



Alamance County Beekeepers

January 2016 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

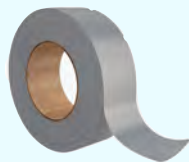
January 21, 7:00 p.m.

Gadgets

A panel of our beekeeping friends — including Mike Ross, Don Moore, Keith Elkes — will talk to us about the gadgets they use and the tricks they've learned to help with the activities of keeping bees.

Bring your own ideas, something you've made, and/or wisdom you've earned to help you work more effectively.

Everybody will take home an idea for a new and improved way to do something!



See you for our first meeting of the new year. Oh, and bring a snack!

Notes from November's Meeting

Zivon Price, Kay Stark, and John Reich spoke to us from their perspectives as first- and second-year beekeepers. Wind, gravity, shade, hive beetles, and disappearances all challenged the presenters and their bees this year. Thank you all for telling your tales.

Their stories and member responses point to the value of attending monthly get-togethers where we can commiserate and learn. What a lot of great knowledge and experience can be found in this ACB group!



Mike Ross brought in a copy of the Farm Bureau's new publication, *Alamance County Agriculture: Then and Now*, for us to take a look at. Featured beekeeper? Don Moore.



<http://www.alamance-nc.com/blog/2015/11/19/alamance-co-agriculture-then-and-now/>

Blooming in the Piedmont this Month
at Geoff and Linda Leister's home January 10



Left: Gathering pollen on Paper Bush, *Edgeworthia chrysantha*.

Top left: Leatherleaf Mahonia, *Mahonia bealei*.

Top right: Winter Honeysuckle or Sweet Breath of Spring, *Lonicera fragrantissima*. A morning bee nectaring

Bees in the News

Humans have minded their own beeswax for thousands of years, Eva Botkin-Kowacki, Christian Science Monitor, 11/11/2015. "Researchers find chemical evidence of beeswax in fragments of Neolithic clay pots." <http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2015/1111/Humans-have-minded-their-own-beeswax-for-thousands-of-years>

EPA releases the first of four preliminary risk assessments for insecticides potentially harmful to bees, 1/6/2016. "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a preliminary pollinator risk assessment for the neonicotinoid insecticide, imidacloprid, which shows a threat to some pollinators. EPA's assessment ... indicates that imidacloprid potentially poses risk to hives when the pesticide comes in contact with certain crops that attract pollinators." <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/63e7fb0e47b1aa3685257f320050a7e3!opendocument>

EPA study adds fuel to insecticide controversy, David Ranii, News & Observer, 1/16/2016. Covers the local angle. <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/business/article54142635.html>



This Month in the Bee Yard

Nancy Ruppert

- Add pollen supplements, if needed; check amount and location of honey stores, and feed (2:1 syrup or fondant) if $<3/4$ super of stored honey left.
- Check/repair/replace stored equipment; order wax/woodenware. Order nucs/packages.
- Keep learning - bee school, read books/journals, etc.
- Combine or insulate smaller (less than 4 frames of bees) hives.
- Combine hives where queen has failed, if they're still alive and haven't absconded.
- Move hives if they'll need to be relocated this year.
- Bees may need help removing dead bodies from entrance area.



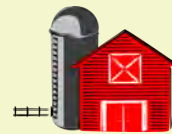
<https://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/CALENDAR-FOR-BEEKEEPING-IN-CENTRAL-NORTH-CAROLINA-Final.pdf?fwd=no>

Activities Calendar for 2016

- ACB Beekeeping Course, January 19 through March 22, plus Field Day on March 26.
- NCSBA Spring Conference, February 25-27, New Bern, NC, <https://www.ncbeekeepers.org>
- Homegrown in the Park, April 9, Burlington City Park, <http://acfarmbureau.com>
- NCSBA Summer Conference, July 7-9, Hickory, NC, <https://www.ncbeekeepers.org>
- Preserving Our Heritage, August, Cedarock Park
- Farm to Table, September, Cedarock Park
- NC State Fair, October 13-23, Raleigh, NC, <http://www.ncstatefair.org>

Homegrown in the Park

April 9th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Burlington City Park



This annual event, sponsored by the Farm Bureau, showcases the agricultural activities of Alamance County.

If you would like to work a bit of time at the beekeeping table, please let Ira know [336-314-0499]. It's really a lot of fun, and you won't be working alone. And you'll be sharing the wonders of beekeeping with members of your community.

Reminder

Annual local and State membership dues expire with the calendar year.



Thank You

Thanks go to Sheyenne Michelizzi, Zivon Price, and Angela Schick for being willing to hold officer seats for 2016. Your service is much appreciated.

And thanks to Don Moore, Paul Jollay and Randy Stinson for their service in 2015.



No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.
— Anonymous

Honey-fugle or honey-fugle

To dupe, deceive, swindle.
To obtain by duplicity or wheedling.
To act in an underhand way in order to deceive or obtain by duplicity.

“Even today some of these ‘tall’ words, words like *to honeyfogle* ... are popularly regarded as picturesque and admirably American.”

from the Oxford English Dictionary



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