From Your President…

Our summer meeting at Lake Junaluska was an enjoyable event for all who attended. With 462 registered attendees, vendors and others, there were over 500 people in attendance. The Master Beekeeper Program tested 68 persons on the journeyman and master levels and eight people were awarded their Master Beekeeper Medallions, with Danny Jaynes earning his Master Craftsman.

The Neuse Regional Beekeepers and Stanley County Beekeepers were GAP chapters with Neuse Regional Beekeepers receiving the top recognition. The Haywood County Beekeepers did a great job hosting the event and their efforts were well appreciated. Good job to everyone who participated in the contests and congratulations to all of those who received ribbons.
The two-day workshop format afforded everyone the opportunity to experience four workshops and most everyone did. We plan to implement the same workshop format in the spring when we will convene at the New Bern Convention Center, February 25, 26, 27.

Going forward for the NCSBA, a major collective effort awaits our organization with the restructuring and operating of our website, ncbeekeepers.org. Since the new site was launched in 2013, it has been operated by at most four individuals and has yet to approach its full potential. The recent efforts of myself, Publicity Committee Chairperson Sandy Carlson and our Webmaster Jim Wright have been productive in updating and managing the content, but what we have
realized as a result our efforts is, perhaps, more important than what we have accomplished. It has become obvious to all parties that there is a huge potential for our organization through our website that can better be realized by the efforts of our association as a whole.

Our chapters are being asked to initiate an ongoing effort in order to contribute content to the website. The first step has been to establish and maintain an accurate, therefore effective communication link between the leadership and the NCSBA’s seventy-five chapters in the form of an updated email list, a contact person for each chapter and correct chapter information for our website. To the credit of our Membership Coordinator, Laurie Shaw and our Yellow Book committee member and Membership Secretary-Elect, Suzy Spencer, we now have a chapter email list that can be considered reliable and up to date.
(Continued page 4)
The challenge going forward falls to our chapter leaders who will be asked to designate a contact person to regularly update their respective chapter’s officers and chapter information. This is a process that sounds simple and should be simple but thus far has proven to be quite difficult. New procedures will be communicated to help make this happen in the future, in order to keep the flow of our information moving in both directions.

As for content of our website, we should consider that the honey bee, being the most studied organism other than human beings, is the subject of tens of thousands of publications, numerous university entomology departmental research projects, centuries of books, government agency laboratories, private industry research, cultural folklore… you name it; the field of information is vast. The NCSBA, structured as it is and it has been, would be challenged to operate a relevant informational website that would present content that has not already been presented over and over by others.

While the NCSBA, such as it is, will never have the expertise of a major university’s entomology department, a governmental laboratory or industrial research team, the aforementioned groups are just as unlikely to ever have the expertise of the NCSBA; that is, we are experts at promoting and teaching beekeeping.

The NCSBA boasts over four thousand members who belong to seventy-five chapters. A majority of our chapters hold annual bee schools with great success. Our clubs offer programs and speakers on a monthly basis and many of them have active bee yards where they demonstrate beekeeping skills.
Our Master Beekeeper Program has thousands of participants and hundreds of people are tested and certified each year. Our permanent exhibit at the NC Zoo has been visited by well over a million people and is successfully staffed each year by NCSBA volunteers. Our honey bee exhibits and honey sales at the NC State Fair continue with their popularity and serve to showcase the quality and goodness of our North Carolina honey.

With our spring and summer meetings each year, we bring the expertise of entomologists, commercial beekeepers, authors, bee inspectors and industry representatives to our members and all others who attend our conferences, where major vendors of the industry display and participate.

Our website affords our association the opportunity to complement our efforts in promoting and educating our members and the public about beekeeping. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, we need the participation of our members in regards to content. Many chapters are currently active with the social media and their respective websites demonstrate that people are receptive to web based information about beekeeping and what their chapters are doing.

Our Publicity Committee is ready to publicize your chapter’s events and news. Sandy Carlson can be reached at sccarlson@msn.com and will post your content to the appropriate area of our website. Please have your chapter designate someone to contribute content.

There are scores of interesting and noteworthy club functions each year. I am speaking of bee yard programs, mentoring, participation in agriculture days, heritage days, local and state fairs, local festivals, school programs, national honey bee celebrations, bee friendly days, regional events such as Bug Fest, youth activities, presentations, and bee schools. Many of us love photography and our bee related photos could be posted also.

If a significant amount of this activity could be featured online, the content of the NCSBA’s website would be absolutely unrivaled. We are the experts at what we do. No other organization does beekeeping like the chapters of the NCSBA!

Thanks for reading,
Rick Coor, NCSBA President, 2015

Dear Wade:
Please apply the enclosed donation of $_____________________ to the NCSBA Apicultural Science Fund to be used by Dr. David Tarpy and Don Hopkins, at their discretion, in support of their efforts on behalf of NC beekeepers.

