

North Carolina
State Beekeepers Association
P. O. Box 33803
Raleigh, NC 27636-3803

North Carolina

Bee Buzz



Official Newsletter of the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association

Vol. 28, No. 2 Spring 2006

Great Program Set For Summer Conference In High Point, July 13-15



Do you want to hear the latest about the arrival of the Africanized Honey Bee in Florida? Then come on down to High Point in July for the Summer Conference of the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association. Laurence Cutts, retired Florida State Apiary Inspector on the challenges that the AHB poses to Florida beekeepers.

“It promises to be another in our series of great conferences,” said J. D. Foust, NCSBA President.

There will also be presentations on new ideas for dealing with an old problem that has faced beekeepers for a long time, nosema, presented by Tom Webster from Kentucky.

In addition to the major presentations, there are numerous workshops on a variety of subjects, queen rearing, pesticide application, pollination, preparing honey for show, honey labeling and other appropriate topics.

Complete coverage of the Summer Conference including the program schedule and registration information is including in this issue.

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You must make your hotel reservations early in order to be assured of a room in the Conference Headquarters facility at the High Point Radisson. For the first time we're accepting on-line registration.

See you at the Summer Conference in High Point.



Another Zoo Raffle

So you didn't win the John Deere Lawn Mower last year. Here's another chance to do even better. The North Carolina State Beekeepers' Association is raffling a John Deere 'Gator' this year to raise funds for the Apiary Exhibit at the State Zoo. Tickets are available at the Summer Conference and through your local chapter until the drawing is held at the end of the State Fair. Twelve-year-old Evan Hill of Tarboro is shown above in the 'Gator while it was on display during the Spring Conference.

Thanks J. D., For a Job Well Done!

J. D. Foust, our State President for the past three years steps down this summer as his successor is chosen during the Summer Conference.

He leaves big shoes to fill.

Membership has nearly doubled during his tenure, to a total of 2042 at last count.

We don't have money to burn but our bills are paid and there is a bit of surplus in the treasury.

Six new chapters were formed and six more are in various stages of organizing.

Participation during our spring and summer conferences has seldom been



higher.

The quality of support from the professional staff at NC State University and the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is consistently good as it has been for several years.

We enjoyed a very successful Golden Leaf Project that achieved its goal of bringing several hundred

new and young beekeepers into our fold.

Several national experts visiting our conferences in recent years have said the NCSBA is the best state organization of its kind in the nation. Who are we to argue with them?

Much of the credit for this era of success goes to the strong leadership and hard work of J. D. We shouldn't forget Betty Jean. She's been there all along helping her man and our fine President for the past three years.

Charles Heatherly
Editor

The ***NC Bee Buzz***
Is published quarterly by the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association
P. O. Box 33803,
Raleigh, NC 27636-3803

J. D. Foust, President
Norman Faircloth, 1st Vice President
Billy Smith, 2nd Vice President
Paul Madren, Treasurer
Audrey Moore, Corresponding Sec.
Joe Smith, Recording Secretary
Charles Heatherly, editor
heath7@bellsouth.net
James Harvey, Director of Sales

Contributions to the ***Buzz*** are welcome.

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.

Beekeepers Needed To Staff Exhibit At State Zoo



Weekend beekeeping exhibits are already underway at the North Carolina State Zoo in Asheboro on Saturdays and Sundays and will continue through mid-October.

North Carolina beekeepers are invited to participate and may sell honey and other products from the hive at the display. There is no charge for your admission to the zoo, plus you get credit toward your Master Certification Program.

Beekeepers who can bring observation hives are especially needed. Exhibits should be staffed from 10 am to 4 pm.

Call Patricia Jones for more information
919 362-7027.

From The President

NC State Beekeepers Association

Meetings -The 2006 NCSBA Spring Meeting is now history and what a great meeting it was. It was good to have everything under the same roof. There was plenty of free parking and those who made their reservations within the time designated for reservations were able to stay at the convention hotel. A few who waited until after the block of reservations expired found the hotels full and had to look elsewhere for lodging. Even with that little problem, there were 360 person registered and in attendance. That was close to a record for a spring meeting. We should all remember to make our lodging reservations early because the committee has negotiated hard. A block of rooms is held for a specified time and there is a cutoff time which is 20 to 30 days prior to opening of the conference. That gives the hotels a chance to rent those rooms rather than be caught with unsold rooms. Full occupancy is very important to the fiscal health of a hotel.

It is now time to focus on the 2006 NCSBA Summer Meeting as it is rapidly approaching. A great deal of this issue will be information about that meeting. The conference will be at the Radisson Hotel in High Point, the center of the city's central business district. The hotel is next door to the big Furniture Market Headquarters and showrooms and serves as the primary hotel during the big furniture market. It's a fine hotel and usually very expensive but NCSBA 1st Vice President, Norman Faircloth has negotiated a special beekeeper rate of \$60 plus tax for our meeting. There is a cutoff date for our reserved block of rooms. Those who try to make hotel reservations after that date cannot be assured of availability of rooms or the special rate. **Make your room reservations and pre register for the 2006 NCSBA summer meeting now!**

As I write this I don't have the latest information about the conference program but from the bits of information I do have, I can assure you it will be another great program.



