

June 2016

Volume 1, Issue 6



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

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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 we had the pleasure of hearing a few sanitary extracting methods and practices from Melinda House from the extensions office. We talked about the various problems that can occur with not cleaning equipment/jars enough and drying it afterwards completely before storing.

Always make sure to use hot water to keep the honey moving smoothly instead of clumping and hardening with cold water. Common sense practices are the most important to keep in mind. Clean all parts, and dry thoroughly. When sanitizing jars for bottling, do know that the dishwasher is a quick and easy option aside from boiling.

Make sure your buckets or large storage containers are food grade plastic if not metal. Most buckets etc are not marked clearly so do some research before purchasing. BPA free is a must.

Honey is antibacterial and antifungal itself, but beware that there are lots of folks out there that have severe allergies to the other parts involved including the lids, the types of cleaning products used and anything chemical that could be used/or touches the jars, honey and equipment.

Also the group voted to add a motor to the extractor we rent out to members only as well as obtain an insurance policy to cover the liability at presentations and events.

**NEXT MONTH'S TOPIC:** Recaps on the Summer Conference Meeting that individuals attend. What was discussed and what they learned.

**NEXT MEETING: July 7th @ 7pm**

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

# Volunteer Opportunities:

**June 20** - Apple festival committee meeting @ East Lincoln FD at 7pm to plan this years booth. All are welcome to attend.

**June 20-26** - National Pollinator Week! Stay tuned for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

**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. Call or email Paula Lutz the day(s)/time(s) you can help, paula.lutz@charter.net 828 428-3744

**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.

## Member News:

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

### Announcements:

- Apple Festival Committee will be meeting over the summer to start preparing for the booths we will host this fall. If you are interested in joining this group, let Beth Noles (bethnoles@bluebikerealty.com) know so you can be added to the email communications.
- 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.
- 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:

Swarm Traps - Joe McLeod joemelmc@bellsouth.net has several

**\$20 each w/o frames**



# How much honey should I leave in my hive?

By Rusty @ Honey Bee Suite

**H**ow much honey will your bees need for winter? Good question. But before I answer, here's a question for you: How much heating fuel will my household use this winter?

Well, you say, that is complex. It depends on where you live, your local climate, and the size and geometry of your house. It depends on what type of furnace you have, how warm you like it, and how many people live there. It depends on how much insulation you have, and whether you have wind breaks, and what color it is. It depends on air leaks and ventilation and the materials it is made from. It depends on whether the seasons are early or late. And on and on. Your bee colony has different issues, of course, but just as many. The climate and weather, the amount of ventilation, the structure of the hive, the number of bees, the kind of bees, the number of warmish days and the number of abnormally cold ones are some obvious examples. The fact is, you can't predict exactly how much honey a colony will need, so it is better to estimate on the high side.

I checked dozens of sources this morning and found an amazing amount of agreement on general guidelines. Bees in the southern U.S. may thrive on as little as 40 pounds, bees in the middle states need about 60, and northern bees may require 80 or 90. Those are average numbers for average years and average hives. What's average? Another good question.

In all but the warmest areas, I recommend that a beekeeper leave 80 to 90 pounds. In nearly all cases, this will assure a good supply of natural food for your bees, and it will save you messing around with syrups and sugars and supplements. In short, it is good for them and good for you.

The Mann Lake catalog used to have estimates for the weight of full boxes. According to them, a full ten-frame deep weighs 80-90 pounds, and a full ten-frame medium weighs 65-75 pounds. Discounting the weight of the structure and dividing by 10, a full deep frame holds about 8 pounds of honey and full medium holds about 6 pounds. (If you evenly space nine frames in a ten-frame box, a full frame will weigh a bit more.) According to Caron and Conner (2013), the ideal fall colony will have brood in the center of the lowest box. This will be flanked with frames of honey and pollen, and the two outermost frames will be filled with just honey. The second deep will be filled to the brim with honey—all ten frames.

Applying the math to their ideal colony, you will have 12 deep frames completely full of honey which gives you (8 x 12) or 96 pounds, plus any additional that is stored on the pollen frames.

This setup should get you through any winter, but in the more temperate states, you could easily replace the second deep with a medium, which would give you (6 x 12) or 72 pounds of honey plus any additional on the pollen frames. A common error that new beekeepers make is harvesting the honey supers without checking the brood boxes for honey. You cannot assume the deeps are full just because the honey supers are full. Often the bees use one or both brood boxes for brood and pollen during most of the season. Not until late in the year do they start moving the honey closer to the brood nest. If you take the supers without checking, you could be leaving your bees with almost nothing for the winter. So above all, remember to look before you take.

What's your rule of thumb when harvesting honey from your hives?



## Extracting Equipment Rental:

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

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



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.

