



# Alamance County Beekeepers

Newsletter for November 2016

**Monthly Meeting**  
November 17th @ 7:00

## Lessons Learned

The November meeting is set aside every year for looking back at lessons honey bees are teaching us.

Designated speakers - invited by Ira - from first, second, and third years of beekeeping will tell us what they know now.



Everybody attending will have a chance to offer up advice, a sympathetic nod, or a clap on the back!



We always look forward to enjoying this evening of commiseration and learning. It will be our last get-together of the year.

Snacks will be provided. Thank you, Sheyenne and Zivon.

## For Sale

ACB has a new supply of baseball caps and t-shirts with the association logo embroidered on them. Caps are available in three colors -- navy blue, green, and khaki -- and t-shirts are grey crewneck in sizes M-XL. Each item is \$12. See Zivon at the meeting. Cash or check.



## Beekeepers About Town

Geoff and Linda Leister, Jennifer Welsh, and Tony Abbruzzi will be talking about Honey Bee History @ Gibsonville Elementary School's Heritage Day event November 10th.

Jennifer Welsh, Sweet Betsy, and Randy Stinson will represent ACB at three holiday events coming up:

- Burlington Christmas Parade, 11/19, 10:00 a.m., downtown Burlington
- Graham Christmas Parade, 12/3, 10:00 a.m.
- Snow Camp Christmas Parade, 12/10, 1:00 p.m., 301 Drama Road

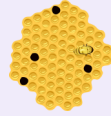


If you are out and about sharing your beekeeping love and know-how with others, please tell, so we can share the good news!

## November in the Bee Yard

Nancy Ruppert

- Combine hives that are weak/have failing queens.
- Ensure adequate ventilation near top of hive.
- Feed thick syrup, if needed, for winter stores.
- Provide weights (brick, rock, concrete block, etc.) for tops of hives to limit wind-induced toplessness.
- Plant trees for future nectar/pollen sources (tulip poplar, maple, sourwood, etc.).
- Consider closing off screened bottom board to improve heat insulation.



<https://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/CALENDAR-FOR-BEEKEEPING-IN-CENTRAL-NORTH-CAROLINA-Final.pdf?fwd=no>

## Bees in the News

[Why don't vegans eat honey?](#) Aine Carlin, The Guardian, 10/19/2016. "While it may seem unnecessarily dogmatic to eschew something so seemingly innocent, there are a few uncomfortable truths about honey."

[National Honey Report.](#) USDA, 10/25/2016. Check out the NC honey prices.

[Flight Of The Living Dead: Zombie Bees Are Invading North Carolina.](#) Nick de la Canal, WFAE, 10/31/2016. This story comes out of Banner Elk, NC.

[First Confirmed Case of Zombie Bees Discovered in NC.](#) Chad Silber, WFMY, 10/31/2016. Story from Banner Elk, NC.



## Notes from the October Meeting

Ira acknowledged ACB members for their prize-winning participation in the beekeeping competitions at the State Fair. Good job, y'all. [See page 3.]



Randy Stinson suggested we need a slogan or motto along the lines of "Save a swarm, call a beekeeper" to help educate people whose first instinct might be to kill flying, buzzing things.

Wayne Foulks, Zivon Price, and Corey Gillespie might be calling on you to be an ACB officer next year. Please answer that call!



Patrick Jones, Deputy Director for Pesticide Programs, NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, showed us how to register our apiaries in the [Beecheck](#) program. He told us what registration will and will not do, and we saw that NC beekeepers are signing up in swarms. The September honey bee kill in SC in was an incentive. Thank you, Patrick, for the info.



## North Carolina State Fair 2016 Winners

Nice job, Alamance County beekeepers!

- ACB display booth earned 4th place overall.
- Mike Ross won 3rd place for chunk honey.
- Geoff Leister placed 3rd for a black and white photo of a honey bee on mountain mint.
- Sylvia Willis won 6th place for her honey bee products gift basket.
- Sheyenne Michelizzi and Zivon Price's display of Geoff's 12 nectar-producing-plants photos won a blue ribbon for 1st place.
- Keith Elkes's pure beeswax received a 2nd place ribbon.



## Practice Master Beekeeper Exam Qs: What do you Know?

Of these chemicals used for treatment of varroa mites, which is most likely to contaminate beeswax comb?

- A. Apivar
- B. Apiguard
- C. Apicur
- D. Apistan
- E. ApiLfeVar

Beeswax is an "expensive" metabolic product to produce because bees need to consume how many pounds of honey to produce a pound of beeswax?

- A. 1
- B. 3-4
- C. 5-9
- D. 10-15
- E. >15

Neonicotinoid insecticides have been found to

- A. reduce surplus honey harvest
- B. prematurely age workers
- C. contaminate quality of honey
- D. disappear by the time of flowering when used early in growing season
- E. effectively eliminate varroa mites

Answers D, C, and B.

## Salty Honey Pie

A Thanksgiving Treat



A custard pie recipe from the bakers at Four and Twenty Blackbirds in Brooklyn.

<http://southbrooklynpost.com/2011/02/pie-mavens-share-recipe/>

## It's Annual Membership Renewal Time

■ Dues are \$21 for State membership, and \$6 for County.

■ If you wish to re-take the beekeeping course starting January 17th, please add \$10 to your payment.



## Blooming in the Piedmont

*Baccharis halimifolia*

Photos and Info from Geoff Leister



Along I-40



Female flowers



Male flowers

[Baccharis halimifolia](#) A member of the Asteraceae family, sometimes called groundsel tree or saltbush ... Take a look up close and see the remarkable variety and quantity of insects visiting the flowers.



Honey bee and ants on male flowers

### November

by [Thomas Hood](#)

No sun—no moon—no morn—no noon,  
No dawn—no dusk—no proper time of day,  
No warmth—no cheerfulness—no healthful ease,  
No road, no street, no t' other side the way,  
No comfortable feel in any member—  
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,  
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds,  
November!



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

### We Want You

Can you spare occasional time and thought to help support the operations of our beekeeping association? Do you know someone else who can?



Please nominate or volunteer for an officer post this month!