

Growing High Point adds beekeeper program

BY ENTERPRISE STAFF

HIGH POINT — Growing High Point will establish an apiary at Twin Oaks Urban Farm and start an urban beekeeping apprenticeship program July 12.

Beekeeping is not only a hobby but a potential business opportunity, said Executive Director Willa Mays of Growing High Point, which

works to build economic opportunity, improve housing, mitigate food insecurity and increase long-term access to nutritious food in High Point's urban core.

"Honey is always in demand, and with Growing High Point providing training, equipment and materials, it is a great opportunity. We will accept 10 apprentices

and prepare them to be successful beekeepers," Mays said.

John Pledger and LeVern Allen Jr. are instructors for the training. Pledger is the owner and founder of Triad Bee Supply and a second generation beekeeper.

"I've been caring for bees for 43 years, and I know what it is like not to have support

when starting out as a beekeeper," Pledger said. "I want to provide as much support to beginning beekeepers as I can."

Allen, who has 15 years of beekeeping experience, also rears queen bees. He helps new beekeepers prepare for the N.C. State Beekeepers Association Master Beekeepers certification through the

Guilford County Beekeepers Association.

The program is free, and those who successfully complete the one-year apprentice program can adopt a hive for their personal use or for market. Those interested in the apprenticeship program or urban farming can email growinghighpoint@gmail.com or call 336-848-1516.