



# Alamance County Beekeepers

April 2018 Newsletter

## Monthly Meeting

Saturday | April 21 | 11:00 AM

Blueberry Hill Apiaries  
3515 Stoney Creek Church Rd  
Elon, NC

## Club Field Day!

Meet at Ira's apiary  
for hive inspections and more!



Ira will grill hamburgers and hotdogs; water will be provided. Bring your favorite sides, condiments, or desserts, and hope for a bright day. Bad weather will delay field day to Sunday, 4/22, @ 1:00.

Bring a chair!



## Homegrown in the Park

Burlington City Park  
Saturday, April 14th, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

This is a great volunteer opportunity. Come on out to City Park and talk to people about honey bees and beekeeping. It's going to be great weather, and it'll be a good time. You'll be glad you went!

Oh, and there'll be BBQ sandwiches, homemade ice cream, and music, too.



Honey bee reading about pesticide labels  
Photo by Jennifer Welsh

## Bees in the News

Click on the title to read the article.

[Bee Sanctuaries in Detroit: Conserving Honeybees on the City's Vacant Lots](#), Anne Elizabeth Moore and Melissa Mendes, Truthout, 3/18/2018. "Recent studies suggest that the vacant lots in Detroit hold great potential to conserve declining honeybee populations, and smart, local beekeepers are taking heed."



[BASF Buying Bayer Crop Science Assets for \\$7B, Including Employees, Buildings](#), NCBiotech.org,

If Bayer's purchase of Monsanto is approved, Bayer's Bee Care Center will be leaving RTP.

[Honey Bee Health Coalition, Partners Secure \\$475,000 Grant to Test Potential Treatments for Destructive Varroa Mite Infestations](#), posted 3/14/2018 by Mike Saccone, Honey Bee Health Coalition. "The funding will support the identification, lab testing, and field testing over the next three years of 'orphaned' chemical compounds that have known acaricidal (miticide) activity but have not been specifically tested against Varroa mites. Many of these compounds are trapped in a bottleneck where the costs of testing and commercializing them are too steep for testing, effectively leaving them on the shelf."

[Top 10 Tips for Planting for Honeybees](#), Sarah Wyndham Lewis, *Mother Earth News*, 3/2018. An easy-to-follow reminder for you and for people who don't keep bees but who want to help pollinators.

[NC State Researcher Awarded Grant to Improve Honeybee Health](#), Dee Shore, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences News, NCSU, 3/4/2018. "With a grant from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research's Pollinator Health Fund, NC State University scientist David Tarpy is researching the impact of pesticide exposure on honeybee colony disease prevalence and reproductive potential."

[How bees defend against some controversial insecticides](#), Dan Garisto, ScienceNews.org, 3/22/2018.

"Researchers have discovered enzymes that can help resist some neonicotinoids."

## Life Member

At the February meeting, Janice Foulks was presented a lifetime membership to Alamance County Beekeepers for her dedication and service to the organization. Janice served as treasurer for years -- keeping us financially sound! -- and also mailed out the newsletters. She greeted everybody at the sign-in table for years, and remains a steady and beautiful presence in the organization. Well deserved, Janice, and thank you very much!



## Notes from March's Meeting

Ira passed around schedules so people could sign up for shifts at Homegrown in the Park (4/14), Maker Faire (4/28), and FFA's Ag Day (4/28).



Brad Moore, from Soil & Water Conservation District, gave a presentation about the District's project to create a pollinator trail in Alamance County. The District will sell seed mix starting in April for approximately \$45 | 50 pound bag | acre to people who want to participate. Plant seeds in May. Contact Brad @ brad.moore@alamance-nc.com or 336-228-1753.

Lewis Cauble, State Apiary Inspector for the Western District, spoke to us about managing bee hives in order to limit loss of bees. He offered to help any of us with a mite management plan, and told us to call him at 828-230-4544 if we would like assistance. He also recommended that everyone use this outstanding resource by the Honey Bee Health Coalition: [Tools for Varroa Management](#). Thank you, Lewis, for the great learning experience!

## This Month in the Bee Yard

Thanks to Nancy Ruppert

- Nectar flow is often heaviest this month. Make sure that all medications are out of hive unless required for bees' survival. Be prepared to add new supers every 7-10 days, and remove feeders from all except new or weak hives.
- Bees should be very busy; closely examine hives that are not, and trim weeds that may be hindering flight.
- Swarming usually heavy---continue prevention/capture measures.
- Look closely at brood pattern; replace queen if needed.
- Have everything ready to install nucs/packages that you've ordered; feed upon installation.
- Consider adding queen excluder to prevent brood in honey supers.



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



### *Edgeworthia chrysanthia*

Paperbush

Photos by Geoff Leister

At the March meeting, Lewis Cauble mentioned that his favorite plant is paperbush. Paperbush is native to the Himalayas and China. It is a deciduous plant, the buds of which begin to form in late summer. They "[overwinter on the bare stems and burst into bloom from late February to early April before the new leaves emerge. Silvery winter flower buds and brown branching are ornamenteally attractive.](#)"

Our own Geoff Leister has shared his appreciation of paperbush through propagation and photography. Take a look at this exquisite flower, visited by a honey bee. The photo on the right gives an idea of the branching and winter colors of the larger plant. And check out that happy cardinal couple.

<https://extensiongardener.ces.ncsu.edu/extgardener-edgeworthia-lends-blooms-and-fragrance-to-winter/>

## Calendar

Elon University Class Visit  
Community Agriculture - Spring Planting  
Leisters' Apiary  
April 13, 2:00 P.M.

Homegrown in the Park  
April 14, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.  
Burlington City Park

Earthday @ Eastlawn Elementary  
Geoff and Linda Leister, Chuck Couch  
April 17, 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Arbor Day @ City of Graham  
Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson and  
Sheyenne Michelizzi  
April 21, 10:00 A.M. to noon

Beekeeping & Native Plants @ Homeplace  
Geoff Leister  
April 21, 3:00 P.M.

FFA Ag Day  
April 28, 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.  
Western High School  
Elon, NC

Maker Faire  
April 28, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
Holly Hill Mall



If you are out and about sharing your beekeeping love and know-how with others, please tell, so we can share the good news!



Honey bee drawn to crabapple at Jennifer Welsh's



### Officers for 2018

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

### Appointments

Webmaster : Geoff Leister  
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce