



# Caswell County Beekeepers Association

February 2018

## Officers

- President  
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- Vice President  
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- 1<sup>st</sup> year Director  
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- 2<sup>nd</sup> year Director  
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Larry Hupp
- Secretary/Treasurer  
Nina Dabbs
- Program Chair  
[vacant]

## NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, Feb 22 @  
7:00pm



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Thursday, February 22, 2018 @ 7:00pm. Our speaker will be fellow club member Mike Ross who will talk about **wild hives and how to move bees**.

## News:

The NC Dept of Agriculture - Apiary Services published the 2018 current list of suppliers authorized to sell bees in North Carolina. See <http://www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry/Plant/apiary/documents/PermitToSell2018.pdf>.

German scientists based out of the University of Hohenheim have stumbled upon a simple solution that could deal a blow to honeybees' greatest threat. They've found that a tiny dose of the compound lithium chloride kills Varroa destructor mites without harming bees. [sources: [ABJ Extra](#), [Nature.com](#)]

The NCSBA Master Beekeeper Program will conduct a refresher and review, an "Ask the Experts" session, and certification testing at the upcoming Spring Conference in New Bern, March 1-3. The refresher and review and "Ask the Experts" will be held before the conference begins on Thursday morning 10am till 12 noon. Master Beekeepers Bill Moran and Eric Talley and State Inspectors Adolphus Leonard and William Hicks will be on the panel to answer your questions. Certification testing will be Friday from 1pm to 4pm and Saturday from 9am till 12 noon. See [NCSBA Announcements](#) on the NCSBA website for more information.

Louisiana State Beekeepers are concerned about the release of flea beetles by their state in an attempt to biologically control the Chinese tallow, an invasive tree found in several southern states, including North Carolina. Beekeepers are concerned about the effects of releasing a non-native insect into the American ecosystem, and about the loss of this vital pollinator forage. [sources: [LBA](#), [BCIP](#)]

## Events:

**NCSBA Spring Conference.** Join the beekeepers of the NCSBA down east in the historic district of New Bern for a three day meeting, **March 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>**, that features renowned speakers, educational workshops, major vendors of the region and much more. See the NCSBA's website at <https://www.ncbeekeepers.org> for online registration, cost, and information.

**Michael Bush Apalooza.** [NC BETI](#) is hosting an all day seminar event with [Michael Bush](#), organic beekeeper, author, and presenter at the [Johnston County Agriculture Center Auditorium](#) in Smithfield, NC next month, February 24, 2018, from 9 AM – 5:30 PM. Click <[HERE](#)> for more information and to purchase tickets (\$40 each).

**SCBA Spring Conference.** The South Carolina State Beekeepers Association is holding their spring conference and tradeshow in Columbia, SC, on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. See the [SCBA website](#) for more information.



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](mailto:ccba@caswellcountybeekeepers.org)

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

- Continue to ensure proper ventilation, provide wind blocks, and conduct external visual inspections.
- Inspect, repair, or replace stored hive equipment. Purchase needed wax foundation and woodenware.
- Check the cluster location on a cold day by opening the inner cover and looking into the hive briefly (do not remove/manipulate frames). If the cluster is at the top of the hive, then the bees may have run out of stored food and you should begin emergency feeding with sugar, candy or fondant. Add pollen supplements, if needed.
- Begin assembling your honey supers and have them ready for the beginning of nectar flow.
- Red maples will begin to bloom soon in our area. Bees will be bringing in pollen and nectar and brood rearing will intensify.

### **What do I need to do to keep bees?**

For those asking the question and those being asked, Randall Austin gives a good answer in his "***Let's get started***" article this month for Bailey Bee supply. Go to [BaileyBeeSupply.com](http://BaileyBeeSupply.com) to read. Randall is a NC Master Beekeeper from neighboring Orange County who has spoken to our club on a couple occasions.

### **Dry Sugar Feeding (Mountain Camp Method)**

2" Feeding rim or empty super  
Sheets of black & white newspaper  
Bag of white sugar  
Spray bottle of water or sugar syrup

Place the feeding rim or empty super directly over the brood frames.

Mist one or two sheets of black & white newspaper with water or sugar syrup.

Place the moistened newspaper over the frames, covering approximately 2/3 of the area and leaving about 1/3 of the top of the frames uncovered. Make sure that the newspaper is inside the feeding rim or super and does not extend outside the hive where it could wick moisture into the colony.

Dump the bag of sugar over the newspaper, misting as you go to clump it and keep it from running off of the paper.

Give it a final misting to form a crust.

Place the inner cover over the feeding rim or super and place the telescoping cover back on the hive.

### **CCBA beekeeping course**

Our beginning beekeeping course is going strong. In February, students will learn about the colony, starting a hive, bees' enemies, pests, and diseases, and food and water sources.