



Alamance County Beekeepers

Newsletter for April 2017

Monthly Meeting

April 20th

Potluck @ 6:00 | Program @ 7:00

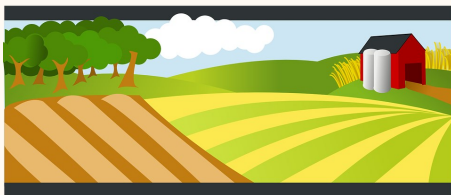
History of Agriculture in Alamance County

Vaughn Willoughby, President of Alamance County Farm Bureau, will talk to us about an important sector of the county's economic and cultural history: agriculture.

As beekeepers, we are part of the history, too.



Enjoy time with our guest and your fellow beekeepers at 6:00, and then learn more history of this place we call home.



Volunteer Opportunity

**Arbor Day @ Captain White House,
April 29, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

The City of Graham Appearance Commission sponsors this annual [event](#) highlighting the importance of trees and the natural environment. They are excited to have Alamance Beekeepers participating in 2017. Let Ira know @ 336-314-0499 if you can help out. Really, what's more fun than talking to interested people about honey bees?!



Honey bee visiting apple blossom in Chuck Perkins' orchard.

Cooking with Honey Cookbook from the NCSBA Cookbook Team

To help mark the NCSBA's centennial, an outstanding cooking-with-honey cookbook has been completed by the cookbook team of Sandy Carlson, Lynn Lucas, Mary Jaynes, Teresa Green and S. Anne Fifer. This cookbook would make a wonderful addition to your cooking library or as a birthday, anniversary or Christmas gift. All profits will be donated to the NC Agricultural Foundation and will directly benefit the Apiculture program at NCSU.

From the team: "We need your support to help make this project a success. **Please consider asking your Chapter to purchase or pre-order at least ten copies to be sold later to Chapter members, or take at least ten pre-orders from your membership.** This will help greatly with our start-up costs."



Price is \$20 per copy. Deadline for pre-order commitment is April 30, 2017. Money will be collected on delivery.

Bees in the News

Click on the title to read the article.

[At mealtime, honey bees prefer country blossoms to city blooms](#), Misti Crane, Ohio State University News, 3/14/2017. Urban honey bees, who still have access to a variety of blooms, still don't thrive as well as ones who visit flowers in the country. Honey bees visiting agricultural areas love the weeds on unmowed landscapes. "There's no reason why our urban landscapes cannot be full of flowers. It's just that we've inherited a certain preference toward things that look like golf courses rather than things that look like prairies."



[Bee protection bill filed in NC House](#), Laura Leslie, WRAL.com, 3/15/2017. House Bill 363, titled the Pollinator Protection Act, would allow the use of neonicotinoid pesticides only by farmers, licensed applicators and veterinarians. The chemical would be banned for unlicensed home, garden and landscape applications, which constitutes about 25 percent of their use.

[Antibiotic exposure perturbs the gut microbiota and elevates mortality in honeybees](#), Kasie Raymann et al, PLOS.org, 3/14/2017. "... exposure to antibiotics significantly alters the honeybee gut microbial community structure and leads to decreased survivorship of honeybees in the hive, likely due to increased susceptibility to infection by opportunistic pathogens."

[Social bees have kept symbiotic gut bacteria for 80M years, new study says](#), Sci-News, 3/30/2017. "At least five host-specific species of bacteria, living symbiotically in the guts of social bees, have been passed from generation to generation for 80 million years, according to a study published in the March 29, 2017, issue of the journal [Science Advances](#)."

[Researcher convinced he can replace honeybees](#), Ross Courtney, Good Fruit Grower, 3/29/2017. Matt Whiting, a Washington State University horticulturist, is developing a mechanical system of pollination that he hopes will become the new norm, and relieve fruit growers of their reliance on honey bees.

Notes from the March Meeting



FIRST LEGO League inventors presented their bee-friendly fuel and offered samples for beekeepers to try and give feedback on. If the team advances in their endeavor, they'll be headed to Washington, DC, for a Global Innovation competition. Thank you for your participation, and stay tuned.

Then on to gadgets, tricks, tips, and stories from beekeepers in attendance:

Anwar Nicola built a French cleat shelf to attach a capture hive to a tree. Instead of strapping the box to the tree, he affixes the shelf instead, and hangs the box on it. So much easier.

Zivon Price uses a paint mixer attached to a drill to mix **cold** water and sugar; in a matter of 30 seconds, it makes syrup. He also used nematodes purchased from [Southeastern Insectaries](#) to essentially eliminate the SHB problem in his and Sheyenne's shade-surrounded hives. (If you decide to order nematodes, be sure to ask for ones that are specifically for eating larvae, *not* the ones that will eat the roots of your plants.) And Zivon will let us know next year whether the fogger works for smoking.

Michael Pierce showed the [horizontal hive](#) he's been building. Will let us know next year how well it works.

Mike Ross showed us how to rig up a swarm-catcher using a five-gallon bucket, baling wire, and an extension pole. He also mesmerized us with his swarm-catching cedar sticks ... yours for only \$25. Go, Mike!

Ira Poston told the sad story of trying to extract a hive of bees from a tree, and showed the swarm catcher he and Geoff Leister used.

April in the Apiary

- * Tulip poplar nectar flow begins in April.
- * Check food stores in hives.
- * Remove chemical treatments.
- * Check and equalize brood.
- * Check brood pattern - queen OK?
- * Place queen excluders and honey supers.
- * Remove entrance reducers.



Honey bee on chickweed, Geoff Leister, 3/31/2017.

Calendar 2017

Ira Poston will be speaking about honey bees to a [Life @ Elon](#) group on April 12.

Earth Day Booth @ Sylvan Elementary on April 24.
Jennifer and Adam Welsh will be talking about bee-keeping!

Leisters host Elon University's Community Ag Spring Planting class at their home April 28. Class will include tour and talk about honey bees.

Arbor Day @ Captain White House, April 29, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Ira Poston will lead up the beekeeper contingent. Please let him know if you'd like to participate.

Geoff and Linda Leister will talk about beekeeping @ Graham Public Library on June 15 @ 4:00.

[National Pollinator Week](#), June 19-25, 2017

Zivon and Sheyenne will set into motion the planning that will make 2017 ACBA exhibit at the State Fair the best ever. Be part of history, and let them know how you'd like to help!

[State Beekeepers Summer Conference](#), July 13-15, Winston Salem

National Honey Bee Day, August 19

Preserving Our Heritage Festival, August, Cedarrock Park

Farm to Table - September 2017

NC State Fair - October 12-24.



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



Honey bee nectaring on crimson clover at Geoff and Linda Leister's apiary, 4/9/2017.



Officers for 2017

President : Ira Poston
Vice-President : Mike Ross
Recording Secretary : Sheyenne Michelizzi
Treasurer : Zivon Price
Program Chair : Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson
One-year Director : Wayne Foulks
Two-year Director : Randy Stinson
Three-year Director : Paul Jollay

Appointments

Webmaster : Geoff Leister
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce