
North Carolina

Bee Buzz

Official Newsletter of the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association

Vol. 26, No. 4



SC Beekeepers Welcome Tarheels March 4,5 For Joint Conference



South Carolina Beekeepers will extend a hearty welcome to Tarheels in the Spring as it is their time to host the joint Spring Conference that has become a tradition between the Carolinas.

The event is scheduled for Friday, March 4 and Saturday, March 5 at the Baxter Hood Convention Center at York Technical College in Rock Hill, S. C. which is just a short journey as the bee flies south of Charlotte on I-77.

Mike Hood, Executive Secretary of the SC Beekeepers Association and his associates have planned an agenda packed with outstanding presenters among the nation's apiaary research leaders.

Special rates have been negotiated with the hotels for conference attendees; however, you must make your reservation by February 2 in order to take advantage.

Sue Coby, of Ohio State University, whose work on queen rearing has received international re-

nown and Jeff Pettis from the USDA/ARS Beltsville Bee Lab in Maryland will be keynoters. Jerry Hayes Florida State Apiarist will report on various concerns from that state.

If you tire of bee talk, a Blue-Grass Band will perform following the Friday night banquet. Complete details about the conference and registration information are included in this issue. See you there.

05 Outlook

Keep feeding those bees and checking for varroa mites. That's the advice from Don Hopkins, Chief Bee Inspector.

"Our bees are particularly vulnerable this winter, due to several factors," Hopkins said. "Mostly because of a slow honey flow and because of growing resistance to the mite treatments we've been using. I recommend an aggressive feeding program and keep an alert lookout for mites."

There is good news on the horizon. Hopkins was expecting approval by the end of December for "Mite-Away," a new formic acid treatment. Contact your area bee inspector for the latest information.

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Syrup Available for Feeding Bees

Two sources of syrup for feeding bees have been identified by Tar Heel Beekeepers.

Paul Madren of Surry County advises that both cane syrup and corn syrup are available from Atlantic Sweetener of Fort Mill, S.C. and may be picked up in Charlotte.

The corn syrup costs 23 cents a pound, or \$2.65/gal. HFCS#55 corn syrup costs 16 cents a pound, or \$1.70/gal.

Call Scott Wohlfarth at 803-548-3877 the day before to arrange pickup 8:30 am to 5pm. Specify which syrup you want to buy and how much. You must sign a waiver stating it is to be used for bees only, not for human consumption. Bring a container with at least a 4 inch opening. You may pay with either cash or check.

Frank Wyatt of Eden advises that LSI Specialty Products, a Division of ADM of Lakeland, NY will ship HFCS #55 corn syrup for the following prices:

10,000 lbs ---- 18.55 per lb plus freight
275 gl Tote---- \$460.35 per tote plus freight
includes disposable tote.
drums 635lbs----\$208.66 per drum plus
freight w/drum
pails 50# 5gl----19.35 ea. plus freight.w/pail
Contact Lou Wanda at LSI Specialty Projects
at 877-999-7732.

Telling The Bees



Billy Dixon

Mr. Billy Thomas Dixon Sr., 69, of Mebane, died Oct. 24, 2004, after a short illness. A native of Orange County, he was an avid beekeeper, a member of both the Alamance Chapter and NC State Beekeepers Association.

According to Don Moore, Bill was willing to serve any time in any capacity that he was asked to help. "You could always count on him to do an outstanding job in whatever he was asked to do," Moore said. He was active in teaching beginning beekeepers what he knew about the practice and he served on several committees of the local chapter, as well as director and vice-president of the Alamance Chapter.

Cecil Gilley

Cecil Gilley, of Pilot Mountain, NC a Surry County Beekeeper and a member of the NCSBA since 1978, died September 18. Cecil has attended every Spring and Summer meeting of the NCSBA since 1990 and really enjoyed his bees and beekeeping. He was the charter president of the Surry Chapter and served five years thereafter.

Albert Sipe

Albert Sipe of Newton, died October 25.

Robert Hooker

Robert Thomas Hooker of Hamer, S.C., died November 21. He was a longtime member of NCSBA and regularly attended NC conferences.

Merl McDonald Ferguson

Merl McDonald Ferguson of Albemarle, died December 6.

The *NC Bee Buzz*

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Contributions to the *Buzz* are welcome.

