



WAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Next WCBA Meeting:
Tuesday, July 13, 2010
at 7:30 pm

Location: Wake County Office Park – 4011 Carya Dr. Raleigh, NC 27610

Featured Program Speaker:
TBD

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The History of Bug Fest and the WCBA	2
Upcoming NCSBA Events	3
June Meeting Summary	3
Honey Extraction	4
July in the Bee Yard	5
Honey Tasting	5
Important Announcements	3/5

Honey Harvest at the Governor’s Mansion



On Tuesday, June 22, Gov. Bev Perdue suited up in beekeeper attire and approached a job perhaps no other North Carolina governor has tackled – pulling honeycombs from beehives with thousands of honey bees buzzing nearby. Danny & Mary Jaynes, Charles Heatherly, Will Hicks, Robin Maycock, and several other WCBA members assisted the Governor. They inspected the supers and frames from the top down, noted the presence of honey, bees and nurseries. At one point, Governor Perdue took a frame around to her husband, and rather proudly showed off how full it was! It was dripping with capped off cells full of honey! Her delight in the whole process was evident in her genuine smiles. “That’s a lot of honey!” Gov. Perdue exclaimed, as she removed a narrow honeycomb literally dripping gold.

The two beehives sitting on the north lawn of the executive mansion in Raleigh were installed late last year, after grounds supervisor Gerald Adams decided to explore the benefits of having bees to pollinate the gardens on the grounds. Adams, who oversees production of a number of crops used by the first family and donated to local area food banks, has already seen a dramatic difference. “Apple trees that never had more than a handful of apples on them now show 50- 60 or more,” he said. “The pollination benefits of the bees have been clear already within the first six months of having the hives.”

“The honeybee is not only North Carolina’s state insect, but also a crucial player in North Carolina agriculture. Their role in pollinating our crops is essential, and often overlooked by people who don’t know the important part they play,” said Gov. Perdue. “Having the bees here on the mansion grounds not only gives us a chance to boost our own fruit and vegetable production, but also serves as an education tool for the school groups and tours who visit the mansion regularly.”

So just how much honey did the group harvest? According to Danny, nearly 12 gallons, or about 150 pounds. The honey, which was inspected and deemed “Grade A,” will be bottled and used at the mansion, given as gifts from the governor and first gentleman, and donated to local food banks.

Photos and Highlights of the Governor’s Honey Harvest courtesy of: The Governor’s Press Office and WCBA Member Robin Maycock

To read an article featured by the News & Observer, visit:
http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/06/22/545497/nc-gov-perdue-takes-interest-in.html?story_link=email_msg



Check out the **NEW LOOK** and **FEATURES** of the **WCBA website:**
www.wakecountybeekeepers.org



The History of Bug Fest and the WCBA

Official Statement Submitted by WCBA Board of Director Danny Jaynes

During the years 1996 – 2000 Bill Sheppard and Don Hopkins were asked by Bob Fluke, director of Bug Fest, to provide a Bee Cage demonstration for Bug Fest.

During the years 2000 – 2002 Mr. Fluke asked Mike Stanghellini, who was Dr. Tarpy's predecessor at NC State University, to prepare a Bee Beard demonstration for Bug Fest. Will Hicks was selected to manage and be the demonstrator for those years. Jennifer Keller was also one of the demonstrators (Bee Beard Lady).

In 2003-2005 Bob Fluke invited the Wake County Beekeepers to take over the involvement with Bug Fest. The first two years, the cage was provided by Don Hopkins. In subsequent years personnel from the Wake County Beekeepers built a Bee Cage and provided the Bee Beard demonstrations.

During the years 2006 – 2009 the WCBA was invited to sell Hot Dogs & Hamburgers and have an Educational Booth to promote Beekeeping at Bug Fest.

