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The Official Magazine of the NCSBA

The Good of the Hive
Honey Testing
Mite Patrol
Hawley Prindle
And Much, Much More...

Winter 2017



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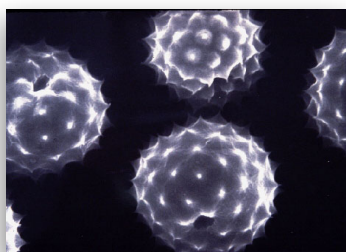
North Carolina **Bee Buzz** Winter 2017

Features



The Good of the Hive

11



Honey Testing

18



The Mite Patrol

25



Letters From Hawley Prindle

29



North Carolina State Beekeepers Association

1917-2017

Message from the President	5
Membership Update	7
Master Beekeeper Program	9
NCSBA Beekeeper's Calendar	14
In the Apiary	17
Wolfpack's Waggle	21
Beefeeders	23
Bayer Bee Care	24
NCSBA Library Update	27



ON THE COVER:

Asheville Artist Matthew Willey has been painting honey bee murals across North Carolina and around the world. Read more about his project, "The Good of the Hive" on page 11.

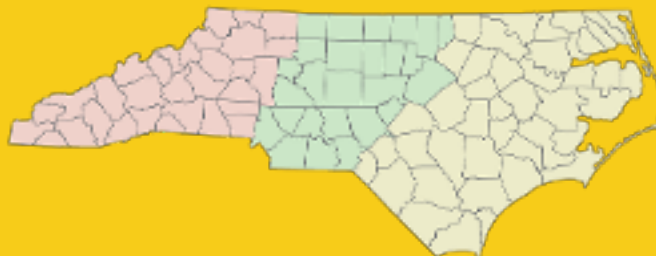
North Carolina State Beekeepers Association



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

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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: Spring: Dec 21 - Summer: Mar 21 - Fall: June 21 - Winter: Sept 21

We enthusiastically accept article and photo submissions! Please send us your articles and photos of news and information you'd like to share about your local association's latest events, successes and failures, a biography on a long-standing NCSBA member you would like to honor, or a young beekeeper you'd like to see highlighted. All honey bee-related topics will be considered for publication. While we regret that we cannot always include every submission, we will do our best to print as space permits. Submit your article in .doc or .docx format. Photos should be high quality jpg or tiff format. Please include a caption for photos. Do not embed captions in your photos or photos into your news article, but submit these as separate files. If you do not have access to a computer, we will accept typed or clearly handwritten articles. Mail written submissions to: *Bee Buzz* Submissions PO Box 1771 Pittsboro NC 27312.

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

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

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

NCSBA Communications

Beekeepers, please reference the text portions for the following announcements on the ncbeekeepers.org website in the Announcements section. Stay informed!

Oct. 5- Beehive Grant Fund Guidelines and instructions
Oct. 2- MBP Fall Testing Reminder notice
Sept. 29- Changes to NCSBA membership services and renewal procedures
Sept. 26- NCSBA honey sales at the NC State Fair
Sept. 10- Volunteer for the NC State Fair honey booth

Sept. 7- Hive protection-Hurricane Preparedness-NCSU
Sept. 2- MBP Regional Fall Testing
Aug. 25- Beehive Grant Fund
Aug. 2- Facebook page
July 20- Wolfpack's Waggle-NCSU



Message From The President

by Rick Coor

An Achilles Heel

Definition: A weakness in spite of overall strength, which can lead to a downfall

The North Carolina State Beekeepers Association. We are the largest volunteer led beekeeping organization in the United States, period; we have no rival. To make a respectful comparison, the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) has a slightly larger membership of 4,700 but the ABF has paid leadership. The volunteers of our association bring forth a substantial amount of initiative and dedication but we are only as good as our ability to connect and communicate with each other. It is very important to our success that our means of communication is effective and reliable, but why? What is there to know about? Is there anything going on? Please keep reading!

Consider the work done by NCSBA volunteers on every level.

- A network of seventy-seven chapters that engages literally hundreds of chapter level volunteers and leaders who lead local chapters, conduct meetings and mentor other members. It is often that chapter volunteers can be found working at community events, county fairs and presenting to non-beekeeper groups.
- An all volunteer leadership board with a full slate of officers, regional directors and dedicated committee personnel who work together to operate the association and administer current and new programs.
- Two annual statewide educational conferences where beekeepers hear speakers, attend workshops, meet vendors and connect with other beekeepers.
- The largest Master Beekeeper Program to be found anywhere, with thousands of certified beekeepers enrolled; hundreds of new beekeepers take the certified exam each year.
- A volunteer led group of beekeepers who staff the Honey Bee Garden at the NC Zoo, an exhibit conceived and funded by NCSBA leaders.
- A Golden Achievement Program implemented to promote chapter involvement.
- A Certified Honey Producer Program to help get the word out about the goodness of NC honey and promote sales for individual beekeepers.

- An Apiculture Science Initiative with the goals of supporting our current apiculture program, and to bring about the construction of a new honey bee research laboratory that will enable the apiculture program at NCSU to compete for national level grant funding and to recruit top level researchers to our state.
- A Born and Bred Queen rearing program intended to help develop an in-state supply of queens and honey bees in order to improve honey bee stocks.
- Skilled volunteer hours from the NCDA&CS apiary inspectors who consistently serve the beekeepers of NC by working with bee clubs and attending beekeeping events in addition to their regular duties.
- Dozens of NC State Cooperative Extension Service agents who volunteer their time with chapter meetings and events.
- Special detail volunteers such as the cookbook committee, who has thus far raised over \$9000 for the Apiculture program at NCSU, and the Honey Bee license tag project who has thus far raised approximately \$15,000 for same program.

To say the least, we are in the business of educating our members as well as protecting our honey bees. In this pursuit, everyone's effort is important. Whether it is a chapter or a state level event, we are all in this together. The initiative and dedication of NCSBA volunteers represents an outstanding collective body of work!

In spite of the strength of our formidable initiative and dedication, there remains however, the proverbial Achilles heel- effective communication. It has thus far proven to be a challenge to establish and maintain a viable system that will convey information to **everyone** in a consistent and timely manner. There continue to be NCSBA members and at times entire chapters that maintain they seldom or never hear anything from the state association. This situation is a problem. As a means to communicate with the membership, the NCSBA leadership has until now relied on an email list of chapter contact persons. The plan is for a chapter contact person to receive and forward information from the NCSBA to the chapter's members by email or at chapter meetings. In 2015, each chapter was asked to submit an email address in order to receive NCSBA announcements and a chapter contact email list was compiled; but what if? What if the announcements are sent to an email address that no one is checking? What if the announcements fall into spam folders? What if

Continued on next page

the person responsible for checking the emails does not forward them to chapter members? What if a chapter contact person does not maintain an accurate list of chapter member emails? Do you see where I am going with all this? The “what ifs” have the potential to render our communication system unreliable in spite of our best efforts. Getting the word out to only a portion of the membership is not good enough. We all need to know what is going on.