Mail your check payable to the NCSBA and mail it to:
Wade Lucas, NCSBA Treasurer
2425 Trellis Court
Raleigh, NC 27616
FOODS COOKED WITH HONEY CONTEST WINNERS
NCSBA SUMMER MEETING 2015

by Elaine Styers

The “Foods Cooked with Honey Contest” was held on Friday, July 10, 2015 at the NCSBA Summer Meeting at Lake Junaluska. There were thirteen entries and we would like to think all contestants for their participation. Winning contestants were recognized at the banquet on Friday evening.

BEST OF SHOW
HONEY FRENCH DRESSING SM-41 (DRESSING)
MELINDA MILLER
1 CUP VEGETABLE OIL
1/2 CUP CATSUP
1/3 CUP VINEGAR
1/3 CUP HONEY
1 TSP PAPRIKA
1 TSP GRATED ONION
1 CLOVE GARLIC, HALVED
ADD ALL INGREDIENTS TO BLENDER AND MIX WELL. USE AS NEEDED

1ST PLACE
BANANA ZUCCHINI BREAD W/HONEY SM-32 (QUICK FRUIT BREAD)
SANDY CARLSON
1 EGG BEATEN
¼ CUP BUTTER, MELTED
1/2 CUP ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
1 TSP BAKING SODA
¼ TSP CLOVE
1 CUP ZUCCHINI, GRATED
¼ CUP HONEY
1 TSP ALMOND FLAVORING
1 TSP CINNAMON
½ TSP NUTMEG
½ TSP SALT
2 MEDIUM RIPE BANANAS MASHED

COMBINE EGG, BANANA, ZUCCHINI, HONEY, BUTTER, SPICES AND MIX WELL. COMBINE FLOUR AND BAKING SODA IN MEDIUM BOWL. ADD FLOUR MIXTURE TO ZUCCHINI MIXTURE AND STIR UNTIL WELL BLENDED. SPOON BATTER INTO GREASED 9X5X3 INCH LOAF PAN. BAKE AT 325 F ABOUT 1 HOUR OR UNTIL WOODEN PICK INSERTED NEAR CENTER COMES OUT CLEAN. COOL 10 MINUTES IN PAN, REMOVE FROM PAN AND COOL COMPLETELY.

1ST PLACE
HONEY PEANUT BUTTER ENERGY BALLS SM-43 (SNACK FOOD)
ANNE HOUCK
1 ¼ CUP OLD FASHION OATS
3 TBSP SHREDDED COCONUT
½ CUP SLICED ALMONDS (CHOPPED FINE)
1 SCOOP WHEY PROTEIN POWDER
1/2 CUP HONEY
1/2 CUP DRIED APRICOTS CHOPPED
1/2 CUP PEANUT BUTTER

IN A MEDIUM BOWL ADD THE OATS, COCONUT, ALMONDS AND PROTEIN POWDER. STIR UNTIL WELL DISTRIBUTED. ADD THE HONEY, APRICOTS AND PEANUT BUTTER AND STIR WELL. PLACE IN REFRIGERATOR FOR 30 MINUTES. ROLL INTO BALLS.
1ST PLACE
RAISIN-WALNUT HONEY BARS
SM-36 (HONEY BARS & BROWNIES)
ANNE HOUCK
PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 F
¾ CUP REGULAR ROLLED OATS
½ CUP SUGAR
1 TSP SALT (DIVIDED)
2¼ CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
(DIVIDED)
1 ¼ CUP UNSALTED BUTTER (DIVIDED)
1 TBSP WATER
¾ CUP HONEY
¾ CUP APPLE JELLY,
¼ CUP PACKED BROWN SUGAR
½ TSP BAKING POWDER
4 EGGS LIGHTLY BEATEN
1 TSP VANILLA
2½ CUPS COARSELY CHOPPED
WALNUTS
2 CUPS RAISINS.
MIX ROLLED OATS, SUGAR AND ½ TSP.
SALT IN A BLENDER UNTIL OATS ARE
FINELY CHOPPED, TRANSFER TO A
MIXING BOWL AND STIR IN 2 CUPS
ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR. CUT IN 1 CUP
UNSALTED BUTTER UNTIL MIXTURE
RESEMBLES COURSE CRUMBS.
SPRINKLE WATER INTO MIXTURE AND
BLEND. PRESS EVENLY INTO BOTTOM
OF 2 GREASED 13X9X2 INCH PANS.
BAKE FOR 12 MINUTES.
MIX ¼ CUP UNSALTED BUTTER,
BROWN SUGAR, ¼ CUP ALL-PURPOSE
FLOUR, BAKING POWDER, ½ TSP SALT,
EGGS AND VANILLA. POUR HALF OF
FILLING OVER EACH PREPARED
CRUST AND SPREAD EVENLY. TOP
WITH WALNUTS AND RAISINS.
BAKE AT 25 MINUTES. COOL ON WIRE
RACKS, CHILL FOR 30 MINUTES
BEFORE CUTTING INTO 2X3 INCH
BARS. MAKES 36 BARS.

1ST PLACE
HONEY ANCHO WALNUTS SM-43
(SNACKS)
MELINDA MILLER
8 OZ (2 CUPS) ENGLISH WALNUTS
1½ TBSP BUTTER
1 ½ TBSP HONEY
½ TSP KOSHER SALT
½ TSP ANCHO CHILI POWDER
1/8 TSP CINNAMON
1/8 TSP GARLIC POWDER
½ TBSP DARK BROWN SUGAR
½ TBSP KOSHER SALT
1 TSP DRIED ROSEMARY
PREHEAT OVEN TO 325 F
IN A MEDIUM SKILLET OVER MEDIUM
HEAT, HEAT HONEY, BUTTER AND
SALT. REMOVE FROM HEAT. ADD
WALNUTS TO HONEY MIXTURE.
AFTER WALNUTS ARE COATED,
SPREAD OUT ON PARCHMENT PAPER.
BAKE FOR 10 MINUTES, STIR AND
BAKE 5 MORE MINUTES.
TOSS WITH CHILI POWDER,
CINNAMON, GARLIC POWDER AND
DARK BROWN SUGAR. SEPARATE TO
COOL, SPRINKLE WITH ROSEMARY
AND SALT.
1ST PLACE
HONEY PUMPKIN PECAN WHITE CHOCOLATE COOKIE SM-37
(COOKIES)
MELINDA MILLER
2 ¼ CUPS FLOUR
2 TSP GROUND CINNAMON
1 TSP GROUND CLOVES
1 TSP BAKING SODA
1 CUP MARGARINE
¾ CUP HONEY
¼ CUP PUMPKIN
2 TSP VANILLA EXTRACT
1 EGG
1 12 OZ PACKAGE WHITE CHOCOLATE CHIPS (DIVIDED)
2/3 CUP PECANS, CHOPPED
PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 F
COMBINE FLOUR, CINNAMON, CLOVES AND BAKING SODA IN A SMALL BOWL. BEAT MARGARINE, HONEY AND BROWN SUGAR IN A LARGE BOWL UNTIL CREAMY. BEAT IN PUMPKIN, EGG AND VANILLA UNTIL BLENDED. GRADUALLY BEAT IN FLOUR MIXTURE. STIR IN 1 ½ CUP WHITE CHOCOLATE CHIPS AND PECANS. DROP BY ROUNDED TEASPOONFULS ONTO PARCHMENT PAPER LINED BAKING SHEETS. LEAVE ABOUT 2 INCHES BETWEEN COOKIES. BAKE FOR 11-12 MINUTES. COOL COOKIES ON A WIRE RACK. PLACE REST OF WHITE CHOCOLATE CHIPS IN MICROWAVE AND MICROWAVE AT 10 SECOND INTERVALS. PUT IN PLASTIC SANDWICH BAG AND CUT TINY CORNER OFF AND DRIZZLE OVER COOKIES.

NCSBA MASTER BEEKEEPER TESTING, COMING THIS FALL TO YOUR REGION!
Our fall regional testing schedule for Journeyman and Master Beekeepers are set. Test time at each location is at 10:00 am. The date and locations are:
Piedmont Region, October 3, 2015 at NC Cooperative Extension Ctr.
Chatham County Center
65 East Chatham St.
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Mountain Region, October 24, 2015 at Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center
455 Research Drive
Mills River, NC 28759
Coastal Region, October 31, 2015 at NC Cooperative Ext.
Pitt County Center
403 Government Circle, Suite 2
Greenville, NC 27834
Any NCSBA member wishing to test for Journeyman or Master may attend. There is no charge for testing, but you must be an NCSBA member.
Signup not required, but if you plan to attend email Paul Newbold at: beefarer1349@gmail.com, this will be for a head count only so we will have sufficient room and tests for everyone. Any questions please call or email.
As we announced at the NCSBA summer meeting, the Master Beekeeper Program is up to date. 2014 is behind us and 2015 is in full swing. Nearly 400 certificates for Certified Beekeeper have been issued this year. A new computer program has been created and is user friendly for chapter information entry. Our normal turnaround time is less than a week from chapter entry to a certificate in the mail. On the Journeyman level, 39 new certificates have been issued this year, and most were presented at s home chapter meeting. On the Master level, at the summer meeting we presented 8 new Master Beekeepers. They were, Burton Beasley III, Terry Dyson, Geneva Greene, Barry Jones, Liz Lindsey, Chris Mendenhall, Kim Underhill, and Pat Weisbodt. Also Danny Jaynes was presented his Master Craftsman award. This brings our total to 6 Master Craftsman, and 76 Master Beekeepers in North Carolina.

For those who were not able to make the convention, but still would like to test for Journeyman or Master Beekeeper, we are offering fall testing this year. We will start in the Piedmont Region on October 3, then move to the Mountain region on October 24 and finish on October 31 in the Coastal region. We will begin testing each day at 10 am. The location will be published on the web www.ncbeekeeper.org and thru the Chapters in mid-August.