J. D. Foust

You be sure to review the tentative program printed in this magazine to see the great things planned for our information and enjoyment. I am sure President Kurt Bower and the membership of the Guilford County Chapter will work diligently to make our visit to their county very pleasant. We are anticipating more than 400 persons in attendance. Let's work hard to make it a record 450.

Leadership – I am completing my third and final year as NCSBA President. You, no doubt, recall that the NCSBA Constitution and By-Laws were amended at the annual membership business meeting in Marion last summer to impose term restrictions. No one can serve more consecutive years in any of the elected offices except Treasurer. That doesn't bother me because I never intended to serve more than three years as president. I strongly support term limits because it will allow more NCSBA members to serve in leadership positions and hopefully will lead to progressive changes in the Association. While term limits is not a constitution requirement for persons who chair committees, I believe the association will be best served if future presidents follow a pattern of limiting terms. Several persons have asked me recently how they could become more involved in positions of leadership. Now is a good opportunity to become involved. If you want to be more involved, I urge you to make it known to the new NCSBA President.

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(President's Page Continued)

Reflections – I want to reflect upon some of the positive things that have happened to beekeeping and beekeepers during the period I have been NCSBA President. Our Association has many achievements for which all can take a great deal of pride in having been a part. Membership is up substantially. The quality of our conferences has improved steadily. It is remarkable that we have been able to accomplish so much and do it entirely as a volunteer organization. The credit belongs to a lot of people who have worked long and hard on behalf of the betterment of beekeeping. I thank each of you. I have always been more concerned about results than who got credit. I will say, however, “no coach is worth his salt if he doesn't know how to recruit” and I do take great pride in the team that I helped put together to lead the Association during this great period.

Near the end of Don Moore's tenure as NCSBA President, he, I and others pushed NCSU hard to get the State Apiculturist position filled rather than let it be eliminated during a budget crisis. The current Chancellor who was then Dean of the School of Agriculture and the head of the Entomology Department both have given the NCSBA leadership credit for the position being retained and filled. We can't claim credit for Dr. David Tarpy being chosen but we are so lucky and proud the University hired him for the job. Dr. Tarpy came to work shortly after I became NCSBA President in 2003. His work and influence have been major factors in the good things that have happened to beekeeping and beekeepers.

Don Hopkins and his team of bee inspectors have regulatory responsibilities. It is their responsibility to regulate beekeeping and see that all beekeepers operate within the laws or regulations. Rather than strongly exert their regulatory authority, they operate more like extension agents. When a beekeeper expects a problem or needs help, his bee inspector is always ready and available to come out to inspect and assist as needed.

It has been a real pleasure to work as your president with David Tarpy and Don

Hopkins as a three person team, each representing his area of interest or responsibility. There has been no evidence of turf protection or anyone working in one's own self interest. It is so good for us all to work to advance and protect beekeeping and the honeybee.

NC Bee Buzz – One of my major goals when I assumed the job as your president was to make major improvements to the Bee Buzz. It was a newsletter of eight letter-size pages folded to give 16 half-size pages. It consisted of mostly announcements and a small bit of advertising. I am certainly not critical of what we had but I knew we could do better. I wanted the Buzz to become a magazine and I knew the person that could make it happen. Charles Heatherly, a NCSBA member with a journalism degree from UNC, experience as a newspaper reporter and the developer of the beautiful publications used to publicize North Carolina to potential visitors around the world agreed to take on the job as editor.

A major concern was “how to pay for it”. The three NCSBA publications (1) The Bee Buzz, (2) the Yellow Book, and (3) the Calendar of Beekeeping were being printed locally by a small offset print shop. Printing costs took most of the funds available for publications. Addressing, sorting, and mailing was previously done by NCSU students but there were no students, now. Trying to do those jobs with volunteers on a timely basis became a major problem. Advertising revenue was almost nothing.

With help from Steve Forest we found a volume printer interested in working with us and we were able to negotiate contracts for far less money than we had previously paid. This new printer was also able to address, sort and mail the publications. We worked with the postal service and were able to learn ways to reduce mailing costs from twenty three cents per copy to about fifteen cents. With the recent postal rate increase the Buzz and Calendar are now being mailed for about sixteen and one-half cents per copy. Printing a bar-code

(Continued on next page)

(President's Page Continued)

with each address is saving five cents per copy. Advertising rates were increased to a realistic level and an aggressive campaign to sell advertising was launched. Billy Smith started the advertising program sales and did quite well in spite of the price increase. When Bill was elected 2nd Vice President, Richard Flanagan assumed the job as Publications Business Manager and continued with sales of additional ads.. Jim Harvey is currently filling that role and is working to increase the amount of advertising revenue. The most recent issue of the Buzz had 6 full pages of advertising.

We started under the new format with 16 full pages per issue, twice as much space as the old newsletter. The most recent edition was 20 pages and it is our hope that it will soon be more. We can go to, at least 28 pages without an increase in postage. I urge you to submit material for publication.

Thanks to Charles Heatherly and all who have helped enhance the quality of the Bee Buzz. I hope you are as proud of it as I am.