In order to improve communication within local chapters, chapter leaders are asked to please designate a chapter member to:

- Read the NCSBA announcements and any other relevant information during the business part of every meeting.
- Promote chapter events and photos on the NCSBA Facebook page; share what you are doing with others.
- Maintain an accurate email list for chapter members and make sure that the NCSBA chapter contact email is up to date.

Kudos to the initiative of local chapter leaders who have already taken these steps; communication makes a huge difference in the success of a local chapter! The following measures have been taken by the NCSBA leadership in order to provide for effective communication between the state association and the membership.

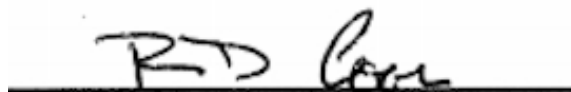
- NCSBA announcements will continue to be sent via the chapter contact email list to be forwarded to chapter members. This will assist with more timely information.
- NCSBA announcements will be posted on the ncbeekeepers.org website under the Announcements section in order for members to access or reference the

information.

- The title and date delivered for each NCSBA announcement will be published in the *Bee Buzz* so folks will know that there is information to find on the website.
- Information taken from NCSBA announcements will be shared on the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association Facebook page.

Additionally, there are approximately 215 at-large members who may not receive information from a local chapter. At-large members will need to refer to the ncbeekeepers.org website for information and/or set their Facebook notifications to receive posts from the NCSBA. There are still members that just do not do any of that “computer stuff” and we want reach them also because their contribution to our association is valuable. Non computer folks are asked to attend local chapter meetings and ask their chapter president for help with the NCSBA announcements. At the beginning of this message, you read an impressive list that represents the efforts and initiatives undertaken by NCSBA volunteers. Please consider a communication initiative to be added to the list. New measures have been implemented to assure that, moving forward, there shall remain no reasonable cause why any member would not receive NCSBA announcements. Your participation will make a difference. Please engage the NCSBA. Please share your chapter’s events and we can promote them in the *Bee Buzz*, on the website and on Facebook. With all this having been said and to be done, if the word still doesn’t get out-don’t worry, we’ll think of something else!

Thank you for reading (communicating effectively!),



Congratulations, Caine!

Please join me in congratulating Jefferson Caine Lankford for having his outstanding work on NC beekeepers recognized in the nationally acclaimed publication, *Aint-Bad*, and at the SE Center for Photography in South Carolina! Caine, a documentary and fine art photographer, spent the first half of this year photographing NCSBA beekeepers to be honored at the summer Centennial meeting. His photos were displayed at the meeting, as well as in the Summer 2017 *Bee Buzz*.

Aint-Bad is an independent publisher of photographic art by artists from all over the world. See some of Caine’s work here: <http://tinyurl.com/yavxkvtm>

Caine’s portrait of our very own Harvey Tucker (Anson County Beekeepers) will be on display in the exhibit *Intimate Portrait*, from 11/3/17-11/25/17 at the SE Center for Photography (<http://www.sec4p.com/>) in Greenville, SC.

Visit Jeffersonlankford.com to read about Caine and see more of his amazing work. Thank you, Caine, for your generous gift of time and talent to help us recognize many of the wonderful beekeepers that make the NCSBA the thriving organization that it is. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors!



NCSBA Membership Update

Change in Membership Coordinator, Membership Number Recovery by Email, Renewal Date, and NCSBA Communications

We have a new Membership Coordinator

The resignation of Laurie Shaw, the NCSBA Membership Coordinator for the past ten years, was effective October 10. The NCSBA appreciates her efforts for our association over the years and we can email Laurie at lshaw@tyler-carter.com to express our appreciation. Todd Walker, Webmaster and Freshman Piedmont Regional Director will assume the duties of Membership Coordinator until the position is filled. To contact Todd, please use membership@ncbeekeepers.org. The new NCSBA phone number is (336)-933-1917 and new address is NCSBA, Post Office Box 99, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541

Membership number recovery online

It is fast and easy to access your membership number if you need it in order to either renew or register for the spring or summer meetings. Your membership number is in the NCSBA database even if you have not maintained continuous membership since first joining the NCSBA. You will need the email you used to join with and one that is used only by you. Visit www.ncbeekeepers.org/member-number-recovery, enter your email and you will receive your membership number. If you share an email with someone else, you will be asked to update your email. You can also log on to the ncbeekeepers.org website, hold the cursor over the **Members** heading and click on **Member number recovery**. Instructions can also be found there to use the online membership number recovery option. Please use this option instead of calling the Membership Coordinator.

Membership renewal season started Oct. 15

It's time to renew your NCSBA membership for 2018. Please join us and take advantage of all the benefits the NCSBA has to offer. The membership year runs between January 1 and December 31. Dues that were processed before October 15 were applied to 2017. Individuals who join or renew after October 15 are members for 2018. The updated 2018 membership form is posted on the NCSBA website and was sent to chapter contacts. Members can also join or renew online at www.ncbeekeepers.org.

Emailed membership cards; Please verify your information

The traditional hard copy NCSBA membership card is still available to members upon request when joining or renewing but not for members who join or renew online. If you join or renew online you will receive an email with a downloadable, printable membership card. The Membership Coordinator will be happy to send you a hard copy membership card at your request if you join by USPS or through your local chapter. For USPS delivery, you must first download, print and fill out the membership application, check the option to receive a hard copy and drop the application in the mail. If you renew through your chapter, you will still receive an email membership card unless you fill out a membership application and check the option to receive a hard copy. The chapter will be responsible for returning your hard copy membership card if you request one. When joining or renewing, members should read carefully and fill out an application either online or on paper. Please make sure that your name, mailing address, email address, and preferences for receiving the *Bee Buzz*, the *Yellow Book* and other information from the NCSBA is up to date.

How the NCSBA communicates with Chapters and Members

The NCSBA cannot serve the chapters or members that it cannot communicate with. A chapter contact email list is used to send announcements to chapter contacts who are asked to then forward the information to their chapter members. The chapter contact email list must be updated regularly. An email will be sent to the chapter contact email list in December which is during the time that chapter officers normally change. Chapters are asked to verify their contact email address for the following year. It is assumed that chapters that do not respond have an email issue and the chapter officers are contacted by phone in order to verify the chapter contact email. These emails constitute the chapter email list that is used to send notices from the NCSBA and from Dr. Tarpy's Apiculture Science program at NCSU. The chapter contact emails can be found in the *Yellow Book* in the "directory of chapters".

Continued on next page

In addition to emailing announcements to the chapter contact email list, the NCSBA will also print all announcements in their entirety on the ncbeekeepers.org website under the Announcements header, post the information in the announcements on the Facebook page, and publish the titles and email dates of the announcements in the *Bee Buzz* in an announcements box that can be found at the bottom of the NCSBA editor's page. This represents four ways a member can receive announcements. Since January 1, there have been at least thirty NCSBA announcements sent via the chapter contact list such as the Born and Bred Queen Rearing workshops, the Beekeeper profiles project by Jefferson Lankford, the Centennial Cookbook, the Bee Bowl Competition, Master Beekeeper information and spring and summer meeting announcements. If you are your chapter's contact person and have missed these announcements, please check your spam folder for other issues. It is

recommended that a chapter set up a group email address to use as the chapter email contact so that more than one officer receives announces from the NCSBA and NCSU. If you are a chapter member and have not received any announcements-either by email or at a chapter meeting- please check with your chapter's contact person.

