

*A Publication of*  
The North Carolina State Beekeepers Association  
P. O. Box 33803  
Raleigh, NC 27636-3803

---

---

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



---

Editor: Charles Heatherly      Vol. 25, No. 3      September 2003

---

**This issue includes:**

NCSBA Summer Convention Reports	- page 2-4
Best Recipe	-page 4
Message from the NCSBA President	- page 5
New NCSBA Officers	-page 6
Meet New NC Apiculturist	-page 7
How Are The Bees Doing, Don Hopkins	- page 9

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

## *Recipe*

### **Honey Smoked Salmon**

(Mark McCarter won the Best Overall Blue Ribbon in the Cooking with Honey Competition at the Summer Conference for this recipe.)

2lbs Salmon  
2 cups water  
4 tablespoons Rum  
¼ cup plain salt  
½ cup honey  
½ tablespoon pickling spices  
2 tablespoons lime juice

Mix All together. Pour over salmon in sealed zip-lock bag. Marinate four hours. Rotate bag each hour. Smoke for two hours, or until done at 250 degrees F.

Serve warm or chilled.

## **Honey Competition 2003 Summer Conference**

### Light

1<sup>st</sup> Freddy Gregory  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bedford Dowty

### Amber

1<sup>st</sup> J. D. Foust  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Martha Boren  
3<sup>rd</sup>, Dan Kirby

### Light Amber

1<sup>st</sup>, Virginia Webb  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Martha Boren  
3<sup>rd</sup>, Scott Jewell  
4<sup>th</sup>, Don Adair

### Dark Honey

1<sup>st</sup>  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Virginia Webb

### Chunk

1<sup>st</sup>, Virginia Webb  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Martha Boren

### Wax

1<sup>st</sup>, Virginia Webb  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Virginia Webb  
3<sup>rd</sup>, Virginia Webb

## **Big Winners**

Mark and Ellen McCarter of Stanley County were big winners during the 2003 Summer Competition in both the Cooking with Honey and Crafts Competition. Mark won the Best Overall Blue Ribbon for his Honey Smoked Salmon recipe, which is featured above. Ellen won First Places in photography and again in Cookies for her Honey Bars. Watch for her recipe in a future issue of the Bee Buzz.

## Summer Conference

The 2003 Summer Conference in Elkin was packed with lots of useful and timely information and punctuated with entertaining sidelights and breaks.

Thursday afternoon was filled with a series of short courses. Patrick Jones and Gwen Mintor of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Pesticide Division offered a course on "Pesticides in the Hive. They gave information on proper use of approved pesticides and cautioned against improper use and the danger of using pesticides that have not been researched and approved. This course provided credit for Pesticide License Renewal. The course was repeated as a workshop on Friday afternoon and the test for Pesticide License was also offered. Other courses offered included sessions on (1) Bee Diseases and Pests, (2) The Russian Story, and (3) Honey Plants of North Carolina.

To lead off the Thursday evening program the NCDA & CS Marketing Division gave a program on "Goodness Grows in North Carolina". They urged beekeepers to become involved in the Goodness Grows program and use it as an outlet for the honey we produce.

Bees and Warfare was the topic of the second session of the evening. Dr. Marion Ellis, University of Nebraska talked about the important role honey bees have played in warfare throughout the ages.

The evening was rounded out with lively music by the R. G. Absher Blue Grass Band. Beekeepers kicked up their heels for more than an hour and were ready for more when President Moore called time because it was time to close the Auditorium.

Dr. Kathleen Kidd, NCDA & CS Beneficial Insect Laboratory got the morning program under way by giving the Apiary Report. Two important points from her report were: (1) Due to excessive rain, the honey crop is not very good this year, (2) The quarantine on moving honey bees has been lifted.

Dr. James Harper, Head NCSU Entomology Department introduced Dr. David Tarpy, NCSU Extension Apiculturist Designate who was to begin work September 1. Dr. Tarpy's subject was "Biology of Young

## Highlights

Honey Bee Queens". He reported on his extensive queen research work at Cornell University. Dr. Tarpy spoke again Saturday morning about the benefits of "Diversity Within the Hive".

Ervin Rackley, Chairman NCSBA Zoo Committee gave a slide presentation about activities and progress with the proposed honey bee exhibit the North Carolina State Zoo. He explained the concept and preliminary design of the project that is expected to cost one hundred sixty thousand dollars. He also said NCSBA is expected raise a major part of the \$160,000 needed to fund the project and gave some details of a major fund raising campaign that will begin soon.

Dr. Ellis conducted a workshop on "Intensive Management for Comb Honey". He said one could not just put comb honey supers on the hive and expect production of good comb honey. The bees must be managed and prepared. It is best to create the affect of a swarm. If the bees believe they have swarmed, they are likely to not swarm but will stay put and make comb honey.

A highlight of the conference program was a report by Dr. Marion Ellis, veteran apiculturist at the University of Nebraska on several successful programs by the Nebraska State Beekeepers Association. For example, Nebraska beekeepers fund much of their association programs with the \$18,000 profit they make each year selling honey ice cream in their State Fair Exhibit.

Dr. Ellis told of an aggressive education program that the University sponsors in conjunction with the association to inform the public, especially school audiences, about the importance of honeybees.

In the Saturday morning session, Dr. Ellis told about a promising research study he had conducted using inert dust, such as powered sugar, talcum powder and backing powder to control varoa mites. Preliminary findings show that when honeybees are covered with this stuff varoa mites lose their grasp and fall off or are shaken off by the bees trying to clean themselves. Of the several types of dust tested, powered sugar seems to work best, according to Dr. Ellis.

The problem is that you need to remove the bees from the hive in order to apply the dust uniformly and effectively. More research is needed before this procedure is accepted as a standard treatment.

Dr. Stan Schneider of UNC Charlotte reported on the findings of his study about the spread of the African Bee. His research, much of it conducted in New Mexico where Africanized bees have become a program, show that the smaller but more aggressive African bees tend to overwhelm the more docile European bees once they invade an area. However, the jury is still out on whether the African bees can adjust to survive the harsh winters of states farther north than the border states of California, New Mexico and Arizona where they now thrive.

There were timely reports from Chief Bee Inspector Don Hopkins and his staff on a variety of topics ranging from progress reports on the current honey flow to updates on bee diseases and pests and North honey plants.

More conference news will be reported in the next issue of the Buzz. Look for stories about the Beekeeper of the Year, Extension Worker of the Year and the Winner of the NCSBA Essay Contest.

**For coverage of  
your Chapter's  
activities, send  
reports to the  
*Bee Buzz* at our  
Post Office  
Address.**

**Meat**

1<sup>st</sup> and Overall Best Blue Ribbon  
Honey Smoked Salmon, Mark S. McCarter

**Pickles**

1<sup>st</sup>, Honey Pepper Pickles, Terry Harris

**Snacks**

1<sup>st</sup>, Trail Mix, Louise Barbee  
2<sup>nd</sup> Energy Snacks, Honey Granola  
Judy Faircloth  
3<sup>rd</sup>, Energy Snacks, Betty Jean Foust

**Candy**

1<sup>st</sup>, Honey Nuts, Louise Barbee

**Bread**

1<sup>st</sup>, Banana Bread, Arlene Samford  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Honey Banana Raisin Bread  
Cathy McCracken  
3<sup>rd</sup>, Whole Wheat Honey Bread,  
Betty Jean Foust

**Cookies**

1<sup>st</sup>, Honey Bars, Ellen McCarter  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Honey Bars, Cathy McCracken  
3<sup>rd</sup>, Field Stone Cookies, Betty Jean Foust

**Pies**

1<sup>st</sup>, Honey Pecan Pie, Betty Jean Foust  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Honey Chocolate Pie, Terry Harris  
3<sup>rd</sup>, Honey Lovers, Pecan Pie, Martha Boren

**Cakes**

1<sup>st</sup> Pumpkin Honey Cake, Monica Jewell  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Honey Potato Cake, Terry Harris  
3<sup>rd</sup>, East Side Honey Square  
Hyesuk Lewis

**Photography**

1<sup>st</sup>, Scrap Book, Ellen McCarter  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Man with Bees, Virginia Webb  
3<sup>rd</sup>, Sunflower with bees, Carl Webb

## *Recipe*

### **Honey Smoked Salmon**

(Mark McCarter won the Best Overall Blue Ribbon in the Cooking with Honey Competition at the Summer Conference for this recipe.)

