

# Ashe County Beekeepers Association

## Monthly Meeting

### MINUTES

March 13, 2025

- 7:00PM            Call to Order, Todd Swanson, President
- Recognition of visitors and new attendees / beginner beekeeping class
  - The Brock family - Rebekah, Sampson and sons Reuben and Shane - Starting first hive this season.
  - Odna Blevins - long time beekeeper, but has none right now.
- Announcements:
  - The NUCs being donated by Wake County are scheduled for delivery. The first 15 to 20 will be delivered on April 22 or 23. The plan right now will be to pick them up from Midway Baptist Church (where the monthly meeting is held.). The remainder (70- to 80) be during the second week in May. **\*\* IMPORTANT NOTE\*\*** we cannot hold these bees for later pickup. You must make arrangements to pick them up when delivered, or they will be given to the next person. Please contact a staff member if you have questions or contact Todd directly at [Toddthecutiger@gmail.com](mailto:Toddthecutiger@gmail.com)
  - There are still a few boxes (10 frame) left from the Build a Box program. If you need a spare, you are welcome to it!
  - T-shirts are for sale in all sizes and colors as a fund raiser for the club - \$20 each!
  - Mentoring Program Update – Karen Hefner is taking names of people who would like to be a part of the program as a mentor or a mentee. The best way for a new beekeeper to learn the craft is by having a mentor available to ask questions and learn by doing. Sometimes all that is needed is a photo or short video to give the mentee the needed guidance. If you have an interest - from either side of the hive - please reach out to Karen at [1911wolfpack@gmail.com](mailto:1911wolfpack@gmail.com)
  - Katherine Roth has the April 11-12, dates confirmed for our first 2025 educational opportunity. We will be speaking with grade school kids about beekeeping at the brand new Ag center in Jefferson. You don't need much knowledge to give these kids an introduction to the world of bees. If you have had a hive for a few months - you have enough! Please consider signing up for a couple of hours of manning the table with Katherine. [krothk@gmail.com](mailto:krothk@gmail.com) or 336-982-7684
  - Christmas In July will be here before you know it! So, we could use some help in coordinating the table and volunteers. A booth has already been reserved. Once again we will be selling honey - this is our main fundraiser and a great way to put ACBA out into the community.

- Supplies for the Queen-Rearing Program have been purchased using the funds from the state office. Equipment will be setup at the beginning of May and the process itself, on May 17th. If you would like more information on this fascinating project or to become involved, please reach out to Rachel – raelouchi@gmail.com
- Financial Report / Membership Drive - yearly dues, which are due now, are \$20 for ACBA – Rachel Gee
  - Bank balance - \$1373.45
  - Income - \$777.00
  - Expenses - \$811.75
- Conference Spotlight
  - Maggie Sims and James Wilkes provided their thoughts and experiences from the NC State conference. It was a positive experience for both.
  - The State Board of Directors announced they voted to award \$50,000 towards the minimum of \$667,000, which had been raised to grant an endowment to NC State University for the department of Apiary professorship. North Carolina beekeepers will now have a permanent resource in their own backyard!
  - Our own Dr. Jim Rash took the exam for the MASTER CRAFTSMAN certification! What an achievement! This is like getting your PhD in Beekeeping. (The levels of certification are Certified Beekeeper, Journeyman Beekeeper, Master Beekeeper and Master Craftsman.). He has been keeping bees since 1982 and is a wealth of knowledge. Congratulations Dr. Jim!
- Events Coming for Beekeepers -
  - Summer Conference will be July 11 and 12 in Flat Rock at the Blue Ridge Community College
  - Ashe Born & Bred Queen Rearing meeting, June 20 and 21, provided by NC State and a Federal grant. Participation is free but there is a limit of 75 participants
- Keynote Presentation – Bryan Fisher – Beekeeping “Hacks”
 

Bryan has 20 years of experience as a third generation beekeeper and keeps approximately 200+ hives - as a hobby/sideliner. Last year, he harvested 10,000 pounds of honey. He and his wife Sarah were very generous in giving us money saving “hacks”, but they also brought equipment to donate to our club members.
- Next meeting: April 10, 2025 7:00 PM, Midway Baptist Church – Jason Smith – The Bear Ag Guy. May is Richard Dunnigan from Person County and is Secretary of the NC State Beekeeping Association.