



Alamance County Beekeepers

March 2016 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

March 17th | 7:00 p.m.

Honey Bee Health – Challenges and Collaborations

Caydee Savinelli, PhD
Pollinator and IPM Stewardship
Syngenta



Ms. Savinelli spoke to our group in October 2014 about Syngenta's research and work regarding honeybee health. She returns this month with updates.

We will share a potluck meal starting @ 6:00.
The more the merrier, y'all!

Blooming in the Piedmont

Maples ... dandelions ... henbit ...
deadnettle ... and more!

How to tell henbit from deadnettle? Both have square stems, purple flowers and oval leaves, and produce red pollen [see if you can ID it in your hives] but ...

Henbit has petioles [the part that attaches the leaf to the stem] on the lower leaves, but not the upper leaves. Deadnettle has longer petioles on the lower leaves, and shorter ones on the upper leaves. And now you know!



<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/ukturf/5-5-14.html>

What's this Year's Color for Marking Queens?

Will you read good books?
White yellow red green blue
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 0

2016 = White



This Month in the Bee Yard

Nancy Ruppert

- Swarming under way- Implement prevention measures (make splits, remove queen cells, “checker- board,” temporarily or permanently remove current mother queen); set up “bait” hives.
- Reverse bottom two or three boxes on hive to give queen more room to lay: most hives have moved up above the bottom hive body, leaving it virtually empty. This measure also helps reduce swarming. Caution: Be careful not to split up clusters of brood when you do this. Two to three weeks after this reversal, it’s likely that you’ll need to reverse them again. (An alternative to reversal: simply add another hive body.)
- Assess for pest and/or disease problems (especially varroa mites, American foulbrood, and European foulbrood) and treat if needed. Treatments should be completed by early April to limit risk of contaminating honey.
- Check honey stores; feed (1:1 or thinner syrup) if needed.
- Look closely at the brood pattern; order new queen if current one failing.
- Continue to replace few frames of old/undesirable comb, if needed.
- Near end of the month, add at least one honey super; remove entrance reducers; equalize hives.



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

Notes from February’s Meeting

John Chambers and Don Moore shared some of the best-practice techniques they’ve developed over the decades for maintaining and working equipment in the bee yard. We learned about painting [use the good stuff], a tip for creating an excellent multi-purpose stool, and ways to prevent wax moths. We learned the advantages of using screws over nails, and how to repair a super that has rot. We were advised to know the full history of used equipment before we buy it, and it was recommended that we invest a modest amount to get previously-owned equipment fumigated at the ethylene dioxide chamber in Raleigh.



Mike Ross showed us how to repair a bellows with duct tape, and how to hack a smoker so it hangs on your pocket or waistband by the bellows.



Why would a person use a wire brush to rough up the inside of a super? Should you carry your best bees to the mountains for the sourwood nectar flow? You never know what you’ll learn at the beekeeper meetings. Thanks, gentlemen, for a great evening of excellent learning. The legacy of Dr. Ambrose lives on.

North Carolina Wildflower of the Year

Eryngium yuccifolium, Northern rattlesnake-master, has been named the North Carolina Wildflower of the Year by the NC Botanical Garden and Garden Club of NC. Faintly honey-scented flowers attract long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, and other insects. In appearance, rattlesnake-master would seem to be a yucca, but it is in the carrot family. Plant is native to midwestern and eastern US. Indigenous peoples used the fibers of its leaves to make rope and shoes. Roots have been used to treat toothache, kidney and bladder troubles, and snakebite.

If you would like to receive a free packet of seeds, send an SASE: Attention NCWFOY 2016, North Carolina Botanical Garden, UNC–Chapel Hill, CB 3375, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3375

<http://ncbg.unc.edu/uploads/files/WFOY2016release.pdf>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eryngium_yuccifolium
<http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/rattlesnakex.htm>
<https://uswildflowers.com/detail.php?SName=Eryngium%20yuccifolium>



Bees in the News

Beehive thefts add to pressures at bloom time, Christine Souza, 2/10/2016, AgAlert. It's the beginning of pollination season in California's almond orchards, and beehives are going missing. Read about what's happening, and learn how beekeepers are planning to use technology to protect hives from theft in future. Also, they'll be using low-tech options such as putting IDs in hives and keeping them out of sight of road traffic.

<http://www.agalert.com/story/?id=9297>

Organic honey is a sweet success for Cuba as other bee populations suffer, 2/9/2016, The Guardian. Because Cuba has not been able to afford pesticides for years, its honeybees are not suffering the declines seen in other parts of the world. Now, their organic honey is Cuba's fourth most valuable agricultural export. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/09/organic-honey-is-a-sweet-success-for-cuba-as-other-bee-populations-suffer>

Bayer walks line on honey bee die-offs, Emery P. Dalesio, 11/23/2015, News & Observer [from the AP]. Article explores the irony that the country's top-selling neonic-producing company promotes itself as bee-friendly. Syngenta and Monsanto are also mentioned. <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/business/article46131245.html>



Powers of Observation

Photos by Geoff Leister



Male Red Maple Flowers



Female Red Maple Flowers



John Chambers and his sky-high hive,
back in the day.
Photo taken by Scott Jewel.



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

Alamance County Beekeepers Meeting & Programs for 2016

Meeting Date	Speaker(s)	Topic Titles	Potluck/ Snacks
Jan. 22nd	Mike Ross, Don Moore, Corey Gillespie, & Wally Swain, Alamance County Beekeepers	Beekeeping Gadgets	Snacks
Feb. 18th	Don Moore & John Chambers, Alamance County Beekeepers	Refurbishing Beekeeping Woodenware	Snacks
March 17th	Caydee Savinelli, Pollinator and IPM Stewardship Lead, Syngenta	Honey Bee Health – Challenges and Collaborations	Meal
April 21st	Nancy Ruppert, NC Bee Inspector	Splits & Swarms	Meal
May 19th	Don Hopkins, NC Bee Inspector	Honey Bee Pest Awareness	Snack
June 16th	Sylvia Willis, Beez Needz	The Many Uses of Bees Wax	Meal
July 21st	Vaughn Willoughby, President, Alamance County Farm Bureau Harold Curtis, Harold P. Curtis Honey Co.	History of Agriculture in Alamance County History of Beekeeping in Alamance County	Snack
Aug. 20th	At Don Moore's Apiary	Hive Inspection, Requeening and Ice Cream Social	Ice Cream
Sept. 15th	At Paul Jollay's Apiary	Honey Tasting and Cookout	Meal
Oct. 20th	Patrick Jones, Deputy Director for Pesticide Programs in NC	Field Watch (http://www.fieldwatch.com)	Meal
Nov. 17th	1st, 2nd, & 3rd Year Beekeepers	Lessons Learned	Snacks
Dec. 5th	Ira Poston	Planning for 2017	