



Wake County Beekeepers Association

June 2007

Editor's Notes

Thanks to Frank Borge for getting the name tags to the last meeting and to Shannon Hughs for taking notes so that there would be some content in this newsletter.

How are your bees doing? Reports on the honey crop have not been good this year. First there was the cold snap in March that hit the early buds on the tulip poplars and caused an increase in swarming. High winds knocked many tulip poplar blossoms down. Dry weather finished off the honey flow.

Now the bees have to make it through the long, hot summer. Are you going to leave enough of the meager honey crop for the bees or are you going to take honey and have to feed them before the summer is over? The increase in ethanol production is having a rippling effect: corn syrup is more expensive as are other products that use corn directly or indirectly.

Send articles, information, and classified ads to barrycary@aol.com by the 25th of the month.

Michelle Barry, secretary WCBA

June 12 Meeting Topic

Our own Master Beekeeper Larry Green will demonstrate harvesting and processing products from the hive. If you are a new beekeeper, you will not want to miss this meeting. You can read all the books about how to extract, but it just doesn't click until you actually get a chance to try it under expert supervision. Time: 7:30pm, Location: Wake County Commons Building, Cary Drive.

Raffles

At the May meeting the club raffled off a full hive from Busy Bee. At the June meeting there will be a raffle of two nucs of bees. Bring your dollars to buy tickets.

Refreshments

Thanks to Ann Marie Gerney, Matt Flint, and Mike Hinton for bringing refreshments in May. Those signed up for June are Wendi Raig 602-1400, John D. Mille 363-1463, and Steve Hildebrand 266-9464. Be sure to call one another and coordinate who is bringing drinks, and who is bringing food.

Bee-lieve It or Not

Jerry Brantley's bees are working so hard they are working long into the twilight. He has seen them carrying lightning bugs to navigate in the dark.

Young Beekeeper Loses Honey Crop and Equipment

One of our teenage beekeepers, Austin Wrenn, lost all his honey crop and extracting equipment when the building they were stored in caught on fire. Austin is the young man who faithfully attends the meetings and sits at the front left of the room. His family has often blessed our group with fresh produce as door prizes.

Door Prizes

Thank you to Steve Brown for fresh eggs, Jerry Brantley for two inside feeders, Mitchell Wrenn for strawberries. Thank you to anyone else who donated and was forgotten since I wasn't at the last meeting to write down the information.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2007**

President

Ricky Barbour 269-0108
RickyBarbour@nc.rr.com

Vice President

Bill Herndon 934-4406
bherndon@nccommerce.com

Secretary

Michelle Barry 363-5458
Barrycary@aol.com

Treasurer

Whit Joyner 387-0164
vivnwhit@earthlink.net

Program Chairman

Larry Williams 501-9507
larry.a.williams@usps.gov

Directors

Jim Cook (3 year term)
919-321-0217
jimcook@operamail.com

Freddy Gregory (2 year term)
639-5758
fgre393@aol.com

James Knox (1 year term)
847-5098
James_Knox@bellsouth.net

Phone Mentor:

Jerry Brantley 919-269-9333

Website:

<http://www.ncneighbors.com/wcba>

Yahoo group:

wakecountybeekeepers
to subscribe send mail to
[wakecountybeekeepers-
subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:wakecountybeekeepers-subscribe@yahoogroups.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 extractor: Ricky Barbour
(in Zebulon 269-0108)
Hand extractor: Raleigh Myers (in
Raleigh 787-0058)

JULY 12-14, 2007 NCSBA SUMMER CONFERENCE IN KINSTON, LENOIR COUNTY, NC

It is that time to start thinking about the summer meeting. If you are new to beekeeping, twice a year the NC state beekeepers put on a conference. Speakers talk about the latest beekeeping research, workshops give more information, and vendors display and sell equipment. You do not want to miss this opportunity. Kinston is close enough to make a day trip if you do not want to stay overnight. Here is the website for more information:

<http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/meetings.htm>

Old Business from May Meeting

- Beekeeping Class made almost \$1000.
- Anyone interested in beekeeping class books can buy them at club cost (see Ricky).
- Projector, can get one for around \$600-800 w/wireless mic at \$200. a) motion to purchase w/2nd. Motion passes.
- Raffle tickets for beehive from Busy Bee.

New Business from May Meeting

- Bugfest, need volunteers. Date not available yet.
- Ben Crawley, package (140 w/70 left) bees coming in 5/18 from Georgia 919 368 5217 (Ben's number) ~\$65 per package. All the bees may be spoken for by the time you receive this newsletter.
- Harold Curtis is selling queens, 336-376-6211.
- Request from NC Baptist Org for beekeeper to go to Campbell to setup observation hive/exhibit.
- T-shirts, 5 extra shirts left, see Larry Green, he is making a 2nd order.

May Speaker: James Knox (queen rearing)

- Likes to take advantage of bee's natural instinct.
- Beginning in March, strong hive will start making queen cells. Take the cells and put in nuc box. Put in extra frame of brood, extra frame of honey, and DB feeder.
- 4-11 days you will have a queen, 6-7 days after out of cell she will mate.
- Hobby beekeeper with one hive is not good. You need at least two.
- You can also pull a frame of egg/larva and let the bees raise a queen.
- SHB gives queenrearers a fit. Give at least two frames of bees to keep control.
- How do you prevent bees from split to go back home? Close up the nuc for 24hrs, then lean a board against hole.
- Find a friend's yard to put nuc in for best genetics .

May Speaker: Hugh Nourse (Honey Bee Plants)

- Master Gardner, tries to use native plants for his own gardens.
- Bee keeper concerns - bloom schedule, how long, attractiveness and profusion.
- Good ones in the area (Spring Beauty, Service Berry, Dandelion, White Clover, Buttonbush, Verbena, Eastern Baccharis, Witch Hazel, Chickweed)
- Various Plants are Chickweed, Trout lily, Spring Beauty (Clayton Virginica, Clayton Caroliniana), Bluet (appeal to small native bees), Blue-Eyed Grass, Serviceberry, Carolina Silverbell, Tupelo (black gum), Button Bush, Autumn Olive, Blue Star, Virginia Sweetspire, Lobelia cardinalis (only hummingbirds), Blue Lobelia (only hummingbirds, bumblebees), Pink Turtleheads (bumblebees), Ironweed, Beartongue/Penstemon (drought tolerant, watch out for hybrids), Echinacea (butterfly magnets), Rudbeckia hirta, Blue Salvia (butterflies), Phlox (better for butterflies), Sundrops (very good), Caryopteris, Catmint (very good), Catnip (pest in the garden), Gayfeather, Agastache (very good, highly recommended), Joe Pye Weed (dependable, late bloomer), Meadow Beauty (grows in wet spots, wonderful), Goldenrod, Aster (2-10ft tall), Eastern Baccharis (November bloom), Eastern Baccharis (male/female plants), Witch Hazel (December/January)
- Home Garden Recommendations-> chickweed, agastache, catmint, catnip, clover, dandelion, echinacea, joe pye weed, goldenrod, witch hazel
- Real key for beekeepers in NC are trees due to history of forests in this state (tulip poplars, maple, black gum, holly, sourwood). You get more sq ft of blossoms with trees than any perennial.

Q&A

- 1) What plants provide a stinky smell? A: Stinky Aster, Watercress
- 2) What kinds of clover? A: Alsiki, Ledena, Red Clover, White Dutch
- 3) Source for plants? Park Seed, most garden stores have the recommended list above
- 4) How do you discourage Yellow Native Carolina

Jasmine (toxic to bees)? N/A
5) Vitex? Recommended

Best class at NC State

According to Sports Illustrated, beekeeping at NC State beat out both "sex" and the "beach".

Every college has a class that students typically rush to sign up for and NC State is no different. Students can choose from PEC 213 – Human Sexuality to IDS 220 -- Coastal and Ocean. But the best? ENT 203 – Bees and Beekeeping. Classes get to enter a swarm of bees, taste every honey known to man and even make honey wine during the semester."

Source link:

<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2007/sioncampus/05/14/roadtrip.ncstate/>

Fantasy Beekeeping Pictures

The first two sets in this slideshow have some pretty amazing bee keeping pictures:

<http://www.adam-makarenko.com/slideshow.html>

George Kelly of Dadant in the News

Here is the link to a newspaper story about our friend George Kelly, retired manager of Dadant's local (VA) office, who attended most (if not all) of our state meetings while he was the manager.

Be sure to click "The Bee Keeper" link above the first paragraph to see the slide show of George installing a package of bees.

http://www.newsadvance.com/servlet/Satellite?page_name=LNA%2FMGArticle%2FLNA_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1173350750207&path=!news!archive

Club Member Celebrates Birthday

Golden Pennington's 92rd birthday was May 24.