Please check the *Bee Buzz's* NCSBA Announcements section to make sure that you have received all the announcements sent since the last edition.

Questions?

To update your email address or other contact information, contact the Membership Coordinator at membership@ncbeekeepers.org or at (336) 933-1917.



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Master Beekeeper Program

by "B" Townes Chairman Master Beekeeper Committee

During the 100th anniversary

celebration of the NCSBA at the summer conference 15 new Master Beekeepers were recognized. The following morning, one member who could not be at the banquet stopped by the Master Beekeeper booth where past chair, Paul Newbold, surprised her with a "private" presentation of her Master's award. This is just one of many examples of how your MBP committee goes the extra mile!

The MBP Committee was recently expanded with the addition of two Master Beekeepers. I am humbled and honored to have accepted the role of Chair. Doug Galloway has graciously volunteered to be your contact person on the committee with any assistance you need regarding our records of your individual progress. Paul Newbold will continue as our MBP historian and advisor (to keep us straight!) and as part of the committee. DJ and Bill Moran, who are the backbone of our committee, have agreed to continue bringing new quizzes and games to the website each month, which I strongly encourage each of you to use on a regular basis. They are for self-study and you do not even have to put your name on them! In addition, DJ and Bill are continually updating the questions for the regional and conference testing, as well as the certified tests

administered at the local level. They do a superb job of making sure the integrity and reputation of your MBP remains strong!

The MBP committee continues to work on new initiatives, including development of curricula for both the Certified and Advanced (Journeyman and Master) levels. We still need to hear from you concerning educational programs for chapter meetings that are working for you so that we can add them to the list we are collecting to share at a future date.

We are developing a PowerPoint program that explains more about the MBP that includes how to use the monthly quizzes and games at your meetings. This will be available either as a presentation from one of us on the committee, or as a resource that your program director can use as is. It is designed to be flexible, and is capable of being modified to fit chapter meeting time constraints.

By the time you read this, we will have conducted regional testing in the eastern and western parts of the state. We are working on logistics for the Spring 2018 conference, where we will be offering review sessions, as well as additional testing opportunities. Let us know how we can help you individually or as a chapter with your advancement through the levels of the MBP program. Our email address is: mbp@ncbeekeepers.org. [Contact information for MBP committee members can be found at NCbeekeepers.org.](#)

Photo: Charles Heatherly



First Lady & the Bees

North Carolina's First Lady, Kristin Cooper is shown helping Master Craftsman Beekeeper Danny Jaynes take honey from the honey bees at the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh. She thought the process was fun and is looking forward to enjoying the delicious honey.

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The Good of the Hive



Carrboro

In 2008 one tiny honey bee landed on the floor of artist Matthew Willey's studio in Manhattan. The bee was sick and moving really slowly so the artist got down on the floor with her and looked closer at a honey bee than he ever had before. They connected. After the bee died, he started Googling honey bees. At the time, colony collapse disorder was in the news, and the mystery fascinated Matthew. As he researched honey bees further he came across a behavior called altruistic suicide. When a bee feels sick in the hive, it will exit the hive and fly off into the abyss for *the good of the hive*. This is where the name came from about 7 years later. A honey bee's immune system is collective – it is not based on the individual bee's body. It occurred to Matthew that, as a human, his was too. All of the work is linked to that idea.

In 2015 Matthew received a video message from a friend showing a large blank wall on a family-owned honey company in LaBelle, Florida. His friend suggested he approach them and see if they want a mural of honey bees. Even as a full time mural painter, and with a growing fascination with honey bees and their behaviors, Matthew had not painted a mural about bees. When he reached out to the company, they said that they would love a mural but murals were illegal in the town AND they didn't have any money to pay for it.

Matthew told them that if they got the law changed, he would come and do the mural anyway. Two months later, to Matthew's surprise, the law was changed and so he raised \$500 from friends and went to do the mural. The project would take 10 weeks and what happened would change the direction of Matthew's path as an artist forever.

When he got to LaBelle, a family put him up in their RV for free for 10 weeks. The coffee shop in town gave him free coffee and breakfast every day. Restaurants gave him free food and people started donating little bits of money. On top of that, other honey companies in the US donated to the mural. In the end, the mural was fully funded and Matthew realized that there was a lot more going on than simply raising awareness about the importance of bees. This mural had illuminated the issues surrounding bees, but in doing so, it shined a light on the beauty of the human spirit.

It was a conversation on site that led to the idea of continuing the mission. Someone asked Matthew how many bees were in a healthy honey bee colony. "30,000 to 60,000." The person followed up with "Do you think you could paint 50,000 bees?" (There were only 17 in the first mural!) Matthew thought about it for a few seconds and replied, "I don't know. Let's see!" ... and The Good of the Hive Initiative began.

It would take nearly 8 months to find another mural site. Matthew ran a Kickstarter campaign that failed, and struggled with whether it was going to be financially possible to shift the focus of his work as a muralist. Phyllis Stiles (Bee City USA founder) connected him with their members and this was a turning point. He was overwhelmed with inquiries about the initiative from all over the country, but Carrboro and Chapel Hill far exceeded the number of emails he was receiving from anywhere else, and they were close enough to hop in the car and meet them. After one town council meeting where he shared his story with the Carrboro aldermen, they immediately (and unanimously) agreed to host and fund a mural in

Continued on next page

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their town. Dan Schnitzer (Carrboro and Chapel Hill Sustainability Coordinator) saw the education possibilities, and a second mural in the area was planned for Estes Hills Elementary School. With those, the first two murals as a fully formed initiative were in place. It was through the people in Carrboro that Matthew was connected with Burt's Bees for their Culture Day in 2016.

Matthew Willey lives part time in Asheville when he isn't traveling the world painting murals. His growing number of murals throughout NC currently includes the Burt's Bees headquarters in Durham, the Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, the Hive in Gastonia, and others. Visit thegoodofthehive.com to see more of Matt's incredible work, or to donate to the project. You can contact Matt directly at matt@thegoodofthehive.com.

