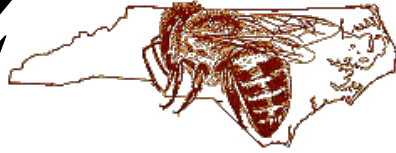


# *The North Carolina* **BEE BUZZ**



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Editor: Dr. Mike Stanghellini

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**the official newsletter of**  
**The North Carolina State Beekeepers Association**

\* Important Note: the next issue of the Buzz will contain information and registration forms for the NCSBA Spring Meeting, March 14-15, 2003.

Mark your calendars now and be sure to register early!

***Bees, Beekeepers, Research, Technology***

## **Notes from Don Moore, President of the NCSBA**

**Summer Meeting.** Our summer meeting in Thomasville, N.C., hosted by the Davidson County beekeepers and assisted by the Guilford chapter, was well attended. Our records show we had 219 people attend the three-day event, which is down a little from previous summer meetings. The Davidson County beekeepers did a good job in planning and coordinating the many details involved in sponsoring an annual meeting. For this, we offer our sincere thanks for a job well done

**Awards.** Again, we had great support for our awards program this year. I would like to thank everyone who participated in any way with our program this year. Kathryn A. Holmes, Cooperative Extension Service Agent of Rockingham County was chosen for our Extension Worker of the Year Award. Arleen Samford of Jackson County was chosen for our Person of the Year Award. We congratulate both of them and thank them for their support of beekeeping, locally and to the NCSBA. We consider our program this year a success and encourage your participation next year.

**New Officers.** At our summer meeting in Thomasville, the 2001-2002 officers were re-elected to serve the 2002-2003 term, with the exception of the one-year Director. Norman Faircloth of Guilford County was elected as three-year Director replacing Bill Smith of Stanly County, who rotated off this year. Bill will continue working with the Executive Committee as one of our Master Beekeeper Program (MBP) Coordinators.

**Apiculturist Position, NCSU.** The position has been advertised and is now open for applications. Hopefully, there will be several applicants and the successful candidate will be selected within the next six months.

**Slide Sets.** As a reminder, the new NCSBA slide set tells about the NCSBA beginning, its charter, growth in members and chapters, accomplishments, officers, the Master Beekeeper Program, benefits (Calendar, BUZZ, Yellow Book), etc. If your Chapter has not seen the new slide set, please schedule a presentation through your regional representative or nearest officer.

**New Chapters.** Recently, we provided organizational information to Dr. Terry Harris in Caldwell County who has expressed an interest in forming an NCSBA chapter. We wish Terry and others in Caldwell County well as they get organized and grow the organization.

**Obituaries, Memorials and Remembrances.** We publish obituaries of NCSBA members under “Telling the Bees” in either the BUZZ or the Yellow Book. The obits are printed in the issue following the member’s death, so some will appear in the Yellow Book, but most will appear in the BUZZ (four issues per year, normally). Please send the obits to Paul Madren, 329 Laurel St., Mt Airy, NC 27030 (new address for Paul and Margaret) **and** Dr. Mike Stanghellini, P.O. Box 33803, Raleigh, NC 27636-3803 **and** at least a notification to Audrey Moore, Corresponding Secretary. Paul uses the obit to update our database, Mike will publish the obit in the next publication issue and Audrey will send a sympathy card.

Rather than send flowers, some members have opted to send memorial gifts to the NCSBA’s McIver Audio Visual Fund. This fund is used to purchase audio/visual education material for our library, which is then available to our chapters. At the most recent Executive Committee meeting, we approved a committee’s recommendation to send a sympathy card to family members upon the death of an NCSBA member. The card is an original, designed by the committee, showing the NCSBA logo and an appropriate message inside. Audrey Moore, our Corresponding Secretary, will mail a card upon notification of a member’s death.

**Grant Request.** We submitted a grant request to the Golden Leaf Foundation in late July. Dr. John Ambrose and J.D. Foust put together an attractive package, which we hope gets the proverbial stamp of approval. The project would provide an educational package for each of our chapters and training for our members. The project’s title is “A proposal to (1) increase the public’s and potential beekeepers’ understanding of the value of honey bees and (2) improve environmental conditions for honey bees in N.C.” The project objectives are to increase the number of beekeepers in N.C., the number of honey bee colonies, the knowledge base and management skills of beekeepers, the availability of honey bee colonies for crop pollination and the general public’s awareness of the value of honey bees. When approved, we will face a monumental task, but with the knowledge, experience, enthusiasm and cooperation of our members, we will accomplish the objectives.

**Honey Bee Costume.** Our bee costume, MISBE (short for Miss Bee) has seen a lot of service recently and several more “appearances” are on schedule. Chuck Norton, Rockingham County, has agreed to handle the scheduling and tracking of the suit. If your chapter has an occasion to use the suit, please let Chuck know and he will get you on the schedule, if it is available. As a matter of policy we expect each user of the costume to take good care of it, clean it as appropriate and send it on its way to the next user, as scheduled. Chuck’s e-mail address is CNorton386@aol.com and his phone number is (336) 342-4490.

