



# WAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

**Next WCBA Meeting:**  
**Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>,**  
**2010 at 6:30 pm**

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

**Featured Program Speaker:**  
**Summer Cookout -**  
**Arrive at 6:30 pm and**  
**bring a side dish to share!**

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Check out the **NEW LOOK** and **FEATURES** of the **WCBA website:**  
[www.wakecountybeekeepers.org](http://www.wakecountybeekeepers.org)

## State Beekeepers Adopt Honey Standards

North Carolina beekeepers moved a step closer to the adoption of a honey standard that would limit the abuses of honey sold in the state. During the Summer Meeting in China Grove, the NC State Beekeepers Association voted to adopt a State Honey Standard. Negotiations are now underway with the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for incorporating the proposed honey standard into its rules and procedures that govern food safety.

Among other things, the standard defines honey as a honey bee product from plant nectar and prohibits any additives or adulteration if it is to be sold as honey. The country of origin must be identified. And if the honey is marketed from a specific floral source, such as the much acclaimed mountain sourwood, the honey must contain at least 51 percent nectar from that source.

“A great deal more sourwood honey has been sold in North Carolina than has actually been produced here,” said Dr. John Ambrose, NC State University Professor and former State Apiculturist. “We hope the adoption of this standard will remedy that situation.”

*Due to the length in content, the entire proposed honey standard can be viewed on the WCBA website: [www.wakecountybeekeepers.org](http://www.wakecountybeekeepers.org) or the NCSBA website: <http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/>.*

## WCBA Summer Cookout – Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

The WCBA will hold the annual summer cookout at our normal meeting location on August 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Bring your beekeeping friends and family members for an enjoyable event!

The WCBA will provide the meat cooked by our VP, Ricky Barbour.

We ask all members to bring a side dish to share.



# NCSBA Summer Meeting Recap

**Thanks to WCBA members Charles Heatherly and Bob Matheny for submitting pictures and comments on the NCSBA Summer Meeting in China Grove, NC.**

The NCSBA summer meeting featured great lectures, vendor displays, and an excellent way for beekeepers from across the state to gather and learn from one another. Two members of the WCBA were elected state as officers: Danny Jaynes, 1st Vice President and Wade Lucas, Secretary.

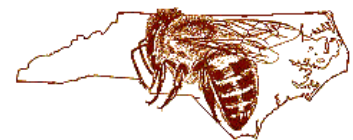


Tim Huffman also cleaned up during awards night, receiving a total of five ribbons, including several blue ribbons and the overall Best of Show award for his mead and several honey entries. Congratulations to Tim for winning such high awards! We are honored to have these outstanding members as part of our local and state chapters.



The NCSBA membership overwhelmingly adopted a proposed honey standard for North Carolina which will now be presented to the NC Department

of Agriculture and Consumer Services with a recommendation that it be incorporated into their rules procedure. The honey standard defines what can and cannot be put on your honey label if you sell your product. Its purpose is to prohibit the sale of adulterated and mislabeled honey, such as claiming your honey to be sourwood, when it is not. It also requires the honey to be identified by its geographic source, US or which foreign country (see details on the honey standard on the WCBA or NCSBA website.)



## Pictures from the Summer Meeting



## Diary of a Beekeeper

*Submitted by WCBA member Marc Larin*

I have been keeping bees since May of 2009. I equipped myself with two hives; 2 full size boxes, each with supers. I made some European style covers and a couple of top feeders. I got both my colonies from the WCBA at the great bee distribution at the NC State bee lab. This spring I lost both my colonies to starvation. So I bought a bee package from fellow WCBA member, Mike Hillerbrand, for a reasonable price. With my crazy schedule, I populated the hive in near darkness. The pride in my success was short lived. Three days later the hive was empty. They all flew the coop, or hive, as it were. Mike came to the rescue again. He introduced me to Micheal Manfre whom I helped recover my first swarm. That colony is now thriving. For seconds, Mike told me of a swarm near RDU. I called Amy, who had alerted the swarm removal team, to get directions. After a few wrong turns, I discovered that the swarm was under a construction trailer at the new RDU terminal. Amy pointed to the spot where there was a six-inch circle of bees on the side of the trailer. I suited up and got to work. I could see a hole in the fabric under the structure about three feet above the grass. I cut it open and found not a swarm, but an established hive. Mike had instructed me to pour the swarm into an empty box sitting over a box filled with frames. So, I placed this under the hive and began to pull on the comb with a pruning knife, which I had brought for a swarm. I did not, however, have a smoker and these critters were enraged. I backed away several times because I was not certain of my home made veil. Fortunately, it proved impenetrable. It is threatening to see and hear dozens of menacing solders bashing continuously against the netting only an inch from my face.

