



Alamance County Beekeepers

October 2018 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

October 18 | Ag Building
Dinner @ 6:00 | Program @ 7:00

Urban Beekeeping

Presented by Ben Dictus

[Ben Dictus](#) is the lead beekeeper for [Bee Downtown](#), which “partners with businesses in cities to help save honey bee populations.”



Learn more about this local organization that promotes honey bee awareness throughout the Triangle.

Dinner and social time @ 6:00!

Blooming in the Piedmont



*Honey bee on goldenrod
Courtesy of Geoff Leister*

Time to Vote for ACB Officers!

Make your nominations (nominate yourself!) -- at the October meeting, and we'll vote in November. All offices -- President, VP, Secretary, and Treasurer, as well as Three-Year Director -- are open for nominations. The President appoints the webmaster and the newsletter editor. Wouldn't you like to get more involved? It's a great way to learn more about beekeeping!



Nothing Could be Finer

If you can make it to the State Fair in Raleigh this year, be sure to stop by the [Expo Center](#) to see ACBA's entries, and to see what other beekeeping groups did. Fair will run through October 21st. Winning details are on page 2.

Thanks go to Zivon Price, Sheyenne Michelizzi, Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson, and Jennifer Welsh for getting it all set up. Nice going, everybody!

Bees in the News

Click on the title to read the article.

[How Humans Are Messing Up Bee Sex](#), Elizabeth Anne Brown, National Geographic, 9/11/2018. "From pesticides to land development to electromagnetic pollution, humans often harm the ability of honeybees to reproduce."

[Collective mechanical adaptation of honeybee swarms](#), O. Peleg et al, Nature Physics, 9/17/2018. If you'd like to understand more about the mechanics of a swarm cluster of bees, read this study!

[For Good of the Colony, Sick Honey Bee Brood Sounds the Alarm](#), Kaira Wagoner, Ph.D. , Entomology Today, 9/19/2018. Study findings suggest "hygienic brood more effectively signals stress, triggering its own removal for the good of the colony." See study report [here](#).

[Common weed killer—believed harmless to animals—may be harming bees worldwide](#), Warren Cornwall, ScienceMag.org, 9/24/2018. Glyphosate appears to alter honey bees' microbiome, making them more susceptible to infectious disease. See study report [here](#).

[Something Eerie Happens to The Bees During a Total Solar Eclipse](#), Michelle Starr, ScienceAlert.com, 10/10/2018. According to new research, bees stop flying and go completely silent during total solar eclipse. See full text of study [here](#).

[The mushroom dream of a 'long-haired hippie' could help save the world's bees](#), Evan Bush of the Seattle Times on TribLive.com, 10/6/2018. Anti-fungal properties of mushrooms are showing promise in the fight against honey bee viruses.



ACBA Display Area 2018 NC State Fair



Results

ACBA took 3rd for the overall educational display!

- Ira got 1st for dark amber extracted honey.
- Mike got 1st for amber extracted honey.
- Paul got 1st for dry mead.
- Jennifer got 2nd for lip balm.
- We took 3rd in the nectar/pollen producing plant display.
- We took 3rd for our novelty beeswax candle.
- Jennifer got 3rd in both color and black and white photos.
- Mike got 3rd for his persimmon pudding.
- We got 4th in soap.
- We got 5th in pure beeswax molded candle.
- Mike got 6th and an honorable mention for his creamed honey entries.
- 6th for our gift basket.
- Zivon got 6th for his handmade hive.

All in all, a great year for the club!

--Sheyenne

September's Meeting

Alamance and Caswell county beekeepers had a joint meeting at the AO Community Center on September 20th. Will Hicks talked about preparing hives for winter, and fielded lots of good questions. Thank you, Will!



There were also 13 honey entries into the tasting contest. This year's winner was Delmar Allred! Second place went to Jennifer Welsh, and third to Charles Black! Good job, honey bees and beekeepers!

Calendar

Beekeeping the Foxfire Way
October 6 @ Cedarrock Park

[NC State Fair](#)

October 11-21, 2018

[Steers & Cheers](#)

October 14, 4 -8:00 pm

Homies and Honeys :
What's Up with Our Native Bees &
Honey Bees?

Geoff Leister

October 27, 10:30 a.m.

Mebane Public Library

This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- Post-treatment assessment for varroa mites (i.e., did your treatment work?).
- Remove all queen excluders, if present.
- Combine hives that are weak/have failing queens.
- Feed thick syrup, if needed, for winter food stores.
- Limit frequency of inspections after mid-October: bees are sealing cracks with propolis, and waste lots of time/energy if they have to keep replacing it. 
- Add entrance reducers near end of month to keep mice out.
- Drones being expelled in most hives.
- Plant (in October and November) herbaceous perennials for future nectar/pollen sources.



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