## **SUMMER CONVENTION EVALUATION & REVIEW**

According to the records I received, our recent summer convention in Thomasville was attended by 219 beekeeping enthusiasts. As part of the convention packet, everyone was given a survey sheet asking for ratings and comments about various segments of the convention. These were requested to be completed and returned at the conclusion of the convention. Forty-two (42) people returned the forms; about 18% of the total attendance. However, the 42 people who did respond, wrote a lot of comments. I have completed tabulating the first section and typed all comments... what you liked best, what you liked least, and also the section that asks for your suggestions for improvement. With the help of my two committee members, the final part of my assignment is to make recommendations (based on the surveys) for future conventions ... including planning, organization, facilities, etc. Based on YOUR OPINIONS and recommendations, we hope to provide clear and effective guidelines to assist the NCSBA leadership in planning these events. Thanks to all of you who took time to give us your opinions. I hope everyone will look for these forms at our future meetings and take the opportunity to offer your opinions and suggestions for improving your organization. - Norman Faircloth, Meeting Evaluation Committee

## **REPORTS FROM AROUND THE STATE**

**Chatham County Beekeeping Update** (*submitted by Michael Almond*).

I am president of the Chatham County Beekeeper's association. We are a relatively small group with 30 "official" members. Of these, 23 are state association members. Our youngest members are 10 and 12 years old, and our oldest won't tell their age! Many of our members are couples, and we have a few families who keep bees.

Many members of our association, like myself, are relatively new to beekeeping. Fortunately, we have several seasoned members, including John Strickland, a master beekeeper, who bring their knowledge and experience to the group. There is always someone who can answer a question or give advice to the novice. One very important member of our group is our secretary/treasurer, Judy Pick. Judy will claim to not be a very good beekeeper (not true, she does a great job), but she sure looks after the group. During field day this spring, while we were all at Judy's house having fruit, crackers, and juice, someone noted that Judy sure is a good "Beekeeper keeper"!

As beekeepers in North Carolina, we are lucky to have both the NCSBA and the state inspectors as resources. Here in Chatham County, we have the privilege of working with both Don Hopkins and Bill Sheppard. Working with these two knowledgeable apiarists, sometimes we get to see that beekeeping is as much an art as it is a science. I have to hide my queen excluders when I know Bill will be stopping by! Having grown up about 2 miles from his family, I was around bees as a child. Bill will sometimes try

to embarrass me at the meetings by talking about when I used to run around in diapers! (Be careful Billy, I know the beekeeper who kicked you off the school bus!)

Our group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in the Chatham County Agricultural Building. In September and December, we meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday to have a family night. We have our annual Cooking with Honey contest in September, and we always have some very tasty entries. I like to be a judge, that way I get the first taste of everything! We'd love to have you visit our meetings, feel free to give Judy or me a call (we are in the yellow book) and we'll be happy to give you directions!

### **BUGFEST** (submitted by Dr. Mike Stanghellini)

Each year, the North Carolina Museum of Natural History, located in downtown Raleigh, hosts a day-long event called BugFest. Citizens of NC and basically anyone with an interest or fascination with insects and related animals can attend this spectacular event, free of charge. This year, over 15,000 people attended BugFest on August 3, 2002, making it the most well-attended public event on insects in the nation.

Activities and displays ranged from the mundane to the truly bizarre, including tiny racetracks where cockroaches compete for the checkered-flag, and the Café Insecta, where you can taste delicacies prepared with insect ingredients! In addition to these and many other activities, there were a total of FOUR honey bee displays (most represented insect).

We had two booths (honey bees/beekeeping and social insects), and two demonstration cages - one for hive manipulation and the other for Bee Beards! Each beekeeping activity drew a lot of attention from the news media and museum personnel, and all were celebrated by the attendees.

I want to thank all the beekeepers who participated at BugFest 2002, and hope to see more of you in the coming years. Beekeepers who played vital roles in this year's BugFest success are: Will Hicks, Joe Smith, Larry Green and his family, John Brittle, Dean Brock, Josh Rubinstein, Jennifer Keller, and Glenn Hackney. I also want to thank Don Moore and Don Hopkins for loaning their bee cages for this event.



Bee Inspector Will Hicks did the promotional bee beard for the media (upper left). Larry Green sharing honey samples (upper right); Larry also did a bee beard. John Brittle and Jennifer Keller operating the bee both (lower left). Joe Smith describing the workings of a bee colony with onlookers (lower right).



