

**Master Beekeeper Program of the**  
**North Carolina State Beekeepers Association**

The prior Master Beekeeper Program was run through Dr. David Tarpay of North Carolina State University. NCSU and the NC Extension Office provided about \$80,000 for this program. With the severe financial cut backs in the NC state budget, the prior Master Beekeeper Program was terminated. Because of the importance of the program to beekeepers, NCSBA agreed to pick up this program. At least for the next year or 2 it is contemplated that there will be no changes in the requirements to any beekeeping level.

The NCSBA created a new MBP committee. The committee will mainly be composed of Master beekeepers to help with the Journeyman, Master and Master Craftsman programs, including testing, grading and reporting the results. Additionally, the MBP Committee will keep a data base for all levels mentioned below, and be responsible for issuing the proper certificates for each level and obtaining the medallion and name tag for the Master and Master Craftsman levels. For these reasons, for anyone to participate in the NCSBA Master Beekeeper Program, you must be a member of the NCSBA. For at least 3 years new Master Beekeepers must help the MBP Committee, but exceptions can be made if the majority of the committee agrees. After that your help would be appreciated but not mandatory.

The Master Beekeeper Program of the NCSBA consists of 4 levels, namely: the Certified Beekeepers level, the Journeyman Beekeeper level, the Master Beekeeper level, and the Master Craftsman Beekeeper level. The requirements for each level is set forth in the NCSBA website [www.ncbeekeepers.org](http://www.ncbeekeepers.org), under the heading Master Beekeeper.

The following is a proposal that NCSBA - MBP Committee charge :

NOTHING for the Certified level

\$10 for Journeyman level, Master level and Master Craftsman level

This is a very modest amount. The premise is that the beekeepers should be willing to pay to support the program or the program is not worth doing. The money is for Certificates that must be printed, medallions and name tags produced, and data entered into the data bank.

**Certified Beekeeper Level**

Since the local bee schools are generally the first contact for those interested in becoming beekeepers, local clubs are urged to charge a fee that includes a one year membership to the NCSBA, a one year membership to the local club, and a fee for the bee school. A candidate that fails one or more tests can retake a different test, provided he/she is still an NCSBA member.

The Certified Level, which requires both a written test and a practical test, would be substantially delegated to the local clubs directly. Each club would presumably appoint an officer, such as an Education Secretary, that is at least a Certified level member, and would serve a two or three year term. When the local club has members desiring to take the written and practical test to achieve the Certified Beekeeper Level, the Education Secretary would request the tests from the MBP Committee. After the Education Secretary certifies acceptance of being the club mentor for the tests, just as Dr. David Tarpay required, the MBP Committee of the NCSBA would create

and provide a written and practical tests and an answer sheet. A single copy of a written test, practical test and the corresponding answer sheet would be sent to the education secretary, who then is responsible for copying as many tests as needed. The educational secretary would be responsible for mentoring the testing and grading the results of the tests for each candidate. The pertinent data would then be given to a Regional Director for his/her review, and if the data is in order, the Regional Director would record (on a spreadsheet data form) and provide the data to the MBP Committee. Only the completed information would be received by the MBP Committee, thus leaving the tracking of incomplete data as the responsibility of the individual clubs. Once a person has completed all the requirements of the Certified Beekeepers level, and the Committee has received the recorded info, the MB Committee will issue a certificate to the member candidate. Only a person who has completed and passed the Certified Beekeeper level is eligible to proceed to the Journeyman level.

Should a member of the NCSBA want to take the Certified Level tests, and is either not living in NC, or is not a member of a local club, or their local club has no bee school nor Education Secretary, or a member merely wishes to retake one or more of the tests such a person can take the Certified level test at the Spring and Summer annual meetings.

### Journeyman Beekeeper Level

The Journeyman Beekeeper Level has a written test, and an oral practical test, and requires 5 service credit hours. Additionally the beekeeper must be a practicing beekeeper for a minimum of 2 years. The MBP Committee of the NCSBA would create the written test, oral practical test and an answer sheet. The MB Committee would be responsible for administering the Journeyman written and oral practical tests under controlled conditions at the spring and summer meetings. The Committee would grade and enter the results in the data base. The Education Secretary of the local club would be responsible for providing candidates with the public service standard forms and oversee the completion of the public service hours by the member candidate. The Regional Directors would be responsible for a review of each member candidates credentials to be sure that they have met the public service standard for the Journeyman level, and to learn who, in their region is progressing through the program.

Upon completion of the written and oral practical tests, the beekeeping time, and completion of the service credits, the MBP Committee would award a Journeyman certificate to the member candidate. Only a person who has completed and passed the Journeyman Beekeeper level is eligible to proceed to the Master Beekeeper level.

### Master Beekeeper Level

The Master Beekeeper level is also the sole responsibility of the MBP Committee. The local education secretary and regional director reports to the MBP Committee, on the public service standard form, the proper number of service hours (15). The MBP Committee of the NCSBA would create the written test which consist of Q&A's as well as essay questions. Upon completion of the written test, the service hours, the beekeeping time (at least 3 years) and the completion of at least six areas of mastery, the MBP Committee would grade the essays and the Q&A's, and orally question the candidate about the mastery level subjects. For the successful candidate, award a certificate along with the medallion and personal name plate. Only a person who has completed and passed the Master Beekeeper level is eligible to proceed to the Master Craftsman Beekeeper level.

## Master Craftsman Beekeeper Level

The Master Craftsman level is also the sole responsibility of the MBP Committee. The Education Secretary and Regional Director reports to the MBP Committee, on the public service standard form, the proper number of service hours. The MBP Committee will conduct an oral examination of the member candidate (comparable to the oral exam for a student in a Master of Science program at a university). The oral test will be administered only at the summer meeting. Upon satisfactory completion of the oral test, and being a Master Beekeeper for 2 years, the MBP Committee would award a certificate to the member candidate, along with the medallion and name plate.

For all reported information, the MB Committee will keep and maintain accurate records for the MBP of the NCSBA for each member candidate. The committee will need 2 people to have the "keys" to input the data. Currently Karen Damari has and is willing to continue to input the data. It is contemplated that Laurie Shaw may help the MBP in the future and thus we may need more of her time. For example we will need certificates mailed to successful candidates, along with name plates and medallions for Master level and Master Craftsman level.

## Miscellaneous

As a future goal for the MBP, consider implementing a Journeyman and Master bee school.

Undoubtedly, there will be special circumstances to the above outline. Exceptions can be made by committee approval.