

# Orange County Beekeepers



## NCSBA Summer Meeting

The NCSBA Summer Meeting took place in Wilkesboro this year. The theme was natural beekeeping. We heard from a variety of speakers and had the opportunity to attend many exciting workshops all addressing concerns with the chemical use for treating bees. There were workshops on



using your own wax for foundation, keeping bees without using wax foundation, reducing stress on bees, and many others. We heard more reports

on research being conducted including Dr. Tarpy's ongoing research into queen breeding, the USDA's study of chemicals in wax, pollen and honey, research on nosema cerana, pheromones and varroa mites, and hive beetles.

At the meeting, we successfully voted in the amendments to the constitution including the changes to three regional zones supported each by four representatives. Nominations were held and new positions were filled. For the Piedmont District our four new Regional Representatives are Jimmy Odom from Mecklenburg, Jerry Isley from Randolph, Ellis Hardison from Rockingham, and Greg Fariss from Davie.

One highlight of the meeting was the cookout at Brushy Mountain. We witnessed the grand opening of the new store and had a tour of the facilities. There were local sausages for appetizers and a live bluegrass band. Following an amazing meal, we had the presentations of awards including 5 new Master Beekeepers, including Michael Almond from Chatham County.

### Orange County Awards



Our own John Wallace brought home a blue ribbon for his honey caramel candy.

Alongside him taking three awards for cooking was our very own vice-president, Gail Young. Lewis

Cauble won a blue ribbon with his extracted amber honey. Geneva Green brought home a third place ribbon for her photography. The real prize was the opportunity to attend: to learn more about beekeeping, to connect with other beekeepers, and to participate in the future of our organization. Also in attendance from Orange County were Jack Tapp with Betsy and Bobby, Pat Jones, Tom and Angie.



## State Report

Both David Tarpy and Don Hopkins gave us news for the state. Tarpy's program at NC State continues to produce interesting research including initial results

that seem to point to most bred queens being well mated despite continued issues with viability and longevity. They are embarking on new research into drone health. Research also continues on feral

colonies to see if there exists resistant stock to widen our genetic base.

To this date there are still no confirmed cases of CCD or colonies of Africanized Bees in NC. There continues to be increases in new beekeepers and our chapters are stepping up to help them.

As of the meeting the Beneficial Insect Lab had escaped the chopping block. Thanks were given to the State Organization and especially Charles Heatherly for working up to help them.



## CNG in NC

Buddy Marterre is developing a set of [Certified Naturally Grown](#) standards for beekeepers. Buddy hopes to have these completed, approved, and available online sometime next year. CNG will be a low cost and achievable alternative to the near impossible organic beekeeping standards. One of the interesting parts of this program is the monitoring portion. Beekeeper A inspects Beekeeper B's operation. Beekeeper B inspects Beekeeper C's operation. Beekeeper C inspects Beekeeper A's operation. There will also be random inspections thrown in here and there. The goal of the program is to increase the health of our bees by limiting their pesticide exposures. It may also allow CNG beekeepers to charge a premium for their CNG honey, bees, queens, and other hive

products. I'm sure we will be hearing more about this program during the next year or so.

## Nosema Ceranae

Steve Pernal reported on research on the increasing cases of Nosema Ceranae which are either replacing or existing alongside the less harmful Nosema Apis. Ceranae is not accompanied with the tell tale dysentary and does not have a winter peak in numbers but continues to grow. The only way to tell it apart from Apis is through expensive genetic testing. Signs of it's presence include declines in lifespan, queen infertility, work of nursing bees and pollen collection. To sample for nosema, take foragers from upper cover, crush in 1ml of water per bee and examine for spores under a compound microscope, or send sample to be tested in state.

## News with Varroa

Chemical Attractants for Varroa Mites was the title of the talk given by Mark Carroll from the University of Florida. His research was looking into what volatiles told phoretic mites which brood cells to enter. Since it is critical for the mites to enter the cells just before capping, it may be possible to either flood a hive with a scent that will mask the attractants or to lure the Varroa into a trap with the same scent. The results of initial testing are that the chemical produced by brood just before capping are responsible for mite's ability to locate the proper cells. This is exciting news in our ability to control mite populations.