely to occur, so it is just as important now to keep a close watch on your hives as it was to monitor them during the early build-up and swarm period.

One of the major problems that I deal with this time of year is the small hive beetle, *Aethina tumida*. This annoying pest can go undetected in the hive most of the season. However, large numbers of adult beetles seem to be more noticeable this time of year and have the potential to cause great damage to previously healthy hives.

This year, I have had a problem with strong hives of bees trying to requeen for one reason or another, but not successfully completing the task, leaving the colony queenless with no means to make a new queen. When the colony becomes too weak to defend itself, hive beetles will begin to take over. It is not the adult beetles that are the problem, but the larvae that will be produced. Beetle larvae will feed on the honey, pollen, and bee larvae, making a complete mess of the hive, and ultimately forcing the bees to abscond.



**Small Hive Beetle Larvae**

Locating hives in direct sun and maintaining strong colonies will help minimize beetle infestations. In addition, there are several traps available that may be used inside the hive to help keep the adult beetle population low. None of them will trap every beetle, but they may help. Remember that hive beetles like to hide. Worker bees tend to corral them into certain

areas, so the traps should be placed near these spots. Often it is in a corner, by the ends of the top bars, or maybe on the bottom board. Another product commonly used to trap hive beetles is the unscented, dry Swiffer pad. The bees chew them up and the beetles get caught in them and can't escape.



**Swiffer Pad: Small Hive Beetle Trap**

The other major problem of course, is Varroa mites. Mite populations begin to increase in late summer and if not kept below threshold, the colony will slowly decline. A spotty brood pattern and deformed wings are some of the first signs of a high mite level. If not controlled, the colony may become so weak it is unable to defend itself against the hive beetle. Now is the time to test mite levels if you have not done so already.

If you haven't already started preparing for winter, now is the time! It is much easier to get strong, healthy hives through the winter, rather than having to baby smaller colonies that probably won't make it anyway. For that reason, it is better to accept those losses now and combine weak colonies with stronger colonies. Although things can still go wrong, combining colonies will hopefully increase the chances of getting colonies through winter. Once spring is here, these overwintered colonies will build up quickly and they can then be split again, if desired.

Monitoring the food stores should become habit every trip to the apiary from now until spring. Gently lift the back of the hive by grabbing the handle and lifting the back slightly off the ground. If you cannot pick it up, chances are there is enough honey stored in the hive for now. If you have no trouble picking it up, then perhaps it is time to do further investigation. Are there still bees living in the hive? Is there still a queen? If so, and the only problem is lack of food, then it is time to start feeding sugar syrup. Feed off and on as needed on warm days throughout winter.

This time of year can be discouraging to beekeepers. It is important to remember that a successful summer next year starts with good preparations now. Getting the bees through the winter will lead to a fun spring of beekeeping once again.





## Does your Chapter need a speaker for a meeting?

## Do you want to be a speaker?

To help Chapters find speakers for their monthly meetings, the NCSBA maintains a list of people who are willing to give presentations by Zoom (video-conferencing), in-person, or both. For more information and to see the current speaker list, go to the speaker list webpage on the NCSBA website at <https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/speaker-list> (under "Chapters"). Foremost are the offerings of Dr. David Tarpy (NCSU Apiculture Sciences professor) and his team, some of which 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. NCDA&CS Apiary Inspectors and NCSBA Regional Directors are also willing to give presentations. In addition, there are over 25 individuals who have asked to be placed on the list.

What about you? Would you like to be on the speaker list? If so, review important information on the webpage and then email the following information to [presentations@ncbeekeepers.org](mailto:presentations@ncbeekeepers.org): your name, title(s) of presentation(s), contact information, local chapter,

format (by Zoom, in-person, or both), a Chapter that has heard your presentation as a reference (optional), and other relevant information that a Chapter should know before asking you. The deadline for submissions is November 15 so that the list for 2023 can be updated and posted by December 1.



Photo: Marie Bowman

Eric Talley Speaks on Honey Bees



**UBEES**  
PRECISION BEEKEEPING

**Make UBees Your Bees!**

**North Carolina Nucs & Queens**

[www.ubeeshop.com](http://www.ubeeshop.com)

[mhill@ubees.com](mailto:mhill@ubees.com)

919-702-6183



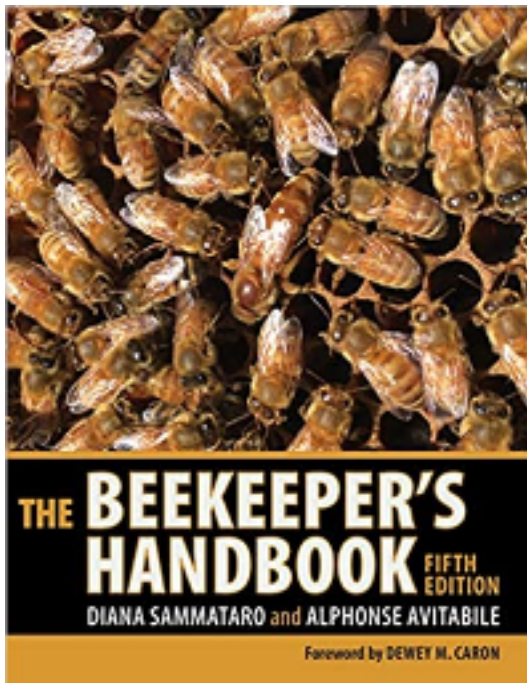


## Master Beekeeper Program: Now is the Time to Prepare For MBP Testing

by Randall Austin MBP Co-Chair

**If you are anything like me,** the warm months are very busy. If I have any free time, I can easily fill it with an essential task in the bee yard. That's why I look forward to a break in winter. I finally get a chance to catch up on my reading (although I don't take that chance as often as I should), repair and paint equipment and do other things that aren't time critical.

If you are a participant in the NCSBA Master Beekeeper Program or are thinking about becoming one, now is a great time to do some background reading that will help you with MBP testing next spring. The MBP Committee has been hard at work this past year reviewing and updating the written and practical tests so that we can maintain the high quality and prestige that go with the NCSBA MBP label. A big part of that was assessing the authoritative texts that serve as the basis for the written tests. Many, such as the much-used First Lessons beginner book by UGA's Keith Delaplane, have become woefully out of date, especially with respect to modern Varroa mite control options. Others are not readily accessible by the average beekeeper. For example, Dewey Caron's excellent textbook, Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping, is out of print and available copies cost \$60 or more.



Fortunately, in April 2021 Cornell's Diana Sammataro and Alphonse Avitabile published a fully revised 5th edition of their highly regarded manual, The Beekeeper's Handbook. It can be purchased for around \$20. For the Certified level testing, we are focusing

primarily on that new edition as well as information found on the NCSBA website. For Journeyman and Master level, we are leaning on those sources plus NCSU's "Beekeeping Notes", the Honey Bee Health Coalition's Varroa Management Guide, Dadant's The Hive and the Honey Bee (2015 edition) and the EPA product labels relevant for honey bee pests, which are easily accessible via the NCDA&CS Pesticide Division website. Don't limit your education to those few sources, but if you are familiar with their content, you should do very well on the written tests.

We are also experimenting with a change in approach to the MBP Special Testing Events that have been conducted in recent years to allow people across the state to take the written tests if they cannot attend the NCSBA Conferences. In the past, a site was chosen in the east and in the west, dates were scheduled and advertised, and tests were administered to those who were able to participate at those dates and locations. Moving forward, we are shifting to a demand-focused model rather than a supply-focused one. If you are interested in taking a test for any of the MBP levels (excluding in-hive practicals), collaborate with the local NCSBA Chapters in your area to assess interest. If a half-dozen or more people want to take a test, the MBP Committee will work with your Chapter leadership to find a location and date to do so. We will then come to you to make it happen. Note that this is not a substitute for the Certified testing that is typically conducted by Chapters at the end of their bee schools; that system works quite well and isn't being modified. It is an attempt to make the testing that is done at NCSBA Conferences more accessible to more people. With this new model, if demand requires it, we could do, say, 10 Testing Events a year or none. It is all up to what you want and are willing to make happen.



One last thing... the MBP Committee is always eager to guide and encourage our fellow beekeepers as they become better at our craft and especially as they share with others. There is a great deal of information on the NCSBA website about the Master Beekeeper Program (<https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/programs/mbp>). If after reviewing all of that, you have further questions, need advice on how to achieve requirements or want to volunteer to help the Committee, don't hesitate to contact us at [mbp@ncbeekeepers.org](mailto:mbp@ncbeekeepers.org). Our only purpose is to serve our beekeepers.





STILL FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1976  
MANUFACTURER OF QUALITY WOODENWARE

# EVERYTHING YOU NEED!

- WOODENWARE
- COMPONENTS
- TOOLS & SMOKERS
- EXTRACTING EQUIPMENT
- NUTRITION & TREATMENTS
- PROTECTIVE CLOTHING
- BOTTLING



WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE WE WILL DISTRIBUTING SAF EXTRACTORS IN 2020! GIVE US A CALL TO LEARN MORE OR CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE.

VISIT US AT OUR NEW WEBSITE AND ENJOY  
FREE SHIPPING ON MOST ORDERS OVER \$150

888-848-5184 • [WWW.MILLERBEESUPPLY.COM](http://WWW.MILLERBEESUPPLY.COM)

496 YELLOW BANKS ROAD  
NORTH WILKESBORO, NC 28659

MARCH-MAY: OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8 AM-5 PM, SATURDAYS 8AM-12 PM  
JUNE-FEBRUARY: OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8 AM-4:30 PM, CLOSED SATURDAYS.



# Wolfpack's Waggle: Is Climate Change a Problem for Honey Bees?

by Dr. David Tarpy NC State Extension Apiculturist



NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**APICULTURE PROGRAM**

**I'm writing on this topic** during the very hot summer we've had in the NC Piedmont and across the state, so the question has been posed more frequently as of late. I get this question all the time, mostly from the media, sometimes from students, but hardly ever from beekeepers. I think this is because most beekeepers already know the correct answer (which is—it's complicated) whereas those who are not are expecting a simple, definitive answer. My official answer to such inquiries is "no, yes, and maybe."

No: One can easily argue that climate change, especially warming temperatures, isn't a problem for bees because they are so adaptable. Managed honey bees can be found nearly from pole to pole and in all tropical regions. Where it is cold, they consume honey and generate heat to stay warm. Where it is hot, they forager for water and use evaporation to stay cool. So, if there is ample food and water sources for them in the local environment, they can thermoregulate and be all but immune to changing weather and climate patterns.

Yes: At the same time, one can also easily argue that climate change might affect honey bees quite profoundly. The more time and energy the bees must devote to keeping the hive cool, the less they'll be able to spend on foraging for food and staying healthy. A changing climate also affects the local landscape, so the variety of nectar- and pollen-bearing plants will likely change over time making a given location less and less suitable to maintain honey bees. Nectaries

also dry up during hot weather as plants try to conserve water. More extreme climate events, like droughts and severe weather, can also have a direct impact on bees.

Maybe: in reality, we don't really know how honey bees will respond to changes in the environment, or how it will affect us beekeepers. There have been plenty of studies, especially those testing how changes in the urban landscape might affect pollinators, but the findings are equivocal where some show no effect, some show a negative effect, and others even show a positive effect (e.g., since humans like lots of flowering plants, cities often have more diversity of food sources for bees). And since beekeepers can move their hives around, honey bees aren't trapped in a particular location if it becomes unfavorable.

In the end, honey bees can compensate for quite a lot in their environment, so as bee managers we should focus on helping the bees help themselves (since they can very much benefit from our help, no matter what climate they're in). That includes making sure they are in a good area with plenty of forage throughout the year, managing for parasites and disease, and maintaining good genetics (including a good-laying queen). Not all places are amenable to setting up an apiary, so we shouldn't be choosing our bee yards simply based on convenience. Honey bees are effective monitors of the local environment, so listen to what they have to say and adjust your management of them accordingly.



## NCSBA Library Update:

What is going on with the NCSBA library's collection?

The library circulation data show that one DVD was checked out from March 2021 until today.

It is good to see that the library is still meeting the user's needs. Not a lot of users, but one is just fine.

That is the very brief report.

If you have a favorite DVD, if it is still available on DVD, and you think it would make a good addition the NCSBA Library collection, please let me know at either contact listed below.

