

For Immediate Release

July 20, 2005

The Spicewood Farm Wins Again Local Beekeepers Take Blue Ribbons in State Competitions

If you want to enjoy or give the sweetest and best gift of locally produced honey, then you'll simply have to come to Burnsville, North Carolina – again. Our own Yancey County beekeepers, Chris Mathis and N'ann Harp, of The Spicewood Farm, have once more taken top honors in the recent statewide competition - sponsored by the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association (NCSBA). N'ann took blue ribbons and best of category awards for specialty honey gifts and for a photographic presentation entitled ' The World's Sweetest Apple', an apple-shaped bottle of Tulip Poplar honey.

“When you are blessed to have a product as naturally beautiful as honey, we believe it should be packaged as imaginatively and attractively as possible,” notes Chris Mathis, co-proprietor of The Spicewood Farm. “N'ann has created some spectacular honey gift packages that really wowed the state judges. We're excited about showing just how visually delightful , not to mention delicious our mountain honey can be.”

The honey competition is held in conjunction with the annual summer meeting of the NCSBA which just concluded in Marion. Over 450 beekeepers from across the state attended to learn about the status of beekeeping research across the country and to participate in various workshops from queen rearing to wax working to integrated pest management techniques.

These latest blue ribbons add to previous awards and recognitions received by The Spicewood Farm. Their honeys have taken the blue ribbon and “Best in Show” awards for the past two consecutive years at the NC Mountain State Fair.

“Beekeeping, for us, started as a hobby, but quickly became a true passion,” says Harp, a consumer protection advocate and Yancey county representative to the North Carolina State Farm Bureau. “We're almost ready with a new web site for corporate and special gift ordering. Chris, when he's not doing his real job as a building scientist, now teaches bee school and gives beekeeping talks and demonstrations around the area and state.”

The Spicewood Farm's award-winning honeys and honey gifts can be purchased at Ye Olde Mountain Store on Cane River School Road in Burnsville, or, if you're in Asheville, at the Grove Corner Market in The Grove Arcade. Their products will also soon be available on-line at www.TheSpicewoodFarm.com.