

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

- ✓ August Meeting is Monday the 19th.
- ✓ 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.

GAP - (Golden Achievement Program)

Information and updates coming in next month's newsletter.



In this Issue

- Officers..... 1
- Directors..... 1
- Meeting Information & Agenda 1
- BEE Basics before each meeting! 1
- GAP! 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
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program 2
- Beekeepers Share & Collect Date..... 3
- Bee Fun Fact!3

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

Please submit your request to 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!

- ☑ If not in area of significant cotton bloom, harvest remaining desired honey by mid-month to keep bees from eating it.
- ☑ Pest control is **critical** this month: hive beetle populations are peaking, varroa mites are nearing their peak populations, and some factors increase risk of damage from wax moth larvae, and yellow jackets/hornets tend to be plentiful.
- ☑ Careful assessment of queen performance---this month is usually last chance to replace queens until the following spring.
- ☑ Can still make late-season splits early in August is using queens.
- ☑ Keep water for bees **constantly**.
- ☑ Be prepared for "badly behaving bees": because nectar flow is so scarce, bees may become more defensive and more likely to rob other hives → install robbing screens or entrance reducers (but be aware of need for ventilation), and keep hive inspections as brief as possible.
- ☑ Completing honey harvest + decrease in queen's egg-laying = extra empty supers of drawn comb; store them using method that prevents damage from wax moth larvae (freezing, keeping open to light/ventilation using Para dichlorobenzene [PBD] crystals).



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 past 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

Please contact your local Farm Service Agency for assistance.

Paul Newbold



Why Every Beekeeper Should Collect and Share Data

When someone first gets into beekeeping, their first thought is rarely about all of the data and notes that they're going to be recording during all of their hive checks. They tend to be more focused on all of the equipment they are going to buy, what they're going to do with all of the hive's products, and how they are going to help save the bees. While all of these things are important things to think about, beekeepers should also focus on collecting and sharing their data from their hive checks.

Collecting and sharing data is important for several reasons. Firstly, it helps beekeepers to get into the habit of checking everything they need to check rather than just cracking the lid and making sure that their bees are still alive and well. It also helps them to have a baseline of what is "normal" for their hive. By sharing their data, beekeepers can see how their hive compares to those of other beekeepers. Sharing data also helps researchers to get a better scope of what is happening with bees. Bee research is huge right now, so any data that can be collected is extremely valuable.

Establish a Routine

Having a notebook or tablet with you when you check on your hive can be invaluable to a new beekeeper who hasn't settled into a routine yet. If you have a pre-written checklist in a notebook that will help you to make sure that you look at everything you need to. If you prefer a more technology-based method, there are quite a few beekeeping software's and apps (our Healthy Hive Management Software, for example!) available that have pre-made lists with spaces to enter notes and numbers. These help new beekeepers learn what they should be looking for during their inspections, as well as serve as a convenient place to enter, store, and share data.

You may be wondering how you should be expected to be able to check on your hive, a task which often requires both hands, and take notes simultaneously. Well, as we've said in a previous post about taking notes during hive inspections, it's a good idea to take a second person with you – particularly someone who may have some experience with bees. Not only will this person be able to take down notes as you make observations, but they can give a second set of eyes to confirm your observations.

Bee Fun Facts

1. Bees have long, straw-like tongues called a proboscis which they use to suck liquid nectar out of flowers.
2. Hives produce 5 distinct substances: honey, beeswax, propolis, pollen, and royal jelly.
3. Beeswax is found in many of our everyday products, including furniture polishes, cosmetics, and medicines.
4. In ancient Egypt, people paid their taxes with honey.

