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Field Day Schedule
Saturday, March 14, 2026
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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