



JOCO BEEKEEPERS

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

Club News—HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Meet the 2016 New Board members

Officers

President Ray Hunt

Vice President Al Hildreth

Secretary Thomas Anderson

Treasurer Evelyn "Evie" Vose

Program Director David Massengill

Directors

1st Director Ronnie Fish

2nd Director Kathy Sommese

3rd Director May Markoff

Appointed

Newsletter, Webmaster & Facebook Director Adam Pendergrass

Meeting information

Johnston County Beekeeper's Association
meets on the **third Monday of each month at
7:00 pm at**

Johnston County Agricultural Center
2736 NC 210 Hwy
Smithfield, NC US 27577

January meeting agenda:

Meeting will feature David Bailey of Bailey Bee
Supply. Discussing package bees and nucs.

BEE SCHOOL! Now Enrolling



Bee School



**Entry Level Beekeeping Course
No Prior Experience Necessary**

Saturday Classes

Date: March 19, March 26, April 2, 2016

Time: 8:00 AM—5 PM

Sponsored by

*Johnston County Beekeeper's Association &
Johnston County Agricultural Extension Service
2736 NC-210, Smithfield, NC 27577*

- Learn how to manage and operate your own hives.
- Be part of an interesting hobby as a beekeeper.

*For information and registration,
send email to jacobee@earthlink.net Subject: Bee School or
Call Brandon Parker 919 989 5380*

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Christmas Party for 2015

Approximately 30 members and guests attended the annual JCBA Christmas Party on December 21. There was lots of food and good conversation and you really missed a good one if you were not there.

The party was almost a non-event. The keepers of the building had forgotten that we were supposed to be there that night. Thankfully, there were some workers doing some last minute cleanup in the building, so that is how we got in. We invited them over to share our bounty during the night. Many thanks to those workers and to all those members that brought a dish to share.

There were also lots of door prizes, including hive tools, honey in several forms, and a very special book, *The Beekeeper's Bible*, donated by Keith and Sharon Noles. We send out a special thanks to them for their donation.

The JCBA Newsletter

The original plan was to publish the newsletter about a week before the association meeting. With all the changes and revisions to the website and to the JCBA Facebook page, the schedule became a bit tight, and we missed our projected publication date.

We will work hard next month to ensure that the newsletter goes out before the scheduled meeting.

Message from the President

Ray Hunt

I would like to introduce to the association membership, your new officers and board members for 2016. All are major assets to the association.

Vice President – Al Hildreth; Several years of experience as a beekeeper and businessman in beekeeping. Any ideas for future growth of the association, he is your contact.

Program Director – David Massengill, has been a great help to me this year getting new students certified, has a LOT of ideas to provide some interesting programs during the coming year. If you have something in particular that you want as a program, talk to him, he will "gitter done".

Treasurer – Evelyn Vose was appointed as Treasurer to the JCBA. She comes to us from Smithfield, RI, and has been a member for the past two years, with many years of experience as a commercial and migratory beekeeper. Any questions about membership, contact Evie.

Secretary – Thomas Anderson, a new beek. He is our documentarian for everything that goes down at the meetings.

Board Members: 3 members, 3 year term

Ronnie Fish

Kathy Sommese

May Markoff, new board member

In addition, Adam Pendergrass was appointed as the Webmaster, Facebook & Newsletter Director. Adam has been making major upgrades to the website. Check out all the great new stuff. If you have any questions or problems about the website or Facebook contact Adam.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the President of the JCBA. I would like to thank everyone that made the JCBA what it is today. I want to build on that foundation.

The queen of a hive cannot provide a strong and healthy hive alone. It takes the efforts and cooperation of the many other members of the hive to provide that support. I am asking for your support.

Now, so that you know this guy that you just elected as President, I would like to give you a little history about Ray Hunt. I was a US Combat Marine in Vietnam in 1969; my professional career was in Information Technology in computer systems and software implementation. I only mention that because it might explain some of my management style and why I am such a Pain-In-The-Arse (PITA) to some people.