Bug Fest 2008 was a combined effort of the Franklin County Beekeepers (FCBA) and the Wake County Beekeepers (WCBA). The Franklin County Beekeepers were awarded their Chapter under the NCSBA in March of that year. In an effort to assist a new chapter, the WCBA voted to give the FCBA \$1000 to help them get started, plus payment for three hives used for the bee beard demonstration. In 2009 the WCBA voted to give the FCBA one half of the proceeds from Bug Fest (\$643).

For 2010 the Wake County Beekeepers Association will provide an educational Booth to promote Beekeeping and will be a paid vendor for the sale of Hot Dogs & Hamburgers at Bug Fest.



The auction for the 2 club extractors was a success!

Thanks to everyone who joined in the live auction. The hand crank extractor went for \$102.00 and the electric extractor went for \$238.00. Congratulations to the auction winners!



Upcoming NCSBA Events



- The North Carolina State Beekeepers Summer Meeting is **July 8-10, 2010** in China Grove, Rowan County.



- The Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) will have its annual conference **August 2-6, 2010** in

Boone, NC. See website for details: <http://www.easternapiculture.org/programs/2010/>



- Dr. Tarry is looking for people who are going to EAS and would consider picking up guest speakers at the airport and taking them to EAS meeting in Boone. For those that can help, please contact Dr. David

Tarry at NC State University 919-515-1660.

- Check the NCBSA website for more information on these events: <http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/news.htm>



June Meeting Summary

The WCBA has a new Librarian!

Special thanks to member Geoff Dietrich for volunteering his time during each meeting as our club librarian. We will have the official book/video cart available at the July meeting. All the materials are available for WCBA members to borrow. Remember to look for Geoff Dietrich starting in July with those materials.



Bug Fest is September 11th, 2010!

- 26 people have volunteered for Bug Fest but we still need more help. If you would like volunteer for one of the three time shifts for the day at Bug Fest please contact Tim Huffman at 919-269-6790 or timjoehuffman@aol.com.
- Bug Fest will be held from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm on September 11th in downtown Raleigh at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences.

Hats & Shirts for Sale: The association will be

selling polo shirts and hats. Vice President, Ricky Barbour will have hats for sale at the July meeting. The hats will be \$8.00 each. Ricky will be taking pre-orders at the July meeting for the polo shirts for \$15.00 each. If you would like the shirt to have a pocket please add a \$1.50 to the \$15.00. The shirts are available in all colors requested. Please bring cash or a check for payment of these items and indicate the desired item you are ordering to Ricky.

The association has purchased 2 new extractors. The new extractors can harvest deeps. A live auction for the 2 older extractors was held at the June meeting.

An instruction list will be attached to each piece of equipment that belongs to the club. This is to make sure members borrowing the equipment are handling use and clean up of the equipment correctly.

Geoff Dietrich volunteered as the club librarian. Geoff will have the library cart with books and videos available for members to borrow materials at each meeting. We appreciate Geoff volunteering his time for this position.

Jim Cook and Paul Strickland gave a program on honey extraction, see page 4 for details.

An uncapping tank was raffled off at the June meeting.

Honey Extraction

The featured program for the June meeting was honey extraction led by WCBA members Jim Cook & Paul Strickland.

Rule #1 in beekeeping: All beekeepers are going to make mistakes, especially during honey extraction.

The first mistake that Jim and Paul made was trying to extract the honey right by the bees. It turned out being a disaster because if there is honey around bees, you bet there will be lots of bees. Now Jim and Paul work in an air tight honey house to keep the bees away.

Harvesting Honey:

- A fume board or a bee escape devise should be used to move the bees down into the hive and out of the supers that you are preparing to harvest. The fume board should be sprayed "Bee Go" which is pleasant smelling to humans but drives the bees away from the honey. A bee escape allows the bees to go down but to not crawl back up into the supers. You may also use a bee brush or a leaf blower to blow the bees off (of course the bees don't like the leaf blower all that much.)
- Only pull the frames that are all capped with honey. You don't want to harvest a frame mixed with honey and brood.



- Once you have pulled your frames you have to uncap them. Use a hot knife or a scrapper to uncap frames. When using a hot knife, it is easier if you cut the comb toward you.



- Be sure to uncap the frames in an uncapping tank that will allow the honey to drip out from the wax.
- Once the frames are uncapped, place the open frames into an extractor. You can use an electric or a hand crank extractor. Begin to spin the frames in the extractor for about 5 minutes and watch the honey fling from the frames!
- Be sure to have a bucket underneath the spot of the extractor for the honey to drain into. You may want to add a strainer to the bucket to strain the honey.



- Let the freshly extracted honey sit for a day or 2 so the air bubbles will settle before you bottle it.
- Before bottling some people like to strain the honey a second time. You can use cheese cloth and a fine strainer or a general purpose paint strainer.



- You can put the extracted honey frames back in the hive directly but that may increase robbing. Some people like to put the frames near the hives about 100 feet away and the bees will clean off the left over honey from the frames.
- When you are finished extracting make sure to clean all equipment with mild soapy hot water. Honey can be a very sticky mess if not cleaned up properly.
- Standard honey extraction tools can be purchased from any bee supply company. Some tools are available for members to borrow. For a list of those items visit the WCBA website: <http://www.wakecountybeekeepers.org/equipmentList.html>



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
jdrubaker@yahoo.com

Tim Hoffman

919-269-6790
timjoehuffman@aol.com

Phone Mentor:

Jerry Brantley
919-269-9333

Education Materials:

Bill Cole
919-522-5733
wcole@nc.rr.com

Location of Club Extractors:

The club owns equipment that is available for members to borrow. Please contact the following people for equipment: Steve Hildebrand: Knightdale 919-266-9464; Vivian Joyner: New Hill 919-387-0164; James Knox: Raleigh 919-847-5098; Larry Hall: Central Wake 919-612-4499. See complete list at: <http://www.wakecountybeekeepers.org/equipmentList.html>

WCBA

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
- Valuable information on what the WCBA has available for you!

July in the Bee Yard



During the month of July consider harvesting a small amount of honey if you did not already do so in June.

Whether your bees are in the Piedmont region or you moved them to the mountains for the sourwood honey flow, you should still be able to remove surplus honey this month if you have not already done so in June.

Before any honey supers are removed, check the last supers that were added to determine if most of the

frames are capped. Some beekeepers recommend that a super not be removed until 80 – 90% of the frames in that super are capped.

Late July or early August is an ideal time to check the mite population in your hives, after the honey supers have been removed.

Store all honey supers that are no longer needed properly to avoid wax moths.

Information derived from: The Alamance County Beekeepers Association - <http://alamancebeekeepers.com/jul06.aspx>

Honey Tasting at the WCBA



The WCBA would like to hold a club “honey tasting” at the October meeting. This will be a fun and interactive way for members to try different varieties of honey.

We are requesting that members submit 1 or 2 1 lb. jars of honey from their honey harvest or from other people's honey harvest.

Members are asked to bring the 1 lb. jars labeled with the name of the person who is submitting the honey, what honey variety it is, and from what area the honey was

harvested from. Please submit the 1 lb. jars to Program Chairman, Kate Hanser on or before the September meeting. You will find Kate at the name badge table where she faithfully sets out the name badges and hands out the door prize tickets.

We appreciate all who can contribute in submitting 1 lb. jars for our honey tasting and hope that all members enjoy this exciting event!



Do you know a high school or middle school with an FFA, 4-H, or Science group that would like to start a beekeeping program?

If so, contact the association President, Mitchell Wrenn and let him know how the WCBA can help support beekeeping interest in our local youth. If there is a particular school or group that may be interested please let us know!



Look for the latest beekeeping supplier's catalogs at the monthly meetings! Because the WCBA was named the 2009 chapter of the year members can still receive a 5% discount on all their orders through July from Brushy Mountain Bee Supply. You may also save on shipping by ordering through Jack Tapp at Busy Bee Apiaries for supplies from Brushy Mountain.