



WAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 7:30 pm

Location: Wake County Commons Building

Featured Speakers: Beekeeping Q & A with WCBA honorary members Jack Tapp, James Knox, and James Howard

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New Beekeepers & Soon to be Beekeepers:

We are asking for everyone to arrive prior to our regularly scheduled meeting at 6:30 pm to receive free instruction on what do to in preparation for receiving bees and becoming a beekeeper.

President's Message

As the 2010 Wake County Beekeepers Association President, I would first like to thank my predecessor, Danny Jaynes for being such a fine leader of this association. This association has a strong membership and is the largest beekeeping association in the state of North Carolina. I challenge every member to make the WCBA even stronger this year.

As President, I would like to see some of our old fundamentals come to surface such as having a 2-3 minute time to discuss what to do in the beeyard each month. After all, it is the fundamentals that help make us better beekeepers!

As members of the WCBA, several volunteer activities and committees need your support. Those



activities and committees include but are not limited to: **Swarm List, Mentor List, Educational Beekeeping Committee, Bug Fest Committee, and the State Fair Committee.** If any of these areas interest you please let me know. We will have sign-up sheets at some of the meetings and you may also personally contact me at: 919-306-2735 or

wrennbees@yahoo.com.

If any member has any questions or comments I welcome them to call or email me and I will do my best to answer those questions and concerns.

I am thankful for the opportunity to lead the WCBA and I look forward to all the great things in store for us in 2010.

-Mitchell

Membership Renewal for 2010

Don't forget to renew your WCBA and NCBA memberships for 2010. Bring your check books and fill out the renewal forms that will be available at the February meeting.

Please remember that you must renew your membership by March 1, 2010.

Failure to renew your membership will result in your removal from the

database and you will no longer receive correspondence from the club.



Upcoming Events:

The North Carolina State Beekeepers Association Spring 2010 Meeting will be held March 5-6 at Robeson Community College in Lumberton, NC. The Summer Meeting is TBD, possibly Rowan County. The Eastern Apicultural Society will have its annual conference in Boone, NC, August 2-6, 2010.

Volunteer Opportunities:

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 if interested. All presentation materials will be available for use from the WCBA – Larry Williams has those education materials. This is a great way to earn your service credits toward your beekeeping certification.

New Beekeepers Workshop

New Beekeepers and soon to be Beekeepers! The Wake County Beekeepers Association is offering a one day beginning beekeeping seminar.

When: Saturday, March 13, 2010 from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.

Where: Commons Bldg., Cooperative Extension Center, Wake Office Park, Cary Drive, Raleigh.

Cost: \$30 – Includes a book, handouts, and a hotdog lunch.

Sponsor: Wake County Beekeepers Association

Additional Information:

Date for working in the hive – TBA. Door prizes will be given away (10 New Hives & Bees) to lucky winners.

Keep in mind that this class fills up fast and spaces are limited.

To sign up for this one day event please contact:

Danny Jaynes at:
djaynes101@nc.rr.com
or 919-567-9568

If spaces are still available, a sign-up sheet will be available at the February meeting.



January Meeting Summary

Former president Danny Jaynes left office with a positive feeling on the general status of the WCBA. Danny remarked that the WCBA has a very strong membership and financial position going into 2010. Danny would like to thank all of the members for their support, hard work and cooperation during his term as association President. Both Danny and his wife Mary have done an excellent job leading the association.

The members of the Wake County Beekeepers Association would like to offer Danny a special -



Treasurer Vivian Joyner announced that currently the association has \$6,506 in the account. The beginning balance for the association in 2009 was \$6,300. The big money maker for the year is Bugfest. Money is also made by holding the new beekeeper workshop once a year.

The association has the resources to purchase new equipment and educational materials. If anyone would like to suggest new equipment, etc. for the association to purchase, please let the President – Mitchell Wrenn know.

Currently 2 extractors are in the works to be purchased to replace 2 older extractors. As a member of the WCBA all of the equipment and materials are available for your use.

