



WAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

March 2015

www.wakecountybeekeepers.org

Club News

- ✂ **March 2015 meeting** will be held at the Wake County Commons Building and will feature a discussion on catching swarms followed by a presentation on testing & treating for mites; see page 2 for more details.
- ✂ **2015 WCBA / NCSBA membership renewals:** Forms will be available at the March meeting and **online**; please see treasurer Margie Gurganus for more information. **Renewals are due by March 31, 2015!!**
- ✂ **Bee School:** Our beginner beekeeping workshop is scheduled for **March 28 - 29, 2015**. This two-day weekend course will be held at the Raleigh Police Club at 3500 Leonard Rd. **Registration forms are available online.** Participation is limited to 45. If you or someone you know is interested, please be sure to **register by March 21, 2015**.
- ✂ **NC Beekeeping License Plate:** The Franklin county chapter has been spearheading an effort to create a beekeeping license plate, and has succeeded in its first step of obtaining 300 pre-paid orders for the plate. The DMV now needs to approve the plate, which may take some time. If you are interested in getting one of these plates but did not pre-order, please visit the Franklin county beekeepers website for **updates on the plate's public availability**.
- ✂ **Pollinator Garden Workshop:** Debbie Roos of the Chatham County Extension Service will be offering a 3-hour pollinator conservation workshop and garden tour on two dates in May. The workshop costs \$20 and pre-registration is required; **register early since class size is limited**. More **information and registration forms are available online**.
- ✂ **NCSBA Summer Conference:** Will take place July 9 - 11 at Lake Junaluska, and is hosted by the Haywood county chapter. **Click here for more information**.
- ✂ **WCBA Swarm List:** The club has maintained a list of members who are able to collect swarms, and has a zone map dividing the county into geographic areas, with zone captains responsible for calling members assigned to each zone. Club President Ricky Barbour is working on an updated list, please let him know if you are interested in participating.



March meeting:

Tuesday, March 10, 2015
 Social starts at 7:00 p.m.
 Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

Wake County Commons
 Building, 4011 Carya Drive,
 Raleigh 27610

in this issue

March program: Catching swarms; advantages of test & treat	2
2015 Officers / February meeting summary	2
Announcements, Requests & Reminders	3
Calendar of events	4
Essential beekeeping references	4



March program: Catching swarms & Advantages of testing & treating for mite control

President **Ricky Barbour** and Vice President **Mike Childers** will discuss catching swarms, including equipment needs and techniques to apply, as well as other tips, tricks and caveats. Please note, swarm retrieval is not suitable for inexperienced beekeepers or for people whose schedules do not have the flexibility to allow immediate response.



Master Beekeeper **Danny Jaynes** will then present on the advantages of testing and treating for mites. Varroa mites are the single biggest threat to colony health, not just for their direct effects on individual bees, but also for the viruses they spread. Learn how, why and when you should test and treat for mites to maximize the health of your colonies.



February meeting summary

President Ricky Barbour opened the meeting, held at the NC Rural Center, at 7:30 p.m., welcoming members and asking guests to introduce themselves. After making announcements about the bee class, membership forms, and swarm list, Ricky asked Kim Underhill, NCSBA Piedmont Region director, to update the club about the recent NCSBA-SCBA joint conference. Kim spoke glowingly about the well attended event and encouraged new beekeepers to join the state association and participate in future meetings, such as the summer meeting in July.

Sandy Carlson of the Franklin county chapter presented on the effort to create a beekeeping license plate for NC. There is a design for the plate and a legislative sponsor, and with 300 prepaid orders for the plate, the FCBA will be able to submit an application for the plate to the DMV. Forms for the pre-order were provided. At meeting time, there were 202 paid orders.

2015 OFFICERS

President: Ricky Barbour

Vice President: Mike Childers

Secretary: Kate Hanser

Treasurer: Marjorie Gurganus

Program Chair: Marc Larin

Sgt-at-Arms: Tom Underhill

Board of Directors:

Sarah Myers (3 yrs)

Sue Carson (2 yrs)

Ken Cobb (1 yr)

Officer contact information is available at the club's website:

www.wakecountybeekeepers.org/about

A distinguished panel of experienced beekeepers - James Knox, Charles Heatherly and Danny Jaynes - answered questions from members. Topics addressed included hive body rotation timing, record keeping, comb replacement practices, suggested references (see p. 4), and nosema and varroa management.

James Knox gave an overview of February bee yard activities. With continued low temperatures coupled with brood increase, food needs are particularly high at this time of year, and more colonies starve in February. Food stores must be near the cluster because they will not leave the brood exposed, so placing a drip bucket or division board feeder near the cluster may help. If a colony is entering its second year, treat for mites. Also, clean and repair equipment such as honey supers and frames now so that they will be ready when the nectar flow starts in March or April.

