



Alamance County Beekeepers

Newsletter for February 2015

This Month's Program
February 19th

Swarm Prevention and Swarm Solutions

Nancy Ruppert, NC Apiary Inspector for the South Central Region, will help us understand how to prevent swarms, and what to do if our prevention measures do not have the effects we hope for.

Nancy's programs are always enlightening, and the timing is right for thinking about swarms.

Potluck @ 6:00 pm
Program @ 7:00 pm



See you there!

Homegrown in the Park

April 11th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Burlington City Park



The North Carolina Farm Bureau will host **Homegrown in the Park** again this year. The event helps inform the public on the various aspects of agriculture in Alamance County and in the state.

Morning volunteers help set up the exhibit and answer questions until noon. Afternoon workers answer questions and help take down the displays.

Showing and telling folks about honeybees is always rewarding and lots of fun! And you know more than you think!

Contact Ira Poston @ 336-584-5444 for more information. Thank you!

Notes from January's Meeting

Remembering Dr. John Ambrose

Ira Poston, Don Moore, and Toni Murray, with warm remembrances, acknowledged the passing of Dr. John Ambrose.

John Ambrose was a gentleman. He knew well the history of beekeeping. He could taste honey and know where it came from, where the bees foraged. He embodied both the art and the science of beekeeping.

One cannot talk about the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association without also talking about the work Dr. Ambrose did with them.

Dr. Ambrose's impact on the world of beekeeping was so wide-ranging and so profound, that even beekeepers who never knew him have acquired knowledge and practices from him.

Don Moore spoke about the European traditional practice of telling the bees on the death of their beekeeper.

Fran Shepherd declared simply, "He was an awesome man."

Don Hopkins told us the memorial service would January 16th, 3:00 pm, at NCSU.



Swarm removal list. If you would like to add or correct your info to/on the ACB web site, please submit it here : <http://alamancebeekeepers.org/honey-bee-swarm-removal-list-2015/>

License plate initiative. Franklin County Beekeepers Association are proposing a specialty license plate to promote awareness of honeybees, the NC State insect. <http://www.franklincountybees.org/>

Mentors needed. The 2015 class of beekeepers will need mentors for this year. Please contact Ira if you would like to share your knowledge and experience with new beeks.

VOLUNTEER

Science + Technology Day presentation. Geoff Leister and Don Moore announced plans to present information about honeybees, pollination, and beekeeping to 4th-graders and kindergartners on Science and Technology Day at Smith Elementary on January 16th.

Would you like to be a presenter? While you might not consider yourself to be all-knowledgeable, you are still very qualified to share information on honeybees and beekeeping to curious members of the public. If you would like to be a presenter, let Ira, Don, or Geoff know. If you're working on requirements for becoming a Master Beekeeper, public speaking opportunities count as credits.

Supporting Pollinators on our farms, in our 'yardens,' in a pot on the porch

Dr. Nancy Adamson, Conservation Specialist with the Xerces Society, spoke to our group about providing support areas for pollinators and native beneficial insects. Whatever you do to support the larger world of pollinators will support honeybees.

If you were unable to attend January's program, you can still get access to the presentation through the ACB web site. Dr. Adamson provided her slides as well as information on habitat conservation, pollinator plants, bee identification, pesticides, seed resources, and much more.

During Q+ A time, someone asked for a single recommendation if a person could only provide one plant for pollinators ...

Reply : *Pycnanthemum* — also known as mountain mint.



Bees in the News

Beekeepers Sour on Profession -- Costly Winter Die-Offs Take Toll on Industry That Pollinates \$15 Billion of Crops, *Wall Street Journal*, Tenille Tracy, 1/24/2015, <http://on.wsj.com/16AIRoD> The continual barrage of threats, the costs, and aging are contributing to the extinction of beekeepers.

Food Detectives on a Tough Case : A Lab Is Trying to Keep China From Dodging U.S. Tariffs on Honey, *New York Times*, Peter Andrey Smith, 1/19/2015, <http://nyti.ms/1lvdTpp> The US is working to stop Chinese "honey laundering" with the help of chemists at a Customs and Border Protection's lab.

The Bee Solution to Winter, *New York Times*, 1/26/2015, <http://nyti.ms/16AgDt8>
Bees take turns being heat-generators and insulators in winter.

Help Honey Bees Survive This Winter, *Huffington Post*, Maria Rodale, 8/28/2012, <http://huff.to/16XzYp9> Plant late bloomers as well as early bloomers.

Keeping the peace between beekeepers and their urban neighbors, *Grist*, Mary Catherine O'Connor, 8/20/2012, <http://bit.ly/1lvGc05> How to keep your neighbors and your bees safe.

Thanks, Geoff and Mike, for your contributions.

If you see an article in the news [or as you surf] that you'd like to share in the newsletter, please send it to ccaseypierce@gmail.com. Thanks!



Blossoms seen in the Piedmont so far this month:
Red maple, tag alder, henbit

**Places in the winter
landscape that are
supporting pollinators**

Under soil or leaf litter
In tall grasses
In bushes
On fence posts
On outside face of buildings
In tree cavities
Under logs
Behind bark
Under rocks
In piles of rocks
In the evergreens
In stumps



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