

A photograph of an elderly woman with short white hair standing in a garden. She is wearing a bright yellow t-shirt with the text "PROTECT HONEYBEES" and dark pants. To her left is a large white beehive on a wooden stand. Behind her and to the right are several other white beehives stacked on a wooden frame. The garden is filled with green plants, purple flowers, and pink roses. In the background, there is a white house and a dark roof, partially obscured by trees and a chain-link fence.

North Carolina **Bee Buzz**

The Official Magazine of the NCSBA

NCSBA Centennial
Celebrating Our Beekeepers
Reflections of a Honey Queen
Summer Conference Info
And Much, Much More...

Summer 2017



Dadant

THE ULTIMATE IN PROTECTION
& COMFORT

Suits

SEE OUR 2017 CATALOG
FOR A FULL LINE OF
PROTECTIVE GEAR.

DADANT ZIPPER VEIL SUIT

MO1103 SMALL
MO1105 MEDIUM
MO1107 LARGE
MO1203 X-LARGE

\$73.65

MO1203X XX-LARGE

\$76.74

HELMET NOT INCLUDED

VENTILATED
SUN HELMET
MO1087W

\$19.99

TAN ALSO AVAILABLE



ECONOMY VENT SUIT AND JACKET

ECONOMY VENT
SUIT
ALL SIZES

\$124.95 each

VO1260S SMALL
VO1260M MEDIUM
VO1260L LARGE
VO1260XL X-LARGE
VO1260XXL 2X-LARGE



ECONOMY VENT
JACKET
ALL SIZES

\$99.95

VO1261S SMALL
VO1261M MEDIUM
VO1261L LARGE
VO1261XL X-LARGE
VO1261XXL 2X-LARGE

NEW GOATSKIN GLOVES

These mid weight goatskin gloves are
perfect for your day in the apiary.
Cotton gauntlet fits most half way
between the wrist and elbow. Perfect
for those with large forearms.

ALL SIZES

\$19.95

MO1096 SMALL
MO1097 MEDIUM
MO1098 LARGE
MO1099 X-LARGE
MO1100 2X-LARGE



www.dadant.com



• 820 TIGHTSQUEEZE INDUSTRIAL RD., CHATHAM, VA 24531
PH (434) 432-8461 TOLL FREE (800) 220-8325 FAX (434) 432-8463 •



North Carolina Bee Buzz Summer 2017



Features



**How Effective Are
Pollinator Gardens?**

13



**Celebrating Our Beekeepers:
A Photo Essay**

20



A Lot of Buzz

28



**Reflections From Our First
Miss NC Honey Queen**

39

North Carolina State Beekeepers Association

Message from the President	5
Beetopia	7
NCSBA Library History	8
Golden Achievement Program	11
Cooking With Honey Contest	14
Get Ready for the Bee Bowl	15
Judy Pick: NC Zoo All Star Volunteer	16
5CBA's HIP Update	17
Wolfpack's Waggle	18
NCSBA Beekeeper's Calendar	29
Master Beekeeper Program	33
NCSBA: A Brief History	34
Bayer Bee Care	36
In the Apiary	37
Beefeeders	40
NCSBA Summer Conference Info	42



ON THE COVER:

Jeanne Price (*See Back Cover*)

Part of the Photo Essay by
Jefferson Caine Lankford

Learn More on Page 20

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.

2017 Executive Committee

President: Rick Coor
1st Vice President: Paul Madren
2nd Vice President: Doug Vinson
Secretary: Lynn Wilson
Treasurer: Bob Gaddis
Membership Secretary: Suzy Spencer
Education Coordinator: Dr. David R. Tarpy
State Apiarist: Don Hopkins
Past President: Julian Wooten



Regional Directors

Mountain Region

Senior: Allen Blanton
Junior: Eugene Brown
Sophomore: Burton Beasley
Freshman: Freddy Proni

Piedmont Region

Senior: Todd Walker
Junior: Kim Underhill
Sophomore: Gladys Hutson
Freshman: Chris Mendenhall

Coastal Region

Senior: Eric Talley
Junior: Jeff Stone
Sophomore: Cheryl Newbold
Freshman: Kenny Jones

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

From the *Bee Buzz* Editors:

Bee Buzz Story Submission Deadlines: Fall Issue: June 21 Winter Issue: September 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. Please do not resubmit the same item, as we save all submissions for possible use in future issues. 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. Email article submissions to: Lane Kreitlow at beebuzzcontent@ncbeekeepers.org

Submit your best bee-related photos for possible use! Please do not resize- send us the best resolution photos you have. Include photographer's name, and caption / description for each file. Email your photo submissions to Jody Moore at: beebuzzeditor@ncbeekeepers.org

Bee Buzz Subscriptions: Direct subscription questions and address changes to Laurie Shaw at membership@ncbeekeepers.org

Dr. Lane Kreitlow, *Content Editor*
beebuzzcontent@ncbeekeepers.org

Jody Moore, *Technical Editor*
beebuzzeditor@ncbeekeepers.org



Message From The President

by Rick Coor

Transcript of an interview with the NCSBA President, Rick Coor

Interviewer: In two sentences, please tell me what the NCSBA is, and what it does.

President: The NCSBA (North Carolina State Beekeepers Association) is a statewide association of beekeepers, and our primary function is honey bee education. We also promote the goodness of North Carolina honey, and some of the members support honey bee research.

Interviewer: How does the NCSBA provide beekeeper education?

President: The leadership hosts two state level meetings in even years, and one state level meeting in odd years. Beekeepers have the opportunity to hear speakers, attend workshops, and meet the major vendors of the industry. The Association operates the largest Master Beekeeper Program in the country. We have a new Born and Bred queen rearing workshop program underway. The North Carolina Zoological Park has a permanent honey bee exhibit, which was funded by the Association and is staffed with NCSBA volunteers every year.

Interviewer: Do a lot of people get involved with the programs?

President: Yes, about 600 people attend the state meetings. Local chapters chartered by the NCSBA conduct Bee Schools, where the Certified level test is administered as part of the school. Hundreds of beekeepers take the Certified level every year, and thousands of people have become certified beekeepers. The Born and Bred 2017 queen rearing workshops have full enrollment. Over one million people have visited the zoo and have seen the Honey Bee Garden exhibit.

Interviewer: How does the NCSBA promote the goodness of North Carolina honey?

President: The NCSBA operates the Certified Honey Producer Program and has a new promotion campaign with a Discover the Goodness label, and a Discover the Goodness vehicle tag. The label is also featured on apparel that is available at the NCSBA online store. There is also a Certified Honey Producer registry online, where beekeepers can post their contact information,

and someone can find where North Carolina honey can be purchased. Some participants sell significant amounts of honey through online sales.

Interviewer: Do many beekeepers participate in the Certified Honey Producer Program?

President: Currently, there are 120 beekeepers enrolled in the Certified Honey Producer Program.

Interviewer: Why so few, aren't there over 4,000 members?

President: Maybe it is because NCSBA members have not heard that when someone joins, they receive a Discover the Goodness vehicle tag, and one hundred of each label. Every time they renew, more promotional materials will be included in the program fees. It would really help promote North Carolina honey, and help the consumer know that they are buying a homegrown product. I hope when more people hear of the program, they will join us.

Interviewer: How do beekeepers enroll in the program?

President: Visit our website, ncbeekeepers.org, for more detailed information.

Interviewer: You mentioned the Born and Bred queen rearing program. What does that entail?

President: In our state, there is a limited supply of locally produced honey bees and queens, although North Carolina is home to the largest number of hobbyist beekeepers in the United States. Education is the foundation of our association's purpose, and we plan to teach queen rearing in order to help support an in-state supply of honey bees and queens. The net proceeds of the program will be used to support honey bee research.

Interviewer: Please tell me how the NCSBA supports honey bee research.

President: The traditional means of support has been through funds raised from silent auction proceeds at the state meetings, usually about \$2,500 each meeting. The Apiculture program at North Carolina State University may apply for individual grants in order to receive the money. The grants are limited to \$2,000 per year.

Interviewer: Do these funds help operate the Apiculture program?

President: No, the Apiculture program at NCSU needs

about \$500,000 per year to be fully functional, and our silent auction donations are not a significant source of operating funds. The head of the Apiculture program must apply for grants each year, and the University matches those grants. The Apiculture program at NC State is in a state of need.

Interviewer: Do other people donate to the Apiculture program?

President: Sometimes. There are times when someone in the Association passes away and memorial contributions are made. People are asked to donate to the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation, and earmark the money for apiculture.

Interviewer: May I ask, what is the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation?

President: Sure, the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation, operated by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at NCSU, is a tax-exempt charitable entity that can receive donations for the different programs and endowments at NCSU. Every dime of money that the NCSBA gives to the Apiculture program is received by the Foundation and earmarked for apiculture science.

Interviewer: So, the donations are tax deductible. How can beekeepers support the Apiculture program through the Foundation?

President: It is very easy to support the Apiculture program. Contributions can be one time, or on a recurring basis. A donor may sign up for an annual, quarterly, or monthly contribution, and increase, decrease or stop their pledge at any time. Beekeepers can log on to go.ncsu.edu/apiculture and follow the instructions, or log on to ncbeekeepers.org and find detailed instructions how to pledge or visit us on Facebook, where the information is posted.

Interviewer: Wow, this sounds like a great means of support. How many beekeepers currently donate on a regular basis to the Apiculture program?

President: Two...

Interviewer: Two thousand people contribute on a regular basis? That is great! The Association must be very proud!

President: No. Two....

Interviewer: Oh, excuse me please, two hundred. That still must be a significant amount each year.

President: No, I mean *two*. Two people currently donate money each month. I am one of them. I do not know the other person. You could say we are bee lab partners.

Interviewer: Two people out of 4,000 members? That

is incredible! I thought you said the NCSBA supports honey bee research!

President: I did, but remember that I said some of the members.

Interviewer: Why so few? Don't beekeepers support honey bee research?

President: Yes, most every beekeeper will be say to you that they support honey bee research. Moral support, concern and kind words are important, but it is money that pays the bills.

We recently realized that almost none of our members have ever even heard of the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation. It is the responsibility of the President to raise awareness of the need for financial support for the Apiculture program.

Interviewer: Then you must be a big donor.

President: Not at all, I donate \$20 each month. It is automatically drafted from a bank card.

Interviewer: Can you please explain how that can be significant?

President: Sure. Small contributors are very important to any cause. Imagine if two hundred or more people donated \$20 per month. That would be \$4,000 or more each month to support honey bee research. More people have a larger voice. What if a football team only had a few large donors? There would be no fans. Big donors are important, but a large group of small donors has more influence.

Interviewer: What do you mean when you say influence?

President: The Apiculture program needs support from funding sources on the institutional level and from the NC General Assembly; someone needs to start asking. The NCSBA would be taken seriously if the beekeepers themselves were supporting honey bee research.

Interviewer: Doesn't the State of North Carolina already support honey bee research?

President: Yes, but the funding is reduced or reallocated at every opportunity. The support for apiculture research by the leadership in NC is not a priority. Consider that the State also supports our public schools. When I taught in public school years ago, I often had had to buy supplies out of my own pocket. Does that tell you anything?

Interviewer: Is honey bee research really that important?

President: Absolutely! The honey bee could be gone in the not so distant future. There are many people interested in research, some in their backyards. There is group of citizen scientists in our country but the main research in apiculture is done on the university level,

where the research is properly conducted, is objective, has oversight, is documented, and is published.

Interviewer: You know, I believe honey bee research is important too. I think that I will visit the ncbeekeepers.org website and sign up to support the lab!



As modern beekeepers, we often feel we are fighting a losing battle. Between varroa mites, Colony Collapse Disorder, environmental toxins, and a shrinking food supply, beekeeping is rife with challenges. Even our state's Apiculture research program constantly battles funding issues, effectively deflecting effort that could otherwise be used to advance the science necessary to combat these challenges. But we plow forward anyway because for many of us, working toward that common goal of *Beetopia* is not a choice, but a calling we cannot ignore. We are keenly aware of the fact that beekeeping is far from easy, but we also know instinctively that most goals worth accomplishing require hard work, perseverance, and an investment in time and money. So we trudge on, year after year, even as we continue to lose lots of bees and funding along the way. It's naive to think that beekeepers 100 years ago had it easy. After all, forage was plentiful, environmental toxins weren't a concern, tracheal and varroa mites, and Africanized bees had not yet made their way into the U.S. How could it have been anything but *Beetopia*, right? Well, not quite. A review of the history of beekeeping quickly refutes any delusion that beekeeping has ever been easy (*easier*, maybe, but never easy). The reality is that beekeeping has always been challenging in some way or another, with its pests and diseases, and other financial and practical issues, and this is not going to change no matter how far along we come in knowledge or technology.

What has changed in recent years is the undercurrent of determination to make everything better. It's stronger now than I have ever seen it in my 20+ years of being involved with NC beekeeping. The NCSBA is a unified force that has the power, if we exert it properly, to stand up against these challenges. Programs such as the Born and Bred and Honey Producer programs have the potential to be far reaching with regard to our state's beekeeping industry. What has even farther-reaching potential is financial support of the

President: Excellent, we could use your help. You can be bee lab partner number three!


NCSBA President

Beetopia

by Dr. Lane Kreitlow

NCSU Apiculture program, which strives to overcome the oppressive issues facing bees through the advancement of science.

Let's face it: some of the appeal of beekeeping is the challenge itself. Challenge breeds a sense of accomplishment, and for many, is the fire that lights our determination to trudge on in spite of it. Bees need our help like never before, and the true essence of most successful beekeepers is that steadfast commitment that keeps us coming back for more. Advocate for your own bees, but also for our state's beekeeping industry, and the world-class Apicultural research going on here.

Remember, amidst the almost 40% winter losses estimated this year there was also 60% survival. So while these high losses are certainly not economically sustainable, not to mention what it does to our morale, they are not what we should come to accept, and certainly not without a good fight. We should turn our focus to that 60% survival, but glean what we can from the losses, starting with advancing education. Don't just *hope* for a brighter future for our bees and our beekeepers; take tangible measures to make it happen. Attend chapter meetings, state or national meetings, and participate in the Master Beekeeper Program or Born and Bred program to advance your beekeeping education. Donate to the Apiculture program at NCSU, which will impact bees far beyond the borders of our apiaries, our state, or even our country.

If you want an easy activity, beekeeping may not be for you. But if you want an activity that will inspire (though sometimes frustrate), fascinate (but occasionally irritate), satisfy (yet at times disappoint), you've come to the right place.

It's been a long road that seems to be getting longer. But like any good road trip, it really is about the journey and not the destination. Appreciate our bees, for better or for worse, but take steps today that will ensure that the next 100 years will be better for them, and for their keepers.

A Little Recent NCSBA Library History

by Bob Kemper NCSBA Librarian

There is a note in the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association history (check the NCSBA website, History, page 47) compiled by James F. Greene, Jr. and Dr. John T. Ambrose that states: The Association, in cooperation with the County Associations, purchased a film entitled, "The Story of Bees", 22 minutes in length, with sound. The first film owned by the Visual Aides Department entitled "The Realm of the Honey Bee" was much longer and silent. The year the film with audio was purchased was 1949.

Jump to today. The NCSBA special collection of beekeeping DVDs is housed in the Clyde A. Erwin, Jr. Library at Wayne Community College in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Every NCSBA member has access to the collection through inter-library loan.

When and how did the NCSBA Audio/Visual Library find a home at Wayne Community College?

In 2011, the State of North Carolina cut funding to education. That cut in funds trickled down to North Carolina State University and on down to the Entomology Department. The NC State Apiculture program managed by Dr. David R. Tarpy had staffed and

operated the NCSBA collection (The Fred G. Deer Collection in the McIver Audio Visual Library) for many years. However, the budget cuts meant that the university no longer had the resources to provide services to the library. At that point, Bob Kemper was appointed to the post of NCSBA Librarian, and tasked to find a home for the library. It was difficult to find a resource with both the ability and the interest to commit to becoming the home of our collection. Fortunately, Dr. Aletha Andrew, the Library Director at Wayne Community College was able to do both. The catch was that the old collection housed at NCSU was formatted in 16mm film and out-of-date videocassettes. So, all new DVDs were purchased and the NCSBA library was re-started as a special collection at the college in 2012. From silent films, to films with sound, to videocassettes, and to DVDs, the NCSBA Audio/Visual Library has evolved to its present form of a special media collection serving NCSBA members with beekeeping information. And, yes, there are some books in the special collection. They were provided by Wayne Community College as part of their supportive interest in honey bees and beekeeping.

Beekeeping Supplies • Package Bees & Queens



Sapony Creek Apiaries

6154 West Mount Drive Rocky Mount, NC 27803

Phone: (252) 904-1446

www.SaponyCreekApiaries.com

Tues - Sat 10 am to 6 pm

SaponyCreekApiaries@yahoo.com

**New Store
Hours!**





Varroa Mite Guide now includes IPM Videos

by Dr. Dewey M. Caron

The Honey Bee Health Coalition

has released a series of videos to help beekeepers promote colony health and combat costly and destructive Varroa mite infestations. The videos provide detailed step-by-step instructions on how to monitor hives for Varroa and safely treat when levels get too high. The videos complement the Coalition's wildly popular Tools for Varroa Management Guide: <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa>. Dewey Caron, WAS representative to the Coalition, is principle author of the Tools and co-wrote and directed the video scripts, filmed at Foothills Apiary in Colton, OR. Tammy Horn, EAS representative to the Coalition, provided technical editing.

"The Honey Bee Health Coalition's Tools for Varroa Management Guide has provided beekeepers in the US and Canada with invaluable tools and techniques to confront destructive Varroa mite infestations," said Mark Dykes, Apiary Inspectors of America. "These videos will show beekeeper real world application techniques to help correctly apply treatments." Mark was on-camera in the video taping. Website to watch the videos: <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/#videos>. The videos provide helpful visual aids and step-by-step directions on how beekeepers can monitor and control Varroa mites through an Integrated Pest Management

strategy. Both the videos and Tools Guide cover a range of strategies and tools, including the uses of Oxalic acid, formic acid, essential oils, other synthetic miticides and non-chemical treatment options.

"Healthy bees support our world's food supply and farmers everywhere. A single untreated colony can transmit Varroa mites to other nearby hives and threaten honey bee health across large geographic regions," said Danielle Downey, Project Apis m, the second on-camera individual on the videos. "Beekeeping is becoming very popular, and often keeping the bees healthy is a mysterious learning curve. These important 'how to' videos bring the Coalition's Tools for Varroa Management Guide to life — and will amplify its impact in the United States, Canada, and around the globe."

The Coalition's Tools for Varroa Management has given beekeepers the tools they need to measure Varroa mite infestations in their hives and select appropriate control methods. The guide, which has been downloaded more than 5,500 times since its release, is the newly released 5th edition. The videos are embedded within the guide for easy download. There is also a new spreadsheet for easy record keeping of your Varroa management included. Spreadsheet <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/> can be separately downloaded.



Granville Bee Jubilee

June 24, 2017

The Granville County Beekeepers Association invites you to attend the 2nd Annual Bee Jubilee, Saturday June 24th, from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Granville County Expo Center, Hwy 15, Oxford, NC. Join us for arts and crafts, kids activities, agricultural education, vendors, food and fun! The event is FREE and open to the public. Currently seeking vendors, speakers, and other participants. E-mail granvillebeejubilee@gmail.com or call Christi at 907-738-9047 for more information.

Serving **North Carolina** **Beekeepers** with the **best** since **1977**

VISIT *OUR* **RETAIL STORE** AND GET
10% OFF YOUR ORDER

**Some exclusions apply*

610 Bethany Church Rd, Moravian Falls, NC 28654



Wooden Ware
proudly built locally
in Wilkesboro, NC

1-800-BEESWAX

www.BrushyMountainBeeFarm.com

FREE SHIPPING ON MOST ORDERS OVER \$150*
SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY



Brushy Mountain Bee Farm
Best Quality | Best Service | Best Support



Golden Achievement Program (GAP)

by Melinda Miller

Hello fellow beekeepers!

I am Melinda Miller, your kind-of-new Golden Achievement Program Chairperson. The Golden Achievement Program (GAP) is a way for the NCSBA to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of individual chapters, which is key to keeping our organization strong. This is my second year as the GAP chairperson. You may have spoken to me at the spring or summer meetings. I look forward to talking to everyone about the Program. Donna Wallace (Guilford County), Christine Ryce (Onslow County), Paul Hill (Neuse Regional Beekeepers) and I are currently reviewing the ten 2016 entries. I would like to encourage all chapters to get started, or to keep working on 2017 record keeping.

Listed below are some Tips and Tricks to help you put together a great GAP book. · Start early by going to www.ncbeekeepers.org, and finding the Chapters tab. Scroll down until you see the Golden Achievement Program. Put in your NCSBA password. It's the same every year, so you probably have it memorized by now!

- Now go ahead and print out those forms.
- Find a photographer in your Chapter and photo journal everything your club does. These photos will come in handy to document GAP activities.
- Make your Chapter Educational person aware that these GAP forms are also useful to keep track of credits for members pursuing the Journeyman or Master Beekeeper title.

· Dream/discuss what your Chapter could do with an extra \$1000 (the prize for Chapter of the Year award), or an extra \$300, a one-time award for meeting the simple benchmarks.

· Don't think of the Golden Achievement Program as just a contest. Many chapters, after they have won, like to continue the record keeping for an organized history.

I have entered our club's GAP book in the past, and it's very easy to fill out the forms. Hmm.... come to think of it, that's how I was volunteered for this position! For some of our members, I would just go ahead and fill out the forms for them. Of course, then I would have to chase them down to get them signed!

What other incentives would your Chapter like to see offered? You know there is a framed Golden Achievement Certificate, \$300 no-strings attached, one-time award, and gift certificates to Brushy Mountain Bee Farm. There is also a banner for the top Chapter, and an extra \$700 cost-share, oh, and not to mention, bragging rights!

I really look forward to getting more chapters involved. Look out future committee members! Additionally, I would like to hear what the stumbling blocks are for chapters choosing not to be involved. The guidelines are easy to follow and help to build a strong chapter. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at melindamiller1980@yahoo.com.



"A Taste of Honey"

by Sandy Carlson



A special commemorative cookbook has been completed for the NCSBA's 100th Anniversary!

All 300 recipes have honey as an ingredient. Award winning recipes are from the NCSBA Summer Conferences, the NC State Fair, and other favorites submitted by members of the Association.

All profits will be donated to the NC Agricultural Foundation and will directly benefit the Apiculture program at NCSU. The price per cookbook is \$20.00. Sales will be held at the Summer Conference in Winston Salem, July 13, 14, or 15th.

Categories include: Appetizers, Beverages, Soups, Salads, Vegetables, Side Dishes, Main Dishes, Breads, Desserts, Cookies, Candy, and This & That.

Do you have a family or friends who love honey? Do you have a family or friends who love to cook? Are you looking for Christmas, Birthday, or Special Celebration gifts? Are you looking for a cookbook for your Special Collection?

