



# North Carolina **Bee Buzz**

The Official Magazine of the NCSBA

**Peppermint vs SHB**  
**Horizontal Hives**  
**Bee Buzz Turns 50!**

Spring 2025





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# North Carolina Bee Buzz Spring 2025

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On the Cover:  
Photo: Josée Bourget

"Her Majesty is Here"



# North Carolina State Beekeepers Association



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

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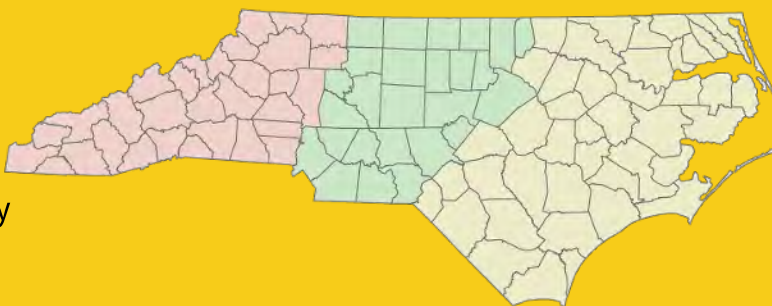
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*Contact information for the NCSBA Officers and Regional Directors can be found in your Yellow Book Directory and on the NCSBA website [www.ncbeekeepers.org](http://www.ncbeekeepers.org)*

Webmaster Todd Walker [webmaster@ncbeekeepers.org](mailto:webmaster@ncbeekeepers.org)

## From the *Bee Buzz* Editors:

***Bee Buzz* Story Submission Deadlines:** Spring : Jan 21 - Summer: Apr 21 - Fall: July 21 - Winter: Oct 21

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

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## Message From The President

by: Rick Coor, NCSBA President

**Obviously,** we can point to the new apiculture research facility and the endowed professorship as achievements that will yield great value to the future of apiculture science and beekeeping. No doubt there are young people currently in grade school as well young adults in the field of apiculture that are destined to be involved in the future of apiculture research; possibly with the NCSU Apiculture program. Apiculture research benefits everyone but not everyone is a researcher; what about folks who want to enjoy beekeeping for what it is: an absolutely fascinating endeavor and for some, a career or vocation.

Connection with the next generation will be essential for the well-being of many of the 83 local chapters of the Association. Arguably the first step to involve young people would be an in-person bee school presented by chapter leaders. With the bee school, the adults of the chapter would have the opportunity to work with youth and by virtue their involvement, set a positive example for the next generation. It might be said that a bee school is essential to the fundamental framework of the NCSBA.

I recall that in 2004 my son Colin and I, along with our cousins Braxton and his dad Steve Moya, joined the Coastal Plains Beekeepers in Tarboro. The following spring we attended their bee school and became certified beekeepers. Colin and I still have our certificates and letters from none other than the Extension Apiculturist himself, Dr. David Tarpy, who congratulated us on our achievements. Colin was 11 years old at the time; cousin Braxton was 12. It was great to help the boys become involved in beekeeping and watch them learn. We wondered if Colin was the youngest certified beekeeper but never knew for certain. An unknown number of young people (under 13 years of age) have become certified beekeepers through beekeeping schools offered by NCSBA chapters but the data on such have not been compiled. I once heard of a nine-year old becoming certified.

As far as who might be the youngest person ever to become a certified beekeeper, I believe that honor might now belong to Camille Sweet, a young lady in

Bee Excellence, over in Nash/Edgecombe Counties. Last summer, Camille completed the chapter bee school, took the certified test and passed the practical; she was six years old! That accomplishment was remarkable given her age and was a credit to her initiative and interest in beekeeping. It also demonstrated that she had some great teachers, starting with her parents. Congratulations to the young lady and her parents!

All this is to say that for decades the NCSBA has been an opportunity for young people to get involved; it is up to adult leaders to make it happen. The opportunities for youth involvement with a local chapter are numerous. It is great for a young person to attend a state meeting but engagement with a local chapter is more effective.

To develop the goal of chapter development through better bee schools, the MBP has developed a standard course of study for the certified level. Some chapters have adopted it for their bee schools while others have used it as a supplemental reference for their own curriculum. As a result, the MBP has reported a surge of bee schools this year. This bodes well for the development and well being of the local chapters and young beekeepers. There is also an unprecedented number of journeyman level bee schools being offered. More folks are engaged in the advanced levels of the MBP than ever before.

If we are serious about engaging the next generation of beekeepers then the initiative rests on the local level. Bee schools, mentorship, involvement with the 4-H grant program, group activities and more are what I am referring to. Someone asked me what did I think the next big thing for the NCSBA might be; given that we have the largest beekeeping Association in the US, a new research lab (soon to be constructed), an endowed professorship in the works and an MBP that has engaged over ten thousand people. The next big thing might well be the most important: an initiative to involve the next generation in our chapters and programs. We might do well to engage our most important resource, the chapters of the NCSBA, and connect with the next generation. The future of our association may well depend upon it.





## NCSBA Library Update Spring 2025

Exciting news! DVDs are still being made! We have just ordered three new DVDs for the library, and they should be available soon. The DVDs provide you with a visual experience about topics of interest. It's like being taken along on an apiary inspection or being in a conversation with other beekeepers after a bee meeting. If you want to know more about queens, swarms, or equipment, be sure to check out the new library offerings.

Mark Lee, the Director of Library Services at Wayne Community College, said that the use of the NCSBA library's DVDs this past quarter was double the previous quarter.

We are trying to create a program of DVDs that will be an excellent source of information for all NCSBA members. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me.

**Bob Kemper, NCSBA Fred Deer Librarian**  
kemper27530@gmail.com 919-731-2146

### A Buzzing Success: North American Honey Bee Expo - A Vendor's Perspective



The North American Honey Bee Expo (NAHBE) concluded its highly successful 2025 event at the Kentucky Expo Center in Louisville, drawing over 3,000 beekeepers, vendors, and industry leaders. As a returning vendor representing Books and More/WG Bee Farm, I've witnessed firsthand how this expo has become more than just a trade show – it's evolved into a vibrant community gathering.

#### Record-Breaking Attendance & Community Spirit

The expo's attendance of 3,000+ participants reflected the growing interest in beekeeping, but numbers only tell part of the story. What makes NAHBE truly special is the sense of community. Despite meeting only once a year, friendships formed at the expo feel timeless, with conversations picking up right where they left off.

#### Studded Industry Presence

The 2025 expo featured an impressive lineup of beekeeping celebrities and experts. YouTube personalities like Bob Binnie, Dirt Rooster, Kamon Reynolds, David Burns, Greg Burns, and Ian Stepler were not just speakers but accessible presence on the trade show floor. Industry leaders such as Blake Shook and Duck River Honey shared their expertise alongside academic researchers and commercial beekeeping veterans.

#### Exhibition & Education

The expansive trade show floor buzzed with activity as vendors showcased the latest beekeeping equipment and

supplies. What set this expo apart was the blend of commercial innovation with educational opportunities. From hobbyists to commercial operators, everyone found value in the hands-on demonstrations and expert discussions.

#### Social Media Meets Reality

As a vendor with a YouTube and social media following, one of the most rewarding aspects was meeting followers face-to-face at our Books and More/WG Bee Farm booth. These personal interactions transformed digital connections into real friendships, adding depth to our online community.

The 2025 NAHBE promised to be even bigger with its 129,000-square-foot trade show floor and it delivered. The event will continue its tradition of excellence with the North American Honey & Beeswax Championship, comprehensive educational programs, and the special Next Gen Bee Program focusing on youth engagement.

#### Family-Friendly Focus

NAHBE stands out as a family-friendly event where everyone feels welcome. Whether you're a commercial beekeeper, hobbyist, or simply curious about beekeeping, the expo offers something for everyone. As a veteran vendor, I can attest that attendees leave with more than just knowledge – they depart with lasting friendships and a deeper connection to the beekeeping community.

The North American Honey Bee Expo isn't just an event; it's a celebration of beekeeping culture where knowledge, friendship, and passion for bees come together under one roof. If you're considering attending, take it from someone who's been there – you won't regret it. I know that I am looking forward to the 2026 event now even though we just finished 2025 event. I can't wait to see what comes next.

by: Frank (Tra) Wyatt - WG Bee Farm - [wgbeefarm.com](http://wgbeefarm.com)





# Master Beekeeper Program

## Mentoring

by: Eric Talley, MBP Coordinator

**Beginner bee schools** have either just finished or about to be complete. Classroom instruction provides the starting point to successful beekeeping, but now it is time to think about all those new beekeepers that need additional guidance with managing their bees. Hands on will help the new beekeeper to understand better what was covered in the classroom.



**Mentoring...** why have a mentor; why should a chapter have a mentorship program; what should it look like; what does it take to be a great mentor... and what does it take to learn from a mentor? Let me define what I believe a mentor is and their purpose.

### OBJECTIVE OF A MENTOR IN BEEKEEPING

To guide and assist new beekeepers in all aspects of their first year of beekeeping. To assist the new beekeeper, by creating positive training situations where they can be highly successful with their new bee colonies.

Every beekeeper can and should be a mentor at some point in their beekeeping career, but how do you find the right person to mentor? There are mentors that work well with a certain type of personality, and don't work well with other types.

Better yet, and maybe the bigger question, how does the new beekeeper find the CORRECT person to mentor them? Should the local chapter do the finding and pairing of a mentor? Should the new beekeeper be the one to find a mentor?

What is the mentor signing up for, and for how long?

Some considerations to be looked at:

- Personalities can and will come into play.
- Willingness on the part of the mentor to slow down and cover all the little details that you assume the new beekeeper knows already.
- Willingness on the part of the new beekeeper to take advice and ask questions about something they fail to understand.
- Some beekeepers mentor better in a group setting, while others are better in a one-on-one environment.

Most new beekeepers are young and have a job, families and other time-consuming events that restrict when they are available to be mentored.

Most, not all, experienced beekeepers are set in their ways as to when they manage their colonies. I, for instance, like to get started early and be done by noon each day in an effort to stay out of the afternoon heat. So, timing is an issue and needs to be addressed early on to make sure that both parties are willing to arrange schedules around both parties' life requirements.

A lot of questions to think about. Do I have the answers? Not at all but let me give you some possible guidelines that might assist both the mentor and the new beekeeper to know what, where, who and how to be involved in a mentorship situation. These could help both parties decide early on whether they will be able to work together.

### MENTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Mentors should determine the extent that the new beekeeper wants to get involved in beekeeping. What is their end goal? Have they thought that far? Do they want to produce honey for themselves, or do they intend to eventually sell honey, wax, candles, propolis, queens or NUCs? This information will assist the mentor in mentoring the new beekeeper.

Encourage the new beekeeper to establish and maintain two colonies of honey bees, even if one of them is a nuc. Having two colonies will allow the beginner to be able to determine if one of the colonies



is weaker than the other, allow for more hands-on time and should guarantee against total loss due to poor wintering and mistakes made by the beginner. Having an extra queen and brood available can help save a weak colony as well. Explain that the management of two colonies is exactly the same information needed to keep many colonies and that they should not jump into a major expansion prior to learning the basics of keeping bees for several years first.

Encourage the new beekeeper to always ask why other beekeepers do things differently. Explain that they need to understand that there are beekeeping concepts, not one definitive solution. Explain that in beekeeping there is not necessarily only one answer to a problem, there are many ways to keep bees to obtain the same desired results.

Help beginners to understand that beekeeping is a lifetime of continued learning, it is interesting, challenging and should be fun. Conditions change your beekeeping methods, such as bad weather, varroa mite populations, colony collapse, lack of equipment when you didn't think far enough ahead, late spring frost, minimal nectar flow, summer dearth, etc.

Encourage the new beekeeper to think ahead and plan. Explain why you purchased and assembled equipment early, why you have your swarm gear ready, and in the truck, why you have a spare nuc box sitting ready to use. Encourage them to have their equipment assembled and painted, foundation installed and sugar syrup mixed before they chase after a swarm.

Teach the new beekeeper to read the entrance of the hive. Explain that when there is pollen coming into the hive it is because the nurse bees are feeding developing larvae. By reading the entrance you should be able to tell if there is anything unusual going on and whether you need to open the hive before the next scheduled inspection.

Explain that the first year the bees are drawing out comb and not to expect a honey crop, why the colonies may need to be fed sugar syrup until all the frames are drawn out.

Explain that it takes a frame of honey to make a frame of comb and that it takes a frame of honey to make a frame of bees. Therefore, it takes two frames of honey or sugar syrup to make a frame of bees when starting out with foundation. Stress that feeding is critical to a new colony of honey bees, especially a package of bees.



Most of all, congratulate the new beekeeper on their knowledge, growth, and successes. Help them to turn losses into positive developments, use a “learn from our mistakes” to make the situation more positive.

Invite the new beekeeper to watch or assist you in making inspections in your apiary. Be careful to not “use” the new beekeeper for free labor. Remember that you are mentoring them, not gaining a worker for you!

### **NEW BEEKEEPER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Respect your mentor's time and privacy – do not deviate from agreed upon communication method (email, cell phone, etc.).

Practice punctuality when visiting mentor's apiary. Being late can cause your mentor to miss an appointment while trying to mentor you.



Have all equipment assembled, painted, reviewed by mentor and ready for package or nuc installation before scheduled pickup or delivery date.

Read lots of beekeeping information (books, class material, magazines, internet).

Learn what to look for during a hive inspection.

Keep informative notes of beekeeping inspections and hive activity for review.

Observe the natural cycle of flowers blooming in your area. Watch bees on the flowers and figure out whether the bees are collecting pollen or nectar.

Question what you don't know, don't think that yours is a stupid question. Your mentor does not know that you don't understand if you don't ask the question.

Get involved with the local and state beekeeping associations. Most local chapters have educational programs at the monthly meetings. NCSBA has both a Spring and Summer conference that feature speakers from other states, universities and knowledge levels.

### GROUP MENTORING

Some chapters have apiaries for mentoring purposes and some mentors teach groups of new beekeepers in their personal apiary. These situations work well sometimes and can be challenging at other times. When mentoring this way make sure that all new beekeepers in attendance can see what is happening; those in the back can miss out, feel unwanted, and decide they should not come next time.

Allow each new beekeeper to get involved with lighting smokers, opening colonies, removing frames and viewing the eggs, larvae, pupae and adult bees.



**NC Bee Buzz - Spring 2025**

Get the new beekeepers involved in the process of doing a varroa mite count. Allow each to complete the steps and make sure they understand the consequences of not checking for varroa mite infestations in each colony.

Take notes of the inspections, discuss with the group what should be written down and why. Decide, based on the time of year and the results of this inspection, when the next inspection should be and why.

Discuss any "fixes" that need to be made, why and how you suggest these be completed.

Don't "hide" a situation in the hive and come back later to fix it (requeening, deformed wing, etc.) because these are the situations that are easiest to explain what the problem is, how you suggest to fix it and the consequences if it doesn't get addressed today.

Make sure to ask the group if there any unanswered questions before they disperse from the area. It might surprise you what gets asked.



I hope that some of these suggestions will assist both the folks who are mentoring in the future and the new beekeepers who will be mentored.

Remember that "The local chapters of the NCSBA are the backbone for teaching and mentoring, offering guidance, encouragement and camaraderie through beginning and advanced beekeeping courses. The purpose of the NCSBA Master Beekeeper Program is, and always has been, to educate beekeepers and the general public."

Better educated beekeepers keep healthier bees and are better able to teach and mentor new beekeepers to keep their bees healthy as well!

*Photos courtesy Eric Talley*





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# BeeFeeders

## North Carolina Pollinator Plants

by: Ulana Stuart, NC State Extension Master Gardener Volunteer

**Since the late 1500's**, plant breeders have developed flowering forms with more complex petal structures that are pleasing to our eyes but often at the cost of accessible pollen and nectar for bees. Older and wilder varieties of many plants that are not necessarily native will provide a range of honey bee plants to grow in many different garden situations.

A specific example of this trade-off are the showy pompom dahlia cultivars with dense and folded clusters of petals compared to the pollen-packed open flower head of the original dahlia form that will attract honey bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.



Photo: Jim Janke

**Dahlia (*Dahlia pinnata*)**

Dahlia (*Dahlia pinnata*) is a showy perennial plant with tuberous roots in the Asteraceae family. These plants originate from Mexico, Central America and as far south as northern South America. They grow in USDA Zones 7a to 10b. Below Zone 7a, the tubers will need to be dug up and stored in sand, perlite or vermiculite for the winter. Be sure your dahlias have good drainage and is well mulched through the winter.

The plants grow to about 3 to 7 feet tall and up to 3 feet wide depending on the cultivar. The tubers should be planted down to 3 inches. Dahlias need full sun to part shade (up to 2 to 6 hours of sun) and well-drained

soil high in organic matter. Dahlia has a long bloom season, typically from July to October and should start to bloom 12 to 16 weeks after planting. Removing dead blooms (deadheading) will encourage more continuous blossoming. The foliage is poisonous to humans and animals if eaten in large amounts.

Dahlia blooms provide honey bees with good amounts of orange pollen pellets and nectar.

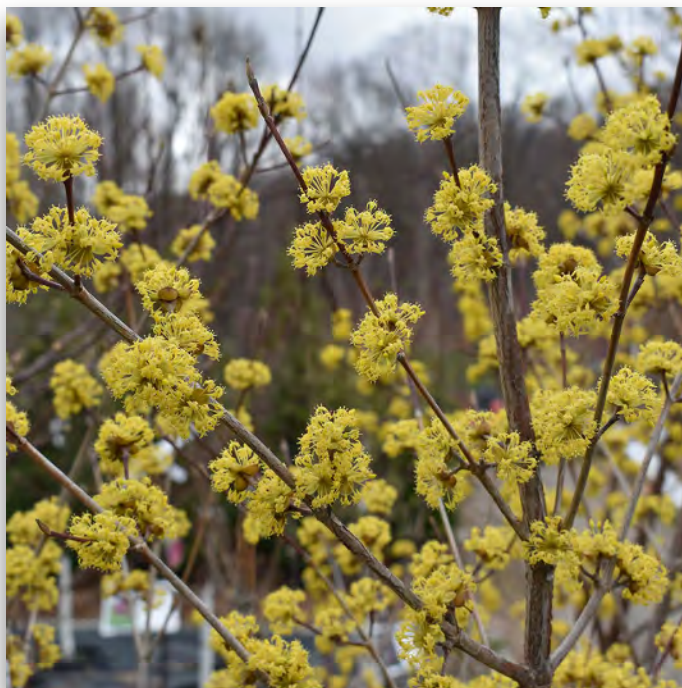


Photo: Horsford's Nursery

**Cornelian Cherry Dogwood (*Cornus mas*)**

Cornelian cherry dogwood (*Cornus mas*) is a small slow-growing, deciduous tree or large shrub native to central and southern Europe. Unlike our native dogwood, it has excellent resistance to anthracnose, has few diseases and is pest resistant. Cornelian cherry dogwood prefers full sun to part shade, moist, well-drained soils and tolerates some clay. It can reach 25 feet in height and 20 feet in width.

The yellow umbel flowers appear in clusters before the leaves emerge in late winter or early spring depending on its location.

The red berry fruits, which birds love to eat, appear by midsummer. The fully ripe fruit has a plum-like flavor and texture and is edible by humans. It also has attractive scaly bark and is deer resistant!



Cornelian cherry dogwood provides both nectar and yellow pollen pellets.

Mock orange (*Philadelphus coronarius*) is a deciduous shrub that originates from southeastern region of Europe and is easy to grow. It grows in USDA Zones 4a through 8b to a height of 10 to 12 feet and 8 to 10 feet in width. It has dense weeping branches. In full bloom, the showy white flowers are 1 ½ inches across, single, white and are extremely fragrant. They typically bloom for about 7 to 10 days in May and June. It can be planted in full sun or partial shade. Mock orange can be planted 6 to 12 feet apart as a hedge, screening or foundation planting. It likes well-drained but moist soils and is both drought and wind resistant. It will need to be pruned to keep it from getting leggy. As mock orange ages the dark brown bark exfoliates making it more attractive. Pollen pellets are yellow.

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



Photo: Maja Dumat

Mock Orange (*Philadelphus coronarius*)

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## In the Apiary: Spring 2025

by: Shirley Harris, Apiary Inspector, NCDA&CS

**Spring is here,** the busiest time of the year! It's getting warmer and we see the daylight lasting a little longer each day. The beautiful colors are starting to pop in our landscapes and things are waking up to a new season. It is so exciting to check our honey bees to see how they have done over the winter. My favorite time is when the red maples are just about to burst open, and I watch them to see how close we are to getting things started. With the first bloom, the bees will be off and running! If we are ready and prepared, we may have a productive year in beekeeping; if not, we may be playing catch-up for the rest of the year. Are we ready? Do we have our equipment ready? Are there extra boxes ready for the unexpected swarm that is sure to surprise us? Now is the time to place orders for any equipment you might need and to get everything ready for spring. You only have a few weeks before swarm season begins in North Carolina.

Using the information you learned from last year (hopefully you took good notes), try to plan ahead and set some goals for the upcoming season. Planning ahead is the key to successful beekeeping. Hopefully over the winter you have been thinking about what you would like to produce this year. Are you trying to produce nucs, either for selling or for increasing your number of hives? Is your goal to produce queens? Is it to make honey? Your goal will dictate how you manage your bees this year. No matter what your goal is, the first inspection will be the same. When the weather warms up enough, do a brief inspection to look for specific details. Notice important details such as the number of bees that overwintered, food stores (if any), and the presence of eggs. If there is brood, either capped or uncapped, notice if it appears healthy. How the colony is building up now is a good indication of how it will perform throughout the season. Some beekeepers grade their honey bees using a grading system of 1-5, with 5 being the best. Whatever system you choose, keeping notes will help you have the best chance to reach your goals.

Spring build-up often seems to start slowly, but before we know it, we have crowded colonies with way too many queen cells. This seems to happen overnight, and our colonies are ready to swarm. Remember the queen will be laying the greatest number of eggs during this time, which means the population is building up very quickly. If your colonies swarm and you do not need more bees, consider gifting a swarm or a nuc to a new beekeeper. It is rather expensive to start this rewarding hobby as a brand-new beekeeper.

As the brood and the population are building up, take advantage of this time of the year to encourage your honey bees to draw new comb. If you are fortunate to catch a swarm, use those new wax frames (or wax-coated plastic frames). If there is not a natural nectar flow occurring, feed the bees a thin syrup of one-to-one sugar to water. Swarms are very quick to draw out foundation. If you want to collect swarms this spring, check with your local NCSBA chapter or extension office and be sure to add your name to the swarm list. Hopefully more bees this spring will mean more honey to harvest in the summer!



