



# Alamance County Beekeepers

Newsletter for October 2016

**Monthly Meeting**  
October 20th @ 7:00  
Meal @ 6:00

Guest Presenter:

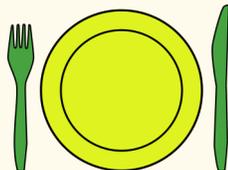
**Patrick Jones**  
**Deputy Director of Pesticide Programs,**  
**State of North Carolina**

Mr. Jones will talk to our group about Field-Watch, “a voluntary communication tool that enables crop producers, beekeepers, and pesticide applicators to work together to protect specialty crops and apiaries through use of mapping programs.” DriftWatch and BeeCheck are part of FieldWatch. <https://nc.driftwatch.org/>



This program will answer some of your questions about hive registry and honey bee protection.

A potluck before the program is scheduled for 6:00. Bring something to share, and enjoy a meal with our presenter and your beekeeping friends.



**Nothing Could Be Finer**  
**NC State Fair**  
October 13-23

Thanks to all the volunteers and competitors who are participating in this year’s State Fair. See you at the Exposition Center! And good luck!



## Beekeepers About Town

Geoff Leister presented to the Wayside Garden Club about honey bees and native plants and pollinators on 10/6. He spoke to the Dogwood Garden Club about honey bees and other pollinators on 9/21. If you’ve attended Geoff’s presentations on Think Green Thursdays at the Ag Building, you know they are inspired.



Ira Poston and Paul Jollay presented a [Foxfire](#) beekeeping program at Cedarock Park on 9/17. If you’ve never attended, put it on your calendar for next year. It’s a treat.

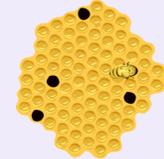


**NOTE:** If you are out and about sharing your bee-keeping know-how with others, please tell, so we can share the good news!

## This Month in the Bee Yard

Nancy Ruppert

- Post-treatment assessment for varroa mites (i.e., did your treatment work?).
- Remove all queen excluders, if present.
- Combine hives that are weak/have failing queens.
- Feed thick syrup, if needed, for winter food stores.
- Limit frequency of inspections after mid-October; bees are sealing cracks with propolis, and waste lots of time/energy if they have to keep replacing it.
- Add entrance reducers near end of month to keep mice out.
- Drones being expelled in most hives.
- Plant (in October and November) herbaceous perennials for future nectar/pollen sources.



<https://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/CALENDAR-FOR-BEEKEEPING-IN-CENTRAL-NORTH-CAROLINA-Final.pdf?fwd=no>

## Notes from the September Meeting

Submitted by Jennifer Welsh

- There were 15 entries for the honey-tasting, and Laura Mowry's won. Congratulations!
- Jennifer Welsh introduced Sweet Betsy, bee mascot.
- ACB's display in the State Fair was discussed. If anyone would like to volunteer, please call Don Hopkins @ Don.Hopkins@ncagr.gov or 919-218-3310.
- Randy Stinson and Jennifer Welsh will be in the Burlington, Graham, and Snow Camp Christmas parade with the Sweet Betsy.
- Thanks to Paul for hosting another great evening.



## Beekeeping in Late Winter/Early Spring

Presentation by Nancy Ruppert



Caswell County Beekeepers have extended an invitation to a talk by Nancy on October 27th, 7:00 p.m., at Piedmont Community College in Yanceyville. Reserve a seat by email:

[ccba@caswellcountybeekeepers.org](mailto:ccba@caswellcountybeekeepers.org) Thanks, CCBA neighbors!

## Letter to the Webmaster

### Donations for Raffle Basket Kindly Requested

Hi, I am a 4-H leader in Alamance Co. Our district leaders association is having our fall training day on Nov 5 and our theme is "BEE a 4-H Pollinator" introducing our new curriculum that will soon be coming out. Each county in the district is in charge of a raffle basket to raise funds to help support our youth and volunteers in their various activities.

Alamance would like to do our basket on bees/products. Literature, crafts, foods, honey, apron, flowers, really anything that showcases the honeybee. We were wondering if any of your members would like to donate items for this. You can contact me at above email — [teststephens72@gmail.com](mailto:teststephens72@gmail.com) — or our agent Taylor Jones — [taylor\\_jones@ncsu.edu](mailto:taylor_jones@ncsu.edu) — and items could be dropped off at the 4-H office [in the Ag Building] by November 3. We would appreciate any help with this matter. Thank you, Toni Stephens



## Farm to Table

Rain was a persistent threat, but intrepid beekeepers shared their enthusiasm for all things honey bee with Alamance County fourth-graders at this year's Farm to Table event, 9/20 and 9/21. Thanks a buzzillion, everybody!



Randy Stinson, Jennifer Welsh



Ira Poston, Sweet Betsy



Corey Gillespie, Charles Black, Mike Ross

## Bees in the News

[High numbers of pesticides within colonies linked to honey bee deaths.](#) 9/16/2016, Phys.org. A study published in *Scientific Reports* shows that the number of different pesticides within a colony—regardless of dose—closely correlates with colony death.”

[Tracking honey bees with big data.](#) 9/27/2016, Michigan Public Radio. Two Michigan beekeepers are weighing their hives to monitor health, part of a [Bee Informed](#) project.

[Federal directive brings veterinarians and beekeepers together: Drugs for honeybee disease will require veterinary prescription in 2017.](#) R. Scott Nolen. 9/28/2016, JAVMA News.

[Getting Dirty in Your Garden: Extension Master Gardener Radio Show and Podcast-Interview of Diane Currier, Honeygirl Meadery.](#) 9/27/2016, Lisa Sanderson, NC Cooperative Extension. Honeygirl Meadery is in Durham.

[The Sweet emotional life of bees.](#) James Gorman, 9/29/2016, New York Times. “... a treat can change a bee’s brain state so that it is quicker to pursue a reward and to recover from a scare than it would be without a sugar boost.”

## Blooming in the Piedmont

Photos by Geoff Leister



*Tradescantia pallida*—Purple Heart



*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* 'Purple Dome'



*Symphyotrichum pilosum* var. *pilosum* Frost Aster

### In Tall Grass

*Cornhuskers*, Carl Sandburg, c. 1918

BEEES and a honeycomb in the dried head of a horse in a pasture corner—a skull in the tall grass and a buzz and a buzz of the yellow honey-hunters.

And I ask no better a winding sheet  
(over the earth and under the sun.)

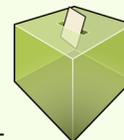
Let the bees go honey-hunting with yellow blur of wings in the dome of my head, in the rumbling, singing arch of my skull.

Let there be wings and yellow dust and the drone of dreams of honey—who loses and remembers?—who keeps and forgets?

In a blue sheen of moon over the bones and under the hanging honeycomb the bees come home and the bees sleep.

### Officer Elections for 2017

Ira will be putting together a nominating group soon to help select ACB officers for the coming year. Please consider offering your services, or consider someone you would like to nominate. We will need a new Three-year Director, and all other positions are up for new volunteers as well.



“You tell me, and I forget. You teach me, and I remember. You involve me, and I learn.” -- Benjamin Franklin



#### 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