

August 2016

Volume 1, Issue 8



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

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rick@monroegen.org

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blackrockfarms@aol.com

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cewhitebeekeeper@charter.net

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bethnoles@bluebikerealty.com

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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 we welcomed Daniel Roath from Brushy Mountain Bee Farm in Moravian Falls, NC (Wilkesboro area). He brought us his knowledge and experience in working with Oxalic Acid, a weak yet organic acid commonly found in plants and occurring naturally in our daily diets (in small amounts). Oxalic acid is used to treat hives with a strong population of varroa mites present. Hive can potentially have 4-5 mites per capped drone cell and treating with Oxalic Acid can help ensure your hive overwinters and comes into spring strong and healthy.

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm sells enough OA to treat about 35 hives for around \$6. While this is a weak acid its still 10,000 times stronger than vinegar and precautions should always be taken when treating hive: goggles, gloves, apron and filtered dusk mask. Also never treat during the honey flow! Treatments are a 3 part series timed 9 days apart. During treatments make sure OA mixture is stored in a refrigerator or freezer or you run the risk of it forming HMF, which is deadly to bees.

Several application methods are suggested, drip, vaporizer and spray. Timing is crucial and packaged bees may also be treated. Many wonder the effects on the bees when treating. OA is 70 times more toxic to the mites than the bees however there will be some die off of the older field bees in the process. Its also a personal choice to treat vs not treating for mites. Some breeds of bees benefit more from treating than others. Always do your homework and research all angles before making a choice, the fate of your bees depend on your educated decisions!! Other treatments exist for treating mites, this is just one of several we explored this month.

NEXT MONTH'S TOPIC: Brian Fisher—preparing hives for winter

NEXT MEETING: September 8th @ 7pm

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

Volunteer Opportunities:

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.

PLEASE PLAN TO VOLUNTEER FOR A 2 HOUR SHIFT!!!!

September 21– LCBA 2016 Bee School runs through November 2 with field day in October weather permitting and 1 workshop on how to assemble woodenware equipment. Please help us pass out flyers and posters in your areas as well as spread the word to family and friends who may be interested in attending!

****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:

- The next chance to take the Journeyman or Master level beekeeping tests will be: October 8th in Pittsboro and Oct 29th in Waynesville. Watch for the September edition of the Bee Buzz for more details.
- Check out the NCSBA website for this months quizzes and new games. Each month a new quiz for all levels to test your knowledge and or study for the next levels test.
- We need your tried and true recipes using honey for our newsletter recipe section! Pictures to accompany them are great as well! Send to bethnoles@bluebikerealty.com or reply to the newsletter email.
- **LCBA 2016 BEE SCHOOL:** Wednesday nights at 7pm September 21 - November 2 with 1 field day (in Oct weather permitting) and 1 workshop on building woodenware equipment. **Help us pass out flyers and posters!**

FOR SALE: If you make or have items for sale, make plans to list them here!

Extracting Equipment Rental:

Call Dick Walker @ 704 575 0925
wizz22789@aol.com

Rental fee is \$5 per day
Extractor, hot knife, uncapping tub, strainers

Here's the colony-killing mistake backyard beekeepers make...

By Dan Gunderson

Jonathan Garaas has learned a few things in three seasons of backyard beekeeping: Bees are fascinating. They're complicated. And keeping them alive is not easy. The Fargo attorney lost hives in his first two years as a novice beekeeper. With nine hives now established near his home and a couple of University of Minnesota bee classes under his belt, he feels like he's got the hang of it, although it's still a challenge. Every two weeks, he opens the hives to check the bees and search for varroa mites, pests that suck the bees' blood and can transmit disease. If he sees too many of the pinhead sized parasites, he applies a chemical treatment.

While experts welcome the rising national interest in beekeeping as a hobby, they warn novices may be inadvertently putting their hives — and hives for miles around — in danger because they aren't keeping the bee mite population in check. Many hobbyists avoid mite treatments, preferring a natural approach, but that's often a deadly decision for the bees, said University of Minnesota bee expert Marla Spivak. National surveys by the show backyard beekeepers in fact are taking the greatest losses nationally," and those losses are often the result of an out-of-control infestation of the varroa mite, said Spivak.

Varroa mites arrived in the United States nearly 30 years ago. But they've become a bigger problem in recent years. Researchers partly blame backyard beekeepers who don't treat their hives. Untreated hives can spread mites and viruses to other hives within several miles, Spivak said. Healthy bees will invade a dying hive to steal the honey. When they do, they also carry mites with them back to their hives. "The combination of the mite and the viruses is deadly," said Spivak.

The University of Minnesota Bee Squad, a group that provides beekeeping education and mentoring in the Twin Cities, is seeing more healthy hives rapidly infested with mites and the viruses they carry. Fall is an especially critical season, said Rebecca Masterman, the Bee Squad's associate program director.

"That late season reinfestation means that your bees are going through winter with a lot of mite pressure and it's really hard for them to come out of that and survive," she said. "It's something that is important enough to really try to get every backyard beekeeper in the country to at least be aware of it." Masterman said she's also encouraging commercial beekeepers to check their bees more often for surprise mite infestations.

A new lets beekeepers anywhere in the country share data on mite infestations and will help researchers track the spread, she added. Attorney and hobby beekeeper Jonathan Garaas Dan Gunderson | MPR News "You can get the book learning. You can see the YouTubes. You can be told by others," he said, but "you have to have hands-on experience. When you start putting it all together, it now starts making sense." Scientists wish every beginner beekeeper was as diligent.

A mite control experiment set up this summer should provide more information about the best methods for treating mites in bee colonies. Bees face other challenges beyond mites, including poor nutrition, disease and pesticides. Even veteran beekeepers say it takes more effort to keep their bees alive. Beekeepers are independent, so Spivak said she doesn't like to tell them how to care for their bees. But the mite and virus threat to bees, she added, is something that can be controlled. "I really understand why some people might not like to have to treat their bee colony for mites. It just sounds so awful. It's such a beautiful bee colony and to have to stick some kind of a treatment in there seems so unnatural," she said. But our bees are dying," she added. "And it's very important to help do whatever we can to keep them alive."



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 go out just after the monthly meeting. Please send a picture if possible.

Flower Report

(as of 8/14/16) By Ralph Harlan

After the bit of rain we had last week, perhaps we will start seeing some of the flowers bloom that can bring us a nectar flow. Our Fall flow can be pretty erratic, depending on the amount of rain we get and when. So far all I have seen is partridge pea, some ladino clover, and the lespedeza. There is a little philadelphia fleabane and daisy fleabane, some wild lettuce, and prickly lettuce, and a few compass plants. Some of the mountain mint is still producing, and there is also the hummingbird feeder. My hive top feeders are still producing a “flow”.

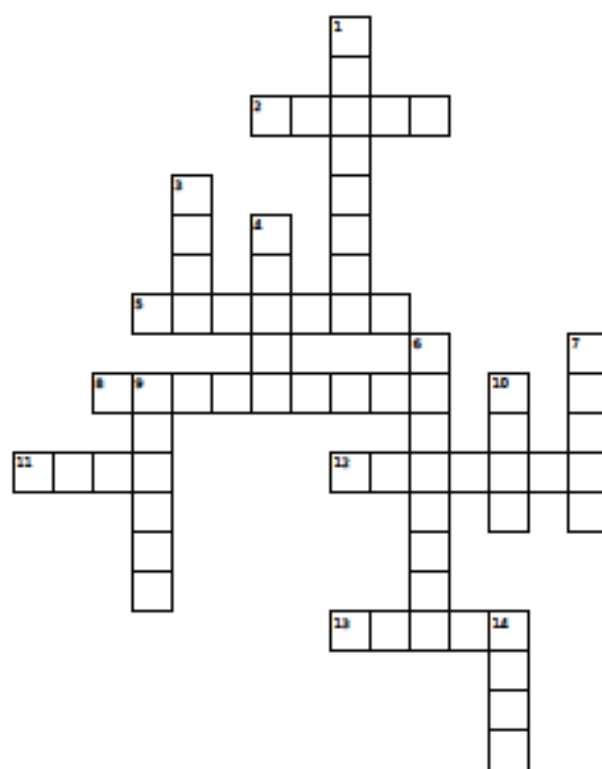
Hive Report

(as of 8/14/16) By Ralph Harlan

Heat such as we are experiencing can be a problem – for both you and your bees. If you go to check in hives, take water for yourself, too. Make sure you have water available for the bees. Water is brought into a colony in larger than normal quantities to help maintain the humidity in the hive as well as to help cool it. If you go in a hive at this season, try to do it early in the day before the temperatures go so high.



Puzzle 2



Down:

1. amount of honey made in 1 bees lifetime is 1/12 of a _____
3. _____ the Baptist lived on a diet of wild locust honey
4. honey bee is the official insect of which state
6. makes honey 25% sweeter than table sugar
7. how many types of honey bees are there
9. honey bees are native to _____
10. the beehive state
14. number of bee species that produce honey

Across:

2. honey bees have been producing honey for 100 million _____
5. First to call honey bees white mans fly
8. National Honey Bee Month
11. number of wings on a honey bee
12. box containing about 3,000-3,500 bees
13. honey bee that can live 3+ years

Library:

LCBA has started library as a resource for members only. At each meeting you may check out a book, video or any resource item for the 4 weeks until the next meeting when you can return the item. Please make sure to sign out the item on the board inside the closet! Feel free to donate to any unneeded books or items to our resource closet at any time!

The Hive and The Honey Bee

Garden Pants for Honey Bees

The ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture

Honey in the Comb

Hive Management

Honey handbook

Natural Beekeeping

Beeswax Alchemy

Honey Bee Biology

Swarm Essentials

Successful Queen Rearing

Presentation Resources:

Other Items:

Teaching Hive

Brochures

Photo Board

Coloring pages

Flowers, fruits, veggies for displays

Crayons

Kids games

Catalogs

Plastic Honey bee

Local Breeder List:

Billy Boyd	5803 Old Monroe Rd	Indian Trail	704 821-7310	russian bees	
Bob Doty	6325 Stirewalt Rd	Kannapolis	704 934-2640 704 651-2555	nucs-minn hyg	odiedody@ctc.net
Ray Revis	P O Box 2520	Marion	828 652-3524	nucs/queens-russians	
Gerry & Libby Mack	121 Hermitage Road	Charlotte	704 953-0565	nucs - russians	
Ralph Harlan	1295 Brevard Place Rd	Iron Station	704 807-6207	nucs	harlanmgmt@live.com
Wayne Hansen	8004 Southway Rd	Charlotte	704 287-4805 704 287-4805		whansen318@yahoo.com
Jeff Ritchie	3901 Piney Rd	Morganton	828 438-1720	nucs/queens	
Jimmy Brooks	126 Cedar Lake Farm Rd	Cherryville	704 477-6242	nuc/queens-russian	cj99brooks@hotmail.com
Chad Williamson	907 Tot Dellinger Rd	Cherryville	704 530-7489	nuc/queens-vsh	blackrockfarms@aol.com

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