



Alamance County Beekeepers

Newsletter for May 2015

Monthly Meeting May 21, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Mike Ross and Corey Gillespie will tell us what they know about capturing swarms. Between the two, they have a goodly amount of experience, and we can learn a lot from them. We look forward to it, Mike and Corey!

Do you have built-out frames
— preferably with pollen — ready to
attract swarmed bees?
'Tis the season!



As part of its Think Green Thursdays series, Alamance County Cooperative Extension Service will offer a free one-hour program on

Pollinator Gardening with Natives
presented by botanist and beekeeper
Geoff Leister

May 21st, 10:00 a.m.
in the County Ag Building

Pre-registration requested.
(336) 570-6740
<http://bit.ly/1K3PFbx>

A swarm of bees in May
is worth a load of hay,
But a swarm in July
is not worth a fly.



Proverbs, Maxims and Phrases of All Ages
Robert Christy, comp., 1887

Blossoms in the Piedmont this Month

Tulip poplar
Holly
Dandelions
Blackberries
Mountain laurel

and more ...



Mountain laurel

Bees in the News

The Birds and the Bees Act, General Assembly of North Carolina. AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ADOPT ORDINANCES RELATED TO BEE HIVES AND TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES TO STUDY STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING POLLINATORS. <http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2015/Bills/Senate/HTML/S225v0.html>

Bee studies stir up pesticide debate: The threat that neonicotinoids pose to bees becomes clearer, Daniel Cressey, Nature, 4/22/2015, <http://bit.ly/1Egk8TG> “... Honeybees did not respond differently in the treated [neonic] and untreated fields. But the researchers found that wild-bee density in treated fields was around half that in untreated fields. Nests of solitary bees and bumblebee-colony growth were also reduced in treated fields.”

Lowe's to eliminate pesticides that hurt crop pollinating honeybees, Nandita Bose, Reuters, 4/9/2015, <http://reut.rs/1bfHQ7d> “Lowe's said it will phase out neonics in shelf products and plants by the spring of 2019, as suitable alternatives become available.”

A honey bee hive tells all, Botanical Society of America, 1/12/2015, <http://bit.ly/1AJwXm9> Scientists at Ohio State University have developed a method utilizing DNA metabarcoding of pollen to understand which plants bees in a given hive are visiting.

The Most Un-Talked About Bee Killer, Big Bear, 4/17/2015, <http://bit.ly/1EJHAaU> There are many likely causes of colony collapse. One that deserves more attention is management by the bee-keeper. One blogger gives his views here.

Many thanks to Geoff Leister and Mike Ross!



Notes from April's Meeting

- Patrick Jones — from the Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division, NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services — gave a very informative and engaging presentation on protecting pollinators from pesticides.
- The label is the law. The EPA has a new and stronger label to protect pollinators. The use of some pesticides is prohibited when bees are present. Look for the hazard icon; it indicates there are special instructions for protecting pollinators.
- Presentation is online @ <http://bit.ly/1KFen2X>



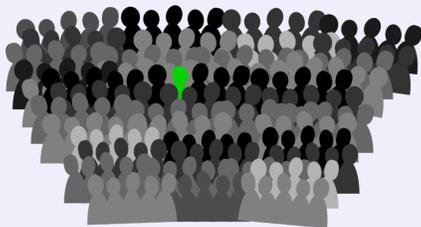
Look for the hazard icon.

State Beekeeper Conference Summer 2015

Conference will be at Lake Junaluska July 9, 10, and 11.

More information on accommodations and early registration is at the NCSBA website:

<http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/education/statewide-conferences/2015-ncsba-summer-conference/>



This Month in the Bee Yard

from Beekeeper Course Manual

- Check hives once a week to see where bees are working.
- The basic cause of swarming is *congestion in the brood nest*. The queen has to have a place to lay eggs.
- Supering at the right time can have an impact on swarming. If bees are putting nectar in brood comb, then brood comb is unavailable to the queen for laying eggs.



Neil Carey and Mike Ross were interviewed during their stint manning the beekeeper exhibit at Homegrown in the Park, April 11, 2015, Burlington City Park.



Recipe for Wax Varnish

Used on furniture or wooden fittings, as wax varnish dries, it forms a film that is tough and resilient, keeping out moisture and retaining a shine.

1 oz grated beeswax
1 pint linseed oil

In double boiler, heat oil and beeswax over low heat until mixture forms "strings." The clear portion can be poured off and painted on as a varnish.

Recipe makes about one pint.

Source:

The Beekeeper's Bible,
published by
stewart tabori & chang



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

Webmaster : Geoff Leister
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce