



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

February 2017

Officers

- President
Robert Neal
- Vice President
Maureen Jarrell
- Secretary/Treasurer
Nina Dabbs
- Program Chair
Phil Barfield

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, February 23 @
7:00pm

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Thursday, February 23, 2017 @ 7:00pm. **Mr. Pat Jones** of the [NCDA&CS Pesticides Section](#) will be our guest speaker. His topic will be "**Protecting the pollinator – Apiary registration and BeeCheck**".

Past Meeting:

Mr. David Bailey of [Bailey Bee Supply](#) in Hillsborough, NC was our guest speaker at our January 26th meeting. He presented "Are you ready? Bee season checklist – hive equipment, woodenware, components".

News:

NCSBA Born & Bred 2017 Queen Rearing Workshops. The [North Carolina State Beekeepers Association](#) is offering a program of advanced beekeeper education in the field of queen rearing and colony management in cooperation with the [NC State Apiculture Program](#) and the NCDA&CS Apiary Inspection Service. The daylong course will be offered in Greenville, NC on May 6 and again on May 20 in Statesville, NC. The cost is \$75.00 per participant and enrollment is limited. See <https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/born-and-bred-queen-rearing-workshops>.

NCSBA Certified Beekeeper Exam. Several students in our Bee School are planning to become NCSBA Certified Beekeepers by taking the certified exam. The exam is in two parts – written and the practical tests. We are planning to administer the written test in the morning on March 18 prior to beginning our field day. You can find the certified requirements, study guide, and practical exam online at the [NCSBA website](#). Four months of beekeeping experience is needed prior to taking practical test. Also, NCSBA membership is required to take the exam. You can join through our CCBA chapter or [online](#) for \$15/year. We can arrange practical tests separately if/when you have 4 months of experience. If you have questions or want to take the written exam along with our students, please [let us know](#).

Kim and Jim Show. Kim Flottum, Editor-in-Chief, Bee Culture Magazine and Dr. James "Jim" Tew, Emeritus Professor, Entomology, OSU will be bringing you their 4th "Live" show for their newly minted Kim and Jim Show - **Latest Research Projects From Top USDA and University Honey Bee Scientists** - Thursday, February 23, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EST. Click [Here](#) to Register.

NCSBA is gearing up to celebrate their 100th anniversary at the summer meeting in Winston-Salem. In the spirit of celebrating members, NCSBA is putting together a commemorative photo journal featuring many of the members who stepped up over the years to help make the organization and/or NC beekeeping thrive for 100 years and running. They request chapters to nominate one individual (or a couple, family, or business) that really stands out in their contributions to the organization, or to NC beekeeping in general. Nominations may include brand new beekeepers, old-timers, deceased members, and pretty much anyone you feel should be recognized for their devotion to NC beekeeping and/or to the NCSBA. If you know of someone, please nominate a candidate at our Feb 23 meeting.





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

Beekeeping course:

Our CCBA beginning beekeeping course is full and underway. We will hold our sixth class on February 22th. Don Hopkins, NC Apiary Inspector, will be talking about bee's diseases and pests.

In the bee yard:

- This winter has been anything but typical. Trees are blooming a month earlier than usual. Some beekeepers are also already reporting drones in their colonies!
- Don't be fooled by the recent unseasonably warm weather, more colonies are lost this time of year due to starvation than during all of the winter months. We must be vigilant to help ensure winter survival. Colonies should be rearing brood in preparation for honey flow. A colony that is rearing brood can consume about 10 lbs of food per week and if the weather turns bad, a colony with small food reserves can quickly starve to death.
- What to do now? On a warm, sunny, calm day...Inspect your colonies. You are looking for adequate food stores, signs of disease and evidence of a laying queen.
- Colonies should have ideally 30 lbs of honey to survive until honey flow. Remember, a deep hive body frame holds approximately 6-7 lbs of honey, a medium 4 lbs and a shallow super frame about 3 lbs. This can help you estimate how much honey remains in the hive. If needed, move frames of honey closer to the cluster/brood nest. During a cold spell, bees can starve with honey only a few frames away from the brood.
- If the food stores are low, the bees will need to be feed. You will need to determine which method is best based on the circumstances. A top feeder with 1:1 syrup does no good if it's too cold for the bees to break cluster to enter the feeder. In this case, sugar candy or a feeding jar with syrup placed right on top of the cluster/brood area may be a better choice.
- If you choose to feed pollen patties, the recommendation is feed only enough for the bees to eat in a few days. ***Small hive beetles love pollen patties*** and you could have a mess of hive beetle larva if too much is placed at once.
- Look at the bees. Do they look healthy? Are frames covered with bees and do you see evidence of a laying queen? You do not need to necessarily see the queen but should be evidence of a laying queen. Open brood with larva is a good sign and indicates the queen was healthy and laying within the last 4-9 days. During inspection be careful not to chill the brood. When the temperature is above 50 degrees, you may hastily examine brood but do not expose it for more than a minute or two. **Above 65 degrees** you can safely remove and thoroughly inspect the frames.

NCSBA Spring Meeting:

The [South Carolina Beekeepers Association](#) (SCBA) will host the joint 2017 Spring Meeting with [North Carolina State Beekeepers Association](#) (NCSBA) on March 3rd & 4th, 2017 at Baxter Hood Center at [York Tech College](#) in Rock Hill, SC. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Larry Connor, Dr. Dewey Caron, Dr. Leo Sharashkin, and Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda. Click [HERE](#) for agenda.