



The 2014 session of Alamance County's Beginning Beekeeping Class begins Tuesday, January 14th at 7:00pm at the Ag Extension Building

JANUARY 2014
NEWSLETTER OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS

Alamance County Beekeepers

January meeting:

Our next meeting is November 16th at the Ag Extension Bldg, 7:00 pm. Geoff Leister will present "Getting Started with Honey Bees." This talk was originally given to the "Think Green Thursdays" class hosted by the Agricultural Extension Agency.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Beekeepers at the NC Zoo

Volunteer beekeepers are needed to staff the permanent [Honey Bee Exhibit](#).

This orientation/training is brief but thorough and will consist of specific methods for using the signs and interpretive elements on the exhibit site and ways of engaging the public and encouraging discussions. The necessary protocols for safety, security, exhibit access and parking are also included in the training.

Visit the nczoo.org or ncbeekeepers.org for more info

Call NC Zoo Volunteer Coordinator, Toy Jarrett at (336) 879-7712 with specific questions. Email NCSBA Zoo Volunteer [Coordinators](#) , who will answer questions and assist you in signing up.

Mentoring New Beekeepers

When the Beginning Beekeeping Class wraps up, receivers of the Cost-Share Hives will need mentors; please consider offering your time and knowledge to these eager learners! See Ira Poston or Paul Jollay for details.

CATCH THE BUZZ

Kim Flottum

Pollinator Efficiency Measured: Who's Best At What, When and Where Finally Gets Measured

From tomatoes to pumpkins, most fruit and vegetable crops rely on pollination by bees and other insect species – and the future of many of those species is uncertain. Now researchers from North Carolina State University are proposing a set of guidelines for assessing the performance of pollinator species in order to determine which species are most important and should be prioritized for protection.

"Widespread concerns over the fate of honey bees and other pollinators have led to increased efforts to understand which species are the most effective pollinators, since this has huge ramifications for the agriculture industry," says Dr. Hannah Burrack, an associate professor of entomology at NC State and co-author of a paper on the new guidelines and related research. "However, various research efforts have taken a wide variety of approaches, making it difficult to compare results in a meaningful way.

"We've developed a set of metrics that we think offers a comprehensive overview of pollination efficiency, which would allow researchers to compare data from different crops and regions."

The new comprehensive approach looks at four specific metrics. First is single-visit efficiency, which measures the number of seeds produced when one bee visits one flower. Second is abundance, which measures the number of each type of bee observed in a study area. Third is inclement weather behavior, which tracks how active a bee species is during cool, cloudy and/or windy weather. Fourth is visitation rate, or the number of flowers that a bee visits while foraging, and the amount of time it spends at each flower.

"The perfect bee would produce a lot of seeds and visit a lot of flowers, even in poor weather – and there would be a lot of them," Burrack says. "But as far as we know, the perfect bee doesn't exist."

The researchers conducted a pilot study using their comprehensive approach to assess the pollination performance of various bee species on economically important highbush blueberry crops in North Carolina. They found that small native bees had extremely high single-visit efficiency rates and were active during inclement weather. However, small native bees did not have high abundance nor appear to have high visitation rates.

"This highlights the importance of incorporating multiple metrics," says Dr. David Tarpy, an associate professor of entomology at NC State and co-author of the paper. "Because researchers looking only at visitation rates or abundance may think the small native species are unimportant, when they actually appear to be important pollinators for blueberry growers."

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The paper, "Multiple Criteria for Evaluating Pollinator Performance in Highbush Blueberry (Ericales: Ericaceae) Agroecosystems," was published online Nov. 25 in the journal *Environmental Entomology*. Lead author of the paper is Shelley Rogers, a former graduate student at NC State. The work was supported by the National Science Foundation, the N.C. Blueberry Council and the NC State Beekeepers Association.

Honey Hot Chocolate

Makes Four Cups

1/3 cup water

4 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa

2 tablespoons honey

3 cups milk

2 pinches of salt

Stir and simmer the water, cocoa and salt over low heat for 2 minutes or until smooth.

Add honey and milk.

When it is very hot but not boiling, remove from heat and serve.

Source: The Winnie-the-Pooh Cookbook
Virginia H. Ellison

MadeWithHoney.com

Interactive Websites Offered by National Honey Board

In an effort to provide food manufacturers with information about the use of honey as an ingredient in products, the National Honey Board created the MadeWithHoney.com interactive websites. These five websites were launched to provide manufacturers with industry-specific technical, marketing and formulation assistance in the areas of baking, beverage, confectionery, dairy and snacking.

The National Honey Board encourages industry members to utilize the information and content found on these websites to stay up-to-date on the latest food product trends and innovation, as well as the most recent technical data available.

To find out more about these sites, the National Honey Board encourages you to visit MadeWithHoney.com.

www.BakingWithHoney.com: This informative website contains information on baking with honey, including retail and wholesale baking formulas and technical specifications. Some of the newer technical materials include [Frequently Asked Questions](#) from the retail and wholesale baking industries, and information on [Honey Substitution](#).

www.BeveragesWithHoney.com: This website offers insight into the expanding beverage industry as manufacturers realize the value of using an all-natural sweetener with exceptional flavor and marketing impact.

www.CandyWithHoney.com: This website provides confectionery manufacturers with new product ideas and stories about the latest candy industry trends.

www.DairyWithHoney.com: From ice cream to yogurt, this website offers dairy food and beverage manufacturers the latest information on honey and dairy products made with honey.

www.SnackingWithHoney.com: An online guide to snack food products made with honey, as well as technical and marketing information for using honey in savory and salty snacks.

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## Alamance County Beekeepers Meeting Programs for 2014

| Meeting Date               | Speaker(s)                                                          | Topics (subject to change)      | Meal/Snacks |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| January 16 <sup>th</sup>   | Geoff Leister                                                       | Getting Started with Honey Bees | Snacks      |
| February 20 <sup>th</sup>  | Mike Ross                                                           | Swarm Capture & Prevention      | Snacks      |
| March 20 <sup>th</sup>     | Don Moore                                                           | Superring your Hives            | Snacks      |
| April 17 <sup>th</sup>     | Debbie Roos                                                         | Bee Friendly Plantings          | Meal        |
| May 15 <sup>th</sup>       | Geoff Leister                                                       | Digital Honey Bee Photography   | Snacks      |
| June 19 <sup>th</sup>      | Paul Jollay & Ira Poston                                            | Honey Harvesting                | Meal        |
| July 17 <sup>th</sup>      | Don Hopkins                                                         | Honey Bee Pest Awareness        | Snacks      |
| August 16 <sup>th</sup>    | Don Moore                                                           | Ice Cream Social                | Ice Cream   |
| September 18 <sup>th</sup> | Nancy Ruppert                                                       | To Feed or not to Feed          | Meal        |
| October 16 <sup>th</sup>   | TBD                                                                 | TBD                             | TBD         |
| November 20 <sup>th</sup>  | 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Beekeepers | Lessons Learned                 | Snacks      |
| December 1 <sup>st</sup>   | Ira Poston                                                          | Planning Meeting for 2015       |             |

### Contact for 2014 Officers

|                                    |                            |              |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| President Ira Poston               | ira.poston@duke-energy.com | 336-584-5444 |
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