



WAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

www.wakecountybeekeepers.org

**December Meeting and
Holiday Dinner:** Tuesday,
December 13th, 2011 at
6:30 pm

LOCATION:
Wake County Cooperative
Building -
4011 Carya Drive
Raleigh, NC 27610

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Updates and Reminders

-  December Meeting & Holiday Dinner
December 13th, Tuesday,
6:30 pm **LOCATION FOR MEETING:**
Wake County Cooperative Building -
4011 Carya Drive
Raleigh, NC 27610
- Please bring a side dish to share to the December meeting. Turkey and Ham will be provided by the WCBA. All family members are welcome to this event.



- If you have not picked up your WCBA or NCSBA memberships please see Treasurer, Dan Brubaker at the December meeting.
- Volunteers are always needed at the Asheboro Zoo honey bee exhibit. Volunteers are allowed to sell honey while they are working the exhibit. Training will be provided for volunteers so beekeepers of knowledge levels are encouraged. For more information on volunteering please contact Judy Pick JimJudy9@aol.com or Janno Lewis ipdaniel@embarqmail.com.
- The WCBA will no longer renew member subscriptions in 2012 to the American Bee Journal and Bee Culture magazines. Members will still receive a discount to the magazines but will need to renew on their own for the New Year. If you have questions about this speak with our at the December meeting.
- Hats and shirts are still for sale; contact Ricky Barbour if you would like to purchase them.



2011 WCBA Officers:**President:**

Ricky Barbour

Vice President:

Andy Currin

Secretary:

Sarah Pleasants

Treasurer:

Dan Brubaker

Program Chairman:

Kate Hanser

Board of Directors:

Vivian Joyner

To serve 3 years

Marvin Pate

To serve 1 year

Danny Jaynes

To serve 2 years

Education Materials:

Ben Crawley

WCBA officer contact information can be found on the WCBA website:

www.wakecountybeekeepers.org

Location of Club**Extractors & Equipment:**

The club owns equipment that is 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

on the WCBA website.

Current NCSBA Events

- Check the NCBSA website for detailed information on these events: <http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/news.htm>
- **NCSBA Spring Meeting:**
 - **March 9-10, 2012** -- Morganton, NC

Great Jobs Available with the WCBA!

The Wake County Beekeepers Association needs a few good men and women to step up to leadership positions in our Chapter. The continued excellence of our programs, schools and other contributions to beekeeping depends upon good volunteer leadership. Please contact the Nominating Committee if you are willing to serve or if you would like to nominate someone. Contact: Charles Heatherly, James Knox, Steve Hildebrand at our monthly meeting.



Honey Standard in NC



Dr. Ambrose from North Carolina State University was the featured speaker for November. He gave a brief background on the honey standard in NC. In 1975 there were 5 chapters from 8 counties that made up the membership for the NCSBA. Currently there are 212 chapters with about 2,700 current members of the NCSBA. Beekeeping in NC has come a long way and has made even greater strides by adopting a honey standard. Dr. Ambrose reported we are about 2-3 years away from having a National honey standard.

Some of you may wonder, what is a honey standard? What does it cover? And what are the consequences? The honey standard was developed by the NCSBA and the NCDA to eliminate the sale of adulterated honey as “pure honey” and to eliminate mislabeled honey in the marketplace that is attributed to a specific floral source.

How do you report a complaint? First contact the NCSBA honey standard committee. They will then contact the person/s who the complaint is against and possibly test the honey. Sometimes it can be simply resolved by speaking with the person and educate them on what they need to correct. Other times further investigation may be conducted by the NCSBA and the NCDA.

Dr. Ambrose mentioned the recent news on ultra processed honey. One reason someone would ultra process honey is to decrease crystallization. However, when honey is ultra processed it is impossible to identify the floral source of the honey. Pollen analysis is the only 100% way to tell the floral source for honey. 51% of the floral source has to be identified in order to properly label honey as a specific type such as Orange Blossom or Sourwood.

The NCSBA has not had any tested honey samples identified as adulterated so far. Most cases have been mislabeled honey. For example at the Rite Aid drug stores they are selling honey for \$1.00 in a honey bear that is 100% corn syrup, not honey. According to the honey standard they are not supposed to selling it as honey unless it truly is honey. It is confusing to the average consumer who sees a honey bear on the shelf especially when the largest word on the label is HONEY. At first glance it is easy to miss the information stating that the product contains 100% corn syrup.

To learn more about the honey standard you may access a copy online at:

<http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/Honey%20Standard.pdf>



Check the **WCBA WEBSITE** for up to date information:
www.wakecountybeekeepers.org

December in the Bee Yard



Once the hives have been prepared for winter, as recommended last month, there is very little that needs to be done during the month of December.

Even after a heavy snow or ice storm, you don't worry about clearing the hive entrances. If all hives

have good top ventilation, they will be fine until the snow or ice melts. At that point, check and make sure that the entrance reducer is still in place on each colony and that each entrance is open and not clogged with leaves or dead bees.

December, however, is a good time to do a little reading, make plans for next spring, assemble new equipment and make those needed repairs.

Information derived in part from the Alamance County Beekeepers Association:
<http://alamancebeekeepers.com/dec06.aspx>

Honey Tasting

The honey tasting featured different varieties of honey from members hives across Wake County and the surrounding areas. Some of the crowd favorites were the cotton honey submitted by James Knox and the honey submitted by Dan Brubaker and Kate Hanser which had a sweet scuppernon grape taste.



A special Thank You goes out to Kate Hanser for organizing the event! She even displayed a map with the areas marked where each honey came from. Dr. Ambrose challenged members to identify the corn syrup in the group of honey.



ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Remember to bring and wear your name tag to each meeting so we can easily identify one another.

Check off your name on the attendance sheet so we can track membership attendance.

We would also like Visitor's to check in and fill out a name badge.

