

# Catch the buzz

*Bee School set to begin Feb. 24*

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The Macon County Beekeepers Association is conducting a class for beginner beekeepers. "Bee School" will teach prospective beekeepers the basics of the hobby, such as the biology of bees, annual management and bee products.

"The club is focused on best practices in beginning beekeeping. It is just a basic start," said Katie Wall, who is the program's education coordinator and has been keeping bees for 11 years. "The students have to continue learning, either by reading or gaining more knowledge by attending meetings and working with a club member as a mentor."

Enrollment is \$75 per person. This price includes the book "Beekeeping for Dummies" and dues



State bee inspector Lewis Cauble inspects a honeycomb on a past visit to Franklin.

*File photo*

to the Macon County Beekeepers Association for one year. To guarantee a spot, the registration fee is \$25. Space is limited to 50 students and 30 have signed up so far, according to Wall.

Classes will run for a period of three days, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a lunch break. Feb. 24 and March 2 will be spent in the classroom at the NC Cooperative Extension-Macon County Center, 193 Thomas Height

Rd. The class on Saturday, March 23 will be spent at a local bee yard.

Bee School also will feature guest instructors Bob Binne (Blue Ridge Honey Company), Lewis Cauble (NC State Bee Inspector),

and Bobby Chassion (North East Georgia Beekeeper Association, master beekeeper).

Some of the topics covered in the class will include hive components, types of bees, locating and setting up your bee yard, swarming and how to manage it, working with your bees, and products of the hives.

"I find the honeybee complex, and interesting. There is a lot more to managing bees than other agricultural animals," said Wall. "No other insect gives us as many different by-products. As a hobby, beekeeping is therapeutic and satisfying, and never boring. Especially when you get honey!"

Prizes of beekeeping equipment will be given to some participants who plan to keep bees this year at the end of final day of class.

"Come to the bee club meetings. Work with a beekeeper. Take your time," said Wall as advice for aspiring beekeepers. "A lot of the bee school attendees will take the school again next year and learn more before getting their first bees. It is a lot to digest. Some hit the ground running and have 30 hives by year two.

*To sign up for Bee School or for more information, contact Katie Wall at [kdbwall@gmail.com](mailto:kdbwall@gmail.com).*