



WAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

www.wakecountybeekeepers.org

Club News

- 🐝 **OFFICER ELECTIONS:** New officers will be elected at the October meeting and will assume their duties in January. The nominating committee has prepared the following slate of officer candidates: President - Sarah Myers; Vice President - Ricky Barbour; Treasurer - Margie Gurganus; Secretary - Kate Hanser; Program Chair - Kim Underhill; Sergeant-at-Arms - Tom Underhill. Nominations can also be taken from the floor at the meeting. Please plan to attend this important meeting to cast your vote!
- 🐝 **Ball caps & club shirts:** Ricky Barbour has about 60 sturdy khaki cotton ballcaps with the club logo embroidered in navy blue available for \$9 each, first come first served. He will also be coordinating a club order for collared polo shirts with the club logo. The shirts should cost around \$14 and must be paid for when ordered; order forms with more details will be available at the October meeting.
- 🐝 **"Bee-ing a Good Neighbor" session:** This FREE training takes place **Wednesday, October 9** from 7 - 10 p.m. at the Bond Park Community Center in Cary. It will include an overview of honeybee biology and how beekeepers can be good neighbors when keeping bees on small lots in suburban or urban areas. Attendance is limited to 50 people, but is open to all.
- 🐝 **NC State Fair:** Don Hopkins will be at the October meeting to sign up volunteers to staff the apiculture booth at the state fair. Participants get free entry passes and a chance to share their love & knowledge of bees and beekeeping with the general public.
- 🐝 **Recent events:** **BugFest** on September 21 went well, with a good event turn out. Thanks to VP Ken Cobb for coordinating the WCBA effort on this, and to all who volunteered. Also, the **5 County Picnic** on September 29 had beautiful weather, great food and a terrific venue - all who attended certainly had a wonderful time!



October meeting:

Tuesday, October 8, 2013
Social starts at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION CHANGE!!

Raleigh Police Club
3500 Leonard Rd Raleigh

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October program: Dr. John Ambrose discusses Apitherapy myths & truths

Apitherapy, or the use of bee products for medicinal and nutritional purposes, is often touted as a reason for keeping bees. Dr. Ambrose examines some of the many health and nutritional claims made for bee products ranging from honey to propolis to pollen to bee venom, and discusses the validity of various claims - some are, and some are not.

John T. Ambrose holds graduate degrees in entomology (apiculture and insect social behavior, Cornell University 1973 and 1975). He has worked at NC State since 1975 as a Professor of Entomology, an Extension Apiculturist and later as the Director of the First Year College and the Dean of Undergraduate Academic Programs. He also served as the Executive Director of the NC State Beekeepers Association from 1975-2000, where he was creator of the NCSBA Master Beekeeper Program and was involved in other NCSBA initiatives such as the Honey Bee Exhibit at the NC Zoo. He is currently co-chair (with Charles Heatherly) of the NCSBA's Honey Standard Committee and as of September 2013 chair of the NCSBA's Master Beekeeper Committee. He is presently in phased retirement at NC State with an emphasis on teaching.

A Testimonial to Will Hicks

by Marc Larin

Those of you who attended the September have now had some experience with Will Hicks, our guest speaker. His entire presentation focused on Varroa mites: The most common threat to our hives today (my words).

I have been a beekeeper in Cary since 2010, and a member of the WCBA for the same period. However, there has been limited success with winter colony survival. I was able to keep both my hives through the winter of 2011. Then lost both the following winter. This past spring I got one nuc from the WCBA and hoped to get more colonies as a member of the Swarm Team. Then I got (dread!) a full time job. Although I was called, my new schedule never allowed me to collect a swarm. Now, as we face another winter, I must address the survival of my hive. At the August meeting, Kim Underhill, our beloved Program Chair suggested we use Mr. Hicks' services: "That's why he's there." So I did.

When I introduced myself on the phone, Will greeted me like I was an old friend. We set up the appointment over email. Will was right on time, Tuesday; I was waiting for Will wearing jeans and a T shirt. As he walked up my driveway, he could smell the smoker I had just lit. He mentioned it was either my smoker, or my house was on fire. We went straight to work. Will lifted my top feeder exposing the honey super, then lifted that, to get to the busy (buzzy) hive body. I gleefully informed Will that this was the first time I have ever opened a hive with no protection. He asked if I was concerned, and I was not. He examined the frames one by one, pointing out deformities in some bees, probably caused by Varroa. He pushed bees aside with his finger to examine cells. He then offered to hand me a frame into my bare hands. I was completely comfortable to hold it by then. Will recommended a Varroa mite treatment as soon as possible, and we closed the hive.

I do not have enough experience to advise recent beekeepers on hive maintenance. I can however repeat Kim's recommendation: Use Will Hicks' service. Your bees will thank you for it!

Will Hicks contact information: will.hicks@ncagr.gov (336) 599-6345

Announcements, Requests, & Reminders

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT

Contact researcher **Holden Appler of the NCSU Apiculture Lab** if you have colonies that have overwintered and would like to participate in his study. He can be contacted at email rhappler@ncsu.edu or phone (336) 403-3954. **He especially needs colonies from suburban-type areas.**

Snacks & recycling:

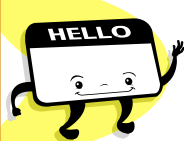
We need three volunteers for each meeting to bring the suggested items for each of the upcoming meetings. The club will reimburse you. Please visit the [online snack sign-up form](#) and volunteer today. Also, please give a big thank-you to Russ & Kristy Catania who have offered to collect recyclables from club meetings.

Club Meeting Locations:

The club meeting will be at the **Raleigh Police Club in October**, returning to Carya Drive for the November and December meetings. Be sure to check the club website to confirm meeting locations!



PICK UP YOUR NAME BADGES AND NCSBA CARDS!!



Club treasurer Neil Woodcock still has many **unclaimed name badges and NCSBA membership cards** for new members. Please check with him at the next club meeting -- he will have them with him!

NAMETAGS & SIGN-IN

Please **bring your club nametag** with you to every meeting! Wear it so we can easily identify each other. New members can collect their badges at the treasurer's table.

Also, please **check next to your name on the sign-in sheet** at the treasurer's table when you attend meetings so we can maintain accurate attendance records.

BEE YARD INSPECTIONS

The **State Bee Inspector for Wake County is Will Hicks** (919-691-0022). The club encourages members to take advantage of the amazing learning and educational experience of an inspection. To get the most out of this wonderful free service, it helps to prepare a list of questions in advance. Will brings great experience and knowledge right to your doorstep.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

October 17 - 27 -- [NC State Fair](#): WCBA, Johnston County & 5 County will present an educational exhibit, plus there will be NCSBA honey sales.

Golden Achievement award: Keep track of your service efforts during the year and help us repeat our 2009 win. Photo documentation is encouraged!

Ball caps & club shirts: Ricky Barbour has khaki cotton ballcaps with the club logo embroidered in navy blue available for \$9 each, first come first served. He will also be coordinating a club order for collared polo shirts with the club logo. The shirts should cost around \$14 and must be paid for when ordered; order forms will be available at the October meeting.

CARYA DRIVE HIVES CLOSED UNTIL SPRING

These hands-on guided sessions will resume in spring 2014 - many thanks to all who participated!

Calendar of Events

October

Tuesday, October 8

Club Meeting: Dr. John Ambrose on Apitheraphy, 7 - 9 p.m., Raleigh Police Club

Wednesday, October 9

Being a Good Neighbor

Free training session

Advance registration required

Bond Park Community Center
801 High House Rd, Cary
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

October 17 - 27

North Carolina State Fair
NC Fairgrounds, Raleigh

November

Saturday, November 9

Swarm Out Session
Lip Balm Making
details forthcoming

Tuesday, November 12

Club Meeting: Making lip balm (demo); other speakers & topics to be determined

7 - 9 p.m. Cary Drive, Raleigh



December



Tuesday, December 10

Club Meeting: Holiday Potluck
6 - 9 p.m. at Cary Drive

For more information, visit the club website:

www.wakecountybeekeepers.org



September meeting summary

Club vice president Ken Cobb opened the meeting with reminders and acknowledgements, welcomed guests, and gave a brief recap of the August meeting. James Knox of the nominating committee presented their report (see page 1). Neil Woodcock gave a financial report; the club has over \$9,000 in the bank. Ricky Barbour talked about club ball caps and shirts. Ken reported that all volunteer slots for BugFest were filled and encouraged members to attend the Sept. 21 event. Kim Underhill gave an update on the State Fair education booth, and Don Hopkins needs volunteers for the NCSBA staffed booths - call (919) 218-3310 to volunteer. Reminders about the 5 County Potluck on Sept. 29 and the Cary "Good Neighbor" training on Oct. 9 were made.

Kim Underhill introduced guest speaker apiarist Will Hicks, and encouraged club members to make use of his services. The bulk of his "pests & diseases" talk focused on the most common & destructive problem: varroa mites. Key points were the need to monitor for mites in your colonies, using either the "sugar shake" or "sticky board" methods. August and September are ideal times to conduct a mite count, and thresholds for considering treatment would be 5 or more mites per 300 bees in a sugar shake test, or more than 30 mites dropping onto a sticky board in 24 hours. Monthly monitoring is recommended. Will also gave an overview of control and treatment methods, as well as a recap of less common hive diseases.

James Knox reminded the club that they need to check their colonies stores for winter and feed if necessary, and check for mites. Eleanor Silver provided two tulip polpar seedlings for door prizes.

2013 OFFICERS

President: Sarah Myers

Vice President: Ken Cobb

Secretary: Kate Hanser

Treasurer: Neil Woodcock

Program Chair: Kim Underhill

Sgt-at-Arms: Tom Underhill

Board of Directors:

Ricky Barbour (3 yrs)

Larry Williams (2 yrs)

Vivian Joyner (1 yr)

Officer contact information is available at the club's website:
www.wakecountybeekeepers.org/about