Just imagine...starting your meal with a Honey Mango Margarita. For the main course serve the Orange Honey Glazed Salmon and Spinach Salad with Honey

Dressing & Honeyed Pecans. Top it off with a piece of Honey Fudge Pie for dessert. Or, start your meal with Honey Sweetened Lemonade. Serve the Honey Glazed BBQ Pork with an Apple Baked Bean Casserole as the main course. Top it off with a piece of Honey Cream Apple Pie for dessert.

And for those in-between hunger pains try the Cinnamon Pecan Granola Bar.

Use the information below to reserve your book now!

You may reserve your book by sending the information below to:

Sandy Carlson:

18 Pond Meadows Drive

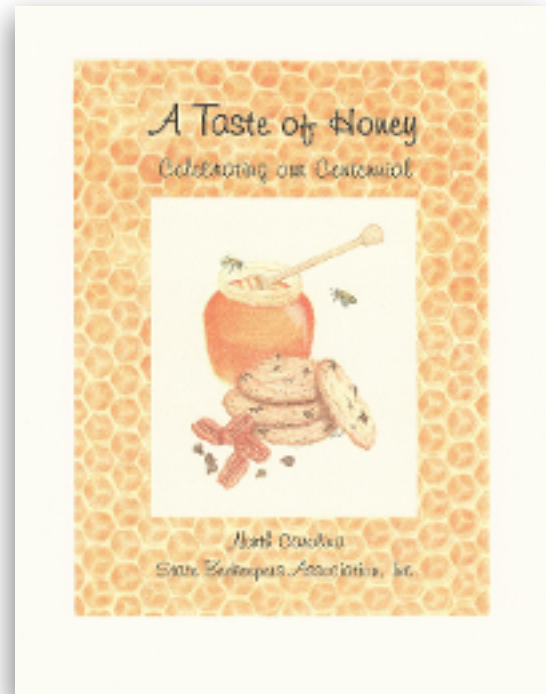
Louisburg, NC 27549

or email: sccarlson@msn.com

Number of Cookbooks You Would Like to Reserve;

Name; Address; Phone; email; Chapter;

Will you be attending the State Conference in Winston Salem on July 13, 14, or 15th?



NCSBA Deeds Archives to NCSU Libraries

by Lynn S. Wilson

"De-cluttering our homes is a good reason to archive NCSBA historical records, but providing better access to these records for current and future members and researchers is an even better reason," said NCSBA Secretary Lynn Wilson.

The first NCSBA records to be archived under a recently executed "Deed of Gift" were delivered to NCSU Libraries in February. The NCSBA's Executive Committee authorized the donation at its November meeting in Burlington. This transfer included minutes of Executive Committee and Membership meetings from October 1999 through July, 2015 that are already posted on the Association's website. Some committee reports and other documents were also transferred. Minutes and organizational records of local chapters will also be accepted.

Gwynn Thayer, Associate Head and Curator of Special Collections, NCSU Libraries, is pleased to add the records of the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association to Special Collections. She said, "NC State has a long history of involvement in apiculture. Interesting finds in the Special Collections show that as early as 1918 apiculture was taught at (what was then

known as) the North Carolina Agricultural and Engineering College, and that apiculture was a part of our agriculture extension program as early as 1924."

A preliminary Finding Aid should be available on the Library's website before the end of February. NCSBA records can be researched at the DH Hill Library within two or three days of most requests

- call 919-515-2273
- email library_specialcollections@ncsu.edu
- website: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/scrc>.

NCSBA members who have records or publications to add to the collection may e-mail secretary@ncbeekeepers.org or Thayer at the e-mail address above. If you have lots of records, she can review them and probably even come get them.

Wilson proposes that future State Association records be transferred at the end of each Secretary's term after minutes are posted to the website. The Secretary's copy of all publications will be transferred to NCSU Libraries.



How effective are pollinator gardens? (And how good are beekeepers at planting them?)

by Lynn S. Wilson

What plants attract what pollinators? Will those pollinators reproduce in those gardens? And how many beekeepers does it take to spread 10 cubic yards of compost and 14 cubic yards of mulch, and then plant 139 flowering perennials, 10 bunches of muhly grass, 63 shrubs, and two weeping redbud trees?

Twelve Person County beekeepers, their families and friends recently completed all that work for a pollinator-friendly garden at the new Veterans Memorial at 304 South Morgan Street in Roxboro, NC.

It wouldn't have happened in just four workdays if it hadn't been for some amazing machines, like dump trucks, front-end loaders and backhoes, driven by Michael Dixon of Hurdle Mills Feed and Farm, Kelvin Wilson from Roxboro's Rolling Hills Nursery, Richard Vining of the Person County Veterans Council, and Wendell Cox from Person County. The garden wouldn't have happened without a detailed landscape design, and installation assistance from Susan Hodges of Roxboro. Hodges and her husband also signed up for Person County's 2017 Bee School. Hodges used skills honed in an Alamance Technical Community College landscape design class. A visit to the pollinator garden at Chatham Mills in Pittsboro and a conversation with garden founder and extension agent Debbie Roos yielded a suggested plant list. Roos' list of top 25 plants for pollinators is posted at <https://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu>.

Interviews with Veterans Council members Richard Vining and Douglas Robinson helped her understand their vision for the subdued, thought-provoking Memorial and guided plant choices. She chose the soft blues of Faerie Queen salvia and the pale pinks of the Paprika yarrows, and the White Swan coneflower, to appeal to pollinators and yellows to invite early spring human visitors. The colors gently echo the American flag, noted Stacia Payne at Carrboro's Southern States. Hodges says, "I've learned about planting for pollinators:

- Not all plants that bloom are good pollinator plants. Many of our hybrid plants have little or no pollen, so native plants are a better choice. With just a little research, anyone can find a pollinator-friendly choice for their garden.

- A pollinator garden needs to include plants for at least three of the four seasons. So often, we focus on spring blooms, but pollinators need a source of nutrition into late fall. There are numerous selections that fit the bill for summer and late season bloom.

- The work of bees and other pollinators is essential for our food supply. We can all help by finding a way to incorporate some of these plants into our landscapes or even plant a pollinator-specific garden. In my own yard, I took out some evergreens to make room for just such a mini-garden. I hope to see many of those important bees in the spring!"

Brenda and Ray Moore and Matt Moore from Rolling Hills, John Wrenn and Burton Edwards from J&B Herb Farm and Stacia Payne from Southern States in Carrboro helped find the plants. A few plants were purchased from Niche Gardens in Chapel Hill and Mellow Marsh Farms in Siler City.

A PCBA committee, in addition to Hodges, included Stan Morton and Lynn Wilson. Wilson said, "Stan's spreadsheets and insistence on good communication kept us on schedule to complete the installation in time for Veterans' Day events." Wilson recruited husband Paul Killough and three grandsons to help spread mulch and compost. "And it took a full tank of gas in my husband's truck to fetch all these plants to the garden."

How effective are pollinator gardens? At the October PCBA meeting, Hannah Levenson, Field Research Technician from Dr. David Tarp's bee lab at NCSU, and her undergraduate assistant Vicky Blanchard described their summer of collecting bee samples at North Carolina's agricultural research stations. Each station has planted a pollinator garden. Levenson and Blanchard are spending the winter identifying their samples, a collection of more than 4000 bees.

Personians and beekeepers are invited to visit the Veterans Memorial to think about the sacrifices that have been made for our country ... and reflect on the country we want to be. Look for butterflies, hummingbirds, and all kinds of bees. File your observations with North Carolina's Butterfly Highway (<http://tinyurl.com/m7j9mgg>). A specimen box containing 50 of the most common native bees is in an exhibit at the Person County Office Building and may

be checked out through the Cooperative Extension office by teachers who want to help students become citizen scientists. "The garden will be a success if people are there counting bugs," said Lynn Wilson.

To help with ongoing upkeep of the Veterans Memorial and its pollinator garden, mail tax-deductible donations to Person Veterans Council, PO Box 1923, Roxboro, NC 27573.

PCBA annually donates bee books to the Person County Library. A recent donation, Farming for Bees, by the Xerces Society is one of the best for planning pollinator habitat. Follow the PCBA Facebook page to receive notices about upcoming garden tours and workdays. PCBA meets every third Thursday at 7 PM in the Person County Office auditorium at 304 S. Morgan Street ... right next to the Veterans Memorial and its new pollinator garden.



Photos Lynn S. Wilson

PCBA Pollinator Garden Workday



Cooking with Honey Contest

Get your mixing bowls ready!

The Cooking with Honey contest will continue its long tradition at the summer Centennial conference in Winston-Salem in July. The popular contest allows cooks of all abilities to showcase their culinary creations using honey. Entries will be taken in between **9:00 am -10:am on Friday, July 14, 2017**. Winners will be announced at the banquet on Friday night.

NCSBA Cooking with Honey Contest Rules

All entries in this competition must contain honey as the principal sweetening ingredient. Entries must be prepared from ingredients compatible with commonly accepted recipes for the class in which they are entered. The purpose of this competition is to demonstrate skill in the use of honey in cooking. **Because of their high sugar content, commercial mixes may not be used.** There are no other ingredient restrictions. Factors such as whether the entry is representative of the entered class and freshness of the product will be considered in the judging. It will be the responsibility of the exhibitor to see that entries are correctly classified and tagged. Scorecards will be provided for the judges to use as guides in judging foods cooked with honey. Entries must be submitted on Friday morning, July 14th, between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. on the form provided at the conference. Each person entering items in the contest will be assigned a number to be used on all of his/her entries. That

number should be placed at the proper place on the entry tag and on the recipe card in the upper left corner. There must be no names or anything that would identify the exhibitor. A recipe, typed or printed, on a 3" X 5" card (front only) must be submitted with each item entered (may be placed in a ziplock bag).

If the recipe is not included with the item, the entry will be disqualified. No entries accepted requiring refrigeration (Example: no uncooked eggs, pineapple, cream cheese, no meat, fish, poultry or vegetable entries accepted).

All cakes and breads must be entered on a 6"x10" cardboard or paper plate, placed in a clear plastic bag with the entry tag attached to the plate and extending outside the bag. No entries on glass or china will be accepted. Exhibitors are required to bring a whole cake, ½ loaf of bread, four (4) rolls, six (6) cookies, eight (8) pieces of candy, four (4) muffins, one (1) whole pie (must be in an aluminum pan). Bought piecrust may be used; however, it will not score as highly as excellent homemade crust. Entries become property of NCSBA and are served at the Saturday morning break.

Exhibitors are encouraged to bring extra cookies, candy, etc. to serve at the Saturday morning break. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/l2ecz48> for more information, or call Elaine Stylers at 336-688-4331 with questions.



Get Ready for the Bee Bowl

by Danny Jaynes

Reviewing the history

of our association for activities at our summer meeting, we noticed that a Bee Bowl was scheduled for a number of years. In keeping with tradition and activities we once enjoyed at our meetings, we asked for approval from the Executive Committee to once again have a Bee Bowl as part of our Centennial celebration. Permission was given at the spring meeting. We started by talking with Bill Sheppard last year. He was so excited about having a Bee Bowl, and was very helpful in providing questions that were used in previous years. We were very saddened when Bill passed away, knowing that he would not be there. No doubt, Bill will be there in spirit! We are planning to have a Bee Bowl as close to the old format as indicated in our historical records. So get ready for a Bee Bowl revival as part of our Centennial celebration in Winston Salem this July!

Guidelines:

For the NCSBA Chapters

All chapters in NCSBA will be permitted to enter one team. Teams will consist of three up-to-date local and NCSBA members. The cut off for entries is June 26, 2017. Limit to 8 teams. First 8 chapters to enter will be selected. Entries are to be sent by email to: djaynes101@gmail.com

Competition

- Board moderator will be Dr. David R. Tarpy, NC State University Professor and extension Apiculturist.
- Teams will be identified by team number, and not by county.
- Each board will have two teams competing.
- Questions asked will be selected at random from 3 levels of difficulty.
- There will be 9 questions on the first level, 3 questions on the second level and 1 question on the third level until a winner is selected.
- Teams will be briefed on rules and procedures as teams are selected.

