



# WAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



## APRIL 2009

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**Next Meeting: April 14, 2008 @ 7:30 pm**

Location: Wake County Commons Building, Cary Drive. The topic will be "Planting for our Favorite Pollinators (Bees)" by Eleanor Silver and Andy Currin. Eleanor is the one who always has bee plants and seeds as door prizes (which she will have some this meeting too!) Steve Hildebrand, Cyndi Bell and Judy Allen have signed up to bring refreshments. Jerry Brantley wants to tell everyone not to miss this meeting!

### March Meeting Summary

Thank you Gabe Walker, Gary Beasley and Joe Verlinden for bringing refreshments to the March meeting.

Old Business: There are proposed changes to our WCBA By-laws that were mentioned at the meeting last month. These are currently in committee headed by James Knox, shortly these points will be brought before the club and officially voted on.

There are also proposed changes to The NC Beekeepers Association constitution and by-laws. You can find out what these are by logging on the state website ([www.ncbeekeepers.org](http://www.ncbeekeepers.org)). Your user name and password are on the back of your membership card. Voice your opinion via phone or email before they are brought to vote.

Check your name and numbers on the swarm list if you signed up. Swarm Season is upon us- be ready to go help and get some bees if you are signed up! The swarm guidelines as listed on the website are:

1. There is no cost for removal, gratuities accepted.
2. You have the knowledge and equipment.
3. You have to respond quickly, arrive at the site within 2 hours.
4. You have to follow up with the area coordinator upon completion.

If you are on the list to observe a swarm you will be called at an opportune time by the area coordinator for your area. For removal of a swarm from a building, it can get expensive make sure you have proper insurance. The Summer Meeting will be held in North Wilkesboro. They will announce "Chapter of the Year" Danny hopes many of us will attend.

Ricky Barbour, Past-President of WCBA and Award-Winning Mead Maker spoke about "How to Catch a Swarm" so we should all be ready. Ricky started off telling us a story about the first swarm he caught. It was a colorful story about a huge swarm that filled up 2 hive bodies. The colorful part was mainly a very inebriated proclaimed former beekeeper. Usually swarms are very docile, but they ate up the drunk onlooker. The first thing to make sure is to have a contact person and phone number. Make sure you give the contact person your number to call in case the bees take off while you are in route.

What you need to assemble your "Swarm Retrieval Kit". Have this ready in your vehicle or easily accessed.

**A new home** for the bees: a hive body (including lid, bottom and moving screen) or a cardboard nuc box.

Brushy Mountain sells a nice "front door" for a hive body. If the location is nearby, you can set that up, get the queen inside the hive body and leave the front door open. Ricky tells us you will know right away if the queen is in the box, they bees will either march right in near her, or move on out. If you have gotten the queen in the hive body, you can go for a couple of hours, until dusk when all the bees will go back inside, close it up and take them home. It is handy to have a **cordless drill** and **ratchet strap** to secure the hive body for transport.

If the bees are on a tree limb, you have to make sure you have the homeowner/property owner's permission before you cut anything. Many want the bees gone but not at the sake of their plants. If you can cut the limb **clippers** the larger the limb the larger the tool needed. Ricky warned us, do not use a handsaw, the girls do not

## **Board of Directors**

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### **Phone Mentor:**

Jerry Brantley 919-269-9333

Website:

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

### **Location of Club Extractors:**

The club owns extractors that are available for members to borrow.

Ricky Barbour: Zebulon 269-0108

Whit Joyner: New Hill 387-0164

Raleigh Myers: Raleigh 787-0058

James Knox: Raleigh 847-5098.

like that so much. He learned that one the hard way. If the bees are on a fence or something you cannot clip, sometimes it is handy to hold a chemical free clean **5 gallon bucket** under the cluster, give a firm tap to their hanging location, and they should fall into your bucket. If you transport them in this type of thing make sure they have ventilation and don't get too hot.

You can use a **bee vacuum** if the swarm is on the ground. A bee vacuum is very gentle low suction pressure so that the bees do not get injured or extra agitated (which they will get a little anyway) there is design directions online if you want to build one. You can also put a soft landing spot inside the vacuum for them to land. Ricky has also swept bees up (**bee brush** and **dust pan**). If the hive is high in a tree, a **5 gallon bucket with a telescoping pole** is handy to reach the cluster and do the "bump and dump" technique. Ricky has one that he has used for years, that he conveniently stores laying on the ground outside year-round. That must be a trait on the "Y" chromosome thinking you are "storing" things by lying them on the ground!

Ricky tells us: be prepared to impress the masses. He has had up to 25-30 spectators asking questions. It is a good idea to have them back a distance, but you can still educate people about bees on your swarm retrievals. Keep track if you do to submit for "Chapter of the Year". You can also keep a log of driving distance possibly for mileage tax purposes. Ricky mentions another important thing to carry in addition to hand and hive tools just in case: **duct tape**. In addition, a **camera** to document the swarm is good to have. Some people like to have a **squirt bottle with sugar water** to spray the swarm down with. Some people use vanilla scented sugar water.

Ricky so far has not introduced any disease into his hives via swarms, but mentions it is a good idea to quarantine them. He tells us of a Master Beekeeper who brought a swarm home, and did not isolate them from his hives. Within a year he lost all his hives to Foulbrood.

With a new swarm you will have to keep an eye on them, they may have a virgin queen or an old queen. Re-queening a swarm is never a bad idea.

Danny likes to give the people he retrieves swarms from a little jar of honey. That is a great idea, if you have extra honey (which many of us do not). Most people do not realize how good "real" honey is, many get honey from the grocery store. You might even get some future customers out of it.

Some people like to have their **Bee suit** or at least a **hat** and **screened veil** to retrieve a swarm.

## **Building a Better Bee**

Earth & Sky Radio Series, program # 5666 w/ hosts Deborah Byrd, Joel Block, Lindsay Patterson and Jorge Salazar. <http://www.earthsky.org/radioshows/52933/what-does-it-mean-to-build-a-better-bee>

Honey bees in the United States are in decline. What scientists call Colony Collapse Disorder has wiped out about a third of U.S. beehives. EarthSky spoke to bee breeder Susan Cobey of the University of California Davis about building a better bee.

Susan Cobey focuses on breeding bees that can recognize pests and disease and remove them from the hive. Cobey said her long term plan is to enhance the honey bee gene pool.

That's important because we're dependent on bees for our food supply. They pollinate most of our crops – their work is worth fourteen billion dollars a year. A wider gene pool provides tools to maintain the health of the entire US population of honey bees.

Dr. Cobey does that by crossing domestic bees with European bees. Bees in Europe have always been selected for pest and disease resistance. She's confident the bee population will eventually recover. So Cobey believes a hybrid will make a stronger bee.

## Upcoming Events for 2009:

The Virginia State Beekeepers Association will hold their next meeting on April 17 & 18, 2009, @ Northampton Community Center in Hampton, VA, 23666 to register:

<http://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/meetings/RegistrationSpring09.pdf>

Speakers include:

- Ross Conrad (Vermont beekeeper),
- Nancy Ostiguy (Penn State Univ.),
- Nancy Adamson (Virginia Tech),
- Juliana Rangel (Cornell Univ.),
- Wyatt Mangum (Univ. of Mary Washington),
- Rick Fell (Virginia Tech),
- Keith Tignor (Virginia State Apiarist).

NCSBA Summer Meeting will be held July 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> in N. Wilkesboro. Mark your calendar to attend. "Chapter of the Year" will be announced at this meeting. Danny thinks we are going to win and would like many members to erupt in cheers when we are crowned Chapter of the Year!

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



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

April is the month when the hive is fully operational. Take off the entrance reducer to assist in increased activity. This is the first full month of honey bee activity here. Now is the time to add a few supers of drawn comb if you want the girls to fill them up with honey. Some people add them singly, others add 2 at a time. If we have successive rainy days make sure the girls do not run out of food. This is a critical time with the hive population expanding until the nectar flow starts. Swarm season is here make sure they do not get too crowded. You can also check for swarm cells. If you have a weaker hive you can exchange hive locations to even out foragers when they are out in the field mid-day.

What's Blooming (copied from [www.ncbeekeepers.com](http://www.ncbeekeepers.com) website)

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

## Message from Our President:

I would like to thank the following people for their superb help in making our “Beginner Beekeepers Workshop” such a success. We had 86 in our class and their help was greatly appreciated:

Instructors for the Workshop, Jack Tapp, Busy Bee Apiaries; James Knox, Past President WCBA; Ham Morton, Master Beekeeper; James Howard, Past President WCBA; Will Hicks, Bee Inspector Northeast Piedmont; Al Pleasant & Mary Jaynes for helping set up and assisting with cooking. Ricky & Pam Barbour for cooking our lunch and making the Police Club available for our Workshop.

Thanks to Charles Heatherly, Past President NCSBA, for administering the Certified Test for 42 members at our “Working in the Hive” class. Thanks to Denton & Cyndi Bell for providing the bees. Thanks to Denton, Cyndi and Mary Jaynes for grading Practical Test. Special Thank you to Jennifer Keller, Agriculture Research Technician NCSU, for the use of the Bee Lab and her assistance throughout the day.

Danny Jaynes, President, WCBA

## “Cooking with Honey Annual Contest”

The annual contest for “Foods Cooked with Honey” will be held during the summer meeting in North Wilkesboro, Jul 9-11. All entries in the competition must contain honey as the principal sweeten ingredient. The purpose of this competition is to demonstrate skill in the use of honey in cooking. In the next newsletter more information will be given on the entry categories, judging criteria and rules to follow in submitting your entries. Everyone should begin searching for honey recipes. This year we are looking for a record number of entries.

Mary Jaynes, Awards/Contest Coordinator, Cooking with Honey

## Mentor List:

Barbour	Ricky	3440 Neuma Dr.	Zebulon	919-269-0108	RickyBarbour86@yahoo.com
Bell	Denton	2751 Campbell Rd.	Raleigh	919-859-6734	bellshoney@aol.com
Borge	Frank	1320 Salem Church Rd.	Apex	919-303-9774	fabeez261@yahoo.com
Cook	Jim	90 Rolling Acres Road	Youngsville	919-321-0217	jimcook@operamail.com
Green	Larry A.	424 Woodland	Wake Forest	919-556-9212	TLCLarry@nc.rr.com
Williams	Larry	7105 Starchase Ln.	Fuquay-Varina	919-557-6050	Larry.a.williams@usps.gov
Hughes	Shannon	7932 Twin Pines Way	Fuquay-Varina	919-342-5570	webmaster@hugheshoney.com
Pulley	Barry	3200 Forestville Rd.	Raleigh	919-266-2543	bpulley@nc.rr.com
Huffman	Tim	2061 NC 97 E.	Zebulon	919-269-6790	timjoehuffman@aol.com
Currin	Andrew	6410 Wimberly Rd.	Willow Springs	919-868-4014	acurrin@embarqmail.com
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Grable	Chris	11908 Deer Run	Raleigh		cpgrable007@hotmail.com

**Bee-lieve it or not: This is NOT an April Fools Joke either.**

Some people want more governmental control! Or maybe it is the Factory Farms, Agri and Chemical businesses that have extra money to spend lobbying to take away our freedom of for healthy food choices for your family- so we have to rely on them more and they can make more money.

JUST IN TIME FOR EARTH DAY: There are 2 bills that if passed, will make it illegal for you to have a home garden. Moreover, they will abolish organic food.

House Resolution 875, or the Food Safety Modernization Act of 2009. Sponsored by Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., whose husband is on Chemical Company Monsanto's payroll.

Senate Bill 425, or the Food Safety and Tracking Improvement Act, sponsored by Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio.

HR 875 and S 425 are the pieces of legislation concerning trying to eliminate organic food. It will be required to spray pesticides and insecticides on all food, eliminating "organic" food. It will impact what food choices you have and also reach farther into soil and water quality and the environment.

If you wish to read more:

<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-s425/text>

<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h875/text>

Contact our senators and representatives about this

[Burr, Richard](#) - (R - NC)  
217 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510  
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Web Form: [burr.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.Conta...](http://burr.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.Conta...)

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Write Your US House of Representative: <http://www.house.gov/Welcome.shtml>