At the close of the meeting, the hive stand raffle was drawn and multiple door prizes distributed. The meeting ended promptly at 9 p.m. The March meeting will be back at the Wake County Commons Building on March 10.

Announcements, Requests, & Reminders

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2015

It's time to renew your WCBA and NCSBA club memberships for 2015. Forms will be available at the February and March meetings and at the [club website](#). Please contact treasurer Margie Gurganus for more information. **Renew by March 31, 2015.**

HELP OUR YOUR CLUB!

The club needs members to step up and do these tasks:

Mentor: Answer questions and guide new beekeepers.

Meetings: Distribute door prize tickets, sell raffle tickets

Swarms: Answer calls to collect swarms immediately! Have transportation and equipment ready at all times, must have a flexible schedule.

☞ *Ask a club officer today how you can help!*



Licensed to sell bees in NC!

NCDA's Apiary Services maintains a list of individuals and businesses licensed to sell bees in North Carolina. This list is updated at least annually - the current list is from February 2015 - and includes suppliers from across NC and out of state.

[Click here to see the most recent list.](#)

2015 WCBA Meeting Locations

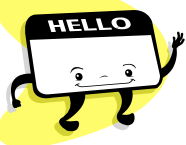
Wake County Commons Bldg.

- January 13
- March 10
- April 14
- May 12
- June 9
- July 14 - club pot-luck
- August 11
- November 10
- December 8 - holiday dinner

NC Rural Development Center

- February 10
- September 8
- October 13

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 **be sure to sign-in** when you attend meetings so we can maintain accurate attendance records.

Ball caps: Ricky Barbour has khaki cotton ballcaps embroidered with the club logo in navy blue available for \$9 each, first come first served.



NC MASTER BEEKEEPER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

If you would like to participate in this program, or if you need to complete your practical test portion of the Certified Level of the NC Master Beekeeper Program, please contact Charles Heatherly (chasheath@gmail.com) to find out more.



Local packages available!

Big Oak Bee Farm of Raleigh will have a limited number of 3-pound packages available for spring of 2015; please contact the farm at bigoakbeefarm@gmail.com or call Kim or Tom Underhill at 919-272-4450.

Connect with fellow Wake County beekeepers on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/BeekeepersofWakeCounty/

This open group is NOT WCBA controlled; simply ask group administrator Audrey Bowen to add you as a group member & join the conversation!



Calendar of Events



March 2015

Tuesday, March 10

WCBA Meeting

Ricky Barbour & Mike Childers discuss catching swarms and Danny Jaynes presents on the advantages of test & treat for mites, 7 - 9 p.m., Wake County Commons Building, 4011 Cary Drive, Raleigh

Sat. - Sun., March 28 - 29

WCBA Beginner Beekeeping Workshop

\$50, enrollment limited to 45. Raleigh Police Club, 3500 Leonard Rd., Knightdale Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

April 2015

Tuesday, April 14

WCBA Meeting

Experienced club members discuss splitting hives for increase vs. maintaining large colonies for honey production. 7 - 9 p.m., Wake County Commons Building, 4011 Cary Drive, Raleigh

May 2015

Tuesday, May 12

Pollinator Garden Workshop

Overview of pollinator conservation, gardening principles & plant selection, followed a garden tour. 2 - 5 p.m., \$20. Register by May 5, 2 - 5 p.m., Chatham County Extension Center, Pittsboro

Tuesday, May 12

WCBA Meeting

Keeping different types of bees: Q & A session., 7 - 9 p.m., Wake County Commons Bldg, 4011 Cary Drive, Raleigh

Saturday, May 16

Pollinator Garden Workshop

2nd offering of workshop, register by May 11; \$20, 2 - 5 p.m., Chatham County Extension Center, Pittsboro

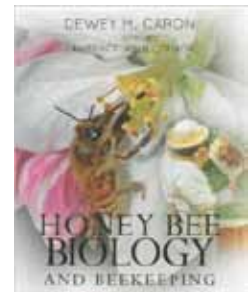


For more information, visit the club website:

www.wakecountybeekeepers.org

Essential beekeeping references

At the February meeting, our distinguished panel of beekeepers recommended the following books as essential items on the beekeeper's bookshelf:



The ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture by A. I. Root and Ann Harmon, 41st ed 2007. (\$59.95 at Dadant)

Beekeeping for Dummies by Howland Blackiston. A new edition will be released this year. (\$13.17 pre-order at Amazon)

First Lessons in Beekeeping by Keith Delaplane. Full color updated edition, 2007. (\$7.95 at Dadant)

The Hive & the Honey Bee by Dadant Publications; revised 1992. (\$36 at Dadant)

Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping by Dewey Caron; revised edition, June 2013. (\$52.65 at Amazon)

Also, the periodicals *American Bee Journal* and *Bee Culture* remain excellent sources of current information for beekeepers at all levels.