2lbs Salmon  
2 cups water  
4 tablespoons Rum  
¼ cup plain salt  
½ cup honey  
½ tablespoon pickling spices  
2 tablespoons lime juice

Mix All together. Pour over salmon in sealed zip-lock bag. Marinate four hours. Rotate bag each hour. Smoke for two hours, or until done at 250 degrees F.

Serve warm or chilled.

## **Honey Competition 2003 Summer Conference**

### Light

1<sup>st</sup> Freddy Gregory  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bedford Dowty

### Amber

1<sup>st</sup> J. D. Foust  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Martha Boren  
3<sup>rd</sup>, Dan Kirby

### Light Amber

1<sup>st</sup>, Virginia Webb  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Martha Boren  
3<sup>rd</sup>, Scott Jewell  
4<sup>th</sup>, Don Adair

### Dark Honey

1<sup>st</sup>  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Virginia Webb

### Chunk

1<sup>st</sup>, Virginia Webb  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Martha Boren

### Wax

1<sup>st</sup>, Virginia Webb  
2<sup>nd</sup>, Virginia Webb  
3<sup>rd</sup>, Virginia Webb

## **Big Winners**

Mark and Ellen McCarter of Stanley County were big winners during the 2003 Summer Competition in both the Cooking with Honey and Crafts Competition. Mark won the Best Overall Blue Ribbon for his Honey Smoked Salmon recipe, which is featured above. Ellen won First Places in photography and again in Cookies for her Honey Bars. Watch for her recipe in a future issue of the Bee Buzz.

# From the President

*NC State Beekeepers Association*

**J. D. Foust**

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the membership of the North Carolina beekeepers Association for your vote of confidence in electing me your president for the year 2003-2004. I am very pleased with the strong team of officers and directors that was elected to work with me in helping strengthen bee keeping in North Carolina. It is my task now to select strong individuals to chair and serve on committees to complete the leadership team. While we need reasonable continuity we must bring new people into leadership positions to keep bee keeping strong in North Carolina.

**Thanks to President Moore:** As we get into thoughts and plans for the new year, let me pause to express appreciation to Don Moore and his team for their excellent work over the past four years. It was my privilege to serve as vice president with Don all four years and I assure you that was a great experience. Don gave me, as well as other officers and committee chairs, the opportunity to develop and use our leadership abilities to the fullest. A great deal of progress was made and I hope the current team under my leadership can build on that foundation and continue to make NCSBA stronger and better. As Immediate Past President, Don will continue as a member of the NCSBA Executive Committee and will continue to be a strong member of our leadership team.

**Chapters:** One of my main goals this year is to work closely with the NCSBA local chapters. I want the chapters to

know they are truly chapters of NCSBA, not just a group of affiliated local associations. The plan calls for meetings of the regional representatives to discuss ways to assist the chapters followed by leadership workshops in all regions. There may also be need for follow-up meetings with leadership in some of the chapters. I will strive to develop an open personal line of communication with each of the chapter Presidents and I truly hope they will freely express any concerns about NCSBA and offer ideas for improvement. Each regional representative will also be expected to have a good rapport with all chapters in his region and be able to assist as needed and called upon.

**NCSU Apiary Position:** NC State University has employed Dr. David Tarpy as director of its Apiary Program. He began work September 1. The University has determined that Dr. Tarpy cannot serve as Executive Secretary of NCSBA and will not have primary responsibility in the production of the publications or the annual programs. The leadership of NCSBA has met with Dr.

Tarpy, Dr. Harper, and Dr. Southern of NCSU to try to better understand how he will relate to the membership of NCSBA. Since his background is primarily research, it may take time to develop his extension program. We will continue to work together in a positive spirit of cooperation during this period of transition.

