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The Official Magazine of the NCSBA



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Fall 2023



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North Carolina Bee Buzz

Fall 2023



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North Carolina State Beekeepers Association

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NCSBA Summer Meeting 2023



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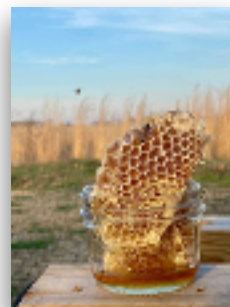
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On the Cover:
Photo: Jillian Keegan

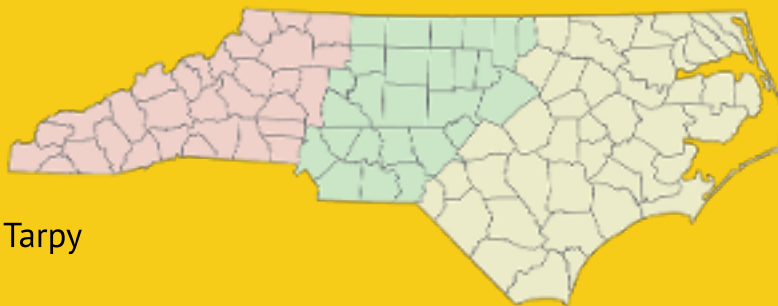
North Carolina State Beekeepers Association



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

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From the *Bee Buzz* Editors:

Bee Buzz Story Submission Deadlines: Spring : Jan 14 - 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: Rick Coor, NCSBA President

The conception and funding of the new apiculture research facility at NC State will forever be known as a landmark achievement of the NCSBA.

To write this message I took a moment to recollect the feeling that I had the first time I visited the NC Zoo; it was a sense of pride and ownership. There were hundreds if not thousands of citizens of NC that might have also had that same feeling.

I was a kid in the 70's when the statewide initiative to build the NC Zoo was undertaken. Part of the initiative was to raise funds to complement the funds that the General Assembly had appropriated. I was not connected to any of the big donors or state leaders of the day but instead I was one of an untold number of school children who had "joined the zoo"; that is, contributed to the NC Zoological Society through their fundraising initiative. I was too young at the time to know or remember how much money was raised in total; I only knew that \$20 of the money had been contributed by me. As I walked through the turnstiles, I realized that through my support I had become part of something bigger than myself: a zoological park that would benefit the citizens of NC and bring awareness for our environment and the animals that inhabit it.

Years later as an adult I had the opportunity to visit the NC Zoo again, this time to tour the Honey Bee Garden, an exhibit that had been envisioned and funded by the beekeepers of the NCSBA. There again was that sense of pride and ownership, knowing that I had been one of the beekeepers who made the Honey Bee Garden a reality; an exhibit that has since been visited by over one million people. During the NCSBA fundraising for the exhibit from 2005 to 2008, I was a member of the Coastal Plains Beekeepers. Led by the late Irvin Rackley, the chapter of 40 members raised a total of \$10,630.70, more than any other single chapter. We held raffles, 50/50 drawings and community honey bee days. It was part of an association-wide fundraising campaign that raised \$280,000. I was proud to be a part of something that would bring public awareness for the honey bee, the importance of which may not have been fully envisioned at the time.

Slowly but surely the day is coming that the beekeepers are going to be able to walk through the front doors of the new apiculture research facility at NC State and behold an accomplishment that is theirs; a University facility constructed specifically for apiculture research and extension. The beekeepers of the NCSBA should rightfully feel a sense of pride and ownership; I am that certain that I will. But the building is only a building. To ensure that an apiculture research program remains at NC State for perpetuity the NCSBA has embarked on an initiative to fund an endowed professorship. Thus far the initiative has gone very well with over \$521,000 in donations and pledges. Our goal of \$667,000 is within reach but we are not there yet. Going forward, we can work together to support the apiculture program and establish the endowment, forever making our mark in the history of the NCSBA, at NC State University, and as one of the leading beekeeping associations of the USA.

The new apiculture research facility and the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association Distinguished Professorship in Apiculture will be the most historic accomplishments ever of the NCSBA, the importance of which may not be fully envisioned at this time.

Read the latest news about the apiculture facility in Dr. David Tarpy's column in this issue



It's Fair time! Support North Carolina Beekeeping by volunteering or entering honey or bee-related competitions in regional or local fairs.

The NC Mountain State Fair

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BeeFeeders

North Carolina Pollinator Plants

by: Ulana Stuart, NC State Extension Master Gardener Volunteer

Fall is a good time to take stock

and think about what you can plant to provide more nectar and pollen-producing bee plants while the current feeding season is still fresh in your mind. If you can, consider planting trees and/or bushes which use vertical space to produce more blooms that can provide increased amounts of pollen and nectar for your bees. Trees and bushes are a long-term investment so you need to take stock of your garden growing conditions (full sun, shade, very wet, very dry, etc.) in order to choose the tree and/or shrub that will grow successfully in your garden space. The right amount of sun exposure and soil drainage have a strong effect on nectar and pollen production.

