

Ashe County Beekeepers Association

Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2025

- 7:00PM Call to Order, Todd Swanson, President (note the new meeting time)
- Recognition of visitors and new attendees / beginner beekeeping class
 - Bryan and son Jackson Siceloff, first year beekeepers
 - Mackenzie Welde, will start her first hive this spring
 - Ray and Wanda Jones, long time beekeepers and returning members
 - 21 people in attendance
- Announcements:
 - Wake County Beekeepers Assoc. is donating 75 (at the most recent count) nucs to beekeepers in the high country who have lost bees during Helene flooding and the difficult winter. We are aware of 67 hives lost. Two tentative dates are set for delivery - April 27, and then two weeks later, May 11. If you are interested in replacing your lost hives, contact a officer or email Todd at toddthecutiger@gmail.com
 - We still have a few boxes left from the Build a Box program in November. If you could use them to replace your damaged inventory, contact a officer or email Todd at toddthecutiger@gmail.com
 - As a fund raiser and advertiser for our group, t-shirts are for sale in all sizes and colors, \$20 each. Bee ACBA proud!
 - Karen Hefner is coordinating the Mentoring Program this year. New beekeepers are paired with an experienced mentor to help them through the first years journey. The idea is to shadow the mentor - to learn by doing. Ideally, each mentor would have two or three rookies who would spend time in each others bee yards as a group or one on one, to install nucs/packages, perform inspections and pest checks.... If this sounds interesting to you as a mentor or first year beekeeper, email Karen at 1911wolfpack@gmail.com
 - Education Committee – Katherine Roth is looking for volunteers to speak to grade school children at a two day event held at the Ashe County Ag office on April 11 and 12, with four presentations each day. Very little knowledge is needed, just the basics for these young children, but we will also supply you with speaking notes and props. If you would like to volunteer for this educational experience (any time slot would be great) or to co-chair this committee, please contact Katherine at 336-982-7684 or krothk@gmail.com
 - Dr. Jim Rash will be teaching a Journeyman level class at Hidden Happiness Bee Farm on February 21 and 22. This is a great course to help prepare you for the state certification test. Please call Hidden Happiness at 336-973-5412 or email Dr. Jim at newbeek2014@gmail.com. The class is \$40 and includes lunch! FYI... there will be a

Journeyman certification test at the NCSBA and SCBA joint spring meeting (more info at NCbeekeepers.org)

- There are openings for several volunteers within the club, including Education Chair and Christmas in July coordinator. Please reach out to Todd for more information.
- ACBA is the recipient of a \$2500 grant awarded from the state for the Queen-Rearing Program. The goal is for North Carolina to begin producing their own local, quality queens. Todd Swanson and Rachel Gee attended a class in January and will be providing updates at each meeting. If you would like more information on this program, contact either Todd or Rachel.
- Financial Report / Membership Drive - ACBA currently has \$1,408.20 in the bank, and it is time to pay your yearly dues of \$20. Rachel Gee will be taking your dues at the next meeting or you can contact her at 336-977-7554 to pay them online.
- Past Officers (Ken Jenkins, Jim Rash and Jeff Vestal) were recognized for their support of ACBA in 2024. We very much appreciate their time, knowledge and passion for beekeeping!
- The current staff for 2025 was introduced to the attendees.
 - Todd Swanson, President
 - Karen Hefner, Vice President
 - Rachel Gee, Treasurer
 - Maggie Sims, Secretary
- Attendees were also introduced to Hank Reid and Jeff Brooks. They were informed of the men's background in beekeeping and then accepted the officer's recommendation that they be added to the Advisory Board. The current Advisory Board members are:
 - Jeff Brooks
 - Hank Reid
 - James Wilkes
- Events Coming for Beekeepers -
 - 2025 Spring – Union County NC – NC/SC combined meeting – March 6-8
 - 2025 Summer Meeting – July 10-12 – Blue Ridge Community College – Flat Rock
- Keynote Presentation – Max Runzel CEO of HiveTracks - Max spoke of the updates within HiveTracks and gifted ACBA with a “club” copy of the program (which is a new update.) This will allow our group to enter our hive data so that we can better share information for our area. It will also be invaluable for record retention during the Queen-Rearing program.
- Adjournment
- Next meeting: March 13, 2025 7:00 PM – Midway Baptist Church – Bryan Fisher will be the guest speaker. Bryan was instrumental in the sugar delivery after the flooding in September.