Awards/ Recognition

Winning team members will be awarded a plaque. The winning chapter will be awarded \$500.00.



NC Honey Bee License Plate Proceeds

To date, the total proceeds from the sale of North Carolina Honey Bee License Plates to the NC State Apiculture Fund are **\$10,137.50**. These proceeds provide funding for research on the importance of bees to North Carolina's agricultural economy.

Judy Pick: NC Zoo All-Star Volunteer

by Linda Hardison



Judy began actively serving as a Zoo Volunteer in 2009. However, she was very much involved with the Zoo long before. She served on the joint NCSBA/ NC Zoo Committee to help plan, fund and staff the Honey Bee Garden exhibit at the NC Zoo during the many years it took to bring it to completion. This amazing All-Star Volunteer Award winner is constantly working through a long list of responsibilities to ensure the Honey Bee Garden volunteers are in place to talk with the public about bees. Judy helps organize and present the orientation for new Beekeeper Volunteers. She works closely with the Zoo's Volunteer Coordinator and ensures fees are paid and shirts are ordered for this special group. Most people do not know the countless hours she devotes from home answering email and phone calls, organizing shift calendars, coordinating training, and more. Nor does the volunteer coordinator know how many hours she puts in from home because she doesn't report them all. She does what it takes to get the job done!

Upon the sudden passing of Dr. John Ambrose in 2015, Judy willingly picked up the torch and began teaching the Beekeeper Training Class to ensure new volunteers were trained for the coming year. The hard work and dedication that Judy gives has definitely earned her the title of Queen Bee, and the NC Zoo's 2016 All-Star Volunteer! Judy was recognized for this award at the

recent Volunteer Banquet at the NC Zoo. She was presented a "Paw Painting" by one of the Zoo's chimps as a special token of appreciation.



Photo Courtesy Linda Hardison

Jim and Judy Pick

In 2016 the Honey Bee Garden exhibit saw an increase of more than 650 hours over the prior year, setting a record for beekeeper volunteer service hours since the program's inception. Other NCSBA beekeeper volunteers were recognized for achievements in increments of 5 years and 500 hours of service. These include Rick Bordeaux and Donald Fain for 5 years; Mary and Danny Jaynes, and Tommy Patrick for 500 hours; Linda and Ellis Hardison for 1000 hours. Congratulations to Judy and all these hard-working volunteers!



Got Honey?

What about beeswax, mead, or great bee-related photography? If so, bring your best of 2017 to enter in the competitions at our summer meeting in Winston-Salem! The categories are Honey-Beeswax-Photography-Mead.

Entries will be received between 9:00-10:00am on Friday, July 14th.

The Honey Contest Rules are listed on the NCSBA website at ncbeekeepers.org under the Members tab, then Contests and Awards. Email questions to honeycompetition2017@gmail.com. See you there!



5CBA Hive Increase Project Update

by Dianne Saunders

It's a new year in the 5CBA apiary! We maintain a club apiary to give our new beekeepers experience working many different hives, each with its own set of strengths and weaknesses. We teach them how to observe each colony to determine that colony's individual health and needs. The skills students learn from working in the club apiary can then be used for managing their own colonies. Last spring, our co-president, Tim Huffman, started a special apiary project called the Hive Increase Project (HIP). With the HIP, the goal is to periodically split hives, in order to increase the number of colonies. Last spring, we started with one nuc, and by the winter had split our way to six hives. Being able to know how and when to split a hive of bees is a very useful skill for a beekeeper to have, not to mention an economical way of increasing the number of colonies in your apiary without having to purchase more bees.

We have had two HIP workdays so far this year. During the first one in early February, we performed quick inspections on the six hives to make sure each hive had a cluster of bees. Out of the six hives we had going into winter, five had a strong cluster of bees, indicating to us that they had survived the winter. The sixth hive had a small, loosely formed cluster of bees that had died in place, with half the bees of the colony dead on the bottom board, and the rest of the bees dead in the loose cluster. We added the deep brood box from the deadout to another hive that needed more space to grow. At the end of February, we had a warm weather day and a crowd of new beekeepers from our 2017 Bee School ready for some hands-on experience. Each surviving hive was inspected thoroughly, frame by frame. The five surviving hives included three double deeps and two single deeps. We added a second box to one of the single deep hives, and made notes about which other hives will be ready to expand in the near future.

One shortcoming in our project last year was our record keeping. We need a system that is easy to use outdoors and quick for new people to take over and continue. Our plan is to modify a paper form until it meets our needs. The forms can then be scanned and posted for other project participants to see.

Last fall, one of the project hives produced several queen cells in October. Club member Greg Wolgemuth took one of the frames with two queen cells on it and put it in an indoor observation hive, along with two frames of capped brood from another colony. A queen bee emerged during middle of the month and started laying eggs by Halloween. This is a very late date for queen cells in our area. By mid-March, the colony had filled the 4-frame hive. There are currently two frames of capped and uncapped brood in this observation colony. Clearly, that late-season queen seems to be doing well!



Photo Courtesy Dianne Saunders

5CBA Hive Increase Project Workday

During the next few months, we will be watching the project hives for signs of swarming, while encouraging them to grow. We plan to split the stronger colonies in the double deep hives to make our next increases. Hopefully, the cold snap in March will not affect the major sources of nectar in this region. Stay tuned for a final wrap-up of our project in the next issue of the Bee Buzz!

Wolfpack's Waggle:

Happenings at the NCSU Apiculture Lab

by Dr. David Tarpy

Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology, NC State University



There is increasing evidence that we are not just a reflection of who we are, but what we have inside us. Specifically, biomedical science is finding that *microbes* are far more critical in our lives than what we thought before—both the beneficial ones that live inside us, as well as the potentially pathogenic ones that can make us sick. Apiculture science is finding the same thing for our bees; there has been a wealth of recent research that has shown the benefits of different microbes in our bees' digestive systems, inside the hive, and among colonies. Understanding the interactions between bees and their microbes will go a long way to helping improve their overall health.

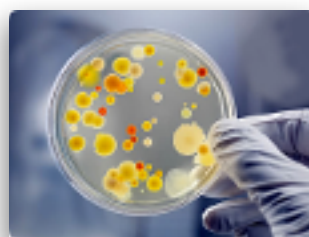
The objectives of our new program are to have an intellectual and practical focus on honey bees and bee-microbe interactions that introduces a cohort of undergraduate STEM majors to the subject, prepares them for pursuing advanced degrees or industry and agriculture careers with the relevant technical skills, and prepares them for the interdisciplinary, team-driven approaches needed for success. As a concise overview, our BeeMORE program will:

- i) Recruit participating students from HBCUs, Community Colleges, and from other Universities in the US and Puerto Rico to actively attract underrepresented groups in science to participate. We aim to have 75% of participating students come from off campus.
- ii) Deploy a nine (9) week summer program that begins by teaching students the foundational principles of bees, microbes and pollination, and the skills germane to the research projects and future course work.
- iii) Transition participants to mentored research in bee ecology, bee-microbe interactions, microbiological processes relevant to agriculture and insect populations, and other areas that 10 faculty mentors have committed to connect with the intellectual focus of the program.
- iv) Hold weekly meetings to facilitate project updates, enhance student communication skills in science, and engage guests from academia, industry and associated partners.
- v) Offer additional opportunities for the summer

participants that can include ongoing research opportunities (especially applicable for regional and NCSU participants), second summer or special term internships arranged with collaborating industries, and attendance to periodic seminars or topical sessions on the NCSU campus throughout the academic year.



Photos Courtesy Dr. Tarpy



Some of the potential projects in the NC State Apiculture Program that we hope might be addressed as part of the BeeMORE initiative will be: elucidating the gut microbiome of honey bee queens, understanding how honey bee pathogens might be infecting native bees, and even discovering new yeasts from beehives for brewing beer!

Congratulations goes to Dr. Eric Miller in the Department of Plant & Microbial Biology, who is an expert in bacterial phage and microbial genomics and metabolism, as well to Dr. Alexandria Graves in the CALS Office of Diversity and student affairs for getting this grant awarded and the initiative launched. If you know of any undergraduate students who might be interested or for more information, please visit our website at:

<http://harvest.cals.ncsu.edu/beemore>



1421 Old Apex Road
Cary, NC 27513
919.460.7747



Superb
Service



Unique
Gifts

Quality Plants

The best place to come
for
pollinator plants and
bee keeping supplies!



It's not a **LANDSCAPE**... It's a **LIFESTYLE!**



www.gardensupplyco.com

 **Cold Cove**
Technologies

**Affordable Beehive Weighing Scale
Only \$199**

Visit www.coldcovetechnologies.com to order online
Or call Chuck at 919 744 8003

For Langstroth 10-Frame and 8-Frame Hives
Easy to Install and Use
Records and Displays Weight History

Discount for Bee Club Quantity Purchases
Bee Clubs contact: sales@coldcovetechnologies.com



NCSBA: Celebrating Our Beekeepers

It's an impressive feat for any organization to reach their Centennial, and even more so considering we are mostly volunteer-run, and rely on our own efforts in fundraising to keep us going. Not only have we achieved enduring success for 100 years, these days we are thriving, with what seems an endless stream of bee-related advocacy and accomplishments. North Carolina is an awesome state for many reasons, not the least of which because we have such a devoted and diverse group of individuals striving to help the plight of the honey bee and in many cases, those who dedicate their lives to the cause. At the core of our success, the true heart of the organization, are the 77 chapters that span the far reaches of the state, yet unify the NCSBA into a single entity taking on the bee world. Within each chapter are groups of like-minded devotees focused on one thing, and one thing only: the honey bee. Indeed, the chapters are the life force of our organization. Among them, amidst dozens of bee lovers and bee advocates are standout members that truly deserve to be recognized for the many years, often decades, of service to our organization, and to the honey bee. We thought it fitting for our Centennial year to recognize these special beekeepers by allowing the chapters to nominate one beekeeper they deemed integral to the advancement of their chapters and/or to the NCSBA, or beekeeping in general. Of course, for most chapters, there are *many* special beekeepers that fit this mold; regrettably, it was not practical allow for more than one nominee per chapter, but the sentiment is there. I highly encourage individual chapters to in some way recognize and thank those members who really have gone the extra mile for their chapters and for the organization. The beekeepers we highlight here are among those who were nominated to represent their individual chapters, and whose profiles were complete in time for this publication. We regret that we could not feasibly include everybody in this issue, as space and resources are limited, but our goal is to present the entire project in some manner at the summer meeting in Winston-Salem in July, and possibly even in future *Bee Buzz* issues or on the website if space permits.

We would like to sincerely thank Jefferson Caine Lankford, our volunteer photographer, who tirelessly traveled the state for many months on his own dime in order to meet and photograph these special beekeepers. His donation of time and talent is deeply appreciated. Caine often expressed to me his enjoyment over meeting these amazing and inspiring people, and hearing their stories. You can read more about him below or visit his website at <http://www.jeffersonlankford.com>.

