

# Joco Beekeepers

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



JOHNSTON COUNTY  
BEEKEEPERS  
ASSOCIATION

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## Meeting Information & Agenda

- ✓ Februarys Meeting is Feb 18, 2019
- ✓ The February meeting speaker will be Will Hicks, NC. State Apiary Inspector with 20 years of service. "Bee Pests & Diseases"
- ✓ Be sure and check out the recent updates to the JCBA website, like the new Bee school dates for 2019.
- ✓ Free door prizes
- ✓ Right around the corner JCBA membership ([link](#))
- ✓ Right around the corner NCSBA membership ([link](#))

## BEE Basics before each meeting!

"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.

## 2019 Bee School

Johnston County Bee Keepers Association would like to announce the 2019 Bee school. The school will run Tuesday nights from 6pm to 9pm beginning February 12 and last for eight weeks with one Saturday class. The class includes certification.

Cost: \$95 for JCBA members and \$110 for non-members.



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

Please submit your request to [Newsletter@jacobee.org](mailto:Newsletter@jacobee.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 

## This Month's Bee Tips!

### Last month January

- ✓ Add pollen supplements, if needed; check amount and location of honey stores, and feed (2:1 syrup or fondant) if <3/4 super of stored honey left.
- ✓ Check/repair/replace stored equipment; order wax/woodenware.
- ✓ Order nucs/packages.
- ✓ Keep learning---bee school, read books/journals, etc.
- ✓ Combine or insulate smaller (less than 4 frames of bees) hives.
- ✓ Combine hives where the queen has failed, if they're still alive and haven't absconded.
- ✓ Move hives if they'll need to be relocated this year.
- ✓ Bees may need help removing dead bodies from entrance area.

### This month 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 are very low [i.e., <1/2 super left]).
- ✓ Combine hives if needed (see January entries above).
- ✓ 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.

### Next month March

- ✓ NCSBA annual Spring Meeting (usually first weekend in March)---great learning opportunity!
- ✓ 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 or 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 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 is failing.
- ✓ Continue to replace few frames of old/undesirable comb, if needed.
- ✓ Near end of month, add at least one hone super; remove entrance reducers; equalize hives.

## Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program

Here is a message that was sent to all chapter clubs for all members from Rick Coor the NCSBA President; North Carolina Beekeepers, The USDA has a program for beekeepers that have certain honey bee losses. Please refer to the Farm Service Agency's Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program Fact Sheet for more information. The website is [www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2018/elap\\_fact\\_sheet\\_april2018.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2018/elap_fact_sheet_april2018.pdf)

Please contact your local Farm Service Agency for assistance.

Rick Coor

## Bee Fun Fact

A single hive can produce anywhere from 60 to 100 pounds of honey every year.



## Member Contribution

In January at our monthly beekeepers club meeting, the presentation topic covered winter feedings. Club business was discussed and an announcement was made about the Beginner Beekeeping Class after which students are offered the opportunity to take the Certification exam if they chose. Some discussion ensued mainly about the materials, cost, time and location of the class. Then a question was posed, "Why "should" I be certified? This was a valid question worthy of explanation so I decided to put thought to paper and attempt to Bee-Splain".....The answer is simple. No one "should" do anything they don't want to but most agree it's a worthwhile endeavor. Pursuing a certification is not a requirement to be a competent beekeeper but it does lend you some "street-cred". Everything you want to learn nowadays can be found by simple internet search and YouTube video so why "should" anyone come to monthly meetings either if one follows that line of reasoning. Our club is all about educating tomorrow's beekeepers and beekeeping is constantly changing and growing with new information brought to our membership by experienced and expert beekeepers. It's a wealth of information in one place.

Earning a certificate speaks volumes. A certificate is like a diploma that says you attained a certain degree of expertise from a reputable source. A doctor's consultation and diagnosis carries more weight because of the diploma certificate on the wall. The pilot flying the plane has a licensed certificate of training; the attorney has one, you need one to drive a car, and the person cutting your hair or painting your nails have one on the walls. A house needs a CO (certificate of occupancy) before it can be lived in, even if it's "just" a piece of paper. We all put a degree of trust in that certificate. In addition, the certified beekeeper can obtain a state certified label for their honey jars that assures the consumer that the honey is unadulterated, natural and safe. We've all heard about the fake honey that tries to get into our markets from other countries or from fly-by-night bee stands. Scary stuff!

In beekeeping the "first" level of achievement is Certification. Passing the written and then practical exam demonstrates a good basic level of competence and knowledge in hive management and problem solving. It's all well and good to have a Master Beekeeper as a handy mentor. The Master Beekeeper has achieved a level of expertise whose opinion and advice is trustworthy and proven by their paper certificate and experience. Having said that, that certification is probably why one would seek out the master beekeeper in the first place.

Most of us can also call upon a friendly Master Beekeeper, Inspector or a trusted mentor for help. That's not unique. Personally, I prefer to increase my knowledge and skill set by studying and becoming a certified beekeeper. I'm sure the

Master Beekeeper would appreciate that too. So, choosing to advance my skills, attend conferences, listen to experts, become a better beekeeper and make some friends along the way are all our choices. That's why we come to the monthly meetings. That's why some choose to attend the bee school and become certified. I want to be able to share my knowledge competently and reliably. Taking the certification test is the first step and is not for everyone. However, for those who do take this first step and go beyond, I feel great respect and admiration for their dedication.

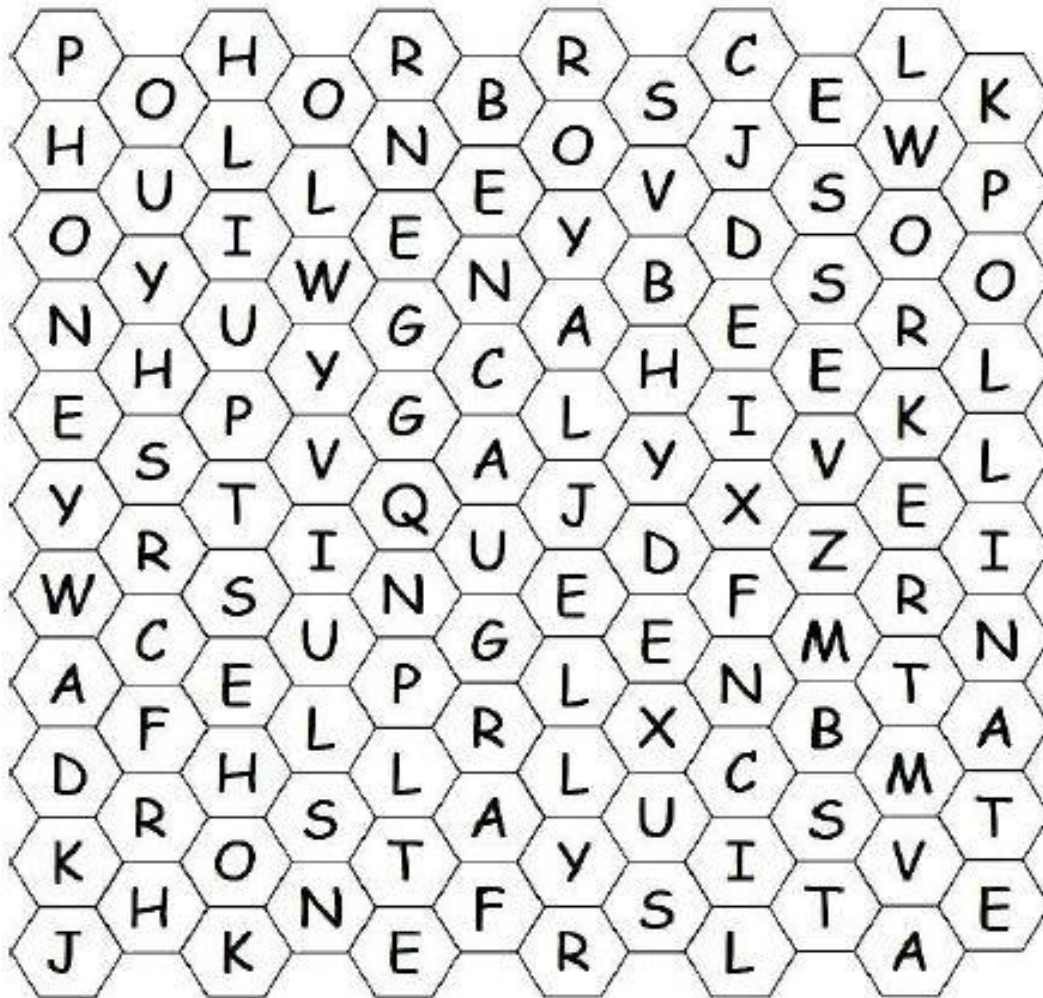
As an attorney friend of mine once said about his framed certificate of on the wall, "It looks good on paper!"

By May Markoff, JOCO Certified Beekeeper



# Word Search

## Honeycomb Word Search



POLLEN

EGG

QUEEN

DRONE

POLLINATE

ROYAL JELLY

HONEYBEE

WORKER

HIVE

CELL

HONEY

