



# Wake County Beekeepers Association August 2009



**Next Meeting: SUMMER POT LUCK**  
**August 11<sup>th</sup> (my birthday) 2009 @ 6:30 pm**

**\*\*\*\*\* MEETING TIME CHANGE \*\*\*\*\* BRING A SIDE DISH \*\*\*\*\***

Location: Wake County Commons Building, Cary Drive. Our meeting is our annual Summer Picnic/banquet- bring your spouse/family. The room set up will have tables and chairs. Be prepared to sign up to help with Bugfest (Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>). Be thinking about being on the State Fair preparation committee, booth theme ideas, and about being available to help with honey sales and competition at The State Fair (October 15<sup>th</sup> - October 23<sup>rd</sup>). Also the September meeting will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, due to room scheduling conflict.

## July Meeting Summary

Thank you to Karma Lee, Catherine Nichols & Andy Currin for bringing refreshments to the July Meeting.

Our club won Chapter of the Year for 2008!!!! Everyone was very complimentary and impressed with our clubs community involvement and promotion of beekeeping (Good job everyone!). They were also impressed with our newsletters (yeah me!). Benefits of Chapter of the Year: each member get 5% discount @Brushy Mountain. Danny would like to help smaller chapters improve their chances to put them on equal footing as us.

Danny and Mary were voted NCSBA Persons of the Year!!! They played an instrumental role with honey sales at the state fair and have done a lot in promoting beekeeping in our state. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

We also had a couple of WCBA member Mike Childers win Blue Ribbons in his entries in both Extracted Honey and Mead. Dawn Childers won 3<sup>rd</sup> place for her entry in Cooking with Honey at the Summer NCSBA Meeting. Good job guys- Hope you do well at the State Fair too!



Dr. Tarpy & Don Hopkins @ NC State are planning a Field day; date is TBA. It is requested to be at field lab on Lake Wheeler Rd. and possibly have a pot luck dinner following. Now is the time to prepare for State Fair Competition. Changes to local representation for the State Assn. that Charles mentioned last month were approved. Now we have 3

regions with 4 reps per region. This will improve communication. You can find specific details online: [www.ncbeekeepers.org](http://www.ncbeekeepers.org)

A sign up sheet for Queen Rearing Workshop w/ Ricky Coor @ Spring Bank Apiaries. We are in the works of also planning on another workshop with Jack Tapp at Busy Bee Apiaries. Research is currently being done looking at Queens, how drone quality impacts a hive and methods we use when re-queening. The amount of honey collected this year has been low; The State

## Drink up

if you have it but don't drive.

**National Mead Day is**  
**Saturday, August 1st**

Association needs to purchase bulk honey for sale at the State Fair. If you have some to sell, contact Danny. We need presenters for schools and classes. We need these for Chapter of the Year and if you are working on your Journeyman or Master Certifications, You need these. This is a great way to promote beekeeping and inspire future beekeepers. Ricky has a book made by Claudia Linkous for presentations for grades K-5. There are 42 Pages. We also have posters and educational brochures you can use to educate and speak about bees to groups. The club now has 4 observation hives available for presentations. Larry Williams Our custodian of records has theses if you need to use these items. We still have 6 caps and 2 medium shirts available for sale.

Calendars with pictures of plants for pollination are available for sale. These cost chapters \$10. each and we can sell them for \$20. Sandy Carlson, WCBA and Franklin Co member is selling these as a fundraiser for the Franklin County Chapter. We could a volunteer to possibly sell these calendars for our chapter. Although, it would be nice to let the newer club Franklin County benefit.

Volunteers are needed to help with Bugfest. We need cookers, food assemblers and sellers. As well as an organizer and people to get supplies. We also need people to talk bees. Denton has done bee beards at Bugfest and may do so this year. Last year we worked with Franklin County on this, I am assuming that will be the case again this year? Hopefully the weather will be good and it will be a success for us again this year. This year I am unable to organize (but will work) so someone else will have to take the lead. I will bring sign up sheets for people and the list of what is needed for whoever can take charge this year to the August Meeting. Danny also mentions we need help with our WCBA State Fair Booth. We need some innovative ideas for the theme. We have had the best booth the last 2 years so hopefully we can continue the tradition. Danny and Mary will once again head Honey Sales.

New Business: Summer Pot Luck is the next meeting. Sign up sheet circulated for people to specify a side dish that they wish to bring. The club will provide the meat, bread and drinks. Everyone is welcome. Meeting time will be @6:30.

Our webmaster Bill Cole inquires about power points presentations archived on the website- do members want it? Some info may have copyrights and not be available. If presenters are willing it would be an option. As some of you know I missed this meeting- thanks to my wonderful husband Andy for taking notes. ANYWAY: I would like to voice my opinion- and I do the newsletter so you get it (unless you skip the next paragraph). If everything is online, will it be password protected? Will everyone or just club members only can have access. We already post the newsletters containing minutes/presentation information for members (and non-members) to access. If we post everything online, it will be more impersonal, less people will probably attend meetings since you can watch them anytime- even in your pajamas. This will create more work for our volunteer webmaster. I think it will have even further reaching negative effects. If anyone and everyone can go to our website as access presentations, what are the benefits of membership? As you all know, our membership dues are not that expensive, but they are needed at the individual club and state levels to help promote beekeeping and education. If dues are diminished this will ultimately impact the amount of power we have voicing our opinions in regulations and laws governing honeybees. I personally feel that there some threats to honeybees that we already have a muted voice, for example against chemical companies who have billions of dollars. Clothianidin shown to damage/kill honeybees is banned in Europe but available here in America. Sevin and bee killing chemicals are indiscriminately on shelves of Home Depot and Lowes. They need more regulation and public awareness. Moreover, our State is in the forefront of

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[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: Central Raleigh 787-0058  
James Knox: Raleigh 847-5098.

research and I would like to see stronger support and growth in breeding and other endeavors at our NC STATE Bee Lab. Our State's beneficial insect lab also needs strong member support.

July Presentation: **Queen Rearing by Ricky Coor @ Spring Bank Apiaries** in Goldsboro.

Bees know what they are doing. They will take care of things themselves. We can however manipulate them to do things we want them to. Only bees can make a queen, we have to supply them with what they need to do that, including the desire/need and resources to make one. This includes manipulating hives to want/ need to make a queen, giving them eggs/cells to develop and supply of nurse bees to do it. Then also having mating nucs to place them and available drones.

To get bees to make a queen you need an environment created that is conducive to cell building. Start with a swarm box and 4.5-5 lbs of bees (from a strong/stable hive). Most importantly you must find the queen in the stable hive. Use a 5 gallon bucket with a vented lid. Gather 3 inches of bees in the bottom. Spray them lightly with sugar syrup. In the swarm box, put 2 frames of honey on the outside spaces. 2 frames of pollen on the next inner space. Leave a space for the frame with the cell bar. Make sure to feed sugar water. Store in a cool dark well ventilated room. You can raise approximately 34 cells per swarm box. (This swarm box is where the queen cells are started for 24 hours (after grafting) and then moved to the finisher colony).

When you set up the "Starter Swarm Box or Free Flying Starter Colony", also set up the "Finisher Colony". This will be a hive of 2 deep bodies with a queen excluder between them. The Queen will be in the bottom deep body, brood will be up top. The finisher colony has plenty of free flying bees. Queen cells will be capped here in 3 days.

Grafting:

Select a frame with 1-3 day old larvae, one day old larvae is what you want to graft with. You need adequate light and magnifying glass or reader glasses to see the larvae with.

Hold the frame with larvae upside down. Older larvae in the middle of the frame, the

edge will have hatching larvae & eggs. When you scoop them up with the grafting tool, make sure to get underneath them. Do not crush or flip them over.

Use pesticide free cell cups (sold thru Rossman). You can use melted burr comb to adhere cell cups to bar.

You can leave your new grafted top be queen in the swarm box for approx 5 days, you will need to change out the bees so that there are plenty of nurse bees.

Q\_ how many hives do you need?

2-3 hives can get by grafting. If you have 1 hive use the cloakboard method.

A good resource is Contemporary Queen Rearing book from Dadant has the 1 hive method. Once you start queen rearing, it puts you on a different level of beekeeping. Queen rearing could also be done at the club level. You could divide up responsibilities, such as having 1 person could graft and others maintain mating nucs.

*Editors Note/Self-Serving Plea:*

RECYCLE A QUEEN (my way please)

If anyone is re-queening where they kill the old queen instead of moving her to a different hive and would rather save her.... PLEASE call or email me to come get her. After all it is my birthday month...

I am completing my observation hive and need to stock it. I am leery of putting frames in and letting them raise a new queen this time of year. Also, I would not want to put a young queen in there so that she goes like gang busters and swarms out of the 4 frame observation hive next spring. If all goes well you will see my observation hive entered in the State Fair and can know you helped.

THANKS!

*Jill Currin, Secretary*

To raise queens you need to know the development cycle of queen bee. It will start out as a fertilized egg, the difference in the outcome will be due to what it is fed. A queen lays an egg, at day 3 the egg will "hatch" into larvae. This day old larvae is what is grafted into a queen cup. You can wet or dry graft. There are advantages and disadvantages to both. Ricky likes the dry grafting. With both you have to work delicately. You do have to Work quickly so she doesn't dry out, but you don't have to squish cells to get royal jelly, dilute it and go thru the extra time and haste as you do to wet graft. The newly grafted cells go into the "free flying started colony for 24-36 hours. They will draw out the queen cups, because they are queen less. You have to more them to the finisher colony for 9 days. You could leave them in the starter, but you run the risk of one emerging first and killing the others, also, if you want to maximize output you need those resources. On the 15<sup>th</sup> day move the queen cell to the mating nub with some bees. She will emerge on day 16. The new queen should be laying 21 days from being grafted.

Mating Nucs are a modified nub. They are made with 2 separate sections so the different mini colonies will have their own entrance/exit. The cover is secured in the middle so you can open one side without exposing both colonies. There will be 2 frames and one feeder per section.

Stock mating nucs w/ bees. Use approximately 2 ½ cups of bees per section of mating nub, feed them syrup. After 5 days, she will go on mating flights. On the 10<sup>th</sup> day after emergence, the Queen will be laying eggs

If Queen doesn't fill frames w/ eggs and make a nice brood pattern, kill her and start over. If you re-queen your hives w/ queen cell ad opposed to a mated or virgin queen, there is better acceptance of the workers.

## What to do in the Bee Yard: August

From Guilford County Chapter

### The Bees:

The colony's growth is slowing. Drones are still around, but the workers will soon lose interest in feeding them. The outside activity is beginning to slow down as the nectar flow decreases.

### The Beekeeper:

There is not much chance of swarming this month. Watch out for honey robbing by wasps or other bees. You can do a fall re-queening this month or in early September. Queens may be a little less expensive this time of year. If you have a weak hive or nectar dearth you may need to feed.

Blooming: Sumac thru Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, Heartsease & Smartweed thru Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, Goldenrod Aug 8<sup>th</sup> - Nov. 14th

## TAX HONEY?

Thank you to Michelle for passing this on from Debbie Roos, Beekeeper and Chatham County Extension Agent.

The NC Department of Revenue produced a new guide that explains the sales tax obligations for various types of agricultural products. For example, fresh, unprocessed vegetables are exempt from sales tax (if grown and sold by the producer) but meats are subject to a 2% food tax. Processed food products such as jams, pickles, and baked goods are also subject to the food tax.

Debbie called the NC Department of Revenue to verify: As they suspected, honey is EXEMPT from sales tax since it is an unprocessed product.

Link to the new webpage on the Growing Small Farms: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/chatham/ag/SustAg/marketing.html>

## "Attracting Bees & Beneficial Pollinators"

Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> @11 am

Garden writer **Carol Stein** will talk about choosing plants that attract pollinators -- including bees, hummers, butterflies, and more.

Special guest beekeeper Jill Currin gives an overview of beekeeping.

Free.

The Garden Hut, 1004 Old Honeycutt Road.

To register call (919)552-0590

[www.NelsasGardenHut.com](http://www.NelsasGardenHut.com)