The Yellow Book – Norman Faircloth, 1st Vice President has handled annual production of the Yellow Book for the past two years. Norman taught computer layout, etc. at Guilford Community College for more than 30 years and is well qualified to make improvements to this publication. We have followed the format that has been used for many years. An alphabetical listing of members was added last year, making it easier to find names of members if one doesn't know the member's chapter. Many persons have thanked me for that positive change. There have been lots of suggestions for further improvement of the Yellow Book and we had intentions of significant upgrading this year but ran into strong resistance from some old timers. The changes will not be made and the plan is to have the Yellow Book printed and mailed by the summer meeting.

The Calendar of Beekeeping – This

publication seems to be very popular with the NCSBA membership. Many of you have expressed concerns because it hasn't reached you before January 1 for each of the past 3 years. No one has been more disappointed than I when we didn't meet the scheduled distribution date. Dr. John Ambrose, who has handled the production and distribution of the Calendar since its inception, and I have met and talked about the problem. Dr. Ambrose still produces the Calendar and is also anxious that you receive it before the new calendar year begins. We have worked out a schedule to have the 2007 Calendar on a disc, camera ready, before the end of my term as NCSBA President. The new administration will be able to amend it to accommodate any changes needed before it is printed.

The Cost Sharing Bee Program – The cost sharing honey bee program was not a NCSBA program. It was funded by a grant to NCSU from the Golden Leaf Foundation. It did, however, result from an extensive public relation and lobbying program to make the GLF board and legislative leadership aware of the importance of honey bees, the shortage of honey bees and the need for more beekeepers. Thanks to Senator Fountain Odom, NCSBA Legislative Chairman and Charles Heatherly, Editor of the Bee Buzz for providing extensive background information to those important decision makers. Thanks to Dr. Tarpay, who was brand new on the job, for developing this grant into a research project that involved providing bees to potential new bee keepers. The uniqueness of the program attracted much media interest and the extensive local, state, and national publicity resulted in more than 1700 applications for the bees. Each lucky recipient of bees was given 2 complete hives resulting in only 250 persons getting bees. The granting agency required that winners be chosen by a lottery. The grant was to NCSU but NCSBA chapters were very involved in the project. Each of the recipients of bees was required to

Continued on next page)

(President's Page Continued)

be a member of a local or state beekeeping organization, attend a beekeeping training program, and have a mentor from a beekeeper organization. Thanks to Dr. Tarpy and his colleagues for this successful program. It set the stage for much advancement of beekeeping in North Carolina.

Bee Schools – The publicity generated by the announcement of and interest in the “cost sharing program” brought record enrollment in bee schools across the state. A high percentage of those enrolled in bee schools said that they had contemplated getting into bee keeping for years but just hadn't made the move. The new popularity and public awareness had brought them out. Most of those in the 2005 classes enrolled with hopes of receiving “free bees”. When the popularity of the program and large number of applicants were known it was apparent that the odds of receiving bees from the program were very low. At the advice of their instructors, those in the classes made alternate arrangements for bees. Nearly everyone in the classes I was closely associated with is now an excited beekeeper – some with several hives.

There are no “free bees” this year but the excitement is as great and the classes are equally as large. There is new innovation and excitement in the program. Thanks to all who participated in the schools – the instructors and students.

New Chapters- The growth in new chapters began during the 4 years Don Moore was NCSBA President. Eight new chapters were chartered during that period. That growth in new chapters has continued through my 3 years. Six new chapters have been approved and chartered. Six more have been organized and, at least, three are expected apply for and receive their charter before or at the summer meeting. I am scheduled to attend meetings with several of these new groups shortly and we hope all will be ready to apply for their charter.

Membership- All of the activities discussed above have had positive affect on membership. NCSBA membership growth last year was around 50%. Our treasurer has reported that membership for 2006 is coming in very

well. It appears that we will have another record year.

The Golden Achievement Program-

This is a new program initiated for the 2005 year. The objective is to give participating chapters points for participation in a designated activities. There would a predetermined threshold of points for a chapter to be designated a “Golden Achievement Chapter. The chapter, among the Golden Achievement Chapters that received the most points will be designated “Chapter of the Year. Participation by a chapter is voluntary.

Eight chapters participated in 2004 and I believe the committee chairman reported to the Executive Committee that they received applications from eight or nine chapters for 2005. The goal is that chapters being chosen as a Golden Achievement Chapter will become so prestigious that all chapters will strive for that recognition.

NCSBA is all of us. Each member is important. The local chapters are the heart of the organization. I urge each member to work hard in his/her chapter and in the state association. Let the new officers know of your interests and willingness to serve. Become a leader at both levels. We have a lot going for beekeeping in North Carolina. In fact, some of our visiting program participants have said that nobody else is doing, anywhere near, what we are doing in North Carolina. This success is due to the efforts of many. Thank you for what you are doing for beekeeping. Let's all be proud of where are, support the new leadership, become a part of it, and work for an even better tomorrow.

Thank you for electing me as your president for the past three years and for your cooperation and support. I wish the new officers the best of luck and success.

-end)

Attend the Eastern Apicultural Society Meeting in N. Georgia July 30-Aug 4

By Dr. David Tarpy

Being a beekeeper requires effort. Often times, a lot of effort. Such effort is manifest in many ways. It takes a lot of blood, sweat, and tears to properly manage beehives and to keep colonies healthy and productive. Beekeeping can take a lot of effort financially, building new equipment and buying bees. It also takes a lot of patience, which can take a lot of effort if you're anxiously awaiting that perfect honey flow.