All Photos Courtesy of The Good of the Hive ©2017



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December Notes

Bees form a tight cluster as the temperature falls

The cluster expands and contracts as the temperature rises and falls

The queen may begin laying eggs later in the month

These bees will replace bees that have died over the winter

Beekeeper: Read, attend meetings, continuing education

Doug Galloway's State Fair Blue Ribbon Beeswax Display

Photo: Jody Moore

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Christmas Eve	Christmas Day Chanukah					
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
New Year's Eve						

Camellia (85)
Winter Solstice



January Notes

Brood rearing begins by the middle of the month if it hasn't already

Longer days and pollen stimulate brood rearing

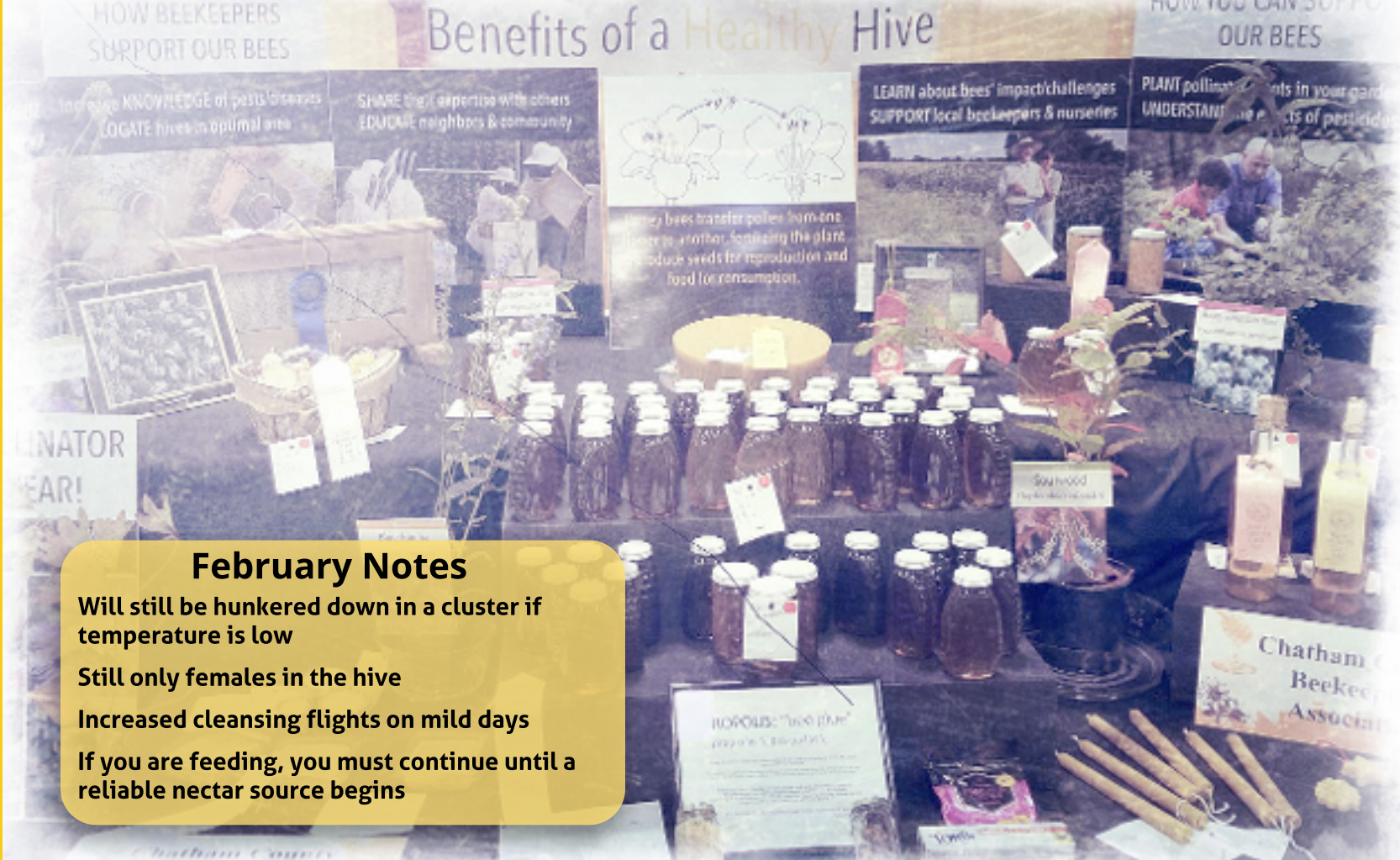
This is a good time to plan for buying packages and Nucs

Wake County Beekeepers' State Fair Blue Ribbon Display

Photo: Lane Kreitlow

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 MLK Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20 Mountain Red Maple (45)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3



February Notes

Will still be hunkered down in a cluster if temperature is low

Still only females in the hive

Increased cleansing flights on mild days

If you are feeding, you must continue until a reliable nectar source begins

Chatham County Beekeepers' State Fair Red Ribbon Display

Photo: Lane Kreitlow

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
					Groundhog Day	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Piedmont Red Maple (40)				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Valentine's Day			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	President's Day					
25	26	27	28	1	2	3



In the Apiary: Winter in North Carolina

by Nancy Ruppert, Apiary Inspector, NCDA&CS

Regional apiary inspections during the winter reveal to me a wide variety of findings. This is often due to the beekeeper accomplishing (or not) those tasks which help the bees get through this most difficult of seasons.

By the time you read this, our bees will be hunkered down, trying their best to stay warm through chilly nights. Are there enough bees in the hive to generate the heat necessary for survival? (Generally, three deep frames full of bees would be the minimum necessary to get through a night of freezing temperatures.) If not, it's helpful to know why: did the queen fail months ago? Did varroa mites and associated viruses shorten the lifespans of too many winter bees? Was there a lack of adequate nutrition to sustain the colony and the energy needed for clustering efficiently?

If proper preparation was made during the late summer and fall, there will be adequate food stores—especially carbohydrates—and plenty of adult bees from a productive queen. Varroa mites, which plague virtually every hive of honey bees, can destroy even the healthiest of colonies if the mites are too numerous and/or have transmitted too many destructive viruses, and if during October and November the mite overload weakened the colony, that often cannot be fixed, no matter what you do—another example where procrastination can kill an entire hive! As many of us have painfully discovered, waiting until November to prepare your hive(s) for winter usually results in “too little, too late.”

Winter hive management in North Carolina is primarily about nutrition (more on that shortly), since hives with varroa infestations and/or long-term queen failures are likely non-existent by late January. However, a hive whose queen fails during the fall can be combined with another stronger hive to preserve worker bees/brood of the failed-queen hive. It is also perfectly reasonable to complete a mite “clean-up” treatment with oxalic acid—**per package instructions**—during the winter, when brood is minimal or non-existent, to help your bees come out of winter even stronger. If your best efforts still result in a colony whose population of adult bees covers less than four deep frames, it can be worth the time/expense to wrap those hives to help insulate heat; be sure to allow ventilation so that moisture can escape.

Some honey bee colonies sail through the winter without needing anything, especially when the beekeeper has taken measures during the fall to ensure adequate pollen/honey stores. But even in those situations it can be helpful to begin supplementing pollen (dry powder and/or patties) during late December through January, to help jump-start brood-rearing so that populations are robust for the spring nectar flow and making hive splits. Supplementing carbohydrates in January-February with candy boards or fondant, even in the presence of stored honey, can add to this population jump-start. Keep in mind that after about eight weeks of nutritional supplements, the hive will likely be ready to swarm or split, so be prepared!

Don't forget about other winter beekeeping tasks: order bees if needed; get equipment ready; attend beekeeping classes, even if you've already been—nobody knows everything!

If you have questions/concerns about your honey bees, please consult your local beekeeping experts, and North Carolinians are always welcome to consult their area's apiary inspector, whose contact info can be found at www.ncagr.gov. Happy Holidays, and Happy Beekeeping!

