



Caswell County Beekeepers Association

May 2017

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- 2nd Director
[vacant]
- 3rd Director
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- Program Chair
Phil Barfield

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, May 25 @
7:00pm

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Thursday, May 25, 2017 @ 7:00pm. **Mr. Randall Austin**, NCSBA Master Beekeeper from Orange County, will be our guest speaker. Mr. Austin is the writer of the monthly beekeeping articles for [Bailey Bee Supply](#) and frequently provides help and advice on [Orange County Beekeeper's ListServ](#). His topic will be "**Liquid gold – honey harvesting, bottling, labeling requirements and marketing tips**".

Past Meeting:

At our April meeting, Phil Barfield presented "**Hunters and gatherers – Food and water sources for your bees**".

News:

Bayer Bee Care Center. On April 20, the [North American Bayer Bee Care Center](#) located in the Research Triangle Park celebrated the more than 10,000 visitors who have passed through its doors in just three years. The facility complements the original global Center and is spread over approximately 6,000 square feet of space. To facilitate the [Bee Care Program](#), it houses a full laboratory and teaching apiary, honey extraction and workshop space, interactive learning center, and meeting, training and presentation facilities for beekeepers, farmers and educators, as well as office space for graduate students. The Center has its own honey bee colonies for teaching, demonstration and research purposes, and the facility is supported by other research apiaries, located nearby in the Research Triangle Park area, to extend research projects directed toward bee health.

Tropilaelaps mites. In an article recently published in the Journal of Economic Entomology, a group of entomologists profile *Tropilaelaps*, a mite found in Asia that parasitizes honey bees and could pose a threat to global European honey bee populations if it is introduced into new areas. The current *Varroa destructor* mite gets the largest amount of attention as the most devastating parasite in our hives, but *Tropilaelaps* mites are a more serious parasite of the honey bee than *Varroa*. Although there are no reported instances of *Tropilaelaps* mites in the U.S. so far, it is believed that they could survive in other regions than they currently do. [sources: [J Econ Entomol](#), [Bee Culture](#)]

Bee Gym. New item in the U.K. to help control *Varroa* mites. "The Bee Gym is a simple device that is placed inside any hive to encourage bees to groom *varroa* mites off their bodies. It has wires, flippers and scrapers on its small (11 cm by 11 cm) plastic frame that bees voluntarily rub their backs and abdomens against to groom themselves of *varroa* mites. The mites then fall through a normal *varroa* mesh floor onto a sticky insert or to the ground from where the *varroa* mites cannot jump back into the hive." Bee Gym is chemical free, highly durable, and easy to deploy. For more information and a video of bees using it, click [\[here\]](#). [sources: [ABJ Extra](#), [Vita Europe](#)]

Pollinator week. Next month (June) is pollinator month and June 19-25 is Pollinator Week. See <http://pollinator.org/pollinatorweek/> for more information.



Click on bee to vote for your favorite t-shirt logo by May 25



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

In the bee yard:

- Nectar (honey) flow is still on, but dwindling. Your supers should be on your strong, full size colonies. If you are experiencing a strong nectar flow in your area and your top super is about 2/3rd full (6 to 7 frames out of a ten frame super), it's time to add another super. You can either place it on top or raise the partial filled super and place underneath. There is a small benefit of placing it underneath to collect more honey, but it may be outweighed by physically manipulating supers if you have more than a couple hives.
- Keep grass and brush cut/trimmed around your hives.
- Prop up the outer cover to improve airflow during hot weather. Good air circulation improves both honey production and hive health.
- Look for signs of robbing as honey flow ends – bees in a frenzy at the entrance, fighting, dead bees at entrance and on ground, wax flakes under hives with screened bottom boards. ***Don't confuse orientating bees with robbers*** (often mistaken) or heavy foraging (during a honey flow). Bees orientating usually lasts about an hour or less, is less frenzied (hovering, figure eight, orderly at entrance, no or little fighting), and is mostly young, fuzzy bees. Robbing, on the other hand, lasts longer and only ends at dark or when the hive is empty of honey. If robbing is occurring, close off the entrance until the frenzy subsides (~2 to 4 hours or at dark), then open the entrance wide enough for a bee or two to enter/exit at a time or install a robber screen. On the next day available, inspect your hive to see what could be causing the robbing (weak hive, queenless, deadout).
- Pre-order queens if you plan to re-queen in the fall.
- Prepare for honey extraction. Gather, buy, clean, and service equipment needed to extract and store/bottle your honey in the next couple months.

Brushy Mountain 2017 Field Day Brushy Mountain Bee Farm will again host a full day of beekeeping seminars and hands-on workshops bringing together beekeepers and honey bee researchers. The field day will be Saturday, **June 24th** from 9AM to 5PM at their 3 locations (in NC - Moravian Falls). David Mendes and Jennifer Tsuruda are the guest speakers at the NC event. Tickets are \$40 each. Click on [\[2017 BMBF Field Day\]](#) for more information and to purchase tickets.

NC BETI hosts Michael Bush [NC BETI](#), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that advocates for beekeepers and native pollinators is sponsoring an all day seminar event with [Michael Bush](#), organic beekeeper, author, and presenter at the [Johnston County Agriculture Center Auditorium, 2736 NC Highway 210, Smithfield, NC](#), on **October 14, 2017** from 9 AM - 5 PM. They are expecting a sellout of this event. This is an all day event, with refreshments and a hot meal for lunch. Ticket Price is \$40. Tickets received after capacity will be refunded. Send an email to info4beti@earthlink.net to receive your ticket application.

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.

CCBA T-shirt logos Cast your vote online before our next meeting on May 25 for your choice of the best logo for our club t-shirt. Click [\[here\]](#) to see logos and vote.