



# Caswell County Beekeepers Association

November 2016

## Officers

- President  
Larry Hupp
- Vice President  
Michael Mayes
- Secretary/Treasurer  
Cindi Jones
- Program Chair  
Martha Hupp
- Refreshments Chair  
Patrice McCollum

## NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, January 26 @ 7:00pm

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Thursday, January 26, 2017 @ 7:00pm. Our planned topic is "**Are you ready?** - Bee season checklist."

## Past Meeting:

Ms. Nancy Ruppert, North Carolina Apiary Inspector, was guest speaker at our October meeting and presented "**Beekeeping in Late Winter/Early Spring**".

## News:

Since the late 1980s, beekeepers in the US have been battling the invasion of the Varroa destructor mite into our European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) hives. The Varroa destructor mite is a native parasite of the Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) that "host switched" to the European honey bee and has spread almost worldwide since 1904. Recently, researchers have discovered that another mite of the Asian honey bee, **Varroa jacobsoni**, has host-switched to the European honey bee in Papua New Guinea. [[ABJ Extra](#), [BMC Genomics](#)]

## Beekeeping course:

CCBA will be holding a beginning beekeeping course on Wednesday evenings from 6:30PM to 8:30PM starting January 18, 2017 and conclude mid-March. The course will include a field day where we will inspect a beehive. The cost is \$55.00 which includes instruction, book, binder, and handouts and \$25.00 for each additional accompanying family member or friend who will be sharing the book and materials. Registration form, list of topics, and more information are available on our website at <http://caswellcountybeekeepers.org/bee-school/>.

## Educational Program for 2017:

Our recently elected 2017 Program Chair, Phil Barfield, is planning topics and lining up speakers for next year. Currently, the program schedule is:

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|--------------|---|
| January 26   | <b>Are you ready?</b> Bee season checklist  |
| February 23  | <b>Protecting the pollinator</b> – Apiary registration and BeeCheck                       |
| March 23     | <b>Let it flow</b> - preparing for nectar flow  |
| April 27     | <b>Hunters and gatherers</b> - Food and water sources for your bees                       |
| May 25       | <b>Liquid gold</b> - honey harvesting, bottling, labeling requirements and marketing tips |
| June 22      | <b>Ouch!</b> bee stings   |
| July 27      | <b>Mighty mite</b> - IPM for varroa control   |
| August 24    | <b>The armored intruder</b> - small hive beetles  |
| September 28 | <b>Healthy bees are happy bees</b> - Fall management, preparing for Winter                |
| October 26   | <b>As seen on TV</b> – show and tell by members   |





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:**

- Ensure proper ventilation by propping up the outer telescoping top cover slightly to allow moisture vapor to escape the colony. Dripping condensation inside the hive during cool weather can dampen and kill bees.
- Provide wind blocks or breaks for your hives to protect against brutal winter winds.
- Conduct visual inspections of your bee yard to insure debris is not obstructing the hive entrances and tops are secured (normally weighted down with a rock)
- Look at your entrance reducers, on your landing boards and hive stands, and on the ground for signs of robbing (dead bees, wax capping debris), mice (gnawed entrance), and skunks (scratch marks on landing board).
- Ensure your entrance reducer is at its smallest setting (about 3/4" wide) to help the bees guard against robbing and mice intrusion.
- Visually inspect your stored comb for wax moth damage.
- Determine what equipment you will need next year. Order and receive before spring so not to be disappointed by sold-out suppliers.
- Place your order with suppliers early if you are considering increasing your number of hives in the spring with nucleus (nuc) colonies.
- Increase your knowledge over the winter by subscribing to and reading bee magazines ([Bee Culture](#), [American Bee Journal](#)), following or joining forums and blogs ([Beesource](#), [ScientificBeekeeping](#)), subscribing to newsletters and lists ([ABJ Extra](#), [Catch the Buzz](#), [Bee Buzz](#), [Bailey Bee](#), [OCBA](#), [PCBA](#)), and joining or renewing your club memberships ([CCBA](#), [NCSBA](#))

### **NCSBA Spring Meeting:**

The [South Carolina Beekeepers Association](#) (SCBA) will host the 2017 Spring Meeting with [North Carolina State Beekeepers Association](#) (NCSBA) on March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Baxter Hood at [York Tech College](#) in Rock Hill, SC.

### **2017 CCBA and NCSBA Membership Dues**

It's time to renew your membership to the Caswell County Beekeepers Association. Memberships expire on December 31. The 2017 annual dues are \$5 per person for the Caswell County Beekeepers and \$15 for the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association (NCSBA). If you wish to join the state association directly with NCSBA, then you can pay \$5 for CCBA membership only. The CCBA membership form can be found on our website at <http://caswellcountybeekeepers.org/membership/>. You can join NCSBA online at <https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/join-or-renew-your-membership-to-the-ncsba>. [Note: Students in our beginning beekeeping course receive a complimentary CCBA membership for 2017]

### **Beekeeping supplies:**

This is the time of year when beekeeping companies have sales on hive equipment and supplies and offer free shipping. This is a good opportunity to restock on needed items before prices change for 2017. Check with your local suppliers or online with the larger companies.