As part of our constitutional requirements, we are to maintain records of all those participating in the Master Beekeeper Program. In order to comply with our computer record keeping, we are asking everyone to send us this information. We need all who have received a certificate prior to November 2014 to email this to us. Our membership Coordinator, Laurie Shaw, is putting all this together. We need you to email your name, NCSBA membership number, certificate level, (send each that you have, Certified, Journeyman, Master or Master Craftsman) and the date you obtained each level. The email address is lshaw@tyler-carter.com. Please do this as soon as you can. Waiting only makes you forget to do it. We are asking chapter presidents to follow us and announce this at the meetings. This is going to be the records we use for the future. If you plan to continue in the Master Beekeeper Program, we will need this information to document your status.

Thanks to all who came out to the summer meeting and participated in the program. We did a Thursday morning testing and had 36 members show up for the early test. Friday was nearly as busy and Saturday finished off a great week with 68 members testing. The break down is 14 Certified, 42 Journeyman, and 12 Master written tests were taken, good luck to all.

We are in the process of updating all of our tests. New questions and practical test are being prepared. A new study guide for the Journeyman and Master Beekeeper test is also in the works. This is major upgrade to the program, and any suggestions you have are welcome by the committee.

Dr. Margo Jenkins is now handling the Certified Beekeeper Program. Any request for tests or questions about the certified program should be directed to her at pineshirefarm@gmail.com or 919-499-1677.

Any question or comment about the Master Beekeeper Program can always be emailed to me or feel free to call me any time. Email to beefarmer1349@gmail.com or call me at home 252-264-0245 or cell 252-312-4629.
THANKS FOR THE GAP!
by Marian Jones, Secretary, Neuse Regional Beekeepers Association

Editor’s note: The Golden Achievement Program, or GAP, is intended to be high recognition of the efforts of a Chapter along with its individual member endeavors at advancing the practice, science and community of beekeeping through its efforts each year. First, I would like to thank each and every one on the NCSBA GAP Committee for all the hard work you put into selecting a club each year. As you all know, ALL have to work very hard to meet the standards the committee has set.

Neuse Regional did many things during the year to receive the GAP Award for 2014-2015. Receiving the GAP Award is a great honor.

Some of the things we did involved working with the newly formed and charted club Duplin County Beekeepers. We had several Neuse Regional members who taught classes and helped mentor the new members.

The club, along with one of the founders Bill Clothier, began the honey sales for the Disabled Veterans with 100% of the monies collected going to the DAV. With the help of members at Neuse Regional, we continued the program.

The club spent hours and hours trying to educate the public about the importance of the honeybee. We have spoken at several clubs - Girl and Boy Scouts, church meetings, schools, civic clubs and anybody willing to listen.

Each November we have a food drive to help the soup kitchen (Mary’s Kitchen) in Kinston, of Lenoir County, NC.

Our club received a grant in conjunction with the Master Gardener’s in Snow Hill, of Greene County, NC, to help minority and disadvantaged beekeepers. This was a great success.

With the help of the GAP Award, Neuse Regional hopes to establish a “Beekeeping Academy”. This is to help fill the gap between “Certified, Journeyman and Master Certifications”. The standards have been set high and we hope this program will help make it more rewarding for those wishing to increase their beekeeping knowledge.

This is only a few of the things Neuse Regional Beekeeper did and this award would not have been possible if not for each and every one of the members. It takes long hours and hard work from all members to make a club a success. Thanks Neuse Regional Beekeepers for your continued support.
BEEKEEPERS NEED TO BE EDUCATORS

by Ann W. Harman

You know your honey is the best. Your customers
Every time there is a problem with yellowjackets and the media get involved you will hear yellowjacket mentioned once then in all the information after that they become ‘those bees.’ Even though the public realizes that honey bees and other pollinators are in trouble, referring to yellowjackets as ‘bees’ does not help the reputation of honey bees or other pollinating bees.

You will hear people referring to ‘those ground bees’ while they describe a stinging incident. When asked to describe their ‘ground bees’ they invariably describe yellowjackets. But the word ‘bee’ is heard.

We, as beekeepers, need to promote the difference: yellowjackets are related to wasps, only distantly to honey bees. They both sting in defense of their nest. Unfortunately yellowjackets that nest in the ground do not have visible nests and the entrance is usually a small, barely noticeable hole. So someone mowing grass or even just walking over that small hole will indeed bring defensive action from the disturbed yellowjackets.

Beekeepers need to step forward and try to do some educating about the difference between yellowjackets and honey bees. After someone has told their stinging story, gently and diplomatically tell them about the difference between yellowjackets and honey bees. Emphasize the fact that honey bees just cannot live in the ground.

You may see an article in your local newspaper about someone being attacked by ‘ground bees.’ As a beekeeper you can write a letter to the editor. Some education right after a news article may help give correct information in the future. Don’t hesitate to write or email to newspapers and make phone calls to radio and TV stations.

Many beekeepers visit schools to educate the children about honey bees and pollination. Some of those children may have been stung by ground-nesting yellowjackets. Some may have been stung from throwing rocks at aerial nests. (Yes, kids will do that.) Take a few minutes of your honey bee presentation to give some information about yellowjackets.

Although most people wish to eliminate wasps and yellowjackets, these insects are extremely beneficial. They keep the harmful insect population under control. However, the wasps and yellowjackets sometimes chose a nest site that gives problems to humans. In that case these insects may have to be eliminated.

Sometimes honey bees are depicted as living in a ball-shaped nest hanging from a tree. Sometimes this ball-shaped nest looks very similar to a skep. As a beekeeper I wonder where artists designing these items got their ideas. Most of the time the creator of the peculiar yellowjacket-honey bee nest cannot be reached to give correct information.

Very small ground-nesting bees, called mining bees, cause concern. These tiny bees prefer a loose loam or sandy soil. They are solitary bees but many nests can be found together in suitable soil. These bees cannot sting and are pollinators, thus need preservation. It would be good for beekeepers to become familiar with these bees so that correct information can be given if called to eliminate them.

Since these mining bees, and other small solitary bees, are facing the same environment problems as honey bees, beekeepers can find much information on the Internet. Thus we can all be conservators and educators. All the bees, and even the wasps and yellowjackets, will benefit.
North Carolina’s Bee Aware Team, which features four home-schooled students from the High Country, has been the buzz lately after exhibiting their enterprising honeybee project at the Fifth Annual White House Science Fair in March. They were one of 36 teams from across the nation to present at the fair.

The team had the chance to visit the White House pollinator garden and speak with the chief gardener and head pastry chef. They were amazed to discover that the White House hive had, at its peak, 10 supers on it and produced an astounding 225 1/2 pounds of honey last year.

Their project raises awareness of the current plight of honeybees and hopes to revitalize honeybee populations, which have been steadily declining since 2006, when one quarter of the bee population died due in large part to the use of pesticides, herbicides, and weed killers. To put the importance of honeybees in perspective, 71 of the 100 crops that feed 90% of the world, are bee pollinated.

Also included in their plan to spread awareness was the creation of a Honey Bee Haven at Grandfather Mountain. This plan became a reality when the team won a science competition last summer and were awarded a $25,000 grant from the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation for their Bee Awareness Project.

NC’S BEE AWARE TEAM GOING PLACES!

by Kate Fitzpatrick
Local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops helped decorate the hives. Then in late May with help from their Watauga County beekeeping club and Beech Mountain Beekeeping supplies, the hives were installed. All three hives are thriving and the bees are hard at work putting up honey. The students are really enjoying working with their bees. They recently produced a tri-fold brochure outlining alternatives to Yard and Garden chemicals that will be available in Grandfather Mountain’s museum and gift shops. With over 250,000 visitors annually, Grandfather is the perfect place to get the word out on this important issue.

“The bees are doing very well in their new home, and we’re already using the hives to share information about pollination with visitors to the park,” said Executive Director Jesse Pope of the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation.

Over the past two years the Bee Aware team has presented information about honeybees to businesses, garden clubs and over 1,200 schools children across the region. The Team has also been selling the North Carolina “Save the Honey Bee” specialty license plate they designed, which costs just $15, $10 of which goes to the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles, with the remaining $5 being split between bee research efforts at N.C. State and the Bee Aware project at Grandfather Mountain. The proposed plate will be voted on as a bill in the NC Senate in the first week of August and then will be put into production.

Editor’s note: Two license plates regarding honeybees are included in SB 313, one sponsored by Franklin County Beekeepers and one designed and marketed by the NC Bee Aware team. According to the NC Legislature website, the bill has passed a third reading in the Senate and was re-referred to the Committee On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.
There’s a new advocate for honeybees and beekeeping in these parts and his name, appropriately, is “B.”

“B” Townes came to Wilkes County from Danville, Va., to work as Wilkes Community College’s horticulture instructor in the early 1970s and married Martha Ham of Boomer.

He played a key role in starting WCC’s MerleFest in 1988, as a garden fundraiser. As executive director of MerleFest until he retired as the college’s vice president of development in 2010, Townes is credited with doing more than any one person to make MerleFest what it is today.

Since retiring, and with his and his wife’s two children out on their own, Townes has spent much of his time making their farm more wildlife and bee friendly and expanding the gardens and apiary near their home in the Little Rock section of Boomer.

He is active in the beekeeping community as president of the Beekeepers of Wilkes, involvement in the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association, teaching beekeeping courses and making presentations on plants, nectar and pollen in relation to beekeeping.

Townes’ interest in honeybees began in high school when he helped a neighbor with his bees. He kept bees while in college and brought them when he came to Wilkes. His job at WCC left little time for beekeeping, so he gave them to the late John Andrews, Mrs. Townes’ uncle, in exchange for safekeeping and a month’s rent when he moved to Boomer.

Townes said beekeeping helps him stay connected to nature while constantly learning about their care and the plants they visit. He also enjoys mentoring others and teaching about bees and plants.

