



# WAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION JANUARY 2009



**Next Meeting: January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 @ 7:30 pm**

Location: Wake County Commons Building,  
Carya Drive.

As of the time of doing this newsletter, I think the topic will be "Beekeeping Advice" presented by Veteran Beekeepers and Mentors of the Club. This is particularly good subject for beginner beekeepers. Even if you have been keeping bees for awhile, you can always learn new tidbits and helpful hive management tips.

Unfortunately, I am not sure who is bringing refreshments. We may have some beverages left over from December?? Remember, if anyone brings some goodies, you can always submit your receipt to Vivian our Secretary for reimbursement. I am sure we will be organized for 2009 shortly. A sign-up sheet to bring goodies and refreshments to club meetings will circulate in January. Be sure to sign up. It is nice to welcome new and not so new members with good food and beverage.

## December Meeting Summary

The nominating committee: Jim Cook, Steve Hildebrand and Bob Matheny have been busy twisting arms and getting volunteers to take on and maintain officer positions. They have come up with:

President: Danny Jaynes

Vice President: Ricky Barbour

Secretary: Jill Currin

Treasurer: Vivian Joyner

Program Chair: Andy Currin

Board of Directors: Tim Huffman

This will be voted on in January. If at anytime you wish to take on more responsibility or help you let us know!

Charles Heatherly, Current President of our State Association updated us about NC State Association happenings. We should all be proud of our State Association. The North Carolina Beekeeping Association is the largest State Association in the US- possibly the world. We are celebrating a 92 year old birthday this year! That is one year

## Correction from the December Newsletter:

Last Month, I mentioned the Committee for the Golden Achievement Program I failed to mention Kay Hanser as part of the committee. Kay showed her talent in assisting with our award winning State Fair Exhibit Booth.

As a reminder, we are compiling information for the Golden Achievement Programs "Chapter of the Year", if you have done any presentations, worked Bugfest, or bee related promotional or educational activity, selling honey at farmers market, state fair or zoo etc. - please fill out the form on the back page of the newsletter.

If you were featured in printed media, have thank you letters and can make us a copy- that would be wonderful. Give your completed form and pictures or copies to Charles Heatherly, Mary Jaynes, Michelle Barry or Kay Hanser. You can also give it to Danny or me (Jill Currin) to get to the committee.

Thank you for your hard work promoting beekeeping! Keep up the good work, and keep track of it; we will probably be asking you for this information at the end of 2009 as well!

Also, the price for the Bee Journal went up. I think I did not have it correct. Always check for accuracy with Vivian before you write your check for dues.

There are probably plenty of typos in this newsletter too, I have my "proof reader/editor" busy working on his honev-do list!

## **Board of Directors**

### **President:**

Danny Jaynes 567-9568  
[djaynes101@nc.rr.com](mailto:djaynes101@nc.rr.com)

### **Vice President:**

Ricky Barbour 269-0108  
[RickyBarbour@nc.rr.com](mailto:RickyBarbour@nc.rr.com)

### **Secretary:**

Jill Currin 906-4135  
[jmcurrin@embarqmail.com](mailto:jmcurrin@embarqmail.com)

### **Treasurer:**

Vivian Joyner 387-0164  
[vivnwhit@earthlink.net](mailto:vivnwhit@earthlink.net)

### **Program Chairman:**

Mark Reep 468-0723  
[mreep@nc.rr.com](mailto:mreep@nc.rr.com)

### **Directors:**

Jim Cook (3 year term)  
321-0217  
[jimcook@operamail.com](mailto:jimcook@operamail.com)

Larry Williams (1 year term)  
637-6558  
[Larry.a.Williams@usps.gov](mailto:Larry.a.Williams@usps.gov)

Mitchell Wren (1 year term)  
269-9781  
[wren@wans.net](mailto:wren@wans.net)

### **Phone Mentor:**

Jerry Brantley 919-269-9333

### **Website:**

[www.Wakecountybeekeepersassociation.org](http://www.Wakecountybeekeepersassociation.org)

### **Yahoo group:**

wakecountybeekeepers  
To subscribe send mail to  
[wakecountybeekeeperssubscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:wakecountybeekeeperssubscribe@yahoo.com)

Back copies of newsletters and the bylaws are available on this yahoo group.

### **Club Extractors:**

The club owns extractors that are available for members to borrow.  
Electric extractors: Ricky Barbour (in Zebulon 269-0108), Whit Joyner (in New Hill 387-0164)  
Hand extractor: Raleigh Myers (in Raleigh 787-0058)

less than our oldest member's age and 86 years older than our youngest member's age! Don't worry, we don't keep track of everyone else's age! Wake County Member and past president of NCSBA, JD Foust is responsible for helping greatly expand membership during his presidency. During this time the population of the State Association doubled in size from 1000-2000 members. He is also responsible for establishing the Golden Achievement Program.

Thanks to our strong state membership and focused leadership, we have been able to keep positions at the NC State Bee Lab working to improve and expand beekeeping in our state. The NC Master Beekeeping program written by Dr. Ambrose and Dr. Tarpis is one of the best in the country. Dr. Tarpis is one of the best of his type in the country. He is responsible for applying for and attaining grants to improve queens in NC. In the next few years we will probably see NC Step to the forefront in queen production. Please renew your NC State Association membership early to get dues in and working in our favor. Also, try and attend State Meetings, they arrange great speakers and educators. Mark Your Calendar: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> is the Spring Meeting jointly held with SCSBA in Rock Hill, SC. Our beekeepers have a good turnout at State Association meetings. In the years we have a joint meeting with SC; they have better attendance than their meeting without us. Charles said their normal attendance is about 100 for a SCSBA Meeting, when we have the joint meeting, there will be 400-500 in attendance. The Summer Meeting will be held July 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. The location is to be determined, possibly Charlotte or Wilkes County. For the summer meeting they are arranging to have Dr. Marla Spivak, developer of the

### **Attention New and Soon to be beekeepers**

If you are interested in learning tips from our knowledgeable veteran beekeepers arrive to the Jan-March Meetings ½ hour early. Various getting started topics will be covered.