## Flower Report (as of 6/15/16) By Ralph Harlan

Lately I've seen Queen Anne's lace, fleabanes, ladino clover, hops clover, wild garlic & onions, trumpet vine, dandelion, hyssop, fennel, prickly pear, yucca, rose mallow, various lilies, and ornamentals in bloom. While this sounds like a lot in bloom, I do not believe that honeybees work the Queen Anne's lace, the garlic & onions, trumpet vine, or yucca. I am not seeing honeybees on the hops clover, rose mallow, or many of the ornamentals right now, and unless you are giving it water, much of the ladino is suffering & turning brown. If you look at the oaks, the leaves are beginning to curl like they did last year at this time. I planted a patch of buckwheat last month just before that rain period, and that has been a boon here at the home bee yard but I have to water it periodically. We had a little rain last night, which will help, but the ground is dry so nectar producing plants will be having a hard time producing. Pollen production and the quality are also reduced when we don't get the rain.

## Hive Report (as of 6/15/16) By Ralph Harlan

Whether you have new hives (nucs, packages, swarms) or well established hives you will need to monitor the amount of food each has during the summer and early fall. If you are getting ready to harvest your honey for the season you should bear in mind that hives that produced honey are well populated and eat a lot. It will be a long time before they will have a flow to replenish, so leave enough to make it through until the poplar bloom next year. I know there is always sugar water to get them through and that sugar is cheaper than honey. But it has been shown that sugar water is not a sufficient diet. Honeybees that are only supported on sugar water do not have the disease resistance or the resiliency that those eating honey do. Does this mean you shouldn't feed your new/young/weaker colonies sugar water to get them built up for winter? NO! I have experienced colonies that have been fed to help get through the fall/winter/early spring that really exploded with growth for the poplar bloom the next year. It should clue you that over-robbing your bees for the honey now will have long term consequences.

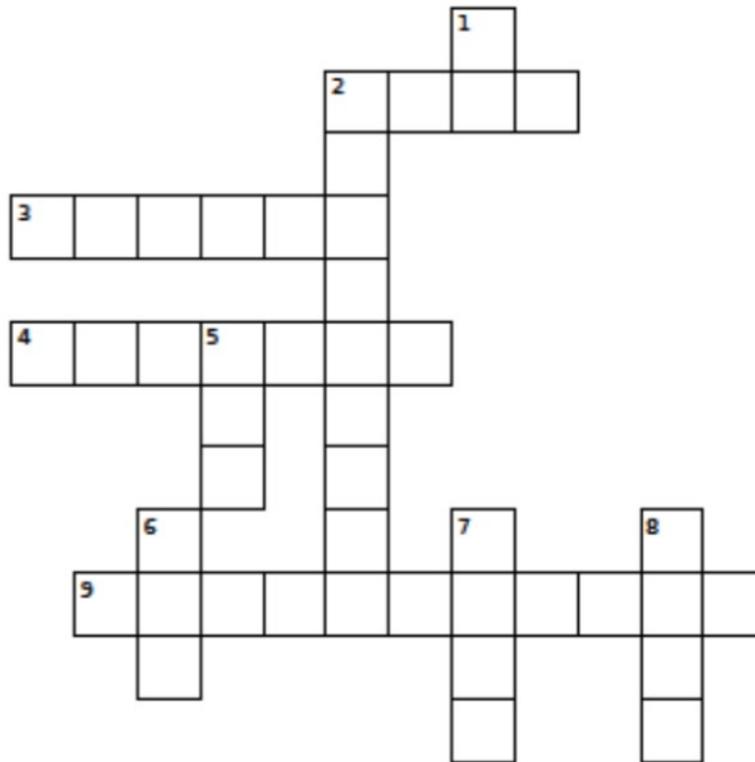
If you have new colonies, feed them now to have them build up before the end of the summer. I have young colonies that will take 2 gallons of syrup in 2 days, so don't short them. If there is nectar available, they will take that also. That way they will be ready for the fall & winter. If you wait until the end of the summer to feed, you will not have sufficient workforce to care for the crop of brood that must winter over, which means they will not be as well prepared to get through until next spring.

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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 704 651-2555	nucs-minn hygenics	odiedody@ctc.net
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 704 287-4805		whansen318@yahoo.com
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

# Crossword Puzzle



**Down:**

1. do bees sleep
2. another name for the pollen basket
5. number of bees to equal weight of 1 plain M&M
6. honey bees are sometimes referred to as the white man's \_\_\_\_\_
7. number of eyes
8. sense that humans have but honey bees do not

**Across:**

2. where nectar is carried
3. used to make honey
4. pollen is a source of \_\_\_\_\_
9. what colors do bees see that humans cannot

# 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**