

# Ashe County Beekeepers Association

## Monthly Meeting Agenda

April 10, 2025

- 7:00PM            Call to Order, Todd Swanson, President
- Visitors included Joan Baker from Watauga County, Dr. Rahman Tashakkori with App State, David and Kathryn Ladd from Todd and Mona Hanlin who is trying to decide if she wants to keep bees or not.
- Announcements:
  - Wake County will have 20 NUCS ready for us on April 22. Todd will be in touch with those people who will take delivery at De La Cruz Farm in Deep Gap. The second date is tentatively set for May 10.
  - There are still shirts for sale in all sizes and colors, \$20 each. We sold nine at the meeting, so that is a great addition to the clubs funds!
  - Mentoring Program Update – Karen Hefner is still looking for people who would like to become a mentor to a new beekeeper. This invaluable role only takes a few hours per month initially. The tasks range from installing a new package, mite checks, helping the new BK to perform inspections, etc. After initial setup, many tasks can be managed with photos or videos. Please let Karen know you can help.
  - Education Committee – Katherine Roth (Assistant Chair) – April 11-12 dates confirmed for the table we will have at the new Agricultural Exp Center in Jefferson. We would love to have a few more people to share their bee knowledge with the public. Send Katherine and email - [krothk@gmail.com](mailto:krothk@gmail.com)
  - Need for several volunteers in critical positions: Education Chair, Christmas in July workers. Please reach out to Katherine Roth or Todd. [toddthecutiger@gmail.com](mailto:toddthecutiger@gmail.com)
  - Queen-Rearing Program Update – Rachel Gee passed around sign up for those interested in more information. We are planning on starting May 17, ending June 14.
- Financial Report / Membership Drive – Rachel Gee
  - Our finances - Rachel reported that we have \$553.21 after paying expenses - we are in good shape. Most of the expenses were to support Wake County who are supplying us with NUCS.
  - 2025 membership dues are past due. If you need to pay your \$20, please contact Rachel at [raelouchi@gmail.com](mailto:raelouchi@gmail.com)
- The state's Summer Meeting will be held July 10-12 at Blue Ridge Community College in Flat Rock – registration is open online at...

<https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/calendar/state-meetings>

- Local Beekeeper Supply Spotlight – Rossman Apiary – Candy, the manager brought quite a few door prizes for members with the winning tickets. She reminded us that Rossman Apiaries in Wilkesboro is open Monday to Friday from 9 to 4:00 (she is currently the only employee.). Queens are available on Tuesdays, but please call ahead to check on the supply.
- A brief presentation on research and a request for involvement was provided by App State Professor Dr. Tashakkor (Introduction by James Wilkes.). They are developing a monitoring “landing pad” for the entrance to hives. It’s even possible to have a remote camera to watch your girls coming and going. There are many more specific details, so please contact James Wilkes at Faith Mountain Farms <https://faithmtnfarm.com/>
- Keynote Presentation was from Jason Smith with NC Wildlife Resources Commission. The subject... BEARS!!!! He updated us on the Bearwise program, used in multiple states. We also learned how to deter bears and what we can do once they find our hives. Visit [BearWise.org](https://www.bearwise.org) for more information.
- Next meeting: May 8, 2025 7:00 PM – Midway Baptist Church – Richard Dunnigan is from Person County and is Secretary of the NC State Beekeeping Association!