I have mentioned before in this column that fall is the ideal shrub and tree planting time in North Carolina as their roots continue to grow all through winter. Your new plant installation will have a higher chance of success if you plant this time of year with the cooler temperatures and more consistent rainfall of the season.

quarter inch white flowers appear in late spring to early summer and are often overlooked by gardeners. These small flowers are readily visited by honey bees and other insect pollinators looking for the high amount of nectar and a good amount of pollen. Coralberries can be recognized by their showy reddish-purple berries which will be consumed by birds and wildlife throughout winter.



Photo: Andreas Rockstein

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) is a deciduous, native hardwood tree that grows in forests, old fields, bottomlands, and roadsides throughout North Carolina. It can tolerate a lot of growing conditions except shade and wet soil. Tree size is 60 to 80 feet tall and 30 to 60 feet wide or alternatively, it can be kept at shrub size by pruning it back to the ground every 2-3 years. The lustrous leaves are 2 to 6 inch long and emerge early, turning a beautiful shade of red in autumn. The small but showy, white flowers emerge in spring and hang together in racemes that are 6 inches long and bloom for 5 to 8 days. The flowers produce both pollen and nectar in equal amounts. The pollen pellets are brownish. The fruits are dark red-purple, juicy quarter inch "cherries" that ripen in the summer and are very attractive to birds. The young tree bark is shiny while mature trees develop an interesting "potato chip" bark. Deer do not browse Black Cherry and it is fire resistant.

Washington Hawthorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*) is a small deciduous, native tree found throughout North Carolina. It can be found growing wild in moist woods, abandoned fields and clearings. It grows best in full sun but will grow in part shade producing less flowers and fruit. Washington Hawthorn thrives in well-drained,



Photo: Cillas

Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)

Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*) is a native, deciduous, or semi evergreen (depending on location) shrub that looks great in informal naturalized areas. The bush size ranges from 2-4 foot tall by 4-8 foot wide and can be grown throughout North Carolina as an ornamental. It thrives in full to part sun and likes moist but fairly well drained soil. Coralberry spreads by rhizomes to form a somewhat scattered colony but this can be controlled by removing the rhizomes. The

moist to dry soils. It can grow to 25-30 feet in height and 20-25 feet in width. It has a nice oval silhouette, excellent disease resistance and a wonderful crop of large, edible, red fruits that feed both birds and wildlife. The fruit is often called the haw.

The small white flowers bloom in clusters in late spring for 7 to 10 days and can have an unpleasant odor. Most importantly, they produce large amounts of pollen and nectar. The pollen pellets are cream colored. The leaves are three lobed and there are long thorns in the branches. Washington hawthorn is highly resistant to deer, drought, and fire.

For more information on gardening use the North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox at plants.ces.ncsu.edu



Photo: FD Richards

Washington Hawthorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*)

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In the Apiary: Fall 2023

by Shirley Harris Apiary Inspector, NCDA&CS
and Dr. Josée Bourget Keeper of Bees



Beekeeping is definitely a form of art; a craft that can only be mastered with consistent practice no matter the weather conditions one faces. Caring for bees in North Carolina can be quite miserable once the thermometer registers over 100°F, with high humidity and UV indexes. It becomes a labor of love. By the time the Bee Buzz Fall Edition arrives in our mailboxes, the difference between colonies located in the yards of *bee-keepers* and those of *bee-gazers* will unfortunately be substantial. So much so that it is a matter of life or death for some colonies. There is indeed a great deal of science to help us “bee” good apiarists. Much of the care we provide our colonies demands tremendous attention to details, adjustments throughout the year, and an overarching desire to do right by the creatures for which we decided to become stewards. The bees are extremely forgiving of the “fifty ways” to do things, but only to a point.

In spite of the drastic see-saw spring temperatures afforded us this year, which brought on early brooding, we mostly missed the usual frost that ends the nectar flow early. Instead, a premature dearth terminated spring honey production, with the exception of marsh and lake surrounded areas. Some beekeepers report that bees refused to cap their honey, making managing for honey moisture a bit more challenging this season. If you ended up having a lot of uncapped honey to extract, a refractometer certainly came in handy. Hopefully by now your honey harvest is near completion and you’ve secured a few jars for your State Fair entry.

Tell-tales of summer are obvious in the apiary once nectar flow is over. Robbing begins, wax drawing stops, colonies become temperamental, and your bird baths are covered with cistern bees provided you consistently replenish their water. The buzzing ladies are definitely eager to help you clean up honey extracting equipment and wet comb if you give them the opportunity. If you feed your bees in-hive or in community, the rate of sugar: water consumption becomes more outrageous as the summer edges on, and vegetation dries faster and faster.

Fall beekeeping activities can vary quite a bit. By the end of September, winter bees have begun eclosing, and your colonies are well into their winter provisioning routine, with egg laying decidedly slowing down. Drones are also hard to come by, so a swarming

event would be highly problematic. Our responsibility as beekeepers is to systematically support the bees in their life cycle, so that the superorganism can be self-sustaining until the next spring, when Nature’s resources are bountiful again. There is no dress rehearsal for this. It is never too late to act if you find a colony or two in a proverbial pickle. The tactics become more advanced and newbees can greatly benefit from more experienced beekeepers when challenges present. Reaching out to a mentor or a veteran keeper to help make those hard decisions can mean the difference between having colonies make it through winter or finding dead ones. Bees found head-buried in comb or piled on the bottom board is always a disheartening sight.

Though there are “Fifty ways to achieve goals” in beekeeping, there are indeed only a few principles to which we must abide to ensure colony survival. Spring is undeniably the most forgiving season. But for successful overwintering, beekeepers must regularly assist the bees to achieve balance among a few very crucial factors. This balance is better known as homeostasis for us apiarists. The interventions necessary to achieve homeostasis are unique to every hive but positively vital, critically so prior to winter.

1. “Enough Food” means at least 60lbs of honey. That is the equivalent of 8 deep frames at 7.5lbs each; in other words, fully stocked. If the shortage is caught early enough, one can help the bees make up the difference with 2:1 sugar: water in the fall, and 1:1 during the summer. It is recommended to supplement with candy board or fondant when temperatures drop below 50°F. Though far from ideal, some beekeepers give straight sugar in dire situations to save their bees. The best food for our bees is the honey for which they make millions of foraging trips. Consider the superorganism’s needs. There’s a reason we can’t sell honey made from sugar water. The minerals and other nutrients that make honey so healthy for us are also good the bees. Honey is a precious gift. Think about it: 1/8 of a teaspoon over a 45-day lifetime! The bees deserve a healthy share!

2. “Enough Bees” means that your cluster is big enough to keep warm with the food reserves available. Technically, the nest is empty by the middle of winter. The cluster will move about the hive in quest of food to generate that much needed heat, as bees take turns

on the mid-55° to 60°F mantle in survival mode. When colonies are deemed too weak to overwinter, combining hives is a good way to boost them. But beekeepers beware! Though you could be lucky, combining two weak colonies usually leads to a dead colony anyway. It's best to fold weak colonies into a strong one.

3. “Low Enough Pest Pressure” is also a critical factor. Unhealthy bees, even if numerous, would be unable to keep the cluster warm enough; not to mention hindered as they try to move about the frames to locate the food necessary to do the job. The critical task of keeping the mite count low enough was never an issue before 1987, but it is now a year-round concern. Keeping the mite load under control requires preemptive consideration to keep disease at bay, especially once bee population naturally begins to decline. Be sure to assess your mite load post treatment as well. Failed treatments do happen for a number of reasons. The Varroa Management Decision Tool by honeybeehealthcoalition.org is a fantastic resource to assist beekeepers with this task. Numerous videos demonstrate how to test for mites and how to use the various products. Other videos about alternative control methods are also available.

Hive beetles should also be on our radar, as population strength of colonies naturally diminishes. The bees that would normally usher beetles into the corners of the hive are now fewer. This is another good reason to ensure our colonies are strong going into late fall.

sure to consult with seasoned beekeepers about the “fifty ways” with which one might mitigate this issue.

Another less talked about concern is the number of hive visits by the beekeeper when the weather drops below 60°F. Bees spend an enormous number of resources propolizing their home to prevent drafts and other critters from coming in. Fig. 1. Beekeepers must break the propolis seal to inspect inside the hive. If you must inspect a colony, consider taping the joint between hive bodies afterward. Let the weather guide your decision. Though bees are resilient, every little bit we do to help bees conserve energy contributes to their survival on their tiny bee scale.

Here is a diagram to help illustrate the points listed above. If at least one of the elements fails, the colony collapses.

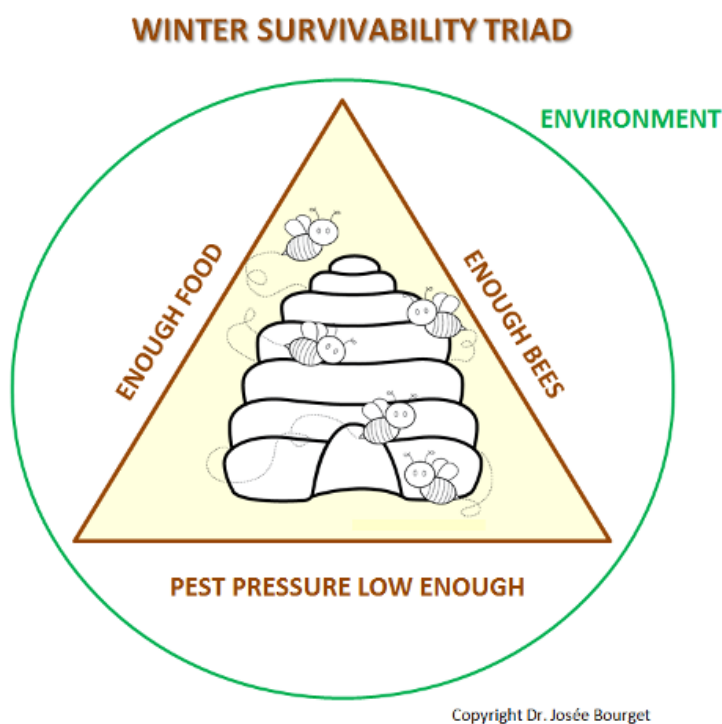


Figure 2

Congratulate yourself on being a caring beekeeper if reading this article gave you room for pause. There might be steps you missed or forgot, but no doubt most of your beekeeping interventions were in line with good apiary practices as well. Veteran beekeepers may also have thought of something we've missed. If you have all the bases covered, perhaps entertain helping less-experienced beekeepers achieve the same success. There is still plenty of time to double and triple check everything, ask questions of mentors, or bring up concerns at your bee club meetings. Beekeeping is a team sport, in case you have not noticed.

May your bees all spring out in 2024!

Photo: Dr Josée Bourget



Figure 1: Propolis Collector

4. Last but not least, the “Environment” is also critically important. Though not talked about much, chilled bees are indeed as good as dead. Dripping condensation inside the hive is a real concern. Too much moisture is as fatal to a colony as diseased bees. With no chance of climbing back up into the cluster to warm up and dry up, chilled bees die, thereby affecting cluster size over the course of our 3-month winter. Be

Master Beekeeper Program:

Prestigious Achievement Awards Free for the Asking?

by Randall Austin MBP Co-Chair



I've been getting email spam lately from some folks in Europe who are offering honey competition awards, for a price. It doesn't seem like any actual honey is involved – that isn't really the point. But for a few bucks, wouldn't it be great to get a nice ribbon to hang on the wall and have my friends pat me on the back for achieving an international award? I wouldn't have to tell them that for a little more money I could have gotten a "best in show" ribbon, but "grand champion" seemed to be a good balance between cost and bling.

If such hollow aggrandizement motivates you, I'm afraid that the NCSBA Master Beekeeper Program will be a disappointment. We do have nice certificates suitable for framing, but all of our testing and awards are zero monetary cost. We don't sell awards. They are earned by the participants in the program. They are earned with public service, lots of studying and the demonstration of competence.

I recently had someone tell me that our public service requirements are unrealistically demanding. He said he lives in a rural area and doesn't have opportunities for performing service. Or was it an urban area? Or suburban? I can imagine that anyone in any area can spin a sad tale about no one in the surrounding communities being curious about honey bees. Isn't it interesting, though, that in the particular part of the state where this person lives there are a dozen or so beekeepers who are Journeyman or Master level in the MBP? And there are schools, county fairs, beekeeper chapters, garden clubs, prisons, Ruritan groups and other ready-made audiences all over the area? The only reason I can think of to say "there aren't opportunities to serve" would be that there are so many beekeepers serving so often in so many places that the demand is fully satisfied. Is that the case where you live? If so, why don't you strive to be such a good Bee Ambassador so that folks come to you first for knowledge, expertise and sharing? Or even better, team up with the other guys and give the audience an over-the-top experience!

It may not seem like it at times, but the MBP Committee is devoted to getting people in, not keeping them out. For example, at the Journeyman level we insist that candidates know the difference between trophallaxis and Tropilaelaps (for our bees, the distinction is literally a matter of life or death), but we

aren't going to fail anyone for goofing up the spelling. We are looking for people who can, and will, represent the beekeeping community by sharing accurate information and best practices, and we believe in being flexible as we bring new people into the MBP fold. One of the ways we've done so in the past year is to give read-aloud tests to dyslexic test-takers at both the Certified and Journeyman levels, with very successful results. Someone's reading skill needn't be a criterion for being a NCSBA Bee Ambassador. If you disagree, familiarize yourself with the contributions to beekeeping made by François Huber and then we can discuss the matter.



Another complaint we get stems from people looking at the list of public service credits and sub-specialty categories and going away in despair because they cannot meet a strict, literal interpretation of them. The items listed on the NCSBA website are common examples, not an exhaustive list. They reflect the types of activities that we expect from someone who has said that they want to share honey bees and beekeeping under the tacit endorsement of the NCSBA. They are the kinds of things that hundreds of other beekeepers have already done and are doing every day. But they aren't the only things imaginable. For example, one category mentions appearing on a radio or TV show in the role of a beekeeping authority. We had a candidate ask if being interviewed on a widely-distributed podcast would count. After determining that the podcast was legitimate, not just a teenaged kid posting stuff for his school friends, we agreed that yes, for our purposes, that type of activity is no different than a radio broadcast.

Is it extremely challenging to advance in the NCSBA Master Beekeeper Program? I sure hope so, because when I proudly point to my own Certified, Journeyman and Master certificates hanging on my wall, I don't want people to snicker behind my back and say that my achievements were free for the asking. I know that I earned mine with a lot of dedication and hard work. That's how you can earn yours too. And the Master Beekeeper Program Committee is here to help you do that.



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Wolfpack's Waggle: BUILDING A BUILDING: STEP 4—GETTING INTO THE WEEDS

by Dr. David Tarpy NC State Extension Apiculturist



NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
APICULTURE PROGRAM

In our last column, we were talking about getting into the specifics of the building design, going room by room and selecting the exact layout and placement of its contents. Well, now we're really getting into the weeds!