## **Master Beekeeper Program**

*Dr. Mike Stanghellini, NCSU*

In the June 2002 issue of the *Buzz*, I described various changes to be implemented in the NC Master Beekeeper Program (MBP). Included were a notice on the cancellation of various MBP Exam versions and details concerning the appointment and duties of Coordinators for the MBP.

Briefly, the duties of the Coordinators are to assist the Apiculturist at NC State University with the delivery of the MBP to counties, bee schools, short courses, and individuals participating in the Program. At the moment and for some time to come, the Coordinators are Sally Ellis (Regions 1 & 5), Janno Daniel (Regions 3 & 4), and Bill Smith (Regions 2 & 6). See pages 39-40 in the 2001-2002 NCSBA Yellow Book for regional boundaries.

Specifically, Coordinators will be:

- Contacting the 50<sup>+</sup> Master Beekeepers/Master Craftsman Beekeepers (MB/MCBs) and other selected individuals to cultivate a “pool” of potential MBP Liaisons, and
- Serving as focus points for MBP presentations and testing.

The Master Beekeepers and other Liaisons will then be “enlisted” to perform various functions in the Program. Examples of duties include:

- Giving presentations to bee schools/short courses/county chapters on the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association and the NC Master Beekeeper Program,
- Giving practical beekeeping presentations as part of the bee schools/short courses on topics such as bee biology and perception, apiary site selection, seasonal management, etc.,
- Administering/proctoring the written and/or practical exams of the MBP at the end of these bee schools and short courses to ensure uniform testing environments across the state, and
- Returning all exams to the Coordinators after each exam is inspected for adequate contact information (date and location of exam, participant’s name, address, phone number, etc.).

Coordinators will maintain records of MBP courses/events, participant information, etc., before sending the exams to NC State University for grading. Once exams are graded and logged into the MBP database at NCSU, the Program participants will then be notified of exam performance and status in the NC Master Beekeeper Program.

Each of the Coordinators will select two or more Liaisons from each region to assist in the program. The Regional Liaisons who have so far been contacted and agreed to serve are:

REGION 1	Greg Rogers Sally Ellis	REGION 2	George Byrum Jim Barnes
REGION 3	Open	REGION 4	John Brittle Art Halstead
REGION 5	Moon Mullins Dan Kirby	REGION 6	Ellis Hardison Jeffery Knight

If your county association is preparing/planning to conduct a bee school or short course, please contact Sally, Janno, or Bill for more information on availability of speakers (if desired) and exam proctors (required). The contact information for these Coordinators can be found on pages 37-38 of the 2001-2002 NCSBA Yellow Book.

### **Upcoming Bee Schools and Short Courses**

A Beginner Level beekeeping course will be taught in Wake County, November of 2002, on every Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Agricultural Building on Carya Drive. Course includes introductory beekeeping topics that will help you become a good beekeeper and pass the Certified Level exam of the NC Master Beekeeper Program (MBP). The course is taught by Fred G. Deer, Master Craftsman Beekeeper, and other Master Beekeepers. If enough people enroll for the course, Fred will conduct a second-level course (Journeyman Level). If you are a Certified Level Beekeeper and would like to attend a Journeyman Beekeeping Course contact Fred Deer at 1-919-380-7005 or [CDCBDEER@aol.com](mailto:CDCBDEER@aol.com).

Onslow and Richmond Counties are also planning Certified Level Beekeeping courses. Contact the County Beekeeping Association President or Extension Agent in those counties for more information.

### **Obituaries**

**Mr. John “Jack” s. Wood, Jr.**, 80, went to be with his Lord on Tuesday, July 16, 2002. Mr. Wood was born October 21, 1921 in Greensboro, NC. He retired from Newman Machine Company as a machinist and was active in the local Farm Bureau. John worked with his bees for many years and enjoyed putting up honey. He was active in the Guilford Beekeepers Association and held the office of president at one point.

We have also learned of the passing of **Mrs. Willie Sheppard**, the mother of Bee Inspector Bill Sheppard. She was 84 years old. Bill and Sandra Sheppard’s address is 265 Carolina Road, Aberdeen, NC 28315.



**2002 NCSBA Summer Convention in Thomasville, 18-20 July 2002.**

Arlene Samford receiving NCSBA 2002 Person of the Year Award from Bill Sheppard. (2) Banquet night. (3) Dr. Mike Stanghellini and the Davidson County Beekeepers during the Bee Bowl. (4) *Cooking with Honey Contest* winners. (5) State Apiarist Don Hopkins describing bee situations in NC. (6) 4-H essayist, Emily Varney, sharing her award-winning bee essay on US honey floral sources. (7) Fred G. Deer supporting the McIver-Haas AV Fund. (8) Dan Kirby, Howard Blackburn, and Cecil Bost receiving NC Master Beekeeper Program awards.