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

Bob Kemper, NCSBA Fred Deer Librarian

[kemper27530@gmail.com](mailto:kemper27530@gmail.com) 919-731-2146





Beekeeping & Honey Bees - Our Business Since 1863

**AP23  
Pollen  
Substitute**

**AP23  
FOR  
HEALTHY  
BEES!**

**SMOKERS**



M00926

M00927

M00928

M009281

**6 5/8 PAINTED SUPER  
C31501P**

**Know Your Numbers!**

**9 5/8 PAINTED HIVE BODY  
C51101P**

**20-FRAME  
POWER EXTRACTOR  
M00446**



[dadant.com](http://dadant.com)

• 51 S. SECOND STREET, HAMILTON IL 62341 • PHONE (217) 847-3324 • FAX (217) 847-3660 • TOLL FREE 1-888-922-1293 •  
• CHICO, CA (877) 332-3268 • FRESNO, CA (877) 432-3268 • PARIS, TX (877) 632-3268 • SIOUX CITY, IA (877) 732-3268 •  
• WATERTOWN, WI (877) 232-3268 • ALBION, MI (877) 932-3268 • WILLIAMSPORT, PA (877) 532-3268 •  
• CHATHAM, VA (800) 220-8325 • FRANKFORT, KY (888) 932-3268 • HIGH SPRINGS, FL (877) 832-3268 •







# Telling the Bees

## In Memory of Kim Rossi

by Susan Benton

Kim Rossi has served as President of the Wake County Beekeepers Association since January 2020 until her death on June 28, 2022. She was a unifying force in our club. If she asked you to help with a project or serve on a committee, you wanted to do it because you knew Kim was giving her 110% to the club. She had an infectious smile, and that smile greeted each person who attended our monthly meetings or Bee School.



Kim Rossi

I first met Kim in 2016 when I was elected secretary when Mike Childers served as president. Dawn Childers was serving as Treasurer, initially filling the unexpired term of the prior treasurer who resigned. Dawn needed help with membership, so Kim was appointed as membership chair. That means that she collected the paper forms and put the information into an excel spreadsheet so the secretary could update the mailing list so members could receive e-mail communications and the monthly newsletter. She kept a list of members and printed the list to record attendance at monthly meetings. She printed the yellow name badges and later came up with the idea of updating the name badges with a date sticker. At one time, the membership chair passed out, then collected name badges at each meeting. Kim did it cheerfully. When we needed someone to coordinate the state fair exhibit, Kim stepped up to volunteer. She coordinated our state fair entry every year since. One year, we won a Blue Ribbon for our exhibit, but winning was not the main

objective. The main objective was educating the public about the honeybees that she loved. Kim loved children and often got children involved to submit entries for the state fair.

Kim drove a Prius and was the first person I knew who had one. When I had items to loan for our fair exhibit, she would drive from her home in Apex to my home in east Raleigh to pick up, then return my items. We filled her small car with the items I had stored at my house. One of my vivid memories was the year we needed 50 pounds of honey, a uniform color, to enter. I had 48 jars of honey that didn't have the label, it was so close to the needed 50. Then I remembered I had some wax that still contained some honey, so I got out my bucket and net and let that wax strain into the bucket, yielding the extra 2 jars to make the required 50.



WCBA Selling Honey at the NC State Fair 2021

When the nominating committee contacted Kim about becoming president, she called me, worried that I might want to be president. That was so thoughtful of her to think of my feelings, but I assured her that I thought my talents would best serve the club as Treasurer instead of President, so in 2020 she became President and I continued to serve as Treasurer. Several of the officers attended the NCSBA meeting in New Bern in March 2020, with plans to hold our bee school the following Saturday. One of the presentations we saw at the conference was a demonstration of the Zoom technology that could allow more people to attend meetings remotely. We didn't know that would become such a blessing for our club.



If you remember, March 2020 was just the start of our awareness of the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the most difficult decisions Kim faced was cancelling Bee School on Friday night before it was scheduled on Saturday. Everything had been prepared except purchasing the food. We began the transition to have our monthly meetings by Zoom in 2020. At the start of each club meeting, Kim cheerfully greeted us and always set such a positive tone for our meetings. We began to have our monthly club board meetings by zoom. In July 2021, we started having our monthly meetings as a hybrid of in-person at Pullen Park, with a Zoom option.

