

July 2016

Volume 1, Issue 7



Lincoln County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

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- Who we are and what we stand for
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- Volunteer opportunities
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- Renewal / membership form
- Member submitted stories
- Crossword puzzle

***"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

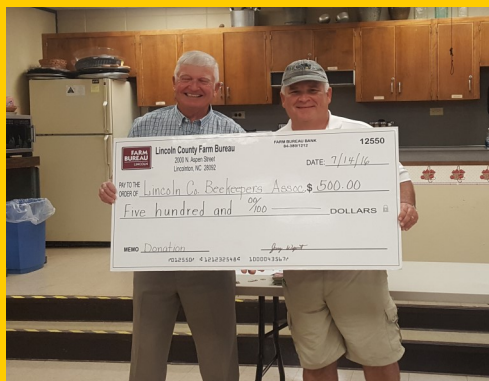
## We are Beekeepers...

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:

First off a big thank you to Marvin Melton and Lincoln County Farm Bureau for their kind donation of \$500 to our group! This month's meeting was about properly insuring not only our group but each of us on a personal level. There are ways to do so if you intend to sell honey or products from the hive. Make sure you all make time to speak with your local insurance agent about what insurance products are best for your honey enterprise. This was a last minute speaker addition so thank you to these fellows who made time to speak with us at short notice.

We also discussed what was learned at the Summer Conference, threw around ideas about the coming Apple Festival and are trying to plan a time to have our own honey judging contest at a coming meeting (with NCSBA standards).



**NEXT MONTH'S TOPIC:** Oxalic Acid Treatments  
September: Brian Fisher - preparing hives for winter and feeding

## NEXT MEETING: August 11th @ 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

**August 11** - Robert Smith with Catawba County Beekeepers will be at our August meeting collecting jars of honey to be part of the Honey for Disabled American Veterans Program. Find out more about the program on NCBeekeepers.com Please bring any honey you wish to donate to the fund to our August meeting.

**\*\*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 in Henderson October 15th. 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.

### 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

# Remembering Burt Shavitz

Featured on Burt's Bees website

**"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."**

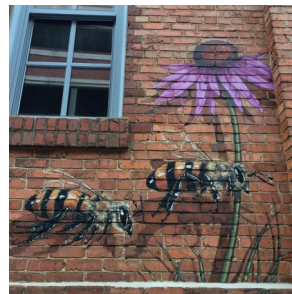
- Henry David Thoreau



This is the quote that Burt Shavitz lived by. One year after Burt returned to the Earth, we reflect on the man who taught us the most important thing, the thing we often forget—that we can live, simply and harmoniously, with the natural world.

His legacy lives on in the profound respect and belief in nature that he instilled in us. Not only did he convey the importance of our relationship with the outdoors, he truly lived by it. You could find him on any given day on his land or in the self-renovated turkey coop without electricity that he called home. We fondly remember the man who didn't use an alarm clock – **"I wake up when the sun comes in my window and go to bed when it's too dark to read,"** – and applaud his way of life as a beacon of inspiration in our hurried times. But to him, it was just living. We could all aspire to live a little more like Burt.

**"It wasn't as if I'd summoned these bee down, or gone looking for them. It was an act of God. It was a no brainer. Now I had a way of making some money. I had a lot of the tools and the knowledge, the literature, the ability to do just as my guru had done."** - Burt



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## Local Breeder List

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

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**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 7/16/16) By Ralph Harlan

With the bit of rain we've had lately, we are starting to see blooms again. While more is blooming, and some like Queen Anne's lace made it through the dry spell, not all blooms are productive or useful to honeybees. Our tiger lilies are blooming (and the flowers & bulbs are edible for people but I understand that the pollen is toxic/lethal for cats), but they and a lot of other ornamentals don't offer much for honeybees. The ladino clover is no longer scorched and brown, hops and red clovers are coming back, and clovers are bee forage for both pollen and nectar. The lespedeza clover is starting to bloom here, and some years the bees will work it hard. Both sow thistle and bull thistle are in flower and I am seeing flea banes, hairy golden aster, Mexican sunflower, pokeweed, butterfly weed, butterfly bush, and sunflowers with bees on them. Bees have been working both my common and English plantains, and some have been on our fennel. I saw honeybees on the horse nettles today, they did not have loads in the pollen baskets which suggests they were taking nectar. I have not seen horse nettles worked before. Crape myrtles, I'm told, are sometimes worked by honeybees, depending on the variety and color of the myrtle. I am seeing some trumpet honeysuckle and have been told that it is a nectar source for honeybees as well as hummingbirds. I do see some of the hummers here visit them, and I have seen hummers and bees working the prickly and wild lettuces. Black eyed Susan has been blooming, and I have been told it is a source of pollen – and sometimes nectar – for honeybees, but I have never seen bees on it. The fall privet is close to blooming and our mountain mint is starting its flowers. I have not seen our bee balm yet, but it should be coming along soon. Peppergrass is blooming but I do not see bees working it.



## Hive Report (as of 7/16/16) By Ralph Harlan

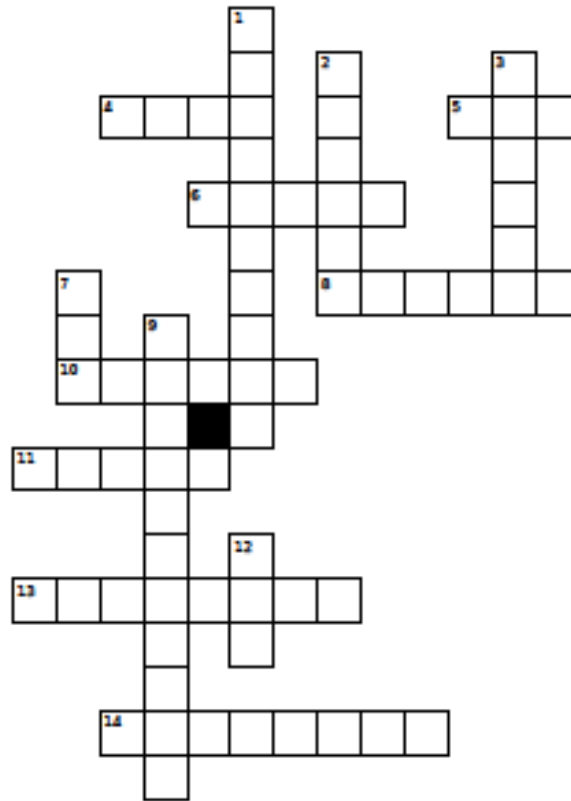
The smaller hives I have been in lately are growing with the queens laying well still. Of the larger hives I've been in, there has been plenty of capped brood and the queens are laying still, also, except one colony that is still 3 shallows, 2 mediums, and 2 deeps tall and is heavily loaded with capped brood in 1 medium and both deeps, has the rest of the 1 medium and 2 deeps taken up with young brood, but has no eggs at all! I saw the marked queen as she wandered around on a frame of young brood and capped brood. She didn't seem interested in the few empty cells or the few frames in the next box up that were drawn comb but not completely filled with brood or food.

In spite of the blooming flowers I mentioned in the flower report, this is the time to be very careful about food supplies in each hive as well as empty comb. If there is not a strong natural food supply in your area, your colonies will be eating the "winter stores" now and you will have an unpleasant surprise in August or September. I am feeding syrup to many of my colonies, especially nucs and young colonies that have just come up from nuc boxes. I typically use 1:1 syrup as the moisture evaporated from it is beneficial to a hive with brood in it. Recently I read that only 2:1 syrup should be used

*"... it's not the water in the mix that provides energy for your bees, it's the sugar content. The bees will be able to produce more wax by providing them a higher sugar mix and it will provide them with more energy." [Dennis Brown ]*

I do necessarily agree with that, the sugar is available to the bees either way, but the moisture in the mix will be evaporated as the bees put it into the cells. At this time of the year, bees will be bringing in a lot of water to cool the hive and to keep the humidity up for the brood. I can make 1:1 syrup without having to heat the water or the syrup on the stove in order to get all the sugar into solution. Heating – or boiling – 5 gallons of water or more is a pain in the . . . neck, and to make enough syrup for more than 2 colonies is surely going to take more than 2 gallons of water. (For 1:1 syrup you will add 2 gallons of hot water to 16 pounds of sugar and mix it thoroughly. I typically use water straight from the tap as hot as it gets, about 125 degrees F, and then mix it well/let it sit/mix it again in about 15 minutes and use it. For a 2:1 mix it would be 32 pounds of sugar and boiling water, and sometimes I have a problem getting it to go completely into solution before use. Heating the sugar syrup can be problematic – not only because of the mess but also if you caramelize the sugar I understand it is not good for the bees. And then you have to wait awhile for it to cool enough to use! Thanks, I will stay with 1:1.) Empty comb is an invitation to hive beetles at this time of the year. Bees must "patrol" the hive for beetles, and can only corral them. Empty comb is a great hiding place for the beetles and the bees cannot get the beetle out of the cell. When the bees move on from the cell with the hive beetle in it, so does the hive beetle – getting closer to an area to lay her eggs where her larvae can get to pollen/brood/protein. You don't want this problem! I have not seen a lot of hive beetles this year 'til now, but am beginning to see a few so they haven't gone too far for their vacation. I have been told that AFB has been confirmed in the Greenville, South Carolina area, and that it is being monitored.

# Puzzle 2



## Down:

1. signals that stimulate the tasks of worker bees
2. bees wax is produced from wax \_\_\_\_\_
3. dance known to honey bees used in communication
7. a color bees cannot see
9. honey bees make up 80% of all \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_ pounds of nectar in 1 pound of honey

## Across:

4. process used to make creamed honey
5. \_\_\_\_\_ begins to melt at 148 degrees
6. bees fly 55,000 miles to make how much honey
8. worker bees live approximately 40 days ( 6 weeks) in the \_\_\_\_\_
10. honey bee without a stinger
11. queen honey bees lay between 1,000-3,000 eggs \_\_\_\_\_
13. bees that collect nectar
14. sticky plant and tree resin

# 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**