

Field Day Schedule
Saturday, March 16, 2024

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