Jefferson Caine Lankford

I began photographing beekeepers and honey bees during a yearlong exchange program at the Australian National University from 2014-2015. During this time, I spent three and a half months shadowing local beekeepers in Canberra, while also working with the Australian National University Apiculture Society on the ANU campus. My goal was to document the processes and practices of beekeeping, while highlighting the problems beekeepers were facing in Australia during that time. Upon my return to the United States, I had one more year remaining at East Carolina University. After graduating in May of 2016, I decided to start a new project that could represent the people of my home state of North Carolina. Without much delay, I did some research about North Carolina beekeeping and stumbled upon the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association. After reaching out to the NCSBA and sharing some of the work I did in Australia, and further pitching the idea of my goal to continue photographing beekeepers, the NCSBA informed me that the 100th year anniversary of the organization will be celebrated in 2017, and suggested the possibility that I could take portraits of influential beekeepers that have either been nominated by their local beekeeping chapter or by the NCSBA itself. Working with the NCSBA to photograph influential beekeepers has taken me over 5,000 miles across North Carolina, from the coast to the piedmont, up into the mountains and back again, on multiple occasions. Each beekeeper I have met has demonstrated various approaches to the ever-changing atmosphere of beekeeping. The creative solutions being applied to combat the many problems faced by beekeepers today emphasize the determination of these individuals. The portraits I have taken represent the variety of people involved with the NCSBA and their specific roles as beekeepers across the state, and further provide a platform for each person to share his or her unique and important stories.

All related images and accompanying text provided by Jefferson C. Lankford





Johnny Merrell

(LEFT)

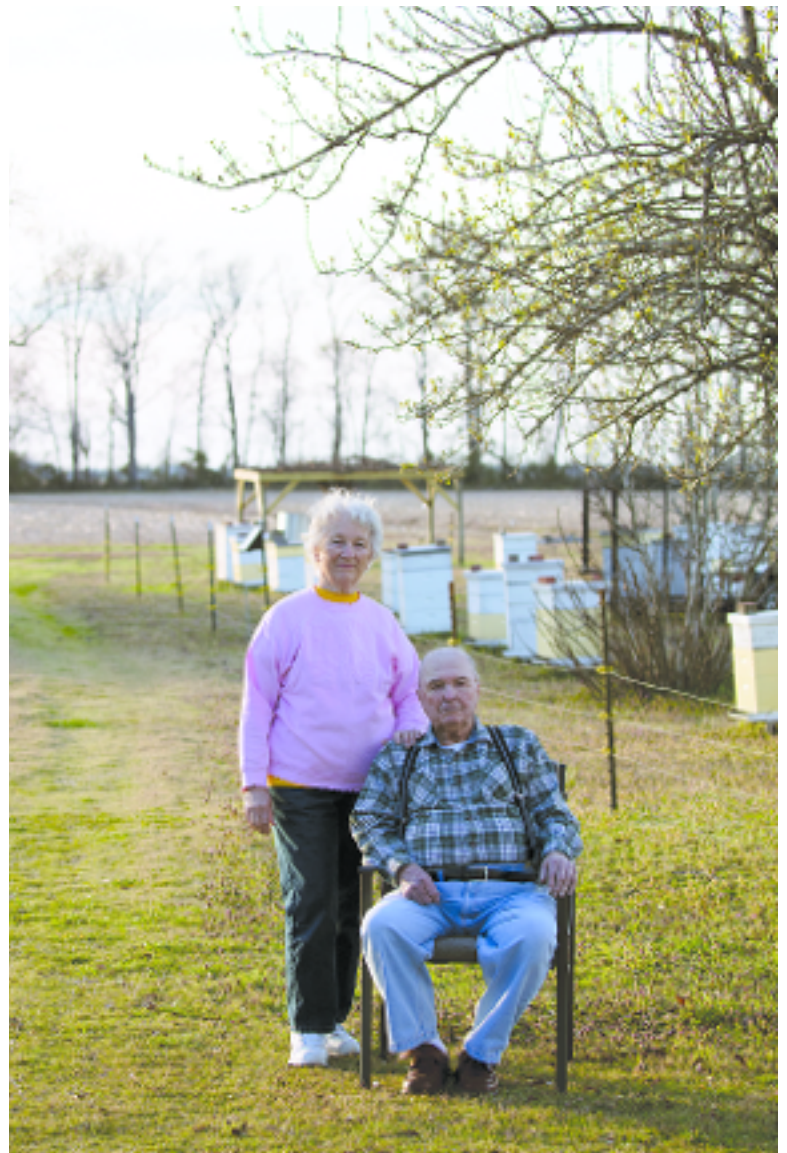
Johnny's interest in honey bees began when he and his family caught a swarm of bees that were living in their old farm house. Since 2013, Johnny has been certified to sell nucleus colonies packages of bees and queen honey bees. Additionally, Johnny builds and sells custom built beehives and observation hives made from North Carolina lumber. He also helps to manage and operate Johnny's Honey Bee Farm and Supplies, a family owned business. The most interesting aspect of beekeeping to Johnny is the process of queen rearing, grafting larvae and observing which cells will become healthy queens. As a beekeeper, the biggest issue Johnny faces is the elusive and highly destructive small hive beetle. However, the weather has had a big impact on Johnny and his bees, due to rapidly changing weather patterns that include what appear to be shorter winters and cold snaps occurring at inconvenient times. Johnny's advice for other beekeepers, both beginner and experienced, is to conduct as much research as possible on honey bees and to be open to experimentation. Johnny and his father have experimented extensively with various beekeeping techniques, and have even successfully placed two queen bees in one hive and can prove its success. Furthermore, Johnny's advice for non-beekeepers that want to help honey bees is to maintain bee friendly gardens and strive to keep open communication with local farmers. *Johnny was nominated by Granville County Beekeepers Association.*

Billy and Martha Baynor

(RIGHT)

Billy and Martha have been beekeeping as a couple since 1987. They both grew up in Pantego, North Carolina, and were high school sweethearts before they married. At their peak as life-long beekeepers, they both worked and managed forty hives, and amazingly today that number has only shrunk to thirty-four. Billy still continues to package and sell large amounts of honey every year, while Martha uses the wax to make all-natural candles and ornaments. Additionally, Martha regularly teaches classes to various age groups about beekeeping and helps locals get started through mentorships working the beehives at her home.

According to Billy, throughout the decades of beekeeping, they have encountered about every problem a beekeeper can possibly face. These problems include hungry black bears, the highly destructive varroa mite, and the devastating bee disease American foulbrood, which resulted in large losses of bees and equipment. However, despite all the setbacks Billy and Martha faced as beekeepers, they have always worked as a team, and believe that their strong will and team effort has helped both their hives and themselves to be successful. *Billy and Martha were nominated by Beaufort County Beekeepers Association.*





Willie Parrish

(LEFT)

Willie is a military veteran that has been beekeeping for forty-two years. He owns and operates Willie's Honey and Bee Supplies, where he helps local beekeepers obtain necessary supplies without having to order their supplies out of state. Willie is also a co-founder of the Sampson County Beekeepers Association, where he helps to mentor new beekeepers, and continues building closer connections within the beekeeping community.

The biggest problems Willie faces as a beekeeper are the highly destructive varroa mite and climate change, as January and February become warmer and cold weather arrives later. *Willie was nominated by Samson County Beekeepers Association.*

James Smith

(RIGHT)

James became a beekeeper because of his enthusiasm for the honey bee. He has always enjoyed observing bees leave their hive to forage and return with pollen attached to their hind legs. James has been beekeeping for sixty years and despite many setbacks, including having all of his beehives stolen at one point, forcing him to start over from scratch, he continues to raise queen bees and manage many beehives at his home.

James also helps to mentor local amateur beekeepers, and since there are more beekeepers today than ever before, he stays quite busy helping others. I asked James what advice can he give to people interested in becoming beekeepers and simply put, he replied, "Don't give up". *James was nominated by Brunswick County Beekeepers Association.*





Harvey Tucker

Harvey is eighty-nine years old and has been beekeeping for sixty-two years. He got started in beekeeping through marriage as he married a beekeeper's daughter, and has been married since 1954. Harvey has been an active member of two beekeeping clubs and even helped educate others through ordering educational beekeeping videos to show during meetings. Harvey's favorite aspect of beekeeping is catching swarms. He even invented his own swarm catcher (pictured), which he continues to use today, catching swarms within his community. Over the years, Harvey has witnessed a large increase in beekeepers within the state and considers it a good time to become a beekeeper because there are more resources available than ever before. His advice for those currently beekeeping and those interested in becoming beekeepers to go "full steam ahead", and stay determined amidst the many problems that might occur. *Harvey was nominated by Anson County Beekeepers Association.*



Ray Revis

(LEFT)

Ray is a fourth generation beekeeper and has been beekeeping since he was thirteen years old. He got started through working with his grandfather. Due to his grandfather's beekeeping practices, the honey bees would always swarm in April of each year, which Ray highly enjoyed, as the swarming of bees has always fascinated him. Ray has now been keeping honey bees for over fifty years, and currently maintains his largest number of beehives ever.

Ray owns and manages a Russian bee apiary that focuses on breeding Russian honey bee stock. Russian honey bees are considered to be more resistant to the many pests that cause problems for both honey bees and beekeepers alike. Ray gives various presentations each year that focus on educating people on beekeeping and raising Russian honey bees.

The current challenges Ray is facing as a beekeeper is maintaining healthy queens and the constant battle with various pests. Due to his mountainous location in North Carolina, Ray has to deal with many predators such as bears and skunks, which can wipe out numerous colonies of bees in short periods of time.

His advice for beginner beekeepers is to stick with the basics, and that there are no "silver bullets" or "quick fixes" to beekeeping. Ray also advises people who are interested in beekeeping to take classes and become familiar with the local beekeeping community. *Ray was nominated by McDowell County Beekeepers Association.*



Avis and Leo Wainwright

(RIGHT)

Avis is a retired public school teacher and taught Heath Education for thirty-four years; however, although technically retired, she is currently teaching courses at two community colleges. Her husband Leo was a farmer and they were married for forty-six years. Leo passed away in November of 2015. Avis has been fascinated with bees since childhood. When her father brought home a log filled with honey bees, she knew that beekeeping was what she wanted to do. Later during marriage, Leo saw an advertisement about a beekeeping class that was being offered locally. With much enthusiasm, he successfully convinced Avis to attend the class, only later to have Avis herself convince him to join her.

Over the many years working with bees, Leo supported Avis in many ways. Leo planted buckwheat and clover for bee pollination, and during the fall season before he passed, he also planted an orchard of fruit trees for Avis and the bees. Avis and Leo helped mentor and teach a countless number of children about honey bees. They would even bring large quantities of honey for the children to taste as, according to Avis, many kids have never tasted honey and they wanted to change that. Today, she continues to bring honey for children to taste and completely funds all such activities herself. Overall, Avis and Leo worked together with honey bees for about ten years.

I asked Avis how her role as a teacher intertwined with being a beekeeper and she replied that her goal was to educate as many children about the importance of bees that she can. Avis still works with 4th graders every year. *Avis and Leo were nominated by Cashie Beekeepers Association.*



Bob Cole

(LEFT)

Bob is a military veteran and served during WWII, where he experienced and took part in the D-Day invasions of Normandy. He also served in the Korean War.

Bob attended UNC Chapel Hill where he studied geology, and also studied beekeeping at NC State University, and then continued his apiculture studies at Ohio State University. Bob received his Master Beekeeper certification in 1981 from the Eastern Apiculture Society of North America. He has also been awarded three presidential volunteer awards for serving as a volunteer for foreign aid programs involving beekeeping practices worldwide. From 1996-2004, Bob helped beekeepers in over twenty-five developing countries, where he introduced modern techniques of beekeeping, taught queen rearing, helped to develop beekeeping school curricula, conducted many workshops and worked extensively to educate others on honey bee diseases and varroa mite control. In 2004 Bob was awarded North Carolina's highest civilian award, The Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

At over 90 years old, Bob continues to travel and teach various classes on beekeeping practices, and also still manages his own hives, moving them from his farm in the mountains to the eastern part of North Carolina, season after season.

I had the pleasure of photographing Bob with an extra large Brazilian smoker, used in Brazil for working with Africanized honey bees. *Bob was nominated by Ashe County Beekeepers Association and Watauga County Beekeepers Association.*

Lewis Cauble

(RIGHT)

Lewis has been beekeeping for eleven years. His love affair with honey bees started from shaking his first two packages of bees into their hives. Soon after getting started, Lewis joined the Orange County Beekeepers Association, where he learned about both beekeeping and bee culture. Lewis finds that the community of beekeepers is just as interesting and fascinating as the bees themselves. He has served as the president of Orange County Beekeepers Association, Treasurer of Durham County Beekeepers Association, Regional Director for the NCSBA, 2nd Vice President of the NCSBA, and is currently employed as the NCDA&CS Apiary Inspector for the twenty-one westernmost counties in North Carolina. The biggest problem bees are currently facing is the deadly varroa mite. Lewis considers the varroa mite to be responsible for the clear majority of bee losses and problems he encounters as an Apiary Inspector. Lewis uses a stuffed varroa mite nicknamed Verra (pictured) to teach others about the destructive mites. Verra is proportional to a human as an actual varroa mite is to a honey bee. Lewis states that although there seems to be an "endless supply" of beekeepers emerging every year, the world does not necessarily need new beekeepers but rather good beekeepers that make sure to overwinter their bee colonies and educate others to do the same. However, his advice for those interested in becoming beekeepers is to fully understand honey bee biology, as well as educate themselves on the varroa mite. He encourages those interested in learning about the varroa mite to visit the Honey Bee Health Coalition website at www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org. *Lewis was nominated by Orange County Beekeepers Association.*





Julian Wooten

(LEFT)

Julian became interested in beekeeping at a young age from seeing both his grandfather and father work with honey bees in the 1940's and 50's. He remembers observing his father catch swarms frequently, where he would then put the bees into hives. If there were a surplus in honey produced by the bees, Julian would assist with the straining and jarring process of harvesting the honey. With a family consisting of eleven people, lots of honey was consumed. Julian eventually purchased his first bee colonies at fifteen years old. Today, Julian estimates that he has owned and managed beehives for around fifty-seven years. However, the number of hives he owns has grown to five hundred, which he sends all over the country for pollination purposes each year.

Julian has been highly active within the North Carolina beekeeping scene, serving as President of the Onslow County Beekeepers Association, the regional representative of the NCSBA, as well as the President of the NCSBA, and is currently serving as the Immediate Past President of the NCSBA. During his many years working with both honey bees and other beekeepers, Julian has helped with various projects, including providing training to actors on how to work with bees for the 2008 film, *The Secret Life of Bees*, and supplying both equipment and bees for use in the movie. In addition to providing advice to actors, Julian has advice for anyone that wants to help honey bees, and that is to take care of nectar and pollen producing plants, apply high caution while using pesticides, and always make sure to purchase locally produced honey. *Julian was nominated by Onslow County Beekeepers Association.*

Jerry Flanagan

(RIGHT)

Jerry has always been an avid outdoor enthusiast, and considering there are generations of beekeepers within his family, it is not surprising that beekeeping came naturally to him as well. At just twelve years old, Jerry bought two beehives and has been beekeeping ever since. He is currently the president of the Coastal Plains Beekeeper Association and past vice-president and current member of the Tar River Beekeepers Association. He owns and operates Coastal Bee Supply Company and supplies local beekeepers with beekeeping equipment, nucleus colonies and packages. Additionally, Jerry is a mentor to beginner beekeepers and is also highly involved in bee pollination throughout Eastern North Carolina. To combat problems that could occur from the impact that pesticides can potentially have on honey bees, Jerry continues to maintain close communication with farmers to ensure that the proper steps are taken to reduce such risks. His advice for non-beekeepers that want to help the current bee population is to plant a variety of bee friendly plants and to allow dandelions and other bee friendly weeds to grow. Furthermore, Jerry advises people to donate to bee research organizations and advocate for partial compensation to be introduced into the next Farm Bill for farmers that are ensuring pollen friendly areas on their land. *Jerry was nominated by the Tar River Beekeepers Association.*





www.MillerBeeSupply.com
1-888-848-5184

Everything you need!

- Woodenware
- Components
- Tools & Smokers
- Nutrition & Treatments
- Protective Clothing
- Extracting Equipment
- Bottling

496 Yellow Banks Road
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659



A Lot of Buzz

by: Sharry Mikell



There's a lot of international buzz about one local farm's honey! Mikell's Farm Honey, owned by Sharry and Doug Mikell of Old Fort, won the Sourwood category of the International Black Jar Honey Contest for the second year in a row! The 2016-2017 win follows a win in the 2014-2015 Contest in the same category.

When Sharry Mikell started taking beekeeping classes in 2012 through Cooperative Extension, she had no idea she and her husband would start a business that would garner international acclaim. In May of 2013, they had two hives and managed to get them to survive through the winter. Shortly after, Doug took lots of advanced beekeeping courses in Asheville and was a quick study. Doug is a retired career firefighter from south Florida (thus the fire helmet on their honey labels), but came back to where his family roots run deep in western North Carolina. Doug carries over the care, compassion and professionalism from his firefighter career to their bees, and is the resident beekeeper.

The couple expanded their business to 25 hives with the help of an AgOptions grant and started producing honey, along with beeswax beauty products, using the wax from processing the honey. While Sharry was busy filling orders and tending to the couple's organic garden, Doug worked in the bee yard.

The Mikells use Organic Beekeeping Practices and were the first in the area to have their honey analyzed for the pollen/TNV (true nectar value) content, and to certify their honey. "When we sent a sample of our honey to Texas A&M University for testing, the report came back with glowing reviews. Dr. Bryant, the professor, even reached out to us to explain that it was the best he'd seen in quite a while", said Sharry. The results they received from that test convinced Sharry to enter their honey in the International Black Jar Honey Contest. Their first entry paid off and they won the Sourwood category for the international contest, which was quite a feat because Sharry received a letter that the Sourwood category was the most competitive. "What's so good about the Black Jar Honey Contest is that it is completely based on taste and judged on anonymity, meaning the jar is covered and the judges vote on the honey taste alone", said Doug. The Mikell's property borders Pisgah National Forest, and they feel that their location helps with their success.

Since the beginning of their beekeeping, the Mikells

always have their honey tested to certify the pollen/TNV (true nectar value) content and sell accordingly, along with using Organic Beekeeping Practices. We have a nice spring blend honey and have consistently had great sourwood honey each year, ranging from 80% to as high as 94% Certified Sourwood Honey. "There is never a 100% of any honey type because you can't put a leash on a bee, plus you'd need to have a single plant source over a large area", explained Doug. The Mikells sell raw honey that is pure, unheated, unpasteurized and unprocessed because it preserves all the natural vitamins, enzymes and other nutritional elements.



Photo Sharry Mikell

Doug with his award winning honey

Now the Mikell's apiary has grown to 35 hives. They also have a website, www.mikellsfarmhoney.com, along with selling on Etsy.com and spreading the word on Facebook. The Mikells take pride in selling their sourwood honey in beautiful etched glass muth jars. They also sell their honey, "Mikell's Farm Honey" and beeswax beauty products called "Bee Naturally by Sharry" at several festivals throughout the year, and have their goods in several local stores. The most recent location that their honey and beeswax beauty products can be found is the Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor's Center and the Folk Art Center, on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Mikell's Farm Honey is also a Certified Honey Producer for the NCSBA and will have both their spring blend along with their certified sourwood honey for sale. Please check out their website; www.mikellsfarmhoney.com or give Doug and Sharry a call at (828) 668-0103 to place an order or ask a question.



June Notes

- The main nectar flow starts to dwindle this month
- If harvesting honey, place "wet" supers back on hives late in day to prevent robbing
- Remove supers only when you can extract right away to prevent hive beetle infestation
- Ensure there is a constant water source
- Can start late-season splits late in the month
- Continue measures to control small hive beetles

Photo Jody Moore

June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5 <i>Mountain Sweet Clover (17)</i>	6	7 <i>Piedmont Sourwood (20)</i>	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 <i>Flag Day</i>	15	16	17 <i>Mountain Basswood (28)</i>
18 <i>Father's Day</i>	19 <i>NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK</i>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 <i>SUMMER BEGINS</i>	29	30	1




July Notes

- Can harvest honey if you haven't already done so
- Continue to control for small hive beetles
- Replace failing queens, or queens older than 2 years
- Ensure there is a constant water source
- "Bearding" may occur, when bees hang out on the front of the hive in hot weather
- Continue supplemental feeding, as needed

Photo Phil Barfield

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8 
9	10	11	12	13	14 NCSBA Summer Conference Winston Salem	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

August Notes

- Pest control critical this month
- Perform a thorough pest inspection and control as needed
- Take measures to reduce robbing
- Continue supplemental feeding and ensuring there is water
- Assess queen performance and requeen, if necessary



Photo Lane Kreitlow

August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 <i>Piedmont Goldenrod (67)</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7 <i>Mountain Goldenrod (67)</i>	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 <i>Mountain Aster (40)</i>	30	31	1	2



Bailey Bee Supply

Only 8 Miles
from Durham
I-85 to
exit 164

Walk-in Beekeeping Supply Store!

Conveniently Located to I-85 and I-40
Monday - Friday 9am-5:30pm
Saturday 9am-2pm
Closed Sunday

Five Frame Nucleus Colonies
Woodenware, Foundation & Hive Kits
Adult & Child Protective Gear
Extraction Equipment & Glassware
AND SO MUCH MORE!

www.BaileyBeeSupply.com



147 Boone Square Street
Hillsborough, NC 27278
919-241-4236



Master Beekeeper Program

by Paul Newbold Chairman Master Beekeeper Committee

The Master Beekeeper Program

(MBP) provides an infrastructure in which beekeepers can improve their beekeeping skills and knowledge through learning opportunities and public outreach services, not to mention a source of pride for participants as they work their way through the ranks of the program. The current MBP, although similar to the one that began in 1982, reflects the evolution necessary to encompass the numerous challenges that beekeepers have faced since the program's inception, such as tracheal mites, varroa mites, small hive beetles, and Africanized honey bees, to name a few. The program will continue to evolve as new issues arise.

A short history on the past and what we're doing for the future:

Dr. John Ambrose, the former Entomologist and Extension Apiculturist at North Carolina State University, began the MBP as a part of the state's Cooperative Extension Program. Beekeeping classes were taught at extension offices across the state, and records were kept at the university. Even after Dr. Ambrose's retirement in 2003, the program continued to grow and prosper under Dr David Tarpy, until budget cuts in 2011 made it impossible to continue the MBP at the University. At that point, the NCSBA agreed to operate the program. A committee was established and chaired by Greg Clements. Bee Schools, along with written and practical testing for the Certified level, were now done at the NCSBA chapters, with assistance from the Cooperative Extension offices. Journeyman and Master testing were done at the spring and summer conferences. In 2013, Dr. Ambrose once again took over the operation of the MBP, until his untimely passing in 2015. As a part of the new Master Beekeeper Committee, our goal is to maintain the integrity of the past and look to improving the future of how the program operates.

For the last 2 years, we have been very busy creating new tests for each level, documenting and categorizing each question, and defining the level of questions for

Certified, Journeyman, and Master tests.

New study guides have been established for each level. Mini games and quizzes are added monthly on the NCSBA website.

Education is the focus of the future. The MBP is now on solid ground. We will be publishing a syllabus for both the Certified and the advanced levels of study, which can also be used for class planning. The syllabi will be made flexible so that individual chapters can modify them in order to fit their chapter's specific needs and resources.



New programs like the Born & Bred 2017 are beginning. Word spread that the workshop was coming. When it went online for registration, the class rosters for both dates were full within 18 days! By the time this article is published, the workshops will be over and we will be evaluating them, and looking to the future on how we can improve them for next year.