It can also take a concerted effort to learn more about bees and bee management. This is well worth the effort, however, since educating yourself about beekeeping makes you a better beekeeper. It is this principle that prompts us to have two terrific state meetings every year and to offer the largest Master Beekeeper Program in the country. The more we know about bees and their management, the easier our other beekeeping efforts will be.

Beekeepers in North Carolina have an excellent opportunity this year to become better beekeepers. The Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) is coming to the mountains of Georgia, just 10 miles south of the NC border. The 2006 Annual short course & conference will be held at **Young Harris College from July 31st through August 4th**. Conference President and University of Georgia Apiculture Technician, Jennifer Berry, has done an impressive job of putting together an excellent program. She and her team have lined up some of the best authorities in honey bee research and education, including Denis Anderson from Australia, Dewey Caron, Clarence Collison, Larry Connor, Keith Delaplaine, Marion Ellis, Kim Flotum, Ernesto Guzman, John Harbo, Jerry Hayes, Mike Hood, our very own Don Hopkins, Greg Hunt, Dann Purvis, Steve Sheppard, John Skinner, and Carl and Virginia Webb. This impressive list of leading authorities speak to the quality of the meeting and what you will get out of it.

The first two-and-a-half days feature the EAS short course, which will be broken

into simultaneous beginners and advanced tracks. Topics to be covered will include 'History of the bee hive', 'Requeening: new ideas', 'Small-scale queen rearing', and 'Honey bee diseases', just to name a few. The remainder of the meeting will consist of a comprehensive conference, featuring 18 seminars and dozens of workshops, including everything from 'The honey bee genome project' to 'The culinary side of beekeeping'. Both the short course and the conference will provide useful, tangible information that will help your beekeeping skills.

This conference will be well worth the trip to Georgia. The cost is going to be reasonable, accommodations will be comfortable, and the social events promise to be fun-filled (including a hog roast and Southern banquet). One of the real benefits of this meeting is that one can come for only one day or the whole week; it is entirely up to you. I would encourage you to talk with other members of your local and state organizations to see if you can carpool with each other up to Hiawassee.

I should also note that if you are not currently an EAS member, then you may wish to consider joining. The annual dues are only \$10.00 for individuals, \$30.00 for associations, and \$200.00 for a Life member (which includes family members). Your participation supports a national organization that provides one of the best programs for beekeeping education and honey bee research found anywhere. Joining EAS supports a network of professional and hobby beekeepers, researchers, and educators who have consistently worked toward improving its members' skills and finding solutions to threats that challenge the health of honey bees.

If you have questions about the EAS, please let me know. I hope you will attend the EAS conference this summer. Your effort will not be a sacrifice but rather provide a substantial benefit. More info at: <http://www.easternapiculture.org/programs/2006/>

Make Your Reservations Now For Summer Conference

High Point Radisson
135 South Main Street
High Point, NC 27260
336 889-8888
1-800- 333-3333

July 13-15



Rate \$67.80 (inclusive) If Reserved by June 28



Online Advance Registration – Following a successful “trial run” of *online Advance Registration* for the Spring 2006 Meeting, we will provide this option for the upcoming Summer Meeting for current members only. To register online, go to our home page at www.ncbeekeepers.org/ and click on the “Members’ Page” button, or click the *Advance Online Registration* link on the “Meetings” page. Follow the instructions and enter the following into the pop-up authorization window.

User Name: **ncsba**

Password: **amber** (must be lower case)

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM
NCSBA SUMMER MEETING---2006
HIGH POINT, NC JULY 13, 14, & 15, 2006
 Host, NCSBA Local Chapter, GUILFORD COUNTY BEEKEEPERS

Please complete and send with your check, to:
 (Make Check payable to NCSBA)

PAUL MADREN, **REGISTRATION**
 818 LITTLE SNAKE CREEK RD
 FANCY GAP, VA 24328-4237
 Phone (276) 728-7531
 EMAIL: plmadren@mindspring.com

NAME _____
 (last) (first) (spouse attending) (children attending)

Address: _____ City: _____

Local Chapter: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone (____)____-_____

REGISTRATION FEE:

(Note: These are ADVANCED mail-in fees, WALK-IN fees at the Conference will be \$5.00 higher on Individual and Family registrations)

	=	<u>AMT. PAID</u>
Individual Registration (NCSBA member) - \$20.00	=	_____
Family Registration (NCSBA member) - \$25.00	=	_____
NON-NCSBA member Registration - \$35.00*	=	_____
NON-NCSBA family Registration - \$40.00*	=	_____

(*Note this includes 2006 NCSBA membership dues)

BANQUET TICKETS -- Friday night -- \$20.00 each

Banquet Tickets (how many) _____ # @ \$20.00 ea = _____

DUES * (If have not paid your Annual dues for YEAR 2005, you are an inactive NCSBA member and you must pay your 2006 Annual dues to Register.)

