



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

July 2016

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

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 28 @
7:00pm

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Thursday, July 28 @ 7:00pm. Mr. Robert Neal, well-known local beekeeper with many years of beekeeping experience, a beekeeping instructor, a CCBA founder, and our CCBA past president. His topic will be "*The Honey Flow is Over—What to Do Next?*".

Past Meeting:

Mr. Joe Cobb and Mr. George Williamson, local area beekeepers and fellow club members discussed "*Making Your Own Queens*" and provided valuable information and lessons learned from their beekeeping experience over the past years.

News:

In May, Clemson University announced that a managed hive of aggressive Africanized bees had been found near Charleston County in South Carolina. Recently, after more extensive testing, the university announced that the bees were actually a European strain and not Africanized. For more info, click [here](#).

Zombie Bees have been found in Collinsville, VA – about 45 miles from Yanceyville – and in Pulaski county, VA. Zombie Bees are honey bees with the parasite Zombie Fly *Apocephalus borealis*. They become zombies showing the "zombie-like behavior" of leaving their hives at night on "a flight of the living dead." A Collinsville beekeeper started noticing a build-up of dead bees under his dusk-to-dawn light on his garage and it kept getting worse each morning (up to 40 bees at a time). For the WFMY News 2 video and article, click [HERE](#). To determine if you have zombie bees, you can set up a light trap. See [ZomBee Watch](#) for details and to become a ZomBee hunter. At the NCSBA summer meeting earlier this month, Don Hopkins, Apiary Inspector, stated that he doesn't see zombie bees as a significant threat to North Carolina beekeeping.

Events:

The [Brightleaf Hoedown](#) will be held again this year on Saturday, September 17, on the Court Square in downtown Yanceyville. Our club will have a booth to promote and educate the public about beekeeping. Your help is needed to show our club presence in our community and inform the public. 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 meetings in July and August. Members can sell their honey at the event.

This year, the [NC State Fair](#) will be held from October 13th to the 23rd in Raleigh. NCSBA will be buying honey in bulk from beekeepers for \$4.25 per pound 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 16 for entries into the *Bees and Honey competition*. Click [HERE](#) for more information and rules on the competition.





We meet on the 4th Thursday of every month at 7:00pm (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 ccba@caswellcountybeekeepers.org

In the bee yard:

- Monitor mite counts: Mite populations will rise and usually peak in August and September. If you choose to treat, consider treating with “soft” products such as Apiguard and ApiLife VAR rather than harsh chemicals (Apistan, Checkmite) that contaminate wax. Treatments are temperature dependent, so please check the weather forecast and read the instructions and label before applying. Do not treat while honey supers for human consumption are in place.
- Know if your bees have access to a nearby water source (creek, pond) or provide them with water in containers set out near your hives. To prevent drowning, add rocks, sand, moss, or floats to your water container.
- Ensure your hives have ventilation by checking to see if your inner cover hole is clear, clear brush and tall grass from under the hive (if using screened bottom boards), and prop up your top cover slightly on one end (if using inner covers with a hole).
- With hotter temperatures and drier conditions, food sources are becoming scarce (dearth) and the tendency of robbing has increased. Robbing is difficult to control after it has started, so prevention is best. Avoid going into your hives unless you have a good reason to. When working your hive during a dearth, minimize the time you spend with your hives open. Cover your supers and hive bodies if you remove them (extra top and inner covers are helpful). Place any frames you remove in an empty hive body and cover. Consider reducing the hive entrance to a medium setting (approximately 3 inches) to help your bees protect against robbing.
- If you have extracted honey from your hives and have not inspected for a while, check the weight of your hives. If you tilt your hive slightly from the back and find it easy to lift, you may need to feed. If light, inspect for adequate food stores and feed if necessary. Consider reducing the hive entrance to a medium setting (approximately 3 inches) to prevent robbing during feeding.

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 will meet at Piedmont Community College in Yanceyville.

Master Beekeeper Certification Awarded:

Fellow CCBA member, Phil Barfield, achieved the level of Master Beekeeper within the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association (NCSBA). He was presented with his Master Beekeeper certification at the NCSBA summer conference in Hickory earlier this month. The Master Beekeeper Program was established in the fall of 1982 for beekeepers to improve their beekeeping skills and knowledge. There are currently 83 Master Beekeepers in the program. [North Carolina State Beekeepers Association](#) has over 4000+ members and is the largest and one of the most active state beekeeping organizations in the country. For the Caswell Messenger article, click [HERE](#).