

# Master Beekeeper Program

*(Adopted March 2017)*

OCBA encourages all beekeepers to be members of the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association (NCSBA). Members of NCSBA are eligible to participate in the Master Beekeeper Program administered by NCSBA. The program allows beekeepers to advance their understanding of beekeeping, to improve their beekeeping skills, and to accurately present the art and science of beekeeping to the non-beekeeping public.

As participants advance through the program they achieve certification at multiple levels: Certified Beekeeper; Journeyman Beekeeper; Master Beekeeper; and, Master Craftsman Beekeeper. Interested member should consult the NC State Beekeepers Association website for specific and current information on all aspects of the Master Beekeeper Program.

To be accredited as a Certified Beekeeper requires a passing score on the certified written exam plus demonstration of practical beekeeping skills. OCBA offers its members the opportunity to take the **written exam** for the Certified Beekeeper level at the end of Bee School each year. It has been OCBA's practice to offer the **practical exam** for the Certified level only after the beekeeper has completed his/her first full season of beekeeping. Generally, this will be on or about March 1<sup>st</sup> of the year following the applicant's first installation of bees.

Beekeepers who are interested in taking the practical exam should contact either OCBA's Master Beekeeper Coordinator or OCBA's President. These individuals are identified on the *Officers Page* of OCBA's website. They will coordinate with OCBA Master or Journeyman Beekeepers who will administer the practical exam. Typically, the practical exam is given at the applicant's apiary. This allows the applicant to work with familiar colonies and surroundings.

Upon the successful completion of the Certified Practical Exam the exam proctor will forward the results to the NCSBA Regional Director or to the OCBA Master Beekeeper Coordinator who will submit the results to the NCSBA Program Director for processing.

The written tests and the practical exams for accreditation at the Journeyman and Master Beekeeper levels are administered by NCSBA. However, OCBA offers a Journeyman and Master Beekeeper preparation course for its members. This course is coordinated by OCBA's Master Beekeeper Coordinator. Although the course is moderated by a Master Beekeeper, participants are expected to take an active role in the presentation of one or more elements of the course syllabus.