



Alamance County Beekeepers

Newsletter for March 2017

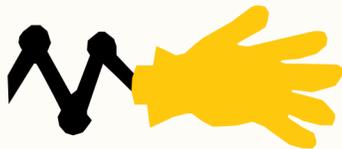
Monthly Meeting
March 16th @ 7:00 PM

Gadgets, Tips, and Tricks
&
Update from FIRST LEGO League

First, we will hear an update from the [FIRST LEGO League](#) about their bee-friendly fuel patty.

Then we will hear from a panel of our bee-keeping friends discussing 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 in your apiary.



Seen and Heard



... at the State beekeepers' conference in Rock Hill this month:

- * More than 700 people attended, many more than predicted.
- * The conference is as great as Ira says.
- * All beekeepers should have NUCs on hand -- as a nursery, and in case a queen is needed. And you can sell the NUC when it needs a bigger home.
- * Every presentation touched on the topic of mites.
- * Recommended site: <http://www.thebeemd.com/>
- * Dogs are being trained to sniff out and detect AFB in bee hives.
- * When you're feeding bees sugar water, add a little honey ... It's better for the bees.

Notes from the February Meeting

- Ira asked for volunteers for the Homegrown in the Park event on April 8th, and passed around a sign-up sheet. If you've given it more thought and find you'd like to volunteer, let Ira know. Time slots are 10-12, 12-2, and 2-4.
- Ira is offering free SHBs to anyone who doesn't have enough. Thanks, Ira.
- Jennifer Keller, from NCSU, talked to us about Africanized honey bees. First she told us everything she knows about their status in the US. And *then* she told us about bee-keeping in Bolivia, where the bees are Africanized. What a travel adventure and an education. Thanks a lot, Jennifer, for an evening well spent! Takeaways:
 - * Africanized bees are *defensive*, not aggressive.
 - * If you see a swarm of bees in a location that seems a little odd -- on the ground, or low in a tree or pile of tires, for example -- contact Don Hopkins. We're trying to keep Africanized bees out of NC as long as we can.
 - * If you need to buy bees, use the [list](#) of approved dealers on the NCDA website.



Bees in the News

Click on the title to read the article.

[Crop-Protecting Fungicides May Be Hurting The Honey Bees](#), Eilis O'Neill, 2/16/2017, NPR. A study published in [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#) finds that fungicides make it harder for bees to metabolize their food.

[Feed a Bee launches RFP for \\$500,000 pollinator forage initiative](#), 2/21/2017, Bayer Crop Science press release. Newly established steering committee convened by Bayer Feed a Bee program aims to support projects and organizations in all 50 states by the end of 2018.

[West Texas bees herald arrival of spring](#), Steve Byrns, 3/6/2017, Texas A&M AgriLife Communications. After an unusually warm February, honey bees are swarming in west Texas.

[To Bee Rather Than to Seem](#), Eleanor Spicer Rice, 6/4/2015, Our State Magazine. Is North Carolina's state insect, the honey bee, worthy of the royal treatment it receives? OK, not news, but a visit to the archive.

[New Map Highlights Bee Population Declines Across the U.S.](#), Aaron Sidder, 2/23/2017, Smithsonian.com. As wild bee populations continue to fall, new research identifies counties that will be hit the hardest.



This Month in the Apiary

- Swarming is already happening in some apiaries. “Bees want to swarm.” As Ms. Ruppert says, you can’t really completely prevent swarms, but you can take steps to try to head them off. Steps include splitting, removing queen cells, and checkerboarding. Get those bait hives ready!
- Do your bees have enough to eat?
- If bees have moved up into the hive, consider adding a super, or reversing the order of the boxes in the hive. The queen needs room to lay. Be careful not to split up brood clusters, though.
- If you need to treat for pests, do so before the nectar flow so the treatment won’t affect the honey.
- Is the queen laying as she should be? Check out the brood pattern.
- Do you have enough built-out comb in those empty honey supers? That’s a good job for the bees this time of year.
- Add at least one honey super by end of month, as nectar flow should be starting in April.

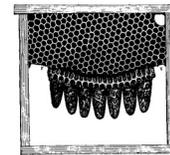


Do you know Matthew Willey, of Asheville, who’s on a mission to paint 50,000 honey bees on 100 murals throughout the world? Check out his site, [The Good of the Hive](#), and his work!



Born and Bred Queen Rearing Workshops

“The Born and Bred queen rearing workshops will be conducted with a curriculum of such substance that participants can effectively learn how to raise queens with the information presented and a degree of diligence on their part. Beekeepers of all levels will be able to gain an understanding of queen production that is controlled by the beekeeper and how environmental factors affect the behavior of the honey bee during queen production. The cost is \$75.00 per participant and enrollment is limited. You must be an active member of the NCSBA to participate.”



May 6 - Greenville
May 20 - Statesville

See the Upcoming Events section @
<https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/>

Calendar 2017

Career Fair @ Sylvan Elementary School, April 7.
Geoff and Linda Leister and Jennifer Welsh will talk about beekeeping.

Homegrown in the Park, April 8, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM @ Burlington City Park. Contact Ira or Mike Ross if you'd like to volunteer.

Ira Poston will be speaking about honey bees to a [Life @ Elon](#) group on April 12.

Earth Day Booth @ Sylvan Elementary on April 24. Jennifer and Adam Welsh will be talking about beekeeping!

Arbor Day @ Captain White House, April 29, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Ira Poston will lead up the beekeeper contingent. Please let him know if you'd like to participate.

Geoff and Linda Leister will talk about beekeeping @ Graham Public Library on June 15 @ 4:00.

Zivon and Michelle will set into motion the planning that will make 2017 ACBA exhibit at the State Fair the best ever. Be part of history, and let them know how you'd like to help!

State Beekeepers Summer Conference, July 13-15 in Winston Salem

Preserving Our Heritage Festival - August 2017, Cedarock Park

Farm to Table - September 2017

NC State Fair - October 12-24.



Honey bee on Japanese flowering quince in the Leisters' garden, February 24, 2017.



Officers for 2017

President : Ira Poston
Vice-President : Mike Ross
Recording Secretary : Sheyenne Michelizzi
Treasurer : Zivon Price
Program Chair : Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson
One-year Director : Wayne Foulks
Two-year Director : Randy Stinson
Three-year Director : Paul Jollay

Appointments

Webmaster : Geoff Leister
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce