



Alamance County Beekeepers

May 2016 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting
May 19th | 7:00 p.m.

Honeybee Pest Awareness **Don Hopkins**

An important aspect of beekeeping involves helping bees ward off parasites, pests and pathogens.

Don Hopkins will present information on identifying and mitigating the impact of common honeybee torments.



Caitlin Bateson and Ruth Amick will bring the snacks for social time.



See you on the 19th!

Liriodendron tulipifera

One of the largest native trees of the Eastern US.

Host plant for Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterfly.

Member of the Magnoliaceae family, so it's related to magnolias, not poplars, and not tulips.

Not just our workhorse nectar source here in the Piedmont, but good source of lumber. Native Americans used the trunks for canoes.

Other common names are whitewood, fiddle tree, tulip tree, and yellow poplar.

Save the Date: **Summer NCSBA Meeting**

July 7 - 9 at the Hickory Metro
Convention Center

[https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/
education/statewide-conferences](https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/education/statewide-conferences)

This Month in the Bee Yard

Nancy Ruppert

Nectar flow continues; keep adding supers. Get extraction/bottling equipment ready. Consider adding an additional hive entrance (via 5/8" hole or shim) above brood area, for foragers.

Swarming continues; keep up prevention/capture measures.

Replace failing queens.



Start planting annuals for future nectar/pollen supplementation.

Install traps for small hive beetles if needed (i.e., if more than 20 adult beetles seen in hive). Place two or more bee "watering holes" in apiary, if not already present.

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

Notes from April's Meeting

Please contact Ira if you'd like to represent ACB on opening day of the Burlington Farmers Market [5/7].

Randolph College in Virginia has been certified as an affiliate of the Bee Campus USA program. <http://www.randolphcollege.edu/news/2016/04/randolph-certified-as-virginias-first-bee-campus-usa-affiliate/>

Geoff Leister showed a brief but fabulous slide program about the exciting times in his apiary ... swarms alive!

Nancy Ruppert's presentation on swarms was informed by her vast beekeeping knowledge and skills. Thank you, Nancy, for giving us great information on managing colonies in springtime. We hope to see you in February next year!



Tips on Planting for Bees

Choose single blooms instead of double blooms. Double-headed flowers produce less nectar and their pollen is more difficult for bees to get.

Think about the flower shapes and how easy it would be for a honeybee to access the nectar and pollen.

Highly hybridized plants produce little if any pollen.

Honeybees are drawn to yellow, white, blue, and purple flowers.



Plan for a range of bloom times in order to maximize food availability through the seasons.

http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/MidAtlanticPlantList_web.pdf

<http://thehoneybeeconservancy.org/plant-a-bee-garden/>

<http://honeylove.org/top-30-flowers-for-bees/>

Bees in the News

Do Honey Bees Need Their Own Lobbyists? Beekeepers hope that by getting involved in state politics they can help save these important pollinators. Taryn Phaneuf, 4/14/2016, CivilEats.



Tractor-trailer cargo releases millions of honeybees on I-80. Joel Funk, 5/6/2016, Laramie Boomerang.

Ortho Brand Announces Plan to Eliminate Neonics from All its Outdoor Products. 4/12/2016, Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Press Release. “Ortho, the nation's leading brand of insect control products for lawn and garden use, said today it would immediately begin to transition away from the use of neonicotinoid-based pesticides for outdoor use and announced a new partnership with the Pollinator Stewardship Council to help educate homeowners on the safe and appropriate use of pesticides.”

National Honey Report. USDA, 4/18/2016. Notes on NC’s month of March mention heavy pollen and quick build-up in colonies; demand for bees [replacing winter losses and packed-out beekeeping classes] exceeds supply; and demand for honey is maintaining premium prices.

Low-Temperature Stress during Capped Brood Stage Increases Pupal Mortality, Misorientation and Adult Mortality in Honey Bees. Qing Wang et al, 5/5/2016, PLOS.

Pollinator Garden Tour

Helen Yoest, a Wake County writer and gardener, has started a nonprofit organization to promote planting of pollinator gardens.

The first annual Bee Better pollinator garden tour will take place on 9/10/2016.



Anyone interested in helping or going on the tour, see beebetter.info for more information.



Bee Jubilee

May 14th, 9 AM to 5 PM
Granville County Expo Center
Highway 15, Oxford

Sponsored by Granville County Beekeepers, this first annual Bee Jubilee will feature

- Mini workshops on bee management and pollinators
- Local arts and crafts
- Food vendors
- Produce
- Family fun



http://www.thegranvillegardeners.org/GG_Gazette_4-2016.pdf [page 10]

Christi @ 907-738-9047



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