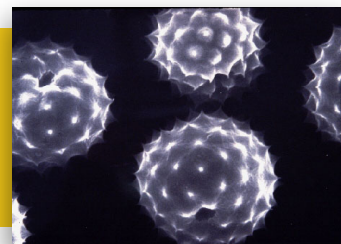


Photo: Jennifer Welsh

A Mid-Winter's Dream...

Honey Testing: Pollen Confirms Purity of McDowell County Honey

by Ed Speer



Did you know that every bottle of authentic unfiltered honey carries a unique pollen signature that reveals exactly what plants the honey bees were feeding on, where and when those plants were growing on the earth, and even gives the percentage of the honey derived from each type of plant? However, it takes a melissopalynologist (a honey-pollen expert with a microscope) to reveal the details.

Beekeepers across McDowell County annually submit samples of their local honey for this kind of pollen analyses. The samples are analyzed by Dr. Vaughn Bryant, Director of The Palynology Research Laboratory at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Dr. Bryant is unquestionably the most experienced pollen expert in the US. He has devoted his career to identifying modern and ancient pollens from all over the world and his services are in high demand for scientific, forensic, criminal, and truth-in-labeling investigations.

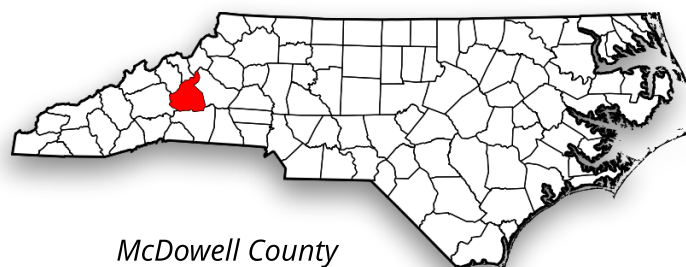
Dr. Bryant's pollen analyses of McDowell County honeys assure consumers that they are getting only pure, raw, local, healthy, original pollen, and honey bee produced honey.

Since honey purity is not well regulated in the US, processed or altered honey (and even non-honey sugar syrup) are occasionally sold as pure honey. It's truly buyer beware when honey is involved as claims of purity, floral source, country and region of origin, etc. can only be verified by proper pollen analyses, which is seldom available to the consumer. Pollen-free honeys (which may or may not be legal depending on how the honeys came to be free of pollen) have been found in more than 70% of the US retail-store honey samples tested by Dr. Bryant; and the buying public is increasingly becoming more concerned.

Unverifiable Honey found in Retail Stores in McDowell County

The McDowell Beekeeping Club recently submitted three different honey brands bought at separate retail stores within the county and Dr. Bryant analyzed the standard 10-gram sample of each. These honeys were produced outside McDowell County by large commercial operations and each was labeled pure natural sourwood honey, insinuating that they were local honeys. However, not a single grain of sourwood

pollen was found in any of the three samples. Since 1,000 to 10,000 grains of sourwood pollen are normally found in 10-gram samples of unprocessed sourwood honey (such as that provided by beekeepers within the county), these three honeys cannot be verified to be sourwood honey, despite what the labels say. In addition, since no pollen from nectar-producing blossoms was present, these three samples also cannot be verified to be from this part of the world, or even verified to be authentic honey bee produced honey. At worst, one or more of these samples may be pesticide-laden, pollen-free honey from China (which is illegal but commonly smuggled into the US), or high fructose corn syrup without pollen to begin with. At best, these three samples are sourwood honeys from the southeastern US which have had their original pollen removed and thus were pasteurized at the same time. Dr. Bryant reports: "The only time you would get this low of a pollen count [*in real honey*] is when a sample was HIGHLY FILTERED to remove the pollen."



Removing Pollen and Pasteurization

Filtration of honey to remove pollen is accomplished by several methods involving high-heat pasteurization. Microfiltration employs heating the honey and using high pressure to force it through fine filters to remove most of the pollen grains. Ultrafiltration removes all the pollen but includes dilution of the honey with water, high heat and pressure to force it through extremely fine filters, followed by evaporation of the water again with high heat.

Note that the recommended pasteurization temperature for honey is 170 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 seconds or 145 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes---about the same as that for milk. Microfiltration typically heats honey to 150-170 degrees Fahrenheit so it will more easily pass through the filter; therefore, removal of pollen by

microfiltration also results in partial or complete pasteurization.

The US Department of Agriculture Honey Standards allows for the removal of pollen from honey if it does not alter the identity of the honey (thus ultrafiltration is disallowed). Most large honey producers based in the US employ microfiltration to produce processed honey that is pollen-free and pasteurized. This is the honey for sale in most retail stores in the US.

However, the issue of pollen-free pasteurized honey is highly contentious. On one hand, microfiltration retards crystallization and kills yeast and bacteria, allowing longer shelf life (and thus lower retail prices) as well as gives uniform color and taste; all consumer-desired advantages. On the other hand, removal of pollen and the high heat destruction of enzymes and live cultures may compromise the taste and nutritional value of the honey in ways unacceptable to many consumers.

If fact, many people feel that once stripped of its pollen, enzymes and live cultures, it is no longer true honey but instead is unhealthy sugar syrup, which is otherwise indistinguishable from simple corn syrup. By contrast, the room-temperature gravity-fed screening employed by local beekeepers when harvesting honey from their hives does not remove pollen nor otherwise change the nutritional value of the honey.

How to find Raw Original-Pollen Honey you can Trust

The results of numerous honeys tested so far from various beekeepers across McDowell County, including the identification of every single grain of pollen, can be found on the Beekeeping Club's website at:

<http://www.McDowellHoneybees.org> (follow link to **POLLEN SUMMARY**). Based on this widespread testing, we know that our locally produced honeys contain the expected and acceptable amounts and types of pollen---your assurance of the taste and quality of our pure, raw, natural, original-pollen McDowell County honeys.

We've found that our honeys are usually mixtures of up to 10 different plant nectars (i.e., up to 10 different pollen types); and each honey has its own unique and delightful flavor. Our springtime honeys are generally mixtures of many nectar sources, have lots of pollen, and robust flavors. Our summertime honeys generally are mixtures of only a few nectar types and have subtler flavors. Following the volunteer NC Honey Standards, if we label our honey a single floral source (such as sourwood), that means nectar from that floral source makes up more than 51% of the honey (based on actual pollen analyses).

McDowell County beekeepers are hobbyists and small farmers who produce limited amounts of real authentic honey; they do not remove pollen nor expose the honey to high heat. They are residents of the county and are only interested in offering high quality, great tasting honey to their neighbors. You can find these trusted beekeepers by visiting the **McDowell County Honey Trail** website at: <http://www.McDowellCountyHoneyTrail.org>.