Photo: Shirley Harris

Congratulations to the recipients of the Queen Initiative grants. We look forward to hearing updates from all the groups involved about the process they are taking to form a collective queen rearing operation. It is going to be a long journey, but hopefully we will begin to see the payoff as soon as this summer with high quality, local NC queens being produced.

In closing, think about the resources available for help that we can tap into. The Honey Bee Health Coalition <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/> has a wealth of information on best management practices. The NCSBA website, [ncbeekeepers.org](http://ncbeekeepers.org), is a good source for local issues and to find contacts and new classes being offered. The NCDA&CS Plant Industry Apiary Services (<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/plant-industry/>) is where you can find contact information for your apiary inspector. The NCSU website <https://www.ncsuapiculture.net/> has updates on the research program and offers online BEES classes on various beekeeping topics. Also, check out the new NCSU Pollinator site, <https://pollinators.ces.ncsu.edu/> which includes information on native bees as well as honey bees, and has started a monthly update of what is happening in the apiary. As always, attend your county bee clubs for more educational opportunities and both NCSBA conferences.



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# Wolfpack's Waggle: BUILDING A BUILDING: Step 9 - Displays

by Dr. David Tarpy NC State Extension Apiculturist



**If you have been following** this column on our new honey bee facility, you will know that one of the key elements of the structure is that we want it to be open to both researchers at NC State as well as to beekeepers and the general public. Therefore, we want the entryway to welcome visitors, school groups, beekeepers, and working groups, reserving the back rooms to be more private and secure for operations and program members. This means we would like the public spaces to be informative and educational, as well as inviting, which means we are planning on incorporating several displays that are part bulletin board, part museum, and part advertisement.



**Architectural rendering of the entrance lobby.** The automated passive display is on the far wall, and the interactive display is on the left far wall. This rendering has the right wall as glass, but given the expense it will be a solid wall enabling us to place the educational museum display in front.

**DISPLAY 1:** As one enters the front doors, the lobby will have a high open ceiling with a glass wall on the left (viewing the open offices for our students and researchers) and a solid wall on the right (with two doors leading to our extension conference room). On the far wall, facing the visitors upon entering, will be a large LCD screen that will passively display a running

slide show of pertinent information. You might be familiar with such displays both on and off campus, since every County Cooperative Extension Center has similar screens that promote various activities, events, and other information that is pertinent to the particular facility. The university has a centralized system that enables all buildings, both on and off campus, to run a default slideshow (e.g., one that is extension-based, college-based, or department-based) but then enables each individual display to update by their owner so they have flexibility to include additional events, images, or activities at will. Thus, this screen will be an **automated passive display** to keep visitors informed about general activities of the new Apiculture Facility, NC Extension, and NC State University.



**An example educational museum display from our counterparts at the University of Florida.**

**DISPLAY 2:** On the right wall of the lobby, we are planning to build customized display cabinetry that will house and visualize various items pertinent to our program, beekeeping, and history. Thus, this display is intended to be an **educational museum** that shows off some of our antique smokers and other beekeeping equipment, historical books and other publication materials, and photos throughout the 108-year history

of the NC State Apiculture Program. We also hope to add various elements for aesthetics, such as sculptures and other artwork, so that the display is as pleasing to the eye as it is informative.

**DISPLAY 3:** Down the hallway on the left, but still in the public lobby area, we aim to have an **interactive display** that will engage viewers and permit for a self-guided tour. This will be a large touch screen that allows the user to select among various options, such as a virtual video tour, introduction to lab personnel, a history lesson of bees and beekeeping in North Carolina, and some highlights of our program's extension and research initiatives. We foresee this being a very effective tool for visitors to get to know us and the things we do. Ideally, we would have an option for children in case we have regular tours of school groups and other young learners.



An example wall of donors, also from the University of Florida Apiculture Facility. We hope to include both permanent plaques as well as a visual display that helps to provide more context behind the many donors who helped make the building a reality.

**DISPLAY 4:** Slightly down the main hallway, the first left turn leads to the observation deck—a screened-in porch for visitors and school groups to stand and watch someone opening a beehive right outside without the need to get everyone veiled up or the worry of anyone getting stung. The wall in the hallway leading to the observation deck, however, will be our **wall of donors** including a display that thanks the many, many people who have contributed and worked so hard to enable the existence of the facility. Part permanently mounted plaques and part LED screen, we want to pay tribute to those who made this building a success and to honor them in perpetuity.

**DISPLAY 5:** Finally, in the extension conference room itself, we will have a fully wired AV system with projectors, screens, and microphones for remote learning and extension activities. In doing so, we plan to create several 5–10-minute **promotional videos** for visitors to quickly introduce them to the facility, our program, and the importance of bees and beekeeping. We envision different versions for different audiences, such as beekeepers, the general public, and school groups. The idea will be to welcome groups into the lobby before ushering them into the conference room to be seated. This will enable us to host audiences of diverging backgrounds and orient them before taking them on a tour of the rest of the facility.

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

### **"Bee" the Solution**

Honey bees play a vital role in pollination and as a critical link in agriculture production. How vital? The collapse of the honey bee population would lead to the collapse of the national and global food supply.

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# Master Craftsman Research: Does peppermint repel hive beetles?

by: Mark Case, NC Master Beekeeper

## Introduction and background

Since the summer of 2022, beekeepers have been using peppermint candy to repel small hive beetles (SHB). During that summer, over 100 YouTube videos, at least 500 Facebook posts and countless Instagram posts have claimed the peppermint got rid of small hive beetles from the hive. However, there has not been a data driven study to confirm or discredit these claims.

## MYTH BUSTING a popular social media claim

Earl from Hillbilly Beekeeping from Haysi, Va learned about using mints from his mentor, Casby Coleman. According to Earl, Casby would buy all the candy canes after Christmas and feed with his bees' winter feed. Casby never had an issue with hive beetles. Earl started to experiment with cheap, generic candy mints and found quickly, his hive beetle problem disappeared. Earl has tried using peppermint oil and has had similar success, but warns, the oil can kill your bees if not used properly. <sup>4</sup>



NC Bee Buzz - Spring 2025

Walker Bee Ranch in Hopkins, SC heard about the 2022 candy trend and tried it in their apiary. They posted a YouTube video saying he had to stop the 'experiment' because he had no more hive beetles after using peppermint candy. Through a Facebook message conversation, Walker Bee used generic peppermint candy, one mint in each corner of each box. He replaced them with every inspection because the bees kept eating them quickly.<sup>2</sup>

Creekside Farms in Gold Coast, Queensland AU conducted the first measurable study and published results June 2023. "After using peppermints in 20 of my colonies for the whole 2022-2023 season, my results (far from scientific) are overall positive. My observation is that peppermints have had an overall beneficial impact on hives at a reasonably affordable cost per hive across the season. SHB were not eliminated, however, numbers were reduced below a threshold where impacts were negligible."<sup>1</sup>

According to a March 2024 straw poll conducted on Facebook to 100 beekeepers that have tried using mints, ninety used hard candy. Ten used crushed mints placed in mesh bags laid across the frames. All reported that the mints needed to be replaced weekly because the bees seemed to be eating them. After a two-week check, seventy-five found no hive beetles. After one month, ninety-four reported no hive beetles. Six reported they saw no difference in the hive beetle counts.

## Hypothesis

Using hard mint candy in hives will reduce the hive beetle count by 90% or more.

## Research model

With the lack of data driven reports, I decided to test "Myth Buster Style" the peppermint candy trend. I consulted with Dr. David Tarpy from North Carolina State University and Eric Talley to develop the research method and process.

