



WAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

www.wakecountybeekeepers.org

January-February 2016 Newsletter of the Wake County Beekeepers Association

Editor's note:

This is my first newsletter as your secretary. Everything I've learned about beekeeping is attributed to the WCBA, either from attending club meetings, the beginning beekeeping class, or learning from a member of this club. I've enjoyed each meeting, the dinners, and getting to know other beekeepers in our area. It is my honor and privilege to "give back" by serving as secretary. I always looked forward to the monthly e-mail from Kate Hanser to read the newsletter. I hope you will help by contributing ideas that will benefit each other. During the month, I encourage you to check the club website or Facebook group "Beekeepers of Wake County".

New officers for 2016:

President: Mike Childers
Vice President: Ben Crawley
Secretary: Susan Benton
Treasurer: Dawn Childers
Membership: Kim Rossi
Program Chair: Marc Larin
Sergeant-at-Arms: Tom Underhill
Board of Directors: Ricky Barbour (3 years); Sarah Myers (2 years); Sue Carson (1 year)

Membership renewal

Open enrollment for membership with the WCBA is through March 2016. The membership form, found on the club website <http://www.wakecountybeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/2016-WCBA-NCSBA-membership-form.pdf> should be turned in to Treasurer Dawn Childers at the next meeting, or mailed directly to her. You may join or renew with the NCSBA directly through their website <https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/about/join-the-ncsba>.



The Master Beekeeper program, administered by the North Carolina State Beekeeping Association (NCSBA), consists of 4 levels; Certified Beekeeper, Journeyman Beekeeper, Master Beekeeper, and Master Craftsman Beekeeper. Please visit the NCSBA website to take a practice quiz. Go to <https://www.ncbeekeepers.org> at the bottom of the home page for the practice test questions. The questions are changed each month. The written test for the Certified Beekeeper will be administered by our club after the Beginning Beekeeping Class on March 5 at 4:00 pm. The practical test, will be given in the club's bee yard at Oak View Park, March 19 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, and again each 3rd Sunday between April and September. If you want to take the Certified written test without attending the class, please contact the club secretary.

Beginning Beekeeping School

A workshop for beginning beekeepers, sponsored by the WCBA, will be held Saturday, March 5, 2016 at the Raleigh Police Club, 3500 Leonard Road, Knightdale, NC 27545. Classroom instruction from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., followed by administration of the written portion of the Certified level test of the NCSBA Master Beekeeper Program. Saturday, March 19, meet at the beehives behind the cotton field at Historic Oakview Park, Cary Drive, Raleigh for the hands-on instruction and administration of the practical segment of the Certified test. The workshop fee is \$50, which includes the book *First Lessons in Beekeeping*, one year memberships to both the WCBA and NCSBA, and lunch on Saturday. For members of WCBA and NCSBA, the fee is \$25. (If you already have the book, the fee is \$15.)

Here is a link to the registration form: <http://www.wakecountybeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/WCBA2016BeeSchoolReg.pdf>

Here is a link to the class agenda: <http://www.wakecountybeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Bee-School-2016-Agenda.pdf>

If a WCBA/NCSBA member only wants to take the test for the Certified Beekeeper on March 5, please e-mail the secretary or treasurer. There is no charge to take the test.

Webinar

Dr. David Tarpy's Webinar -recorded webinars from Dr Tarpy of NCSU may be found at this link:

<http://entomology.ces.ncsu.edu/apiculture/beekeeping-webinars/>. Regrettably, Dr. Tarpy announced that the January 12, 2016 webinar is the last apiculture webinar planned, at least for the time being, due to the loss of the Entomology Department at NC State and the restructuring of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The January 12 webinar discussed five potential biological threats to honeybees, that are in addition to the well-known ones. First, *Tropilaelaps clareae*, a parasitic mite found in Asia, Kenya, and Papua New Guinea that is smaller than varroa and found in the brood cell. This mite can't survive the cold and is found in tropical areas. Second, *Apis mellifera capensis*, the Cape Bee from Southern Africa, which invade other colonies, mimic queen pheromones. The adult workers can lay fertilized eggs that develop into queens. Third, a Large Hive Beetle, *Oplostomus fuliginosus*, bigger than honeybees, that scavenges the hive. Fourth, a new virus Slow Bee Paralysis (SBPV), found in Europe, vectored by varroa, that paralyzes the front legs of the honeybee. It can kill the adult bee in 2 days. Fifth, the Asian Hornet, which is a Japanese Hornet that can kill 40 honeybees in a minute. They can destroy a hive in a few hours. They kill the adults, then take the brood to feed their young. Dr. Tarpy said, "Don't be alarmed, but be vigilant." This is just a summary of his hour long talk. Watch the webinar and others to learn more.

