



Alamance County Beekeepers

August 2016 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

August 20th, 3:00 PM @
Breezy Acres

Don and Shirley Moore will be hosting this month's meeting at their home in Elon. Nancy Ruppert and Don Hopkins will conduct hive inspections and show us the techniques they use for varroa mite checks.

The program will be followed by an ice cream social! Bring a homemade treat to share with your fellow beekeepers, and enjoy the summer afternoon in the shade! Water and diet Pepsi will be provided.



If you can help with tent and chairs set-up ahead of time – around 2:00 – please contact Don.

And thank you, Don and Shirley, for hosting this terrific event; we look forward to it every year.

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Elon, NC 27244



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Test Your Knowledge

There are four levels of beekeeping in the State Beekeeper program: Certified, Journeyman, Master, and Master Craftsman.

Sample quizzes — made with questions taken from the actual exams — have recently been updated on the NCSBA website.



You'll also find games. Go ahead, test your knowledge!

Sample question from Journeyman level quiz:

It's always a good idea to feed pollen substitute in the fall to encourage the brood development of winter bees.

True or false?

<http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/master-beekeeper-program>

Notes from July's Meeting

Feedback from the group on honey harvest so far: Several reported decreased harvests compared to takings last year, and much of the honey has been notably dark. Mike Ross has seen some crystalized honey in a couple of his frames. Geoff Leister's city bees doubled their production this year, even after all their swarm activity.



Keith Elkes announced a Field Day at Beez Needz on July 30th.

Fran Shepherd told us about her adventure responding to a request for insect identification. Meet the Tiger Bee Fly!



Our guest presenter, Mr. Harold Curtis, told us about the history of his family's business of growing flowers, keeping bees, and raising queens. Over the decades, of course, there have been highs and lows, and the Curtis family has noted many changes, i.e., it's been 40 years since they've seen AFB, but they also note less inclination to supersedure in bee hives. Member questions led the discussion far and wide, and we all learned plenty. Thank you, Mr. Curtis! And get well soon, Mr. Willoughby.



Bees in the News

Click on titles to link to articles.

Honeybees pick up host of agricultural, urban pesticides via non-crop plants, Purdue University Agricultural News, 5/31/2016. "Although crop pollen was only a minor part of what they collected, bees in our study were exposed to a far wider range of chemicals than we expected," said Krupke. "The sheer numbers of pesticides we found in pollen samples were astonishing. Agricultural chemicals are only part of the problem. Homeowners and urban landscapes are big contributors, even when hives are directly adjacent to crop fields."

The Case Against Honeybees, Atlas Obscura, Cara Giaimo, 7/14/2016. The buzz around America's favorite workers grows louder every year. Is it drowning out the real story of our food system? "We used the bees to build a flawed [food] system, and now that they're collapsing, it is, too. We don't have to save the honeybee – we have to save our land from honeybee dependence."



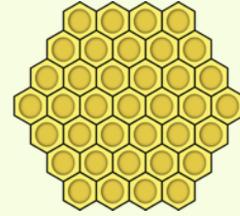
Pollen corona, SpaceWeather, Vesa Vauhkonen on 6/1/2016, Rautalampi, Finland. The science behind the corona is explained here [scroll down to POLLEN CORONAS].

This Month in the Bee Yard

Nancy Ruppert

If not in an area of significant cotton bloom, harvest remaining desired honey by mid-month to keep bees from eating it.

Pest control is critical this month: hive beetle populations are peaking, varroa mites are nearing their peak populations, some factors increase risk of damage from wax moth larvae, and yellow jackets/ hornets tend to be plentiful.



Careful assessment of queen performance---this month is usually last chance to replace queens until the following spring.

Can still make late-season splits early in August if using mated queens.

Keep water available for bees constantly.

Be prepared for "badly behaving bees": because nectar flow is so scarce, bees may become more defensive and more likely to rob other hives; install robbing screens or entrance reducers (but be aware of need for ventilation), and keep hive inspections as brief as possible.

Completing honey harvest + decrease in queen's egg-laying = extra empty supers of drawn comb; store them using method that prevents damage from wax moth larvae (freezing, keeping open to light/ventilation, using paradichlorobenzene [PDB] crystals).

<https://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/CALENDAR-FOR-BEEKEEPING-IN-CENTRAL-NORTH-CAROLINA.pdf?fwd=no>

How to Recognize a Nectar Dearth

Nancy referred [above] to lack of nectar at this time of year. This blog post offers help with your honey bee observations. They might be telling you something ...

<http://honeybeesuite.com/how-to-recognize-a-nectar-dearth/>



Helianthus annuus

Calendar

**National Honey Bee Day
August 20, 2016**

<http://www.nationalhoneybeeday.com/home.html>

**Preserving Our Heritage
August 27, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM @
Cedarock Park**

Contact Mike Ross if you can help out, say, for a two-hour shift. It's fun helping members of the public become acquainted with honey bees and beekeeping. You know more than you might think ...



**Beekeeping the Foxfire Way
September 17, 1:00 - 4:00 PM @
Cedarock Park**

Paul Jollay and Ira Poston will talk about beekeeping ways of tradition, some of which continue today.

**Farm to Table
September 20 - 21 @ Cedarock Park**

<http://bit.ly/2aJUdcf>

**NC State Fair
October 13-23 in Raleigh**

Consider volunteering ideas and time to creating a prize-winning display this year!

<http://www.ncstatefair.org>



Officers for 2016

President : Ira Poston
Vice President : Mike Ross
Recording Secretary : Sheyenne Michelizzi
Treasurer : Zivon Price
Program Chair : Angela Schick
One-year Director : Larry McCauley, Jr.
Two-year Director : Wayne Foulks
Three-year Director : Randy Stinson

Appointments

Webmaster : Geoff Leister
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce