



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 Florida-like winter we are having has all our bees stirring and colonies growing. Hopefully we are all ready and prepared for making splits for this very early spring season.

What's your favorite method for making splits?

- Swarm cell splits
- Walk away splits
- Reared Queen splits
- Catching Swarms

No matter what your tried and true method is for growing your apiary, bringing in extra income or managing the hives you have now, the time is upon us. The notes from last months meeting with Libby Mack are on page 4 of this newsletter in case you need the info.

NCSBA is offering a Queen Rearing course 2 times in May for any interested. Cost is \$75 for the daylong course per person, space is limited. Greenville, NC May 6th and Statesville, NC May 20th. See the NCSBA website for more details. [www.ncbeekeepers.org](http://www.ncbeekeepers.org)

**NEXT MONTH'S TOPIC:**  
(topics subject to change)

**NEXT MEETING: March 9th @ 7pm**

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

# Volunteer Opportunities:

**\*\*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:

- 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.
- Spring Conference will be held in Winston-Salem NC on March 3-4th. Please check the NCSBA website for more details. Testing will also be held at the conference for anyone looking to venture to the next level in the Master Beekeeping Program.
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:wizz22789@aol.com)

**Rental fee is \$7 per day**  
Extractor, hot knife, uncapping tub, strainers etc

# How To Make A Walk-Away Split

By Rusty @ Honeybee Suite

In contrast to a swarm-control split where you need to know the whereabouts of your queen, a walk-away split can be made without having to find the queen. The steps for setting up a walkaway split are easy:

- Examine the brood nest of the hive you want to split and look for eggs. Split the brood nest between the new hive and the old hive, making sure each hive has many eggs, both capped and uncapped brood, and enough nurse bees to cover the entire brood nest.
- As in any split, arrange the frames so the brood nest is in the center flanked by pollen and then honey. If there is insufficient honey, add a sugar syrup feeder.

The queenless portion will soon begin to raise a queen of their own from very young larvae. Since eggs will be hatching over the next three days, they will have many new larvae to choose from and several days to get it all done. The queenright portion of the split will continue on as before. The downside of this type of split is that it takes a long time to establish. Rather than raising a queen from a maturing queen cell, the workers are raising her from a newly hatched larva. You have to wait an additional week before you start looking for fresh eggs. So instead of checking for eggs after three weeks, you should start checking after four weeks.

This type of split can be done before you see any swarm cells. However, if you start too early in the season the split could fail for the following reasons:

- Nighttime temperatures may be too cold for a tiny split. Remember, you have a relatively small number of adult bees and a large number of brood cells. Nighttime temperatures must be fairly moderate to avoid chilled brood.
- Remember that the virgin queen will need drones with which to mate. Don't try raising queens in any type of split until drones are plentiful.

If you see swarm cells in any of your hives you usually don't have to worry about the temperature or the drones because the bees don't start building swarm cells until conditions are right for swarming. If you are unsure of your timing, let the bees guide you.

Happy Splitting!

# Splitting Checklist

Libby Mack

Mecklenburg County Beekeepers

## Splits Version 1

### Original Colony

- Old Queen
- Move to new location
- Lots of young bees
- Open frames (room to lay)
- Food

### New Colony/Colonies

- Old location (foragers will return here)
- Eggs and young brood
- Pollen
- Feeder

## Splits Version 2

### Original Colony

- Old queen
- Old location (foragers)
- Nurse bees
- Open frames (room to lay)

### No New Colonies

- Share extra brood frames with other, weaker colonies
- Creates space in Original colony

## Splits Version 3

### Original Location

- Swarm cells and brood
- Lots of young bees
- Returning foragers
- Food

### New Location

- Old queen
- Lots of young bees
- Open frames (room to lay)
- Food

**Splits Version 4** (Post Swarm/Old queen absent) As colony has split and hive is unlikely to produce a honey crop, this is an opportunity to create multiple splits.

### Each New Hive

- One frame with swarm cells
- Young bees
- Watch for drifting (original location will get foragers)
- Use beetle traps (small hives are susceptible)
- Small entrances/watch for robbing
- Feed if necessary

## Splits Version 5 (Walk-back split)

### Day 1

- Make sure queen is in bottom box
- Move all brood to top box
- Install queen excluder between boxes

### Day 2

- Split bottom and top boxes into two colonies
- Return some brood to bottom box  
(Top box will produce emergency queen)

## General Notes

Queens from swarm cells are the best possible queens  
New splits should be moved two miles away OR put lots of nurse bees in new colonies,  
move new colonies as far away as possible (in same bee yard) and orient entrances differently.

LCBA would love to include your favorite beekeeping stories, pictures or interesting articles that you find worthy of sharing.



## Flower Report

(as of 2/15/17)

By Ralph Harlan

There seems to be abundance in bloom, the colonies I've been into and heard about are bringing in nectar and pollen, and have been for more than a week. During the last week or 10 days I had no clue what was providing the nectar, but now I see crocus, rosemary, bluets, vinca, camellia, dandelion, yellow bells, & cherry. Oh yes, don't forget the pansy. I'm betting there is more than I see while going to different outyards in the area. I still have fondant on most colonies and they are taking it (but they may be taking it out with the trash since there is nectar coming in).