Since MBP began back in 1982, we have issued nearly 5000 Certified Beekeeper certificates; 485 of those participants have continued on with the program to become Journeyman Beekeepers, and 134 have achieved the level of Master Beekeeper. Over those same 35 years, 18 beekeepers have made it to the level of Master Craftsman. The high standards established back in 1982 have remained constant, and those awarded certificates can truly say they were earned.

Please visit our website at www.ncbeekeepers.org for more information about the Master Beekeeper Program.

North Carolina State Beekeepers Association: A Brief History

by Charles Heatherly, NCSBA Historian



They made a major effort just to get there, to the first organizational meeting of the North Carolina State Beekeepers, January 11, 1917.

Some traveled two hundred miles over several days to arrive in Winston-Salem amidst a winter blizzard. There was Franklin Sherman from Raleigh, a beekeeping specialist with the NC Department of Agriculture, who had spent several years organizing beekeepers across the state.

And also W. P. Robinson, from the little community of Trotville in Gates County, who reported owning 400 colonies, the largest number among the 30 charter members assembled. And then there was J.R. Cobb of Reidsville, owning just four colonies, the smallest number reported.

They gladly paid their \$1 annual dues, representing a day's wages for some of them, and kicked off what would become the best and largest state beekeeping organization in the country.

Dr. E. F. Phillips, US Department of Agriculture Apiarist said of the meeting, as he made his presentation with lantern slides, "No state has held ten meetings equal to this, and there is no state whose first meeting equaled this."

The agenda of that first meeting dealt with many of the same topics as do our agendas now, such as pests and predators and the cost of sugar, which incidentally had just doubled to a nickel a pound as a result of World War I rationing.

From that modest beginning, we have grown to a membership of over 4,000, and have seen many achievements. Among them, not the least of which was encouraging the NC General Assembly to adopt the "Honey Bee Act" in 1939, giving the Commissioner of Agriculture the authority to combat the spread of

foulbrood disease. That act was modified in 1977 to deal with other threats facing the honey bee. You can read its provisions in G.S. 106-Article 55.

We did not accomplish these things alone. Beekeeping pioneers at State College (now NCSU), and the NC Department of Agriculture were there from the beginning.

Dr. David Tarpy, NCSU Apiculturist, traces the history of his program back to 1913. The original beekeeping specialist there, George Rea, was credited with doing much of the work that led to our first organizational meeting, in addition to teaching the first beekeeping course. C.L. Sams, the second name in the 1917 journal of charter members, replaced Rea and continued teaching beekeeping at NCSU until 1925, when he transferred to NC A&M. He remained an NCSBA advocate until his death in 1945.

Much has changed in the way we manage our bee yards in the past 100 years. We still need to buy queens, though the price has vastly increased to \$30 or more today. In 1917, virgin queens were advertised in the American Bee Journal for 50 cents, \$1 if mated and \$1.50 if mated and tested. Honey sold for 15 cents a pound retail, and less by the 50-gallon barrel.

While we are proud of our history, we are looking to an even brighter future. That is why we've made our primary goal of this Centennial celebration a fundraising campaign to build a new field lab at NC State University so that we can do a better job of identifying and dealing with the various diseases and pests that perennially threaten the honey bee.

Celebration of our 100 years of history and work during that period on behalf of the honey bee will be the theme of our upcoming summer meeting, July 13-15 in Winston Salem. Hope to see you there!

Birds, Blooms and Bees at the NC Zoo: May 13, 2017

Mark your calendars! This year bees will be featured in a special event at the NC Zoo in Asheboro. **Birds, Blooms and Bees** will happen Saturday, May 13, 2017. There will be special activities from 10:00 to 2:00 around the Honey Bee Garden to help the public learn more about bees and pollination. This will be in addition to our regular volunteer interpreters who are at the exhibit area. There will be about six stations with volunteers and educational material to engage people in learning more about honey bees, pollen, honey (including tasting varieties), NCSBA, bees and related insects, pollinator plants and more. This is the first time that bees have been a part of a special event day at the zoo.

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
AND PACKAGE BEES

Beez Needz

FAMILY OWNED
AND OPERATED

Tuesday through Saturday 9-5

3662 Edgar Road | Sophia, NC 27350 | 336.431.2339

beezneedz.com | facebook.com/beezneedz/

A Tool to Monitor Honey Bee Colony Health

by Stephanie Darnell



Over the past three decades, *Varroa destructor*, *Acarapis woodi*, *Aethina tumida*, numerous viruses, and a variety of other stressors, have presented increasing challenges to honey bee colony health. To combat these additional stressors, beekeepers must monitor hives more frequently, as colony health can change rapidly when any of these or other stressors are present. There are many ways to inspect honey bee colonies, ranging from casual entrance examinations, to thorough frame-by-frame assessments. And as many ways there are to inspect a hive, there are just as many methods of recording hive observations, which in combination, can lead to complicated and inconsistent monitoring and management of colony health.

The **Healthy Colony Checklist**, developed by Dick Rogers at the Bayer Bee Care Center in Durham, North Carolina, is a helpful tool to quickly assess, record, understand and manage honey bee colony health. Comprised of six assessable conditions, the Healthy Colony Checklist simplifies the monitoring process by standardizing

observations, metrics, and scoring of hive health. A standardized approach to colony inspections allows beekeepers to consistently track changes in their apiary to gain a better understanding of how best to manage their hives. The Healthy Colony Checklist relies on the assessment of six key conditions of a healthy hive. If less than ideal conditions are observed during colony inspections, corresponding predefined management actions for each key condition advises beekeepers on the necessary actions for each type of condition. The standardized approach speeds up inspections, and guides beekeepers on what tasks need to be performed before the next colony assessment.

It is recommended that beekeepers monitor hives weekly to better understand the current health status of a colony, predict future colony health, and determine management needs over the short-term to correct deficient colony health conditions. The Healthy Colony Checklist and corresponding management actions can be downloaded at

<https://beehealth.bayer.us/news-and-media/publications>

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

www.americanbeejournal.com

Association Member Subscription

(Rates listed below are discounted for Association members)
U.S.

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. \$23.80	<input type="checkbox"/> New
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. \$45.05	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Yr. \$63.75	

Prices good through
Dec. 31, 2017

Return to: American Bee Journal
51 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341

or Call
1-888-922-1293

Subscriber's Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

*The Beekeeper's
Companion Since 1861*

*Don't let your
beekeeping fall
behind the times!*



**Discounted
Association Rates**



Published Monthly

Free sample copy upon request



In the Apiary: Spring in North Carolina

by Nancy Ruppert, Apiary Inspector, NCDA&CS

Spring came early for bees and beekeepers, as the warmer-than-normal months of January and February led to an early bounty of pollen for brood-building. While most of the weak hives died out by the end of February, healthy hives grew so rapidly that many people were caught off guard, and swarming started early. This will likely be a heavy swarm season as a result.

Blooms for nectar sources seem to be getting an early start as well, but the opportunity for late freezes must not be discounted: if nectar producers like gallberry, tulip poplar and holly get frozen out by cold temperatures during early or mid-April, the honey crop in many areas will be significantly reduced; the attentive beekeeper needs to pay attention to this so that they will be ready to supplement the bees with sugar syrup to prevent summer starvation. However, if the weather is right, it could be a very productive year for honey yields.

Unfortunately, it looks like another year of unsustainable hive losses in NC (or at least in the

south-central/southeastern part of the state) during the winter of 2016-17, with final figures likely to be in the 35-40% range. Verbal reports indicate similar results in other areas. The primary culprits have not changed: varroa mites and the viruses they bring, failing queens, and lack of good nutrition—or any combination of these—represent the vast majority of causes for the hives that did not survive this most recent fall/winter, according to inspections and beekeeper reports. We still have way too many people who either are not aware enough of what their bees need and/or are not aware enough of why their bees did not survive; this is unacceptable in a state that has the largest beekeeping organization in the U.S., and should cause us as a state beekeeping community to bring about a call to action to effectively address this problem. Certainly one method to curb losses is by continuing to learn about honey bees, and what better opportunity than in Winston-Salem in mid-July, as the NCSBA celebrates their 100th anniversary!

In the meantime, keep attending monthly chapter meetings, consult with other experienced beekeepers, stay current with *reliable* beekeeping resources, and contact your regional apiary inspector if you need us.



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

BeeSupply@carollnanc.com
www.DandelionBeeSupply.com 
**Hours: Tues-Fri 8am-5pm
Sat 8am-1pm**

**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!**

Serving Cabarrus and the surrounding counties since 2002

HONESTY * INTEGRITY * QUALITY

No Matter What You Need...

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!



HopGuard® II



MANN LAKE

WE KNOW BEES

An Employee Owned Company

800-880-7694

www.mannlakeltd.com

*Free shipping applies to most orders over \$100 shipped standard ground delivery within the lower 48 states.

Reflections From Our First Miss NC Honey Queen (1972-1973)

by: Patricia D. Teague (Formerly Miss Pat Dollarhite)

During the 1972 summer meeting, the NC State Beekeepers Association (NCSBA) hosted the first ever Miss NC Honey Queen Contest. I was crowned the winner of the contest with the primary job of promoting the honey bee, beekeeping, and NCSBA throughout the state of NC. Our beloved Mary and Brady W. Mullinax, Sr., sponsored me as the first Miss NC Honey Queen. As my sponsors, they accompanied me to numerous events and appearances across NC and other states. More than 5,000 miles were logged that first year! Travels included various county and state fairs, television interviews and appearances, parades, parties, and county chapter meetings. The most extensive travel was to our sister state Kentucky, where I was asked to crown the first Miss Kentucky Honey Queen.



There were many memorable events as we traveled about promoting the honey bee. One such event was meeting Jim Graham, NC Commissioner of Agriculture (1964-2000) and sharing a taste of that golden nectar we call honey. Meeting with Commissioner Graham was short and sweet that day, as he had much to do regarding the opening of the state fair.

My most treasured memory as Miss NC Honey Queen was the involvement in the process of the honey bee being adopted as our NC state insect. In 1973, having a state insect was rather unheard of (though CA had adopted a butterfly). From my teenage perspective, it seemed most people regarded all insects as pests and not something to be honored. It was the progressive thinking of the NCSBA that saw the value of the honey bee to our food source, agriculture, and nature that got the ball rolling. A bill was introduced asking NC to

adopt the honey bee as the NC state insect. I recall Brady sharing the importance of wanting the public to understand and appreciate the value of the honey bee to NC. After what seemed like many meetings and much discussion, a joint meeting of the NC House and Senate was called to discuss the bill. I was asked to attend and speak at that meeting. After the meeting, I served a taste of honey on warm, bite sized, biscuits while the legislators chatted among themselves. All went well and on March 5, 1973 the honey bee was adopted as the NC state insect. Everyone celebrated!

I feel it important to share that NC was the first state to *request* the honey bee be designated as the state insect, but Arkansas was actually the first state to *adopt* the honey bee as their state insect. Brady shared with me, that while we were having meetings and discussions about whether we should or shouldn't, Arkansas picked up our idea from the AP wire and passed their bill a few weeks before us. It was great that two states now had the honey bee as their state insect, and eventually fifteen other states followed by making the honey bee their state insect, too!

It has been my honor to be the first Miss NC Honey Queen, and I will forever promote the value of the honey bee to mankind. Congratulations to NCSBA for 100 years of service!!



Jimmy Greene, Al Elder, Jim Graham, Patricia Dollarhite, unnamed, Brady Mullinax (All Photos P. Dollarhite)

"On the NCSBA website in the "Chapters" section is a template for new Chapters to follow in creating their bylaws. In it is a puzzling reference to sponsoring "honey queens" that intrigued me and launched me on a journey of discovery. I found the first NC Honey Queen --Patricia Dollarhite Teague -- and asked her to share her perspectives of the time. She was the queen in 1972-73 and, from what I could determine, the last queen was in 1980. As such, the era of the NC Honey Queens was a phenomenon of the 1970's."