Before he retired, Townes prepared for going into beekeeping in a bigger way by promoting the growth of honeybee-friendly wild plants like poplar, sumac, wild blackberries, golden rod, aster and sourwood trees on the farm as part of a Forestry Stewardship plan.

He’s also a tree farmer and the Townes farm was among the first awarded Stewardship status. In addition to timber management, this includes a focus on water, soil, wildlife and recreation.

Andrews, an advocate of agricultural conservation, left sourwoods standing during his tree farming activities on the family’s AH&W (Andrews, Ham and Weston) Farm in the Little Rock section because of the honey made from their nectar.

His sister, Gozelle Ham, recalled helping their father, Nelson Andrews, collect honey by hand squeezing capped comb in the days before most beekeepers had honey extractors. Mrs. Ham is Mrs. Townes’ mother.

On Friday, Townes’ sister, Katie Richardson of Mount Pleasant, S.C., and her sister-in-law, Fran Gardner of Lancaster, were helping Mrs. Townes bottle sourwood honey in the basement “honey room” of the Townes home.

Sourwood honey is made in mid summer while the limbs of sourwood trees are often
heavily laden with bell-like blooms. Produced only where sourwoods are a dominant under story tree and early secession post-clear cut species in the mountains and foothills of the southern Appalachians, it’s one of the most sought-after honeys from the region and commands a premium price.

Impressions of sourwood honey vary with palates, but published descriptions range from butterscotch to buttery to light with hints of baking spices, like gingerbread. It has a pleasant, lingering aftertaste and is slow to crystallize.

Honey Analysis and Standards

Townes will confidently label his honey “sourwood” because samples he sent to the Palynology (study of spores, pollen, and nectar) Laboratory at Texas A&M University for analysis were found to be 95 percent sourwood this year.

Dr. Vaughn Bryant, who spoke at WCC during the N.C. State Beekeepers Association conference last summer, is director of the Texas A&M lab.

While excited that he and other beekeepers he encouraged to have honey analyzed received reports showing their samples were between about 65 and 95 percent sourwood for the second year in a row, Townes noted that not all years are good sourwood years and not all areas produce the same.

In 2013, he said, frequent heavy thunderstorms knocked blooms off the trees and made it look like a light snow had fallen—and there was no sourwood honey.

Townes and others believe this type of analysis is the basis needed to advocate for uniform honey standards and truth in labeling on containers of honey.

In particular, he said, it’s what western North Carolina beekeepers need to build consumer confidence and to leverage the quality and popularity of sourwood honey and be compensated accordingly.

Otherwise, any jar of honey can be labeled sourwood—regardless of what it really contains. For that matter, a product labeled pure honey from the United States can actually be from another country and be far from pure and all natural.

The late Dr. John T. Ambrose, N.C. Cooperative Extension Service beekeeping
specialist (State Apiculturist) from 1975 to 2000 and professor of entomology at North Carolina State University, lead a team which prepared uniform standards for honey in 2010.

The N.C. State Beekeepers Association approved the standards and began negotiations with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for incorporating them into rules and procedures that govern food safety. The standards still haven’t been adopted into food safety rules.

The standards say that to be sold as honey, a product must be made by bees from plant nectar and contain no additives or adulteration. They also require that the country of origin be identified.

If the honey is marketed as being from a specific floral source, such as sourwood, the honey must contain at least 51 percent nectar (from pollen coefficient analysis) from that source.

In over 40 years of testing, Bryant has determined that not all honey can be named by pollen content alone because a number of plants (sourwood included) have relatively low pollen concentrations and international standards for correcting the count to determine true nectar source must be applied.

Bryant’s lab is the only one in the country testing honey at this level. He said that until consumers demand truth in labeling for honey, there isn’t enough incentive for his graduates to open new labs.

Ambrose, who died in January, once said, “A great deal more sourwood honey has been sold in North Carolina than has actually been produced here.”

Studies of honey conducted by Bryant around the country found that in over 70 percent of some samples, floral sources were incorrectly labeled and/or they contained substitutes and chemicals. Bryant also found imported honey
in the U.S. with all of the pollen removed to avoid detection and tariffs while being rerouted through multiple countries.

Townes said regularly having honey analyzed will help build confidence in local brands, such as sourwood honey from Wilkes County.

**Use of Technology**

In addition to advocating for greater consumer awareness, honey analysis and truth in labeling, Townes is promoting the advantages of new technology for beekeepers.

“We as beekeepers put supers on and we think we know when to take them off,” based on when beekeepers think bees have stopped making all the surplus honey they’ll put in the supers, he said. If a super of honey remains on the hive too long, bees start eating or robbing the honey instead of producing more.

He said there now is a system that weighs hives and sends the resulting information to a computer to determine the optimum time for removing supers of honey.

Townes said Shane Gebauer of Brushy Mountain Bee Farm used this system to provide him with a computer graph of daily net weight gain/loss of his hives.