## Hive Report

(as of 2/15/17)

By Ralph Harlan

With the nice weather we are having the colonies are expanding. Nice weather means pollen and nectar, and the bloom of the red maple was the starting gun so the race is on for colonies to grow big enough in time to swarm before the poplar blooms. It is the nature of bees to reproduce, which they do by swarming. Unless you believe in trying to repopulate the environment with feral colonies, you need to keep watch in your hives to prevent swarms from occurring. With the present environmental considerations, not only is the swarm likely to perish without help, the colony from which it issued is also going to have problems. The issuing (residual) colony might fully recover by mid next year if it can put away enough stores to survive the winter. Because of the time taken in having the new queen mature and start laying, small residual colonies struggle to produce enough bees in time for the big poplar bloom in order for them to have foragers in numbers that can bring in the quantity of nectar to survive. During this recovery, they are eating the available stores. So, by managing your colonies well you may prevent swarming; if not maybe you can catch the swarm before it is gone. It is easier to split a colony before it goes into swarm mode and recombine it at the time of the flow than it is for the colony to recover after the swarm!

With the early start this season, colonies will grow fairly fast, so you must still be sure there is enough food in each colony to sustain it if we have a sudden cold snap (or two) – like we seem to have each year. While this seems to be somewhat a contradiction: food coming in and the beekeeper is still having to watch the pantry. New bees and brood can eat a lot, but you still do not have a full size staff on the serving line. Remember that once she lays a big patch of eggs, it will be six weeks before there is a noticeable increase in foragers (3 weeks from egg to emergence of the adult and approximately 3 weeks of housework for those just emerged). If it is still getting chilly at night she can only lay as many eggs as the adult bees can cover and keep warm. If it stays cold into the day those bees aren't going out to forage if the brood would chill because of their absence. If it rains, no one is going out for groceries but the whole clan is still here to eat what is available. Spring can be a thrill to a beekeeper if watch is kept on the colonies. Neglect at this time of the year can mean that while the colony may not die it may never seem to thrive the way it should/could.

# Test Your Knowledge:

## Certified Level:

1. Match the part of the bee with where it is located from the column on the right (3 points)

ocelli

wing muscles

nasanov gland

proboscis

mandibles

wax glands

legs

sting

antennae

compound eyes

reproductive organs

hindwing

- a. part of the mouth (found on head)
- b. part of the head
- c. part of the abdomen
- d. part of the thorax

2. Match the bee sub-species ( race ) or strain with its known negative characteristic (2 points)

Italian ( *Apis mellifera ligustica* )

Carniolan ( *Apis mellifera carnica* )

Caucasian ( *Apis mellifera caucasica* )

African ( *Apis mellifera scutellata* )

Russian

- a. small winter colonies, tendency to swarm
- b. maintains a bigger colony year-round, requiring
- c. tendency to swarm
- d. highly defensive
- e. intensive use of propolis; prone to robbing & drifting

3. Match the words on the left, with the definitions on the right (5 points)

colony

hive

festooning

bearding

burr comb

brace comb

diploid

haploid

supering

supersedure

- a. bees gathered at the entrance, or on the front of the hive on hot humid days or nights
- b. the living social unit of honey bees, the "superorganism"
- c. the domicile used by humans to house their honey bees
- d. excess comb built without connecting parts
- e. bees hanging onto one another & secreting beeswax
- f. comb built between adjacent parts fastening them together
- g. an organism containing 2 sets of chromosomes
- h. adding a super to a hive
- i. replacement of a queen in a colony by a daughter queen
- j. an organism containing only 1 set of chromosomes

# Test Your Knowledge:

## Journeyman Level:

1. Honey bees are a good pollinator of tomato plants. (1 point)

True

False

2. What part of the flower produces pollen? (2 points)

the ovary

the sepal

the stigma

the anther

3. Like most insect-pollinated crops, cucumber blossoms require only one bee visit to set fruit (1 point)

True

False

4. Cucumbers are not an attractive forage plant for honey bees, and they often locate more attractive plants to forage upon. (1 point)

True

False

5. The male bumble bee visits flowers to forage upon nectar and pollen for themselves to feed. (2 points)

True

False

6. List four reasons the honey bee is such a valuable pollinator. ( 1/2 pt. is awarded for each distinctly different reason ) (2 points)

7. Generally, Africanized honey bees ( apis mellifera scutellata ) construct less cells per square inch than the Italian European honey bee (apis mellifera ligustica). (1 point)

True

False

8. match the 'other stinging insect' photo on the left with the photo of what that insect's nest looks like from the photos on the right (3 points)



a.



b.



c.



9. THREE PART QUESTION

1.) What is the insect in the photo?

2.) Where does this insect make their nest, or lay their eggs?

3.) What does this insect eat?

4.) anything else you might know about this insect? (4 points)



10. THREE PART QUESTION

1.) What is the insect in the photo?

2.) Where does this insect make their nest, or lay their eggs?

3.) What does this insect eat?

4.) anything else you might know about this insect? (4 points)



## Test Your Knowledge:

### Master:

1. Venom from various stinging insects are basically the same.

Therefore, if you are allergic to one, you will probably be allergic to all of them. (2 points)

True

False

2. Female wax moths cannot lay eggs if light is present (2 points)

True

False

3. Creamed honey is finely granulated honey that has had the crystallization process carefully controlled.

While there are quite a few steps to the procedure, some are well known and critical to the outcome.

Which of the following is NOT part of the process to make creamed honey?

(2 points)

heating to a maximum temperature, possibly twice

incorporation of plenty of air at just the right time during mixing

straining carefully and thoroughly, after each heating

mixing of "seed" starter with base honey of proper moisture content

cooling temperature and time

4. What is slum gum?

(1 point)

5. Describe the Demaree method of swarm prevention.

Do this in as if you were writing instructions for someone else to follow.

BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE HIVE ARRANGEMENT BEFORE AND AFTER MANIPULATION (4 points)

## Answers:

### Certified:

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ocelli - B         | Legs - A            |
| Wing muscles - A      | Sting - C           |
| Nasanov gland - C     | Antennae - B        |
| Proboscis - D         | Compound eye - B    |
| Mandibles - D         | Reproductive - C    |
| <u>Wax Glands - C</u> | <u>Hindwing - A</u> |
- 
- |                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 2. Italians - A      | African - B |
| Carnolian - E        | Russian - D |
| <u>Caucasian - C</u> |             |
- 
- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 3. Colony - D        | Brace Comb - J         |
| Hive - E             | Diploid - H            |
| Festooning - I       | Haploid - G            |
| Bearding - C         | Supering - A           |
| <u>Burr Comb - F</u> | <u>Supersedure - B</u> |

### Journeyman:

1. False
2. the anther
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. 1.) perennial colony 2.) nectar and pollen are their only food 3.) plumose body hairs 4.) flower constancy / flower fidelity behavior 5.) populations can be managed
7. False



- 8.
9. 1.) Yellow Jacket ( *Vespula germanica*/ *Pennsylvanica*) 2.) Generally make paper comb nests in the ground; CAN make paper nests in shrubs, but not usually 3.) They are meat eaters. 3.)a. nectar and pollen, and other sweets - like discarded soda containers 4.) a. get blamed for 'honeybee' stings. 4.) b. can invade honey bee nests, feeding on the honey or adult bees {especially trouble-

some in the fall, when the yellow jacket young are no longer present in their nest }

10. 1.) Carpenter Bee ( aka "boring bee") Apidae Bom-bas 2.) chews tunnels into wood, they do not eat this wood 3.) nectar and pollen 4.) a. Like the males of all wasps and bees, the males do not sting 4.)b. Carpenter bees are not social, but can aggregate, and use the same nesting sites from season to season

### Master:

1. False
2. True
3.  
heating to a maximum temperature, possibly twice  
incorporation of plenty of air at just the right time during mixing (correct answer)  
straining carefully and thoroughly, after each heating  
mixing of "seed" starter with base honey of proper moisture content  
cooling temperature and time

### 4. the residue left after rendering wax

5. 1. Destroy all the queen cells in the hive 2. Transfer all of the frames with brood ( capped or uncapped) from the hive's present brood chambers into the new brood chambers. 3. The queen will be kept in the hive's current brood chambers and it may be best to cage her during the transfer process so that she is not accidentally damaged or transferred with the brood. 4. Empty frames ( preferably drawn combs ) are placed in the original brood chambers, from which all of the brood frames were removed. 5. The queen is placed in the bottommost brood chamber which is now empty of brood. 6. The queen excluder is placed above the now brood-less brood chambers. This is not absolutely necessary and a super of honey above the brood chambers will serve the same purpose in that it will stop the upward movement and egg laying of the queen. 7. Place the honey super above the brood-less chambers. 8. Place the two "new" brood chambers containing all of the brood on the very top of the hive, 9. Close the hive 10. 7t to 8 days later, return to the hive and destroy any queen cells you find in the upper brood chambers. There shouldn't be any queen cells in the bottom units. The bees in the upper chambers were so far removed from the queen they thought themselves queen-less, and may have begun to construct queen -less. The bees in the upper hive body units will be unable to construct any more queen cells because the brood is now too old. ( Queen rearing requires larvae no more than 2 or 3 days of age, and all of the larvae here is at least 4 to 5 days old now )

## 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**

**The ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture**

**Hive Management**

**Natural Beekeeping**

**Honey Bee Biology**

**Swarm Essentials**

**Successful Queen Rearing**

**Garden Pants for Honey Bees**

**Honey in the Comb**

**Honey handbook**

**Beeswax Alchemy**

## Presentation Resources:

**Teaching Hive**

**Photo Board**

**Flowers, fruits, veggies for displays**

**Kids games**

**Plastic Honey bee**

## Other Items:

**Brochures**

**Coloring pages**

**Crayons**

**Catalogs**

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## Local Breeder List:

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