



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

June 2016

Officers

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

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, June 23
@ 6:45pm

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Thursday, June 23 @ 6:45pm. Mr. Joe Cobb and Mr. George Williamson, local area beekeepers and fellow club members will be discussing "***Making Your Own Queens***".

Past Meeting:

Making Nucs was presented by Todd Walker, President of [Person County Beekeepers Association](#), Master Beekeeper, and our [NCSBA Piedmont Regional Director](#).

News:

CCBA held an extraction field day on July 11. We discussed methods and showed equipment used to remove frames of honey from hives, demonstrated uncapping frames of honey by using a hot knife, a roller uncapper, and a cappings scratcher; and discussed and showed extraction equipment. Cheryl McCauley showed her flow hive and explained how it works. Thank you to Larry and Martha Hupp for hosting the field day at their honey house and to Meredith Barkley for covering the story for the Caswell Messenger (see last week's edition).

Events:

This is Pollinator week (June 20-26). "Pollinators are often keystone species, meaning that they are critical to an ecosystem. The work of pollinators ensures full harvests of crops and contributes to healthy plants everywhere. An estimated 1/3 of all foods and beverages are delivered by pollinators. In the U.S., pollination produces nearly \$20 billion worth of products annually." [Source: www.pollinator.org]

The [North Carolina State Beekeepers Association \(NCSBA\)](#) Summer meeting will be held July 7-9 in Hickory, NC. [Advance registration](#) for the conference (discounted \$10) is now open and will be available through JULY 1.

The [Brightleaf Hoedown](#) will be held again this year on Saturday, September 17, 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).

Club extractor

Larry and Martha Hupp have graciously donated their manual 2 frame tangential basket extractor to the club. For club beekeepers with a couple of hives, borrowing an extractor is a great alternative to purchasing one. This will give you experience using an extractor and help form your opinion on what you want if you decide to buy one in the future. Thank you Larry and Martha!





We meet on the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:45pm (except 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 newsletter@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. When you notice reduced foraging activity, consider reducing the hive entrance to a medium setting (approximately 3 inches) to protect against robbing.
- 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.
- Monitor mite counts: Mite populations will rise and usually peak in August and September. If you choose to treat, consider treating with organic products such as Apiguard and ApiLife VAR rather than harsh chemicals (Apistan, Checkmite) that contaminate wax. Do not treat while honey supers for human consumption are in place.

October meeting with Nancy Ruppert:

Nancy Ruppert, NC Apiary Inspector, will present “***Beekeeping in Late Winter/Early Spring***” at our October 27 club meeting. Nancy is a very knowledgeable, experienced beekeeper and a great speaker. She is able to talk to each level of beekeeper. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. We will also be inviting surrounding beekeeping associations and plan to meet at Piedmont Community College in Yanceyville (request pending).

Our Facebook page club and new website:

Checkout and set your bookmarks for our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/caswellcountybeekeepers> and our new club website at <http://caswellcountybeekeepers.org/>. They are the go-to-places for information about our club, upcoming events, membership, and directions. You can even download past newsletters. If you have suggestions for improvement, please e-mail cba@caswellcountybeekeepers.org.

Test your knowledge!

The North Carolina State Beekeepers Association (NCSBA) changed the questions in their online beekeeping quiz. See <http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/master-beekeeper-program>. They have also added “**A HONEY of a GAME**” – a trivia game about honey and nectar. To play click [here](#).