After dumping three 10 x 16 inch honey soaked combs into the box, I became concerned for the queen. Could she have been crushed under the weight of the falling comb? Right then, I distinguished her as she quickly hid behind the wax structure.

The bright sun shone on my white veil blocking any view of the remaining hive under the trailer. Hoping that I had most of it, I covered the box and left the entrance open for the remaining bees to join their queen. I would come back on the weekend to take the colony to my yard. After backing away from the crime scene I still had dozens of insects frantically buzzing around me. I rolled down the van's windows and drove a half mile still fully suited. I had to kill the last persistent warrior before removing my sweat soaked suit. I deposited the box in my back yard. The next day I could open the box and photograph the bees without disturbing them.

My return the following Sunday was uneventful. I closed the entrance to cart the box home. That was my first good look at the comb I'd left behind. About 3 or 4 rows of it were still well populated. I began planning my second retrieval.

With help from You Tube, I found a man who had a similar chore inside a cave. He vacuumed up the bees and tied the comb to bare frames. With my new knowledge, I fastened the comb to frames in my yard. I learned how to tie knots while wearing leather gloves.

The WCBA loaned me a bee vac and my son, Jacques, agreed to assist me. At RDU, all we were missing was smoker fuel, and cuff ties. The fuel was available locally, and we closed our cuffs with electrical tape. While I set up the frames and string on the trailer's porch, Jacques smoked the bees and vacuumed. The comb was exposed for the first time. I pulled the first comb. Honey covered everything: tools, work surface, gloves, and frames. How can sticky honey lubricate string so well?!

After an hour, three frames were tied. There were still three combs that we had yet to remove. I was getting tired and hot. Jacques' fascination with bees was beginning to wane. We threw the remaining comb into the box and sealed it. The bee vac's hose was closed with duct tape. After 15 minutes it was safe to disrobe and leave. Once in my backyard, the bees were poured from the vacuum. They were hostile. I found myself running down the driveway while my son called "Run, Dad! Run!" That evening my dog threw up. The following morning, while cleaning up, I learned why. She'd licked about a half-cup of honey from my work surface. It took days before I was able to approach the hive again. I filled the remaining space with comb from last year's colony. With help from experienced people like James Knox, I continue to learn how to keep my colonies healthy.

Beekeeping has become a most interesting pastime. I can't wait to taste my first harvest!

You may see the full story and photos at <http://cardinalcabling.com/News.aspx> and click on "beekeeper10-5-15.pdf" or on the WCBA website.

## Upcoming NCSBA Events



- 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. Tarpay 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 Tarpay at NC State University 919-515-1660.
- Check the NCBSA website for more information on these events: <http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/news.htm>
- **August 12, 2010** - Zoo Honey Bee Exhibit volunteer [training](#)
- **September 10-19, 2010** -- Mountain State Fair [Honey Competition](#), Fletcher, NC
- **September 18, 2010** -- [Honey Bee Festival](#), Kernersville, NC
- **October 14-24, 2010** -- [NC State Fair](#), Raleigh, NC



## July Meeting Summary



### *Bug Fest is September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010!*

- The WCBA still needs Bug Fest Volunteers!!
- There are 2 time shifts available to volunteer: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm and 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm. We will have 2 stations where volunteers are needed: Food and Education. Please contact Bug Fest Tim Huffman at 919-269-6790 or [timjoehuffman@aol.com](mailto:timjoehuffman@aol.com) if you would like to volunteer.
- Bug Fest will be held from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm on September 11<sup>th</sup> in downtown Raleigh at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences.
- A beginning beekeepers class will be held on August 21<sup>st</sup> at the Raleigh Police Club. See the WCBA website for the registration form and further details. Contact Ricky Barbour for general questions at: 919-269-0108.
- Congratulations to Danny Jaynes for becoming the NCSBA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and to Wade Lucas for becoming the NCSBA Secretary.
- Congratulations to Tim Huffman for winning 5 awards at the NCSBA summer meeting including best in show!

- The summer cookout will be held on August 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at our normal meeting location. It was voted for Ricky Barbour to cook a little chicken and pig so come hungry! We ask all members to bring a side dish to share.
- At the NCSBA summer meeting a proposed honey standard was approved and is now being passed along for approval by the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for incorporating the proposed honey standard into its rules and procedures that govern food safety (see WCBA or NCSBA website for honey standards details).

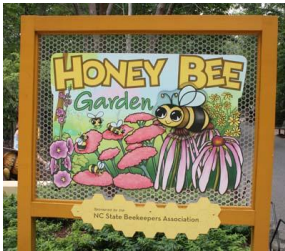
### **The State Fair is quickly approaching!**

**We need volunteers to help with the design and set up of the Wake County Display booth and to work the NCSBA honey stands and educational areas. If you are interested in volunteering for one or more of these areas please contact Mitchell Wrenn at 919-306-2735 or speak with him at the August meeting.**



## NC Zoo Exhibit & New WCBA Website

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – PLEASE HELP!



The wonderful new honeybee garden exhibit at the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro is proving to be very popular with the zoo-going public. This one-of-a-kind exhibit offers a great introduction to honeybees, beekeeping and to the role of beneficial insects in general. However, public interest and understanding is greatly enhanced by having beekeepers of any level available to answer questions and point out interesting facets of bee life that casual visitors might not notice.

To support this exhibit, the North Carolina Beekeepers Association has scheduled an orientation and training workshop for beekeepers interested in volunteering at this permanent Honey Bee Exhibit.

**Date:** Thursday, August 12, 2010

**Time:** 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Stedman Education Building  
NC Zoo, Asheboro

#### Workshop Agenda:

- 1:00 p.m. Orientation to Zoo  
Volunteering  
Toy Jarrett, Zoo Volunteer  
Coordinator
- 2:00 p.m. Honey Bees and Topics of  
Importance to the Public  
Dr. John Ambrose, NCSBA

Please arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the program in order to complete a required information

form. You will have the opportunity to meet some of the current beekeeper volunteers and learn about their experiences. The Stedman Education Building is the gray building to the left of the main gate at the North America Entrance.

Please contact the NCSBA Zoo Volunteer Coordinators Judy Pick or Janno Lewis to sign up for the orientation program; they will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Hours spent in training and volunteering count toward certification at Journeyman and Master Beekeeper levels, and help the county association earn points toward "Chapter of the Year."

Janno Lewis [jpdaniel@embarqmail.com](mailto:jpdaniel@embarqmail.com)

Judy Pick [JimJudy9@aol.com](mailto:JimJudy9@aol.com)

For more information about the Honey Bee Garden exhibit, visit the NC Zoo website ([nczoo.org](http://nczoo.org)) and follow the "Animals" links to learn more about all the exhibits. The NC State Beekeepers website ([ncbeekeepers.org](http://ncbeekeepers.org)) features a page dedicated to the exhibit which includes several videos. Also, the Wake County Beekeepers Association website ([wakecountybeekeepers.org](http://wakecountybeekeepers.org)) has the PowerPoint of Kate Hanser's July 2010 presentation on the Zoo exhibit.

Help out – have fun!



#### 2010 WCBA Officers:

##### President:

Mitchell Wrenn  
919-306-2735  
[wrennbees@yahoo.com](mailto:wrennbees@yahoo.com)

##### Vice President:

Ricky Barbour  
919-269-0108  
[rickybarbour86@yahoo.com](mailto:rickybarbour86@yahoo.com)

##### Secretary:

Sarah Pleasants  
919-880-8208  
[sarahpleasants@piedmontliho.com](mailto:sarahpleasants@piedmontliho.com)

##### Treasurer:

Vivian Joyner  
919-387-0164  
[vivnwhit@earthlink.net](mailto:vivnwhit@earthlink.net)

##### Program Chairman:

Kate Hanser  
919-387-7631  
[kahanser@ncsu.edu](mailto:kahanser@ncsu.edu)

##### Board of Directors:

Danny Jaynes  
919-567-9568  
[djaynes@nc.rr.com](mailto:djaynes@nc.rr.com)

Dan Brubaker  
919-387-6731  
[jdrubaker@yahoo.com](mailto:jdrubaker@yahoo.com)

Tim Hoffman  
919-269-6790  
[timjoehuffman@aol.com](mailto:timjoehuffman@aol.com)

##### Phone Mentor:

Jerry Brantley  
919-269-9333

##### Education Materials:

Bill Cole  
919-522-5733  
[wcole@nc.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:kahanser@ncsu.edu)

We look forward to hearing from you!



**Check out the WCBA website:**

[www.wakecountybeekeepers.org](http://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!

## August in the Bee Yard



During the month of August the amount of brood rearing in the colony slows. The varroa mites have fewer and fewer cells in which to raise their young thus the mites per brood cell can quickly overwhelm a colony.

If you checked your colonies for varroa mites last month and no treatments were needed,

you should be in good shape for the coming fall and winter.

If, on the other hand, you did not check or treat any of your colonies last month, it is recommended that you check early this month and treat if needed.

Information derived from: The Alamance County Beekeepers Association - <http://alamancebeekeepers.com/aug06.aspx>

**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!**

## 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!

