

# ASHE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

---

February 8, 2024 - 6:00 PM - NC Co-op

Attendance: A high attendance this week – 38!

6:00 PM – Meeting Called to Order by Todd Swanson, President.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Todd recognized new visitors to the meeting.

Todd informed the group that the web site has and is being updated & revised with new logo, layout and easier to navigate & locate the information you want to find.

**Beekeeper Spotlight** – Each month a beekeeper will briefly describe their journey in beekeeping as a way for us to learn more about each other. This month Ronnie Hoskins described his beekeeping experience.

Ken Jenkins provided the Treasurer’s Report (as of 2/5/2024):

### **Assets**

Bank Balance	\$484.49
Petty Cash	<u>\$ 90.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$574.49</b>

### **Income**

Dues Collected Dec/Jan	\$159.04
Advertising Income	\$100.00
Pizza	<u>\$20.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$279.04</b>

### **Expenses**

Food	\$ 70.88
Supplies	\$ 44.77
ACBA Logo	\$400.00
Shelter Rental Deposit	\$ 75.00
Web Design	\$250.00
Christmas in July Fees	<u>\$125.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1010.34</b>

Todd requested volunteers for the following positions:

- Christmas in July Coordinator
- Social Media Director
- Food Chairperson

Upcoming Events:

- March 7-9: NC Spring Meeting in New Bern.
- April 23, 24, 25: Educational opportunities at 3 of our elementary schools.
- Presenting at 4-H & Caboose at the Library are other opportunities.

Jim Rash discussed the Mentoring Program and the need for volunteers.

- Beginning Beekeeping class has 20 students!! (Opportunities for mentoring!)
- Mentoring style – Cluster, with the Mentor taking on at least 2 mentees, but not more than 5.
- Requirements for being a Mentor: must have been keeping bees for several years.

Willie Pascal, NCSBA Mountain Region Representative

- 2/28: SC State Beekeeping Meeting – Columbia, SC
- 4/20: Born & Bred Queen Rearing Class – Mills River, NC
- North Carolina has more beekeepers than any other state!!

### **Main Presentation:**

James Wilkes discussed “Splitting Hives” and Todd Swanson briefly discussed “Queen Castles”:

Some info about James:

- Professor at App State since 1992
- Bee Informed Partnership, 2010
- Hive Tracks, launched in 2010 at EAS in Boone
- Passed the bee business to son, Sullivan, in 2017-2018
- [www.scientificbeekeeping.com/modeling-nuc-buildup](http://www.scientificbeekeeping.com/modeling-nuc-buildup)

Queen Castles:

- Resource Hive using a 10 frame hive, 3 totally separate chambers holding 3 frames and having 3 separate entrances.
- Move frames from other hives, that may have swarm cells, to Queen Castle & raise queens.
- Move to nucs and then to 8 or 10 frame hives over course of 6-8 weeks.

### Splitting Hives:

- Parent Colony – need a strong hive.
- Equipment for Hive – needs to be the same size as the parent hive with drawn comb.
- Queens – from cells, virgins, mated/laying, or bees make their own.
- Food Resources – supplemental food: syrup, pollen patties, extra honey, natural sources.
- Weather – warm & sunny and remain this way for at least 1.5wk after splitting.
- Beekeeper Skills/Ability – reading frames, finding queens.

### **CLOSING**

The next meeting will be March 14 – Anton Joubert, NC State Apiary Inspector

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm