



Wake County Beekeepers Association

March 2007

Editor's Notes

I hope by the time you get this newsletter you are either packing for the spring meeting (conference) or just returning from it. Two years ago when James Tew spoke at the NC meeting he said that no other state puts on the quality conferences that we have here.

Now I've been doing this newsletter for over a year. I know it is full of bad writing and grammar errors. I keep hoping someone will complain and then I will sign them on as the proof-reader. So far no one has been that crazy.

I learned my lesson about complaining recently. After spending hours on the Golden Achievement form, I sent a whining letter full of comments and questions to the chairman. The next day I was appointed to the Golden Achievement committee!

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

Michelle Barry, secretary WCBA

February Announcements

T-Shirts

A T-shirt order form was passed around for those wanting to order WCBA T-shirts. They will be sold at cost and T-shirts will only be made for those who have pre-ordered.

Summer 2008 Conference

Wake County will host the 2008 Conference. Many members raised their hands and said they will help. Exactly what needs to be done and when is not entirely clear.

Short Course Bee School

Still in the works, no further information.

Door Prizes

Thank you to Steve Brown for fresh eggs, and Brushy Mountain for a cap and aprons. Remember to contact Steve at sbrown@trianglerentacar.com before the meeting to purchase farm-fresh eggs that he will bring to the meeting. Also bring empty egg cartons that he can re-use.

Spring Meeting

The Spring meeting is going to be fantastic. It is not too late to decide to go. You can walk in and register. See www.ncbeekeepers.org/meetings.htm for more information.

Refreshments

Thanks to Dawn and Mike Childers for bringing refreshments. (If there was someone else who brought food, sorry for not getting that information). For the March meeting, the club will provide the refreshments. In April the following people have signed up: Mitchell and Austin Wrenn 269-9781, Richard Warren 851-4897, and Jerry Short Brantley 269-9333.

Swarm List

Do you want to be on the swarm list for this spring? We will pass around a sheet at the next meeting for members to sign if they want to be called for swarms in their area.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2007**

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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)

February Program

David MacFawn joined Brushy Mountain Bee Farm as manager effective July 10, 2006. He has twice come to our meetings with new equipment for us to examine. This time he showed us these new products:

- Queen hotel which is a four way nuc
- A caution sign for your apiary
- An Ulster observation hive
- A new screen entrance design
- A new robber screen
- A teaching hive with beautiful photographs mounted in frames
- A new bee vacuum

All of these items are in the 2007 Brushy Mountain catalog which you can pick up at the next meeting.

Apilife-Var is now available for any beekeeper to use. It used to be under section 18 of the pesticide law which meant you needed a pesticide license to buy it.

David talked about wax versus plastic foundation. A show of hands in class showed that many beekeepers still prefer using wax foundation. He mentioned a bee journal article by Tom Seeley that indicated that bees produce more honey on wax foundation. Perhaps comb building is easier on wax because the bees reuse some of the wax from the foundation to make their comb.

One difference that David thought was worth noting was that beeswax conducts heat three times better than plastic. He asked a question worth more research: Can bees easily maintain a brood rearing cluster temperature of 94 degrees with plastic over several frames as easily as they can with full wax combs?

David also talked about the magic number of congestion to prevent swarming which research has shown to be five bees per square inch. He calculated if you had a maximum population of 50,000 bees that would be four deeps if they were ten frame and 6 deeps if they were 8 frame. If you have medium 8 frame equipment, be prepared to get out the step ladder and stack them 9 high. Of course we are talking about strong hives bringing in nectar at peak season. You will want to remove some of the equipment when population drops so the small hive beetle does not take over.

David talked about the benefits of eight frame equipment. He noted that the eight frame colony does not have as much trouble drawing out the edge frames. There is less chance in the winter of the colony starving on one side while there is still honey on the other side of the hive. (After lifting a ten frame deep of honey off the top of a hive to get to the bottom box, your editor is a strong believer in standardizing on all eight frame medium equipment.) It used to be that Brushy Mountain was the only supplier of eight frame equipment, but now two of their competitors carry it.

March Meeting Topic

The March meeting will be held the regular time and place (March 13, 2007, 7:30 at the Wake County Commons Building, Carya Drive, Raleigh (see <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/wake/directions.pdf> for directions)).

We will be having an expert speaker, Dr. Larry Williams, who will be giving a presentation on insect venom allergies, the risks, and what can be done to treat serious and potentially deadly anaphylactic reactions. He will also be providing us with knowledge to help us know what is a normal reaction to an insect sting as well as the symptoms and emergency first-aid procedures and preventative measures for those who experience severe reactions to insect stings.

In addition Dr. Williams will be speaking to us about the latest information on the advances in insect venom immunotherapy which provides long term results in desensitizing individuals to specific insect venoms for those who have experienced serious reactions to stinging insects. It will become clear that there is an alternative now for many people who don't want to give up beekeeping as a hobby or profession.

Dr. Williams is from Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center and specializes in pediatric allergy and immunology. Those who attended the Spring NC State Beekeepers Association in Clemmons, NC, a couple of years ago may remember hearing Dr. Williams speak on this subject. He is a great public speaker and is able to express this technical subject in language that everyone can understand.

With so many new beekeepers we want to make sure that everyone interested knows about it and is given the opportunity to attend. The information that you will learn could potentially help you to save someone's life or your own, should a serious reaction occur as the result of insect stings.

Refreshments will be provided by Wake County Beekeepers Association.

We have invited Chatham County beekeepers to join us at this meeting.

What to Do Now

Jack Tapp was gracious again to share his vast knowledge with us and answer questions.

He reminded us that if we are feeding pollen, we probably should be feeding syrup also.

If you are feeding corn syrup and it has solidified, warm it slowly at a low temperature. Heating it over 200 degrees results in a chemical change that is not good for the bees.

Check your spring mite levels. The warm winter has not lead to a long break in brooding resulting in more mite production.

Jack has no more nucs for sale this spring, but will have queens starting the beginning of April.

Time to Renew Membership

Thanks to most of our members who have renewed their membership. If you do not renew this will be the last newsletter you will receive. ☺

We have 23 members who have been members for over two years who we have not heard from yet and 29 who were new last year and have not renewed. Even if you qualify as a permanent member, you still need to get your paperwork into the treasurer Whit Joyner.

Because there can be errors as information is passed from the treasurer to me, we need to be sure we are not deleting members who have paid. If you receive this by e-mail, you will get another message if you have not renewed (All e-mailed copies have the membership as the last page). If you receive a paper copy and you have a membership form included, that means we do not have you as a 2007 member yet.

Colony Collapse Disorder

The media has really jumped all over this latest in bee calamities. The News and Observer had a small article on 2/12/07. On 2/27/07 the New York Times put the honey bee problems on the front page:

Treasurers Report-2006

Balance 1/1/2006	\$1,051.62
Receipts	
WCBA T-Shirt and License Plate Sales	\$ 212.50
Donations	\$ 26.60
Equipment Auction	\$ 531.00
Bank error in our favor	\$.20
Bugfest Receipts	\$ 913.00
2006 memberships	\$1160.00
2007 membership	\$ 10.00
	<hr/>
	\$2853.30

Expenses	
to NCSBA for License Plate sales in 2005	\$ 20.00
Stamps for the treasurer	\$ 39.00
Newsletter and Name tags	\$ 414.63
Check Printing Charge	\$ 23.00
Candy for School groups	\$ 59.95
Electric Knife for WCBA	\$ 98.89
WCBA Metal Signs	\$ 90.00
BugFest Expenses	\$ 315.00
Museum of Nat. History	\$ 320.00
Speaker Expenses	\$ 50.00
Tell it to the Bees	
Heifer International	\$ 60.00
Jenna Brantley College Fund	\$ 60.00
Pig Picking Expenses	\$142.67
Christmas PotLuck	\$ 56.50
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	\$1741.64

2006 Year End Balance \$2163.28

Here are some other interesting bits of data:

Total Wake County membership for 2006: 131
 Wake County members who are Life Members: 2
 Total members who were new in 2006: 49

Wake County members who also belong to

NCSBA: 98

% of WCBA members who are in NCSBA: 75%
 WCBA members who are Life member of NCSBA: 2
 WCBA members who are Permanent Paid members of NCSBA: 3

Golden Achievement Program

The Golden Achievement Program is a “competition” created by the North Carolina State Beekeeping Association to encourage activities and vitality in the local chapters. That is the good part. Unfortunately the paper work that needs to be filled out rivals the IRS tax code in complexity.

Last year we didn’t have the data to even fill out this form. This year we have been working on trying to get all the information needed. Thank you to all who took the time to fill out the form I passed out at the end of the year.

It looks like we have about 3,000 points. Is that good enough to be a Golden Achievement club? I haven’t the slightest idea. Supposedly there is a minimum number we are trying to get past, but it is not given out.

Still, I am very proud of our club. The areas that we received the most points for are the following:

47 New members for 470 points
 28 Presentations at schools and clubs for 420 points
 98 Members also NCSBA members for 490 points
 25 (at least) members attended the spring or summer meeting for 250 points
 25 members became certified or moved up in the Master Beekeeper program for 320 points
 Winning Ribbons in the State Fair for 275 points

So give yourself a nice pat on the back. Our club did a great job in almost all the areas covered by this evaluation program.

Wake County Beekeepers and/or North Carolina State Beekeepers Associations

Registration 2007 – Memberships run January 1st 2007 to December 31st 2007

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 _____

Phone _____ Address _____

Number of beehives _____ E-Mail _____

Memberships

Wake County Beekeepers (\$10.00) \$ _____

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

NC State Beekeepers Assoc. (\$15.00) \$ _____

New Member? (Y/N)

Publication Subscriptions – Coupons from the 2005-2006 NCSBA Yellow Book can be used for savings

American Bee Journal
(1YR-\$18.70) (2YR-\$35.40) (3YR-\$49.80) \$ _____

New Subscription? (Y/N)

Bee Culture
(1YR-\$19.00) (2YR-\$36.00) \$ _____

New Subscription? (Y/N)

Total \$ _____

Make Checks payable to Wake County Beekeepers Association