The State Fair was cancelled in 2020, but Kim coordinated our state fair exhibit in October 2021. I had decided not to attend the state fair that year, due to my caution to not be exposed to covid. My one regret with my decision to not attend was not helping Kim with the fair project. She was undaunted and worked really hard so we would have a presence at the fair. The NCSBA had decided to not sell honey but allowed clubs to sell if they wished. Kim decided we should sell honey and honey straws and organized that to happen.

It was a grand effort, and I am grateful for other club members who stepped up to help her. By November 2021, I was aware that Kim was having headaches. She was scheduled to attend our December board meeting but missed the meeting due to a bad headache. She went to the doctor the next day and was soon off to an oncologist, who diagnosed Glioblastoma brain cancer. Kim started treatments for the cancer and courageously fought back. She was scheduled to serve her third term as President this year. She didn't resign and we were hopeful that a miracle would happen for her to overcome the cancer, but she passed peacefully on June 28, 2022.

I've pondered her passing, thinking of the memories and looking at pictures I have of her related to our time with the Wake County Beekeepers Association. I've been sad. But I keep thinking of her smile, her grace, how she loved the bees, and how she loved our club. We will miss her for a long time. Her husband requests no flowers, but donations may be made to a cancer society, including the American Brain Tumor Association. Now, to tell the bees.

# SAPONY CREEK APIARIES



**Bees • Beekeeping Supplies  
Products from the Hive • Queens**

**6154 West Mount Drive  
Rocky Mount, NC 27803**

**Phone: 252.904.1446**

**NEW  
STORE  
HOURS**

***Bee-Natural  
Bee-Local***

***Tuesday-Saturday  
10:00 AM-6:00 PM***

**saponycreekapiaries@yahoo.com**



Sapony Creek Apiaries







NCSBA Summer Meeting

July 28 - 30, 2022

HICKORY

METRO



Convention &  
Visitors Bureau

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS







WELCOME

North Carolina State Beekeepers Association



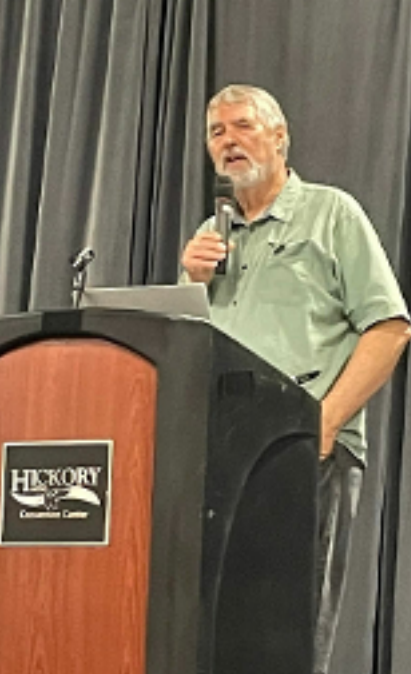




# North Carolina State Beekeepers Association







Special Thanks to Julia Kopacz and everyone who submitted photos!



# COOKING WITH HONEY

by Lesa Pierce

The excitement was especially high this year for the Honey and Cooking with Honey Competitions at the summer NCSBA Conference, our first competition since before COVID. Over 30 people participated, entering over 70 items ranging from chunk honey and strawberry creamed honey, to a beeswax skull, mead, and stained glass honeycomb, to a beeswax floral arrangement, brown butter peach tart, cowboy candy, honey butter and ahog & honey popcorn! Beautiful & yummy! We were quite fortunate

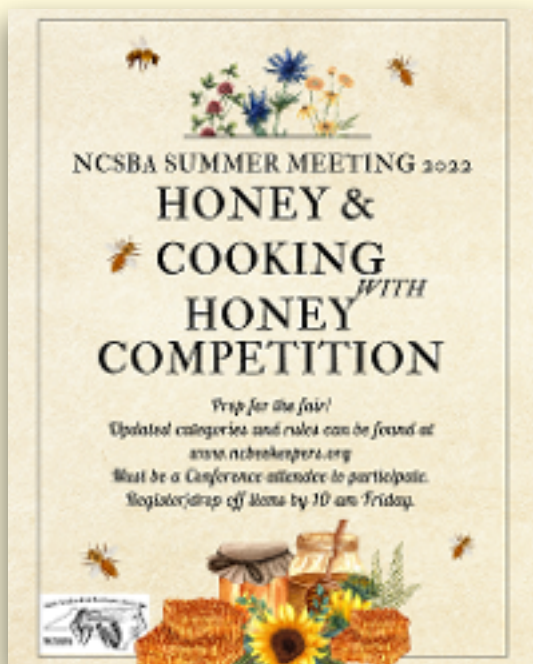
to have some very competent judges that participated in the judging of these entries - Brutz English – Sr. Welsh Honey Judge, Don Hopkins & Lewis Cauble – NC Inspectors, and several NCSBA Officers/Regional directors.

