



# Caswell County Beekeepers Association

April 2016

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- Vice President  
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- Program Chair  
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## NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, April 28  
@ 6:45pm

## Past Meeting:

"Free" Bees - Collecting Swarms was presented by Phil Barfield at our March 24 meeting

## Next Meeting:

**Thursday, April 28 @ 6:45PM. Know Thy Enemy" - Varroa Mites, Their History, Biology and Treatment Options** will be presented by Randall Austin, Master Beekeeper, [Orange County Beekeepers Association](#)

## Good News:

Ortho, a ScottsMiracle-Gro brand of garden pest-control products and the nation's leading brand of insect control products for lawn and garden use, said it would ***immediately begin to transition away from the use of neonicotinoid-based pesticides for outdoor use*** and announced a new partnership with the Pollinator Stewardship Council to help educate homeowners on the safe and appropriate use of pesticides. Earlier this spring, Ortho expanded its selection of non-neonic based garden solutions. Building on this process, the brand will eliminate the use of neonic active ingredients Imidacloprid, Clothianidin and Dinotefuran by 2017. [4/12/2016 [ScottsMiracle-Gro press release](#)]

## Current Event:

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) is conducting gypsy moth treatments in portions of Caswell county. The first round of bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki (BTK) treatments was applied aerially on April 19. The second round is scheduled to take place Tuesday, April 26. The next treatment after that will be the pheromone flake (mating disruption) application around 10 June. For further information, visit their website ([Proposed Gypsy Moth Treatments, map](#), and [news release](#)).

## Test your knowledge!

As part of the educational programs, NCSBA is providing a quiz using some of the questions on the tests from the Master Beekeeper Program. Each month they change the questions (last updated on April 1). Go to the bottom of the home page at the NCSBA web site [www.ncbeekeepers.org](http://www.ncbeekeepers.org) or go to Programs & Events and click on the [Master Beekeeper Program](#). At the bottom of the page you will see Test Your Knowledge. Click on the hyperlink and take a mini test. There will be short quizzes for each level: Certified, Journeyman, or Master. When you have completed the quiz, "submit", you will then see your results, including the answers after taking it. You do not have to enter your name to take one of these online quizzes. So relax, participate, and enjoy!



**National Honey Board:** Enter to win Disney's *Jungle Book* movie tickets at [honey.com](http://honey.com). Ends April 30.



We meet on the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:45pm (except December) in the basement of the Agriculture Building next to the Historic Courthouse in downtown Yanceyville, NC

If you or someone you know would like to receive the monthly newsletter via e-mail, or you have questions, comments, suggestions, photographs etc. that you would like to see published, please send an email to [Caswell.County.Beekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:Caswell.County.Beekeepers@gmail.com)

### **In the bee yard:**

- Swarm season is in full swing now. Be on the lookout and ready with your bee equipment to catch a swarm.
- Ensure your entrance reducers and mouse guards have been removed on your strong colonies. Weak colonies, nucs, and packages may still need a reduced entrance for the bees to protect the hive and prevent robbing.
- Feed any new splits and fresh caught swarms, especially if weather inhibits foraging. Make sugar syrup in a 1:1 ratio (5 lbs. sugar to 10 cups water) at this time of year.
- Replace 2 of every 10 frames of old dark comb (4-5 years old) each year to reduce disease and pesticide loads in the hive.
- You should have your honey supers on already on your strong, full size colonies. A queen excluder may be placed under the first honey super.
- Do not use medications in a colony with supers that are to be used to extract honey for human consumption [exception: Mite Away Quick Strips™ (formic acid) is reported that it can be used in the hive while honey supers are on].
- Keep new nucs well fed and monitor closely for overcrowding until able to transfer to full size hives.
- If you find queen cells in your hive, you can use them to make a split and prevent swarming.

### **NCDA&CS partners with FieldWatch for DriftWatch and BeeCheck:**

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has joined 13 other states in partnering with FieldWatch, an online mapping service to help prevent crop damage and bee deaths due to accidental/unintended pesticide drift. As a companion program, **BeeCheck** allows hive owners to map the locations of beehives. Pesticide applicators can access databases before treating a field to identify sensitive sites that are close to the spray areas.

Beekeepers can access and sign up for **BeeCheck** at <https://nc.driftwatch.org/>. The website offers detailed instructions on how to sign up and use the mapping tools. Beekeepers map their hives using pins and half-acre circles and can choose which details of hive information are displayed on the map.

“This program should help specialty crop producers, beekeepers and pesticide users be good neighbors and work together to protect our pollinators and avoid drift on sensitive crops,” Troxler said. [from [NCDA&CS 4/4/2016 press release](#)]

### **Spring Pollinator Garden Workshops & Garden Tours:**

The Chatham County Center of North Carolina Cooperative Extension will offer a spring pollinator conservation workshop and garden tour as part of its Enhancing Sustainability Series. The workshop is offered on Wednesday, May 18, Saturday May 21, and again on Monday, June 6, starting in the auditorium of the Agriculture Building in Pittsboro. Chatham County Agricultural Extension Agent Debbie Roos will give an overview of North Carolina pollinators and discuss the role of native bees and managed bees in crop pollination. The cost of each workshop is \$25 and includes a CD of resources plus native perennial milkweed plants. For registration information, please go to [Chatham's NCSU Extension website](#).