

SPRING NCSBA ARTISAN SHOW 2025

Introduction

The spring NCSBA Artisan Show offers beekeepers the opportunity to showcase their products and skills by participating in a state-wide competition that features two levels; youth and adult. The beekeepers of the NCSBA are a diverse and creative association of individuals, many of whom are creative in the areas of arts, crafts, photography and all things pertaining to beekeeping. The competition criteria are designed to reflect the skill of the exhibitor, display the uniqueness of our craft, and help us gain knowledge and fascination of the honey bee. How an entry is presented matters but items over which the exhibitor has no control will be de-emphasized. The show, although a competition, is more importantly a display of honey bee products and the creativity of the folks that keep bees. Our participation is important whether or not we feel our entry has a chance of receiving an award. Everyone is encouraged to display in the show, be competitive in doing so but above all, enjoy the experience! Please email competitions@ncbeekeepers.org if you have questions.

General Rules

1. The following rules are subject to changes and/or additions prior to the event but will not be changed within seven days prior to the start of the competition.
2. Entries must be checked-in on-site starting Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and before 12:00 p.m. on Friday.
3. The NCSBA Artisan Show is open to all registered conference attendees. A small label will be affixed to each entry with a number assigned by the show steward.
4. Official printed or web forms must be used in making application for entry.
 - a. Fill in the form completely, accurately, and legibly.
 - b. Place entry number on the entry form and on the entry tags.
 - c. Ensure there are no labels, names or anything on the entries that would identify the exhibitor.
5. Entries must remain on display until released by the competition coordinator. Entries not claimed by 3:30 p.m. on Saturday shall become property of the NCSBA.
6. All exhibitors must be registered for the conference.
7. Judges shall not enter any category that they will be judging.
8. The youth competition will be for exhibitors under 18 years of age.
9. All exhibits should have been produced by the exhibitor during the past 12 months. All entries must be of required class, quality, and condition.
10. There is a limit of one entry per person per class. If two entries end up in the same class, the one entered correctly by the exhibitor will be judged.
11. The exhibitor must choose the class in which to place entries. Judges, under the direction of the show coordinator, may adjust classes at their discretion.
12. The show coordinator has the authority to accept, reject, and classify entries in accordance with the show policies, rules, and judging criteria. The show coordinator may reject any entry deemed unsuitable or inappropriate for the purpose of the competition.
13. No commercial products or displays may be entered except for allowances made in general guidelines in Art and Crafts Related to Honey Bees or Beekeeping category.

14. Identifying labels on the entries are forbidden except for allowances made in general guidelines in Art and Crafts Related to Honey Bees or Beekeeping category.
15. The NCSBA will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons as appropriate. There will be no awards beyond third place. The competition coordinator may elect to break ties. No ribbon shall be given to any one entry through the lack of competition if the entry is of inferior quality.
16. Best of Show will be awarded to a blue-ribbon youth or adult class entry deemed by the judges to be the best entry in the NCSBA Artisan Show. Black Jar entries are not eligible for Best of Show.
17. Separate Sweepstakes Awards will be given to the exhibitor (youth or adult) who compiles the highest number of total points in all categories. First place ribbons shall result in 10 points, second place ribbons 6 points and third place ribbons 4 points.
18. The NCSBA assumes no liability for lost or damaged items.
19. Photographs of entries may be taken by a representative of the NCSBA. Submission of an item for judging is consent for photography of that item. Exhibitors hereby grant the NCSBA permission to utilize photographs, images, or likenesses in whole or in part for use in official NCSBA publications and promotions.
20. NCSBA Artisan Show judges may include but not be limited to NCSBA master beekeepers, individuals who are completing a respective subspeciality of the NCSBA Master Beekeeper Program, professors of apiculture, apiary inspectors, blue-ribbon winners of local, state and/or regional honey shows or competitions, or professionals judging in their fields, such as crafts, mead, or cooking. Judges must completely fill out a score card for each entry (except for the Black Jar class). If an entry is disqualified, the reason for disqualification must be stated on the score card. Judges should make comments on score cards to help the exhibitor improve.
21. First place entries from any previous NCSBA Artisan show or Bees and Honey Competition may not be entered.

Art and Crafts Related to Honey Bees or Beekeeping

Classes

Beekeeping Equipment

BC01 - Decorative Painted Hive. Entries may be any type of removeable frame hive. The hive must have a top and bottom board (if applicable) or otherwise complete enough to house a colony of bees (excluding interior frames). Hives may be purchased or homemade. The hive must be decoratively painted on at least two sides. Only the exterior of the hive will be judged.

BC02- Decorative smoker. May be painted or otherwise attractively prepared for display. Any style or age smoker is permitted.

Original Artwork

BC03 - Painting on any surface such as canvas, paper, wood or metal (sheet or roof type). Any paint medium is acceptable. Entries should be displayed upright. A card, 3"x5" or less, should accompany the painting listing the title, painting surface used (canvas, wood, etc.) and medium(s) used (oil, acrylic, etc.). Other information deemed relevant by the exhibitor may also be included.

BC04 - Sketching, etching or a drawn image on any surface such as canvas, paper, wood or metal (sheet or roof type). Any medium is acceptable. Entries should be displayed upright. A card, 3"x5" or less, should accompany the entry listing the title, surface used (paper, wood, etc.) and medium(s) used (charcoal, ink, etc.). Other information deemed relevant by the exhibitor may also be included.

BC05 - Jewelry - of any type. Entries should be displayed in a box, on a stand or a piece of artboard. A card, 3"x5" or less, or label must accompany the entry and should list the materials used and other information deemed relevant by the exhibitor.

BC06 - Artwork - open class. Artistic items other than BC04 and BC05. A card, 3"x5" or less, should accompany the piece listing the title, medium(s) used, and other information deemed relevant by the exhibitor.

BC07 - Quilt - a decorative textile, made by stitching together a top, middle, and bottom layer of fabric. Entries may be of any reasonable size and may be displayed on a rack or laid flat on a table top. A card, 3"x5" or less, with a description of the materials used, and other information deemed relevant by the exhibitor, must accompany each entry.

Bee-themed Crafts

BC08 - Needlecraft - Any decorative or artistic exhibit of needlecraft. A card, 3"x5" or less, with a description of the materials used, and other information deemed relevant by the exhibitor, must accompany each entry.

BC09 - Woodcraft - This can be (but not limited to) beekeeping-scale model hives, cutting boards, CNC or digitally carved wood or hive components, pyrographic images or designs in wood or hive components. A card, 3"x5" or less, with a description of the materials used, and other information deemed relevant by the exhibitor, must accompany each entry.

BC10 - Crafts or Decorative Items - open class. Any type of bee related craft or decorative item not represented in another class. A card, 3"x5" or less, with a description of the materials used, and other information deemed relevant by the exhibitor, must accompany each entry.

Gifts Baskets and Floral Arrangements

BC11 - Gift basket - Entry must include one or more products of the hive but may also include other items that enhance the appeal of the entry. The entry must be suitable for sale to the public. The products should be arranged or displayed in a box, basket or other suitable container. The products must be secured by plastic wrap or other means and cannot exceed 18x18x18 in in size. A card, 3"x5" or less, with a description of the items in the basket must accompany each entry.

BC12 - Floral Arrangement - A floral display of one's own composition that may be either potted, freshly cut, artificial, dried/preserved, or combined foliage. The arrangement should contain foliage which is attractive to honeybees (as a nectar or pollen source), or the theme be related to honey bees or beekeeping, or both. The display must be presented in a vase or other similar container and the container will also be included in the judging. Exhibits may not exceed 24" tall (from the bottom of the container). A card, 3"x5" or less, with a description of the materials used, and other information deemed relevant by the exhibitor, must accompany each entry.

Guidelines

1. Entries must be related to honey bees or beekeeping.

2. Watermarks and/or signatures on artwork/crafts must be covered for judging but if the exhibitor's name/apiary are an integral part of the entry, names are permitted. Watermarks and/or signatures can be uncovered after the competition is over.
3. Art and Crafts Related to Honey Bees or Beekeeping is open to all levels.
4. Entries must be the original work of the exhibitor and must have been completed within the last twelve months.
5. Attractive display of entries is encouraged and attention to neatness will be considered in judging.
6. Some entries may be required to be displayed upright on and easel or by other means. Please note the display requirements outlined in each class description.
7. Entries should be sound in structure and/or design to ensure the entry can be handled by the judges for evaluation.
8. Commercial hive components may be used in BC01, BC09, BC10, BC12 and BC13

Note: The NCSBA reserves the right to feature winning entries in the *NC Bee Buzz*. Photos may be taken of the entries and posted online.

Judging Criteria and Points

Classes BC01-BC10: Art and Crafts Related to Beekeeping

Factors	Points
Aesthetic Appeal	25
Subject Matter/Theme	20
Technical Proficiency	15
Originality	15
Creativity	15
Compliance to Rules	10
Total	100

Class BC11: Gifts Baskets

Factors	Points
Aesthetic Appeal	25
Subject Matter/Theme	20
Use of products of the hive	15
Originality	15
Creativity	15
Compliance to Rules	10
Total	100

Class BC12: Floral Arrangements

Factors	Points
Aesthetic Appeal	25
Subject Matter/Theme	20
Use of nectar/pollen sources	15

Originality	15
Creativity	15
Compliance to Rules	10
Total	100

Beeswax and Bee Products

Classes

Beeswax in bulk

BP01 - Single piece, pure beeswax, between one and two pounds.

BP02 - Beeswax bars - six identical one-ounce bars

Note: Entries in BP01-BP02 must be submitted on an appropriately sized piece of white art board or foam board and enclosed in a large zip-top bag.

Pure beeswax products

BP03 - Pure beeswax products – one example of a carving, model, etc., must be composed of pure beeswax only-and not painted. No candles

BP04 - Molded or rolled candles – two identical examples mounted in bases or holders-pure beeswax

BP05 - Dipped tapered candles – two identical examples mounted in bases or holders-pure beeswax, 8-12 inches, no dyes

Novelty items containing beeswax

BP06 - Novelty Beeswax Items – similar to class BP03 but products other than beeswax may be used and items may be painted

BP07 - Beeswax and/or honey cosmetic items – Creams: Three jars/tins (glass or plastic, of hand cream or lotion. Minimum weight 1.5 oz, containing beeswax and/or honey, with ingredients listed on label.

BP08 - Beeswax and/or honey cosmetic items – Soaps: Three bars of soap, containing beeswax and/or honey, with ingredients listed on label must be submitted on an appropriately sized piece of white art board or foam board and enclosed in a large zip-top bag.

BP09 - Beeswax and/or Honey Cosmetic Items – Lip Balms: Three tins, tubs, or tubes of lip balm containing beeswax and/or honey, with ingredients listed on label

Judging Criteria and Points

Classes BP01-BP02: BEESWAX IN BULK

Factors	Points
Cleanliness: absence of honey and other impurities	30
Color: straw to canary yellow	20
Absence of cracking and shrinkage	20
Uniformity of appearance	15
Aroma and texture	10
Size and weight	5
Total	100

Classes BP03-BP06: PURE BEESWAX PRODUCTS (Novelties, Candles, Figurines, etc.)

Factors	Points
Quality, craftsmanship and appearance of beeswax products	30
Cleanliness: absence of honey, propolis and other impurities	30
Color: straw to canary yellow	20
Uniformity of appearance of all wax in entry	15
Aroma and texture	5
Total	100

Classes BP07-BP09: COSMETIC ITEMS CONTAINING BEESWAX/HONEY

Factors	Points
Design, craftsmanship and overall appearance	35
Originality	25
Cleanliness	20
Quality of Wax/Honey	20
Total	100

Photography**Classes**

PH01 - Close-up/macro (subject must relate to beekeeping)

PH02 - Scenic: beekeeping/apiary/honey plants scene

PH03 - Portrait: person or beekeeping procedure in appropriate setting

PH04 - Photo story/essay: a display of 5 to 10 photographs depicting a beekeeping story or an exploration a beekeeping topic/idea/concept.

PH05 - Black & White/Monotone

PH06 - Open: no restrictions other than in this section and in the general rules

Guidelines

1. The photography contest is open to photographers of all levels
2. Photos must be mounted, matted or framed. The photographs must stand up for display with an easel back or easel (easel furnished by exhibitor)
3. Prints must be 5"x7" or larger. Portraits must be 8"x10"
4. Each photo, including the photo essay as a set, may be accompanied by the photo title, in the center of the base of the mount. A card 3"x5" or less with the exhibitor's name and class entered must be attached to the back of the exhibit.
5. Photo story/essay prints must be mounted on one mounting board. Brief captions must accompany the photographs. The order of the prints must be indicated. Prints may be black & white or color.
6. Watermarks and/or signatures on photographs must be covered for judging but may be uncovered after the competition is over.

Note: The NCSBA reserves the right to feature winning entries in the *NC Bee Buzz*. Photos may be taken of the entries and posted online.

Judging Criteria and Points

Classes PH01-PH06: PHOTOGRAPHY

Factors	Points
Subject	25
Relationship to beekeeping (15)	
Originality, impact (10)	
Composition (effective arrangement of the visual elements)	15
Creativity (unique perspectives or creative techniques)	10
Technical	30
Exposure & Contrast: full tonal range, light to dark (10)	
Focus and Sharpness (10)	
Color Balance: attractiveness of color balance or B&W tones (10)	
Presentation (matting; quality and design)	15
Caption (provides context and or information on the subject in the image)	5
Total	100

Beekeeping Gadgets

An exhibitor may enter one example of a beekeeping device or gadget that is of their own making. The device or object must be of a functional nature and relevant to the keeping of bees or gathering of honey. The device may be a homemade version of a previous invention/innovation (such as a homemade smoker or veil). An information card must be displayed in an upright manner (easel backed card or easel supported) that explains (but not limited to) the use and origin of the gadget.

Classes

BG01 - Large gadgets/devices (honey extractors, wax equipment, etc.)

BG02 - Small gadgets/devices (feeders, traps, tools, etc.)

BG03 - Observation Hive - May be of any design but must be serviceable and portable.

Judging Criteria and Points

Classes BG01-BG02: BEEKEEPING GADGETS

Factors	Points
Usefulness as an aid to beekeeping	30
Originality and ingenuity	20
Functionality	20
Craftsmanship	20
Neatness and written description/explanation of information card	10
Total	100

Class BG03: OBSERVATION HIVES

Factors	Points
Simplicity and durability of design	25
Quality of construction	25
Portability and ease of use	25
Creativity	15
Compliance to Rules	10
Total	100

Vintage Beekeeping

Exhibits in this category are in two classes that include, but not limited to, (VB01) obsolete beekeeping equipment, devices, tools, and old homemade devices, etc. and (VB02) publications related to beekeeping, food vessels imprinted or embossed with honey bee related images, old photos of honey bee related activities. Any exhibited item must predate 1980. An information card must be displayed in an upright manner (easel backed card or easel supported) that explains, among other things, the age, origin, and documentation of authenticity of the item.

Classes

VB01 - Vintage Beekeeping - equipment and tools

VB02 - Vintage Beekeeping - publications, photos and food vessels

Judging Criteria and Points

Class VB01 and VB02: VINTAGE BEEKEEPING

Factors	Points
Historical significance of entry	25
Rarity and obsolescence of exhibit	25
Nostalgic appeal and/or relevance to the honey bee during time of production	20
Uniqueness of item	20
Neatness and content of information card	10
Total	100

Honey Jar label

Class

HJ01 - Honey Jar Label - A marketable honey jar label of one's own design, affixed to an 8 oz. or larger container with or without honey. *The prohibition contained in the general rules in regard to no identifying marks on any exhibit, shall not apply to this class.

Labels must contain (at a minimum) the following:

- The word "honey"
- Name, address (website, if applicable) of producer, packer or distributor
- Net weight in ounces or grams displayed in the lower 30% of the label

Judging Criteria and Points

Class HJ01: HONEY JAR LABEL

Factors	Points
Aesthetic Appeal	35
Readability	25
Creativity	15
Originality	15
Required Components	10
Total	100

Poetry

Traditionally a rhythmical composition, sometimes rhymed, expressing experiences, ideas, or emotions in a style more concentrated, imaginative, and powerful than that of ordinary speech or prose.

Class

WP01 - Poetry – Original poem of any style with theme or wording appropriate to beekeeping. Poems should be understandable and relay a certain mood or theme. The poem may be of any form, or style, and not more than 300 words or 30 lines, whichever is greater, excluding the title line. Poems may be neatly handwritten or word processed and must be mounted for display on art board or framed.

Judging Criteria and Points

WP01: POETRY

Factors	Points
Readability	30
Subject Matter/Theme	20
Creativity	15
Originality	15
Presentation	10
Compliance to Rules	10
Total	100

Electronic Media Related to Beekeeping

Media that can be viewed, produced, or shared with an audience via an electronic device of any beekeeping-related electronic media.

Class

EM01 - Electronic Media - Any form of beekeeping-related electronic media of one's own creation. Entrants must provide the necessary viewing apparatus (including operating instructions). The viewing apparatus must have a screen no smaller than 7" and have sufficient power supply to ensure the exhibit can be viewed during the conference by judges and conferences attendees alike. Entries which take time to observe, such as videos, gifs, photo essays, or other recordings, may not exceed ten (10) minutes in duration. Setting up the media on a loop for display is permissible and encouraged. A card, 3"x5" or less, with a detailed description of the exhibit must accompany the exhibit.

Judging Criteria and Points**EM01: ELECTRONIC MEDIA**

Factors	Points
Aesthetic Appeal	25
Subject Matter/Theme	20
Technical Proficiency	15
Creativity	15
Originality	15
Compliance to Rules	10
Total	100

Black Jar**Class**

HH13 - Black Jar - A small container will be furnished at the event for participants to pour two to four ounces of honey. The judging will be done by NCSBA Artisan Show judges. Judges evaluate entries for taste only.