



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:

I hope you all are geared up for Christmas and the New Year that's quickly approaching! Our December meeting was our Annual Holiday Feast and we had the pleasure of tasting some local homemade wine made by Mike Walker...excellent by the way.

We shared a meal, stories and laughter. It was a great time filled with old friends, new friends and good friends none the less. We missed all who could not be with us that evening for sure!

To all of you who were there and to all who were not, we all wish you a VERY Merry Christmas, a happy and safe New Year and by far an excitingly bountiful new bee season in 2017!



NEXT MONTH'S TOPIC: Swarm Management
February 9th - Splits and what we are doing wrong
(topics subject to change)

NEXT MEETING: January 12th @ 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.
- 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.
- All is calm in the bee yard this time of year...Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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 \$7 per day
Extractor, hot knife, uncapping tub, strainers etc

What Happens To Honeybees In The Winter



By Cox Honey

I don't know about you, but I hate winter. Sure I love Christmas and everything it represents but the fact that its cold outside just causes me to shut-down. I believe it has something to do with my metabolism. Ever since I was a child, I hated the cold. Maybe I have more in common with a honeybee than I thought. They, too, tend to shut down when the temperature dips below freezing. But they do have their own specific way creating heat within the hive. Even so, honeybees have their own unique way of dealing with the winter cold. And like humans and basically every other species on the planet, honeybees prepare for the ominous cold by storing food, which of course is honey. Typically, honeybees scatter back to the beehive whenever the temperature drops into the 50s. The cooler it gets, honeybees gather within a central area of the hive and form a "winter cluster." This is how they stay warm. Contrary to what many believe, honeybees have one purpose during the winter months. Thousands of worker bees may die in the process, but their primary objective is to keep the queen alive. Without the queen, the entire hive is in jeopardy. Consequently, the worker bees form a "winter cluster" around the queen (Kind of like I do when I walk around the house with layers of hoodies and blankets). Once in this cluster, the worker bees flutter their wings and shiver. This constant motion creates energy and heat, which will keep a beehive at a constant 92 degrees Fahrenheit. If only my house would stay that warm.

Honeybees forming a winter cluster with the queen in the center during a cold spell.

Of course, this constant movement requires a lot of energy fueled by the honey that the worker bees stored throughout the hive. If the hive runs out of honey, the bees will die. Some studies have suggested that a hive of honeybees will consume over 30 pounds of stored honey in order to keep the hive warm.

Even though the queen remains in the center of the "winter cluster," the worker bees rotate from the outside to the inside of the cluster, so that no individual bee stays on the outside and gets too cold. The cluster ranges in temperature from 46 degrees Fahrenheit on the outside to 80 degrees Fahrenheit on the inside. The colder the weather is outside, the more compact the cluster will become. Of course, it is inevitable that throughout this process a good majority of the worker bees will die off. This is why it is so vital that the queen remain alive, so that she can replenish winter losses. Now, If I can get my family to simulate a "winter cluster," maybe I'll be able to tolerate the cold a little more.



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.

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

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