



CCBA MENTORING PROGRAM

Why volunteer to mentor?

1. There's no better way to learn and understand keeping honey bees than to help others learn.
2. You will meet and get to know other beekeepers near you.
3. Guiding/mentoring a First Year Cluster can be counted toward your service credits for the Journeyman and Master Beekeeper Certifications through NCSBA.
4. You'll have a better idea of what is happening in the apiaries near yours.
5. You can help to instill good beekeeping practices in the beekeepers near you.
6. It's a whole lot of fun!

Cluster Program Commitments

- **Time: 4 – 6 hours per month**

1. Once a month 2-hour meeting with fellow mentors
 - Discuss & troubleshoot issues
 - Lend support, guidance and insight to each other
 - Share resources and observations
2. Once a month 2-hour field gathering with your cluster members
 - Gather at a newbie cluster member apiary each month
 - Junior beekeepers support the Senior beekeeper leader, working together
 - Focus on the monthly topic, reinforcing homework
3. Optional knowledge/ experience support when necessary
 - Contribute to cluster program listserv – Q & A
 - Contribute to mentor program listserv for Mentors only
 - Prepare for monthly topic expertise

MENTORING PROGRAM FAQs

What kind of support will a Mentor have available?

- Written documentation, resource library, FAQs and guides
- Ongoing counsel and collaboration via private listserv
- Private document repository online
- Phone contact info of Program Director and other Mentors

Who are the potential Mentees?

- New 2019 Chatham County Beekeeping School grads
- Fledgling CCBA beekeepers

What will Mentees expect of me?

- Clear rules for program boundaries, no creeping responsibilities
- Clear limits on expectations between individual mentor and mentee
- Hands on experience in the field
- Answers via listserv to questions

What about interpersonal conflicts?

- Careful attention to matching mentor/mentee personalities
- Clear rules of engagement and conflict resolution
- Option to diplomatically change pairings

The First Year Cluster Program

First Year Clusters are groups of 7 to 10 new beekeepers that are located near each other and paired with 2 or 3 CCBA members that have experience in keeping honey bees. These clusters of beekeepers will work together to help the new beekeepers acquire the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in keeping honey bees, and to get their honey bee colonies through their first winter.

Cluster Program Structure