* (If you are a non-NCSBA member, Annual dues are included with registration)

* (If you have paid your 2006 dues at the Local Chapter, register as an active Member, you should have a membership card with the date paid)

Annual NCSBA Membership - \$15.00, or = _____
 Annual Commercial Membership - \$30.00

TOTAL amount of Check = \$ _____

You must notify Registrar (above) before July 12 of cancellation to get a refund on banquet tickets.

Hotel Reservations are your responsibility. Hotel # is (336) 889-8888 or www.radisson.com/highpointnc

Make your reservations early to get the "Beekeepers" rate.

 --
 This area for Registration use only:

Amount Paid: _____ How Paid: Cash _____ or Check _____
(check # and date)

North Carolina State Beekeepers Association Summer Meeting – July 13, 14, 15, 2006

*Radisson Hotel, 135 South Main Street
High Point, NC 27260 (336) 889-8888 or 1-800-333-3333*

Thursday, July 13, 2006

10:00 am REGISTRATION
1:00 pm Presidents' Remarks
J.D. Foust, President NCSBA
Kurt Bower, President Guilford Co. Beekeepers
1:30 pm Nosema Disease-“New Ideas For An Old Problem”
Tom Webster- University of Kentucky Ext. Apiculturist
2:00 pm Break

Workshops

2:30- 4:30 pm (2 Hr. Workshops)

Wax Working-Virginia Webb - Sign up at Registration Desk-
Pesticide Training “V”- Coleen Sparks
(45 Minute Workshops)

2:30 pm

MBP - Written

Bee Diseases- NCDA Staff

Preparing Honey for Show - Jeff Knight

Pollination- Mike Reynaud

3:30 pm

MBP- Written

Pesticide X- Training -NCDA Staff

Digital Photo-Norman Faircloth

Evening Session:

6:30 pm Welcome – J.D. Foust President NCSBA
6:45 pm Introduction of Speaker
7:00 pm African Bees in Florida-*Lauence Cutts, Retired Florida Apiary Inspector*
Question & Answer Period
Adjourn until 8 am Friday, July 14, 2006

Friday, July 14, 2006

8:00 am Welcome J.D. Foust, President, NC State Beekeepers Assoc.
Invocation Kurt Bower, President Guilford Co. Beekeepers
Welcome (Someone from Guilford Co.)
Door Prizes
8:30 am Asian Tropilaelaps Mite- *Carl Webb, Mountain Honey Inc.*
9:15 am Two Big “R” of Modern Beekeeping-
Lauence Cutts, Retired Florida Apiary Inspector
10:00 am Break
10:15 am Door Prizes
10:30 am Screen Bottom Boards -How Effective Are They For Varroa Mite Control)
Tom Webster- Kentucky Extension Apiculturist

Friday July 14 Session (Cont.)

11:30-12:00 pm NCSBA BUSINESS MEETING

12:00 – 1:30 pm Lunch on Your Own Break

WORKSHOPS

1:30- 3:30 pm (2 hr. Workshops)

Wax Working Virginia Webb -Sign up at Registration Desk
Pesticide “V” Test Coleen Sparks

(45 min. Workshops)

1:30

2:30

3:30

MBP (Written)

MBP (Practical)-TBA

Queen Rearing –Fred Rossman

Queen Rearing-F. Rossman

Bee Diseases-NCDA Staff

Bee Keeping Overseas-Ed Levi

Bee Keeping Overseas-Ed Levi

Digital Photo– N. Faircloth

Pollination – Mike Reynaud

Pollination –Mike Reynaud

Pesticide X Training-NCDA

Preparing Honey-Jeff Knight

Preparing Honey –Jeff Knight

6:30 pm Awards Banquet

Adjourn until 8 am Saturday, July 15, 2006

Saturday, July 15, 2006

8:00 am Welcome and Remarks – J.D. Foust, President NCSBA

8:15 am Door Prizes

8:30 am Honey & Food Labels- *Dr. John Ambrose, N.C. State University*

9:15 am IPM of Beekeeping- *Ed Levi- Arkansas State Apiarist*

**10:00 am Techniques for Using Oxalic Acid Reduce Varroa Populations-
*Nick Aliano, University of Nebraska Dept. of Entomology***

10:30 am Break

10:45 am Door Prizes

**11:00 am Problems Now and in the Future of Queen Rearing-*Fred Rossman,
Rossman Apiaries***

**11:45 am NCSU Update- *Dr. David Tarpy, Extension Apiculturist N.C. State
University***

Closing Remarks J.D. Foust and Dr. David Tarpy

Keynote Speaker First Was Interested in Wasps before Honey bees

By Charles Heatherly

Dr. John Harbo, just retired from a distinguished, 34-year career dedicated to protecting the honey bee, didn't start out as a friend of the bee. His first interest was the wasp.

Anyone growing up on a farm, as he did in Minnesota, knows that many insects are not the farmer's friend and scientists interested in them are more apt to pursue methods designed to wipe them off the face of the earth than seek a safe harbor for them.

However, Dr. Harbo's interest in wasps led him to the entomology department of a small liberal arts college where he was introduced to *apis mellifera*, the farmer's friend and that led to a job at the USDA lab in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

As soon as the varroa mite made its unwelcomed invasion of the U.S. apiary colonies in the late 1980s, Dr. Harbo began a decade long effort to find a remedy. Beekeepers will recall that initially, the varroa destructor was credited with destroying almost all feral colonies and nearly half of the domestic colonies in the country. The loss was devastating.

The result of that effort by Dr. Harbo and his colleagues at the Baton Rouge Lab was the SMR (Suppressed Mite Reproduction) queen.

Dr. Harbo interrupted his retirement activities this spring to spend a few days with North Carolina Beekeepers during the NCSBA's Spring Conference in Clemmons.

In the first of two presentations, he explained how researchers painstakingly came to understand the mite reproduction process and by selective breeding develop a queen with mite resistance traits. In short, the SMR queen, which is now known as the VSH (Varroa Sensitive Hygiene) bequeaths a trait to her worker offspring whereby they are able to identify and remove female varroa mites that are capable of reproducing and male mites. Non-reproducing females which usually account for eleven percent or less do not present



Keynote Speaker Dr. John Harbo takes a question during Spring Conference.

a threat to the colony's survival and are allowed to co-exist.

During his second presentation, Dr. Harbo told of an experiment early during his career in which he sought to find out how much space a colony needs to be productive.

"A colony with 40,000 bees will produce much more honey than two colonies with 20,000 bees each," he learned. The study revealed that larger and crowded colonies produce more honey, but are more apt to swarm.

His recommendation: "Find a good place for your bees, put them there and intervene when necessary."

Among other retirement activities, Dr. Harbo is a hobbyist beekeeper. "I bought my first hive body and put it together after retiring from the lab," he said. "I had never owned a colony before."

He continues to travel and speak on his research and he's keeping an eye on the future of beekeeping.

"I'm confident that our bees will become mite resistant; we're already seeing more feral colonies.

Then, he paused and added a sobering thought. "Something else will come along and present another crisis."

Spring Conference Attendance Sets New Record High

By Janno Daniel

NCSBA spring convention attendees came in record numbers and were certain to have left with a cache of new information. Clemmons, convention host, recorded more than 360 in attendance, a record high for the spring conference.

The welcome and agenda of featured speakers began at mid-day on Friday. Introducing speakers, Dr. David Tarpy first presented Jennifer Berry, Research Technician at the University of Georgia's Apiary Lab. Berry provided an update on current research, emphasizing "beekeepers as the frontline edge for education of all beekeepers in IPM." Integrated pest management, as the name implies, is a multiple approach method for combating the pest and diseases facing bees and their keepers. It wisely replaces simple chemical treatment. There are biological and genetic (hygienic queens, for example) and cultural (screened bottom boards and sugar roll tests) management plans.

Berry serves as Eastern Apiculture Society President and provided a teasing Power-Point program of the next meeting in Young Harris, Georgia that all but created a rush to sign up.



Forsyth Beekeepers Entertained Attendees During the Spring Conference.



Were You There?

Above: Dr. Buddy Materre, President, Forsyth Beekeepers, gets everyone's attention with good door prizes.

The program agenda continued to impress attendees. Forsyth bee chapter President Dr. Buddy Materre presented an exceptional photographic treat as he described *Beekeeping in the Dominican Republic*. His trip is part of a mission of which he is a frequent participant. The *Bee Buzz* will feature Dr. Marterre in its next issue.

An afternoon of workshops featuring our own NC beekeepers of noted experience was rounded out by evening entertainment by the *Queen Bee and her Royal Jelly Band*, Mary Mullinax and the Forsyth County Beekeepers. Mary and group engaged everyone in a fun sing-along.

Dr. John Harbo expert on the SMR Queen from the Baton Rouge Research Lab (featured on previous page) closed out a day.

On Saturday, beginning early, speakers, door prizes, announcements of silent auction winners, and workshop provided more convention interest. A presentation by Larry Williams, MD at Duke Medical Center reminded all beekeepers of the need to understand insect sting reactions and precautions.

A similarly interesting and informative program is scheduled for the Summer Conference July 14-16 in High Point. See you there.



Sandy Forrest with Congresswoman Virginia Foxx



Don Hopkins leads an outdoor workshop.

Scenes From The Spring Conference



Dr. Larry Williams of Duke Medical Center talks on allergic sting reactions.

Michigan Professor Has Global Apiary Background

Dr. Zachary Huang couldn't afford to buy honey as a child growing up in his native China. Neither could he afford to own a camera. But now, as Associate Professor in the Department of Entomology at Michigan State University enjoys all the honey he and his family desires. And, he is a world class photographer, specializing in honey bees and the things they enjoy, mostly foraging on colorful blooms. If you subscribe to any of the major beekeeping journals, you have seen his work on several covers.



Dr. Zachary Huang



Treasurer Paul Madren and Dr. Buddy Materre, President of the Host Forsyth Chapter



Dr. James Harper, Chair of the NCSU Entomology Dept. chats with Ken Pipes.

Dr. Huang gave two presentations at the Spring Conference, one on the various pheromones of the hive and the roles they play in communication between the Queen and her loyal workers, and vice versa.

In the second presentation, Dr. Huang gave a brief clinic on how to take good bee pictures, or at least he told us how he does it. He showed some of his best work that has appeared in national publications, as well as a few photographs he had taken in North Carolina during his visit to the Spring Conference.

How the Honey Bee Came To Be The Official North Carolina Insect

By Janno Daniel

Brady Mullinax, of Kernersville, told me the story with a visible passion that mirrored his fervor in getting our honey bee recognized.

“It was in 1972 when one Sunday after church, I noticed my honey bees all dead at the front of my hives.” It was sad. The bee-killer culprit Brady found was local DDT spraying – used in earlier times against mosquitoes. Worse, DDT labels contained *no restricted use warning* around bees! “Something had to be done!” Brady emphasized, engaging a larger number of us convention bystanders.

To get something done, Brady began with a trip to Raleigh to visit his state representative Lawrence Davis. Rep. Davis agreed to co-sponsor a bill if Brady would go speak to the NC Farm Bureau Federation for their help. *Fortunately* the NCFB office was closed. At that very time in 1972, *their* convention had convened in Raleigh!

Brady went on impassioned and struggling with emotion, “I had no more than 5 or 6 dollars in my wallet and the parking meter showed less than 30 minutes left. I walked into the convention hotel, saw a woman typing, and I said, ‘Pardon me, ma’am. I’d like to speak to the Farm Bureau President.’ She ordered me to follow her and she walked me right through an access door onto the convention stage! I was scared to death, thinking I’m going to have to say something!”

“The Farm Bureau Federation President called for a recess. He told me to sit in the audience and after the recess he’d call on me to address the convention!” Brady paused, dabbed at some tears, wiped his nose and belly-laughed. We listeners did too.

Brady continued, describing his plea to the delegates to save the honey bee with protective pesticide labels. “Someone from the delegation asked if I was a member. I said ‘no.’ Someone stood up and said they would pay my dues to let me continue. Protecting the honey bee was the only motion that passed all day.”



Veteran North Carolina Beekeeper Brady Mullinax during the Sp[ring Conference in Clemmons

Brady went on to tell how he then approached Clyde Auman, a peach grower on the Agriculture Committee in the General Assembly for help to recognize the importance of the honey bee. “I was called on to speak in committee.” Then he revealed a secret, “The sourwood honey and biscuits I brought was helping.”

His story came to a close telling how the General Assembly not only adopted the honey bee as the state insect but also passed a bill to put restricted use on pesticide labels. Then Mr. Mullinax gave a bit of advice and a motto he lives by: Be the job great or small, do it well or not at all. “Oh, and by the way,” he smiled, “I made sure I paid that Farm Bureau delegate for the dues loan.”

New Chapter is Formed in 5 Eastern NC Counties (Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir and Wayne)

By Bob Gaddis

The Neuse Regional Beekeepers received its charter from the NCSBA in January, 2006.

The club was started to fill a need for a local organization for beekeepers in Lenoir, Wayne, Duplin, Jones and Greene Counties of Eastern NC. There was no club serving the area. The nearest clubs were Coastal Plains in Rocky Mount, Craven-Pamlico in New Bern and Onslow in Jacksonville. Because of this year's higher gasoline prices, travel distance was a major factor in establishing a new club in the region.

The principals of the club were all members of the Craven-Pamlico Beekeepers Association. As members of Craven-Pamlico, Mellie, Bob, and Reuben recognized the potential for a club in the Kinston-Goldsboro area. An increased interest in beekeeping in the area was primarily spurred by last year's NC State "Bee Give-Away." In November, 2005, the trio decided the time was right for a new club. Mellie contacted Horticultural Agent Peg Godwin who was a key player in the club's successful launch, lending resources, advice, moral support and encouragement.

Neuse President, Mellie Swaney, of Kinston, has been keeping bees for 25 years and currently has approximately 70 hives. He and his son, Doug, operate a sideline honey and pollination business. Mellie also is serving as a Director from Region 4. He is currently working on his Master Beekeeper level certification.

Vice-President Bob Gaddis, from Grifton, worked one season with Adolphus Leonard in 1991. Bob's grandfather was a beekeeper and long-time member of NCSBA. After his crash-course in commercial beekeeping, Bob retained a healthy curiosity about bees, but had no immediate plans for beekeeping. Hiving a wild swarm in 2001 launched him into the bee business. He has slowly expanded to 10 hives and is anticipating an eventual api



Mellie Swaney receives club charter from J.D. Foust as John Brittle observes

ary size of 30-40 hives. He is also working on his Journeyman level certification.

Treasurer Reuben Hill, of Grifton, is a US Postmaster and has 10 hives and a pecan business. He has plans to expand to 30-40 hives for pollination and honey.

Erica Rarick, of Goldsboro, is the club secretary. She and husband Chris operate a rapidly expanding apiary and are also making woodenware for sale.

Neuse Regional Beekeepers held its first official meeting in January. A Bee School, organized to encourage new beekeepers, was held each Thursday in February. Attendance averaged around 25 per session and club membership is now 39. Members are encouraged to pursue the Master Beekeeper Program, and instruction is geared towards that goal. A website, member directory, workshops, field days and social events are planned for the coming year. The club is also encouraging cooperative purchasing and market for its members.

Neuse Regional Beekeepers meets 7:00 PM, 3rd Thursday at Lenoir County Cooperative Extension Service offices, 1791 NC Hwy 11/55(Pink Hill Highway) in Kinston. 252-527-2191

Scenes From The Mecklenburg Bee School

Among the several successful bee schools conducted around the state this year was one sponsored in Charlotte by the Mecklenburg Chapter which graduated 56 new beekeepers. Shown at right is Libby Mack, Treasurer of the Chapter. And below her are other members of the Mecklenburg Chapter, Jim Reep and Gene Shannon who assisted in conducting classes for the aspiring apiarists.



1/2 page Ad

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A Short History of Beekeeping in North Carolina

By **Charles Heatherly**

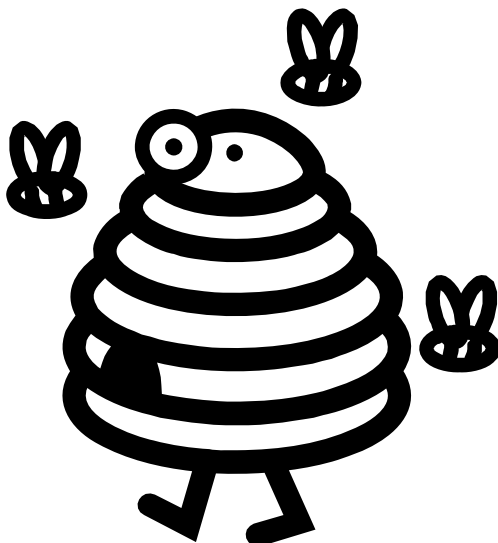
There are records of beekeeping in North Carolina dating back to 1697, according to *The History of the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association* was compiled in 1997 on the 80th Anniversary of the Association by James F. Greene, Jr. and Dr. John T. Ambrose.

Beeswax, not honey was the principal product from the hive because sugar was already becoming a popular sweetener throughout Colonial America.

An excerpt from a report by Governor Gabriel Johnston in 1745 reports beeswax being accepted as payment for taxes.

There were attempts by prominent beekeepers as early as the 1870s to meet and exchange information about their primitive practices and a statewide meeting was held in 1890 but a permanent Association was not formed until 1917.

The first meeting was held in Winston, now Winston-Salem, on January 11, 1917. Here is a summary of the agenda of that first meeting, surprisingly enough, that reveals the problems they faced nearly a century ago were not very different from our current challenges.



Papers Presented, Winston Meeting, January 11, 1917

1. Beekeeping in Work of County Farm Agent, Bruce Anderson
2. Outline of the State Work in Beekeeping, Franklin Sherman
3. My Experience in the Bee Club, Ira Ronk, RFD 7, Winston
4. First Impressions in Beekeeping Extension Work, George H. Rea
5. Importance in Swarm Control, Dr. Phillips, Washington, D. C.
6. Wintering, E. R. Root, Medina Ohio
7. Experience with American Foul Brood, W. C. Fleming
8. Experience with European Foul Brood, C. L. Sams
9. Beekeeping as a Side-Line for A Town Man, E. W. McNairy
10. Visits among American Beekeepers (illustrated with Lantern), Dr. Phillips
11. Bees in Pound Packages, Mr. Root

At the conclusion of the meeting, North Carolina beekeepers got a real pat on the back from the Washington expert, Dr. Phillips, who said, "No state has held ten meetings equal to this, and there is no state whose first meeting equaled this."

Three years later, the Association polled its members and found this level of activity: A total of 5,877 colonies owned by its 97 members reported an average of 61 colonies per member. They also reported an average yield of 50 pounds per colony for a total product of 293,850 pounds of honey (147 tons). With an average value of 25 cents per pounds North Carolina's honey crop was estimated worth \$73,462.50. "Not such a bad record after all, is it?" the report concludes.

(continued on next page)

History of NC Beekeeping (Cont.)

This history of beekeeping in North Carolina is replete with our continuing struggle to save this wonderful creature in the face of constant hardship by man and nature.

In 1919, beekeepers took a back seat to the needs of the nation at war. And, again in the early 1940's sugar was rationed, making it hard to feed the bees during the winter. The 1948 Summer Conference was cancelled due to the polio epidemic.

Discovery of the first trachea mite in North Carolina was reported in Hyde County.

In October of 1987 North Carolina beekeepers were warned of the discovery of another pest, the varroa mite in distant Wisconsin. Three years later, in September of 1990, Jack Hanel reported the first incidence of varroa in two colonies in Murphy, and very soon more varroa was found in four more North

Carolina Counties.

In 1990 the first Africanized Bees were discovered in Mexico. Except for a few lone itinerants found near the North Carolina ports, none have been found in permanent residence here yet. Let's hope that record holds for a while longer.

On page 160, near the end of the document is a listing of the recent highlights of beekeeping in North Carolina that begins with his introduction: "The NCSBA has always been at the forefront in providing assistance to all North Carolina beekeepers regardless of their membership in the Association."

It is a delightful history of the practice of beekeeping in North Carolina. A limited number of copies are available for \$20 from J. D. Foust. Our Association has enjoyed significant progress since publication of this history. Perhaps it is time for another update.

Young Beekeeper

Nine year-old Hunter Summey graduated from the Wake Bee School this spring, and along with his father, Leonard, passed his certification test. Among other things, he obviously learned not to be afraid of these gentle creatures.



**You Can Learn A Lot At
The Summer Conference
July 13-15, 2006
High Point, NC**