The Beginners Beekeeping Course is scheduled for Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Raleigh Police Club from 8:00 am - 4:30pm. Cost of class is \$30.

You will learn all you need to know to get started with bees and receive a book, handouts and a hot dog lunch. More importantly, there are drawings to win hives and bees to get you started!

### **Mentors and Swarm Retrievers:**

I have started assembling the Swarm and Mentor lists. At the January meeting, you can sign up also, there is a portion to mark on the sign in sheet.

Mentors are very important. I was very grateful to my mentors (and regular club members whose numbers and emails I got a hold of to ask questions when we first started. When you buy frames, they do not come with instructions. Seeing and doing things in a bee yard makes more impact than reading in a book. Last year, we had the MENTOR list online, if you do not want to be posted on the website, indicate that to me when you sign up.

If you agree to be on the SWARM list, you need to be prepared to get a swarm quickly. Just like last year, we will have area coordinators with their regional lists like last year: The areas are N. Wake, S. Wake, E. Wake, W. Wake and Raleigh Proper. We only put the regional coordinators information online, and they make calls to the swarm retrievers.

## Bee-leive it or not.

In Mid December, we had a hive tip over from strong wind or an unknown source. The bottom is mounted on 4x4 legs and it got top-heavy. I presume it toppled over on Thursday when there were very strong winds. It so happened with our schedules and the winter daylight savings time, we had left home before sun up and returned after sundown. I noticed the overturned hive on Friday afternoon and went to investigate. I didn't see any bees and it was VERY cold. I assumed they had died or moved elsewhere. So I left it, By Saturday, temperatures got up to the 50s and there was some activity. I decided to set it back up, I didn't bother to put any gear on, since I was in a working on something else and just thought I could fix it expediently, plus I thought they were gone. After I got a few tangled in my hair and stung on the head, I decided to leave it. Andy attended to it on Sunday afternoon. He said the cluster was still in the top super. He fixed it back up and braced it to not topple again. Since then, they have been flying on warm days and are bringing in pollen, so, we guess they are fine. I will let you know in spring how they are faring.

Also, Believe it or not Member Steve Hildebrand's Bees are working the Red Maple Pollen In Knightdale on 12/30/08. Thanks for sending the beautiful pictures in Steve!



### What To Do this Month in the Bee Yard:

- Make sure there is ventilation to the hive.**
- Make sure the wind won't tip hives over.**
- Order Your Bees!!**
- Build / repair and clean equipment.**
- Renew your membership**
- Fill out your Golden Achievement forms and Bring to committee**

#### What the Bees are doing:

Right now, the bees are in a tight cluster, shivering to keep warm and consuming very little food. You will see them on cleansing flights when the temps are warm enough. The winter bees do live longer than the summer bees (they don't work themselves to death as quickly). Some bees will die of old age and fall to the bottom board. If you see more dead bees near your hive don't panic, the sisters will drag the dead ones out when weather permits. I thought they carry them away from the hive, but maybe not in winter. Last year I noticed with this one of my hives in particular would have a BUNCH of dead bees right at the entrance. I was a little concerned, and put a large pan that I turned over regularly to get a general measure how many were out there. One warm early spring day we opened them up to check and they were fine. They made it fine through the winter despite all the dead bees I saw.

The bees are bringing in pollen. Make sure they have plenty of food (honey or syrup). Once you start supplemental feeding them, you have to continue until the honey flow (Mid-April).

### Upcoming Events for 2009:

Wake County Beginner Beekeeping Class: March 14<sup>th</sup> @ the Raleigh Police Club

NCSBA Spring Meeting: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> is held with SCSBA in Rock Hill, SC.

NCSBA Summer Meeting will be held July 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. The location is to be determined, possibly Charlotte or Wilkes County.

Southeast Organic Beekeepers Conference: February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in West Palm Beach Florida.

<http://seobc.beekeeperspbc.com/>

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Organic Beekeepers Conference: February 27<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup> in Oracle, Arizona information on Organic Beekeepers Yahoo Group.

Northeast Treatment Free Beekeeping Conference: July 31<sup>st</sup>- August 1<sup>st</sup> near Boston, Massachusetts: <http://BeeUntoOthers.com/>



**2009 Annual Wake County Beekeepers and/or North Carolina State Beekeepers Associations Membership**

Please complete and return this form at the next Wake County Beekeepers meeting in order to register for membership in either or both the County or State Beekeepers Associations. We encourage all county members to register for State membership in order to support that organization. You may also register by mail to:

Vivian Joyner, Treasurer  
2829 Old U.S. 1  
New Hill, NC 27562

**Please print all information legibly.** One wrong letter will make the e-mail not work.

Please use the name you would like printed on your name tag.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member/Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of beehives \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Memberships:**

Wake County Beekeepers (\$10.00 each person listed above) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New Member

Renewing member

Free life-time WCBA member (over 70 years old and paying member for the last two years)

NC State Beekeepers Assoc. (\$15.00 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You will receive the Yellow Book with this membership.

We submit accurate information, but cannot guarantee it will be free of typographical errors.

**Publication Subscriptions – Coupons from the NCSBA Yellow Book can be used for savings**

American Bee Journal

It's only \$21.00-1YR or \$38.00- 2YR

New Subscription? (Y/N) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bee Culture

It's only \$19.00- 1YR or \$36.00-2YR

New Subscription? (Y/N) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to **Wake County Beekeepers Association**