My 30 years as a beekeeper and my 20 plus years as an instructional designer, technical writer, and trainer has been reactivated after several years of dormancy. I was the instructor for the Beginning Beekeeper school in two sessions in 2015. Because of those two schools, we added 30 more Certified beekeepers and many of them are now members of the JCBA, a few are on the new board for 2016. We plan to have more Beginning Beekeeper schools in 2016, as well as a Journeyman Level bee school

The bee school has been a passion of mine. I enjoy beekeeping and I enjoy helping newbies become beekeepers. I am passionate about beekeeping and I want to

encourage and invite every member to join in that passion.

We are a growing association. I am asking all of you to help develop and refine ideas to make the JCBA an even better association. This is YOUR association. What it becomes will depend on YOU

As President, I will be announcing some new programs and projects over the coming months that I think will be beneficial to the association, with updates on their progress. Some projects are long term, and many of them will require the participation of the association, so bear with me as we implement some innovations in the JCBA.

Proposed Agenda for 2016:

This is an outline of what we hope we can accomplish during 2016. Whether many of these items become realities or end up on the cutting room floor will depend on the cooperation, determination and dedication of the membership.

There are always those that say that change cannot happen. The old ways are often treasured and change represents a risk. Some will object, purely for the sake of objection. ***I am asking that you do not just come to the table with objections, come with solutions. If you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem. The board and I are always interested in hearing your input and suggestions.***

The membership will receive more information on these programs as they are fleshed out. Details and updates will be presented in the newsletter each month. Here are a few of the things that we will be working on during 2016:

Training and developing members to assume positions of leadership in the association. The former JCBA dissolved in part because there was no training or provision for future leadership. As the old ranks were thinned, there was no one to assume the reins. We will be announcing a

plan that should help eliminate that potential problem.

Master Beekeeper Program. The JCBA should have a high number of beekeepers advancing through the different levels of the MBP. We will work with any members that wish to pursue the next level. You will be contacted by email to inquire if you wish to proceed in the program. Regardless of what level you may be currently, we will assist you to moving to the next level.

MBP Coordinator: Terry Chavis, as MBP Coordinator will track Public Service Credits and work directly with members that wish to advance in the program. MBP is an evolving program

Contacting school, civic, and church groups for community outreach through beekeeping. The President will be contacting local associations to solicit inter community access for the promotion of bees and beekeeping. These presentations can be used as credits for advancement in the MBP. If you wish to be an educational presenter, please contact the President to be included on an asset list for such services.

Enhance the bee schools and develop instructors for the schools. The plan is to provide the bee course at a reasonable cost, with sufficient hours to develop qualified beekeepers, provide adequate textbooks and training materials, establish a formal mentoring program for new beekeepers to get them on the right path, and get the best instructors available to teach the courses. JCBA can be the model for bee schools all over the state.

Promoting a stronger bond and association with other local beekeeping groups. Many projects and programs could be enhanced by a cooperative effort with other local beekeeping groups. Several of our members are members of several local associations. Members are encouraged to attend local meetings for information and ideas as to how to make the JCBA a better

association. *If it helps beekeeping, it is good for ALL beekeepers.*

Updating and modifying the existing bylaws to conform to a more growth-oriented function. The Bylaws Committee has begun work on modifying and updating the current bylaws, a project that was begun in 2015.

More details will be announced by newsletter and by direct emails.

This is the first of many more articles by a fellow beekeeper that I recently met at Bailey's Bee Supply in Raleigh. Hawley has been a commercial beekeeper for decades and has a perspective on bees that is an asset to beekeepers of all levels. Using my masterful skills of negotiation, wit, and cajolery, he has agreed to honor us with regular additions to our newsletter. I think you will find his wit and wisdom a welcome addition to our newsletter.

A Remembrance

by Hawley Prindle

As a starter for article in the newsletter, I would like to suggest this as an introduction to writing the articles.