The judges awarded many ribbons in this year's competition (details to follow in the next edition) and the Best of Show ribbons were awarded to:

Best of Show in the Honey Competition was awarded to Tim Huffman of 5 County beekeepers Association for his entry in Creamed Honey.

Best of Show in the Wax & Cooking with Honey Category was awarded to Christina Henthorn of Granville County Beekeepers Association for her craft entry of a beautiful vase of beeswax flowers.

Plans for next year's Honey show in East Flat Rock are already in the works and it promises to be bigger and better than ever. So, start getting ready. What can you enter to gain bragging rights with your honey or wax creations?



## First Place in Candy and Snacks

Winner: Mark Case

Honey Candied Jalapeno Slices (AKA Cowboy Candy)

Ingredients:

- 1 pound of sliced jalapeno peppers
- 1 pound sliced sweet banana peppers
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup honey
- 1 cup apple cider vinegar
- ½ teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon chili powder

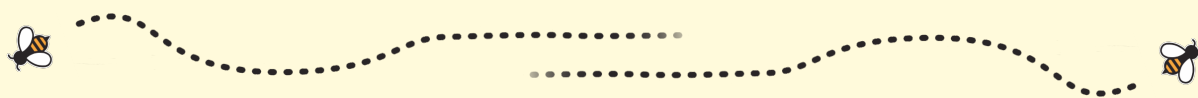
In a stock pot, combine vinegar, sugar, honey, spices and bring to a boil while stirring constantly. Reduce the heat and simmer until syrup thickens (about 5 min). Add the sliced peppers and stir until they are evenly coated. Bring to a boil one more time then reduce to a simmer for 5 min. Transfer slices to sterilized jars and add syrup to within ½ inch of the top. Water bath can for 15 min.







Photo: Julia Kopacz



**YUM!** There were almost 50 honeys to try in the newly formatted Discover the Goodness Beekeepers Choice, Summer Conference Honey Tasting Contest. Winners in all 3 regions took home a 2 year subscription for the Certified Honey Program (if they qualified) AND a roll of CHP labels. Winners are as follows:

**Coastal Region:**

- 1st - John Converse of Johnston Co Beekeepers Association, Wildflower Honey
- 2nd - Shirley Harris of Montgomery, Wildflower Honey
- 3rd - Alyssa Chowdhury of Rockingham, Wildflower Honey

**Piedmont:**

- 1st - Dave White of Catawba County Beekeepers, Wildflower/Blackberry Honey
- 2nd - David Conrad of Lincoln County, Blackberry Honey
- 3rd - Doug Vinson of Catawba County Beekeepers, Blackberry Honey

**Mountain:**

- 1st - John Savage of Henderson County, Sourwood Honey
- 2nd - Lyne Vendely of Madison County, Appalachia Forest Honey
- 3rd - Mark Case of Randolph County, Sourwood Honey

The GRAND PRIZE winner, John Savage also took home a prize pack of NCSBA gear from Winks Design Studio.

We learned a few things and will be making some tweaks to the contest, but we hope you will join us next summer!



Thank you to Carolina Bee Farm for bringing bees to the NCSBA summer conference! These colonies supported the Born and Bred grafting workshop.





# Beez Needz



## Now Supplying All Of Your Beekeeping Needs As The One-Stop Source For Beginners To Professionals!



Visit our exciting new gift shop stocked with a wide variety of premium gift items for those special friends and family.



From our own handcrafted woodenware to tools, extraction equipment, protective clothing, foundation, glassware and more ... if you need it for your beekeeping, we have it!

