



# ALAMANCE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS

## Beginning Beekeeping Course - 2012

**Objective:** To create an interest in beekeeping and provide information needed for a person to become a keeper of honeybees, a beekeeper. All classes will be held at the Alamance County Agricultural Extension Office, 209-C N Graham-Hopedale Road. The class is limited to 60 participants. Alamance County residents will be given priority. Register online: [www.alamancebeekeepers.org](http://www.alamancebeekeepers.org)

Sessions	Dates	Subjects	Instructors
1	Wed Jan 18	<b>Introduction to Beekeeping - 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm-Please arrive at 6 pm, to pick-up textbook and name badge.</b>	<b>Scott Jewell Monica Jewell</b>
		Review Course Outline Benefits of Beekeeping & Beekeeping Overview Pollination (honey bees contribute \$14.6 billion/yr. to US Agric.) Products of the hive (honey, wax, propolis, pollen, royal jelly and bees) History of Beekeeping References, books, publications Organizations - ACB, NCSBA, EAS	
2	Tues Jan 24	<b>Equipment of Beekeeping - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm</b>	<b>Mike Ross, Triad Bee Supply</b>
		Protective gear, veil, coveralls and gloves Smoker Hive tool and frame grips (if desired) Hive moving frame Hive straps or staples Basic hive components Bee space and critical dimensions Woodenware Bottom board, hive body, queen excluder, honey super, inner cover and lid assembly	
3	Tues Jan 31	<b>Equipment of Beekeeping (continued) - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm</b>	<b>Mike Ross, Triad Bee Supply</b>
		Frames (different designs of bottom and top bars) Assembly Foundation Purpose Various sizes and designs Installation methods	
4	Tues Feb 7	<b>Starting a Honey Bee Hive - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm</b>	<b>Scott Jewell Monica Jewell</b>
		Locating the hive Considerations - Location of water, direction to face the hive, sunlight, windbreak, away from sidewalks and playgrounds Ways to start a hive Package bees, nucs, splits (dividing a colony), swarms and removals from a tree or house or buy existing colony from another beekeeper Feeding the new colony using several different type feeders Checking hives after installing bees Expanding your bees by dividing a colony or by starting a few nucs Moving a hive (necessary when buying an existing colony) Considerations - When moving short distance, when moving long distance, extra equipment needed and preparations to be made by the beekeeper	

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5	Tues Feb 14	<b>Medicating Bees - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm</b>	<b>Don Hopkins</b>
		Diseases European foulbrood, American foulbrood, chalkbrood, sacbrood & nosema Mites Varroa Tracheal Small Hive Beetles	
6	Tues Feb 21	<b>Bees as Social Insects - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm</b>	<b>Will Hicks</b>
		Other insects, bumble bees, hornets, wasps, etc. Anatomy of the honey bee Development of various caste (charts) Relationships - which ones do what Pheromones Progression of duties Different races of honey bees Means of communicating (performing a dance on the combs)	
7	Tues Feb 28	<b>Nectar Sources of North Carolina - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm</b>	<b>Dr Geoff Leister</b>
		Flowering Nectar Plants Plant Features Period of nectar flow in different areas	
8	Tues Mar 6	<b>Introducing New Queen - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm</b>	<b>Scott Jewell Monica Jewell</b>
		Requeen existing colony, split or swarm Finding old queen Different methods of introducing new queen Advantages of young queen - less likely to swarm, builds up faster in spring and raises brood later in the fall	
9	Tues Mar 13	<b>Primary Management Phases - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm</b>	<b>Scott Jewell Monica Jewell</b>
		Fall Management in preparation for winter After all surplus honey has been removed Treat for diseases and mites Check for honey stores (feeding may be required) Make sure colony has a good queen Use entrance reducer to keep mice out, provide both top ventilation and a windbreak for each hive Second Spring Management Preparations for honey flow Check brood to verify that colony is healthy and expanding If you treat, treat early for diseases and mites Try and control swarming during spring buildup Remove entrance reducers, install queen excluders and supers After the honey flow Removing honey Removing bees from supers by brushing, using one-way bee escape, chemical repellents and a bee blower Processing the honey - liquid, comb, chunk and section Rendering the wax (from the cappings)	

Sessions	Dates	Subjects	Instructors
10	Tues Mar 20	Course Review - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	Monica Jewell
		Ten Commandments of Beekeeping 1. Use only standard beekeeping equipment 2. Be considerate of non-beekeeping neighbors 3. Requeen 4. Control disease and parasites 5. Maximize colony population before the main nectar flow 6. Super colonies according to their need 7. Take pride in honey and other hive products 8. Protect your beekeeping equipment 9. Help your bees through winter 10. Join and participate in a beekeeping association	
11	<sup>1</sup> Sat Mar 24	Field Day (4 hours at an apiary in the local area)	Don Hopkins, Scott Jewell, Monica Jewell, Mike Ross
		Light smoker and inspect a hive (first by an instructor and then by one or more of the students) Check for disease, check brood pattern and find the queen Identify a drone Identify eggs, young larvae, sealed worker brood, sealed drone brood, pollen and honey Show how to: Check for Varroa mites Install a package of bees (students will help shake the bees) Start a nuc Show steps necessary in preparation for honey flow - add a queen excluder, add two or more supers, remove entrance reducer Demonstrate getting a hive ready for winter - include checking a hive for honey stores, feeding by several different methods, removing the queen excluder, providing upward ventilation and adding an entrance reducer	

The classes will run from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on the dates shown above except for the very first class.

Directions: Address for the Agricultural Extension Office: 209-C N Graham-Hopedale Road, Burlington, NC 27217. Please use Google maps or a GPS device to locate the building.

<sup>1</sup>Each student should bring a veil and any other protective equipment they feel comfortable with while working bees. The smoker and hive tool will be provided. The location and starting time will be given during the class. Please note the Field Day will be on a Saturday.

The telephone numbers of your local instructors are as follows:

Don Hopkins – 336-376-8250	Scott Jewell – 336-213-7373	Monica Jewell– 336-260-8212
Mike Ross – 336-584-8652	Dr Geoff Leister-336-222-1919	