

### What you need to know

The Johnston County Beekeepers Association meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm at the Johnston County Agricultural Center  
2736 NC 210 Hwy.,  
Smithfield, NC.

**Website: [www.jacobee.org](http://www.jacobee.org)**

Our website is a great resource for information, upcoming events and beekeeping help.

#### Officers for 2014:

President ~ Chip Braswell  
Vice President ~ Kim Underhill  
Secretary ~ Sharon Noles  
Treasurer ~ Mary Jones  
1<sup>st</sup> Director ~ Rich Bennek  
2<sup>nd</sup> Director ~ Jim Dempster  
3<sup>rd</sup> Director ~ Ronnie Fish  
Public Relations Representatives:  
Billy Wiggs & Charles Kneeshaw

## “Bee-Con” News

Guiding Johnston County Beekeepers



Monday  
April 21st  
7:00 pm

The Great Sugar Shake Out!  
Keynote Speaker  
Will Hicks  
State Apiary Inspector

Topic: Varroa Mites!



## WANTED

Your Photos for our Newsletter!

If you would like to share your photos of your hives, bees, yard whatever, we welcome them.

Please email them to:

Kim Underhill

[bigoakbeefarm@gmail.com](mailto:bigoakbeefarm@gmail.com)

## In and around the Bee Yard

This section is to highlight some considerations for your apiary this time of year.

For specifics, it is suggested that you read, research, talk to other beekeepers as well as document what you do so you can refer back and decide what works best for you and your bees.

### **Honey Bee Activity: April (Honey Bees)**

Bees should be very busy!

Swarming is the word of the month!

Queen is in full production mode!

### **Beekeeper Duties:**

- All medications/treatments should be removed UNLESS required for bees' survival.
- Supers should be ready to go. Be prepared to add supers as needed.
- Add/rotate Hive bodies to ensure Queen has space to lay and bees have room to grow
  - Check brood pattern and replace Queen if poor
  - Equalize hives or combine weak ones
  - Keep feeding hives that are taking syrup

### **Beekeeper Activities:**

- Attend club meeting and get involved. Pay your Club & NCSBA dues for the year**
- Call your State Bee Inspector** and set an appointment for later in the year for them to come out and inspect your hive WITH YOU.
- Implement a record keeping system and keep it up to date
- Have EVERYTHING ready to install packages/nucs you ordered and FEED UPON INSTALLATION!

### **What's Blooming this month? Everything!**

#### **Piedmont & Coastal Plains**

**Dandelion**

**Sumac**

**Alsike Clover, Crimson & White Clover**

**Blackberry**

**Tulip Popular**

**Black Gum**

**Black Locus**

**Vetch**

**Holly**

**Raspberry**

**Pollen Colors range from light yellow, red-orange, yellow and light gray**



## Important Dates, Events & Activities for 2014

### Johnston County Beekeepers 2014 Program Agenda

(programs/speakers may be subject to change)

**April 21st:** Sugar Shake Out: Will Hicks—Varroa Mites, Sugar Shake Workshop/Varroa Treatments

**May 19th:** Rick Coor—Queen Management

**June 16th:** Honey Extraction— Triad Bee Supply

**July 18: FRIDAY:** Tour de Hive: Summer Tour:

Bayer Bee Care Center Tour/ Lunch @ Busy Bee Café/ Ronnie Fish's—Pick your own Berry Farm

**August 18th:** Danny & Mary Jaynes: How to prepare for and enter the State Fair: step by step

**Sept 15th :** Tom Underhill—Live lip balm making demo

**Oct 20th:** A fun mystery program: Assassination of a Queen

**Nov: 17th:** Candle Making demo

**Dec 15th:** Annual Christmas Banquet



#### **April 2014**

Howell Woods—Woodstock Event

April 5th, from 1pm-6pm.

#### **May 2014**

Ham & Yam Festival - Saturday May 3

Please mark your calendars and plan on helping with the booth that day.

Be sure to sign up at the April meeting!

#### **July 2014**

NCSBA Summer Meeting: July 10-12

Wilkes County Community College

Visit web: [www.ncbeekeepers.org](http://www.ncbeekeepers.org) for more details

### **Herb Gardens Attract Honey Bees**

Spring has officially arrived, and honey bees are visiting dandelions, maples, fruit trees, and tulip poplars. If you are considering what to plant in your garden and flower beds to increase nectar and pollen availability, according to research conducted at North Carolina State University an herb garden could be the answer. Perennial herbs such as bee balm, catnip, hyssop (anise), mints, and thymes are highly recommended as are annual herbs such as borage, salvia, and spider plant. For a more complete list of herbs that are attractive to bees and information on designing an herb garden consult: <http://wncbees.org/Reference/An%20Herb%20Garden%20for%20the%20Bees%20%20%28NCSU%201.05%29.pdf>





**Family Fun**  
Bring your fishing pole!

- NATURE HIKES • ROCK WALL • S'MORES
- ASTRONOMY • MECHANICAL BULL
- DOOR PRIZES • INFLATABLES • HAYRIDES
- MOBILE FISH AQUARIUM
- REPTILE AND BIRDS OF PREY DISPLAYS

... and so much more

**Food & Craft Vendors!**

**April 5**  
Events begin at 1:00 p.m.

**HOWELL woodstock**  
education • recreation • conservation

[www.johnstoncc.edu/howellwoods](http://www.johnstoncc.edu/howellwoods)  
6601 Devil's Race Track Road • 919.938.0115  
Four Oaks, I-95, Exit 90

Statewide Star Party  
begins at 8:00 p.m.

