



WAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

www.wakecountybeekeepers.org

June Meeting: Tuesday,
June 12th, 2012 at
6:30 pm

Location: Wake County
Office Park – 4011
Carya Dr. Raleigh, NC
27610

Featured Program:
Potluck Supper.

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May Meeting Summary

- Upcoming meeting dates:



June 12th, Tuesday,
6:30 pm.

- The June meeting is a potluck dinner. WCBA will provide meat. Bring one or two side dishes to share. If you use honey, bring copies of the recipe.
- Second Beekeeping class was held May 19, 20.
- The club has 2 hives at the Wake County Office Park and they are doing well.
- 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 all experience and knowledge levels are encouraged. For more information on volunteering please contact Judy Pick JimJudy9@aol.com or

Janno Lewis

jpdaniel@embarqmail.com.

- Eleanor Spicer Rice presented at our May meeting. The topic was bees and medicine. This was an excellent presentation. She covered the following topics:
 - Honey Tombs
 - Apitherapy – healing with:
 - Honey
 - Bee Venom
 - Beeswax
 - Propolis
 - Pollen
 - Royal Jelly
 - Presentation will be posted on the WCBA website.

2012 WCBA Officers:**President:**

Andy Currin

Vice President:

Steve Brown

Secretary:

Gordon Goeking

Treasurer:

Neil Woodcock

Program Chairman:

Raymond Goodman

Board of Directors:

Vivian Joyner

To serve 2 years

Danny Jaynes

To serve 1 year

Larry Williams

To serve 3 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.

Upcoming NCSBA Events

- Check the NCBSA website for detailed information on these events:
<http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/news.htm>
- Scheduled NCSBA Summer Meetings:
 - **July 12-14, 2012 NCSBA Summer Meeting** at Robeson Community College in Lumberton, NC.
 - **August 13-17, 2012, EAS Conference**, Burlington, VT.

Want to learn more the Master Beekeeper Program in NC?

The **MBP** program was established in the fall of 1982 for the purpose of providing an infrastructure whereby beekeepers can improve their beekeeping skills and knowledge on a continuous basis.

To learn about the requirements for the certified, journeyman, master, and master craftsman levels visit:

<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/entomology/apiculture/mbp.html>

and

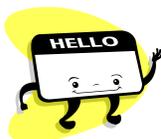
<http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/master.html>.

ATTENTION MEMBERS:
State Association membership cards are available at the Treasurer's table. Please pick yours up.

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.



Sarah Pleasants Myers and her father Al Pleasants keep bees together. They were recently in the North Raleigh News. The link below will take you to the article.

<http://www.northraleighnews.com/2012/04/24/13018/honeybees-vital-to-our-agriculture.html>

Marc Laurin went to capture a swarm on March 25th



Beekeeper Notes

March 25, 2012: 5:00 PM. Michael Whitley called me to collect a swarm on Nancy Ann Drive, off of Lake Boone Trail.

The tree was in the front yard, about 10 feet from the road. It was next to a utility pole guy wire. There was a thick mass of bees where the yellow plastic tube around the cable met with the tree (circled). I suspect the queen was in that ball of bees.

The property owner was away for the week, the swarm as on the edge of neighbor Charlie's driveway. He had been stung a few times. The bees had been around the tree for a day when I came. They were hungry and aggressive as I approached, 10 feet away, they began to attack me. My black T-shirt did not help, so I stripped it off as I ran up the hill on the street away from the hive. I got lightly stung on the back of the right thumb knuckle. Assuming swarms are gentle, I left my smoker at home. Back at home, I asked Jacques to help me. A bee vac would have been ideal, but I went ahead without it.

I parked 75 feet away from the swarm. Jacques approached to see how bad they were. He too ran for cover. He later mentioned that a sting would have been a pride-worthy battle wound. Once suited, we placed a full sized hive box at the base of the tree. It was loaded with 10 frames, all covered with comb. An empty hive box was placed above that to serve as collection bin. The bees got a good dose of smoke, and sprayed liberally with sugar water. This has two purposes; distracting them with something sweet, and loading their wings, making it hard to fly. We swept bees straight down into the box or into a dust pan.

It was at that time that I saw the front of my suit was fully open. I had pulled up on two zippers up the front, not one. The top zipper closes the suit; the bottom opens it below that. Jacques and I dropped our work and ran a distance from the site. We managed to get my suit closed without any harm to me. One bee died in the incident. Back at the swarm, we continued to get as many as possible into the box before closing it. We never saw the queen, but hoped that she got swept in with the crown. No pun intended.

We shut and strapped the box. With council from Michael, I left a 1-inch opening in the hive entrance to let the rest of the colony to reach their queen. Although Jacques had gone up a step ladder to retrieve as many as possible, there was still 15% of the original group still in the tree.



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

June in the Bee Yard



During the month of June you may consider extracting honey.

If your bees are in the Mountain honey or you are trying for Sourwood honey make sure your bees are in place in the mountains for the sourwood trees to be in peak blooming season toward the end of June.

When extracting your honey make sure you have all the proper equipment needed. Bottles and labels are just the start of equipment needed. The WCBA has extracting equipment available for members to borrow.

The June meeting will have a nice demonstration on how to extract honey. You can also look up videos on YouTube on extracting.

When pulling supers to extract be sure to leave one full super for your bees to eat off of. In the Piedmont region many nectar bearing plants for bees are out of bloom.

Information derived from Sarah Pleasants's own knowledge and understanding of beekeeping.

The After Swarm – Amy Jones



My First Swarm! – Amy Jones, West Raleigh

On March 18 I lost my first swarm & a few days later, hived an after swarm (this is only my second season keeping bees). You can read more about these experiences on my bee-log, A Humble Hum (ahumblehum.com) by clicking on the category "swarm drama." Here's what I learned, condensed to a bulleted list:

- 1. BEEKEEPING IS NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART.** There is just something inexplicably sorrowful about watching your tiny charges just up and leave by the thousands even though you have really tried to care for them well and even though it is natural for them to do.
- 2. KEEP THE BROOD NEST OPEN IN EARLY SPRING.** Keep nurse bees occupied whether by splitting, checker boarding empty frames w/ brood, pulling frames for a nuc. I knew this in my head; I just didn't get started on it early enough, which leads to the next point...
- 3. BEES DON'T READ THE TEXTBOOK.** I should have known from the warm winter we had to be prepared with new equipment weeks earlier than what is standard. When I found my after swarm I frantically put together the nuc. that had just arrived and dumped them in there. It would have been better to have the nuc, assembled frames, and maybe some bait pheromone during the FIRST swarm (which was like the size of a volleyball) rather than have it land way the heck up high in a pine tree.
- 4. ORDER QUEENS & PACKAGES IN JANUARY EVEN IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU'LL NEED THEM.** It really, really stinks when it's late March and you're already queen less in two hives and you're #300 on the waiting list.
- 5. BEEKEEPING IS SO WORTH IT.** All it takes is 5 minutes in the middle of a humming cloud to decide you would spend all the time & money over again.