*Dedicated to serving our customers and saving our bees.*

ITALIAN QUEENS,  
PACKAGE BEES & NUC'S

# Beez Needz

FAMILY OWNED  
AND OPERATED

3662 Edgar Road | Sophia, NC 27350 | 336.431.2339

[beezneedz.com](http://beezneedz.com) | [facebook.com/beezneedz/](https://facebook.com/beezneedz/)



# It's Fair Season!

It's fair season! Beekeepers, please consider participating in a Bees and Honey competition at a regional, local, or statewide fair this fall. Be sure to check individual fair websites for entry deadlines and rules. Don't miss out! It's a fun way to honor the bees and highlight your hard work as a beekeeper or support your local NCSBA chapter by helping with club displays.

**The N.C. State Fair: Oct. 13-23, 2022, Raleigh, NC**

**Carolina Classic Fair: Sept. 30-Oct. 9, 2022**

**The NC Mountain State Fair: Sept. 9-18, 2022**



<https://www.ncstatefair.org>



<https://www.wncagcenter.org/p/mountainstatefair>



<https://carolinaclassicfair.com>



We carry all of your beekeeping essentials:  
woodenware, tools, protective gear,  
queen rearing supplies & everything needed  
to extract & bottle your own honey.  
We also sell bees!

**737 Irish Potato Road Concord, NC 28025 (704) 784-0101**

Email Us at: [BeeSupply@carolinanc.com](mailto:BeeSupply@carolinanc.com) 

*Serving Cabarrus and the surrounding counties since 2002*

**HONESTY \* INTEGRITY \* QUALITY**



**ALL BEEKEEPERS WELCOME!**

# **BEEKEEPER NIGHT @ THE MOVIES & potluck**

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 6**

**5 pm Beekeeper Potluck**

**630 Meet a Beekeeper**

**(gates open to the public)**

**730 MOVIE - TBD**



Bee clubs are encouraged  
to set up an education/  
promotional booth!

RSVP (optional) & for more info:  
[granvillecobeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:granvillecobeekeepers@gmail.com)

HOSTED BY THE GRANVILLE &  
KERR-TAR BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATIONS

## Union County Hosts "Bee Palooza"

Union County Beekeepers hosted their first ever "Bee Palooza" networking event on November 15th, 2021. The one-night event was a huge success with over 283 attendees, five major bee vendors, state apiary inspectors and a presentation from the Hidden Meadows 4-H Beekeeping Club.



The event created interest and community support for Union County beekeepers and surrounding areas which provided a forum for trading ideas, learning, self-taught lessons, good and bad for beekeeping. Resultant of this event, Union County Beekeepers enrolled 50 new interested people for their spring beekeeping class.



Educational and informational displays were presented by Queen City Bee, Miller Bee Supply, Albemarle Bee Company, Honeystrong, North Carolina

State Apiary Inspectors, Bridget Gross and Nancy Ruppert (retired), and Hidden Meadows Beekeeping 4-H Club. There were door prizes and giveaways through the event.

Because of the success of Bee Palooza, it will be held annually and expanded to include a silent auction, food trucks, a professional honey judging contest, honey tasting, and a keynote speaker.

This year's food trucks are going to taste amazing! We have Cousins Main Lobster Truck of Charlotte and 100 Main BBQ of Indian Trail.

This year's keynote speaker will be Laurie Hamin PHD Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology NC State University. She will present on enlighten look at what a grocery store would be without pollinators.

We look forward to seeing you in November!

Registration: To register for this event, please get your tickets on our website [ucncbeekeepers.org](http://ucncbeekeepers.org). Preregistration is discounted to \$5 until September 30th.

Vendors: If you are a vendor and would like to participate, please contact us at [ucncbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:ucncbeekeepers@gmail.com).

Honey Tasting and Judging must submit an 8oz container of Honey before or by 6 pm the night of the event.

Junior Beekeepers: Please submit your contact information and a brief statement why you like beekeeping to us at [ucncbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:ucncbeekeepers@gmail.com). One lucky junior beekeeper will be selected to display their products at the Bee Palooza!





