



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

May 2016

Officers

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

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, May 26 @ 6:45pm

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Thursday, May 26 @ 6:45PM. **Making Nucs** will be presented by Todd Walker, President of [Person County Beekeepers Association](#), Master Beekeeper, and our [NCSBA Piedmont Regional Director](#).

Past Meeting:

"Know Thy Enemy" - Varroa Mites, Their History, Biology and Treatment Options was presented by Randall Austin, Master Beekeeper, Orange County Beekeepers Association

News:

In April, the Bee Informed Partnership conducted their 10th annual national survey of honey bee colony losses. Preliminary analysis of the responses show an estimated **28.1%** of the colonies managed in the United States were lost over the 2015-2016 winter - an increase of 5.8% compared to last winter, but close to the 10-year average of 28.6%. Taking summer losses into account, beekeepers lost **44.1%** of their colonies between April 2015 and March 2016. This high rate of loss is close to the highest annual loss rate over the 6 years that Bee Informed Partnership has collected annual colony loss numbers. (see <https://beeinformed.org/results/colony-loss-2015-2016-preliminary-results/>)

Events:

The [North Carolina State Beekeepers Association \(NCSBA\)](#) Summer meeting will be held July 7-9 in Hickory, NC (see next page).

The [Eastern Apicultural Society of North America \(EAS\)](#) will hold their conference this year, July 27-29, at Richard Stockton University located 10 minutes west of Atlantic City, New Jersey. Presenters include James Frazier and Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Jeff Pettis and Medhat Nasr, Maryann Fraizier, Sarah Red-Laird, David Tarpy, and more.

The [Brightleaf Hoedown](#) will be held again this year on Saturday, September 17, on the Court Square in downtown Yanceyville. Our club plans to have a booth to promote and educate the public about beekeeping.

Test your knowledge!

The North Carolina State Beekeepers Association (NCSBA) changed the questions in their online beekeeping quiz. See <http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/master-beekeeper-program>. They have also added "**A HONEY of a GAME**" – a trivia game about honey and nectar. To play click [here](#).





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:

- Spring nectar (honey) flow is winding down and normally ends in our area late May to early June.
- Monitor your honey supers. Ensure your bees have empty comb to store nectar in supers until the honey flow has ended. Remove and extract capped supers from your colonies if you need additional supers.
- It is time to add another super when the super on a colony is one-half to two-thirds filled (six to seven frames). Raise the partially filled super and place the empty super under it.
- When you decide to harvest, ensure the honey in the comb is more than three quarters capped (preferably fully capped) to prevent extracting honey with high moisture content. High moisture can lead to fermentation. If unsure, use a honey refractometer.
- Honey bee plants that are flowering now – white globe clover, blackberries, magnolias, rabbitfoot clover, and many others!
- 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].
- Prop up one end of the outer (top) cover to improve airflow during hot weather. Good air circulation improves both honey production and hive health.

NCSBA Summer Conference:

The NCSBA summer conference will be held July 7-9 in Hickory, NC and hosted by the Catawba Valley Beekeepers. Information about the conference is posted at <http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/education/statewide-conferences/2016-summer-conference>. Presenters include Dr. Marion Ellis, Jeff Berta, Dr. Hongmeill Byarlay, Dr. Vanessa Corby-Harris, and others. Updates will posted as planning proceeds.

[Advance registration](#) for the conference (discounted \$10) is now open and will be available through JULY 1. Discounted hotel rates will be honored through JUNE 23. NCSBA encourages attendees to register and pay on-line, but you can also download a registration form and mail. To register at the lower member-rate, individuals must have paid their 2016 NCSBA membership dues.

State apiary inspector:

Apiary Inspection services are provided by the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS), Plant Industry Division, Plant Protection Section, Apiary Services. The Apiary Program provides disease and disorder inspections and fumigation services in an effort to control diseases and pests of the beekeeping industry. Our inspector for the Western Piedmont region is Don Hopkins, Apiary Inspection Supervisor. He can be reached at (919) 218-3310 and Don.Hopkins@ncagr.gov.