**Publications:** Staff and students at the University will not be involved in the NCSB publications. Charles Heatherly in the new editor of BEE BUZZ. Charles has a good background in publications. He is a graduate of UNC School of Journalism, has worked for a newspaper, and for many years was director of publications for the State's Division of Tourism and Travel. Paul Madren and Dr. Mike Stanghellini developed the Yellow Book that was recently distributed and Dr. Ambrose has agreed to produce the Calendar of Bee Keeping for 2004. Thanks to all who assisted with the publications as the responsibility shifted to NCSBA. A publication committee is being established to look at all of the

publications and make permanent arrangements for their continuation.

**Annual Meetings:** Both the Spring and Summer Meetings of 2003 turned out very well. The facilities were great in Hamlet and in Elkin and both programs were excellent. I haven't heard a single complaint about either meeting. Thanks to all who worked to produce those good Conferences.

2004 is destined to be another great year. The Spring meeting will be March 12 & 13 at the Craven County Community College in New Bern. Lodging will be nearby at the new Hampton Inn. The Summer Meeting will be July 8-10 at Holiday Inn Woodlawn in Charlotte. The hotel is beautiful large facility with 425 rooms, beautiful meeting space, great exhibit space and good entertainment. Everything is under one roof and reasonably priced.

### **Bee Tidings**

Lee Roy Ore, longtime Forsyth County beekeeper, died in June.

## **2003-04 NC State Beekeepers Association Officers**

# Meet Our New State Apiculturist: Dr. David Tarpy

I think it was Sigmund Freud who once said that there are two important things in life: love and work. Some of us are blessed with having them be one in the same.

Like you, I am fascinated by honey bees and I love beekeeping, thus I feel extremely fortunate to make it my profession. It is an honor to be selected as the new North Carolina state apiculturist, and it will be my never-ending goal to continue and expand the success that the program has enjoyed in the past.

Although I have been working with bees for over ten years, I have been interested in biology for far longer (an interest that was cultivated while growing up in rural Pennsylvania). Having obtained my bachelors degree in biology from a small liberal arts college, I decided to work with Dr. David Fletcher at Bucknell University on a master's project in honey bees. This decision was prompted by my fortuitous readings of several texts on bee biology and apiculture, and it was then that I realized I wanted to do nothing else for my career. Dr. Fletcher is a South African

transplant who had come to the United States to help with the Africanized bee "crisis" in the late 1970's. He helped me learn not only to appreciate honey bees as a biologist, but also to realize their importance to agriculture and society, and therefore the need to address many issues that concern the apiculture community.

In 1995, I moved on to the University of California at Davis under the guidance of Dr. Rob Page, who many of you may recognize as the leading authority on honey bee behavioral genetics. It was there that I honed my scientific skills, particularly in areas of honey bee management, bee breeding, and other genetic techniques. My experience there has enabled me to address a wide variety of issues in honey bee science, including pollination, queen rearing and breeding, and pest management.

For the last three years, I worked at Cornell University with Dr. Thomas Seeley (see Richard Taylor's article on him in the April 2003 issue of *Bee Culture*). My research at Cornell focused on the benefits of multiple mating by queen bees. In particular, I tested how queens that are mated with many drones produce colonies that are less susceptible to chalkbrood infections. We were recently awarded a USDA grant to continue this collaboration for the next few years, testing the potential benefits of mating number on, among other things, AFB and parasitic mites.

Most of my previous research has focused on various aspects of queen bee biology, especially concerning the functionality of their many fascinating behaviors. I have published papers on how colonies rear emergency queen cells, how virgin queens kill each other during the requeening process (including spraying fecal

matter at each other!), and how queens fly from the hive to mate with many males. Many of these issues have significant, practical implications to honey bee management. As such, my future research will attempt to address important questions in apiculture with the goal to help produce healthy, high-quality queens and colonies.

