



FEBRUARY 2010  
NEWSLETTER OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS

### Remember...

Sign up for the articles & refreshments slots left. Let **David Mullis know as soon as possible.**

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New Time: 7:00 at the Ag Building  
January 21, 2010  
Speaker: Don Hopkins

Article for March: We **need someone**  
Refreshments: None, dinner meeting  
**February Meeting** : Ag Building  
**March Meeting**: Burlington Diner  
Feed those bees!

*Alamance County Beekeepers*

## This month's meeting...

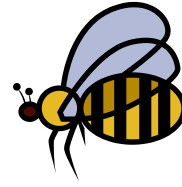
Will be at the Agriculture Building at 7:00. The speaker will be Don Moore who is speaking on "Producing Comb Honey". Please be sure to note the time change for the meetings. We will now meet at 7:00 instead of 7:30. Our **new** eating place is the **Burlington Diner**, which is on Church Street on the right just before you turn on Alamance Road. Be there at 6:00 instead of 6:30.

**Beekeeping Class.** Our Beekeeping Class is off to a very good start. We had 65 students the first evening and grew to 71 registered the second evening. Burlington tops the list with 28 students, followed by Mebane at 9, Graham at 6, Chapel Hill, Haw River and Hurdle Mills each at 3 students, and students from Cedar Grove, Climax, Durham, Elon, Greensboro, Julian, Liberty, New London, Pittsboro, Pleasant Garden, Providence, Saxapahaw, Snow Camp, and Whitsett. I'd say that is a pretty broad cross section of students.

**Honey Report.** The latest issue of the Honey Report by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) puts the national 2008 honey production at 160.86 million pounds. The top ranking states are North Dakota at 35.1 million pounds, South Dakota at 21.38 M, California at 18.36 M and Florida at 11.85 million pounds. There are 14 states that produced less honey than NC, so that ranks us number 36 out of the 50 states. The NC production per colony was 52 pounds, putting us 27<sup>th</sup> from the top producing state. The NC average price per pound of honey was put at \$2.12 for a total production value of \$1.323 million. In addition to the value of honey production, NCSU Beekeeping Note 3.14, dated April 2007 places the value of honey bee pollination in annual fruit and vegetable production at \$96 million and in total annual crop productivity at \$186 million.

**Mentor Program.** New beekeepers need someone they can turn to for advice, assistance and just plain support. As you may recall, to go into a hive of honey bees with little or no experience takes courage and a lot of determination. It would have helped greatly if you had someone to help with those first few inspections. If you had gone to someone else's bee yard and helped them, which would have been an experience-building encounter, you would have been better prepared for working your bees. We have a new class of potential beekeepers and they will need some help. Ken, Mike, David and I cannot be a mentor to all of them and we need your help. A lady from **Mecklenburg County**, Lecia Pearce wrote a very good article about a program she is under taking to enlist mentors for their new beekeepers. I received permission from Lecia to use her article and have quoted it below. I would ask that you read her article and seriously consider being a mentor to a new beekeeper. Give me (336-584-3195), Mike (336-584-8652), David (336-270-4531) or Ken (336-229-5622) a call and volunteer to be a mentor, better yet, volunteer to organize the program and get it rolling. As the saying goes, "don't be a knot on the log", get involved and be supportive.

**Lecia's article is on the following page. If you would like to be a mentor, fill out the back page of the newsletter and bring it to the meeting or mail it to Camille Thomas.**



## Hello All!

My name is Lecia Pearce, and I am organizing this year's "New Beekeepers Mentor Program" for the Mecklenburg County Bee School, which begins in January. For those of you who may not know me, I started Bee School two years ago and have since grown my initial pair of nucs to six hives. My experience has grown over the years, but I could not have done it without the help of my mentor. He was an outstanding teacher and was eager to allow me join in on advanced bee keeping exercises like swarm removal and re-queening. Granted, I was free labor, but I learned so much! To this day, he is still my mentor and my friend. I'm telling you this because mentors are key to helping the new beekeeping hobbyist stay engaged and be successful.

### Mentoring FAQs:

1. What would I have to do?
  - a. Mentors will be answering practical questions about getting started with bees and equipment, involving the new beekeepers in a visit to an established bee-yard, and inspiring confidence by visiting the new beekeepers bee-yard.
2. I've never been a mentor, so how do I know that I would be any good?
  - a. Most of you were not born with a veil over your head and a lit smoker in your hand, and yet you became a successful beekeeper. You'd be surprised at how much information you'll be able to pass on to a "newbee", and you'll never know how good you'll be unless you try.
3. How much time does it take?
  - a. The amount of time you'll spend being a mentor is really up to you, as you will make arrangements directly with your mentees to set up meeting times & places. In addition to hands-on time in the beeyard, new students may ask you for advice on setting up their own bee-yard & caring for their own bees. I'd ask that you make every effort to answer their questions to keep them engaged.
4. What if I don't hit it off with my mentee?
  - a. Once you decide to become a mentor, I'll contact you to determine: where you live, how many students you can accommodate, likes/dislikes, favorite color ☺, etc. I will do everything I can to pair you with a compatible student, but we can certainly make a change if it is just not working out.
5. Do I have to attend bee school again?
  - a. No, you do not need to attend school on a regular basis, but **you need to attend the scheduled monthly meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010**. After the meeting is over, we are going to have a short orientation for the mentors.
6. Do I get paid?
  - a. You don't get paid cash, but you do get people that are eager to learn, willing to help (and are appreciative). Mentees have been known to be such eager beavers that they have carried supers, performed full hive inspections, and uncapped frames until their hands hurt. I've even heard stories that some mentors have had their cars washed and their grass cut, but that could just be an urban legend.

I can't add much to her article, but we do need volunteers to be mentors for our new beekeepers. If you are willing help, give us a call, bring the form on the back into the next meeting or mail it to Camille Thomas, 4358 Burch Bridge Road, Burlington, NC 27217 or forward it by email to sthomas770@earthlink.net.

**Master Beekeeper Program.** As you may know, the NC Master Beekeeper Program consists of four levels, each with its own requirements for attaining that level. In our beekeeping course we offer the written test on the last evening of the class room sessions and are willing to make arrangements for students to take the practical test for the certified level. I would encourage you to get into the program if you aren't already in it and if you are, to continue to progress through the program. Below is an easily understood chart that shows the requirements for each level of the program. More information can be found on the NCSBA website shown below.

Level	Tests		
	Written	Practical	Oral
Certified	X	X	-
Journeyman	X	X	-
Master	X	X	-
Master Craftsman	X	X	X

Service and Experience		
Beekeeping Experience	Public Service	Other
-	-	-
2 years	5 units	-
3 years	10 units	1
2 years @ Master level	15 units	1,2,3

1 = Demonstrate expertise in sub-specialties;

2 = Present a program at an NCSBA annual meeting;

3 = Participate in an NCSU sponsored research project

The purpose of the program is to increase simultaneously the depth of knowledge within each of these areas, and to reflect back to other beekeepers and the public. Participants are and recognized for these valuable endeavors. To enroll in this program, contact your local Beekeeping Organization or visit the following web site:

[www.ncbeekeepers.org/master.htm](http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/master.htm)



Alamance County Beekeeper's Mentor Volunteer Form

<b>Name</b>			
Street	City	State	Zip
Phone #	email		

Alamance County Beekeepers    \_\_New    \_\_Renew  
Membership Pay Form for 2010

\*Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Dues \$6.00, State Dues \$15.00, Both \$21.00    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Name of second member for two-member family.                      Total    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print

Check here if address change                       Please deliver my Newsletter via e-mail

Please make checks payable to Alamance County Beekeepers. \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Completed forms to: \_\_\_\_\_ (County – if other than Alamance)

Janice Foulks  
2529 Johnson Lane  
Burlington, NC 27217

ALAMANCE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS  
2010 OFFICERS  
MIKE ROSS, PRESIDENT  
DAVID MULLIS, VICE PRESIDENT  
JAN FOULKS, TREASURER  
AUDREY MOORE, RECORDING SECRETARY  
CAMILLE THOMAS, PROGRAM CHAIR  
DON MOORE, 1-YEAR DIRECTOR  
EDDIE THOMAS, 2-YEAR DIRECTOR  
PAT JONES, 3-YEAR DIRECTOR



We will be starting a swarm list soon. Think about whether or not you would like to be contacted by the police, fire dept., etc. about removing swarms and bees in houses.