While biloba architecture and the rest of their team is finalizing the drawings and renderings of the building itself, the team in the NC State Facilities Division has been busy in other, complementary ways. Not only have they been working on the security, internet, housekeeping, parking, and septic components of the facility, they have come up with a preliminary plan for the landscaping in and around the structure. And what a plan it is...

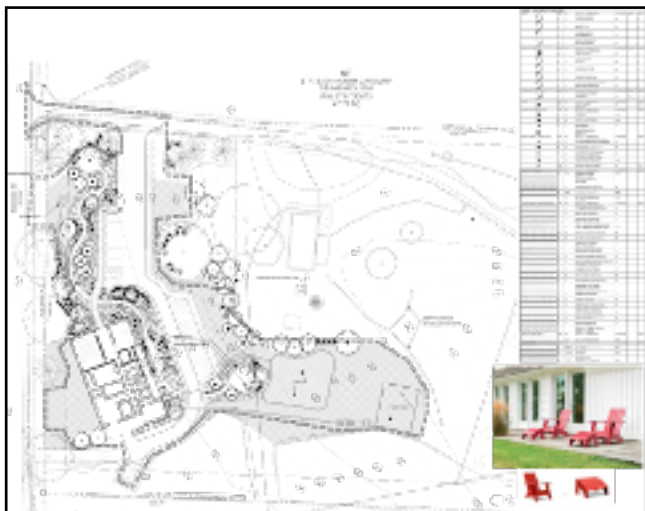


Figure 1: The proposed landscape design for the new NC State Apiculture field lab on the Lake Wheeler Research Farm complex. The plan is to have a mulched winding path that runs in front of and adjacent to the building (lower left), connecting two circular seating areas with Adirondack chairs for communing and reflection. While too small to read, the table on the upper right lists the various pollinator plants proposed in the design, informed by our excellent horticulturists who are experts in bee plants.

While only a preliminary landscape design (Figure 1), the idea is to complement the apiculture facility with pollinator gardens and bee-friendly plants surrounding the structure itself. We are incredibly fortunate at NC State to have an entire Department of Horticulture, as well as many Cooperative Extension agents with a focus on horticulture. Specifically, Drs. Danesha Seth Carley and Anne Spafford recently published an excellent book on planting for pollinators, "Pollinator Gardening for the South: Creating Sustainable

Habitats": <https://tinyurl.com/ncpollinatorbook>

This book is a must-have for landscapers and gardeners who wish to design their yards with bees in mind, as it takes a comprehensive view on the conception and implementation of pollinator gardens. Furthermore, for all things dealing with native bee plants, I would encourage you to explore Debbie Roos' excellent pollinator garden website at:

<https://tinyurl.com/growingsmallfarms>

As a horticulture extension agent (and NCSBA Extension Agent of the Year in 2019), she's my go-to resource for native plants especially those that attract native bees and other pollinators (Figure 2). Her pollinator garden is to die for, so if you have never been to Chatham County to see it you really need to book one of her popular pollinator tours.



Figure 2: Example pollinator garden representative of the proposed landscaping in and around our new apiculture facility.

Because of these and other excellent resources (let's not forget the JC Raulston Arboretum!), I fully admit that one of my professional failings is that I don't really know my bee plants precisely because I can rely on such excellent colleagues (and because I'm a notoriously bad memorizer, where I can't even remember my own phone number). Nonetheless, we very much look forward to working with our horticulture colleagues to make the site of the new NC State Apiculture Research & Extension Facility a reflection of not just our program but the entire College of Agriculture & Life Sciences.

One of the biggest challenges that we are going to have, is a plan for continued support and upkeep. It is one thing to develop a model pollinator garden, but it is an entirely different thing to keep it from falling into disarray and allowing the weeds to take over. Any

gardener knows that maintenance can be hard work, persistence, and cooperation. Therefore, we hope to liaise with Master Gardeners or other groups to develop a comprehensive plan for oversight, so keep posted for further developments as we develop the landscape around the new building.

Again, we thank the NCSBA and everyone who have worked behind the scenes to make this happen, and we will all be excited to see the final structure up and running!



David R. Tarpy

NC State Extension Apiculturist

Department of Applied Ecology

<https://ncsuapiculture.net>

NCSU Bee Lab Update

by Charles Heatherly

Progress is being made on plans for a new bee lab at NC State University. Here is a preliminary rendering of what the 7,200 square foot facility at the Lake Wheeler Campus on Inwood Road, south of Raleigh may look like. The design is by biloba Architecture of Charlotte. Construction bids are scheduled to be let early next year.

Funding for the project was a high priority by the NC State Beekeepers Association. Two years ago, the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$4 million for the project.



