



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

March 2017

Officers

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

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, March 23 @
7:00pm

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Thursday, March 23, 2017 @ 7:00pm. **Mr. Todd Walker**, NCSBA Master Beekeeper and our Regional Director, will be our guest speaker. His topic will be "***Let it flow – preparing for the nectar flow***".

Past Meeting:

Mr. Pat Jones of the [NCDA&CS Pesticides Section](#) was our guest speaker for our February meeting. His topic was be "***Protecting the pollinator – Apiary registration and BeeCheck***".

News:

Slow-mo. See Michael Sutton's cool slow motion video of honey bees in flight in [Apocrita: a bee film](#).

Buzz missing. Buzz the Bee on Honey Nut Cheerio cereal box is missing. Only his [her] outline remains. General Mills states Buzz is missing because there's something serious going on with the world's bees. Bee populations everywhere have been declining at an alarming rate, and that includes honeybees like Buzz. To help [#BringBackTheBees](#), General Mills was giving away 100 million seeds. They exceeded their goal —10 times over. After giving away a 1.5 billion seeds, they are all out. [source: [General Mills](#)]

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 25 prior to beginning our rescheduled 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](#).

NCSBA Honey Cook Book. To help mark their centennial, NCSBA has assembled a cooking-with-honey cookbook. They are now taking pre-orders through clubs to help with start-up costs. Price is \$20 per copy. All profits will be donated to the NC Agricultural Foundation and will directly benefit the Apiculture program at NCSU. All 300 recipes in the cookbook have honey as an ingredient. Many of the recipes have received awards and/or are winning recipes of the NCSBA Summer Conferences. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please e-mail [CCBA](#) or let us know at the club meeting. If we have at least 10 interested, we can take payments and place an order. The deadline is April 30th.

Added Sugars. In 2016, the FDA issued a nutrition labeling [rule](#) that will lead consumers to believe that honey is adulterated when in fact pure, natural honey contains no added sugars whatsoever. Beekeepers voiced their opposition during the recent comment period on the FDA [guidance](#) to implement.





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 almost complete. Due to an inclement weather forecast, we postponed our field day to the following Saturday, March 25.

In the bee yard:

- Since more colonies are lost this time of year due to starvation than during all of the winter months, it is important to know if your bees have enough food stores to survive. See last [February's newsletter](#) for recommendations on what to do.
- On a warm, sunny, calm day, check for larvae & brood. If there is no sign of a laying queen, develop plans to make the colony queen-right by obtaining a queen, introducing eggs for them to make their own queen, or combining them with a queen-right colony. Temperatures above 65 degrees allow for a thorough inspection. Windy days can irritate the bees and can dry out and kill larva when inspecting a frame.
- Monitor colonies for swarm cells. Swarm cells are long vertical peanut shaped cells and are normally located on the bottom of brood frames.
- Rotate hive bodies if needed so brood frames are in the lower hive body and the queen has room to move up to continue to lay.
- Evaluate woodenware and replace any rotted items. Remove IPM board from screened bottom board if inserted for winter. If you use solid bottom boards clean off debris.
- Honey flow will start soon, so be prepared to install honey supers:
 - Air out drawn comb that had been stored with wax moth preventative paradichlorobenzene (PDB) for 1 to 2 weeks before putting it in hives
 - Do not use any medications (Fumagilin-B, Terramycin, Apistan, or anything else) while honey supers for human consumption are on your hives.
- A queen excluder may be used above the brood box and under the 1st super if desired (beekeepers preference).
- Set out bait hives to attract swarms.
- If you are buying and picking up bee packages, **bee** ready. Have your hive equipment already assembled (frames, hive body, stand, inner cover, top cover, bottom board). Paint the exterior exposed wood of your hive body, stand, top cover, and bottom board if needed. Set and level your stand. Install an entrance reducer.

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. Online registration is now open. Featured speakers are Jon Zawislak, apiculture specialist for the University of Arkansas; Dr. James Wilson, apiculturist at Virginia Tech; Katy C. Evans, 2015 recipient of the EAS Foundation for Honey Bee Research Award; and Dr. David Tarpy, Professor and Extension Apiculturist at NCSU.

Kim and Jim Show. Kim Flottum and Dr. Jim Tew, will be holding their 6th "Live" webcast show [March Madness!!! Keeping Bees in the South, North, West in the craziest month of the year.](#) Click the above title to Register.