

Joco Beekeepers

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the
Johnston County Beekeepers Association



JOHNSTON COUNTY
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION

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Meeting information

Third Monday each month 7:00 pm.
Johnston County Agricultural Center
2736 NC 210 Hwy
Smithfield, NC US 27577 ([Map It](#))

Meeting Agenda

For March Jennifer Keller will be speaking about Swarm Prevention.

UPDATE - BeeSchool 2017

Our Beginning Beekeeping Bee School has 28 students who are learning the basics of honeybees. Evie Vose has taught this class everything ranging from basic biology of the insect to getting started with a hive of bees.

All students received a goodie bag that included catalogs from five Beekeeping Suppliers, a Beekeeping Calendar, a sample edition of "American Bee Journal", "Bee Culture", and Bee Culture's new magazine "Beekeeping - Your First Three Years". Also, included was four brochures demonstrating how to market your honey from Honey.com. Students received a 10% off coupon from Bailey's Bee Supply in Hillsborough and another for 10% off from Shamrock's Buzzy Bee in Four Oaks. Also, door prizes were given each evening donated by Dana Stahlman and a couple beekeeping supply companies.

The class concluded March 9th, but there is an equipment day planned for March 25th. It will be at the livestock arena for students as well as any JCBA member who wants to come together and make some hives and get help where needed.

This has been a productive class and we've received great feedback from students. All students are encouraged to join the JCBA to further their knowledge for successful beekeeping. -Al Hildreth

In this Issue

Officers	1
Directors.....	1
Meeting information	1
Meeting Agenda.....	1
UPDATE - BeeSchool 2017.....	1
Businesses and Services.....	1
Have a story? Would you like to be featured in the newsletter?.....	1
Like us on social media 	1
This Month's Bee Tips!.....	2
Funny pages/Did you see this?	2
NCSBA Summer Meeting Registration Now Open..	2
NCSBA Born & Bred 2017 Queen Rearing	2
5CBA Spring Social Event April 9	2
Nuc or package: how to buy honey bees	2
Bee protection bill filed in NC House	2
How to Autopsy a Honey Bee Colony.....	3
Darwinian Beekeeping - An Evolutionary	3

Businesses and Services

Businesses and Services offered by JCBA are listed on our website at ([click here](#))

Have a story? Would you like to be featured in the newsletter?

Please submit your request to Newsletter@jocbee.org

Like us on social media 

This Month's Bee Tips!

Installing an entrance reducer can help by giving the guard bees more control over the entrance, keep mice out and attempt to reduce cold windy drafts.

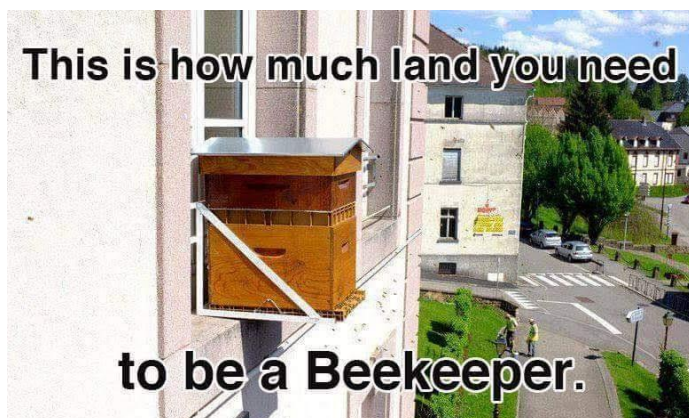
From: Nancy Ruppert, Apiary Inspector, NCDA & CS

March

- ☑ Swarming under way - implement prevention measures (make splits, remove queen cells, "checker-board", temporarily or permanently remove current mother queen); set up "bait" hives.
- ☑ Reverse bottom two or three boxes on hive to give queen more room to lay: most hives have moved up above the bottom hive body, leaving it virtually empty. This measure also helps reduce swarming. Caution: **be careful not to split up clusters of brood when you do this.** Two to three weeks after this reversal, it's likely that you'll need to reverse them again. (An alternative to reversal: simply add another hive body.)
- ☑ Assess for pest and/or disease problems (especially varroa mites, American foulbrood, and European foulbrood) and treat if needed. **Treatments should be completed by early April to limit risk of contaminating honey.**
- ☑ Check honey stores; feed (1:1 or thinner syrup) if needed.
- ☑ Look closely at the brood pattern; order new queen if current one failing.
- ☑ Continue to replace few frames of old/undesirable comb, if needed.
- ☑ Near end of the month, add at least one honey super; remove entrance reducers; equalize hives.

Funny pages/Did you see this?

This is always a picture I like to show people when they say "oh well I would like to keep bees but I don't have enough space"



NCSBA Summer Meeting Registration Now Open

Advance registration for the NCSBA 2017 Summer meeting in Winston-Salem is now open. Come help celebrate 100 years of the NCSBA! (<https://www.ncbeekeepers.org>)

NCSBA Born & Bred 2017 Queen Rearing Workshops

The NCSBA is offering a program of advanced beekeeper education in the field of queen rearing and colony management in cooperation with the NCSU Apiculture Program and the NCDA&CS Apiary Inspection Service. The daylong course will be offered in Greenville, NC on May 6 and again on May 20 in Statesville, NC. The cost is \$75.00 per participant and enrollment is limited. ([Enroll Now](#))

5CBA Spring Social Event April 9

The 5CBA is having a spring social event on April 9, 2017 and would like to invite the members of JCBA to join us. The attachment gives more information about the event and sign up can be found at www.5cba.org ([Event Flyer](#))

Nuc or package: how to buy honey bees

One of the first problems a new beekeeper confronts is how to get a colony of bees. If catching a swarm is not in the cards, or if an entire established colony is not for sale in your area, you are left with two choices: you must buy either a nuc or a package. While [...] ([Read Full Article](#))

Bee protection bill filed in NC House

Some House lawmakers are seeking limits on the use of a common pesticide to protect the health of North Carolina's beehives.

House Bill 363, titled the Pollinator Protection Act, would allow the use of neonicotinoid pesticides only by farmers, licensed applicators and veterinarians. The chemical would be banned for unlicensed home, garden and landscape applications, which constitutes about 25 percent of their use.

The proposal would also require the North Carolina Pesticide Board to study the long-term costs and benefits of neonicotinoids, including the use of seeds coated in the

chemical, which is water-soluble and can leach into neighboring soil. ([link to full article](#))

How to Autopsy a Honey Bee Colony

([Read Full Article](#))

So your hive died, now what do you do? The first thing to do after you discover a dead hive is to and look for signs of disease, varroa and anything else you think may have caused the colony's demise.

Darwinian Beekeeping - An Evolutionary Approach to Apiculture

A good read from American bee journal written by Tom Seeley at Cornell. ([link to the full pdf article](#))

Pictures from the 2017 Bee School!

