



# WAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

**December Meeting:**  
Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>,  
2010 at 6:30 pm

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

**Featured Program  
Speaker:**

Kevin Wooten from the  
USDA to discuss  
Emergency Assistance  
for beekeepers.

**Holiday Dinner – bring a  
side dish to share.**

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**Happy Holidays!**



## Emergency Assistance for Honeybees

At the December meeting, Kevin Wooten with the USDA, will speak about the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). Kevin will be able to field questions about the ELAP program and assist members with applying for the ELAP.

The following excerpt is taken from the ELAP fact sheet that can be found in full length on the WCBA website: [www.wakecountybeekeepers.org](http://www.wakecountybeekeepers.org) or email [sarahpleasants@piedmontlitho.com](mailto:sarahpleasants@piedmontlitho.com).

### Overview

The “Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008” authorized up to \$50 million in a calendar year for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) to provide emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. ELAP covers losses occurring on or after Jan. 1, 2008 and before Oct. 1, 2011 that are not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Payment programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill. The other programs are the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE). A national payment factor may be applied to ELAP payments if the funding availability of \$50 million is exceeded in a calendar year.

See complete details about the ELAP on the WCBA website: [www.wakecountybeekeepers.org](http://www.wakecountybeekeepers.org). Come to the December meeting with your questions ready for Kevin Wooten, our guest speaker from the USDA.

**Purchasing a lot of sugar this time of year?**

**Bob Edgerton, WCBA Member, purchased five pound bags of sugar at WalMart in Cary for \$2.14. This is the best price he has seen anywhere for a while. Stock up today!**





Bob Matheny will be collecting used beekeeping equipment at the December meeting.

The equipment will be sent to beekeepers in Uganda.

A collection box will be located on the stage at the December meeting. You may email Bob with questions at: [bmatheny@nc.rr.com](mailto:bmatheny@nc.rr.com)

## Upcoming NCSBA Events



- Check the NCBSA website for more information on these events: <http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/news.htm>
  - The NCSBA holds statewide conventions twice a year, in the Spring and Summer.
- In odd-numbered years, the Spring Meeting is held jointly with the South Carolina Beekeepers Association, alternating locale between states.
- The NCSBA Spring Meeting will be held: **March 4-5, 2011 NC/SC Spring Meeting in NC** – Location of the Spring Meeting, still to be determined. Check the NCSBA website for updates.



The annual Holiday Dinner will be held at the December meeting.

Mark your calendars for December 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. Be sure to bring a healthy appetite and side dish to share!

## November Meeting Summary

- The annual Holiday dinner will be held at the December meeting. The WCBA will provide turkey and ham for all attending. We ask that you bring a side dish of choice to share with the group. Our meeting will begin at 6:30 pm to allow time for the dinner.
- Danny Jaynes reported that honey sales at the State Fair amounted to about \$27,000 for the State Beekeepers Association. Thanks again to all who volunteered with the honey sales and educational areas.
- Ben Crawley purposed that the WCBA should donate pollinator jackets to the Montessori Middle School of Raleigh. The students in the school have 2 bee hives but not enough jackets for each student. The students have actively volunteered for several WCBA events this year such as Bug Fest and the State Fair.
- Juliana Rangel, Ph.D. from the NCSU bee lab spoke about the biology of honey bee mating. A recap on her presentation can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. Contact Juliana if you have any questions about her presentation: [irangel@ncsu.edu](mailto:irangel@ncsu.edu) or <http://entomology.ncsu.edu/apiculture>.
- The November raffle was a \$50.00 gift certificate redeemable at Busy Bee.

## Biology of Honey Bee Mating

At the November meeting we had the pleasure of hearing from Juliana Rangel, Ph.D. researcher from the NCSU Bee Lab. Juliana works with Dr. Tarpy at NCSU and focuses her research on the biology of honey bee mating. Juliana provided valuable information on the colony life cycle and the biology of mating. You may contact Juliana if you have any questions about her presentation: [jrangel@ncsu.edu](mailto:jrangel@ncsu.edu).

Below is a brief recap on her presentation:

- Reasons for induced Queen rearing: Swarming, emergency Queen rearing, and supersedure.
- Swarms range in population from 3,000 – 15,000 honey bees, The average feral swarm contains about 12,000 honey bees. Feral swarms survival rate up to 1 year is about 20%.
- A Queen stores millions of sperm in her spermatheca and stores millions of eggs in her ovaries. A queen typically lays about 1,000 – 1,500 eggs a day.
- A pheromone put off by the Queen called 9-ODA prohibits the Worker bees ovaries from developing, therefore, the colony is “Queen right” and she is the only laying female in the colony.
- Fertilized eggs are “bio potent” meaning they can develop into a Worker or a Queen. Queens are fed a high protein diet of royal jelly and Workers are fed a protein diet of pollen. The food given to developing larvae determines whether or not it will become a Queen or Worker.
- After a Queen emerges she spends 3 days to get oriented in the hive, 7 days after emergence she starts to take nuptial flights, 10-14 days after emergence she begins mating flights.

- It takes a Drone 36 days to reach sexual maturity once he emerges from the cell.
- Colonies only produce Drones if it is large enough to feed and care for Drones. Drones are more of a luxury to have in a hive and not necessary for the colonies’ survival.
- Mating occurs when the outside temperature is 75 degrees F, sunny with patches of blue sky, and little wind (less than 10 mph).
- A Queen flies to congregation areas to mate. The congregation areas are generally 1-3 miles away from the hive. Research shows that the reasons for placement of congregation area are still unknown, although, every year the congregation areas remain the same between colonies.
- Queens prefer to mate between 3-5 pm and Drones prefer to mate between 2-6 pm.

- When a Queen mates she flies into the congregation area while many Drones race after her. The successful Drone that grabs the Queen will be her mate. The Drone uses his claspers to hold onto the Queen because they are mating while flying. The Drone’s endophallus is then inserted into the Queen. After the mating process has occurred, the bulb is broken off and the Drone falls to his death. The remaining reproductive organs from the Drone are removed by the next Drone and the worker bees when the Queen returns to the hive.

For more information on Juliana’s presentation please contact her at: [jrangel@ncsu.edu](mailto:jrangel@ncsu.edu).

### 2010 WCBA Officers:

**President:**  
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**Education Materials:**  
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**Location of Club Extractors:**  
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 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](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 **NEW LOOK** and **FEATURES** of the WCBA website: [www.wakecountybeekeepers.org](http://www.wakecountybeekeepers.org)

## December in the Bee Yard



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

Even after a heavy snow or ice storm, 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 is a good time to do a little studying and reading on beekeeping, making plans for next spring, assembling new equipment and making those needed

repairs that were delayed during the spring.

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



## Membership Renewal for 2011

**2011 is right around the corner. Don't forget to renew your WCBA and NCSBA membership. Renewals are due by March 1, 2011.**

Renewal forms will be available at the December meeting. See Vivian Joyner, WCBA Treasurer, for renewal forms OR visit the WCBA website (available online Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>) to download the renewal form: [www.wakecountybeekeepers.org](http://www.wakecountybeekeepers.org)

**Membership for the WCBA is \$10.00 per year.**

**Membership for the NCSBA is \$15.00 per year.**

Subscriptions to *American Bee Journal* and *Bee Culture* are also available.