South Elevation



Meeting Room



East Elevation



Floorplan

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NCSBA 2023 Meeting Photo Highlights



Thanks to Jennifer Welsh and Lane Kreitlow For Photo Contributions



North Carolina State Beekeepers Association

2023 Summer Honey Show



Best in Show – Chris Herrmann
Sweepstakes Award – Joann Gabryszak



Black Jar Winners
1st Place – Michelle Jarbeau
2nd Place – Colin Coor
3rd Place – Phil Crump



Total Exhibitors – 72 with 236 entries
Total Youth Exhibitors – 2 with 3 entries

Winners

Class	Place	Name
Light Extracted Honey	1 st	James Blye
	2 nd	Phil Uptmor
Amber Extracted Honey	2 nd	Phil Uptmor
	3 rd	Holly Cunningham
Dark Extracted Honey	2 nd	Wade Turner
	3 rd	Mark Case
Creamed Honey	3 rd	Michelle Mejia
Creamed Honey (Flavored)	3 rd	Deborah Griffith
Cut and Section Comb Honey	2 nd	Michelle Maust
Full Frame Comb Honey	2 nd	James Blye
1-2 Lb. Beeswax Block	1 st	Matthew Booth
	3 rd	Joann Gabryszak
Beeswax Bars	2 nd	Michelle Maust
Beeswax Figurines	1 st	Michelle Maust
	2 nd	Cindy Blye
	3 rd	Kelly Gillotti
Candles – Molded Ornamental	1 st	Michelle Maust
	2 nd	Cindy Blye
Candles – Floating	2 nd	Cindy Blye
	3 rd	Joann Gabryszak
Sweet Meads	3 rd	Scott Garrison
Dry Meads	2 nd	Tim Huffman
Varietal Meads	2 nd	Lori Hawkins
	3 rd	Tim Huffman
Honey Beverages	2 nd	Kelly Gillotti
	3 rd	Lisa Vogel
Honey Breads (Loaves)	2 nd	Brandon Simmons
	3 rd	Joann Gabryszak
Honey Cakes	2 nd	Wade Turner



North Carolina State Beekeepers Association

2023 Summer Honey Show



Winners

Class	Place	Name
Honey Cookies	1 st	Joann Gabryszak
	2 nd	Dawn Rogers
	3 rd	Stacie Hagwood
Honey Bars and Brownies	2 nd	Jill Perkins
	3 rd	Joann Gabryszak
Honey Confections	1 st	Joann Gabryszak
	2 nd	Jill Perkins
Honey Jams and Jellies	2 nd	Jill Perkins
	3 rd	Lesa Pierce
Honey Preserves and Pickles	1 st	Dawn Rogers
	2 nd	Lisa Vogel
	3 rd	Kelly Gillotti
Honey Condiments (non-spicy)	2 nd	Joann Gabryszak
	3 rd	Chris Herrmann
Honey Condiments (spicy)	2 nd	Lesa Pierce
	3 rd	Sarah Peters
Artwork	2 nd	Brandon Simmons
	3 rd	Myra Halpin
Crafts	2 nd	Michelle Andrews
	3 rd	Cathy Peerless
Needlecraft	2 nd	Rubin Nelson
	3 rd	Myra Halpin
Woodcraft	2 nd	Michael Fike
Lip Balms	1 st	Joann Gabryszak
	2 nd	James Blye
	3 rd	Mark Case
Soaps	1 st	Joann Gabryszak
	2 nd	Christina Henthorn
	3 rd	Mark Case
Notions, Potions, and Lotions	1 st	Joann Gabryszak
	2 nd	Cindy Blye
	3 rd	Michelle Maust
Photography (Open)	1 st	Jill Perkins
	2 nd	Michelle Maust
	3 rd	Sarah Peters
Photography (Black and White)	1 st	Jody Moore
	2 nd	Anna Schmitz
	3 rd	Michelle Maust
Poetry	2 nd	Elizabeth Rovens
	3 rd	Mark Case
Honey Jar Label	1 st	Phillip Raynor
	2 nd	Dawn Rogers
	3 rd	Greg Wineberger



North Carolina State Beekeepers Association 2023 Summer Honey Show



Winners

Class	Place	Name
Beekeeping Antiquities	1 st	Chris Henthorn
	2 nd	Sarah Peters
	3 rd	Colin Coor
Gift Basket	1 st	Chris Herrmann
	2 nd	Joann Gabryszak
	3 rd	Michelle Maust

Youth Division Winners

Class	Place	Name
Amber Extracted Honey	3 rd	Lucy Raynor
Artwork	1 st	Alice Weaver
Crafts	2 nd	Alice Weaver

American Honey Show Training Council Team

Presiding Judge – Steve Genta

Senior Judge – Mary-Cahill Roberts

Judge – Nancy Simpson

Judge - Sheryl Brousseau

Secretaries – Robin Cahill-Roberts
Lesa Pierce

Stewards - Henry Campbell
Pat Roe
Jim Roe

Congratulations



2023 NCSBA Annual Awards



NCSBA Distinguished Service Award **Adolphus Leonard**

Congratulations to Adolphus Leonard, winner of the 2023 NCSBA Distinguished Service Award! Adolphus has been an NCDA&CS apiary inspector for 30 years, and a beekeeper for 50 years. He has an interest in queen breeding and stock improvement.

Congratulations



NCSBA Beekeeper of the Year Award **Eric Talley**

Congratulations to Eric Talley, the 2023 NCSBA Beekeeper of the Year! Eric is a North Carolina State Beekeepers Association Master Craftsman Beekeeper who lives and raises honey bees on the coast. Eric started beekeeping in 1973 as a Future Farmers of America project. Four years later he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and didn't keep bees for the next 30 years. Eric got the bug back and started keeping honey bees again in March 2008. He raises nucs and VSH queens during the summer for his use and sale to other beekeepers in the area



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New Hanover County Beekeepers and Hives Find a Home

by: Susan Warwick, NHCBA past president & Holly Cunningham, NHCBA Vice President

After many years of entertaining the idea of placing hives in a public venue, the New Hanover County Beekeepers Association (NHCBA) finally achieved this goal! In August 2022, two hives were relocated to their new home in the City of Wilmington North Carolina's Halyburton Park. This was a collaborative effort with the City of Wilmington, Halyburton Park, Boy Scouts, two local artists, the Tree Crew of City of Wilmington and the NHCBA.



Hives at Halyburton

Halyburton Park was a perfect fit for the NHCBA and our bees. Halyburton Park is a preserve of the natural habitat of southeastern NC. Live displays of turtles, snakes, and fish are in the event center. We worked together on the details of our relationship through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The details included the location and description of the apiary and the responsibilities of the city, park and the NHCBA. Once the details were approved by all parties involved, we began work on the next steps. We acquired donated bee supplies from Dadant, Bailey Bee Supply and Rossman. We approached two local artists to paint the hives with native area plants. The City of Wilmington tree crew was also involved in this effort. They discovered a colony in a dead tree that was scheduled to be cut down. They contacted the NHCBA about the bees, and together we developed a plan to rescue the colony.



Holly Cunningham and Susan Warwick pulling frames for the first Honey Harvest

The tree crew assisted in the hive removal. The bees and comb were preserved and scheduled to be transferred to Halyburton Park. Two Boy Scouts seeking their Eagle Scout were also involved in this project. They worked on the fence enclosure and the hive stand. The Scouts built a queen castle for the apiary. These Scouts achieved their Eagle Scout designation through their work on this project!



The ribbon cutting ceremony was attended by the City of Wilmington Mayor and City Council members, Halyburton Park staff, Boy Scouts, and members of the NHCBA.

Members of the NHCBA helped with ground cover, gravel, and staining the wood on the hive stand. The NHCBA obtained an insurance policy before moving the hives to the park.



Rusty Holt demonstrating the extraction process

With everything in place, the day finally arrived, and the hives were transported to the park on August 9, 2022. A ribbon cutting ceremony was scheduled for August 16, but due to the weather was rescheduled for September 12, 2022.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was attended by the City of Wilmington Mayor and City Council members, Halyburton Park staff, Boy Scouts, artists, community members and members of the NHCBA. After the ceremony there was a reception in the event center.



NHCBA members Diana Morgan and Samantha Werner pouring free honey to guest,

Unfortunately, one special member was absent. NHCBA Past President Tom Rhyne had planned to attend the first scheduled ribbon cutting. Sadly, he lost his battle with cancer before the September event. The NHCBA dedicated the apiary to Tom Rhyne in honor of his service to our club and his commitment to this project. A plaque naming the apiary, The Tom Rhyne Apiary at Halyburton Park, was installed.



Volunteers from the NHCBA 1st Honey Harvest at Halyburton Park. Left to right: Johnny Dickerson, Al DeForest, Susan Warwick, Holly Cunningham, Andy Fairbanks. Halyburton Park staff: Sandie Cecelski, Diana Morgan, Michael Jones, and Rusty Holt

On June 3, 2023, the NHCBA and Halyburton Park hosted a community celebration of the 1st honey harvest. Members of the community were able to experience the honey extraction process complete with honey bee educational materials and viewing bees through an observation hive. Children could dress up in bee suits, play with hive tools and unlit smokers. This made for great photo opportunities. Hopefully, one or more participants will become beekeepers! The experience was made complete by each family being able to take home free honey.



The NHCBA will be hosting future events that will help educate our community on the honey bee's importance. The NHCBA meets on the third Tuesday of each month, 7pm at Halyburton Park. The Bees and our members have enjoyed our relationship with Halyburton Park and appreciate the "home" they have provided to the NHCBA.

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Achieving Master Craftsman

by: Burton Beasley, NCSBA Master Craftsman

After reaching the pinnacle of the NCSBA Master Beekeeping Program (MBP) and achieving Master Craftsman, I am optimistic that others will follow suit and go for that next level. I am often asked about the difficulty and time involved to reach the level of Master or Master Craftsman. Many find it a daunting task while some simply get discouraged. Was it hard work? Sure! It is the culmination of many years of hard work and hours spent to reach a goal I set for myself. To me, the MBP is not and should not be a measure of one's beekeeping prowess vs another's. It is a personal milestone. I learned a lot along the way and grew as a beekeeper because of my involvement in the Program. I would like to thank the volunteers of our MBP committee for their efforts to keep this program top notch. It is a challenging pursuit to get to the top tier of the program but anything worth doing is certain to require a level of commitment, passion, and hard work. I would like to encourage others to take the leap and begin the process, as I feel it is a worthwhile journey.

For those of you unfamiliar with the MBP, Master Craftsman is comprised of four main parts: a pre-approved project with write-up, an oral exam with a panel of apiculture scientists or professionals, subspecialty credits, and service credit hours. One of the main cornerstones of the process is completing a lab project or field study that pertains to beekeeping. It is a learning experience and will challenge many of the preconceived notions the candidate may have regarding honey bee research. It is about the process and difficulty in doing lab or field research. There are so many unknown & unforeseen factors that can impact honey bee research. You really do learn a lot during this process and have a greater appreciation for efforts of those that conduct honey bee research.

For my project, I would like to thank Dr. Kasie Raymann, Megan Damico, Lexi Hoopman & the UNCG Biology Lab students/staff. Their hard work made this research project possible. Of course, many thanks to Dr. David Tarpy & the NCSU Apiculture Program for helping coordinate/liase/advise on the project. At this time, we are currently seeking publication of our findings from the project. As such, I have only included the abstract from the hopeful publication:

A need for stronger regulation: Commercially sold probiotics for honey bees do not live up to their claims.



Burton Beasley (R) receives Master Craftsman Award from Randall Austin at NCSBA Summer Meeting

Megan E. Damico¹, Burton Beasley², Drew Greenstein¹, & Kasie Raymann^{1,3}

Affiliations

1. Department of Biology, UNC-G
2. North Carolina State Beekeepers Association
3. Department of Plant and Microbial Biology, NCSU

Abstract

The use of antibiotics in apiculture is often a necessary practice to ensure the survival of honey bee colonies. However, beekeepers are faced with the persistent dilemma of needing to combat bacterial brood infections while knowing that antibiotics also kill bacteria that are important for bee health. In recent years, bee probiotics have become popularly purchased and used by beekeepers because of claims such as, being able to "replenish the microbes lost due to agricultural modifications of honey bees' environment" or "promote optimal gut health." Unfortunately, these products have little scientific evidence to support their efficacy, and previous in lab experiments have refuted some of their claims. Here we performed hive-level field experiments to test the effectiveness of SuperDFM-HoneyBee™, the most commonly purchased honey bee probiotic in the United States, on restoring the honey bee gut microbiome after antibiotic treatment (oxytetracycline). Our results showed that bees administered the probiotic after TerraPro treatment did not recover their microbiota any quicker than bees only given the antibiotic treatment. Moreover, the microorganisms in the probiotic supplement were never found in the guts of the worker bee samples, even during active treatment. Since probiotics are a dietary supplement, they are regulated as food and not held to the same standards as drugs. Hence, no data is needed to support claims made by a probiotic product, rather the product cannot refer to treatment, diagnosis, cure, or disease prevention. Based on our results, it is clear that policy changes are needed to protect honey bee health and consumers from spending money on ineffective products. The FDA should amend existing regulations to classify probiotic supplements marketed for honey bees (and other livestock) as nutritional ingredients so that they are regulated as a drug rather than food. This amendment would compel companies to back up their marketing claims with scientific evidence: a common-sense step to ensure that products marketed like drugs are also reviewed as such.

Randolph County Honey Show



On August 1, 2023, the Randolph County Beekeepers held the first club-sponsored honey show in the state of North Carolina in many decades. Seven participants from three different counties entered 12 exhibits in our first show.

The club show is part of the American Honey Show Training Council. Over 35 people were trained before the spring NCSBA meeting in 2023. Although it was a small show, it gave an excellent opportunity for club secretaries and stewards to be trained on how to run a club honey show.

More club-sponsored honey shows are starting to appear on the calendar.

For more information on the American Honey Show Training Council to participate in showing, stewarding or training to become a judge, visit their website at www.honeyshowusa.com.



Pictured from left to right: Jennifer Welsh, member of Randolph County Beekeepers, Mark Case, president, Randolph County Beekeepers, Debbie Komperda, NCSBA member, Steve Genta, American Honey Show Training Council Senior Honey Judge, Joe Komperda, American Bee Federation Board Member, Mary Anne Rhyne, Orange County Beekeepers Association, Tim Hyde from Virginia and NCSBA member-at-large. Bruce Simmons, III, Randolph County Beekeepers, photographer (not pictured)



NCSBA Library Update

LIBRARY SERVICES STILL ON HOLD

Currently, no one has been hired to take Terri's place at the Wayne Community College library. So, they cannot ship any DVD in the NCSBA's collection to any NCSBA members making a request.

The collection is inactive.

As it stands, the DVDs will remain at the Wayne Community College library until a decision is made about what we should do with the collection or until the college hires staff for the vacant positions as well as opting to continue servicing the NCSBA collection.

Bob Kemper, NCSBA Fred Deer Librarian

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Meet Carla Robertson!

Seventeen-year-old Carla Robertson is an ambassador via social media as Henderson County Beekeepers Association's summer intern. Carla sat down recently with Fox Charlotte for a Q&A about honey bees.

A link to the full interview can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/carlarobertson-foxtv>

Look for Carla in future issues of the Bee Buzz!



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