The Entomology department and the College of Agriculture and Life Science at NCSU have significantly re-invested in the Apiculture program. The new on-campus facility is located in Gardner Hall, the main building of the department. This five room, 850 square-foot space will house several offices and a genetics lab. The new off-campus facility, a 4000 square-foot house that was recently donated to the university, is located only a few miles south of campus on the Lake Wheeler Experimental Farm. The building includes several laboratories and offices, a large conference room in which to hold beekeeping workshops (a fundamental component of my extension program), and a public library/display room dedicated to honey bee literature and paraphernalia. I am confident that these new facilities will enable the program to grow and prosper.

In my new position, it will be my unwavering commitment to support you, the North Carolina State Beekeepers, through an active extension, research, and teaching program. In doing so, I look forward to what I hope will be a long and productive relationship. It was a pleasure to meet many of you at the recent NCSBA summer meeting in Elkin, and I hope in the near future to acquaint myself with those of you whom I did not.

Sincerely, David Tarpy

## *An Interview with*

### **Don Hopkins, Chief Inspector**

NC Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services

#### **What kind of year are North Carolina beekeepers having in 2003?**

In terms of honey production, the news is not so good. Our honey flow this year is below expectations. Especially the sourwood crop that is almost non-existent based on anecdotal reports. However, the bad news is not limited to the mountain sourwood, our production this year is below average throughout the entire state?

#### **What factors were responsible for the low honey production?**

Several factors account for this. In fact, beekeepers faced a triple whammy this year. Last year's drought was a major factor in weakening colonies since queens did not lay enough eggs for a strong winter brood. Then, we had a severe winter with several ice storms that further weakened colonies. This was followed by a late cold spell that delayed normal spring blooms. And then, we've had an unusually wet summer that has further interfered with the honey flow.

#### **Is there a bright side to this story?**

Yes, from what I and other inspectors have observed this summer, our colonies have recovered quite well. We see a lot of strong hives, which if they survive the winter point to a better year next year.

#### **What about mites and the hive beetle?**

We're in pretty good shape as far as mites are concerned. Our treatment has been effective and consistent. The hive beetle has now spread to 45 counties but is under control. Good hive management by most beekeepers has allowed us to detect beetles early and eliminate them.

We have seen an increase in the spread of foul brood, which, is probably the result of all adverse conditions---weakened colonies, and increased robbing that accelerates the spread of disease.

#### **What are the best treatments for mites and the hive beetle?**

Apistan, where it is still effective. Check Mite (cumofous) where mites have developed a resistance to apistan. Check Mite is also the preferred treatment for the hive beetle. Another promising treatment, Api Life Var of which the active ingredient, thymol, is an essential oil. Beekeepers are reminded that both Check Mite and Api Life Var are restricted use chemicals under Section 18 of federal pesticide regulation and require a license by the applicator.

#### **Fair Exhibits and Competition**

In anticipation of a good year next year for beekeepers, I suggest you plan to enter your honey and hive products, including cooking with honey at the various fairs. This is good for the individual beekeeper, in that your ribbons are a source of pride. But it is also good for our state of beekeeping since competition strengthens the practice of beekeeping. There are three fairs, the Mountain Fair, Dixie Classic and the State Fair, in addition to the Spring and Summer Conferences of the NCSBA.

Back row(L-R) Joe  
Smith, Recording Sec.;  
Jano Daniel, Dir. 1 yr;  
Audry Moore,  
Corresponding Sec.;  
Donald Moore, Past  
Pres; J. D. Foust, Pres.;  
Jack Tapp, 2nd V.Pres.;  
Paul Madren, Treasurer.  
Front row (L- R) Mellie  
Swannie, Dir. 2 yr.  
Norman Faircloth, 1st  
V. Pres.; Ray L. Reavis,  
Dir. 3 yr.

Miscellaneous

## **2003 Cooking with Honey Competition**

Back row(L-R) Joe Smith, Recording Sec.; Jano Daniel, Dir. 1 yr; Audry Moore, Corresponding Sec.; Donald Moore, Past Pres; J. D. Foust, Pres.; Jack Tapp, 2nd V.Pres.; Paul Madren, Treasurer. Front row (L- R) Mellie Swannie, Dir. 2 yr. Norman Faircloth, 1st V. Pres.; Ray L. Reavis, Dir. 3 yr.