

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 February, our speaker will be Charles Heatherly. He is a former NC State Beekeepers Association President. He will be speaking about activities planned for the 100th anniversary!

BeeSchool 2017 Introduction to Beekeeping

2017 Introduction to Beekeeping starts next week 2/23/17! Don't forget to register and get your spot! **TELL A FRIEND!** Classes are 4 consecutive Thursdays lasting 3 hours each & children 14 or younger are free with paying adult. Go to our website for more information and how to register. ([Website Link](#))

NCSBA 2017 Spring Meeting

Jointly held by NCSBA and South Carolina Beekeepers Association. March 3 & 4 at Baxter Hood at York Tech College in Rock Hill, SC. ([Details and Registration](#))

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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@jacobee.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

February

- ☑ Noticeable pollen flow under way, especially red maple-brood build-up intensifying.
- ☑ Minimal if any nectar available---most hives need feeding (1:1 syrup in most cases, unless honey stores very low [i.e., <1/2 super left]).
- ☑ Combine hives if needed.
- ☑ Repair/replace equipment if needed; move hives if needed; keep learning.
- ☑ During last half of February, consider adding super/hive body of wax foundation to allow bees to draw out more comb for spring. (Feeding or nectar is required for this.)
- ☑ Replace a few (<4) frames where comb is old or has excessive drone cells.
- ☑ Some hives may need treatment for Nosema disease, especially if too cold for cleansing flights.
- ☑ Call your local cooperative extension office if you want your name on a "swarm-catcher" list.
- ☑ Make plans to attend the annual NCSBA Spring Meeting in March.

Funny pages/Did you see this?



Author Speaking at Outer Banks

BeeKeepers outerbanksbeekeepers.com

The Outer Banks BeeKeepers' Guild is excited to be hosting natural beekeeping speaker and author Michael Bush on Saturday, March 18, 2017. The registration link and information for this event at the Ramada Plaza Nags Head on the Outer Banks can be found on the front page of our website. www.outerbanksbeekeepers.com. Pre-registration is required, and is \$20. We do have a limited number of seats, so those interested in securing a spot should register as soon as possible.

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](#))

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](#))

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.

Looking through a hive that died for clues.

It important to note the time of year your hive died. If your hive died over the winter it may have

died from condensation, starvation or cold which is typical in a winter killed hive. Nosema is also more common in the winter when bees cannot get outside to defecate regularly. If your hive collapsed in the fall, varroa could be the culprit as the population of varroa is usually highest then. Performing an autopsy of a honey bee colony is like solving a mystery and a variety of clues must be found and taken into account together, before you can make a final analysis of what happened to your hive. Here are some other basic clues to look for.

Does the colony have a queen, are eggs and open brood in the cells? Is the brood mostly drones? Are there many emergency queen cups or cells?

A colony without a queen, eggs or brood and many emergency queen cups or cells may have lost their queen and were unable to replace her. If the queen is present in the hive but dead, and it is not a winter kill, there should be eggs in the cells and open brood. If there are no eggs or open brood, the colony may have died from queen failure. A large number of drone cells may indicate queen failure or laying workers if the queen is absent. ([Read Full Article](#))

Honeybees let out a 'whoop' when they bump into each other

([Read Full Article](#))

Whoop whoop! A vibrational pulse produced by honeybees, long thought to be a signal to other bees to stop what they are doing, might actually be an expression of surprise.

Bees produce vibrations with their wing muscles that are inaudible to humans but can be detected by accelerometers embedded in the honeycomb.

In the 1950s, researchers noticed that this signal was often followed by bees exchanging food, and hypothesised that it was a request for food. Later, it was shown that the signal was produced when one bee tried to inhibit another from performing a waggle dance – a behaviour that tells other bees where to forage. It was interpreted as a “stop” signal that warns colleagues against foraging in a location

where there might be problems, such as a predator or a researcher bothering the bees for an experiment.

To find out more, [Martin Bencsik](#) and colleagues at Nottingham Trent University in the UK used accelerometers to record vibrations inside hives over the course of a year. Then they used software to scan the recordings and identify the signal. Some of these signals have been collected and converted into the sound clip below.

They found that the signal happens much more commonly than we thought, with the accelerometer picking up around six or seven a minute from just a small area of the honeycomb. “There’s no way a bee was trying to inhibit another one that frequently, and there’s no way a bee would request food that frequently” says Bencsik.

They also found that the signal takes place mostly at night – in contrast to waggle dances, which happen in the day when bees are foraging. What’s more, the signal is easy to elicit from hundreds of bees en masse just by knocking gently on the wooden wall of the hive.

Bee bumps

By placing cameras inside the hive, the researchers discovered that the signal often happens when a bee bumps into another bee near the accelerometer, and not when bees are waggle dancing or exchanging food.

“We suggest that, in the majority of instances, it is bees being startled that produce the signal,” says Bencsik. The team propose that instead of the “stop” signal, it should be called the “whooping” signal. ([Read Full Article](#))