



# WAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

**Next WCBA**

**Meeting:** Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 7:30 pm

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

**Featured Speaker:**

James Knox and Ricky Barbour will discuss how to use "Ross Rounds Super Kits" to make cut comb honey

## New Beekeepers Class

The New Beekeeper Class was once again a success for 2010. All 110 students attended and learned lots of valuable beekeeping knowledge.

New Beekeepers learned the basics of hive management from some of Wake County's finest beekeepers! Thank you to those instructors who lectured at this event.



A total of 48 students took the North Carolina Certified Beekeeping test after completing the class. The following Saturday, a total of 26 students took the practical certified test. Congratulations to all those who took the test!

Happy Easter



The weather allowed for a nice day to cookout for the hot dog lunch. Thanks to all the volunteers who organized this event.

Congratulations to the 10 Lucky Winners who received a hive and bees as the door prize:

- Larry Pope, Wake Forest
- Douglas Cox, Apex
- David Oakley, Holly Springs
- Hayden Schug, Raleigh
- Craig Dupree, Raleigh
- Ken Stolte, Raleigh
- Kim Ritcher, Durham
- Jeremiah Smith
- Rod Heintz, Oxford
- Amy Heath, Durham

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## Member Spotlight

The WCBA would like to recognize Austin Wrenn for his accomplishment of winning a beekeeping grant. Austin who is only 16 years old was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund for

beekeeping. The funds awarded to Austin will help him purchase bees and equipment. In turn, Austin will fulfill community service credits by promoting and educating the public about beekeeping. We are very proud of Austin

and wish him many years of beekeeping success!



## 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.ncbeekeepers.org/news.htm>



## March Meeting Summary

The monthly meetings held on April 13<sup>th</sup> and May 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



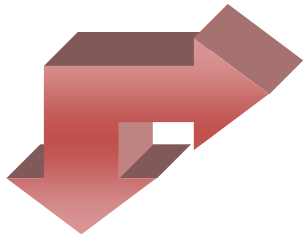
Tim Huffman has decided to assist with Bug Fest this year. Tim was on the committee last year and has proved to be helpful in this event. If you would like to be on the Bug Fest committee please contact Tim Huffman at 919-269-6790 or

[timjoehuffman@aol.com](mailto:timjoehuffman@aol.com). Bug Fest is the WCBA's largest fundraiser and encourages all members.

The association will be selling t-shirts and hats. A formal order sheet will be emailed and available at the meetings for members to fill out for those who would like to purchase those items. Details about when those items will be available for purchase will be announced soon.

There were no door prizes in March. If members would like to donate a door prize at the monthly meeting, please contact one of the WCBA Officers (listed on page 3). We appreciate and welcome all donations.

Several items were raffled off at the March meeting: a smoker, bee brush, hive tools, and a Merrill tool box complete with a smoker, bee brush, and a frame holder. Congratulations to the winners of the March raffle.



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## Education Credit Opportunities

If you are a beekeeper working toward your journeyman or master beekeeper certification please take a moment to look over some of the educational credit opportunities available to you. All presentation materials will be available for use from the WCBA. Larry Williams (919-557-6050 or [Larry.a.williams@usps.gov](mailto:Larry.a.williams@usps.gov)) has those education materials. This is a great way to earn your service credits toward your beekeeping certification.



### Root

Elementary is having a science day April 30, 2010! The school is located in North Raleigh across from North Hills Mall. They are requesting that a beekeeper/s come and do presentations on beekeeping. The presentations are about 30 minutes in length. There will be several different science classes that will be attending. Please contact Julia Caldwell at 781-6705 or [jtc@4caldwells.com](mailto:jtc@4caldwells.com) if interested.



Pleasant Union Elementary is having Earth Day activities and has requested a presentation by local beekeepers. They are looking for a presentation on the basics of beekeeping (NO live bees allowed). In addition, as this is an Earth Day event they are hoping for a wider view: the impact on the environment that bees contribute, the message of NOT using pesticides around the house, and the importance for planting bee/pollinator friendly gardens, remembering bees are important.

The school is at: 1900 Pleasant Union Church Road Raleigh, NC 27614. The presentation dates are March 25<sup>th</sup> and or April 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am to 11:00 am (Several people could do one or both dates). The presentations are about 20 minutes in length and will be given to 4 separate classes. Contact person: Sonya Ledet (c) 824-3355 or (h) 529-1322 or [sonyaledet@mindspring.com](mailto:sonyaledet@mindspring.com).



The Cary Senior Center is looking for a speaker to present a 1-hour lecture and Q&A session on beekeeping as part of its "A day in the life of..." educational series. The audience consists of active 55+ adults. They are looking for someone to speak during the fall session (Sep-Nov), preferably from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. on a weekday (there is some schedule flexibility).

The Cary Senior Center is located in Bond Park, off of High House Road in Cary. Please contact Stephanie Penrod, Recreation Program Specialist at 919-469-3985 for further information. (And please let program chair Kate Hanser, [kahanser@ncsu.edu](mailto:kahanser@ncsu.edu) know as well - thank you!)



### 2010 WCBA Officers:

#### President:

Mitchell Wrenn  
919-306-2735

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#### Vice President:

Ricky Barbour  
919-269-0108

[rickybarbour86@yahoo.com](mailto:rickybarbour86@yahoo.com)

#### Secretary:

Sarah Pleasants  
919-880-8208

[sarahpleasants@piedmontliho.com](mailto:sarahpleasants@piedmontliho.com)

#### Treasurer:

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#### Program Chairman:

Kate Hanser  
919-387-7631

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#### Board of Directors:

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#### Phone Mentor:

Jerry Brantley

919-269-9333

#### Education Materials:

Larry Williams

919-637-6558

[larry.a.williams@usps.gov](mailto:larry.a.williams@usps.gov)

#### Location of Club

##### Extractors:

The club owns extractors that are available for members to borrow. Please contact the following people for access to those extractors:

Steve Hildebrand: Knightdale 919-266-9464; Vivian Joyner: New Hill 919-387-0164; Raleigh Myers: Central Raleigh 919-787-0058; James Knox: Raleigh 919-847-5098

**General 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](mailto: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](mailto:kahanser@ncsu.edu)

We look forward to hearing from you!



**Check out the WCBA website:**

[www.wakecountybeekeepers.org](http://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!

## April in the Bee Yard



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

- 1) **Evaluation of Food Stores:** Make sure they 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) **Remove any chemical treatments for mites:** By April you should have already treated for mites. Remove all treatment applications before putting supers on top.
- 3) **Make sure your bees have room to grow:** The colony is beginning to grow in size and number of bees. Allow for adequate room for their growth to reduce crowding in the brood nest which increases the chance of swarming.

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. See the chart below for plants that are in bloom around the piedmont area during April.

Information derived from: The Alamance County Beekeepers Association - <http://alamancebeekeepers.com/apr06.aspx>



## What Plants are blooming in the Piedmont Region?

Plants in bloom around the Piedmont Region		Average Bloom Period in the Piedmont Region		
Plant Name	Scientific Name	Starts	Days in Bloom	Ends
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	1-Feb	40	12-Mar
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	5-Mar	25	30-Mar
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	15-Mar	60	14-May
Sumac	<i>Rhus spp.</i>	3-Apr	151	1-Sep
Alsike Clover	<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	4-Apr	102	15-Jul
Blackberry	<i>Rubus spp.</i>	10-Apr	20	30-Apr
Crimson Clover	<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	10-Apr	25	5-May
Ladino, White Clovers	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	14-Apr	102	25-Jul
Tulip Poplar	<i>Liriodendrum tulipifera</i>	25-Apr	29	24-May
Black Gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	26-Apr	14	10-May
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	27-Apr	10	7-May
Vetch	<i>Vicia spp.</i>	28-Apr	46	13-Jun
Holly	<i>Ilex spp.</i>	30-Apr	15	15-May
Raspberry	<i>Rubus spp.</i>	30-Apr	20	20-May
Privet	<i>Ligustrum spp.</i>	8-May	23	31-May
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	20-May	13	2-Jun
Sweet Clover	<i>Melilotus spp.</i>	28-May	37	4-Jul
Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	10-Jun	20	30-Jun
Heartsease, Smartweed	<i>Polygonum spp.</i>	4-Jul	126	7-Nov
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago spp.</i>	8-Aug	67	14-Oct
Aster	<i>Aster spp.</i>	25-Sep	35	30-Oct

Plants starting to bloom in April

Source:

**N.C. Cooperative Extension Service:**  
[Honey Plants of North Carolina](#)

prepared by: J. Ambrose; revised by: S. Bambara