Meetings

January 12 – NC Rural Center – panel discussion with Charles Heatherly, Danny Jaynes, and James Knox

February 9 – Raleigh Police Club – Dr. B Townes will discuss "Honey Bees, Nectar, Pollin & Plants"

March 8 – NC Rural Center

April 12 – Wake County Commons Building - Dr. Danesha Seth Carley planning your yard as Bee Friendly

May 10 – Wake County Commons Building

June 14 – Wake County Commons Building

July 12 – Wake County Commons Building

August 9 – Wake County Commons Building

Monthly Workshop – 3rd Sunday of the month at 1:00 pm at the Bee Yard near the cotton field of Historic Oak View County Park, April – September. Join Ben Crawley to get a monthly look inside the beehive.

January Meeting summary (thank you to Dan Brubaker and Kim Rossi taking notes)

JANUARY 2016 WCBA

- Welcome from Mike Childers.
- Review Article 2 of the Bylaws, Objective of the Wake County Beekeepers. In summary: We want beekeeping to not become a lost art.
- New Business: None
- Old Business: None
- Thanks to all of last years' officers and introduce the new officers for 2016. Remembered Jerry "Short" Brantley, who died January 5, 2016. He was a long term member of the Wake County Beekeepers Association. It was his vision to start 5 County Beekeepers Association in 2010.
- Treasurer report. The state is separating state & chapter membership, so please renew state (NCSBA) on-line or by mail. Chapter membership is open through the end of March. Name tags will be available starting next meeting.
- Kim Underhill spoke about being the representative to the state association. She also spoke about the Master Beekeeping program and the East Coast Apiculture Society. Kim presented Craig Dupree with his Journeyman Beekeeper certificate. Congratulations, Craig! The NCSBA Spring Meeting is scheduled for Feb 25-27 in New Bern. The summer meeting will be held July 7-9 in Hickory.
- Welcomed first-time attendees.
- Divided the room by tenure to get an idea of experience.
- February meeting at Raleigh Police Club. March meeting at Rural Center again. Will be at Wake Office Building April - August.

Program: Q&A Panel with Three Beekeepers - Danny Jaynes, James Knox, and Charles Heatherly

JK: What to do depends on their condition. They are collecting some pollen and nectar, but make sure they have plenty of food. If honey runs low, then feed them. Clean your equipment and get it ready.

What are feeding methods for winter feeding? DJ: Pollen patties are easier to get to than sugar water. Leave honey on the hive, too. It is the best source of healthy food in the winter. JK: Can also feed them with a gallon of syrup placed above the cluster.

Can you take a frame of honey from another hive to feed? CH: Yes, unless it died of foulbrood.

DJ: Place the frame in a freezer for 2 days before you place it to kill mites and moths.

Can you treat for Varroa now? CH: Don't recommend it. JK: Oxycillic acid can harm the bees, so only use it judiciously. Mite Away is good starting in February or March. DJ: Wait til at least early February. Strips can be temperature sensitive. Apivar is more effective; 42 day treatment in February will be done by the time of the honey flow.

Can you place a shallow frame in a deep hive body to feed your bees? Yes, but be aware that they will fill them in. It can make a mess.

What sign should we look for to prevent a swarm? DJ: Check for queen cells starting in February. Split them when you see the new queen cells and have four frames of brood. Prepare a nuc box with 2 frames of brood, pollen, nectar, and one empty frame.

Ben Crawley noted that you should NOT use a queen excluder to keep your queen in the hive.

How do you know when to rotate your boxes? DJ: Normally in early March. JK: See when the bees move up and the bottom box will be empty. Place that box on top, and add a frame of brood.