An election was held for the 2010 officers of the WCBA. A motion was made and seconded that the following individuals be chosen to represent the WCBA in 2010:

President: Mitchell Wrenn

Vice President: Ricky Barbour

Secretary: Sarah Pleasants

Treasurer: Vivian Joyner

Program Chair: Kate Haner

Board of Directors: Danny Jaynes (3 yrs.), Dan Brubaker (1 yr.) and Tim Hoffman (2 yrs.)

Please look for these new officers at our next meeting. They welcome any members to voice ideas and concerns for 2010.

Insects and People

We were honored to have Dr. John Ambrose from North Carolina State University as our featured speaker. Dr. Ambrose needs little introduction to most in the beekeeping world as a founding member of the apiculturist program at NCSU, an excellent professor, and (my personal favorite) an inspiration into the world of man's connection with honey bees.

Dr. Ambrose spoke on the historical references to beekeeping.



This 7,000 year old cave man painting from France connects the importance of honey bees to humans as the first source of a sweetener in large quantities.

Honey was considered a very valuable commodity. In Grecian times honey bees and goats appeared on their currency connecting the idea that milk and honey were as valuable as currency.



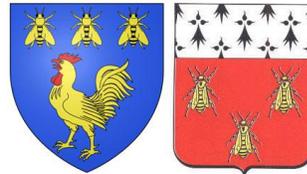
Early depictions of cupid show a little cherub holding a bow and arrow.



The arrow sometimes displayed a honey bee at the pointed end and even the bow was made of a tiny string of honey bees.

The symbol of honey bees were used in every aspect of early life: Christ eating honey as a child – a pure

and royal food source, political cartoons of the clergymen – poking fun at the Catholic church's organizational structure being that of honey bees, and even shields displaying the a skep or honey bees – as a symbolism of industry.



Skeps were the most common beehive before the introduction of the Langstroth removable frame hives in 1860. Skeps took about 8-12 hours to construct and did not last more than about 2 years because the straw would rot and weather over time. The Langstroth hive gave way to disease inspections and the general well being of the hive.

Dr. Ambrose inspired us to see beyond the obvious connection between insects and people.

2010 WCBA Officers:

President:

Mitchell Wrenn
919-306-2735
wrennbees@yahoo.com

Vice President:

Ricky Barbour
919-269-0108
rickybarbour86@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Sarah Pleasants
919-880-8208
sarahpleasants@piedmontliho.com

Treasurer:

Vivian Joyner
919-387-0164
vivnwhit@earthlink.net

Program Chairman:

Kate Hanser
919-387-7631
kahanser@ncsu.edu

Board of Directors:

Danny Jaynes
919-567-9568
djaynes@nc.rr.com

Dan Brubaker

919-387-6731
jdbrubaker@yahoo.com

Tim Hoffman

919-269-6790
timioehuffman@aol.com

Phone Mentor:

Jerry Brantley
919-269-9333

Education Materials:

Larry Williams
919-637-6558
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, Whit Joyner:
New Hill 919-387-0164
Raleigh Myers: Central
Raleigh 919-787-0058
James Knox: Raleigh 919-847-5098.

Rooftop Beehive Project in Downtown Raleigh

Beekeepers have been placing beehives in unusual places such as rooftops of penthouses in New York City for some time now. With the emphasis on going "green" the timing is right to take a look at the potential of placing beehives on rooftops in downtown Raleigh.

Several restaurants are looking into the idea of actually growing some of their produce on their own rooftops and beekeepers might be able to tie into that effort by having beehives pollinate those gardens. Dr. Ambrose and a student from NCSU are looking for people who are interested in assisting with

this project – either working in the hives or providing the bees.

For more information on how to be a part of the downtown Raleigh rooftop beehive project contact:

Dr. Ambrose:
919-515-4373 or
john_ambrose@ncsu.edu



Advanced Beekeeping Course

Starting in February, an advanced beekeeping course will be offered. This is **Not** an introductory course! These classes have been developed to educate honeybee enthusiasts on how to do more than just keep bees. Experts in the field of apiculture will present a more detailed look into the secrets of honeybee management. Each class is three hours in length, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, at the Workforce Development Center. (135 Bestwood Drive, Clayton, NC 27520) Contact Amie Newsome for more information at 919-989-5380 or amie_newsome@ncsu.edu. Cost: \$35.00 / person

Interested in raising queens in North Carolina?

Check out the Born and Bred in NC website for details on how to sign up for this informational session on how to raise queens in NC:

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

This workshop series is conducted by the NCBSA and the NC State Apiculture Program.



February 4, 2010 ~ Marketing

- Good Neighbor
- Promoting Hive Products
- Pollination



February 11, 2010 ~ Advanced Techniques

- Apitherapy
- Swarm Removal
- Packaged Bee Production



February 18, 2010 ~ Honeybee Biology

- Anatomical Parts of a Honeybee
- Anatomical Parts of a Flower



February 25, 2010 ~ Labels

- Pesticides
- Honey Labels

Make Checks Payable To:

Johnston County Cooperative Extension
 Johnston County Agricultural Center
 2736 NC Highway 210, Smithfield, NC 27577
 ✱ Amie Newsome, Commercial Horticultural
 Extension Agent
 (919) 989- 5380 amie_newsome@ncsu.edu



General 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
- 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

We look forward to hearing from you!



Check out the WCBA website:
www.wakecountybeekeepers.org

- Up to date information on the WCBA events
- Educational resources
- WCBA Newsletters
- Mentor and Swarm Lists
- Valuable information on what the WCBA has available for you!

February in the Bee Yard

The first hive examination can usually be made in late February. Select a bright sunny day with calm winds and a temperature of at least 60°F. This first check should be kept brief so that the brood will not be chilled. The following items should be checked during the month of February:

- 1) **Hive Ventillation:** If moisture is found during this check put slightly larger spacers on the topside of the inner cover.
- 2) **Evaluation of Food**
- 3) **Check for brood**

Stores: If your bees are still clustered in the brood chamber and the super is still mostly full of honey then you should be ok. If your bees are clustered in the top super check and 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).

and bees: Remove the frames until you begin to see bees. Then check for eggs or brood. If you see eggs or brood the queen is alive and laying. If you do not combine your weak hive with a strong hive or requeen.

Information from:
The Alamance County Beekeepers Association - <http://alamancebeekeepers.com/feb06.aspx>



WCBA 2010 Officer Bios

President: Mitchell Wrenn



Mitchell has been keeping bees all his life, mainly for pollination of the crops on his farm. Beekeeping became a hobby for him in 2000, when Mitchell and his son, Austin Wrenn began to keep bees together. Beekeeping has become a special part in their father - son relationship.

Vice President: Ricky Barbour



Ricky began keeping bees in 2000. Since then he served as President of the WCBA in 2006 & 2007. His favorite part about beekeeping is the excitement in catching swarms! Ricky also enjoys the best part about beekeeping – making his favorite beverage of choice – mead.

Secretary: Sarah Pleasants



Sarah graduated from NCSU with a degree in Business Management in May 2009. Sarah is a certified beekeeper working towards her journeyman certification. She and her father, Al Pleasants have been active members of the WCBA for about 3 years.

Treasurer: Vivian Joyner

Vivian has been beekeeping for 10 years. Mr. Pennington was the mentor for Vivian and her late husband, Whit Joyner. Vivian never imagined she would become a beekeeper when she was growing up, but she has truly enjoyed the "girls" as Whit called them, and the wonderful honey they produce.

Program Chair: Kate Hanser



Kate, originally from New England has considered NC home since 1995 with her husband, Dan Brubaker. Currently

she is a New Hill resident, a novice beekeeper, and a first-year graduate student in the Dept. of Landscape Architecture at NCSU.

Board of Directors:

Danny Jaynes (3 yrs.)

Colonel Danny Jaynes retired from the active Army in 1986 after more than 30 years with the United States Army Band. After retirement in 2000 he and Mary, his wife moved to Willow Springs and began beekeeping as a hobby and today manages more than 45 hives. Danny is the past president of WCBA in 2008 and 2009 and is now the 2nd Vice President of the NCSBA.

Dan Brubaker (1 yr.)



Dan is a Civil Engineer with the City of Raleigh Stormwater Division. He is a US Navy Veteran and a Florida native who has called NC home since 1991. Dan and his wife, Kate Hanser have been keeping bees since 2008.

Tim Huffman (2 yrs.)