



FEBRUARY 2013
NEWSLETTER OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS

Remember...

Covered dish Thursday @ 6:00
February 21st

What's Blooming?

Red Maple	Acer rubrum	1- Feb	12- 40	Mar
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(I have already seen ours blooming!)

Alamance County Beekeepers

This month's meeting...

Our Thursday, February 21st meeting at the Alamance County Extension building will begin at 6:00 pm with a cover dish meal. At 7:00 pm, Dr. Jody Johnson, an ecotoxicology research scientist for pollinator studies at Smithers Viscient in Snow Camp, NC will discuss "Systemic pesticides – do they impact our bees?"

West Nile Virus, Robins, Sparrows, Vineyards and Orchards, Oh My!

There's a new concern for beekeepers heading into orchards and vineyards this spring.

Washington State University researchers are linking orchards and vineyards with a greater prevalence of West Nile virus in mosquitoes and the insects' ability to spread the virus to birds, horses and people.

The finding, reported in the latest issue of the journal PLOS ONE, is the most finely scaled look at the interplay between land use and with the virus's activity in key hosts.

WSU entomologist David Crowder, the paper's lead author, says by giving a more detailed description of how the disease moves across the landscape, it opens the door to management efforts that might bring the disease under control.

Since it was first seen in New York in 1999, West Nile virus has reached across the country and shown few signs of abating.

Last year, the Centers for Disease Control had the highest number of reported cases – 5,387, including 243 deaths.

Roughly one in five infected people experience a fever, headache, body aches and, in some cases, a skin rash and swollen lymph glands. One in 150 people can get a high fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation and neurological problems.

Most efforts to suss out the ecological workings of the virus have focused on reports of infected people, "a crude indicator at best," Crowder says.

Almost all victims have no symptoms or are misdiagnosed, while others can be infected far from where they file a report, he says.

Agricultural areas have also seen higher percentages of infected people, but that still does not get at the underlying mechanism.

"Is that because there are more birds there?" asks Crowder. "Is that because there are more mosquitoes there? That hasn't really been linked together."

Crowder, working with fellow entomologist Jeb Owen, other WSU colleagues and the state Department of Health, merged data from a variety of sources, including West Nile infections in humans, horses and birds, surveys of virus-bearing mosquitoes, breeding bird surveys, and detailed land use maps and climate data from around the Northwest.

He found that habitats with high instances of the disease in horses and birds also have significantly more mosquitoes, as well as American robins and house sparrows, the two bird species implicated the most in the disease's transmission.

"These same habitats are also resulting in much higher rates of infection within mosquitoes themselves," Crowder says.

"We find that all three of these things – abundances of house sparrows and American robins, abundance of mosquitoes, and the actual prevalence of West Nile in mosquitoes – are all increasing in landscapes with a higher proportion of land in orchard habitats."

These habitats, says Crowder, include both orchards and vineyards.

It's still unclear why the habitats would create such a perfect storm for the virus. The researchers speculate mosquitoes are drawn to orchards for plant nectar during flowering, while robins and house sparrows use them for nesting and feeding. Together, the insects and birds become focal points for the disease

NC/SC Combined Spring Beekeepers Meeting

You may now register for the event online at www.SCStateBeekeepers.org. Registering and paying online by PayPal will provide you with immediate confirmation. or, you can print the form below, complete it and mail it along with your check to:

Don Van Borsch

407 Old Plantation Drive

West Columbia, S.C. 29172

Members: (check one)

Individual ___ \$20.00

Family ___ \$30.00

Non Members: (check one)

Individual ___ \$25.00

Family ___ \$35.00

Banquet Tickets:

_____ X \$18.00 = _____ Total

Name: _____

Please Print

Guest: _____

Please Print

Signature: _____

Please check in at registration table for your packet.

SC & NC Spring Joint Meeting 2013 March 1-2 \$20 State Members Baxter Hood Conference Center, 452 South Anderson Rd., Rock Hill, SC 29730 (near York Technical College in Rock Hill)

The South Carolina Beekeepers Association will host a Joint Spring Meeting with the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association. Please join us for an Informative as well as educational tribute to the honeybee.

Sweethearts' Chocolate Honey Scrub (don't eat)

from the National Honey Board

6 Tbsp. - unsweetened chocolate, grated*

2 cups - honey

2 cups - kosher salt

1/2 cup - grapeseed oil

Directions

In rubber mixing bowl, combine honey and grapeseed oil. Stir in chocolate and salt mixing completely. Consistency should be grainy and thick. Apply scrub to skin and gently massage all over the body. Remove with warm damp towels or rinse in shower.