When is the best time to place a new package or nuc? DJ: Order your bees right away. It is never "too late", at least until October. Do not start a new colony in the fall. Get a package with the queen in the cage with the bees. Recommend starting with a nuc. JK: Start a nuc when flowers are blooming in order to prevent robbing. If there is nothing blooming, a new nuc will get robbed.

When should they re-queen? JK: Fall is a good time.

Are small hive beetles a problem? CH: Yes. A healthy colony will generally take care of hive beetles.

Should we NOT treat for Varroa? DJ: Lost most of his hives one year by not treating. CH: The Minnesota Hygienic is good at managing Varroa, but domestic bees in general should be treated.

A big thank you to our panel of beekeeping experts!

February Meeting Summary:

President Mike Childers opened the meeting at the Raleigh Police Club. The RPC has allowed our club to use the facility without a charge. Membership and renewals are accepted now through March 2016. Registration forms for the upcoming beginning beekeepers workshop (bee school) are on the back table (and posted on our club website). There was no old business or new business. Membership chair Kim Rossi announced that Membership cards are available at the back table for members to pick up. Members were asked to verify the spreadsheet. Our club has a federal tax ID number and our own insurance. We

are looking for someone to update and handle the club library. If you are interested, please e-mail Mike (president@wakecountybeekeepers.org). Raffle prizes of tickets, cardboard nucs, pollen patties, and calendars were given after our speaker.

Program chair Marc Larin introduced speaker “B” Townes, who spoke extensively about plants that provide nectar and pollen to honeybees for all seasons.



If you build your bees a variety of plants, then you don't need to use pollen patties or sugar water. He showed slides for all of these plants: Tulip Poplar, Henbit, Dandelion, Veronica, Speedwell, Alder, Willow, Crocus, Cornus Mas, Red Maple, Japanese Maple, Witch Hazel, Serviceberry, Sassafras, Winter Jasmine, Heather, Hellebore, Paperbush, Prunus Mume flowering Apricot, Lindera or Spicebush, Mahonia, Oregon Holly Grape, Peony, Flowering Quince, Hawthorn, Apple, Crabapple, Carolina Silverbell, Mountain Silverbell, Redbud, Scotch broom, Plum, Cherry, Peach, Nectarine, Kale, Mustard, Turnip, White Clover, Red Clover, Crimson Clover, Blueberry (like honeysuckle, it needs a helper Bumble Bee to open the flower), Tea Camelia, Daisy, Privet, Lugustrum, Boxwood (if you don't shear them), Holly, Magnolia, Chesnut, Chinese Chesnut, Golden Raintree, Crepe Myrtle (white flowers), Paw Paw, Blackberry, Raspberry, Strawberry, Mint, Catnip, Mullen, Mimosa, Persimmon, Blackgum, Catalpa, Black Locust, Yellow Poplar, Linden, Sourwood, Sumac, Ailanthus, Russina Sage, Red Hot Poker, Poppy, Coneflower, Vitex, Clethra, Buckwheat, and vegetables peppers, beans, squash, melons, pumpkin, watermelon, corn (for pollen). For the fall: Abelia, Sunflower (black oil or Mexican), Japanese Knotweed, Stinkweed, Sedum, Callicarpa, Goldenrod, Joe Pyeweed, Ironweed, Aster (prune in July to bloom in November

and December). Mr. Townes is retired from Wilkes Community College, where he was an instructor, worked with the gardens, and started the Merle Fest, which has raised \$25 million in assets to fund scholarships. He is the president of Beekeepers of Wilkes County and coordinates a beekeeping school. For questions or comments, contact “B” Townes, townesb@wilkes.net 336-984-1048

What to do in the hive in February and March:

Leave the bees alone. Clean equipment and read bee journals.

Make sure the bees have enough food. Never let the food stores to drop below 15 pounds. Once you start feeding your bees, you need to continue until the nectar flow starts.

Observe to see if bees are flying on warm days.

Get equipment ready. Prepare supers and frames. Ideally, each hive will have 2 deeps and a super, so there is plenty of room. Prepare to split your hive at the end of March or 1st part of April.