



# Caswell County Beekeepers Association

June 2017

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- Secretary/Treasurer  
Nina Dabbs
- Program Chair  
Phil Barfield

## NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, June 22 @  
7:00pm



Click on image and provide how many t-shirts you may want to purchase.

## Next Meeting:

Thursday, June 22, 2017 @ 7:00pm. **Elizabeth Barfield**, local beekeeper and fellow club member, will be our speaker. Her topic will be "***Ouch! – bee stings***".

## Past Meeting:

**Mr. Randall Austin**, NCSBA Master Beekeeper from Orange County, was our guest speaker at our May meeting. His topic was "***Liquid gold – honey harvesting, bottling, labeling requirements and marketing tips***".

## News:

**Pollinator week.** June is pollinator month and this week, June 19-25, is Pollinator Week. See <http://pollinator.org/pollinatorweek/> for more information.

**Beehive at Vice President's Residence.** Second Lady Karen Pence and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue unveiled a newly-installed triple-deep "Langstroth" beehive on the grounds of the Vice President's residence on June 6, drawing attention to the plight of pollinators whose numbers are in decline. Together, the two urged Americans to do their own part to help reverse the population trend among the creatures, which are essential to producing much of the nation's food. [source: [White House](#)]

**Honey Bee Diagnostic Services.** Due to a staffing crisis, the USDA-ARS Bee Disease Diagnostic Service in Beltsville, MD is still on hiatus, however, a joint collaboration between the Bee Informed Partnership, the USDA-ARS Bee Research Laboratory and USDA-APHIS has been established in the short term to primarily provide for the diagnostics of honey bee brood for American foulbrood (and other brood) disease. They will also offer other pest and disease diagnostics (nosema, Varroa, and tracheal mites) for a nominal fee. See <https://beeinformed.org/diagnostics/> for more information and pricing.

**Bee Losses.** For the 2016-2017 winter season, 4,963 beekeepers in the United States provided validated survey responses to the Bee Informed Partnership survey. Collectively, these beekeepers managed 363,987 colonies in October 2016, representing about 13% of the country's estimated 2.78 million managed honey producing colonies. An estimated 21.1% of colonies managed in the United States were lost over the 2016-2017 winter. This represents an improvement of 5.8 percentage points compared to the previous 2015-2016 winter, and is below the 10-year average total winter loss rate of 28.4%. Beekeepers not only lose colonies in winter (October – March) but also throughout summer (April – September). The 2016 summer colony loss rate was 18.1%. When all the survey results were combined, beekeepers lost **33.2%** of their colonies between April 2016 and March 2017. This is the second lowest rate of annual colony loss recorded over the last seven years. [source: [Bee Informed](#)]



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:

- Nectar (honey) flow has tapered off in our area, but will get a boost from the currently blooming sourwoods and future blooming sumac. Some beekeepers may experience another, much smaller honey flow in the fall that will help bump up winter food reserves.
- 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.

**NCSBA Summer Meeting** The [North Carolina State Beekeepers Association](#) (NCSBA) is celebrating their 100th anniversary at the summer meeting in Winston-Salem, July 13-15, 2017. Advance registration has now ended. You may register on arrival at the meeting.

Before the start of the conference on Thursday, the Master Beekeeper Program (MBP) will present a 2-hour refresher for the Journeyman and Masters levels beginning at 10AM. Written test for the Certified, Journeyman, and Masters will be given on Friday from 1PM to 4PM and again Saturday from 9AM till noon. E-mail [mbp@ncbeekeepers.org](mailto:mbp@ncbeekeepers.org) to reserve your seat. Bring a pencil.

MBP will also hold a "***What you always wanted to know***" - Questions & Answers, all about Beekeeping, and Ask the "EXPERTS" on Thursday beginning at 10AM. Moderators will be Master Beekeepers Diana Almond and Randall Austin along with State Inspector Lewis Cauble and EAS Master Beekeeper Greg Fariss.

A Bee Bowl between competing NCSBA Chapters will be Thursday evening.

Hotel rooms are still available at the Marriott until June 22 at a cost of \$125 plus tax per night (includes parking). Mention the NC State Beekeepers to get the discounted rate and free parking. Call the Marriott at 336-725-3500 to reserve.

**CCBA T-shirts** We are trying to determine total quantity of all sizes to place our order. Please go to our website at <http://caswellcountybeekeepers.org/t-shirt/> and indicate how many t-shirts you would purchase. There is no obligation at this time to purchase. Please submit your input before our next meeting on June 22.