Wisdom and knowledge about beekeeping require time and effort and I might add years of experience working with bees. There is a term, "beehaver" that circulates from time to time to describe a person who owns bees – sometimes a lot of them. It is not complimentary but rather a put down on the fact that the bees pretty much exist on their own and the owner just has bees. I find the use of the term a bit offensive. However, a "beehaver," in my book is better than a "non-beehaver". I heard once that people (non-beekeepers) consider those of us having bees as "people who don't have both oars in the water." Our space suits scare the "possum runs" out of them. In fact, I would like to share a story told to me by a former Texas apiary inspector named Paul.

In Texas it seems a dispute between two neighbors brought the inspector to a

beekeeper's door. A neighbor it appears was upset with a beekeeper living next door. The two had words and the two neighbors were not speaking to each other.

Paul was asked to check out the beekeeper's beekeeping practice as his bees were causing the neighborhood serious bee problems – creating a dangerous situation for children who could be killed by these bees, which might be Africanized.

Texas requires bees to be registered, as most states do and upon checking, Paul found that no registration existed for this particular beekeeper. As most of you realize that is trouble for the beekeeper if a neighbor complains.

Paul shows up at the beekeeper's door and knocks! The beekeeper answers and invites Paul in to chat. He is a bit amused to find a state bee inspector wanting to look at his bees.

"Is it against the law," says the beekeeper "if the hives I own have no bees in them?"

Taken aback, Paul was not aware that hives without bees was against the law if the hives had no frames or comb in them. Invited into the bee yard, Paul took the lid off one of the three hives located on the property. There was nothing but three deep boxes – nothing in them. All standard equipment, nicely painted, raised up on landing boards and looking very much like bee hives. It was the same with the other two hives.

Bad blood existed between the beekeeper and his neighbor. So the beekeeper, realizing that his neighbor was scared to death of honey bees, purchased the bottom boards, hive bodies, inner covers and top covers and set them up to appear to look just like a bee yard. However, the hives had no bees – and no frames!

When the neighbor would start working in his yard, the beekeeper would suit up, light his smoker, and go work his bees! The neighbor would rush into his house often shouting obscenities to get away from the

bees stirred up while being worked. In fact, it got to the point that all the bees observed in the neighborhood came from the beekeeper's hives.

Delighted to see the state bee inspector show up, determine he was breaking no laws, and prove his neighbor had a phobia, he left Paul with "Just tell the SOB I am not breaking any law!" Moreover, as far as Paul knew, the war between neighbors continued and the beekeeper continued in his space suit and smoker to prey on his neighbor's phobia.

From Hawley... I was asked to share my thoughts on bees and beekeeping. My purpose is to share both the good and bad of beekeeping with you. My choice was to sit in a rocking chair watching Judge Judy most of the day or get off my rear and put my brain (what is left of it) to work. I still have a lot to learn about honeybees. I still haven't figured out what makes the "old Lady" tick yet. Her sting is far greater than any honeybee can give.

Yankee Beekeeping in NC

By Evelyn Vose

Everyone asks me what do I do in January? Quite a bit actually! January is the month that I set aside for planning and feeding. I would rather not have to feed, but it always seems to come up. I'll digress a bit here and tell you a little about me so you will have the context in which I think about bees.

I am an ex-New Englander, born and raised in Rhode Island. RI has the dubious distinction for both being the smallest State in the Union and for having the poorest, no worst, forage available for honey bees in the US. I kept bees there since... well, a girl never reveals her age so all I will acknowledge is that I have vague memories of Gerald Ford talking on B&W TV while I hammered frames together on the living room floor one winter. RI has mild winters when compared to her northern New England neighbors so we had a double challenge. The bees had scant food going

into a winter and the winter could be warm causing them to brood up and consume a lot of honey – if they had it. Sound familiar? I'm guessing mine are in brood after that 70+ weather this past Christmas. Much to my chagrin having recently moved here, our climate has similar characteristics albeit 10-15 degrees warmer on average. My career progressed along and so did my apiary. By 2005, we had acquired enough hives to run up and down the East Coast pollinating and we even went out to the Almonds in California. That's when I learned how to keep bees alive.

