



# Alamanca County Beekeepers

Newsletter for April 2015

Monthly Meeting  
**April 16, 2015**

## Pollinator Protection

Patrick Jones  
Deputy Director for  
Pesticide Programs in NC

Patrick Jones will talk to us about important efforts being made to protect pollinators in a context of pesticide use.

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/pesticides/cmfo.htm>

Potluck : 6:00  
Meeting : 7:00



See you at 6:00 for good food and good conversation, and then for an informative presentation at 7:00!



## Homegrown in the Park

April 11th, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Burlington City Park

A celebration showcasing the past, present, and future of Alamanca County Agriculture.

There will be bees.  
Hope to see you there!



## This Month in the Bee Yard

- Evaluate food stores.
- Remove any chemical treatment strips that have been added.
- Check and equalize brood.
- Place queen excluders and honey supers.
- Remove entrance reducer.



Blossoming in the Piedmont this Month  
*Liriodendron tulipifera*

- Tulip poplar is also known as yellow poplar, tulip-magnolia, whitewood, and canoe tree.
- It is a member of the magnolia family, Magnoliaceae.
- Premier nectar source in the Piedmont.
- Honey is rich amber color with mild taste.
- Cone-shaped fruit clusters persist through the winter and can be seen on the trees into spring.



**Bee in the News**

Installing Packages and Hiving Nucs, Jamie Ellis, *American Bee Journal*, April 2015, p. 377. Good review of processes, and a recommendation. When installing package, author recommends removing four frames from the hive box and setting package box directly into it, instead of thumping and dumping bees in. Bees are less inclined to “abscond” when they’re introduced this way.

How Science Can Help Beekeepers Protect their Colonies, Matt Shipman, *NC State News*, 3/16/2015, <https://news.ncsu.edu/2015/03/science-bee-health/> “NC State University is home to a program called the Queen & Disease Clinic, which allows beekeepers from anywhere in the U.S. to send in queens or worker bees for analysis. Researchers at NC State can then analyze the bees using sophisticated molecular techniques to assess the reproductive capacity of queen bees or to identify any diseases or genetic anomalies in queens or worker bees.”

Queen and Disease Clinic, <http://entomology.ces.ncsu.edu/apiculture/queen-disease-clinic/> If you would like to send samples to the NCSU Queen and Disease Clinic for analysis, this article provides fee structure, sample packing instructions, and information on the report you will receive.

Thanks to Geoff Leister!



## Notes from March's Meeting

Katie Harper, from the GIS Department, has created a map showing member hives and volunteer ag district locations. Take a look at the digital edition on our web site: <http://alamancebeekeepers.org/> If you'd like a paper poster, contact Paul Jolay @ [pmj664@gmail.com](mailto:pmj664@gmail.com). Prices are \$5 (18 x 24"), \$7.50 (24 x 36"), and \$10 (36 X 48").

The Bee Aware Science Team from Watauga County gave a short presentation about their work and their license plate initiative. <http://www.beeawarenc.org/>

Don Moore told us about Apimondia's interest in coming to the US for a conference in 2019, and requested that our group contribute a modest amount money to support their endeavor. If all beekeeper groups offer \$25-50, it will be a significant offset in the cost of attendance.

Please contact Ira if you would be willing to mentor a new beekeeper. Graduation and field day date is April 4th, and bee orders will be fulfilled April 11th.

Nancy Ruppert presented information about swarm deterrence to a standing-room-only crowd. Takeaways:

- Cannot prevent swarming 100%. — bees want to swarm!
- Learn about checkerboarding. Help bees get more comb drawn out before nectar flow so they'll have room for expansion.
- If you are trying to attract swarms, think about smells that attract honey bees — especially already drawn-out comb that still has pollen.
- Capturing swarms after May is not advised, due to concerns about colony health and queen effectiveness.

It's always a pleasure to learn from Nancy — thank you!



Ira will bring items — books, magazines, DVDs — from library for our check-out in April.

## Tips for Substituting Honey for Sugar

Ideas from  
State Beekeeper Meetings  
Submitted by Janice Foulks

- When using honey instead of sugar, lower baking temperature by 25 degrees.
- Substitute 2/3 to 3/4 cup honey per cup of sugar.
- In baking breads, use equal portions of honey in replacing sugar.
- Decrease the amount of liquid by 1/4 cup per cup of honey used.
- Cookies made with honey keep fresh and moist for long periods. Good for mailing!
- Add 1 tablespoon of honey to your favorite cake mix. Cake will be more tender and moist, and will stay fresh longer.
- Watch the time carefully, as things brown more quickly with honey.



*Thanks, Janice!*



### Officers for 2015

President : Ira Poston  
Vice President : Mike Ross  
Recording Secretary : Mary McGinty  
Treasurer : Randy Stinson  
Program Chair : Don Moore  
1st Year Director : Randy Stinson  
2nd Year Director : Larry McCauley, Jr.  
3rd Year Director : Wayne Foulks

### Appointments

Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce  
Webmaster : Geoff Leister

I eat my peas with honey  
I've done it all my life  
It makes the peas taste funny  
But it keeps them on the knife.

**Attributed to various,  
including Ogden Nash**

