



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

March 2016

Officers

- President
Larry Hupp
- Vice President
Michael Mayes
- Secretary/Treasurer
Cindi Jones
- Program Chair
Martha Hupp
- Refreshments Chair
Patrice McCollum

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, March 24
@ 6:45pm

Past Meeting:

"How To Have A Sweet Life" - CCBA goals for 2016 were discussed at our January meeting as we began the new year. No meeting was held in February due to the NCSBA Spring meeting.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 24 @ 6:45PM. "Free" Bees - Collecting Swarms presented by Phil and Elizabeth Barfield

News:



The NC Senate Bill sponsoring the "Save the Honey Bee" license plate has passed! The State Police have approved the plate and it is in the final stage of the DMV production process. According to DMV, those who preordered will receive their specialty Honey Bee plate by May 16, 2016. Others will be able to order their plates through the [North Carolina DMV website](#) after it is added to the custom license plate inventory.

Upcoming events:

[The North Carolina Zoo](#) will be conducting an orientation class on April 9th for beekeepers interested in volunteering at the Honey Bee Exhibit. This class is held only once a year so this will be your only chance this year. For more information, please contact Judy Pick (JimJudy9@aol.com) or Janno Lewis (jannolewis@gmail.com). Volunteering will also provide points for those participating in the Master Beekeeper training in addition to special incentives provided by the zoo.

Bee informed:

With a healthy colony, great weather, and a strong honey flow, beekeepers are happy, but they know that there are a multitude of problems lurking out there that may cause harm to their honey bees or whole apiary. Staying informed, continuous learning, and connecting with other beekeepers will help you navigate through these problems as they occur. Mistakes will happen, but knowing how to identify and address the problem or who to turn to will help mitigate the effects. Great resources are available to you now! Participate in your local and state association meetings, build your bee library with books and magazines, connect with a mentor (or become a mentor), join beekeeping mailing lists and newsgroups.

[Caswell County Beekeepers Association](#) will offer a variety of timely topics and workshops this year to benefit our knowledge of beekeeping as well as provide a forum for discussion and assistance with our questions. Please join us each month on the 4th Thursday of each month (except December) at 6:45pm in the basement of the Agriculture Building.





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

In the bee yard:

- On a warm, sunny, calm day, check for larvae & brood. If there is no sign of a laying queen, develop plans to make the colony queen-right by obtaining a queen, introducing eggs for them to make their own queen, or combining them with a queen-right colony. Temperatures above 65 degrees allow for a thorough inspection. Windy days can irritate the bees and can dry out and kill larva when inspecting a frame.
- Monitor colonies for swarm cells. Swarm cells are long vertical peanut shaped cells and are normally located on the bottom of brood frames.
- Rotate hive bodies if needed so brood frames are in the lower hive body and the queen has room to move up to continue to lay. Look at the weather forecast. Do rotate if temperatures are forecasted to drop below 45 degrees over the next 7 nights.
- Evaluate woodenware and replace any rotted items. Remove IPM board from screened bottom board if inserted for winter. If you use solid bottom boards clean off debris.
- Honey flow will start soon, so be prepared to install honey supers:
 - Air out drawn comb that had been stored with wax moth preventative paradichlorobenzene (PDB) for 1 to 2 weeks before putting it in hives
 - Do not use any medications (Fumagilin-B, Terramycin, Apistan, or anything else) while honey supers for human consumption are on your hives.
- A queen excluder may be used above the brood box and under the 1st super if desired (beekeepers preference).
- Set out bait hives to attract swarms.
- If you are buying and picking up bee packages, **bee** ready. Have your hive equipment already assembled (frames, hive body, stand, inner cover, top cover, bottom board). Paint the exterior exposed wood of your hive body, stand, top cover, and bottom board if needed. Set and level your stand. Install an entrance reducer.

NCSBA meeting:

[The North Carolina State Beekeepers Association](#) (NCSBA) Spring meeting was held in New Bern, NC February 25-27. There were over 500 in attendance. Dr. Jeff Harris, extension-research apiculturist for Mississippi State University, discussed queen breeding research projects and seasonal management. Dr. Zachary Huang, associate professor in entomology at the Michigan State University, talked about regulation of varroa mite reproduction. A couple dozen excellent workshops were given on topics such as honey bee anatomy, pheromones, making splits, microscopy, beekeeping equipment, mead, swarms, photography, mites, small hive beetle, and many others.

Pollination: Plants for Year-round Bee Forage:

The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences list wild and commercially-available plants that are important sources of pollen and nectar for bees in the South. It is important for bees to have an unbroken succession of bloom. If you want to encourage bee populations, grow or encourage plants from this list so that bloom is more-or-less continuous on your property. See <http://www.ent.uga.edu/bees/pollination/plants-year-round-forage.html>