



# Alamance County Beekeepers

July 2016 Newsletter

## Monthly Meeting

July 21st @ 7:00 PM

### History of Agriculture and Beekeeping in Alamance County

Presented by Vaughn Willoughby  
and Harold Curtis



Mr. Willoughby, President of Alamance County Farm Bureau, and Mr. Curtis, of Harold P. Curtis Honey Company, are friends of Alamance County Beekeepers. We look forward to learning some local history from them ... and from our attending beekeepers.

Plan to stay for social time afterwards. Jennifer Hinshaw will bring snacks. Thanks, Jennifer!



## Preserving Our Heritage

Saturday, August 27, 2016  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Cedarrock Park Historical Farm

This annual volunteer opportunity is coming in August. If you'd like to participate as a beekeeper, contact Mike Ross at 336-214-4219 or [mross953@hotmail.com](mailto:mross953@hotmail.com).



"There will be demonstrations of traditional crafts such as canning, **beekeeping**, and quilting, as well as displays of antique farm equipment, tractors, trucks, and cars. Food and drink will be available for purchase (provided by Danny's cafe). The Historic Farm will be open for tours with living history demonstrations."



<http://www.alamance-nc.com/recreation/programs/special-events/>  
[Click on August 2016]

## Notes from June's Meeting

We're in honey harvesting season. If you need to use club equipment, contact Paul Jolley or Ira Poston. Paul houses the extractor and a hot knife. Ira has a strainer and a hot knife. Word so far is that this year's harvest is around half to two-thirds of last year's. Nectar flow has been affected by weather events this year.



If you'd like to get your honey analyzed — recommended for folks selling sourwood honey — contact the Vaughn Bryant's lab at Texas A&M: <http://agrilifecdn.tamu.edu/txapiaryinspection/files/2014/09/TAMU-Pollen-analysis-price-list-2014.pdf>.



Ms. Sylvia Willis, of Beez Needz, shared enthusiasm and fascinating information on using beeswax to make candles, and using honey to make body-butter. Do you know it takes 800,000 scales of wax to make one pound of beeswax? Do you know beeswax candles bloom? Do you know the many ways beeswax candles are different and better than candles made from other materials? Thanks for the great program, Sylvia!



## Bees in the News

Click on titles to link to articles.

[Africanized Honey Bees Destroyed in Charleston County](#), Tom Hallman, The NewsStand, Clemson University, 5/23/2016. “A colony of Africanized honey bees – the first to be found in South Carolina in 15 years – has been destroyed in Charleston County, according to officials with the [Department of Plant Industry](#), a unit of Clemson University that carries out state regulatory functions.” The bees were discovered in a managed hive.

[Dozens of people and 2.5M dead bees gather at Bayer Crop Science to call on corporate responsibility for global pollinator decline](#), ToxicFreeNC, 6/21/2016.

[Vaughn Bryant Uses Pollen to Pinpoint Where a Victim has Been and Maybe Solve a Crime](#), Dianna Wray, Houston Press, 6/28/2016. Vaughn Bryant @ Texas A&M doesn't just analyze pollen to certify which kind of honey a person has ...

[Buying Organic Honey? Here's What You Should Know.](#), Elizabeth Grossman, Civil Eats, 7/5/2016. “In order to produce organic honey, bees need access to swaths of land that haven't been treated with pesticides – and that is increasingly hard to find.”

[Durham becomes 20th “Bee City” to help protect the pollinators](#), Josh Perry, News & Observer, 7/10/2016.

[Candlemaking Returns to Colonial Williamsburg](#), Elizabeth Hornsby, Williamsburg Yorktown Daily, 4/8/2016. “The chandler – the name used for a candle maker in colonial times – was a staple of colonial life, and now guests at Colonial Williamsburg will once again have a chance to try their hands at the craft.”



## Blooming in the Piedmont



Hostas are in bloom this month and bees are enjoying the bounty. This photo was taken in the Hosta bed at the home of Geoff and Linda Leister. According to Geoff, “carpenter bees and bumblebees are able to penetrate the base of each Hosta flower and easily access the nectar via their proboscis. Note the obvious slits at the bases of the Hosta flowers ... honey bees are also now able to access the nectar through the slits.”

## Zombees are in Virginia Now

Scientists are asking bee observers to be aware of unusual or erratic behavior in their apiaries, particularly of bees taking night flights and abandoning their hives. The culprit zombie fly, *Apocephalus borealis*, has been parasitizing honey bees in Virginia, so they're close to NC now. Citizen sleuths, alert yourselves to the signs and learn what to do if you suspect you have zombees on your hands.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/article88568407.html>

<https://www.zombeewatch.org>

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0029639>

## **This Month in the Bee Yard**

Nancy Ruppert

- May harvest some (or all) of honey; may continue late-season splits; continue beetle controls; keep water available for bees (see June activities).
- Attend NCSBA annual Summer Meeting, if possible — great learning opportunity!
- Get supers on for cotton honey, if hives near cotton fields.
- Replace failing queens; consider replacing any queen that is two years old or older.
- Can begin annual varroa mite assessment, and treat if needed/practical.

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

## **According to the National Candle Association**

“Votives, container candles and pillars are currently the most popular types of candles with American consumers.”

<http://candles.org/facts-figures-2/>



### 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