

# Joco Beekeepers

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



JOHNSTON COUNTY  
BEEKEEPERS  
ASSOCIATION

## Officers

- President** Jacob Giddens
- Vice President** Bert Stoner
- Secretary** Karen Holliday
- Treasurer** May Markoff
- Program Director** Guy Gettys

## Directors

- 1st Director** Thunderhawk Chavis
- 2nd Director** Jim Dempster
- 3rd Director** Ron Lassiter
- Extension Agent** Brandon Parker
- Webmaster/Social Media** Mark Holliday

## Meeting Information & Agenda

- ✓ March Meeting is Mar 18, 2019
- ✓ The March meeting speaker will be Jim Dempster, installing Packages and Nucs
- ✓ Be sure and check out the recent updates to the JCBA website.
- ✓ 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.

## Silent Auction

We are still collecting items for the silent auction. All items can be dropped off at the Ag Center during our monthly meeting.



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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 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.

### This 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.



### Next month April

- ☑ Nectar flow is often heaviest this month: make sure that all medications are out of hive unless required for bee's survival, be prepared to add new supers every 7-10 days, and remove feeders from all except new or weak hives.
- ☑ Bees should be very busy; closely examine hives that are not, and trim weeds that may be hindering flight.
- ☑ Swarming is usually heavy---continue prevention/capture measures.
- ☑ Look closely at brood pattern; replace queen if needed.
- ☑ Have everything ready to install nucs/packages that you've ordered; **feed upon installation.**
- ☑ Consider adding queen excluder to prevent brood in honey supers.

## 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/usdafiles/FactSheets/2018/elap\\_fact\\_sheet\\_april2018.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2018/elap_fact_sheet_april2018.pdf)

Please contact your local Farm Service Agency for assistance.

Rick Coor



## Little Bee

For days the cold rain has fallen  
From clammy dreary skies  
I pondered how the bees were faring  
Tucked inside their little hives

Rain drops make puddles that stream  
And merge with the distant ocean blue  
Spring is fast approaching now  
And there's still so much to do

The dandelions and Hen bits color the grassy hills  
The buds on trees have grown and swelled  
The hives sit alone, dark and still, yet  
Within the brood chamber laying has excelled

The bees are eager to see land that dried  
From all the cold driving rain  
To spread their wings, to dance and sing  
In earnest find sweet blooms again

Oh sweet nectar, food of the Gods  
How much we adore your ways  
Your gentle soothing humming song  
Little bee I sing thee praise.

By May Markoff, JOCO Certified Beekeeper 2/2019



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### Bee Fun Facts

1. Honey bees are not born knowing how to make honey. Instead, they are taught in the hive by older bees.
2. The darker the honey, the greater amount of antioxidant properties it has.
3. Ounce for ounce, honey bee venom is more deadly than cobra venom. Don't worry, though – it takes 19 stings for every kilogram of a person's body weight to be lethal.
4. A worker bee can carry a load of nectar or pollen equal to 80% of her own body weight.

# Word Search

## The Honey Bee

D F C N X J Z A V Q F T E Z X A N M B T Z Q L Z  
H K Y E F M C Y L V L K V Q Q C O K B G P S K P  
Y Q P R R N L H W J S B I Y W O R K E R N V P Q  
N D C V J N Z Z J R Z D H Z S X Y G R P K M L H  
D W X M L H L E G R C V I X E N E F H F A V W O  
A J J L W R T A I G X O P H N V L E E Q P A P W  
W X D Q A Z A J Q F T Z Z U B C L A Z U S Y N C  
P F T A U G F L P F H V W C J V O P H E O K F W  
O W S C Z L I J Z B O S J G T G W N L E F N T O  
O A R F O B F W D F J D Z A U G O K V N V O N C  
F K S D D D A H F H A Y A G Y R C T V V Q C E K  
F S T I N G E R C K C Z M N X P C K C C V D L T  
X A H J H Q V X S G N I W U R R W W S O P N L F  
X X C U O Z T D N A P O Q C O M B I F L W E O U  
O J U T V F W Z Z O H B Q E Y R G R L O R M P X  
U X G W K Q R E P E E K E E B E U P Y N A T T X  
G W Y M B V Y O Y L B L A C K A F X W Y T H L F  
D Q T E Q Z Y O A O U U H E E B L S E I C P J V  
I H Z G Y U H Z W K A Z P H E R O Z E E E P C P  
U K D G A A I Y E N O H G V K Z W D W J N E Z F  
B U M D C M R A W S K D N R J C E R I N G F X K  
M X Z F R I G N E A V R A L J P R F H H K I X H  
K P X J L X F F L D D E F U E J S X T H U F U Y  
J N M F C W K A R D T S T R I P E S H N V X W Q

stripes	black	yellow	beekeeper
colony	larva	egg	pollen
worker	swarm	fly	comb
queen	nectar	flowers	buzz
stinger	hive	wings	honey
bee			