--Suzy Spencer, NCSBA Membership Secretary

BeeFeeders

North Carolina Pollinator Plants

by: Ulana Stuart, Master Gardener

For this special Centennial issue,

I will highlight three plants that were heavily worked by bees a hundred or more years ago, and are still popular options for modern beekeepers. To support my historical research I used two reference sources: American Honey Plants by Frank Pellet (1920) and Honey Plants of North America by John Lovell (1926).



Photo Ulana Stuart

Basswood

Basswood or linden (*Tilia americana*) is a tree that grows 60 to 100 feet tall. According to Lovell (1926), when sealed and fully ripened in the hive, basswood was considered one of the best table honeys in localities where it was known. Basswood grows predominantly in the mountains down to the piedmont. Basswood trees largely disappeared from our bee forage when they were widely harvested for timber as the local manufacturing grew. Today, basswood has bounced back and is still among our most important trees as a source of nectar for honey. Beekeepers should take another look at planting basswood.

Check your local native plant nurseries to find a specimen to plant. Basswood thrives in moist soil that is well drained, full to part sun, and blooms in early summer. An established specimen will survive in tough growing conditions.

Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), a tree up to 50 feet in height, grows predominantly in the mountains and down into the piedmont. Many people regarded sourwood as the finest honey produced in America (Pellett 1920), and sourwood honey is still

held in very high regard today. Sourwood cultivation is moderately easy and the tree is readily available in local nurseries. It appreciates moist, well-drained soil but will tolerate dry conditions after it has been established.

A sourwood tree has a narrow pyramidal shape when grown in full sun but tolerates part sun, though in the forest sourwood trees rarely grow straight. The beautiful, white, showy blooms resemble lily-of-the-valley flowers, and bloom from early summer until the later part of July.



Photo Ellen Honeycutt

Sourwood

Photo Ricky Layson, Bugwood.org



Gallberry

Gallberry or inkberry or "Appalachian tea" (*Ilex glabra*), an evergreen holly that grows 6-8 feet tall, is predominantly found in the coastal plain up to the piedmont. The plant is named for its drupes (berry-like fruit), which are black as ink when ripe. Native Americans used the dry roasted leaves to make a tea-like beverage, earning this plant another common name, "Appalachian tea". Gallberry was once the most valuable honey plant in the Southeast US (Lovell 1926). At the time, widely cleared forests gave way to the widespread growth of gallberry bushes that covered thousands of acres of the sour or acid soil of the coastal plain. Bees tended to ignore other blooms during the gallberry nectar flow, which produces a honey with little or no granulation. Gallberry honey was in such great demand locally that little of it was shipped outside of North Carolina!

Today, the natural range of gallberry still covers a sizeable area, but there are also many gallberry cultivars available to growers: 'Shamrock' with shiny dark green leaves and 'Compacta', which is reportedly deer resistant. The plant is easy to grow with a few conditions: soil should be moist but well drained, and planted in full to part sun. The gallberry plant's inconspicuous greenish-white flowers bloom from May into June, depending on your area.

Rossman Apiaries. . .

where you are our business!!



Cypress Woodenware

We are famous for our "Long-Life" Cypress woodenware. Cypress is a long lasting wood that will weather well and last for years to give your bees the most comfortable home possible.



Frames, Foundation, Parts

All of our frames are made from #1 white pine and extra strong 3/4" top bar to hold together during extracting. We offer many types of foundation, wax and plastic. Also, replacement parts for repairs.

It's time to be thinking about:

- ~ Requeening
- ~ Mite control
- ~ Splitting hives
- ~ New frames/foundation

ROSSMAN APIARIES is here for all of your beekeeping needs!! Call us today!!



Stop in or call Toll-Free to speak with knowledgeable sales staff.
1-800-333-7677
Or shop our online store!



Like us on FaceBook



Containers

Various containers for bottling are in stock. Glass & plastic, any size you wish. Choose from several styles of closure. Other packing supplies available.



Medications Pest/Mite Control

Chemicals and drugs to treat many various pests and diseases that will destroy your hive. Protect your colony and treat to prevent loss.

NCSBA Summer Conference 2017

July 13 - 15 Winston Salem

Featured Speakers and Their Topics

“The ABC’s of Honey Bee DNA”

Hear Jon Zawislak present honey bee genetics in language for non-scientists. This should tie into our Born and Bred program.

“Beekeeping IPM”

Jon will explain techniques to reduce stress on our bees and keep them healthy. More stressors are added each year so reduction at some level is mandatory.

“Integrating Pest and Pollinator Management in Curcubit Production”

Dr. James Wilson will present material from his research at Va. Tech. As we know, pollinator management is the significant part of what we do as beekeepers.

“Challenging Problems and Common Misconceptions in Modern Beekeeping”

Dr. Wilson shares some interesting beekeeping controversies. It is often refreshing to get information that challenges the status quo.

“Integration of Colony Splits into Effective Management Practice for Sustainability”

Katy Evans has done significant research evaluating Varroa reduction with summer splits. Of course, colony increase is also a beneficial outcome of this technique.

“Current IPM Techniques and Tactics Being Used at Penn State, Including Oxalic Acid”

Katy will update us on techniques currently in place at Penn State University.

“103 Years of the NC Apiculture Program”

Dr. David Tarpy will present a historical parallel of this program with that of the NCSBA and NCDA.



Jon Zawislak is the apiculture specialist for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. He has been working with honey bees since 1998, and is equally at home in the bee yard, the laboratory or the classroom. Jon has a background in botany and entomology, and is a certified Master Beekeeper through the Eastern Apiculture Society. He and his family operate Walnut Valley Honey Farm in Little Rock, Arkansas, producing good products from the hive, and supplying pollinators for area community gardens.



Dr. James Wilson joined the Virginia Tech faculty in January 2017 as the new Extension Apiculturist. James grew up in Southport, North Carolina and earned his BS in Fisheries and Wildlife Science from NC State in 2008. James went on to earn his MS in Entomology with Dr. Rick Fell at Virginia Tech. James maintains Virginia Tech’s research and teaching apiaries and is looking forward to expanding the impact of Apiculture Extension throughout Virginia and surrounding states. For more information on Apiculture Extension in Virginia please visit blogs.ext.vt.edu/bees.



Katy Evans received her B.S in Zoology from University of Florida and worked for several years as a certified African Honey Bee Technician in Florida. She completed her Master’s thesis in Entomology at the University of Delaware in 2015, specializing in Apiculture. Her research focused on developing sustainable beekeeping managerial methods to reduce Varroa mite populations. She is currently working at Penn State University as an extension and research technician exploring pollinator health and Best Management Practices.



Dr. David Tarpy is a Professor of Entomology and Extension Apiculturist at North Carolina State University since 2003. His research interests focus on the biology and behavior of honey bee queens—using techniques including field manipulations, behavioral observation, instrumental insemination, and molecular genetics—in order to better improve the overall health of queens and their colonies. His work has provided some of the best empirical evidence that multiple mating by queens confers multiple and significant benefits to colonies through increased genetic diversity of their nestmates.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

100th Year Anniversary of the NCSBA

Embassy Suites Convention Center

406 North Cherry Street, Winston Salem, NC

JULY 13 – 15, 2017

Hosted by: NCSBA Local Chapter: FORSYTH COUNTY BEEKEEPERS

Please Print Clearly and Complete Items 1-8

Mail-In Advance Registration Deadline: 11:59 pm Thursday, June 15, 2017

1. Member Name	(Last)	(First)	Member ID #
2. Spouse Name	(Last)	(First)	Spouse Member ID #
Children (if attending)			
3. Address	(Street)	(City)	(State) (Zip)
4. Local Chapter	Phone ()		-
5. Email	County of Residence		

You may also register online at <http://www.ncbeekeepers.org>

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FEES:

(WALK-IN registration fees at the Summer Meeting will be an additional **\$15.00** for Individual and Family registrations.)
Registration fees are **non-refundable** after **June 22, 2017**.

		Amount Paid
6. Individual Registration (NCSBA member)	- \$50.00	\$
Family Registration (NCSBA member)	- \$70.00	\$
*NON-NCSBA Member Registration	- \$65.00	\$
*NON-NCSBA Family Registration	- \$85.00	\$
7. Donation to Apicultural Science Fund (Honey Bee Research) (Optional)		\$
8. Banquet Friday night 6:30pm	- \$35.00 per person	\$
9. TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Check Made Payable to NCSBA Registration)		\$

Mail registration form and check to: NCSBA Registration, P. O. Box 1627, Clayton, NC 27528

*Includes 2017 Annual NCSBA membership for the **primary** registrant. **South Carolina & Virginia Beekeepers** do not need to join the NCSBA to attend the 2017 Summer Meeting but are welcome to do so. If you are a SC or VA member and do not wish to join the NCSBA, select the NCSBA Member rate.

NCSBA Members: If you have **NOT** paid your 2017 Annual Dues (\$15.00), you may do so during registration and receive the NCSBA Membership price. You may register as an active NCSBA Member by providing your membership card or number when registering for the Summer Meeting. 2017 Annual Commercial Memberships are \$30.00.

Attendees are responsible for hotel reservations. When registering give NC Beekeepers Group Code listed below.

Downtown Winston-Salem

Marriott	336-725-3500	Group Code: BEK	\$125.00 + tax (parking included)
Deadline to book for Marriott is June 22, 2017			
Additional Hotels located 5 miles North, at Highway US 52 North & University Parkway:			
Hampton Inn	336-724-2300	Group Code: BEE	\$119.00 + tax
Doubletree	336-728-4020	Group Code: NCSBA	\$110.00 + tax
Deadline to book for Hampton Inn and Double Tree is June 13, 2017		(There will be a fee to park at Embassy)	

SEE THE NCSBA WEBSITE FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF ACCOMMODATIONS (www.ncbeekeepers.org)



North Carolina State Beekeepers Association
329 Laurel Street
Mount Airy, NC 27030-2911

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
ABERDEEN, SD
PERMIT NO. 200



John Brittle

(LEFT)

John is a former marine and a lifelong beekeeper. He has been active with beekeeping for seventy years, apart from two years in the military. John has been a driving force for the Craven-Pamlico Beekeepers Association, where he has given many presentations on beekeeping practices and helped mentor those who wish to become beekeepers. He even built a barn almost identical to the one pictured for the CPBA, and due to no longer keeping bees, as his age won't permit it he insisted I photograph him before it. As a beekeeper, the biggest problems John faced have been varroa mites and pesticides that are sprayed for both farming and mosquito control. I asked John what non-beekeepers can do to help honey bees, and his advice is for people to not spray insecticides before 3 pm, and plant as many bee foraging plants that you can. *John was nominated by the Craven-Pamlico Beekeepers Association.*

Jeanne Price

(COVER)

Jeanne was exposed to beekeeping at a young age, as her grandfather was a beekeeper. When she was eight years old, her grandmother made her a hat and veil, which allowed Jeanne to work with the bees and harvest honey. She acquired her first beehive in 1975. Throughout the 1990's, the number of hives she managed grew and grew until in 2005 she had acquired approximately 80 beehives in four different locations. She now keeps and manages about eight honey bee colonies.

Jeanne is also a former president of the NCSBA, and is in fact the only female to have held the position. I asked Jeanne how women involved in beekeeping managed in what seems to be a male-majority field. She told me that women must "keep learning and keep confident. If you know what you're doing with the bees and act with confidence, men are likely to show you as much respect as they would any male beekeeper". Jeanne also told me that the number of female beekeepers has grown during the past ten to fifteen years; however, it is still currently a male dominated endeavor. *Jeanne was nominated by the Rutherford County Beekeepers Association.*