This article was originally published in the January 29, 2017 issue of The McDowell News in Marion, NC



Photo: Tim Huffman

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Wolfpack's Waggle

The NC State Apiculture Program: A Historical Perspective

by Dr. David Tarpy

Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology, NC State University



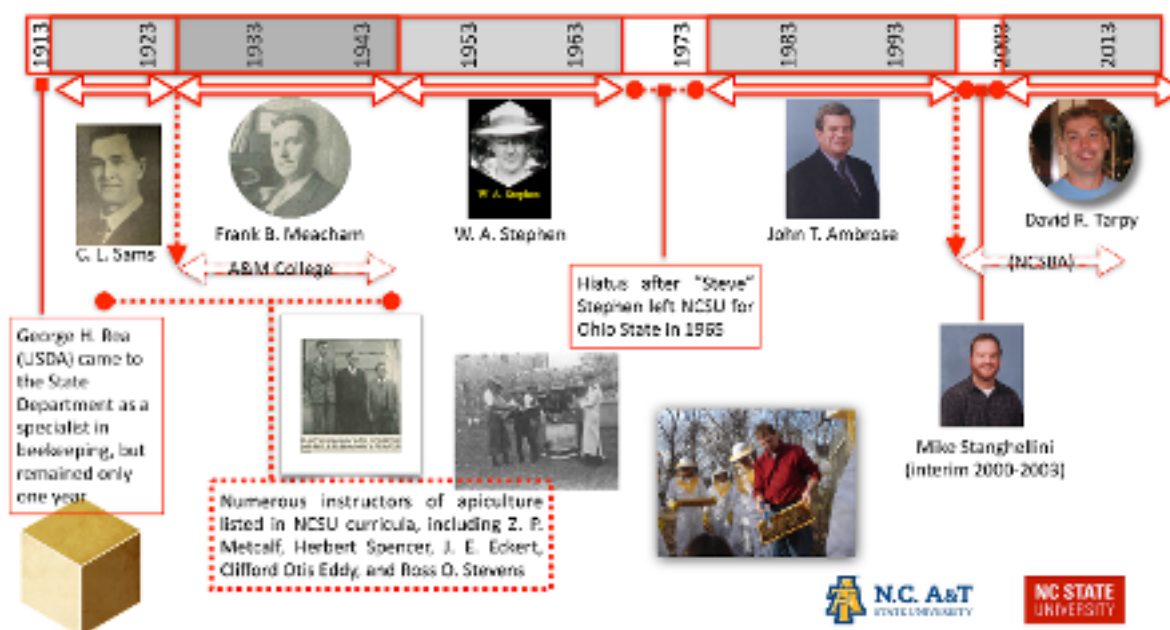
The history of the Apiculture Program at NC State University has a somewhat hazy beginning, in large part because there was a lot of overlap (and therefore confusion) between state agencies back then (specifically the Agriculture Department, now the NCDA&CS, and the A&M College, now NCSU). In 1913, a USDA scientist named **George H. Rea** came to NC to investigate the potential need for a presence in beekeeping extension. After only one year it became clear that there was indeed a high demand, and **C. L. Sams** was hired in 1914 by the state and moved full-time to A&M College in 1925 where he remained until his death in 1945. Also in 1925, **Frank Meacham** was hired at the University to teach beekeeping and serve as the extension specialist in beekeeping. Other faculty were also involved in apiculture at the time, including **Z. P. Metcalf** and **J. E. Eckert**.

After WWII, another extension apiculturist took over the program, **W. A. Stephen**. Known as "Steve" by all of the beekeepers in the state, he helped to modernize beekeeping in post-war NC until his departure to Ohio State in the mid-1960s. There was a brief hiatus in the program during his absence.

In 1974, the state beekeepers successfully lobbied the state legislature to revive the program, and in 1975 **J. T. Ambrose** was hired to run the NC State Apiculture Program and launched it into the modern era. Dr. Ambrose's influence on the state's beekeeping community—and on the NC State Beekeepers Association in particular—cannot be understated. In 1982, he started what is now the largest and oldest continually run Master Beekeeper Program in the nation. As Executive Secretary of the NCSBA, he wrote their newsletter, annual booklet, and calendar, as well as conducting their two statewide conferences each year. Dr. Ambrose stepped down as Extension Apiculturist in 2000, and his last PhD student **Michael Stanghellini**, served in an interim capacity for three years before taking his own position at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

In 2003, Dr. Ambrose's successor was hired and continues to this day. During the last 14 years, there has not only been unprecedented growth in beekeeping within the state, the size and scope of the entire program has transitioned to a majority-research program, although our commitment to extension continues.

103 years of the NC State Apiculture Program



There have been several NC State Extension Apiculturists over the last century, and each has changed with the times and addressed critical issues dealing with beekeeping during their tenure.

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BeeFeeders

North Carolina Pollinator Plants

by: Ulana Stuart, NC State Extension Master Gardener

Winter food sources for honey bees in North Carolina can be challenging, as there is a very small selection of plants for bees from which to choose. On the positive side, you can plant trees and shrubs from the fall well into the winter, as long as you pay attention to soil moisture and water when necessary. You must also water all new plantings throughout their first year until the roots have become established. The **Japanese flowering apricot (*Prunus mume*)** is one of the first trees to bloom in the winter. It often blooms on the first warm day of January or early February in the North Carolina Piedmont and Coast. In the mountains, bloom start times will be later, and are highly dependant on local weather conditions. However, these trees will do well in the mountain areas. Another feature of this tree is the flower buds are staggered, so if a frost kills the blooms, the tree will continue to flower after the cold spell ends.

missouribotanicalgarden.org



Japanese flowering apricot (*Prunus mume*)

Japanese flowering apricot is a very fragrant, fifteen to twenty-foot tree that offers both pollen and nectar for hungry winter honey bees. This tree is so fast growing that 4 years after planting you may have a 10-foot high and wide tree, often with multiple trunks! Most of my sources recommend pruning this tree to a single trunk. Finally, this is one of the longest-lived of the flowering fruit trees. Japanese flowering apricot trees require full sun and good drainage so when planting, place the trunk a bit higher if your soil does not drain well. Reasonably fertile soil that is acidic is ideal for this tree's growth. It has no known diseases, though borers have been known to attack stressed trees, so fertilize

regularly. One final issue to consider is Japanese flowering apricot has a thin bark that can be easily damaged by mowers and string trimmers. Some of the easiest to find cultivars are: 'Peggy Clark'- a double rose-pink; 'Bonita'-a semi-double rose-red; 'Dawn'- a pink specimen that tends to flower a little later.

Sweetbox (*Sarcococca hookeriana*) is a 4-6 foot high and wide evergreen shrub from the Himalayas that can bloom in February and March, depending on its location. It is hardy in Zones 6 to 8, which covers the entire state. Sweetbox is an extremely fragrant, evergreen shrub with simple small white flowers and dark green and shiny leaves. It provides a winter pollen supply for honey bees but is even more valuable as a nectar source. Sweetbox is an easy shrub to grow and tolerates part shade to full shade. However, it does NOT do well in full sun. Sweetbox also has a high drought tolerance once established, so it will grow well when shaded by deciduous trees in the summer.



wikipedia.org

Sweetbox (*Sarcococca hookeriana*)

Winter jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) is a fast growing, shrubby plant with fine textured leaves. It grows 3-4 foot high and can grow 12-15 feet wide when trained on a wall or trellis. This shrub looks great when it is allowed to spill over walls. It also does well on banks or poor soil areas where a cover is needed. The stems stay green through the winter, and it is full of yellow flowers when blooming. Honey bees enjoy both the pollen and nectar. Winter jasmine will root where the stems come into contact with soil, will form new plants and colonize, which can be a real asset. To control or rejuvenate the growth of this shrub feel free to prune it back hard every 3 to 4 years. There are no serious diseases or pests, and plants are fairly easy to find for sale.