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

From The President

J. D. Foust

The year 2004 is ending and the NCSBA Calendar of Beekeeping is now being printed and should be in your hands before Christmas. This has been a good year in many ways. The NCSBA Spring Meeting in New Bern was well attended. The facilities were excellent and the program was very good. The NCSBA Summer Meeting was held in Charlotte at a large hotel with everything under one roof and at an affordable price. The program was outstanding and attendance was 242, a little less than expected but still good since it was July 4th week and the same week as the Heartland Regional Bee Keepers meeting in Tennessee. The Zoo Committee launched a fund drive to finance a permanent honey bee exhibit at the North Carolina State Zoo. NCSBA assumed responsibility for the education exhibit at the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh. A new program "The Golden Achievement Chapter Program" was developed and inaugurated and NCSBA membership has shown a healthy increase.

2004 also had some problems. The honey flow was reported to very spotty. Some areas reported excellent honey production. Others complained of reduced quantity and lower quality. Those who offered bees for pollination were overworked trying to meet the pollination needs of our agriculture crops and there were not enough bees to fulfill the needs. Our previous source of sugar syrup dried up and there was much anxiety about a reasonable source of sugar to sustain our bees through the winter

2005 Spring Meeting: The North Carolina State Beekeepers Association and the South Carolina Beekeepers Association meet jointly for their Spring Meetings every two years. It is South Carolina's year to be host.

The South Carolina Beekeepers Association will host a joint meeting with the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association on 4-5 March 2005 at the Baxter Hood Convention Center, York Technical College, Rock Hill, SC. You will find elsewhere in this magazine a tentative meeting program, a meeting registration form, and a map of Rock Hill, SC. You will note, on the tentative program, some outstanding speakers scheduled for the meeting.

Sue Cobey from The Ohio State University will be speaking about queen issues. Jeff Pettis from the USDA/ARS Beltsville Bee Lab in Maryland will give an update on research being conducted by bee scientists in Beltsville. Jerry Hayes, Florida State Apiarist, will speak on various beekeeping concerns in Florida. Other speakers will give presentations or workshops which will be interesting and informative.

J. D. Foust

You will need to complete the enclosed meeting registration form and mail it with a check no later than 17 February 2005. There will be a \$10 extra registration cost for beekeepers that show up at the meeting and have not pre-registered. A delicious meal will be catered for the Friday evening banquet. The host must have an advanced headcount for the meal so you will need to pay for banquet tickets in advance with your registration fee. The meal will be followed by a keynote speaker and a performance by a local Blue-Grass Band.

You must make your own hotel reservations by contacting the hotel of your choice. There are two local hotels (Hampton Inn and Ramada Inn Limited) listed at the bottom of the map of Rock Hill. A special discount rate has been arranged for the meeting. Mention that you are a beekeeper when making reservations and that you'd like to get the special meeting rate. Reservations should be made by 2 February 2005.

Don't delay; make plans today to attend this exciting meeting. Rock Hill is only about 20 miles from Charlotte. Let's work to have a good attendance of North Carolina Beekeepers at this joint meeting.

2005 Summer Meeting: The NCSBA Summer Meeting will be July 14-16, 2005 in McDowell County (Marion, NC). The meeting will be in the McDowell High School. There are 4 good hotel/motels in Marion and good rates will be available. The program committee has been busy planning the meeting and another outstanding program can be expected. The McDowell County Chapter is also lining up some interesting events. Details of the meeting will be in the next issue of the Buzz.

Zoo Committee Fund Drive: The Zoo Committee has been busy developing materials and training a team of presenters to meet with local beekeeper chapters and county Farm Bureau Chapters to explain the proposed permanent zoo exhibit and solicit financial support for the project. Some chapters have already had the presentation and the committee is planning a concentrated effort to reach every beekeeper and Farm Bureau chapter early in 2005. The Zoo Committee Chairman asked the NCSBA Executive Committee to appropriate \$5,000 to the project. The NCSBA budget does not have \$5,000 of unencumbered funds so it agreed to provide the money through one or more special projects. One project planned is to purchase a John Deere Lawn Mower and raffle it off. The details of the raffle haven been worked out but it may be offered at the Spring and Summer Meetings and/or during the State Fair. Some of the local chapters may do similar projects. I know Larry Green, Wake County Chapter President, has made two beautiful bee cages which he plans to raffle to raise a part of Wake County's support for the Zoo Project.