Educational Exhibits include Museum of Natural Science, NC Forest Service & NCWRC

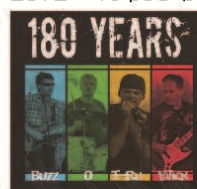


## FREE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS EVERY HOUR

- 2:00: Soaring with Raptors
- 3:00: Living with NC Venomous Snakes
- 4:00: Micro Structures of animals
- 5:00: Exoplanets
- 6:00: Black Holes
- 7:00: Weather on Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn



LIVE MUSIC BY



Highway 70 East at I-95  
245 College Road • P.O. Box 2350  
Smithfield, NC 27577

**LOCAL VENDORS ON SITE**  
Kickoff for the Howell Woods Quiz Show!



Howell Woods is a 2,900 acre wildlife learning center focusing on education, recreation and conservation, and is a branch of Johnston Community College. We are a short 10 minutes from highway 95, and 5 miles from Bentonville Battlegrounds.

At our main building, you will find our offices, classroom and reptile room where we exhibit native species of snakes, turtles, frogs and lizards. We hold short Saturday morning programs in our classroom bi-weekly; topics range from Soaring with Raptors to Long Leaf Pine Restoration. Right outside of our learning center you will find our raptor exhibits, where we currently have a black vulture, red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawks, barred owl and great horned owl on display. Around the building, you'll find a native wildflower garden, several small ponds, and the entrance to our Diversity Trail System, which spans over 300 acres.

We offer a variety of recreational activities on our property, including: hiking, biking, camping, fishing and water sports such as kayaking/canoeing. We hold hunts regularly for squirrels, hogs and deer, just to name a few. (These hunts happen far back on the property; the Diversity Trail System is always open to visitors.) We also have an orchard that we are in the process of expanding; we are hoping that honeybee's will help us to pollinate this year!

Howell Woodstock is our open house event that we hold annually. We offer live music, food, children's rides and educational booths/activities. The event will begin at 1pm; vendors normally close down around 6pm, but we are participating in the Statewide Star Party, which begins at 8pm. Our classroom will hold free programs on the hour, every hour from 2-7pm. Some of our educational booths will include: Randolph County Rattlesnake Refuge and Research Center, NC Wildlife Resources Commission (mobile aquarium), and the NC Museum of Natural Science (NC fossils). We expect there to be 800 -1000 people this year. This is my first year, but I've heard that it's super fun!

Hope you will be able to be part of our event!

Thank you,

Brittany G. Brenner

Museum Caretaker- Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center

[bgbrenner@johnstoncc.edu](mailto:bgbrenner@johnstoncc.edu)

(919) 938-0115 ext. 225

# What do you know?

By popular demand, we are including this section: What do you know?  
Each month we will include questions from different topics in the Book:  
"What do you know?" by Clarence Collison

So get ready to flex and strengthen those mental beekeeping muscles and let's see  
What do you know!

## **I: Honey Bee Behavior**

1. Name four materials that honey bees forage for and what part of the body they use to transport those items.
2. Drone honey bees produce their own pheromone. T/F
3. List 2 ways in which honey bees reduce the temperature in the hive when it becomes too warm.

## **II. Anatomy & Physiology**

1. Name 2 functions of the bee's antennae.
2. Drone honey bees store their sperm in an organ known as the spermatheca until they mate with a queen. T/F
3. "Queen Substance", the primary pheromone of queen honey bees is produced by what gland?

## **III. Colony Management**

1. List 3 characteristics you would expect to observe in a colony with laying workers.
2. The importance of having adequate ventilation in the over-wintering hive is to regulate the oxygen/carbon dioxide levels when the bees are in a tight cluster. T/F
3. When a beekeeper finds a hive with laying workers, the best way to deal with the problem is to introduce a new queen to the colony. T/F

Answers will be in next month's issue. :)

## **Section 1: Beekeeping Equipment & Getting Started in Bees:**

1. A pound of bees is approximately how many bees? A=3500
  2. Name the three parts making up a beekeeping frame. Top bar, side bars, bottom bar
  3. Bee space is 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch? True or False A= False
  4. Can you name these objects and what they are used for?
- Smoker: used to control bees while working the hive, Boardman Feeder/Entrance Feeder: way of feeding bees, Benton Box/Queen Cage: Banking Queen and her attendants

## **Section 2: The Colony and Its Organization**

1. In an emergency, the shortest possible time that a colony could successfully replace a queen would be 8, 14, 16, 10 or 12 days? A =10 days
2. Queens take annual mating flights to replenish their sperm supply? A= False
3. Worker Bee Duties: Arrange the order these would be performed by an individual worker bee: Cleaning cells, Nurse bee, Producing wax, Handling incoming nectar/pollen, Guard bees, Field Bees

## **Section 3: Growth & Development**

1. How many days does it take on average from egg to emerging adult for:  
Worker Bee: 21 Days; Drone,: 24 Days; Queen: 16 days
2. Under what conditions will you possibly find two laying queens in a colony?  
Supersedure
3. Name the four developmental stages in the life cycle of a honey bee. Egg, larva, pupa, adult
4. The honey bee life cycle is an example of incomplete metamorphosis. A=False



## Local Beekeeping Supplier Spotlight Supporting people who support us!



Would you like your **local bee related business** to be spotlighted in our newsletter?

If so, please email a PDF of your business card, a brief statement about you and your business, the organizations you are affiliated with along with any additional information you would like included.

We can not make any promises when your "spotlight" will happen. We will do our best to accommodate all that participate in a timely manner. Thank you!

Email Kim Underhill at: [bigoakbeefarm@gmail.com](mailto:bigoakbeefarm@gmail.com)

Johnston County Agricultural Center  
North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service  
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences  
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Official Business