UNION COUNTY  
BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



# 2ND ANNUAL Bee Palooza NOV 7, 2022

UCNCBEEKEEPERS.ORG

## Events

Honey Judging

Honey Tasting

50/50 Raffle

Giveaways

Food Trucks

Guest Speaker

Door Prizes

Bee School



Cousins  
Maine Lobster



**NC** COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION



N.C. Cooperative Extension prohibits discrimination and harassment regardless of age, color, disability, family and marital status, gender identity, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation and veteran status. NC State University, N.C. A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and local governments cooperating. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by October 24 to Aaron Moore 704-283-3743



# NCSU Bee Lab Update:

## Design Firm Chosen For New Bee Lab

by Charles Heatherly NCSBA Legislative Committee



**The design firm** biloba Architecture of Charlotte has been chosen to design the new NCSU Honey Bee Lab. It will be a modern 7,200 square foot facility at the Lake Wheeler Campus on Inwood Road near the existing lab, prior to its condemnation.

The announcement was made by Melissa Diamond, Design Project Manager for the NCSU Facilities Division. Construction is projected to be complete by the Fall of 2024.

"biloba Architecture is "abuzz" to have been selected to design the new Apiculture Facility at NC State," said Ian Patrick, a principal of the firm. "This project is an important step in protecting and preserving honey bees and other pollinators from devastating mites and other threats. We're also delighted that part of the building is dedicated to a community outreach component. Amateur and professional apiculturists alike contribute enormously to local pollinator populations and are some of the nicest and most interesting people we have had the pleasure to work with. We look forward to working with NC State and the greater beekeeping community to create a building worthy of this important scientific and community-oriented work."

The biloba firm was chosen, in part, for its work on a recent design of the Plant & Pollinator Center at UNC Greensboro. That facility is awaiting funding for construction.

The following note on the firm's website, explains its name. "biloba is named after the ginkgo biloba tree, thought to be extinct until it was found growing in ancient monasteries. The bi-lobed leaf of the ginkgo represents the husband-and-wife team (Ian and Erin Patrick) who founded biloba."

"Architecture is an ancient practice among humans and we strive to discover new ways of thinking about architecture and how it impacts individuals and groups. The goal is to find the spark in every project that enhances people's lives."

Funding for the new honey bee lab at NCSU has been a priority of the North Carolina State Beekeepers for the past seven years. We are happy to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

More information will be provided on the project as it becomes available.



### ***Tired of dealing with hobby bee brokers?***

**Buy bees directly from professional beekeepers**

- Buy 1 Nuc or 500+ Nucs with established/proven queens
- Custom made package bees available
- NC State inspected / certified
- Pick up at farm headquarters in Mebane, NC



Lee's Bees, Inc.  
1818 Saddle Club Rd.  
Mebane, NC 27302

jeffreyRlee@yahoo.com  
Call Jeff at 919-304-3669 with questions  
Order form available on <http://leesbees.org>



TREAT DURING THE SPRING SEASON FOR  
**45% HIGHER**  
HONEY YIELDS\*



## FUMIDIL-B

### NOSEMA PREVENTATIVE & TREATMENT

- Only registered treatment for Nosema
- Promotes healthy bee packages for thriving colonies
- Helps control infection rate in winterized colonies



\*Package colonies treated with Fumidil-B produced 45% more honey than untreated colonies over a thirteen-year study. Moeller, F. E. 1978. Nosema Disease—its Control in Honey Bee Colonies. U.S. Department of Agriculture Technical Bulletin No 1569.

TREAT DURING THE FALL SEASON FOR  
**INCREASED SURVIVAL RATES**

*Stronger & Healthier Hives*

HIGHEST PROTEIN CONTENT AVAILABLE



- Produces results statistically equivalent to natural pollen (American Bee Journal 2014)
- Increased brood production
- Promotes healthier and stronger bees
- Beneficial vitamins, minerals, and fats
- No animal byproducts



THOUSANDS  
of products



EXCLUSIVE  
online sales



**MANN LAKE**  
MANNLAKELTD.COM

800-880-7694



SIX RETAIL  
locations



CUSTOMER SERVICE  
for all your needs





North Carolina State Beekeepers Association  
PO Box 99  
Hurdle Mills, NC 27541

Non-Profit Org.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
ABERDEEN, SD  
PERMIT NO. 123



*Photo: Christina Wuerker*