When you do this for a living, you simply can't lose hives. Our goal was no more than a 15% annual loss, a target we hit +/- 3% every year. I found that nutrition was key and sadly, this topic was poorly researched when we needed it the most in our operation. You will hear a lot about nutrition from me in the next couple of months.

Back to January! I try to accomplish three things in January:

Order packages even if I think I won't need them. I know that I can recover my investment by selling them to others in the spring, but more important, I know that they will be scarce to get if I wait too long! As Truman might say, order early and order often!

I'll go out to the apiary and see if the bees need to be fed. More about this follows.

Planning. It's a good time to think about what you will do this summer. You may want to develop additional skills, try pollinating, make Meade, or add a few hives. I like to write 2-3 goals down and work towards them throughout the year.

This year I want to learn about keeping bees in North Carolina, my new home, and their new home. The handful of colonies that I have now originated in Georgia, went to RI to pollinate an apple orchard, returned to Sanford, NC and finally landed in Smithfield, NC.

I went out to the hives about a week ago (Christmastime) when I noticed that the hives had lost a considerable amount of weight. I knew from years of hefting hives that these bees would starve to death if I do not intervene. That caused me surprise since they went into the winter with about 80-lbs each. Here's how I check to see if they have enough stored honey.

Heft method: Place your hand in the topmost rear handhold and lift the back end from the stand about an inch or two. Does it feel like dead weight? Or is it light like it was when you first put it together? Heft your hives every week this coming year and you will learn what it should feel like.

Inspection method: Open the covers and look down into the cluster. If the cluster is nice and tight and the heft test felt heavy then chances are you are okay, but check again in two weeks. If the cluster seems loose or large, they are probably in trouble. Honey bees spread out in the cold weather is a sure sign that they are so hungry they will risk exposure to get food. Yes, it is okay to open the covers as there isn't any heat in the hive. All of the heat is inside the cluster with the outer layers of bees providing insulation. Have you heard that it's 92-degrees inside the cluster? This is not entirely true so ask me about that at the next meeting.

What to feed? Up North, we learned that you feed dry solids in the winter. Did you learn the same thing here? Let me know at the January 18th meeting. I would like you to teach me about the customs here. Dry feeding is easy. We just made a wood box about 2" tall or used an empty super. The box goes onto the top and white paper towels are spread across the frames, but no more than two layers. Do not worry about any bees that might be clustered under the paper towels; they will move! Pour 10-lbs of white table sugar onto the paper towels. After a while, we got lazy and just cut a slit in the bag, but really, pouring it onto the paper towels is the best method. The bees will chew through the paper and consume

the sugar. Check in two weeks, as they may need more. By then the sugar will have hardened into crusty candy and if they want food, they will be working it!



Bio of Evelyn Vose

Evelyn Vose was born and raised in Rhode Island. Vose earned an engineering degree and MBA, and served in the Army, entering from Providence College ROTC as 2nd Lieutenant. She kept bees on and off throughout the US as corporate duty assignments caused relocations. Returning to RI in 1982, she began to build up the apiary. By the time 2005 came around the apiary had grown to about 2,000 hives which were trucked up and down the Northeast and out to almonds and back. Vose taught bee school for the RI Beekeepers' Association and taught a credit course for the Bristol County (MA) Community College. She was president of the RI Beekeeper's Association, and

Eastern Apicultural Society in 2011. Vose also maintained a career in information technology and is currently employed by the City of Durham's Emergency Communications Center (9-1-1) as their systems engineer.

Another Note on 2016

This winter has been unseasonably warm. There were many bee-flying days in December and January. This can be good and bad, or a Pro & Con situation.

As students of my classes know, I am a big Pro / Con guy when it comes to most anything concerning bees and beekeeping.

