



WAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Next WCBA Meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 7:30 pm

Location: Raleigh Police Club - 3500 Leonard Rd. Knightdale/Raleigh, NC 27545

Featured Speaker: State Honey Bee Inspector, Will Hicks will discuss proper hive pest management practices

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Happy Mother's Day

Survey Reports Latest Honey Bee Loses

*Article Submitted by WCBA member Shannon Hughes. Photo submitted by WCBA member Steve Hildebrand.

Article Written By [Kim Kaplan](#) April 29, 2010

Losses of managed honey bee colonies nationwide totaled 33.8 percent from all causes from October 2009 to April 2010, according to a survey conducted by the [Apiary Inspectors of America](#) (AIA) and the [Agricultural Research Service](#) (ARS). Beekeepers identified starvation, poor weather, and weak colonies going into winter as the top reasons for mortality in their operations.

This is an increase from overall losses of 29 percent reported from a similar survey covering the winter of 2008-2009, and similar to the 35.8 percent losses for the winter of 2007-2008.

The continued high rate of losses are worrying, especially considering losses occurring over the summer

months were not being captured, notes [Jeffrey Pettis](#), research leader of ARS' [Bee Research Laboratory](#) in Beltsville, Md. ARS is the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's](#) principal intramural scientific research agency. The survey was conducted by Pettis and past AIA presidents Dennis vanEngelsdorp and Jerry Hayes. The three researchers said that continued losses of this magnitude are not economically sustainable for commercial beekeepers.

The 28 percent of beekeeping operations that reported some of their colonies perished without dead bees present—a sign of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)—lost 44 percent of their colonies. This compares to 26 percent of beekeepers reporting such dead colonies in the 2008-2009 winter and 32 percent in the 2007-2008 winter. Beekeepers that did not report their colonies having CCD lost 25 percent of their colonies.

As this was an interview-based survey, it was not possible to differentiate



between verifiable cases of CCD and colonies lost as the result of other causes that share the "absence of dead bees" as a symptom. The cause of CCD is still unknown. The survey checked on about 22.4 percent of the country's estimated 2.46 million colonies. The survey reports only winter losses and does not capture colony losses that occur throughout the summer when queens or entire colonies fail and need to be replaced. Those summer losses can be significant.

A complete analysis of the survey data will be published later this year. The abstract can be found at <http://ento.psu.edu/pollinators/news/losses-2009-10> More information about CCD can be found at www.ars.usda.gov/ccd.

April Order of Nucs for Delivery on May 8th



On Saturday May 8th the April order of nucs will be ready for pick up at the Raleigh Police

Club (3500 Leonard Rd, Knightdale/Raleigh, NC 27545). We had to change the location of the pickup due to liability reasons at the bee lab.

Arrive around 8:00 am to receive the nucs.

The bees will come in a cardboard nuc box. No bee equipment (hive, etc.) is needed when picking up the nucs.

If you any questions contact Mitchell Wrenn 919-306-2735

Upcoming NCSBA Events



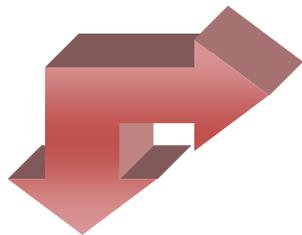
- The North Carolina State Beekeepers Summer Meeting is **July 8-10, 2010** in China Grove, Rowan County.



- The Eastern Apiculture Society will have its annual conference **August 2-6, 2010** in Boone, NC. See website for details: <http://www.easternapiculture.org/programs/2010/>



- Check the NCBSA website for more information on these events: <http://www.ncbeekkeepers.org/news.htm>



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April Meeting Summary

The monthly meeting held on May 11th will be moved to the Raleigh Police Club. Address to that location is 3500 Leonard Rd., Knightdale, NC 27545. We will begin our monthly meetings at 7:30 pm.



Bug Fest is September 11th, 2010!

If you would like to be on the Bug Fest committee or volunteer for one of the three time shifts for the day please contact Tim Huffman at 919-269-6790 or timjoehuffman@aol.com.

Bug Fest is the WCBA's largest fundraiser and encourages all members.

April in the bee yard (recap):

Danny Jaynes spoke briefly about what do to during April in the bee yard – Remember these tips:

- 1.) Check a strong hive for queen cells to make sure they aren't about to swarm.
- 2.) Give the bees plenty of room to grow by putting extra supers on top of the hives.



Hats & Shirts for Sale:

The association will be selling polo shirts and hats. Vice President, Ricky Barbour will have hats for sale at the May meeting. The hats will be \$7.50 each. Ricky will be taking pre-orders at the May meeting for the polo shirts for \$16.00 each. Please bring cash or a check for payment of these items.

One Ross Round kit was raffled off at the April meeting. Congratulations to the lucky winner!



ROSS ROUNDS Super Kits ~ Made Easy

The April meeting featured speakers were Vice President, Ricky Barbour and beekeeping expert James Knox. The two spoke on how to use Ross Round super kits to easily make comb honey.



James Knox led the discussion with the history of comb honey. The popularity of comb honey came not just because of the aesthetically pleasing look of the fresh made comb dripping with honey but more importantly because people began mixing corn syrup and honey to make a "diluted" honey like substance and selling it as pure honey. Cut comb honey adds to the creditability of the honey as being pure honey instead of "adulterated" honey.



According to Knox, when using a device such as the

Ross Round super kits, comb honey is easier and cheaper to produce. Comb honey can be made using 8 or 10 frame equipment but the secret to producing good comb honey is having a strong colony to make it. Knox also advises that you rotate the supers 180° and to take the capped Ross Rounds from the middle of the super and rotate them with the outer rounds so the bees will fill out each round completely.

Ross Rounds are the best choice for ease of use. Bees will more readily fill the round shape, as opposed to square frames--which they will never fill the corners completely. Ross Rounds are also much easier to harvest. Cut comb or even basswood section honey will leak and require special processing and handling. With Ross Rounds--the bees do all of the work! Included in the Ross Round kits are: 8 frames and 64 pre-loaded rings). The extra thin surplus foundation is sold separately.



When you are ready to package your comb honey for gifts or to sell, you can purchase the covers and

labels separately (2 covers and one label are needed to make one complete sellable item).

Remember when making comb honey of any kind, freeze the comb in tightly sealed trash bags for 3-4 days then take the trash bag out of the freezer and thaw out bag (still tightly sealed) for an additional 3-4 days in room temperature. This insures that any parasites in the wax have been properly killed. *The worse mistake a beekeeper can do is to sell a customer some comb honey and several days later the customer reports bugs crawling around their newly purchase surprise!



Constructing the Ross Round kits can be a bit intimidating said Ricky Barbour but once you've got them figured out, you'll never want to use any other method to produce comb honey again. Having a friend or local WCBA member who has used the Ross Round kit is the best way to get started.

2010 WCBA Officers:

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Location of Club Extractors:
The club owns equipment that are available for members to borrow. Please contact the following people for equipment: Steve Hildebrand: Knightdale 919-266-9464; Vivian Joyner: New Hill 919-387-0164; James Knox: Raleigh 919-847-5098; Larry Hall: Central Wake 919-612-4499. See complete list at: <http://www.wakecountybeekeepers.org/equipmentList.html>

WCBA**Announcements:**

- If any member of the WCBA would like to submit pictures, articles of interest, honey recipes, or any other valuable beekeeping information in the monthly newsletter please contact the WCBA Secretary: Sarah Pleasants at 919-880-8208 or sarahpleasants@piedmontlitho.com
- Also if any member of the WCBA would like to suggest a speaker or a topic to be presented at the meetings, please contact the WCBA Program Chair: Kate Hanser at 919-387-7631 or kahanser@ncsu.edu

We look forward to hearing from you!



Check out the WCBA website:

www.wakecountybeekeepers.org

- Up to date information on the WCBA events
- Educational resources
- WCBA Newsletters
- Valuable information on what the WCBA has available for you!

May in the Bee Yard



On a warm, sunny day with calm winds, the following items should be checked during the month of May:

- 1) **Evaluation of Food Stores in between honey flows:** During the honey flow the bees should have plenty of food. But make sure they have enough food in

between honey flows. Each hive should have at least 15 pounds of honey in storage. If they do not have adequate food storage, begin feeding them sugar syrup (for spring, mix one part sugar and one part hot tap water).

- 2) **Make sure your bees have room to grow:** Your colony should be busy at work and you want to make sure they have plenty of room to grow and make honey. If your supers

are almost full add an additional super on top in preparation for them to make more honey.

After the following checks have been completed, your next goal is to continue to make sure your hive is strong and ready for the honey flow.

Information derived from:
The Alamance County Beekeepers Association - <http://alamancebeekeepers.com/may06.aspx>



Bee Sweet "to Your Mama" Honey Banana Bread



Ingredients:

1/2 cup honey
1/3 cup butter or margarine
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 eggs
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 cup whole wheat flour
1/2 cup quick-cooking oats
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 cup mashed ripe banana
1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Directions:

Cream honey and butter in large bowl with electric mixer until fluffy. Beat in vanilla. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition, combine dry ingredients in small bowl; add honey and bananas to mixture, blending well. Stir in walnuts. Spoon batter into greased and floured 9 x 5 x 3-inch loaf pan.

Baking Instructions:

Bake in preheated 325°F oven 50 to 55 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Cool in pan on a wire rack for 15 minutes. Remove from pan; cool completely on a wire rack.

Baking Mom a special treat for Mother's Day is a great way to show her how special she is. For more recipes that use honey see the websites below:

<http://www.honey.com/nhb/recipes/>

<http://www.suebee.com/recipes>

http://www.cooks.com/recipe/search/0,1-0,honey_desserts,FF.html