(9) Dr. David De Jong demonstrating the use of an extra large smoker for working Africanized Honey Bees in Brazil; (10) Dr. Joe Zublena of NCSU detailing the NC Cooperative Extension Service; (11) Bee Inspector Will Hicks covering *Honey Bee Diseases* during Thursday's Short Course (12); Master Beekeeper Dan Kirby talking about *Swarm Prevention and Control*; (13) Richard Weaver's workshop on *Successful Queen Rearing*; (14) Josh Rubinstein covering many topics during the Short Course; (15) *Marketing Honey* workshop instructor Jack Tapp; (16) *Making Mead and Melomel* workshop instructor Lowell Perry; (17) *Photography in the Bee Yard* workshop instructor Normal Faircloth; (18) Dr. David De Jong talking about *Varroa Control* and *Medicinal Hive Products* in Brazil.

## What's New on the NCSBA Web Site ([www.ncbeekeepers.org](http://www.ncbeekeepers.org))

**Beekeeping Courses Page.** If your local NCSBA chapter is going to conduct a beekeeping course or workshop, consider publicizing it on our web site. Please send complete information by e-mail to [webmaster@ncbeekeepers.org](mailto:webmaster@ncbeekeepers.org), also linked from the bottom of each web page. Take a look at the "Courses" page on the web site to see an example of the information to include.

**Local Chapters Update.** Local chapter officers should review the information on the "County Chapters" page of the web site to make sure your monthly meeting time and "contact person" information are still correct. Send any changes to the Webmaster. The contact person is a name, phone number, and, optionally, an email address of a member of your chapter who is willing and able to answer inquiries about your chapter. This person does not have to be the President or an officer, but should be a member you have approved to do this.

**New Password.** The "Members' Page" section, containing photo albums, documents, and an audio presentation, is password-protected. The user name and password have been changed to:

*User Name = NCSBA or ncsba; Password = amber* (lower case only).

**Gee Whiz Facts.** In the last twelve months we received over 19,000 "page requests" (hits) on the NCSBA web site, from almost 3,500 hosts (networks), in at least 37 countries. The vast majority were from the United States (.com, .net, .org, .edu, .us, .mil), followed by Japan, Britain, Sweden, and Canada. Among identified networks, a plurality of visitors used AOL, followed by RoadRunner, BellSouth, and Mindspring. Most university (.edu) visits were from NCSU, followed by UNC. The most requested pages, after the *Home Page*, were *Meetings*, *County Chapters*, *Beekeeping Links*, and *Publications*.

**Thank you** for your web visits, and for your part in making *ncbeekeepers.org* a useful resource of the NCSBA. We invite you to send questions, comments, or suggestions about our web site to the Webmaster, any Officer, or your Regional Representative. Their e-mail links are on the "About Us" page.

David Martin, NCSBA Webmaster

## **Recent Additions to the NCSBA-NCSU Audio-Visual Library**

The Apiculture Program at NC State University houses a large video library for use by the NCSBA, the many county-level beekeeping clubs, County Extension Agents, and other groups interested in honey bees, beekeeping, and related subjects. In fact, most of these videos have been purchased with NCSBA funds for member perusal. The videos are also an integral component of the two beekeeping courses at NC State.

Funding for audio-visual materials comes from various sources including the sale of various NCSBA items (caps, bumper stickers, etc.), and from donations made in the name and memory of recently deceased NCSBA members.

In the past year, a considerable amount funding was donated in memory of the following members: Dr. Bradford Miller, Sylvia Newland, and Lorene Bowen. The donated funds were sufficient to purchase many new videos or replace old videos. Together, these new additions to the AV library increase the diversity and quality of beekeeping videos that are available to your beekeeping chapters.

### **New/replaced videos include:**

- #2A Swarm Boxes: a revolutionary management tool (catching swarms)
- #3A Setting Up a Package Swarm (package bee installation)
- #16A Keeping Bees and Producing Honey (overall beekeeping coverage)
- #17 Honey Bees and Beekeeping (8 30-min programs on beekeeping)
- #17A English Garden Hive Video (details of these 8-frames hives)
- #27A Honey Extracting and Bottling (how to extract and bottle honey)
- #32A Honey in the Comb (comb honey production techniques)
- #32B Candlemaking for Everyone (techniques for beeswax candles)
- #32C The Magic of Mead (how to make your own honey wine)
- #32D The Art of the Sting (apitherapy, in theory and practice)
- #35A The Honey Harvest (documentary on honey bee social order)
- #42A A Visit to the Bee Farm (video tour of Brushy Mtn. Bee Farm)
- #44 The Magic Schoolbus (cartoon about bees for children)

Full descriptions of these and other videos will soon be sent to your beekeeping chapter's President and County Extension Agents. Included in the video list is the procedure for requesting videos from the Apiculture Program's office at NC State University. Keep in mind that due to the popularity of some videos, you may have to be placed on a waiting list for any particular video. We hope you enjoy the new videos.





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