



APRIL 2012

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS

Remember...

What's Blooming?

Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	15-Mar	60	14-May
Sumac	<i>Rhus spp.</i>	3-Apr	151	1-Sep
Alsike Clover	<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	4-Apr	102	15-Jul
Blackberry	<i>Rubus spp.</i>	10-Apr	20	30-Apr
Crimson Clover	<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	10-Apr	25	5-May

This month's meeting...

Our next meeting will be April 19th at the Ag Extension Bldg, 7:00 pm. Don Moore and Mike Ross will present "Swarm Catching Techniques". The way the past 2 weeks have gone.....we should have had this Program back in March. A thank-you to those who are helping to provide the snacks for the evening!

Field Day 2012

While the Official Field Day was cancelled for Saturday, March 24th, there were a few troopers that showed up at Toni's house to seek out that Golden nectar. Larry Norris, Arthur Coble, Tom Justus, Logan Dill, Bob and Pam Gaude, Kip Holsonback and I, all showed up to see if we could display our knowledge to Paul, Toni and Sophia in order to secure our Certified Bee Keeper diplomas. Yes, most of us did run back to shelter when the rain came, but then the Sun would come back out and the bees started flying again. We worked up an appetite, so Paul provided some sandwiches and drinks to fill that void. We will have to wait until the "Official" word comes out as to who passed the test. One of the highlights of the day came when Kip "Macho Man" Holsonback said he didn't need no stinking veil and proceeded to look at some of the frames we were pulling out to inspect. Low and behold, one of the ladies stung Mr. Kip right on his eyelid. We all told Kip that we wanted pictures to show off at our next meeting. The other highlight came when Ira was inspecting all of the frames in one of the hives in order for Paul to start a NUC. We were also demonstrating how to do the "Sugar Shake" test to determine the Varroa mite population. Ira kept looking for the Queen so we could make sure we didn't put her in the NUC. Well, after going through all of the brood chambers, we didn't spot the Queen. Paul said she was LARGE and had a white dot on her back.....we continued to go back through the boxes, but couldn't find the Queen. Then Paul said.....You didn't "Sugar Shake" my Queen did you ??? Then proceeded to dump the sugar coated bees back on top of the frames of the hive.....Well.....guess what popped out of the jar ????? A sugar coated Queen that looked a little shaken, but not damaged !!! Whew.....was I relieved !!!

All in all, our Field Day #1 was a success. All of the students that wanted to pick up their packages early, did so. Everyone was impressed with Paul and Toni's knowledge and hospitality. We hope Field Day #2 will be the same !!

Alamance County Beekeepers



Weird Weather? Maybe Global Warming, Maybe Not...

By Alan Harman

The past decade of unprecedented weather extremes is not merely accidental – from the many single events a pattern emerges, researchers at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) in Germany say.

In a new analysis of scientific evidence, published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, the researchers say that at least for extreme rainfall and heat waves the link with human-caused global warming is clear.

Less clear, they say, is the link between warming and storms, despite the observed increase in the intensity of hurricanes.

In 2011 alone, the United States was hit by 14 extreme weather events that caused damage exceeding US\$1 billion each, while in several states the months of January to October were the wettest ever recorded.

Japan also registered record rainfalls, while the Yangtze river basin in China suffered a record drought.

Similar record-breaking events occurred also in previous years.

In 2010, western Russia experienced the hottest summer in centuries, while in Pakistan and Australia record-breaking amounts of rain fell.

Europe's hottest summer in at least half a millennium occurred in 2003 and the year before a weather station at Zinnwald-Georgenfeld measured more rain in one day than ever before recorded in Germany.

Lead researcher Dim Coumou says the question is whether these weather extremes are coincidental or a result of climate change.

"Global warming can generally not be proven to cause individual extreme events – but in the sum of events the link to climate change becomes clear," he says.

"It is not a question of yes or no, but a question of probabilities. The recent high incidence of weather records is no longer normal."

Coumou says it's like a game with loaded dice.

"A six can appear every now and then, and you never know when it happens. But now it appears much more often, because we have changed the dice."

He says this is shown in the U.S.

Between March 13 and 19 alone, historical heat records were exceeded in more than a 1,000

We had a tremendous turnout for Field Day #2 at Toni Murray and Paul Jollays' bee yard. Scott Jewell demonstrated how to light a smoker and several of the new beekeepers followed suit. Some of the early birds were able to take their practical test for the Certified Bee Keepers certificate. Don Hopkins was in attendance and lead the group in "What to look for when going through your hive". Don did a Sugar Shake test to identify the number of mites in a hive.....He did this without shaking the Queen (like Ira did in Field Day #1).

We paused for lunch and about the time we finished, Don noticed a Swarm. Paul retrieved some Pheromone lure and Don placed it on a tree about 5 feet off the ground. Like magic, the swarm began making their way over to the tree. There was several methods used during this capture, but the one that was the most effective was the old shop vac.

This topped off our 2nd Field Day and completed our 1st Beginning Beekeepers Class under the leadership of Scott and Monica Jewell. I want to Thank Scott and Monica and all of the folks that had a part in teaching this class.

Well Done !!!!

Ira Poston

Artichoke Dip

1 can artichokes, drained

1 cup grated cheddar cheese

½ c. parmesan cheese

½ c. sour cream

½ -1 tsp. garlic powder

Cut artichokes into eights, mix all ingredients and put into a small baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown (about 30 minutes). Double for a large group. Good hot or cold. Serve with Tostitos or Scoops.

Hot Pizza Dip

1 package (8oz.) cream cheese, softened

1 tsp. Italian dressing

1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

¾ cup of Parmesan cheese

2 tbsp. chopped green peppers

2 tbsp. sliced green onions

Breadsticks or canapé bread slices

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Combine in a bowl the cream cheese and Italian seasoning. Combine cheese together. Spread the cream cheese in the bottom of a Mini Baker. Sprinkle half of the cheese mixture over the cream cheese. Spread pizza sauce over this. Top with remaining cheeses, peppers and onions. Bake 15-18 minutes or until cheese is melted and mixture is bubbling around the edges. Serve with breadsticks that have been baked on stoneware.

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in North America.

The scientists base their analysis on three pillars – basic physics, statistical analysis and computer simulations.

Elementary physical principles suggest that a warming of the atmosphere leads to more extremes. For example, warm air can hold more moisture until it rains out. As well, clear statistical trends can be found in temperature and precipitation data.

Finally, detailed computer simulations confirm the relation between warming and records in both temperature and precipitation.

With warmer ocean temperatures, tropical storms should increase in intensity but not in number, according to the current state of knowledge. In the past decade, several record-breaking storms occurred.

But the researchers concede the dependencies are complex and not yet fully understood.

The observed strong increase in the intensity of tropical storms in the North Atlantic between 1980 and 2005, they say, could be caused not just by surface warming but by a cooling of the upper atmosphere.

There are also questions about the precision and reliability of historic storm data.

Stefan Rahmstorf, co-author of the analyses and chairman of PIK’s Earth System Analysis department, says single weather extremes are often related to regional processes, such as a blocking high pressure system or natural phenomena such as El Niño.

“These are complex processes that we are investigating further,” he says. “But now these processes unfold against the background of climatic warming. That can turn an extreme event into a record-breaking event.”

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