



Alamanca County Beekeepers

September 2016 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

September 15th, 6:00 pm @
Paul Jollay's

It's time for our annual cookout and honey-tasting! Bring your honey in a squeeze bear and enter the ring!



As for the cookout, hotdogs will be provided, and there will be water to drink. The club will provide the plates, cups, utensils, and ice.

Please bring your favorite sides and toppings ... slaw, mustard, onions, pickles, hotdog buns, baked beans, chili, cheese ...

You'll also want to bring a chair!



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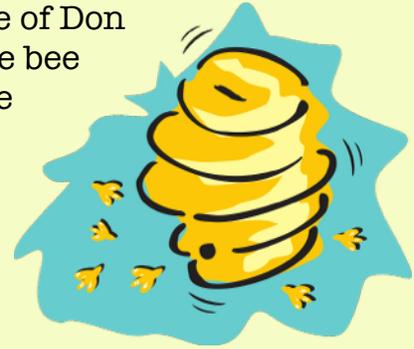


Honey bee nectaring on the perennial shrub lantana (*Lantana camara* 'Miss Huff'). This plant is a member of the verbena family and native to American tropics. After pollination occurs the terminal clusters of tubular shaped flowers color change (typically from yellow to orangish, pinkish, or reddish). Different flower colors also occur depending on location of the flower in the cluster, age, and maturity. 'Miss Huff' is sterile and produces no fruits or viable seed.

Photo and text courtesy of
Geoff Leister

Notes from the August Meeting

The August get-together was at Breezy Acres, home of Don and Shirley Moore. The afternoon started out in the bee yard, where Don Hopkins intended to show us some hive work and demonstrate a sugar shake test for varroa mites. The bees, however, had other ideas. Don got stung a few times, and observers were forced to back off so far they could hardly hear or see the action. The honey bees were unrelenting. Ultimately, the learning opportunity had to be set aside for the day.



Good thing there was ice cream back under the tents!

Thanks to everybody for the fine food, the hard work, and the coordination that made the day worthwhile. And thank you from all of us to our hosts!

Bees in the News

Click on titles to link to articles.

[‘Like it’s been nuked’: Millions of bees dead after South Carolina sprays for Zika mosquitoes](#), Ben Guarino, Washington Post, 9/1/2016. Tells the sad story of honey bees in Dorchester County, South Carolina, after Naled was sprayed to combat mosquitoes.

[Balancing beekeeping and mosquito abatement in North Carolina](#), Michael Waldvogel, NC Cooperative Extension, 9/3/2016. Please consider registering your hives so you can have an additional opportunity to know if someone is going to spray insecticides in your area. At this time, there is no plan for a statewide spraying effort, but spray decisions are made locally also.



[Zika Virus & Mosquito Control - More than pesticides](#), Michael Waldvogel, NC Urban Pests, 9/5/2016. Learn about mosquito breeding grounds and what you can do to decrease their habitat, thus diminishing the need for pesticides.

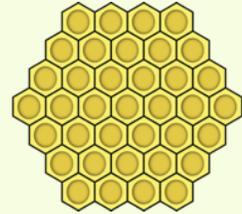
[10,000 bees die mysteriously in NC county within 24 hours](#), Chad Silber, WFMY, 7/14/2016. “Handful by handful, Deborah Michael sifts through thousands of dead honey bees, devastated. She’s concerned they could be Zombie Bees. Michael has been in contact with the Centers for Disease Control. She sent several samples to their headquarters for testing. She’s just hoping scientists can figure out what killed off her bees.”

This Month in the Bee Yard

Nancy Ruppert

Continue measures for pest control; if hives exposed to but not sickened by American foulbrood, apply treatment to prevent full-blown disease. Varroa control should be completed by end of month!

May feed thin (1:1 or more diluted) sugar syrup for 2-3 weeks to stimulate queen laying---builds up winter population---but by last week of September, begin feeding thicker (2:1) syrup for winter stores, although thicker syrup may not be necessary if >3 supers of honey left on hive and/or heavy fall nectar flow.



Consider Nosema assessment/treatment.

Combine colonies later in the month if weak and/or have failing queens. Should have brood in bottom box, if not, may need to rearrange things.

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



Honey bee nectaring on short-toothed Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*) a native perennial plant that is a pollinator magnet. The dark green leaves have a strong mint-like (spearmint) aroma when crushed.

Photo and text courtesy of Geoff Leister

TRUE OR FALSE?
Click for answer!

[Honey bees remember human faces.](#)

Calendar

Beekeeping the Foxfire Way
September 17, 1:00 - 4:00 PM @
Cedarock Park

Paul Jollay and Ira Poston will talk about beekeeping ways of tradition, some of which continue today. If you find your way to Cedarock, pull up a chair and learn something new!

Farm to Table
September 20 - 21 @ Cedarock Park

Mike Ross will be coordinating volunteers for this annual event that teaches fourth-graders where their food comes from. If you have any time available, please let Mike know, 336-214-4219. Fourth graders *love* honey bees, and talking to them about honey bees is ... a buzz! <http://bit.ly/2aJUdcf>



VOLUNTEER

NC State Fair
October 13-23 in Raleigh

Consider volunteering ideas and time to creating a prize-winning display this year!



VOLUNTEER

Contact Don Hopkins if you'd like to volunteer at the honey bee exhibit. Each volunteer gets a free ticket to the fair! don.hopkins@ncagr.gov



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