“We thought we knew the flow was about over but this information validated our assumptions and we removed supers earlier than last year. Additionally, data taught me a lesson about when the bees were working sourwood and corrected what I had been told, that bees only worked it in the afternoon when in fact the greatest weight gains were in the morning,” said Townes.

Until there is truth in labeling for honey, said Townes, “at a minimum we as beekeepers should take advantage and invest in the (Texas A&M) lab to build consumer confidence that the label on the honey they are buying correctly identifies what they are getting and isn’t just a guess.”

More details on having honey analyzed for pollen and nectar content at the Texas A&M lab are available at [www.anthropology.tamu.edu/html/profile--vaughnbryant.html](http://www.anthropology.tamu.edu/html/profile--vaughnbryant.html). It costs $60 to have a two-ounce sample of honey analyzed.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MCIVER-HAAS AWARD RECIPIENTS!

by Susan H Fariss

Congratulations to Judy Pick and Janno Lewis, recipients of the McIver-Haas Lifetime Achievement Award, for their many years of service to the NCSBA and to their local affiliate chapters. Judy, a member of the Chatham County Beekeepers Association, was the 2009 recipient of the Outstanding Friend of Extension Award. This award is presented to a person or group demonstrating exemplary involvement and support for Cooperative Extension’s educational programs. She is a Journeyman beekeeper.

Janno was named NCSBA’s Person of the Year in 2006. She obtained Master Beekeeper status in 2000.

“The McIver-Haas Lifetime Achievement was exciting and most unexpected,” said Janno. “I am so thankful for all the admirable leadership, friendships, encouragement and patience of beekeepers all along my beekeeping pathway. From the very beginning it was people like Bill Sheppard and Bill Smith who worked tirelessly teaching me to keep my smoker lit, I owe so much!”

Both Judy and Janno work tirelessly for the NCSBA. A great deal of their efforts go to the NC Zoo Honey Bee Exhibit, of which they are the volunteer coordinators.

The NCSBA has established the “NCSBA McIver-Haas Lifetime Achievement Award,” to acknowledge those individuals whose dedicated service to the NCSBA and achievements in support of beekeeping are true and of long lasting significance. I can’t think of anyone more deserving.
Did you enjoy the Lake Junaluska meeting? I know I did. What a great program. What a beautiful location! Our spring meeting in New Bern, NC is shaping up to be all of that and more.

New Bern is a beautiful city, located where the Neuse River meets the Trent River, in Craven County.

With a 300 year history, this area is a vacation destination for sun seekers and history buffs, alike.

Our program is coming together nicely, with our workshops divided into tracts for the less experienced and the more experienced beekeeper. Attendees will be able to move back and forth between the tracts, as we know that while you may be quite experienced in one beekeeping subject, you may know very little about another.

I know you will be as excited as I that we have received confirmations from Dr. Jeff Harris, Dr. Zachary Huang, Jennifer Keller and Adam Finkelstein & Kelly Rausch of VP Queens.

Our NC inspectors will be playing a bigger role at this meeting than in the past. I regard our inspectors as some of the most untapped talent to which the NCSBA has access.

Some of our topics will be Honeybee Pheromones, Tropilaelaps (New Mite on the Block), Equipment Confusion (an Open Discussion and Demonstration of Equipment), Honeybee Biology, Do I Need A Queen, Let’s Do the Math?, Interpreting Colony Conditions, Late Winter/Early Spring Beekeeping, Brood Interruptions Strategies to Support Varroa Control and more. Look for more details and the registration form and information in the next newsletter.

New Bern’s average highs in February are in the sixties and lows average thirty eight degrees. Bring a sweater, a thirst for learning and prepare for a great time!

---

I know beekeepers who never attend beekeepers meetings. Not ABF or EAS. Not state meetings. Not even their local association meeting. Some don’t even read beekeeping periodicals. I don’t know how they do it. Beekeeping is changing so rapidly, beekeepers would be well advised to inform themselves from as many legitimate sources as possible.

Local meetings are great for connecting with a mentor and finding people with whom to share beekeeping on a regular basis. Most local clubs find local and regional experts to help members learn more about beekeeping.

State meetings are the best place to learn about research, up and coming techniques, treatments, beekeeping pests and innovative new equipment. Life long friends are made here. EAS and ABF are similar to state meetings, but on a larger scale. These meetings are held in different states each year.

Dollar for dollar, state meetings give the best bang for the buck.
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PAUL NEWBOLD NAMED NCSBA PERSON OF THE YEAR

by Susan H Fariss

Congratulations to Paul Newbold, recipient of NCSBA’s Person of the Year award. The “Person of the Year” annual award is sponsored by the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association. The award is designed to reward and acknowledge efforts by individuals on behalf of beekeeping, beekeepers, and the bee and honey industry in general.

Paul chairs the Master Beekeeper committee. He and his committee have put in untold hours to bring this program up to date. This has been no small task.

While continuing to administer the master beekeeper tests and present new master beekeepers to the association, Paul and his committee have dutifully worked their way through the backlog of certificates that needed to be presented in all levels of the program.

With the assistance of NCSBA Regional Directors, all certificates have been presented at local meetings, mailed or awarded at NCSBA state meetings. Thank you, Paul for the attention you give to this program.

CONGRATULATIONS, DANNY JAYNES ON ACHIEVING MASTER CRAFTSMAN BEEKEEPER CERTIFICATION!
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2015 Permits to Sell Bees

The following dealers have been approved to sell bees in North Carolina and are permitted to sell or ship bees of the said apiary.

In State Companies Permitted to Sell Bees

The inspectors’ report forms for these apiaries are public records and are on file at the Beneficial Insect Lab, 950 East Chatham Street, Cary, NC 27511, (919) 233-8214.

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<th>Company Name</th>
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<td>Bob Doty</td>
<td>6325 Stirewalt Rd.</td>
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<td>712 Deaton St</td>
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<td>1201 New Hope Church Road</td>
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<td>(919) 9047128 / (919) 5166621</td>
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<td>795 Crawford Rd</td>
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<td>921 East Court Street</td>
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<td>5703 Midway School Rd.</td>
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<td>Ed &amp; Ruth Whitley</td>
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<td>Fourth Creek Honey Farm</td>
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<td>Fred Merriam</td>
<td>221 Bryson Drive</td>
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<td>Goomin Acres Farm</td>
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<td>Green Goddess Farm &amp; Apiary</td>
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<td>Gregs Honey Hive</td>
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<td>Happy Bees Apiary</td>
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<td>Pfafftown, NC</td>
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<td>KT’s Orchard &amp; Apiary</td>
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<td>(828) 648-0700</td>
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<td>Mike Bourn</td>
<td>1104 Arbor Drive</td>
<td>China Grove, NC</td>
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<td>Nadeau Farms</td>
<td>538 Gum Bridge Rd</td>
<td>Elizabeth City, NC</td>
<td>(252) 619-7306</td>
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<td>Orr Bee Supply</td>
<td>323 Morris Hollow Rd.</td>
<td>Old Fort, NC</td>
<td>(828) 581-4494</td>
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<td>Penny Apiaries</td>
<td>501 Penny Rd.</td>
<td>Beulaville, NC</td>
<td>(910) 290-4186 / (910) 290-2606</td>
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<td>Plank Road Apiary</td>
<td>3350 S. Plank Rd</td>
<td>Sanford, NC</td>
<td>(919) 776-9517</td>
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<td>Queen Bee Honey Farm</td>
<td>119 Terry Springs Ln</td>
<td>Statesville, NC</td>
<td>(704) 682-4018</td>
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<td>Ralph Harlan</td>
<td>1295 Brevard Place Road</td>
<td>Iron Station, NC</td>
<td>(704) 807-6207</td>
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<td>Rayon Locklear</td>
<td>2883 South Duffle Rd</td>
<td>Red Springs, NC</td>
<td>(910) 843-5561</td>
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<td>Revis Russian Apiaries</td>
<td>PO Box 2520</td>
<td>Marion, NC</td>
<td>(828) 652-3524</td>
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<td>Richard John Wright</td>
<td>134 Maggie Drive</td>
<td>Mt Gilead, NC</td>
<td>(910) 439-1879</td>
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<td>Rick Tindal</td>
<td>24164 Cedar Ridge Lane</td>
<td>Albemarle, NC</td>
<td>(704) 985-6236</td>
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<td>Robert E Baucom</td>
<td>2518 Hamiltons X Rd</td>
<td>Marshville, NC</td>
<td>(704) 624-5116</td>
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<td>Robert M. Dennis</td>
<td>1040 High Meadows Drive</td>
<td>Concord, NC</td>
<td>(704) 721-5630</td>
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<td>Rocking Bee Farms, LLC</td>
<td>3970 Tenneyson Ct</td>
<td>Concord, NC</td>
<td>(704) 453-1131</td>
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Most women love jewelry. And among this group, who doesn’t love bee jewelry? Men, take this hint and run with it.

This sharp looking pendant belongs to Rebecca Wood of Yadkin County Beekeepers. A gift from her husband, Rebecca believes that this was purchased at Jared.

While this photo doesn’t do it justice, I assure you that it is a beautiful piece, with pave-set round white diamonds and bead-set round yellow and black diamonds. There are yellow diamonds in 14K yellow gold-plated settings and black diamonds in black rhodium-plated settings.

Do you have a suggestion for a beekeeping find that could be featured? If so, we want to know about it! Send a photo, description of the item, what makes it special and where it can be purchased to NCBeBuzz@yadtel.net and you will be credited for the find!

### A Honey of a Find!

by Susan H Fariss

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Zip Code</th>
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<td>LaGrange</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Jesup</td>
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<td>GA</td>
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<td>GA</td>
<td>30551</td>
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<td>HI</td>
<td>96704</td>
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<td>1204 Holladay Rd</td>
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<td>SC</td>
<td>29102</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>+ (607) 316-0474</td>
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Out of State Companies Permitted to Sell Bees

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<td>+ (607) 316-0474</td>
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