Bayer Bee Care Center

Looking Beyond the Hive

by: Kim Huntzinger



There are close to 4,000 species of bees in North America compared to the more than 20,000 species found in the world! Of these 4,000 species, very few are social like honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) and bumble bees (~50 *Bombus* species), which live in colonies with a division of labor between the queen and a multitude of workers. Most of North America's bee species are solitary ground-nesters (70 %) or twig-nesters (30 %), wherein a single female builds and provisions her nest alone.

Bees collect pollen and nectar to feed to their developing young. Because of this diet, bees have evolved specialized structures for collecting and transporting large quantities of pollen and are oftentimes quite hairy to aid in pollen gathering. The natural distribution of bee species varies throughout the United States based on habitat and nutritional needs of each species. The shrub lands in the western U.S. tend to have greater bee diversity (+1000 species) than the forests of eastern U.S. (<500 species). Some bees are generalists and able to collect pollen from a wide variety of plants in bloom, while other bee species are specialists and have specific nutritional requirements that can only be obtained from a few specific plants or plant groups.

surveys. "Bee bowls" are the preferred passive collecting method for many melittologists. These bowls are painted with fluorescent colors (often yellow, blue and white) and filled with soapy water to trap bees, as they are attracted to the different colors. The diversity of colors can help attract a diversity of species, and in combination with net collecting, these sampling strategies can provide a snapshot in time of a given bee community. Monitoring sites where long-term surveys (+10 years) are conducted allows researchers to look at patterns in bee populations to assess relative abundance and diversity in a given area. It is important to keep in mind that things like differences in collection methods and sampling effort can change how the data will be interpreted.



©BayerBeeCare

Drawer of bee specimens sorted into categories. Notice size variation between species.

I'm particularly passionate about surveying native bee species because of the incredible experiences it has afforded me. I have participated in several long-term surveys in remote locations of the U.S. as a collector, curator and taxonomist, and in specimen processing and data entry. These opportunities have allowed me to see firsthand the magnitude of the endeavor to document our native bee fauna. Oftentimes during these surveys, new species are discovered and/or confirmed. Imagine having a life-checklist to see all the bee species in the U.S. – or around the world (+20,000 species)!

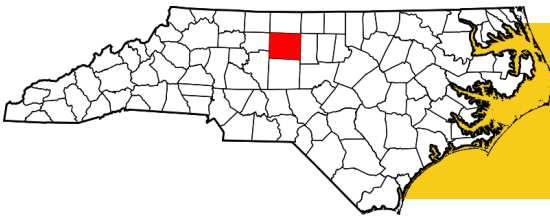
Kim Huntzinger is a melittologist and research associate with the Bayer Bee Care Center in Durham, NC.

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Forsythia (plant) with Bombus sp.

In order to know the status of our bee species, it is important to document when and where they occur by conducting surveys or inventories. Bee researchers, or melittologists, use active (e.g. net collecting) and passive (e.g. bowl traps) collection methods during bee



The Mite Patrol

by: James Brown President Guilford County Beekeepers

A person does not have to attend many beekeeping meetings to learn that varroa mites and the related problems that accompany them is the scourge of beekeepers and beekeeping.

With that in mind, when the Guilford County Beekeepers Association won the GAP award in 2016, we decided that our efforts should go toward arming our members with the knowledge and weapons to mitigate the mite threat. At that meeting, Don Hopkins had asked local chapters to step up mentoring programs to lessen the loss of new, but discouraged beekeepers. This is the goal of our efforts.

Our board of directors embarked on a project called "The Mite Patrol". After approval by our members and the GAP Award Committee, we used our grant money to outfit four teams of two people each with everything required to test for mites using the sugar shake method, and to treat colonies with oxalic acid (including all recommended safety equipment). We decided that each member would have the opportunity, upon request, to have one of these teams come to their yard and be tutored on the proper administration of the mite tests, and to get treatments for up to two hives using the vaporization method, if needed. Our intention is to help our members get comfortable with and be confident in using the sugar shake method of varroa mite evaluation. Early and regular mite assessments will hopefully lead to more effective treatments when needed. Once hives have been evaluated and made ready for successful overwintering, The Mite Patrol will come to the member's hives and teach the "by the book" method of oxalic acid vaporization using the properly labeled oxalic acid, and the safety measures called for on the label.

The Patrol teams get active starting in July and peak in August and September when we go to a beekeeper's

yard to demonstrate the proper techniques of the sugar shake test and its evaluation. The beekeeper is then given the opportunity to perform the test on a second hive. We evaluate mite levels in the hives, and go over treatment methods and options available to the beekeeper if mite levels are high enough to require some type of intervention. In late November and early December, we will return and vaporize with oxalic acid. Again, we will do this for up to two hives at no cost to the beekeeper. We also return in the spring to evaluate our success rates.

Due to the timing of the funding in 2016, we were unable to do as much testing as would have liked. But, we did discover several items we can address, and which should improve on our success rate. First, we need to teach new (and experienced) beekeepers to contact us earlier. We have found that many times when someone asks for help, it is already too late. In the future we will try to do a better job of letting our beekeepers know we are available to them. Second, we have also discovered that the interest in our Mite Patrols has given us more mentoring opportunities. We have learned to schedule about two hours per visit during the sugar shake process. This allows new beekeepers to get a one-on-one inspection of hives with an experienced beekeeper. Last, based on the hives we were able to visit in our first season, we have found that the hives that were in good shape going into winter, and were treated with oxalic acid, had a much better success rate in overwintering! One of our most gratifying results is that we were even able to "recover" a beekeeper that had given up the hobby years ago upon the arrival of the mites! To date, we are actively promoting our Mite Patrols, reaching out to beekeepers, and examining hives. We look forward to reporting back to you next year with complete data of our success rates!



Bee School

Are you new to beekeeping, or are you a beekeeper veteran but feeling a little rusty? Fear not, it is Bee School season! Many local chapters of the NCSBA hold annual Bee Schools in late winter/early spring. They are a great way to brush up on your beekeeping knowledge, learn new material, or prepare for your MBP exams. Visit NCbeekeepers.org for a list of classes and workshops as the dates become available.

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NCSBA Library Update

While attending the big 100th Anniversary Conference and Celebration, I talked with another member who shall remain unnamed- Suzy- and who felt that it was confusing to go through 13 pages of bibliography to get to the audio-visual section where the DVDs are located. I agreed! So, Dr. Aletha Andrew, Library Director at Wayne Community College, went to work on it and corrected the situation.

The only change you will see is that when you select the [Beekeeping Bibliography Link](#) you are IMMEDIATELY taken to the DVDs in the Audiovisual Section.

Here is a review of the easy as 1, 2, 3 DVD request process. The **first step** is to: select the [Audio/Visual Library link](#) in the [Member's Only Section](#) and that takes you to [Protected: Audio/Visual Library](#). The **second step** is at the bottom of that page. Select the [Request...form](#) link for audiovisual materials. In the **third step**, click on- [Beekeeping Bibliography Link](#) located in the second paragraph. The change that was made is that you're IMMEDIATELY taken to the DVDs in the audio-visual bibliography. There you can copy the information about the DVD you want to borrow (the title and the Erwin Library Call Number) and type or paste that information back into the request form, fill in YOUR mailing information, then click the word **captcha** to prove you're not a robot and the **submit** button to email it to the library. It's quite easy!

Another improvement that was made is more DVDs have been added to the collection! In addition to several new titles, we have added duplicates of several of the most requested DVDs. There have been times when multiple requests for a DVD have been made. Often that DVD has been checked-out before the other requests have come in. So, we've doubled up on several selected DVDs to help meet the number of requests.

I've been very pleased with the use of the library this year. Thank you for using the library, thank you librarians for managing the NCSBA collection, and thank you for giving us useful feedback so we can improve our service to you!

Bob Kemper kemper27530@gmail.com



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Letters From Hawley Prindle

An Introduction

A young beekeeper not long ago asked me to write something about keeping bees in the past. At 78, I really don't consider myself old, but the thought struck me that many of my very good friends have already passed to the other side.

I am not much on words and consider myself just one of the guys that has suffered through the modern age with no respect for anything old. At one time I had 36 out-yards and 600 hives of bees. There is no way I could even locate some of those out-yards today. They are gone, along with the farms that supported the small dairy operations and the hay fields that my bees foraged on. By the 1990's, I saw the effects of declining honey crops and the need to medicate my bees to keep them alive.

Looking back is hard. In reality, we did not have the support that new beekeepers today have. We were on our own for the most part, and I guess that is why I am more of an individual than the general beekeeper. I learned by hard knocks: I one time shut down the northbound lane of I-75 in Dayton, Ohio because the road was so rough that the back row of bee hives fell off my truck – yeah, I thought I had them tied down pretty good. I even got on television that night, and my mother called to ask if that was me! It was called Malfunction Junction [where I-75 and Rt. 42 come together just north of downtown Dayton]. I made it more of a “malfunction junction”! I have avoided that piece of road since, and do not know if the brains that design roads in Ohio ever got it fixed. I was not ticketed, but got a police escort out of town! The road crew just loaded all the smashed hives into a dump truck (nothing could be recovered), and got that highway opened as quickly as possible. I was worried that I was going to be arrested but I guess they were just happy to see me on my way. It is not like that these days.

I am now retired and have several hives of bees. Less stress and not overworked as in the past. But beekeeping isn't what it used to be. If I was starting over again, I would be much like any new beekeeper but I can still say, bees haven't changed! We have, and our environment has changed a lot.

Beekeeping should be fun and exciting. As a result, I am approaching these letters pretty much as an individual who still has something to say and an ear to listen to what you might add to the discussion.

All beekeepers have stories to tell. I am reminded that at one time Henry Ford built automobile engines on his kitchen table. I also learned that Mrs. Ford is reported to have not objected. Later in life, after building his estate home, Fair Lane in Dearborn, Michigan, his wife, Clara decided that the music room with its mahogany walls – dark rich wood that took wood carvers 3 years to complete- was too dark and dreary. So when Henry took a trip to Europe, she hired painters to paint the room a light green color, which was more to her taste. When Henry arrived home and entered the music room, he was reported as saying, “Peace at any price”.

Way back in my early days, I also used the kitchen to do my bee stuff. My wife, Bernice, did not much like me using “her” kitchen. So I did what any red-blooded guy would do: I waited for her to go shopping. I knew that would take her several hours, and possibly a good part of the day.

I laid plastic sheeting on the floor (I ain't stupid!). Brought in my honey boxes and laid them on the plastic. I dragged my extractor up from the basement – being real careful not to ding the wall or anything to give Bernice something to bitch about. I used an old tub to collect the cappings, and had the great idea that I could wash the cappings with water (using the honey water to feed the bees). I decided to put the wet wax cappings in a double boiler on the stove – gas fired, of course. I could extract honey from my supers, collect both the honey and cappings, and of course clean everything up before Bernice made it home.

Things were going pretty good. I was cranking out frame after frame. When I had enough honey in the extractor, I would drain the honey into a 5-gallon bucket through a filter made out of Bernice's old silk stockings. Of course, that went pretty good as well for a while. Darn if those silk stockings drained slower and slower with each load of honey. But that was not the worst of it. That d#\$@ stocking slipped down into my bucket of honey! I had started the fire on the stove a bit earlier, and was melting down my first batch of wax cappings. As I finished each load of honey draining into the 5-gallon bucket, I would run over and check the melting condition of the wax.

Hey, don't get ahead of me in the story. I was distracted with that silk stocking that had fallen down into my 2/3 full bucket of honey. I had to reach down almost to the bottom of the bucket to get hold of it. I

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

lifted the stocking and stood there looking around. I had no place to set it – just stand there with it dripping honey down into the bucket. First thought that maybe I would put it into the extractor, but silly me, I tried to make for the door (plastic was covering the floor). Found out the hard way that plastic and honey make for a real slippery floor. Lying there on my back, now covered with honey, I heard a hissing coming from the stove. I knew that was not good.

The water was boiling and wax was starting to flow over the edge of the double boiler. I got to it in time and turned off the fire. But the heat and the wax had already made a mess of Bernice's stove. Ever smell burned wax? Oh, my! Bernice was going to be upset! I cleaned everything up. Took the honey supers and frames out for the bees to rob. Cleaned the extractor and got it down to the basement and rolled up the plastic sheeting.

Well, things were still sticky in some places so I got out the mop and mopped the kitchen floor to get rid of the stickiness. But the stove was another problem. Not only was it difficult to get the wax off the burners and stovetop, there was a rancid odor hanging in the kitchen air. So I opened the door and windows to air out the house. That was a big mistake! Soon bees were flying in all the windows and filling the kitchen. I guess I missed some of that honey on the floor in the area where I slipped, trying to take that dang silk

stocking out of the honey bucket.

Now this was my dilemma: Bernice was coming home anytime, shortly, and at best a little longer. The kitchen was filled with bees and a sour odor. Unlike Henry Ford, I was gonna be in for it. I tried turning off all the lights, hoping the bees would fly to the windows because of the light. Okay, more bees coming in than going out! Close the windows, I desperately decided. I could catch most of them flying against the glass – still had time. Mashed bees by the hundreds, and smashed bees smear windows nicely, I saw. I heard the car drive up. Bernice is home!

I met her smile at the door. It didn't remain a smile for long. First words out of her mouth, "That smell – what pig farm have you visited today?" I found peace and quiet in the orchard far from the house. Bernice – I could still hear her; "Dam'd this and Dam'd that! I was forbidden to ever try using the kitchen to melt wax or extract honey again.

What's a guy to do? It's my house, too! At least I didn't burn the house down like some guys have done when they try to use the stove in the house to melt wax. That smell lasted some time – about as long as it took Bernice to talk to me again. There was no "peace at any price" for Bernice.

Hawley Prindle is the pseudonym of the author, who wishes to remain anonymous.



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