**Honey Valentine Cookies**

from the National Honey Board

**Nutritional Information**

Calories: 878

Fat Total: 43.9 g

Protein: 11.8 g

Cholesterol: 96 mg

Carbohydrates: 114.9 g

Sodium: 356 mg

Dietary Fiber: 2.4 g

Ingredients

3/4 cup - butter or margarine, softened

3/4 cup - honey

1/4 teaspoon - almond extract

2-1/2 cups - flour

1/2 cup - finely chopped almonds

- Powdered sugar

Directions

With an electric mixer, beat butter, honey and almond extract until mixture is light and fluffy. Add flour, a cup at a time, beating well after each addition. Mix in almonds. Shape 1/2-cup portions of dough into heart shapes, no thicker than 1/2-inch, on ungreased baking sheet. Decorate as desired. Bake at 300°F for 25 to 30 minutes or until edges brown. Cool 5 minutes and remove from pan.

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**2013 SCBA/NCSBA SPRING MEETING SCHEDULE** Friday, March 1, 2013

- 12:00 Noon Meeting Registration – Baxter Hood Convention Center Lobby
- Exhibitor Setup - Baxter Hood Convention Center Lobby
- 2:00 p.m. Invocation – Jimmy Powell, York County Beekeepers Assoc. Chaplain
- “Welcome to Rock Hill and Legislative Update” – State Senator Wes Hayes, District 15
- 2:20 Announcements and Introductions - Mike Hood, Extension Apiculturist, Clemson University.
- 2:30 Presidents’ Comments – Eck Miller (SCBA) and Danny Jaynes (NCSBA)
- 2:45 “Monsanto’s Commitment to Honey Bee Health” - Jerry Hayes, Monsanto, St. Louis, Missouri
- 3:45 “Enhancing Genetic Diversity in the US Honey Bee Gene Pool” - Sue Cobey, Washington State University
- 4:15 “Honey Bee Research at the University of Florida” - Jamie Ellis, Univ. of Florida-Gainesville
- 4:45 Panel Discussion (questions from the audience) Panelists: David Tarpy, Sue Cobey, Jerry Hayes, Jamie Ellis
- 7:00 Banquet - Baxter Hood Convention Center - Advance Tickets Required (\$18)
- Henry Nunnery and the “Old Fogies and Friends” Country String Band
- Keynote Address “Carolina Beekeeping on the South Side” – Mike Hood

Snacks will be served during breaks. Door Prizes will be given throughout. Vendors and Exhibitors will be set up for your shopping convenience. This is a great way to pick up your spring supplies. Call ahead to your favorite vendor to place your order or drop in to pick it up. This schedule is subject to change. You will receive a schedule in your registration packet.

**Saturday, March 2, 2013**

- 8:30 a.m. Announcements and Door Prizes
- 8:45 “North Carolina State University Apiculture Research Update” - David Tarpy, Extension /Research Apiculturist, NC State University
- 9:15 “Worker – Drone Interactions & the Influence on Drone Quality On These Interactions” – Stanley Schneider, Professor, Department of Biology, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC
- 10:15 “The New World Carniolan Program, In Its 31<sup>st</sup> Generation” - Sue Cobey
- 10:45 “Impacts of Pesticides on Honey Bees” - Jamie Ellis
- 11:15 “Stump the Professor” - Jerry Hayes (questions from the audience)
- 11:45 Announcements and Introduction to Workshops
- 12:00 State Associations Meet Separately for Business
- 12:45 p.m. LUNCH on your own
- 2:00 45 Minute Concurrent Workshops (All sessions will begin at 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00)10
- 1. “How to Use the BEES Network in Your School” - David Tarpy
- 2. “Recognition and Treatment of Bee Diseases” - Bart Smith, Entomologist, USDA/ARS Bee Lab, Beltsville, MD
- 3. “What You Need to Know about Africanized Honey Bees” - Jamie Ellis
- 4. “Rearing High Quality Queens” - Sue Cobey
- 5. “Value of Pesticides and Their Proper Use in Beekeeping” - Jerry Hayes
- 6. “Small Hive Beetle Management” - Mike Hood
- 5:00 End - Have a Safe Trip Home !

**ALAMANCE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS  
2013 OFFICERS**

- IRA POSTON, PRESIDENT
- MIKE ROSS, VICE PRESIDENT
- JAN FOULKS, TREASURER
- PENNY BONDURANT, RECORDING SECRETARY
- CAMILLE THOMAS, PROGRAM CHAIR
- PAUL JOLLAY, 1-YEAR DIRECTOR
- DON MOORE, 2-YEAR DIRECTOR
- RANDY STINSON, 3-YEAR DIRECTOR



**Alamance County Beekeepers \_\_New \_\_Renew  
Membership Pay Form for 2013**

( Dues expire December 31 )

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dues \$6.00, State Dues \$15.00, Both \$21.00 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dues \$6.00, State Dues \$15.00, Both \$21.00 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Name of second member for two-member family. Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*\*Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT**

\_\_\_\_ Check here if address change \*\* Newsletter will be delivered via e-mail  
If applicable.

Please make checks payable to Alamance County Beekeepers. \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Completed forms to: (County - if other than Alamance)

Janice Foulks  
2529 Johnson Lane  
Burlington, NC 27217