The test followed the nectar flow to not interfere with honey production. Twenty identical hives were selected for the test: Eight frame double deep strong hives with no honey supers, telescoping tops and hive top feeders. Twelve hives at Justin Case Bee Products apiary in



Randleman and eight hives at Beez Needz apiary in Sophia were chosen to conduct the test. One half of the hives were selected as treatment and one half, control.

Test hives were to be given hard candy mints and control hives sugar cubes to eliminate one variable: candy will concentrate bees in treatment areas, chasing SHB away.

Brach's starlite mints were used for the test hives. Dominos sugar cubes were used for the control hives. Mints were removed from wrappers. Mints and sugar cubes were to be placed in the four corners of both boxes, eight candies in each hive once a week. The test was to run from June 1, 2024, to July 15, 2024. Due to weather conditions May 11-12, 2024, and an early and strong dearth, the telescoping top and hive top feeder was changed to a migratory top with jar feeders. The test was pushed back to July 1 to August 13, 2024.

Each Monday for six weeks, I took pictures of the inner cover and the tops of frames for both boxes for every hive. Hive beetles were counted via photographic evidence and recorded in a spreadsheet. Over 360 photos had to be evaluated.

At the end of the study, I chose to treat EVERY hive with peppermint candy to see what would happen. Peppermint was added to every hive August 20, 2024, for four weeks. Data were collected from August 26 to September 16, 2024.

Data were consolidated into one page and Dr. Tarpy used statistical analysis to evaluate the results.

## Data analysis

**Statistical model was:**  $\ln(\text{total SHB} + 1) \sim \text{TreatmentGroup}(\text{date}) + \text{Apiary} + \text{ExperimentalPeriod} + \text{Treatment} * \text{Apiary}$

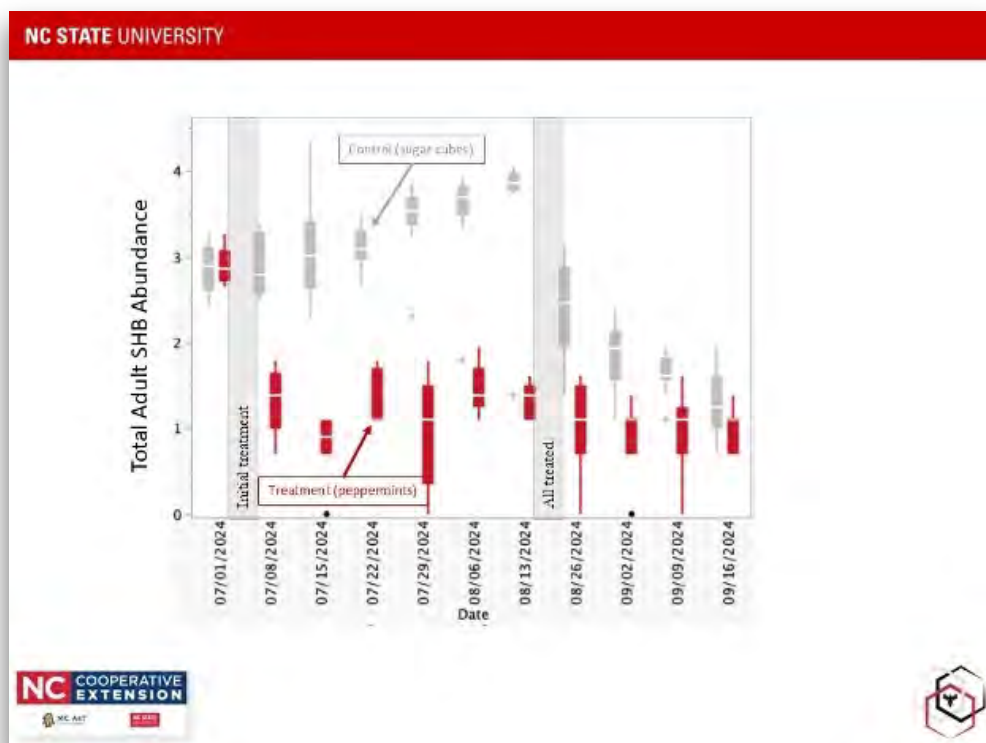
Overall, highly statistically significant, showing that the results are not random.

Highly significant differences between the two treatment groups, apiaries, and experimental periods but no interaction between treatment and apiary," said Dr. David Tarpy.

There was an almost immediate decline in small hive beetles within days. The number of visible SHB remained low during the treatment period. A steady increase in SHB in control hives was observed throughout the treatment period.

An additional observation: hives with peppermint candy seemed to be calmer during the treatment period, even during the dearth, than hives with sugar cubes.

The post experiment data showed an almost immediate reduction in SHB counts in all hives and counts stayed low throughout the post treatment period.





## Conclusion

Dr. Tarpy and I concluded that the hypothesis was correct. The peppermint did reduce the SHB population well over 90%. The SHB population reduction was almost an immediate response and stayed low during the entire treatment period.

It is unclear if the peppermint drove the SHB from the hives. Additional research needs to be done so an effective treatment plan can be established.

### Recommendations/ Suggestions:

The next step for this beekeeper: Use SHB infested hives, add a West bottom board and a front entrance hive beetle trap to capture SHB once a treatment has been applied using the same method for three weeks. West bottom board and front entrance beetle traps will be checked daily to count the number of captured beetles. This will give an indication if SHB leave the hive during treatment or are hiding in the hive.

The test will start following the 2025 nectar flow in the North Carolina Piedmont.

Some of the additional questions that came up during the research that needs attention:

Do the SHB move to another part of the hive during treatment?

Does the peppermint concentrate bees to an area, driving the beetles away?

Does spearmint or wintergreen have the same effect?

Will other forms of peppermint work such as peppermint tea, peppermint oil or peppermint leaves?

Will peppermint leaves help calm bees as a smoker fuel?

Does the weather affect the SHB population?

### Acknowledgement:

I wish to thank Dr. David Tarpy and Eric Talley for encouraging me to conduct this experiment. They were instrumental in helping shape the methodology. Dr. Tarpy provided the data analysis several times, saying, "This is the fun part!"

I wish to thank Keith Elkes from Beez Needz for providing additional identical hives in a similar location for this research.

Finally, I wish to thank my wife, Roberta Case, for encouraging me to complete this research and continue my journey towards Master Craftsman.

An unofficial goal of this research was to encourage other Master Beekeepers to continue the path towards Master Craftsman. I wanted to show research did not have to be expensive or complicated. This entire research project cost less than \$200.

### References:

1) Creekside Bees, 2023 <https://www.creeksidebees.com.au/>

4) Earl, Hillbilly Bee Keeping, phone interview and Facebook messenger interview, March 18, 2023

Gallywinter Farm, 2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-ZJ3yFzj88>

Hillbilly Beekeeping, 2023,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FENKineBiQg>

3) Facebook poll, March 16-18, 2024.

Facebook.com/mark.case.14

2) Walker Bee Ranch, April 13, 2022,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ts99MrOGS4U>

*Mark Case is a high school science teacher with over 40 years of natural resource management research and teaching experience. Mark has been published in Camping Magazine, National Science Foundation and numerous websites. Mark is the owner of Justin Case Bee Products in Randleman. He is married to Roberta Case and they have three boys and four grandchildren.*

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# Is a Horizontal Hive Right for You?

by: Jim Rash, NC Master Beekeeper



The western honey bee, *Apis Mellifera*, shows a remarkable adaptability in home site selection. Honey bees are cavity dwellers, whether that is a hollow tree in the forest or the soffit of your house. However, managing honey bees as livestock requires accessibility to the treasures of the hive: the honey and the wax. But more importantly, considering the contribution of honey bees to agricultural production, the ability to move a colony for pollination purposes.

The hives that are in common use today are named after the Reverend L. L. Langstroth. The Langstroth hive patented in 1852 had moveable frames, which allowed the beekeeper to harvest honey without damaging the brood nest and destroying the hard work of the bees. Being able to remove individual frames from the hive simplifies inspections as the beekeeper is assessing the health of the colony and looking for evidence of disease or the presence of pests.

My beekeeping journey began in 2014 with the Beginning Beekeeping Class offered by Wilkes Community College and taught by Shelley Felder of the Honey Hole in West Jefferson, NC. This class was my introduction to the Langstroth hive, and the techniques required of a beekeeper to manage and care for honey bees. Those first years, I exclusively used the Langstroth hive, but I was aware that alternative bee housing existed. One option that I found intriguing was a horizontal hive with standard Langstroth deep frames. The concept of horizontal bee hives has been around for centuries; ancient Egyptians housed honey bees in clay cylinders stacked horizontally. Although, this concept was not new, I found that few of my beekeeping peers deviated from the industry standard.

With great excitement, I shared my vision for a horizontal hive using Langstroth frames with local beekeepers only to be told, "Since we are in the mountains, bees will never survive the winter in that!" And the nay-sayers also reminded me, "Honey bees are hard-wired to move vertically in the nest, not horizontally!" Although this was not the response that I expected from fellow beekeepers, I continued to research this concept. My research led me to Dr. Leo Sharashkin's Horizontal Hives. Dr. Sharashkin's website is a wealth of information on natural beekeeping and offers free plans for the construction of horizontal

Langstroth hives.

With my initial inspiration and now a blueprint, I constructed my first two horizontal hives in the early spring of 2018 and in 2019 constructed two more horizontal hives for use in my bee yard. Each hive is made to accommodate 32 deep Langstroth frames. The side walls of the hive are two and one-quarter inch thick with rough-sawn lumber on the inside, which encourages the bees to coat the rough surface with propolis as they would in a tree cavity. The entrance is a one-half inch slot without a landing board and located on the end, rather than the side, of the hive. Positioning the entrances on the end of the hive allows the bees to build comb and expand the colony as they would in a tree cavity. The brood is closer to the entrance and then the frames with nectar, honey, and pollen. This arrangement enables the bees to move laterally to access their honey stores during the winter months. With entrances on each end, and a follower board used as a divider in the center of the hive, two colonies can be housed in one horizontal Langstroth hive.

In May of 2018, my first hive received a five-frame nucleus colony and by late summer had expanded to eighteen deep Langstroth frames. The bees adapted to the horizontal hive moving laterally as easily as vertically. It was easy to work, especially from the beekeeper's perspective—the only lifting required is one deep Langstroth frame at a time!

My involvement with horizontal bee hives was limited to the basic horizontal hive which is the equivalent of three Langstroth deep boxes side-by-side. Over the years, these colonies produced surplus honey; however, the primary benefit was that of resource colonies allowing me to use frames of honey, or bees and brood to strengthen the colonies used for honey production.

My perspective and appreciation for horizontal hives changed dramatically after my introduction to Rickey and Ruth Roark. In 2021, I met Rickey and Ruth, at the Ashe County Beekeeper's Association monthly meeting. They were surprised to find another beekeeper in Ashe County that was familiar with and also using horizontal hives in the bee yard. And I was intrigued by their knowledge of and experience with horizontal



Langstroth hives. After meeting and visiting Ruth and Rickey at their home and workshop in Creston, NC, no one can forget their enthusiasm for honey bees.

Rickey's beekeeping journey began six years ago when a neighbor asked him to help with his bees. With that introduction to honey bees, Rickey reasoned that honey bees would be a beneficial addition to his farm. That thought was shared with Ruth, and she was all in. However, there was one major problem: lifting wooden boxes filled with bees, brood, wax, and honey. To save his back and avoid lifting boxes weighing between 45 to 90 pounds was Rickey's incentive to an alternative way to keep bees. Looking back to his childhood, he reminisced that his paternal and maternal grandfathers were both avid beekeepers and their hives of choice were top bar hives. After his experience stacking heavy Langstroth boxes, he remembered his grandfather inspecting a hive and how easy it was to move only one frame at a time.



**A horizontal hive with Ruth Roark's artwork**

The childhood memory of top bar beekeeping grandfathers and his experience helping a neighbor stack heavy supers revealed to him the potential advantages of a horizontal hive design. Top bar hives are similar in principle to a horizontal Langstroth with the top bar hive allowing the bees to attach the wax comb to a wooden strip and build the comb down conforming to the triangular shape of the box. Whereas the horizontal hive can accommodate the standard Langstroth deep frames making them fully interchangeable with the vertical style Langstroth hives commonly used by backyard beekeepers.

The gallery on display at the Horizontal Bees website showcases Rickey's innovative horizontal hive designs and craftsmanship as a woodworker. And when requested by the customer, Ruth adds the finishing touches with her artwork.



**Horizontal hive showcasing Rickey Roark's craftsmanship**

For the beekeeper interested in honey production, Horizontal Bees offers a hive with the addition of a honey super in the center of a horizontal hive. This basic setup is a two colony, two queen design allowing two separate colonies working independently of each other to fill a medium super with honey for the beekeeper to harvest. Each end of the horizontal hive houses a colony of bees and when the deep frames are full of brood and honey, the worker bees can go through a queen excluder to store excess honey in a medium super.

A horizontal hive, with minor modifications, is suitable for beekeepers with physical disabilities. Rickey has designed a horizontal hive that allows the entire hive to rotate to a 45° angle, making it accessible to someone in a wheelchair.



**A rotating Horizontal hive**



Jonathan Bennett is a beekeeper who is benefiting from the rotating style hive. Mr. Bennett grew up in rural Missouri where all things agriculture were his passion and keeping honey bees allows him to connect with his roots. However, with his physical disabilities, managing bees in a vertical Langstroth hive was a challenge for him and the bees. A routine hive inspection was a slow laborious process removing one frame at a time and placing that frame in an empty box. The procedure was the same for each box inspected and to get the hive back together the process had to be reversed. Such extensive manipulations were stressful for both the beekeeper and the bees!



**Jonathan Bennett and Rickey Roark with a tilting, accessible horizontal hive**

Mr. Bennett was introduced to the horizontal hive in a YouTube podcast by Rickey Roark. He was interested in Rickey's design of a horizontal hive that would tilt 45°, making the hive easily accessible and allowing him to work from his wheelchair. After the hive was constructed, Rickey volunteered to make the eleven-hour drive to deliver and setup the hive. Routine inspections and pulling frames from a tilting horizontal hive, according to Jonathan Bennett "...is as easy as pulling a book off of a shelf at a 45° angle."

Depending on the beekeeper's goal for keeping bees, there are some disadvantages to the horizontal hive.

The hive by design is stationary, and a full hive is heavy and difficult to move. This style hive is perfect for the benefit of having honey bees supplement the native pollinators in your vegetable garden; but if a pollination contract is your goal, this hive is not for you. If your objective is gallons of honey for sale at the farmer's market, a horizontal hive may not be the best choice. However, if you are looking for some honey for your own use and enough to share with family and friends, then this style hive is perfect.



**Horizontal hive with a honey super**

There are several advantages to a horizontal Langstroth hive from the beekeeper's perspective. This style of hive allows the beekeeper to use standard Langstroth frames which are fully interchangeable with another Langstroth hive. Frames can use either commercial wax or plastic foundation. However, if plastic foundation is used, it is best to cut off a small triangular section of each lower corner of the foundation before installing it in the frames. Open corners provide communication holes, allowing the bees easier access to both sides of the frame and facilitates lateral movement during the winter. To avoid the possible contamination of commercial wax foundation, use a frame with no foundation—let the bees do it. If your choice is no foundation, it would be a good idea to cut a one-half inch strip of foundation install that as guide showing the bees the way you want them to build the comb. Without a guide, the bees may build the comb horizontally across frames



rather than vertically within each frame. When completing routine inspections, I keep the smoker on hand, but it is not often used. An inspection that is less stressful for the bees is most definitely less stressful for the beekeeper.



Traditional top bar hives require the new beekeeper to start with a commercial three-pound package of bees or a local swarm. Starting with a nucleus colony instead of a package is no problem with a horizontal Langstroth hive. With a horizontal hive, the heaviest lifting required is one deep Langstroth frame of honey which is approximately six pounds. Who really enjoys

lifting a 90-pound deep brood box full of bees and honey? And to get to that bottom brood chamber, there are 40-to-60-pound honey supers that must be moved out of the way.

Just as in a tree cavity, a horizontal hive provides a dry cavity with insulative protection from the weather and the wind. This style hive provides a sturdy home with adequate space to rear brood and extra space to store honey. The horizontal hive is a simple and bee-friendly version of the standard Langstroth hive. A horizontal hive is a great choice for the honey bee, taking them one step closer to a more natural environment, and surely, for some beekeepers, a horizontal hive is a superior way to keep bees.

*Jim Rash is certified as a Master Beekeeper by the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association, and an active member of the Ashe County Beekeeper's Association.*

#### NOTES:

- 1) Sharashkin, Leo. Designs and plans for horizontal hives at <https://horizontalhive.com>
- 2) Roark, Rickey. Innovative styles of long Langstroth hives at [www.horizontalbees.com](http://www.horizontalbees.com) and podcasts at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FafIMJQJsao>



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## Need a Speaker for your Chapter Meeting?

This is a reminder to Chapters looking for speakers for their monthly meetings. The NCSBA maintains a list of members willing to give presentations to groups. The speaker list and information on how to join this list can be found under CHAPTERS on the NCSBA website: <https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/speaker-list>

It is updated as needed but at least every year in December.

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# THE ENN CEE BEE BUZZ

Editor: Dr. John F. Ambrose Vol. 1, No. 1 December 1975

## INTRODUCTION

This beekeeping newsletter is a new service to those residents of North Carolina who are interested in honey bees and it is provided by the Entomology Extension office of N. C. State University.

This newsletter will be published on a bimonthly schedule and will cover a wide variety of subjects, but they will all be bee related. Contributions of news items are solicited and should be mailed to Dr. John Ambrose (see address at end of newsletter).

## OBITUARY: Dr. H. Eldon Scott (1916-1975)

Dr. H. Eldon Scott (Scotty), one of North Carolina's most personable entomology extension specialists, died September 18, 1975, of cancer. He was 59.

Scotty served as an entomology specialist at N. C. State University from 1953-1960 and from 1964-1975. His responsibilities included the areas of youth activities and the control of pests of flowers, lawns, trees and vegetables. However, he is best remembered by beekeepers for his contributions and interest in beekeeping in North Carolina. The N. C. Beekeepers' Association awarded Scotty a "life" membership in appreciation of his many services.

Scotty's survivors include his wife, Mrs. Hilda Scott, two sons and five daughters. A memorial fund has been established with the Friends of the Library at N. C. State University by the Department of Entomology in honor of Dr. Scott. Contributions will be used to purchase books on entomology.

## A SHORT COURSE IN BEEKEEPING

An eight-week course in beekeeping will be conducted by Dr. John Ambrose, the Extension Apiculturist, at the Guilford County Extension office from January 8 to February 26, 1976.

The course is designed to provide a fundamental knowledge of bees and beekeeping to the novice or beginning beekeeper. The lectures will provide instruction in practical beekeeping which will be based on a workable understanding of the biology of the honey bee.

Classes will be conducted every Thursday evening from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. for a total of eight lectures. There is no charge for the course. Interested parties may enroll by contacting John Carroll at the Guilford County Extension Office, 3309 Burlington Road, Greensboro, N. C. 27420. Telephone: 375-5876

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS, NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY AT RALEIGH, 100 COUNTIES AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING



# North Carolina Bee Buzz TURNS 50!

## 1975 - 2025



A lot has changed in 50 years with the NCSBA and the Bee Buzz. Here is the original Volume 1 No. 1 issue penned by Dr. John Ambrose in 1975.

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## A TWO-YEAR TECHNICAL DEGREE IN BEEKEEPING

Ohio State University has initiated a Beekeeping Technology Program at the Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, Ohio. Classes started in September of this year. This two-year program, which is the only one in the nation, is designed to provide students with a complete background in all aspects of practical beekeeping.

The Beekeeping Technology Program combines the basic skills and training in apiculture, entomology, botany and horticulture with the social, agricultural and business skills to produce beekeeping technicians. These technicians will be able to conduct all basic operations in beekeeping and honey production as well as having a thorough knowledge of marketing and sales of bee products. Bee pollination and other bee related skills are also taught.

For more information contact: Ohio State University  
Agricultural Technical Institute  
Wooster, Ohio 44691  
Phone: (216) 264-3911

## HONEY REPORT

U. S.: Commercial production of honey in apiaries with 300 or more colonies in the 20 major states totaled 105.3 million pounds in 1975, up 5 percent from 1974. This suggests that the total U. S. honey production for 1975 may total about 190 million pounds, a slight increase from last year's total of 187.2 million pounds, but well below the country's last ten year average of 220 million pounds per year.

The average wholesale price is expected to average about 43¢ per pound as compared to 1974's average of 47.7¢ per pound. The lower prices for this year were probably due to the reduced price of sugar and an increase in honey imports from overseas. Source: Economic Research Service of USDA and the American Bee Journal.

N. C.: Total honey production in North Carolina is expected to be similar to last year's total, but conditions varied greatly throughout the state. Overall production ranged from good in the Coastal Plain to poor in the Mountain areas. A combination of drought and excessive rain reduced the potential honey crop throughout much of the state. Sourwood honey, one of North Carolina's premium honeys, was in very short supply this year.

Commercial beekeepers, with more than 300 colonies apiece, are expected to average 70 pounds per colony for a total of 490,000 pounds as compared with 52 pounds per colony last year. This is 126,000 pounds above the 1974 honey crop of 364,000 pounds. This increase in honey production by the commercial beekeepers will be largely offset by poor production among many of the hobby beekeepers in the Piedmont and Mountain areas. Source: NCSU Extension Apiculturist

## 1975 N. C. STATE FAIR

This year's state fair was undoubtedly a success and the Bee and Honey Exhibit played an important role in the outcome. Over 615,000 people visited the fairgrounds in Raleigh from October 17-25, and a large number of those people stopped by to visit the Bee and Honey Exhibit.

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Of particular interest to beekeepers was the State Fair's salute to Frank B. Meachum who had previously served as Superintendent of the Bee and Honey Department at the Fair for almost 40 years. He was awarded the honor of being named Superintendent Emeritus of the Bee and Honey Department.

The following entries won first place in the listed categories:

Category	1st Place Winner
Display of nectar plants	Edward I. Muse
Comb for extracting	David A. Ratley
Shallow comb for chunk honey	David A. Ratley
Comb honey - light	Frank R. Killian
Chunk comb honey - light	Marcis D. Opphile
Chunk comb honey - amber	David A. Ratley
Chunk comb honey - dark	Brady W. Mullinax
Extracted honey - light	Marcis D. Opphile
Extracted honey - amber	Brady W. Mullinax
Extracted honey - dark	E. L. Selph, Sr.
Creamed honey	E. L. Selph, Sr.
Brood combs	Grady W. Mullinax
Comb frame honey, 50 lb. minimum	David A. Ratley
Extracted honey, 50 lb. minimum	Brady W. Mullinax
Beeswax, 15 lb. minimum	Brady W. Mullinax
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Junior Competition  
4 jars chunk comb  
4 jars extracted

Marcis Opphile  
Marcis Opphile

## BEE DISEASE INSPECTION REPORT

In 1975, 13,117 colonies of bees in North Carolina were inspected by the Pest Control Division of the N. C. Department of Agriculture for the presence of American Foulbrood (AFB). Only 45 colonies (less than 1/2 of 1 percent) were found to be infected with the disease. Most of the cases of AFB were attributable to the use of old equipment which had been previously contaminated with the disease.

The N. C. Department of Agriculture will provide a free disease inspection to any beekeeper with bee colonies in North Carolina. This service may be obtained by contacting any of the following men:

- Mr. James Greene, Chief Biological Officer, Pest Control Division, N. C. Dept. of Agriculture, P. O. Box 27647, Raleigh, N. C. 27611
- Mr. David A. Ratley, Bee Inspector, Rt. 4, Box 778, Red Springs, N. C. 28377
- Mr. B. H. Keever, Bee Inspector, Rt. 5, Box 298, Rutherfordton, N. C. 28133

Sincerely yours,

*John F. Ambrose*  
John F. Ambrose  
Extension Apiculturist  
2309 Gardner Hall  
N. C. State University  
Raleigh, NC 27607





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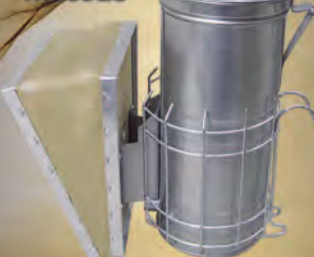
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# A Visit with Tunisian Beekeepers

by: Janet Ott, President Beekeepers of the Neuse



The institute provides room and board to students, 14-18 years old, studying a standard high school program with an emphasis on the Institute's primary focus of agriculture. The Institute also works with the surrounding communities and extension agents to build beekeeping skills and knowledge. Unfortunately, I didn't find out how many secondary students were housed here.

This Institute is part of a program funded by the U.S. Department of State. The aim is to help improve the capabilities of the Tunisian people in agricultural production of all types. In 2022, funding was provided to equip the center with some really nice lab and production equipment related to beekeeping. They can now do queen rearing, artificial insemination and foundation fabrication. They have extractors, settling tanks, wax kettles as well as some nice pollen traps and mini breeding nucs that they have been building themselves.

**In December of 2024,** I had the opportunity to travel to Tunisia with a group that I volunteer with. As a beekeeper in a foreign land, I always try to meet with local beekeepers. It just so happened that I was able to secure a visit to the Center Agricultural Training de Takelsa in Nabeul Governorate. This center is one of the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture's 39 Extension Support and Training Institutes.



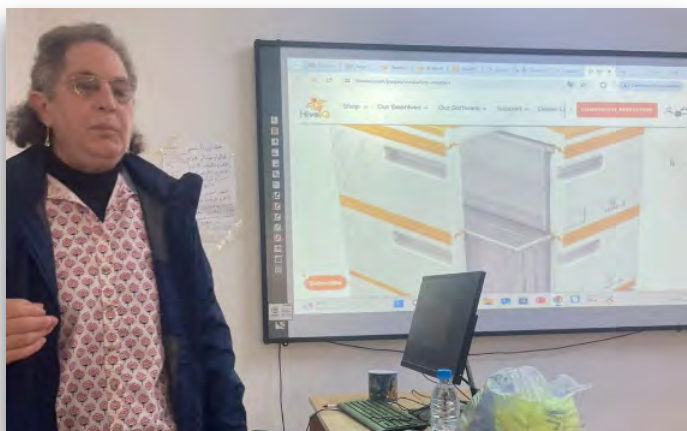
Extension agents at Center Agricultural Training de Takelsa in Nabeul Governorate



Equipment from U.S. Dept of State



I had an informative discussion with five beekeeping extension agents about the difficulties faced by beekeepers in Tunisia. They use standard Langstroth 10-frame hives for the most part. The primary issue we spoke about is the incredible heat they experience.



**Janet Ott discusses insulated hives**

There are prolonged periods with temperatures reaching 115-120°F, resulting in the wax melting in the hives! I shared some ideas that could help, such as using screened bottom boards and ventilated inner covers instead of the solid ones they are using and insulating the outer cover. But I think the most

important thing they could do to make the bees and the beekeepers more comfortable is to build Slovenian-style AZ bee houses. Construction in Tunisia is typically brick and concrete, and let me tell you, the buildings can stay pretty cool inside. Keeping the bees in an AZ hive would also address another problem they are facing- people stealing hives. One problem I couldn't help them with is the control of bee-eating birds. They were shocked to hear that we didn't really have trouble with this in the USA.



**Hives at Taklesa**

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## Assistance for Western NC Beekeepers

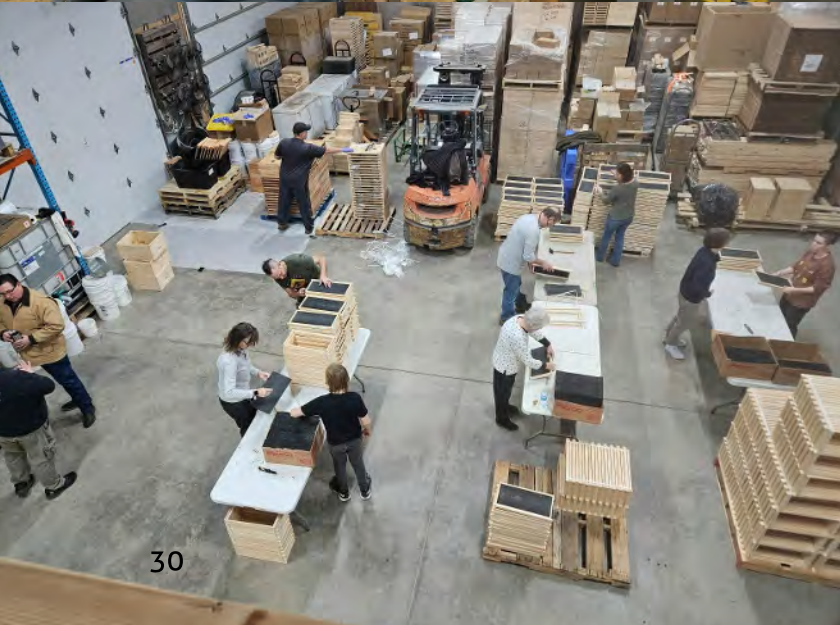
### Piedmont Beekeepers Offer Help



**Hurricane Helene** may no longer be fresh in our minds, or in the news every day, but recovery efforts are still underway. Chatham County, Durham County, and Orange County beekeepers met in January at Beez Needz Beekeeping Supply to build 57 complete hives, install plastic foundation in 2000 frames, and Eco-Dip boxes to send to Western NC beekeepers who lost colonies during hurricane Helene.

A very special thanks to Keith Elkes, owner of BeezNeedz, for subsidizing the cost of the equipment and providing the facilities to build the equipment, and very generous donations of money from Durham County, Chatham County, and Randolph County beekeeping associations and those anonymous donors who helped make this possible - "Beekeepers helping beekeepers"

*Thanks for the photos submitted by Lori Hawkins*







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Dr. Brad Metz  
Dr. Tammy Horn Potter  
David Burns

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- NC / SC Bee Bowl
- Silent Auction
- MBP Testing

For the latest information visit: [www.ncbeekeepers.org](http://www.ncbeekeepers.org)