



Alamance County Beekeepers

November 2015 Newsletter

This Month's Meeting

NOV 19 | 7:00 PM

Lessons Learned

This is the season when we can take a look back over the year of beekeeping and think about how it went and what we'll do next.

Presenters will be beekeepers who are in their first, second, and third years of practice.

Bring a snack and join your beekeeping friends for a year in review.

This will be our last meeting of the full membership until January 2016.



Officer Election for 2016

NOV 19 | 7:00 PM

Slate of candidates

Zivon Price - Treasurer
Sheyenne Michelizzi - Secretary
Randy Stinson - 3-year Director
Angela Schick - Program Chair

Ira will also be taking nominations from the floor on the 19th.



Thanks to all for your interest!

2016 Planning Meeting

Ira and ACB officers will meet December 1st, 7:00 - 9:00, in the Ag Building to plan programs for the coming year.

Notes from October's Meeting

- We will elect new officers for 2016 at the November meeting.
- Annual dues for local and State beekeeper associations are due by end of December. Please use the attached form and get your payments to Randy Stinson by end of year.
- New beekeeping classes start January 19th. If you would like to repeat the classes, the fee is \$10. Include that with your membership payment and let Randy know.
- Dr. Eugene Grimley, chemist from Elon University, was our program presenter. He, with the help of three students, told us about the work Elon is doing to identify flavonoids in the nectar from tulip poplar and sourwood trees for the ultimate purpose of identifying nectar sources in honey. He also told us about the health benefits of flavonoids in the foods we eat. We now know even more reasons to promote the use of honey! Thank you, Dr. Grimley.



Bees in the News

The Zombie Fly has been in the news for a few years but recently made headlines again, <http://fxn.ws/1K31rkw>. *Apocephalus borealis* is a native across much of North America. It typically lays its eggs in wasps and bumblebees, but in recent years has also been seen in honeybees. This parasitic behavior has been mostly observed on the West Coast, but it is occurring in the East as well. If you'd like to be a citizen scientist and participate in the ZomBee Watch, check out this web site sponsored by San Francisco State : <https://www.zombeewatch.org>.

Gauging honeybees' status via vibrations, Gary Watry, R & D Magazine, 11/9/2015. Scientists have developed a "noninvasive device that uses vibrations to sense the status of the colony." The goal is to learn the language of different bee vibrations. "Unpacking the honeybees signals may eventually help governments track honeybee epidemics, and allow beekeepers the ability to monitor the state of their hives." <http://www.rdmag.com/articles/2015/11/gauging-honeybees-status-vibrations>

Neonicotinoids: new warning on pesticide harm to bees, Damian Carrington, The Guardian, 10/28/2015. There is a strong scientific consensus that bees are exposed to neonicotinoid pesticides in fields and suffer harm from the doses received, according to a new analysis of the all the scientific evidence to date. But almost no data exists so far on whether this harm ultimately leads to falls in overall bee populations, the scientists found ... the insecticides, the most widely used in the world, do significantly damage bumblebee populations. But it found no effect for honeybees, although the study design meant it could only rule out losses greater than 20%. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/oct/28/strong-consensus-that-neonicotinoids-harm-bees-analysis-shows>





Blooming in the Piedmont this Month

Asters just keep on giving ... If you have time, check out the Climbing Carolina Aster, *Ampleaster carolinianus*, in the Arbor Gate garden. It's a honeybee favorite this time of year.

Also seen:

Spiderwort
Autumn-blooming
camellias

And the winter
weeds are starting to
show their blooms.
No one loves henbit
like beekeepers do!

From the Archives

From the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture Report of the Entomologist, August 1, 1917

<http://bit.ly/1kq7xqK>

WINTERING OF BEES.—Work on the wintering of bees has been continued chiefly in testing various methods of packing for colonies wintered outdoors. The various commercial insulated hives used in the United States were again tested in comparison with hives heavily insulated in special packing cases. Even in the mild climate of Washington there was a marked advantage in the heavy packing, and by the middle of June the colonies that had been well packed were still markedly stronger than those that were poorly packed. This is a point of importance, as many beekeepers have believed that before the clover honey flow weak colonies will build up sufficiently to gather a full crop. The records are not complete, but it is evident that the colonies heavily packed will produce this year an average crop of over 50 pounds and possibly 100 pounds more than those insufficiently packed. A colony packed in the fall of 1915 with 16 inches of sawdust on all sides, top, and bottom, was allowed to remain packed during the entire summer of 1916 and until the spring of 1917. It did not suffer from excessive heat during the summer and again wintered perfectly and is now one of the strongest colonies in the apiary. Evidently beekeepers have nothing to fear from excessive insulation at any season of the year. Tests were made with colonies wintered in two hive bodies, the top one being well filled with honey and the entire hive being heavily packed. These colonies wintered much better than those equally well packed in single hive bodies. The work with bees in a special respiration calorimeter mentioned in the last annual report was taken up again in the fall of 1916, but an accident to the apparatus caused it to be discontinued. Such work can be done only in a brief period in the fall, when the bees are without brood and before there is an accumulation of feces in the intestines. It is necessary, therefore, to wait until the fall of 1917 to renew this investigation.

This Month in the Bee Yard from Beekeeper Course Manual

Continue the work of October: Get your hives ready for winter.

- Remove queen excluder if winter stores are above it.
- Install entrance reducers to keep mice out of hives.
- Raise hive cover 1/8" to provide upward ventilation.
- Be sure there are enough food stores to last the winter.



Pumpkin Honey Pie

- 3 eggs
- 2 cups solid pack pumpkin puree
- 3/4 cup honey
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 9-inch single crust pie



Beat eggs slightly in a large bowl. Blend in pumpkin, milk, cream, honey, spices, salt. Pour filling into pie shell. Cover edges of shell with strips of foil.

Bake at 400 degrees for 35 minutes. Remove foil, and continue baking for 15 more minutes. An inserted knife should come out clean when done. Cool, and serve.

<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/12220/pumpkin-honey-pie/>

Officers for 2015

President : Ira Poston
Vice President : Mike Ross
Recording Secretary : Mary McGinty
Treasurer : Randy Stinson
Program Chair : Don Moore
One-year Director : Paul Jollay
Two-year Director : Larry McCauley, Jr.
Three-year Director : Wayne Foulks

Appointments

Webmaster : Geoff Leister
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce

Alamance County Beekeepers Membership Payment Form for 2016
(Annual local and State dues expire 12/31/2015.)

State ID # _____ New or Renew

If renewing with no changes to contact info, just enter State ID, name, and payment amount.

Name _____ \$6 ACB + \$15 NCSBA = \$21 \$ _____

Name _____ \$6 ACB + \$15 NCSBA = \$21 \$ _____

Total payment \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

County, if not Alamance _____ Check if address change

Phone _____ Email _____

Make checks payable to
Alamance County Beekeepers

Randy Stinson
4341 Brick Church Rd
Burlington, NC 27215



Mail completed form and check to