

April, 2016

Volume 1, Issue 4



Lincoln County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

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"The honey bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors, but because she labors for others."

-St John Chrysostom

Officer contact info:

President - Rick Monroe
rick@monroegen.org

V President - Chad Williamson
blackrockfarms@aol.com

Treasurer - Eddie White
cewhitebeekeeper@charter.net

Secretary - Beth Noles
bethnoles@bluebikerealty.com

Extension Rep - Tom Dyson
Tom_dyson@ncsu.edu

We are Beekeepers...

This is the official newsletter for the Lincoln County Beekeepers Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to the well-being of honey bees and to the fields of beekeeping, apiculture, research, and education. We are a diverse bunch of individuals who share a fascination for the honey bee and its workings. Our members range from full-time beekeepers and pollinators with thousands of hives to hobbyists involved in back-yard beekeeping. Some members do not even keep bees, but are fascinated by the six legs and four wings of *Apis mellifera*.

Meeting Notes:

This month 41 members attended the meeting and had the privilege of picking the brains of our panel of experts: (a big thanks to) Lynne Ross, Chad Williamson, Yates Reep and Rick Monroe who answered various questions and ran threw tricky situations we have all most likely encountered at some point in our beekeeping journeys. Some of the topics discussed were:

Proper ways to move or relocate a hive

Queen Castles

Keeping a nuc year round

Fume board use

Walk away splits

Bottom supering

Expanding hives

Equipment storage

Yates also explained to us his quick and easy method for making a split and NOT moving it to another bee yard/location. Pick his brain on that some time.

"Red buds warm, bees will swarm."

FLOWER REPORT: ornamentals, fruit, spring flowers done; wisteria and about everything else is blooming now.

HIVE REPORT: early spring, good rain = early swarms. Stay a half a box ahead of your girls and check **EVERY** week!!

NEXT MONTH'S TOPIC: Apitherapy

NEXT MEETING: May 12th @ 7pm

James Warren Citizen Center, 115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, NC 28092

Volunteer Opportunities:

- April 22** - Pumpkin Center Primary School will be hosting a Spring Fling event for grades K-2, about 350 students. This will be an all day event from 7:45 am to 2 pm. They have asked for a 20 minute presentation to groups of about 60 kids and an observation hive. If anyone is interested in helping out with this event, contact Beth Noles bethnoles@bluebikerealty.com.
- April 23** - Matthew's Earth Day by HAWK NCWF is looking for a beekeepers booth at this event. If interested please let Ralph Harlan or Beth Noles know ASAP to get you signed up.
- July 7-9** - NCSBA Summer Conference in Hickory, NC. Free admission to any and all volunteers who give 4 hours or more of their time to help.
- September 17** - Lincolnton Apple Festival. This is an all day event where we have 2 vendor booths: one for education and the other for members to sell their honey and honey products. Volunteers are always needed and in short supply! Make sure to join the Apple Festival Committee later this summer to help plan the events for this years booths.

****Any events, programs, etc you would like announced need to be emailed before the next monthly meeting****

Member News:

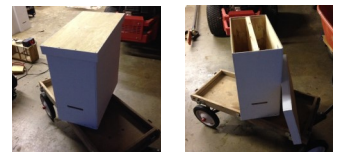
If anyone rented the extracting equipment and forgot to return the fume board, PLEASE return to Dick Walker ASAP!

Announcements:

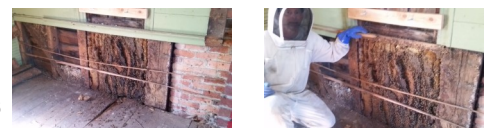
- Please keep Ralph Harlan's wife in your prayers as she suffered a serious fall recently, several broken bones and a will be recovering for some time.
- David Thompson is looking for anyone with un-needed swarm cells either on the frame or cut out that he can use. He will trade you out a drawn frame for a frame containing the cell. See contact info below.

FOR SALE:

Swarm Traps - Joe McLeod joemelmc@bellsouth.net has several \$20 each w/o frames



David Thompson of Denver (Southern Charm Bee Farm) recently removed large hive of bees from a structure in Newton NC. He also takes swarm cells that you do not need by trading your frame for a drawn frame or cutting the



There are a lot of bees in there!

By Ron (A World of Beekeeping)

"Bees work for man, and yet they never bruise their Master's flower, but leave it having done, as fair as ever and as fit to use: So both the flower doth stay and honey run." - George Herbert

Once while out doing an inspection on my hives, it hit me. There are a LOT of bees in these hives. I mean I knew that, but that day I really "got it." I was staring down just about 40,000 bees... living in this little box, right next to me. And normally I hardly notice they're here, unless I'm doing an inspection.

Then I started to think... Can you imagine if there were 40,000 birds living in a box? I mean it'd have to be a bigger box. But just think about the noise, the caw-cawing, flapping, flying, flocking. Not to mention the mess. I'd be afraid to walk anywhere near a 40,000 birds without ear plugs and a rain suit. What about 40,000 dogs, or cats, or squirrels? Take your pick. They would all cause insane problems. But bees?

I had 40,000 in front of me right that second, and all they did was buzz a little, and crawl around on the frames. When I walked back 50 feet from the hive, I could hardly tell there were bees inside. When they flew around, I didn't hear them, and when they went inside the box, they might as well have disappeared. When they fly around to the millions of flowers they'll land on during a year, they don't leave a trace. That is impressive.

I've challenged myself to be a little more like the bees and leave less of a trace. I can't always do it, but I've had a hybrid car, lived in a geodesic dome, and tried to reduce the waste and damage around my environment. But mostly I try and focus on the little steps I can take. What little steps could you take to become a little more like the bees and leave less of a trace on our environment?



If you have a beekeeping story, a favorite beekeeping memory or you would like to share why you became a beekeeper, we would love to include it in our monthly newsletter. Newsletters so out just after the monthly meeting. Please send a picture if possible.

New Members & Renewals

New Member ☐

Renewal ☐

Membership #: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

County of Residence: _____ Local Chapter: _____

1 year dues: NCSBA (state) \$15 + LCBA (local) \$5 = **\$20 total**

You can only be listed under one local chapter in NCSBA "Yellow Book" membership directory. If you choose to be designated "**at-large**" with no chapter affiliation, **check here:** ☐

I want to receive the NCSBA quarterly **BEE BUZZ** newsletter by (check only **ONE**):

Email ☐

US Mail ☐

NONE (I don't want it) ☐

I want to receive notices of bee-related **EDUCATIONAL** opportunities by email: YES ☐ NO ☐

I want to receive bee- and beekeeping-related **SOLICITATION** emails: YES ☐ NO ☐

This form may be turned in during our monthly meetings to the treasurer or by sending with payment to:

Eddie White
6576 Lineberger Road
Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

Make checks out to LCBA or Lincoln County Beekeepers association