Field Day Schedule

Saturday, March 31

We will meet in the same room in the Agriculture building. Hive inspections and demonstrations will be in the arboretum behind the building. Drinks/water and snacks will be provided.

11:00AM-12:00PM NCSBA certified exam (for NCSBA members seeking certification)

12:00PM-1:00PM Discussion in the classroom

-  what to expect in the bee yard today

-  protective wear (inspection, fit, proper wear)

-  precautions (handling frames, movements, positions, fragrances, vibrations, etc)

-  stings (what to do and not to do)

-  emergencies  (what to do)

-  questions?

1:00PM-2:30PM Demonstrations in the arboretum behind the building::

Lighting a smoker

Using tools

-  smoker

-  hive tools (straight, j-hook)

-  frame grip

-  bee brush

-  spacers

Hive components and setup

Inspection techniques

-  preparation

-  smoking

-  position; movement

-  opening the hive

-  1st frame removal

-  frame handling

-  frame inspection

-  inspecting subsequent frames

-  monitoring bees behavior (agitation, robbing, aggressiveness)

- varroa mite monitoring using the powdered sugar shake method

-  reassembly

Hive inspection – Identify:

-  Bees [workers, drones, queen (or signs of a queen)]

-  Brood [egg, larvae, pupae, drone, worker, queen (if present)]

-  Strength of hive [brood amount/pattern, number of bees, food stores]

-  Cell types [drone cell, worker cell, queen cell and cups (if present)]

-  Stored food [honey (capped and uncapped), pollen]

-  Pests (if present) [mites, ants, beetles (adult and larvae), wax moths (adult and larvae), etc]

-  Signs of viruses or disease (what to look for)

2:30PM to 3:00PM Brief wrap-up (5-10 mins) and answer questions in classroom

Handout course certificate and graduation gift

Note:

  -  Approximate schedule – may be more or less depending on participation and questions

  -  We may break into 2 smaller groups for hive inspections depending on class size and participation

  -  Weather and bees’ temperament will determine how long we will be inside the hive