These unseasonably warm days get the bees out and flying. Lots of energy is used to fly out looking for food, and very little to bring back home on these flights. While there are some pollen sources available, it will be a while before nectar sources become available. That is, unless your bees are near a location that has Slurpee machines. Bees really love this stuff and will readily store it in comb, without alteration of the colors of the sweet juice.

If the queen is convinced that this early warming is a harbinger of Spring, she may ramp up her egg laying. Soon there will be hundreds more mouths to feed, and some time before any natural nectar sources become available. Large stores of food can be cleaned out in a short time by this large influx of new bees.

Consuming this much food can result in early starvation of many hives. You MUST monitor the food stores of your bees due to this warm season. It is expected that many hives will starve this year before the nectar flow.

However, a beekeeper can also use this to their advantage. Once the queen starts laying, she can be induced to continue to ramp up her production if she is supplied with a 1:1 sugar solution on a continuous basis until a natural source become available.

This early feeding, as long as it is not interrupted, will produce a large work force that will be available as soon as the nectar flows. Honey production under those circumstances could be double the normal rate for that same year.

It is a calculated risk, and probably not for new beekeepers, or beekeepers with just a few hives.

If you have the temperament to “gamble” and have a few hives that you can use to test this theory, your rewards for those hives could be substantial in their yields of honey during the upcoming season. The risk is great, but so are the rewards.

NOTE: Once you start this process in motion, you MUST continue to ensure that they bees have an adequate supply of food stores to survive until the normal nectar flow. Food consumption will be substantial during this test.

Future Plans for Bee Schools

In March of 2016, the first beginning bee school of the year starts in Johnston County. We will be doing a class on Saturdays this year and expectations are high for a large turnout of students.

All interested parties are invited to attend the schools, and discounts are offered for spouses, young adults, children, and former students of Aimee Newsome or Ray Hunt that wish to take a refresher course.

Member Activities

Member activities that are bee related will be reported in the newsletter. It is hoped that this newsletter will be a monthly feature of our association.

The updated newsletter and website will publish names of newly certified beekeepers, articles on bees and beekeeping and information about member bee-related activities, and advancement of others in the NC Master Beekeeper Program.

Board Meeting, January 2016:

The first meeting of the 2016 JCBA Board was held on January 10 at the home of Michael and May Markoff of Clayton. The Markoffs graciously allowed us to use their home for our first official meeting. They were exceptional hosts and several members stayed after the meeting to talk and get to know each other better. Several committees were created during the meeting of the JCBA board, and various business items were discussed. You can find additional information about the meeting on the website, under Members Only.

Programs for the Year: David reported his plans to have monthly presentations on what work we need to do with our bees for that month. This instruction each month will move step by step through the entire season. David also requests your ideas. If you have topic ideas, or would like to volunteer for a presentation, contact him

The entire Board heartily supports David's proposal to plan and cook a JCBA BBQ social for our Field Day in July. This will be a budgeted item for the advantage of the membership,

The website is connected to Facebook, so “Like” us, and share with your friends.

2016 Budget. Ray requests that items to be included in the budget should be sent to him ASAP for review by the Board. Programs should be self sufficient and self contained if possible.

We are also setting up a PayPal account so that membership dues can be paid online. The PayPal account will be available soon on the website.

Sunshine Club/Refreshments

Committee: Proposal was made to have May Markoff, David Massengill, and Rose Massengill to take this committee. This committee will reach out to members in the hospital, sick, or otherwise in need of recognition. The committee will also handle refreshments at JCBA meetings. Several

other members have agreed to assist with the refreshments committee. The entire JCBA membership is encouraged to support this committee by volunteering to bring refreshments/raffle prizes. All ideas appreciated.

Fund Raising/Promo Coordinator: May Markoff presented some ideas: Caps, T-shirts, with logo; a local artist can design the logo. Funds raised through these promos will be used as recognition for accomplishments of individual members and committees. Another idea is a "Bee-utee-ful" calendar with JoCo beekeeping photos, and ads from local businesses.

