



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

April 2018

Officers

- President
Robert Neal
- Vice President
Phil Barfield
- 1st year Director
Scott Oakley
- 2nd year Director
Katie Newton
- 3rd year Director
Larry Hupp
- Secretary/Treasurer
Nina Dabbs
- Program Chair
[vacant]

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, April 26 @
7:00pm

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Thursday, April 26, 2018 @ 7:00pm. Our topic for the meeting will be **Bee Behavior**.

News:

Inert ingredients. When it comes to pesticides, the label states the amount of active and inert ingredients with most of the product made up of inert ingredients. While the label does identify the active ingredient, most often it does not inform you of the unknown inert ingredients. Many consumers believe 'inert ingredient' means water or other harmless ingredients. More than 200 chemicals used as "inert" ingredients are considered to be hazardous pollutants in air and/or water. [Dr. Marla Spivak](#) alerted beekeepers last month at the NCSBA meeting that the unknown ingredients are toxic and could be posing harm to honey bees and other pollinators. [source: [NY AG report](#)]

Bee Informed Colony Loss Survey 2018. The Bee Informed Partnership is conducting their annual Colony Loss & Management Survey. The purpose of the Survey is to document and understand long-term honey bee colony loss trends, as well as to correlate management practices that are associated with high colony survivorship. The survey is open now and will close on April 30th. The survey is at <http://26.selectsurvey.net/beeinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=LMS2018>.

NASS Survey. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the USDA is contacting beekeepers by phone to participate in their quarterly [colony loss survey](#). The survey collects the information called for by the White House Pollinator Health Task Force's National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators. It provides a statistical benchmark on colony numbers and death loss.

Events:

Buzz Fest Surry Community College in Dobson, NC will be holding a day of hands-on exploration and an opportunity for local residents to interact with local ecology during "[Buzz Fest: A Celebration of Pollinators](#)" on April 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Dobson campus.

Heritage Festival The Caswell County Historical Association will hold its 6th Annual Heritage Festival on Saturday, June 23, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Step back in time with the Caswell County Historical Association's Heritage Festival! Several historic buildings will be open and available to walk through. CCBA will have a booth at the event and is seeking volunteers to help.

EAS 2018 Mark your calendars for August 13-17, 2018 and enjoy a full week of honey bee education during [EAS 2018](#) at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. The conference is five full days and nights of all things honey bee, affectionately referred to as Bee Camp. Information regarding the conference is posted on the Eastern Apicultural Society's website at www.easternapiculture.org as it becomes available.





We meet on the 4th Thursday of every month at 7:00pm (except November and 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 ccba@caswellcountybeekeepers.org

In the bee yard:

- Nectar flow will soon start. Be prepared to install honey supers on your hive(s) just when the flow starts (indicated by the formation of new, clean white wax seen near the top of the hive body frames).
- Drones are now here. This is one indicator that swarming season is about to begin. Consider installing a bait hive with comb and a lure to catch swarms.
- Open the entrance with the larger setting on the entrance reducer to reduce congestion on the front. When nectar flow is underway, remove the reducer.
- Feed any new splits, fresh caught swarms, new nucs, and light hives, 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.

NCSBA Summer Meeting

The information for the summer meeting is now posted on the NCSBA website and registration is open. The event will be held on July 19, 20, and 21 at Blue Ridge Community College which is located near Flat Rock and Asheville, NC. Our speakers will include: noted author and researcher, Dr. Tom Seeley of Cornell University; the President of the American Apitherapy Society, Fredrique Keller; NCSU researcher and North Carolina State Cooperative Extension Apiculturist, Dr. David Tarpy; and Phil Craft, the author of the "Ask Phil" column which appears in Bee Culture magazine. There will be expanded outdoor programs in the green spaces of the campus. Visit <https://www.ncbeekeepers.org> for complete information. Nearby hotel space is in high demand during the summer so make your reservations early.

CCBA beekeeping course

Our 2018 beginning beekeeping course has completed. We held our field day on Saturday, March 31, in the Caswell Community Arboretum behind the old historic courthouse. See our [Facebook](#) page for photos. Thank you to Robert Neal for bringing his hives and conducting inspections with the class! Even her royal highness, the queen, made an appearance.

