



Alamance County Beekeepers

Newsletter for February 2017

Monthly Meeting February 16th

Potluck @ 6:00 | Program @ 7:00

*Update on Africanized Honey Bees:
Current Distribution in USA,
Prevention and Control in NC*

Presented by
Jennifer J. Keller, Research Specialist
Department of Entomology, NCSU

"It is not a question of whether the AHB will be introduced to North Carolina—as they have in the past, and they almost certainly will at some point in the coming years—but a question of whether or not they will become permanently established in the state. While it is difficult to make any firm predictions of the final distribution of the AHB in North Carolina, it is critical that all residents of the state become aware of this possibility before they arrive and if they become established."

Social time and potluck dinner are from 6:00 to 7:00, before the program. See you there!



<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/africanized-honey-bees-where-are-they-now-and-when-will-they-arrive-in-north-carolina>

2017 Spring Beekeeping Meeting Hosted Jointly by NC and SC Beekeeper Associations

March 3-4 in Rock Hill, SC

The usual array of interesting topics has been prepared for our learning adventure. A select few:

- * Reducing mite impact
- * Protecting bees from pesticides
- * Importance of keeping nucleus hives
- * Advantages and management of horizontal hives
- * Making mead, lotion, soap ...

Talk to Ira if you need convincing to attend a state conference!



<https://scstatebeekeepers.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/2017%20Spring%20Meeting/2017%20Spring%20Meeting%20digital%20program.pdf>

Notes from the January Meeting

Beekeepers at the Farmers' Markets. In new business, Toni Murray introduced an idea for honey-sellers. She works at the Alamance farmers' markets, and said there's an interest in having honey sellers at the market every week when the markets are running. She wants to hear from folks who might be interested in participating from time to time, especially at North Park and downtown Burlington. It wouldn't be necessary to be at the market every week; people could take turns, or rotate. Also, there are times, during the year -- [National Pollinator Week](#) [June 19-25, 2017] and [National Honey Bee Day](#) [August 19, 2017] when it would really be good to have beekeepers on site to answer questions and help the public learn about beekeeping and pollination. Contact Toni for more details at yellowmill-house@bellsouth.net.



The Program. Adolphus Leonard, NC Apiary Inspector, spoke to us brilliantly about managing hives during late winter. Many thanks to Adolphus, for the insights, and for spending the time to share them with us. Bees want to swarm, y'all!



Wildflower of the Year

The North Carolina Botanical Garden and the Garden Club of North Carolina have chosen the Hollow-stem joe-pye-weed, *Eutrochium fistulosum* to be the wildflower of the year. They might still have some free seeds!



<http://ncbg.unc.edu/north-carolina-wildflower-of-the-year/>

North Carolina State Fair 2017

State Fair Planning meetings begin in June. Stay tuned for word from Zivon. This year, the competitive spirit is upon us! Please consider how you want to help.



Bees in the News

Click on the title to read the article.

[Honey wars: crime and killings in New Zealand's booming manuka industry.](#) An extraordinary rise in the popularity of manuka honey has led to mass poisonings of bees, thefts, vandalism and beatings. Eleanor Ainge Roy, The Guardian, 11/4/2016.

[Scientists Loved and Loathed by an Agrochemical Giant.](#) Danny Hakim, New York Times, 12/31/2016. With corporate funding of research, "there's no scientist who comes out of this unscathed."

[The Best Jeans for Men \(A Guide to Men's Denim\).](#) Isabella Anderson, 1/9/2017, TheTrendspotter.net. "Waxed jeans are denim coated with paint, beeswax, or a wax glaze to create a shiny finish. This process provides a subtle black sheen to the fabric which offers a sleek, debonair vibe creating a luxe leather feel without the weight or discomfort of leather trousers."



Bee Gym

We were intrigued by the Flow Hive; now we are learning about a new product, a mechanical means of fighting varroa mites.

“The Bee Gym is the world’s first grooming assistance device to help bees rid themselves of varroa. The Bee Gym is a framework of wires which enable bees to scrape varroa mites off their backs, together with flippers and scrapers that help the bees to remove mites from their abdomen. Dislodged and damaged mites will fall to the bottom of the hive, so an open mesh floor should be used and emptied regularly. Bees voluntarily use the Bee Gym throughout the year, including during a honey flow, and even form a winter cluster around it to enable improved grooming during cold periods.”

More information is at Vita-Europe’s website. This product is not in Dadant’s catalog yet, though they are shown to be a US distributor.

<http://www.vita-europe.com/products/bee-gym/>



Bee Gym:
Chemical-
Free Varroa
Grooming

Thanks for the heads up on this one, Geoff!

Beekeepers About Town

Honey Bees - From Hive to Harvest. Geoff Leister kicked off this year’s Think Green Thursday series at the Cooperative Extension Service on 2/2 with a super-informative program for both beekeepers and other interested alike. The County filmed the program, and Jessica Williams picked up the story for the [Times News](#). Thank you, Geoff!

Smith Elementary Science and Technology Day, 2/15. Geoff and Linda Leister and Jennifer Welsh will help kindergarteners at Smith learn about honey bees and pollination. Oh, what fun to uncover that observation frame for kids!

Permanent Installation. The Alamance County Beekeepers’ display at the State Fair in 2016 was a winner. A part of that display is now installed in the Ag Building, thanks to the generous donation of the photographer, Geoff Leister, and the designers/builders, Sheyenne Michelizzi and Zivon Price.

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

February in the Apiary

- ◇ Queens are laying.
- ◇ Maples and more are blooming.
- ◇ There’s pollen, but maybe not so much nectar. Do you need to feed your bees?
- ◇ Is your equipment ready for what’s ahead?
- ◇ Will probably need to feed bees if you add supers with foundation that needs to be drawn out.



Upcoming Programs

Mar 16	First LEGO League Update + Beekeeping Gadgets
Apr 20	TBA
May 18	Record-Keeping in Hive Management & Field Tests
Jun 15	Honey Harvesting & Extraction at Ira’s
Jul 20	Alternate Bee Pollinators
Aug 19	Hive Inspection, Re-queening, and Ice Cream Social at Don Moore’s
Sep 21	Honey Tasting & Cookout at Paul Jollay’s
Oct 19	Treatments for Varroa: Oxalic Acid
Nov 16	Lessons Learned
Dec 5	Planning for 2018

Blooming in the Piedmont

Photos courtesy of Geoff Leister



Paperbush | [Edgeworthia](#)



Paperbush | [Edgeworthia](#)



Winter Honeysuckle | [Lonicera fragrantissima](#)



Female flower of Red Maple
[Acer rubrum](#)



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