2004 State Fair: The Wake County Beekeepers Chapter has for many years assumed primary responsibility for setting up and operating an educational exhibit at the North Carolina State Fair. Wake county members designed the exhibit and provided labor and materials to construct it and set it up before each session of the Fair. When the Fair week was extended it became too much for Wake to do alone and neighboring chapters were asked to assist with operating the exhibit during the Fair. In recent years Wake has acted as coordinator but staffing of the exhibit has been somewhat of a cooperative effort between Alamance, Chatham, Orange, and Wake Counties. At the end of the 2003 Fair, Wake notified Fair Officials that primary responsibility for the education exhibit at the Fair had become too much for them and they were giving it up. NCSBA was asked to assume responsibility for the education exhibit.

The 2004 State Fair Exhibit, under the leadership of Scott Jewell, was completely redesigned. The Exhibit continued to have an observation hive with live honey bees, there was a display of some beekeeping equipment and some beekeeping literature. A video on beekeeping ran continually. The booth was very open rather than blocked off with cabinets as in past years. It was staffed by two bee keepers and two NCSU students from the beekeeper class. There were many, many favorable comments about the change. We hope to have a committee with representative of all the chapters in close proximity to Raleigh to work

on further improvements for the 2005 exhibit.

Golden Achievement Program for Chapters: In the last issue of the Buzz, I mentioned a new program that was in the planning stage – a program to be known as “The Golden Achievement Program”. That program is now a reality. A special committee, under the leadership of Chris Mathis has taken my idea and worked it into a fabulous program.

The NCSBA Golden Achievement Program recognizes NCSBA Chapters that have made significant accomplishments in support of North Carolina beekeeping over the past year. Every NCSBA Chapter is eligible for recognition. Points are given for various Chapter activities and accomplishments. Chapters submit their accomplishments from the past year to the Program Coordinating Team for review in January of each year. Chapters reaching threshold point levels will be designated ‘Golden Achievement Chapters’ and will receive recognition from the NCSBA. The Chapter receiving the most points in a given year will receive the Golden Achievement Program ‘Chapter of the Year’ designation with recognition and awards for all Chapter members.

The Program runs from January 1 through December of each year. Each year starts a new cycle of Program accounting and achievement. Reporting forms for 2004 have gone to Chapters and the deadline for returning the completed forms to the Program Coordinating Team is January 31, 2005.

Pollination: Jack Tapp, former NCSBA 2nd Vice President, made us aware of the shortage of honeybees to adequately pollinate North Carolina food crops. Jack followed up by setting up a meeting with officials of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Life Science. The Department has responded by setting up a program that will allow a farmer who needs honey bees to pollinate a crop to list his needs on line. Beekeepers, large or small may list their bees that are available for pollination. This should be beneficial to both groups in using all of the resources to better meet the pollination needs.

Sugar: We have been very concerned about a source of sugar to feed our bees. Both cane sugar and corn syrup are now available to be picked up in Charlotte. Details are published in this issue of the Buzz.

Colonies Available to Beginning Beekeepers Though Golden Leaf Project

By **Dr. David Tarpy**
State Apiarist

Last year, the Apiculture program at North Carolina State University submitted a grant proposal to help increase the number of beekeepers in NC by providing hives of bees to new beekeepers. Before we could receive a full award for the give-away program, however, the granting agency—the Golden LEAF Foundation of North Carolina—wished to make sure that such a program would be successful. Therefore, they asked that we first demonstrate that the mite-resistant Russian honey bee (the focus of the project) was indeed more tolerant of varroa and tracheal mites across the entire state. We were able to provide them such evidence after this summer's research season, and we submitted another grant for the honey bee give-away program this past July.

Funding from the Golden LEAF, is now able to implement the program to increase the number of active beekeepers and honey bee colonies in the state of North Carolina. The program will be open to all residents of North Carolina that are interested in learning the art of beekeeping, although preference will be given to those who are new to beekeeping. Each applicant may be able to receive up to two (2) colonies of Russian honey bees and the equipment necessary to manage them. The purchasing of additional materials—such as protective clothing, smokers, and additional hive equipment—will be the responsibility of each participant. In addition, the program is offering a limited number of opportunities for experienced beekeepers, or other qualified agricultural professionals, to receive up to 50 colonies of bees and hive equipment to establish full-time commercial pollination operations.

Some beekeepers have suggested that this award be better spent on helping current beekeepers rather than creating new ones. While nothing would please me more than to financially assist every beekeeper in NC, the program focuses on newcomers for two reasons. First, the mission of the Golden LEAF (which, by the way, stands for the Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation) is to bolster the economic infrastructure of the state, particularly in rural areas and in the agriculture sector. Creating more bee-

keepers is a very effective means of helping farmers and growers within the state pollinate their crops. Second, the long-term best interest for NC beekeepers is to increase our ranks at the local and state levels. Only by expanding our apiculture community will we be able to grow and thrive.

The eligibility requirements for the program are: applicant must be a current resident of North Carolina; applicant must be a current member, or willing to join, a local beekeeping organization; applicant must pick up bees and equipment at a specified location on specified date (April 2005) and only one application per household

All interested parties must fill out an application and return it to the NCSU Apiculture Program no later than **February 11, 2005**. Applicants will be screened for eligibility by a panel of NCSU program administrators, officers of the NCSBA, and NCDA Apiary Inspectors. *Interest in the program does not imply acceptance*; demand may exceed our limited supply of resources, in which case participants will be chosen through a lottery system.

Successful candidates will be notified in early March and will be given further instructions. Participants will be assigned a local beekeeper mentor through the NCSBA and their local county chapters. Mentors will volunteer their time and work with each participant to guide their progress, assist their development, and foster beekeeping skills.

For additional information about the program and to receive an application, call your local county extension agent, NCDA Apiary inspector, or visit one of the following web sites:

Apiculture Program at NCSU: <http://entomology.ncsu.edu/apiculture>

NCSBA: <http://www.ncbeekeepers.org>

We ask that you help spread the word of the program to individuals who wish to become new beekeepers. This is particularly true for the instructors of the many successful bee schools across the state, since your students would be prime candidates for participation. Also, if you are interested in becoming a volunteer mentor for one or more participants in your area, please contact the officials in your local county chapter. Together, I am confident that we will be able to make this program a tremendous success.

Agenda
2005 Joint SCBA/NCSBA
Spring Conference
Mar 4, 5 Rock Hill, SC

Friday, March 4, 2005

- 12:00 AM. . . Meeting Registration – Baxter Hood Conference Center Lobby
Late Registration Fee - \$10 Extra Individual and Family
Exhibitor Setup - Baxter Hood Conference Center Lobby
Room Registration at Hotel
- 2:00 Invocation – Gene Weathers, York County Beekeepers Assoc. Chaplain
Welcome to Rock Hill and Legislative Update - Senator Wes Hayes, Dist. 15
- 2:20 Announcements and Introductions - Mike Hood, Extension Apiculturist, CU,
and David Tarpy, Extension Apiculturist, NC State Univ.
- 2:30 President’s Comments - Clyde McCall (SCBA) and J. D. Foust (NCSBA)
- 2:45 “Bee Breeding and Selection Programs” Sue Cobey, The Ohio State University
- 3:15 BREAK
- 3:40 Door Prizes
- 3:45 “ Varroa Mites and Small Hive Beetles in Florida,” Jerry Hayes, Chief
Apiary Inspector, Department of Plant Industry, Florida Dept. of Agriculture
- 4:15 “A Review Apicultural Research at the USDA/ARS Beltsville Bee Lab”
Jeff Pettis
- 4:45 Panel Discussion, (Questions from the Audience)
Panelist: Sue Cobey, Jerry Hayes, Jeff Pettis, David Tarpy, Don Hopkins,
Kerry Owen, Charlie Johnson
- 6:00 Adjourn
- 7:00 Banquet - Baxter Hood Center - Advance Tickets Required (\$12)
Keynote Speaker - Rudy Mancke, School of the Environment,
USC, Columbia
--Blue Grass Band
- 9:30 Adjourn for Evening

Conference Agenda (Continued)

Saturday, March 5, 2005

8:30 Announcements and Door Prizes

8:45 “Topic TBA,” David Tarpy, Extension Apiculturist, NC State University

9:15 “What We Know and What We Don’t Know about Small Hive Beetles,”
Mike Hood, Extension Apiculturist, Clemson University

9:45 Break - Visit Exhibitors

10:10 Door Prizes

10:15 “Queen & Drone Rearing and Simple Tests to Determine Their Quality,” Sue
Cobey

10:45 “A Review of Varroa Mite Control Options in the US,” Jeff Pettis

11:15 “Highlights from The Classroom,” Jerry Hayes

11:45 Associations Meet for Business

12:30 **LUNCH on your own**

1:45 **Announcements and Introduction to Workshops**

2:00 45 Minute Concurrent Workshops (All sessions will begin at 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00)

1. Instrumental Insemination - Sue Cobey
2. Varroa Mites - Jeff Pettis
3. Small hive beetle - Jerry Hayes
4. Pesticide Use Training - Stephen Gibson, Agric. Extension Agent, NC
Cooperative Extension Service, Cleveland County
5. Pollen and Propolis Collection - TBA
6. Baking with Honey and Making Creamed Honey - J. D. & Betty Jean
Faust (offered first 2 sessions only)
7. Promoting Local Beekeeper Associations - June Ponder, Oconee County
Beekeepers Association

5:00 **End - Have a Safe Trip Home !**

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM FOR JOINT SCBA & NCSBA
2005 SPRING MEETING, BAXTER HOOD CONFERENCE CENTER
YORK TECHNICAL COLLEGE, ROCK HILL, SC, MARCH 4-5, 2005**

NAME(S) _____ (CHILDREN) _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____ PH: () _____

REGISTRATION FEE (Note: These are ADVANCE mail-in fees, WALK-IN fees at the meeting will be \$10 higher on individual and family registrations.)

		<u>Amount Paid</u>
Individual Registration (SCBA or NCSBA Member)	\$12.00	_____
Family Registration (SCBA or NCSBA Member)	\$16.00	_____
Non-Member (SCBA or NCSBA) Registration	\$20.00	_____
Non-Member (SCBA or NCSBA) Family Registration	\$28.00	_____

(Note: North Carolina beekeepers are welcome but not required to join the SCBA to register for this meeting.)

BANQUET MENU: Fried Chicken & Roast Beef, Green Beans & Carrots, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Variety of Desserts

BANQUET TICKETS: \$12 ADULTS / \$6 CHILDREN (6 yrs or younger)

Banquet Tickets (how many adults): @ \$12 _____
 Banquet Tickets (how many children) @ \$6 _____

ANNUAL SCBA DUES (Year 2005) \$5 _____

TOTAL CHECK AMOUNT = _____

PLEASE COMPLETE FORM AND MAIL WITH CHECK NO LATER THAN **17 FEB.**
 MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO **SCBA** & MAIL TO: Mike Hood

Dept. of Entomology, Soils, and Plant Science, 305 Long Hall, Clemson University,
 Clemson, SC 29634-0315

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: reservations are your responsibility. Two nearby hotels have special rates for beekeepers attending this meeting. Please see Map for details.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Amount Paid: _____ Check No: _____ Date: _____

Raising Better Queens

By Frank Wyatt, Eden, NC

My queen rearing experience started in 1999 after an absence of 15 years from beekeeping. I received my new 4-frame nuc and started feeding to make sure it survived. That year with continual feeding, purchasing queens, and splitting that hive multiplied into 10... I learned that if you keep feeding and buying queens you can make more hives than you think. Queen rearing is fascinating. It requires precise timing, but everything has to be done exactly to a schedule or the process will fail.

In the spring of 2000 my wife and I were on our way to Kansas City, Kansas and had taken a side road as was our custom, when we rounded a corner and came upon a field of bee hives. The beekeeper, Glenn Davis of Bates City, Mo was extremely gracious and proceeded to take this current hobbyist through his operation and I was amazed at the different equipment that I saw. The item that fascinated me the most was his example of queen rearing using the Jenter Box that he was using at that time. He also mentioned that he had received a highly specialized breeder queen by auction called a Minnesota Hygienic Italian bred by Marla Spivak.

I had never heard of this type of queen, nor I did not know anything about queen rearing requirements, but I had already decided that I wanted a queen that would show some resistance to the bee diseases and mites. I called Marla Spivak at the university and she informed me that I could purchase breeder queens from Glenn Apiaries in Fallbrook, Calif. I raised a few queens that summer for myself, with limited success.

In 2001 (still using the Jenter Kit) I was able to improve my successes and after requeening all my old hives and making additional splits, I actually had some queens left over. I was using a SMR Carniolan as my breeder queen. In 2002 after inspecting my hives Don Hopkins, NC Apiary Inspection Supervisor; suggested that if I had queens left over that I might want to sell a few to the members in Rockingham County association, because I was using resistant stock as my breeders. That was the year that I started rearing two lines of queens: SMR Carniolan, and SMR Minnesota Hygienic Italian, open mated. Each year I have purchased new breeder queens from Glenn Apiaries and used last year's breeders as drone mothers.

For those unfamiliar with the above types of queens the following is a general description:

SMR (Smart) stands for "suppression of mite reproduction". *Dr. John Harbo & Dr. Jeffrey Harris* at the laboratory in Baton Rouge, LA, defined this genetic trait. This is a trait that suppresses the reproduction of the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor* in the worker brood. Naturally mated queens produced from SMR breeders continue to carry this trait into her colony.

The Minnesota Hygienic trait was developed by *Dr. Marla Spivak* at the University of Minnesota. This trait



Frank Wyatt inspects his bees.

in bees demonstrates good resistance to American foulbrood and chalkbrood, while showing some resistance to *Varroa*. Naturally mated queens produced from Hygienic breeders continue to carry this trait into her colony.

The Carniolan race of bees are gentle, winter hardy, build up rapidly in the spring, and are superb comb builders. They have smaller clusters during the winter and are more conservative with honey stores. They are darker in color, and show good resistance to tracheal mites. They do not drift or rob as readily as other bees. Good honey producers. Because they build up quickly they must be given room (foundation) to grow, or *they will swarm*.

The Italian race of bees are winter hardy, superb comb builders and gentle. They have the classic light yellow three-banded Italian color. They build up to large populations of bees that promote excellent honey production. They keep larger populations of bees longer requiring good stores of honey for winter. They have a tendency to drift between colonies and will rob if given the chance.

In 2002 I started trying to graft. I was having horrible problems. I was reading everything I could find about queen rearing and no matter what I did that summer I could not get over 3-4 cells out of 45 and these did not look good. I visited Sebert Miller in Millers Creek, NC with his advise I was able to improve some, but still was having problems. It's a shame that we only learn from our failures. The next spring 2003 I attended Sue Cobey's Queen Rearing Course. Her course was informative and helpful. I now graft almost exclusively.

In queen rearing, I have two heroes, one is Marla Spivak and the other is Sue Cobey. These ladies approach their respective fields differently, but both have the betterment of the bees in mind. I next hope to meet John Harbo and Jeffrey Harris among a list of new heroes that spend their efforts trying to rear a better bee. I believe that as beekeepers we should always purchase the absolute best genetics that we can find.

Cheap queens can give poor results.

Brushy Mountain: North Carolina's Home Grown Bee Equipment Supplier

Steve and Sandy Forrest opened the Brushy Mountain Bee Farm for business in 1977. It began as a part-time business with the office and wood shop in the home of Sandy and Steve. In 1980 it grew into a full time business that spread into an old barn that was on the property and a small two-room house. A year later a 200 year-old log cabin was moved from an adjacent property and attached to the two-room house to form the retail and storage facility for the business.

The first warehouse was built in 1983 for storage and shipping and the offices were moved into the log cabin. As the business grew more buildings were added and today it occupies over 20,000 square feet under roof with a woodshop, metal shop, sewing room, office, retail, and warehouse space.

A network of computers enables Brushy Mountain to expand its business into foreign countries and keep customers happy from coast to coast. Since 1998 we have had our catalog on line and an e-commerce site for the convenience of our customers. It has expanded, changed, and increased with each year.

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm is constantly on the lookout for new and innovative products to make the art of beekeeping more fun and profitable for its customers. We have traveled to many foreign countries to explore their offerings and brought them here to sell or adapted them for use in the United States. We have also reached back into history to bring items that had slipped away from the mainstream back into use.

Our English Garden Hive and its simplified



Ed Buchanan briefs youngsters on bees at the Sourwood Festival in Black Mountain.

Photo by Paul Heatherly



Steve and Sandy Forest at their Brushy Mountain Sales Office

system of beekeeping was developed to provide women beekeepers and gardeners with a system better suited for their needs. It also has awakened interest in 8-frame equipment and highlighted the advantages of using a consistent size of super.

In an effort to reduce chemical applications of miticides; we worked with Beltsville Bee Lab's Jeff Pettis in the design of a screened bottom board to rid the hive of a percentage of Varroa Mites by natural mite fall. This method also had the added benefit of increasing brood production by about 20%. Also, to further reduce the harsh chemicals put into bee hives, Brushy Mountain worked hard through the EPA to get the Thymol based product ApiLife VAR approved for use to kill Varroa Mite.

Through the sewing room, we have expanded and redesigned the protective gear that we offer, including a new style Hatless veil, different gauntlets for gloves and a fully designed complete suit, jacket and child's suit with a Hat and Veil Combination that is almost indestructible.

This year Brushy Mountain has installed a sugar tank for the convenience of North Carolina beekeepers and will sell high fructose corn syrup. Other products new to 2005 will be screened inner covers, expanded line of queen rearing equipment, a power fume pad, an essential oil distillery, more products for the honey house, more beer and wine making equipment, new soap molds and much more.

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm's mission is to inspire, educate, and facilitate the beekeepers throughout the United States and beyond.