Other fun ideas for the community: short courses on mead-making, photo workshop, how to catch a swarm, holiday white elephant party, bee murder mystery.

Events Coordinator: David Massengill and Chip Braswell will be researching and evaluating potential community outreach events. The Howell's Woodstock event for Johnston Community College could be good community publicity and outreach, as well as many other potential venues.

Permanent Membership: The Board unanimously passed a motion supporting the President to move forward on this issue, and to canvass the membership to determine member support for permanent paid memberships in JCBA.

You will be asked about this in the near future through email.

3636 Mentor Program

We are currently creating a multitier mentor program for new and inexperienced beekeepers. Details will be completed by April 1.

This program could provide wider scope and additional rigor to the current informal "Bee Buddie" program. This program will be a research project with the possibility of inclusion at one of the NCSBA conventions in 2017.

Updates will be provided on this newsletter.

Hive Map. This is located on the "members only" section of the JCBA website. You are encouraged to share your hive location information.

Local BeeKeeping Schools and Costs by county: This information was collected and distributed by Ray, and is available on request. The information is collected from the NCSBA website for all schools listed on the website during January 2016 or projected to be taught in NC during 2016. If you would like a copy of the proposed bee school information, and see how the JCBA bee school compares to other local and statewide bee schools, send an email to jacobee@earthlink.net.

There is also a comparison of the various bee schools offered this spring in NC. Data shows a comparison of price, number of hours, location, and price per hour of instruction, etc.

While comparing the JCBA bee school to other bee schools in NC, it appears as though our school is expensive. However, comparing the information on current collected school information indicates that we are of medium price for comparable number of hours and other assets.

Member Businesses

At the end of this newsletter, you will see another addition to our monthly service to members. If you are a member of the JCBA, and have a business, whether bee-related or not, we will try to include it in our newsletter each month.

We will also have interviews with business members to find out more about the member and their business. These interviews will be included in our newsletter.

If you are a member and have a business, contact the Newsletter Director for inclusion.

Bee Related Businesses

Bailey Bee Supply

1724 South Saunders Street, Raleigh

919-977-0901

<https://baileybeesupply.com>

147 Boone Square Street, Hillsborough

919-241-4236

Business or Services Provided: Full range retail beekeeper's supplies. You can put your hands on our wares, rather than just looking at a picture.

Prices: 3 lb packages with marked queen available for pre-order on Web site or in store. \$120 each.

For pick-up at our Raleigh store tentative pick up date March 25-26

For pick-up at our Hillsborough store tentative pick up date April 21-22

Terms of Payment: Cash, Credit, Debit Card, or Check. We accept VISA, M/C, Amex, and Discover.

Discount: We offer a 10% discount on the first purchase by students in NC association bee schools. Contact your instructor for more information. Some restrictions apply.

D&R Bee Farm David Massengill

672 Go Cart Rd, Four Oaks

919-820-0319 machevy1@aol.com

Nucs, Packages, Queen Bees, Custom Built Bee Hive Parts

Terms: Cash, Check

Discount: 10% to members

Non Bee Related Businesses

Donald & Doris Kidd

265 Garner Road, Selma

Business or Services Provided: Elephant
Garlic Growers and Market Farmers

In season prices March-November

Terms of Payment: Cash

Discount: 10% for members

Farmer retains right to limit quantities

Todd Tingler, AIA

64 Kyle Drive, Garner

919.418.5620

Architectural Design, Residential Design, Interior
Design, Renovation Design

Services are unique and can be provided hourly
or as a percentage of the Project with or without
a guaranteed maximum

Terms of Payment: Cash, Check or services

Discount: Yes, negotiated for members

Services limited to small projects

Design and construction documents are prepared
electronically

***Please forward any additions, corrections, modifications or errors to
jacobee@earthlink.net. Changes will be noted in the next newsletter in February.***