



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

July 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, July 26 @
7:00pm

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Thursday, **July 26** @ 7:00pm. **Cori Lindsay** will be our guest speaker and will talk to us about marketing for beekeepers. Cori is the Director of the Small Business Center/ Economic Development at Piedmont Community College in Yanceyville. **Amanda Hodges**, Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, will join her to discuss the social media part of marketing.

News:

Unknown Bee Viruses Discovered. An international team of researchers has discovered evidence of 27 previously unknown viruses in bees. The finding could help scientists design strategies to prevent the spread of viral pathogens among these important pollinators. [source: [Bee Culture](#)]

Drone pollination. Dropcopter, a drone AG startup based in California and Central New York, recently made headlines as the first company to successfully pollinate almonds, cherries and apples using drones. The company has been conducting studies on supplemental drone pollination since 2015. As of July 4th. The company has released results from its 2018 third party studies which report a massive increase in almonds and cherries as well as surprising developments for apples. Depending on environmental conditions which dictate the effectiveness of bees, the company has demonstrated an effective increase of 25% to 60% pollination set (cherries and almonds). It means that in cold weather, and during bee shortages there's a viable alternative to dependency on insect pollination. [source: [Bee Culture](#)]

Button Batteries. Ingestion of button batteries, which are frequently found in the household setting, can rapidly lead to caustic esophageal injury in infants and children. A new study published in The Laryngoscope found that drinking honey or Carafate® (a cherry- flavored duodenal ulcer prescription) may help reduce esophageal damage. [source: [ABJ Extra](#)]

Events:

August 13-17 – EAS 2018. The Eastern Apiculture Society will deliver another amazing Honey Bee Conference, **August 13-17**, all under one roof at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, VA. The week long event will offer a 2 day short course on beekeeping (beginning and intermediate classes and advanced workshops) and a 3 day conference. See easternapiculture.org for details.

Sept 22 - Hoedown. The Brightleaf Hoedown will be held again this year on Saturday, **September 22**, on the Court Square in downtown Yanceyville. Our club plans to have a booth to promote and educate the public about beekeeping. Your help is needed to show our club presence in our community and to educate the public about beekeeping. If you can volunteer some of your time (1 to 2 hours) to help plan, coordinate, setup, participate, and takedown our booth, please sign up at the next club meeting(s).





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:

- If you are harvesting honey, put your extracted (“wet”) supers back on your hives late in the day to prevent or limit robbing.
- Continue measures to control small hive beetle population (maintain hive strength, reduce excess space, use beetle traps, squish)
- Prop up the outer cover to improve airflow during hot weather. Good air circulation improves both honey production and hive health.
- When you notice reduced foraging activity in your area, consider reducing the hive entrance to a medium setting (approximately 3 inches) to protect against robbing.
- If you are extracting honey now or in the near future, be aware of the water moisture content. Moisture above 18.6% **may** cause your honey to ferment. Rule of thumb is that you can extract a frame that is at least 3/4 capped on both sides. Also, if you shake the frame hard once outward and the honey remains in the cells, then it is probably okay to extract. If in doubt, use a refractometer (if available). You can combine honey with high moisture to honey with low moisture so long as your result is under 18.6%. Also, honey with low moisture content (below 15.5%) will be more susceptible to crystalizing.
- As the daytime and nighttime temperatures increase in our area, so does the temperature in the hive. You may notice bees “bearding” on the front in the late afternoon and evening on hot, humid days. Normally, this is not an indication of swarming, but an effort to regulate the temperature in the hive by moving worker bees outside so as not to generate more heat inside. Good ventilation will decrease the amount of bearding. Prop top covers up slightly to allow good airflow through the inner cover hole (if you use this type of inner cover).
- Bees will fan over water droplets in the hive to cool down and regulate temperature. Ensure your hives are near water or provide them with water in containers. To prevent drowning, add rocks, sand, moss, or floats to your water container.
- Also, ensure **you** stay hydrated when working in your bee yard or honey house. Take breaks in the shade and drink plenty of water.
- Hive population is declining and Varroa mite population is continuing to increase. If you have harvested your honey and removed your supers, now would be a good time to check the mite load in your hive(s). For instructions and videos on how to check for mites, go to the [Honey Bee Health Coalition](#) website <click [here](#)>.

State Fair This year, the [NC State Fair](#) will be held from **October 11th to the 21st** in Raleigh. NCSBA will be buying honey in bulk from beekeepers to be bottled and sold during the fair. If interested, contact NCSBA president Rick Coor at president@ncbeekeepers.org for more information. Also, the deadline is September 15 for entries into the **Bees and Honey competition**. Click [HERE](#) for more information and rules on the competition.

How-to Videos The [Honey Bee Research Centre](#) at the University of Guelph in Ontario has compiled an online beekeeping video series to provide new and advanced beekeepers with demonstrations by their staff on a variety of topics ranging from how to open a hive to queen rearing. <click [here](#) to see videos>