

March, 2016

Volume 1, Issue 3



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:

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**Treasurer** - Eddie White  
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**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*.

## March Meeting Notes:

We watched a video of Michael Palmer's talk about his sustainable apiary to a group of beekeepers in England. He is a large scale commercial beekeeper in New England and gave lots of great advice and tips on how he has been so successful over the years.

He started in the 70's and used many "typical" methods used by most at the time. Over the years he noticed where he was going wrong and the major changes he needed to make to survive. His biggest mention in the talk was about buying packages from out of state growers or out of "zone" growers, meaning queens and growers breed and packaged in areas not of your same climate and weather patterns. Once he started his method of breeding his own nucs for overwintering thus solving his winter loss problem. He uses a variety of methods described and heavily written about in the early 1900's which were the only methods to be used before the idea of mail order ready packages came along.

**March 26th, 9:30am-4pm**  
**Flat Rock Playhouse Downtown**  
**Hendersonville, NC**  
**\$25 in advance**  
**\$35 at door**  
**Limited Seating**  
**[www.hcbeekeepers.org](http://www.hcbeekeepers.org)**



**Watch Michael Palmer's talk on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)**  
**The Sustainable Apiary by Michael Palmer.**

## NEXT MEETING: April 14th @ 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, let Beth Noles [bethnoles@bluebikerealty.com](mailto:bethnoles@bluebikerealty.com) know asap.

**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\*\***

# Announcements:

## FOR SALE:

Swarm Traps - Joe McLeod [joemelmc@bellsouth.net](mailto:joemelmc@bellsouth.net) has several **\$20 each w/o frames**



# The Mesozoic Era of Earth

By Greg Clements

The Mesozoic era started with a huge explosion about 252 million years ago and ended with a big boom about 65 million years ago. This is important because the huge explosion was devastating to most all plants and animals on land. It is likely only those in the ocean survived. The huge explosion was a series of volcanoes that continuously erupted for many years in what is present day Russia. Of course back then all the land mass was clumped together and called Pangaea and the ocean surrounded Pangaea. The huge explosion deposited ash over 6 miles deep on Pangaea. Ask in the atmosphere was so thick that it blocked all sunlight for many years. Plant life died. Animal life died.

If there were any bees they too died. So we know that even if there were bees prior to the huge explosion, the evolution of bees had to start over. It is more likely bees never existed prior to the huge explosion.

After about 15 million years plants and animals began to appear on Earth again. Dinosaurs began along with seed bearing plants. However, it took about 150 million years before flowers began to appear. The first flowers were simple small white flowers that had no nectar that appeared about 100 million years ago. They relied on wind pollination. It was also about this time that Pangaea slowly started breaking up into many land masses. While there were bees there were no honey bees. The bees that were present did not pollinate the flowers and did not collect nectar.

The big boom about 65 million years ago was an asteroid striking the Earth creating the Gulf of Mexico. This event also kicked up a lot of dust into the atmosphere and it killed off all the dinosaurs. Many plants, including those with flowers and some bee species survived this event. We do know that honey bees were on Earth at least 50 million years ago. Several have been trapped in amber and can be seen in various museums today.

So the question is were honey bees on Earth before the big boom?



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**