

Joco Beekeepers

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



JOHNSTON COUNTY
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION

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- 1st Director** Thunderhawk Chavis
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Meeting Information & Agenda

- ✓ The June meeting speaker will be Annie Krueger from Bayer discussing the Hive Scale, Other Bayer Projects, and Bayer Bee Center.
- ✓ Be sure and check out the recent updates to the JCBA website, like the new Beekeeping Glossary
- ✓ Sign up for the Swarm List
- ✓ Free door prizes
- ✓ JCBA 2018 membership ([link](#))
- ✓ NCSBA 2018 membership ([link](#))

BEE Basics before each meeting!

This is a new program started in January 2018 and still running. "BEE Basics" is a general talk held before each meeting. At 6:30 - 6:55. The purpose is to gain basic info for NEW Beekeepers & Reminders for experienced Beekeepers.

2018 Swarm list

Do you want to get on the JCBA swarm list? Contact Steve Rhudy at the monthly meeting and sign up!

Happy Father's day!



In this Issue

- Officers..... 1
- Directors..... 1
- Meeting Information & Agenda 1
- BEE Basics before each meeting! 1
- 2018 Swarm list 1
- Happy Father's day! 1
- Have a story? Would you like to be featured in the newsletter?..... 1
- Businesses and Services..... 1
- Native Plants for Bees!..... 1
- Like us on social media  1
- This Month's Bee Tips!..... 2
- Our JOCO Bee Yard 2
- A honey bee drone quiz 3
- What is 'Drift'? 3
- From the Bee Yard!..... 3
- Classifieds 3

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

Please submit your request to Newsletter@jocobee.org

Businesses and Services

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

Native Plants for Bees!

Link for native plants good for bees [\(click here\)](#)

Like us on social media  Page 1

This Month's Bee Tips!

From: Nancy Ruppert, Apiary Inspector, NCDA & CS
CALENDAR FOR BEEKEEPING IN CENTRAL NORTH
CAROLINA

This month JUNE

- ☑ Main nectar flow starts to dwindle---fewer supers needed, unless sourwood nearby: if in area of sourwood, consider harvesting available honey before mid-June sourwood flow to ensure more "pure" sourwood crop.
- ☑ If honey being harvested, put "wet" supers back on hives late in day to limit robbing.
- ☑ Can start late season splits during last half of June; feed splits initially, even if there is nectar available.
- ☑ Continue measures to control small hive beetle population.
- ☑ Keep water for bees constantly available.
- ☑ Make plans for attending NCSBA Summer Meeting in mid-July.

Next month JULY

- ☑ May harvest some (or all) of honey; may continue late-season splits; continue beetle controls; keep water available for bees (see June activities).
- ☑ Attend NCSBA annual Summer Meeting, if possible (usually mid-July)---great learning opportunity!
- ☑ Get supers on for cotton honey, if hives near cotton fields.
- ☑ Replace failing queens; consider replacing any queen that is two years old or older.
- ☑ Can begin annual varroa mite assessment, and treat if needed/practical.

Our JOCO Bee Yard

Over a year ago, 5CBA club ran a Hive Increase Project (HIP for short) and they asked for sponsors. I agreed to be a sponsor. Dave Massengill was generous and stepped up to make a double deep 10-frame hive for the HIP. It was complete with inner screen cover, hive lid, bottom board. I added 20 new frames of foundation, painted the outside with whimsical designs and attended numerous gatherings in Zebulon, where the 5CBA apiary was located next to an open field. In all there were about 12 sponsors and the project started with only a few packages with hopes of splitting to get 12 or more colonies. The HIP involved hive dives, sugar shakes, evaluating the status of the hive, brood patterns and most of all, making splits. It was educational and also gave new "beeks" (short for beekeepers) to obtain their certifications.

After a year, the project came to an end and I was notified in March that I could collect the hive that had a full colony and queen. I brought it home and in no time, the queen was superseded in late April or early May. The hive was beautiful and contained the whole triftecta! (My term for eggs, larvae and capped brood) I gave the queen her royal red dot and decided to find out if Dave wanted his hive back. He said he preferred it to be donated to the JOCO apiary for continuing education. Well, since our club's motto is "We're All About Educating the Next Generation of Beekeepers", I thought it was appropriate that the hive go to the Clayton Community Center.

I contacted Chip Braswell who had been tending to the 2 hives over the years. I had never been to the apiary so I was excited when he told me the apiary could use a new hive because they lost one. We met at my home today, 6/15/18, and loaded up the hive onto his truck. We drove the 10 minutes to the apiary and found the it sitting peacefully within the safety of a chain-linked yard at the back of the property nestled by a treeline. We let ourselves in and placed the hive on the stand that sat waiting for an occupant. We opened the entrance to the hive and watched as the grateful girls got oriented to their new digs. It was a thing of beauty.

I wanted to acknowledge Chip Braswell for his time and energy devoted to the hives that were in the yard and also, Dave Massengill for his donation of a hive for the worthy cause of education.

Here's the status so far of the 2 hives.

The hive that was there I will call Little Bee because it's comprised of 3 small supers. Although it was queenless and Chip believes it had Laying Workers, he managed to introduce a queen cell in a hive body above a screened hive excluder and it worked. The hive seems to be doing well and has numerous frames of normal worker brood. We plan to do a deep dive in 2 weeks from now. We applied Apiguard and a top feeder with sugar syrup.

The newly added hive is called Beez Kneez and is a double deep. It has a marked proven laying queen with the triftecta, as well as nectar, pollen and some honey. We added an internal frame feeder with sugar syrup and a tray of Apiguard

gel as we do not plan to do a honey harvest on either hive. (see picture provided)

We hope this apiary will provide public awareness of the importance of bees and also that our club members will have an opportunity to see the hives and get hands-on experience as well, all in the name of education and fascination.

Enjoy
-May



A honey bee drone quiz

Appropriate topic for father's day here is a great 20 question quiz on drones. How well do you know drones? ([Link to the quiz](#))

What is 'Drift'?

Bees have incredible navigation abilities that allow them to fly miles away from the colony to forage and return home with enough precision to locate the entrance to their colony, even when there are dozens of nearly identical hives within a small apiary site. The current understanding of navigation is that a combination of position relative to the sun and landmarks across the landscape get them close and then a combination of visual cues and pheromones to precisely locate the colony entrance. When a returning forager ends up returning to the wrong colony, she is typically not attacked as a robbing bee but accepted into the colony due to the pollen or nectar she carries. This process, known as drift, can lead to significant variations in colony strength over time and increase the potential for the spread of diseases and parasites within an apiary. Drift is generally not viewed as a huge problem, but there are some steps beekeepers can take to mitigate the amount of drift happening in their apiaries.

When colonies are aggregated in large numbers and placed in rows of pallets, as is common in a commercial setting, there is potential for excessive drift. Many beekeepers elect to paint all of their woodware white, and this decision may be based on tradition, aesthetic, or other considerations. Others use a variety of colors, which creates a more vibrant apiary and may also help returning forages with orientation.

([Full Article](#))

Classifieds

May Markoff has nucs for sale (contact her at mayz973@gmail.com) with good laying marked queen born early April from a split, has 5 natural wired wax frames (#1 is honey, #2 is nectar and eggs, #3 is nectar and eggs, #4 capped brood, larvae and eggs, #5 is pollen and honey.) All brood covered with nurse bees, good active healthy colony, all parent colonies were treated in February with MAQS, asking \$150, can bring a nuc box to my home to transfer frames over early evening in good weather. No guarantee, no trading frames. Will have 3 more nucs available end of month after laying pattern is proven



From the Bee Yard!

If you have pictures you would like to have in the newsletter send them to newsletter@jacobee.org



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