



# Alamanace County Beekeepers

Newsletter for September 2015

Monthly Meeting  
SEP 17 | 6:00 pm

## Cookout and Honey Competition @ Paul Jollay's House

The honey harvest is drawing to an end, so it's a good time to relax and visit with your beekeeping friends. It's also a good time to taste the variety of this season's honeys!



Paul will host this month's get-together at his house. The club will provide hamburgers and hotdogs, buns, and water. Bring your favorite condiments, side dishes, or desserts.

If you'd like your honey to be in the competition, bring some in a squeeze bear!



Oh, and bring a chair!

2435 Glencoe St.  
Burlington 27217

Volunteers Needed  
SEP 22 + 23

## Farm to Table



This annual event, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce's Agri-Business Committee, is meant to help young people learn more about where their food comes from. Representatives from several areas of agriculture — including beekeeping — will be participating.

It works like this: Over the course of two days, a total of **800 fourth-graders** will stop by each booth for about 10 minutes to learn about the topic at hand. Beekeepers will have a demonstration hive, lots of visuals, and they will talk about and answer questions about bees. **New beekeepers are encouraged to participate. It is a blast!**



Contact Mike Ross [[mross953@hotmail.com](mailto:mross953@hotmail.com) or 336-214-4219] if you can help on TUE | 22, and Geoff Leister [[geoffleister@mac.com](mailto:geoffleister@mac.com) or 336-222-1919] if you can help on WED | 23. Many thanks!

<http://www.alamanacechamber.com/pages/FarmtoTable>

## Thank you, volunteers!

Mike Ross reports that this year's **Heritage Day** was one of the best in a while. Thanks go to Drew Thomas, Charlie Ross, Camile Thomas, Randy Stinson, Johnny Mills, Judy Ross, Neil Carey, Corey Gillespie, and Charles Black for their help. For volunteers whose names are not mentioned here, please accept apologies for the omission, and thanks!



## Requiescat in pace

Don Moore notes the recent passing of Harold Smith of Elon. Mr. Smith was an active member of ACB years ago, and is remembered as a kind and gentle person, and a respected member of the beekeeping community.



<http://www.lowefuneralhome.com/obituary/Harold-Murphy-Smith/Elon-NC/1534337>

## This Month in the Bee Yard from Beekeeper Course Manual

- Are your colonies strong enough heading into the fall?
- Does each hive have a good laying queen? What is the brood pattern like?
- Do you need to feed your bees?
- Are you noting an unusual aroma emanating from your hives? It's probably from the asters your bees are visiting.



## Bees in the News

**NCDOT spreads pollinator habitat in roadside flowerbeds.** Bruce Sicheloff, News & Observer, 9/7/2015. The Department of Transportation is continuing its work of planting pollinator-friendly wildflowers on NC's roadsides. A complete list of plants you can expect to see in future is at <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/article34300128.html>

**Flowers can endanger bees.** Iqbal Pittalwala, UCR Today, 8/4/2015. "Study by UC Riverside entomologist and colleagues shows flowers serve as parasite-dispersing hubs." <http://ucrtoday.ucr.edu/30758>

**Australian researchers combat bee decline with tiny trackers.** Mike Pearson, CNN, 8/25/2015. Researchers in Australia are using RFID technology to measure environmental stressors on bees. <http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/25/living/honeybees-backpack-trackers-feat/index.html>

**Love a beetle?** Randall Austin, Bailey's Bees, 5/1/2015. Neighbor and master beekeeper Randall Austin tells us what we need to know about SHBs. Be informed, but don't fret. [http://www.baileybeesupply.com/docs/love\\_a\\_beetle.pdf](http://www.baileybeesupply.com/docs/love_a_beetle.pdf)

NatureOutlook, 5/21/2015. In this online supplement to the journal Nature, read all about bees, from aerodynamics to pesticides, from microbiomes to behavior and more. <http://www.nature.com/nature/outlook/bees/index.html>

Thanks go to Geoff Leister for his sending great information our way.



## Honeybee Prey

There is such an abundance in the insect world at this time of year, much of it very visible and active. Those who spend time in their apiary watching the comings and goings might notice some predatory activity against their honeybees.

Geoff Leister took these two photos in the last week. At top is a robber fly [*Promachus rufipes*] and below is a European hornet [*Vespa crabro* L.] eating its honeybee prey. Thanks for the great info and photos, Geoff!

[http://www4.ncsu.edu/~dorr/Insects/Predators/Robber\\_Fly/robber\\_fly.html](http://www4.ncsu.edu/~dorr/Insects/Predators/Robber_Fly/robber_fly.html)

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/Urban/eurohornet.htm>



## Notes from the August Meeting

The August meeting was held at Don and Shirley Moore's house in Elon. We got to spend time in the bee yard with Nancy Ruppert and Don Hopkins, who each opened a hive Don was interested in splitting. We saw two methods of doing a sugar-shake test for varroa mites, and we went through the decision-making process for determining how to care for the two hives, once we knew what was going on inside them. While some in attendance are new to beekeeping, and some are with lots of experience, everyone learns something new when Nancy and Don are in the house. Many thanks to you both. And thank you to our gracious hosts.



Time in the apiary was followed by time visiting with friends under the ice cream tent! Read more details from the day at the ACB web site: <http://alamancebeekeepers.org/> If you couldn't make it this year, you might consider blocking out your calendar for next August so you won't miss it!



## Blooming in the Piedmont this Month

Do you recognize these late summer/autumn bloomers as just a few members of the vast Asteraceae/Aster family?

Sunflower \* Crownbeard/Wingstem \* Goldenrod  
Decurrent false aster \* Tall tickseed \* Echinacea  
Joe pye weed \* Blanketflower \* Rudbeckia  
Blue wood aster \* Ironweed \* Chrysanthemum  
White wood aster



## Marcus Terentius Varro

116—27 BCE

Author of *Rerum Rusticarum Libri Tres*  
(*Three Books on Agriculture*)

Much of what we know about beekeeping in ancient Rome is because of the work of Marcus Terentius Varro. A translation of his *Three Books* can be found here: <https://archive.org/stream/threebooksmtere00varrgoog#page/n258/mode/2up> Beginning on page 239, you can read what was known/believed about honeybees at the time. Some has been disproven [“wasps are the offspring of horses, and bees proceed from bullocks”] but much rings familiar today.

The Varroa genus of parasitic mites is named for this influential scholar, prolific writer, and beekeeper.



Sources: Wikipedia, Britannica.com, Archive.org



Officers for 2015

President : Ira Poston  
Vice President : Mike Ross  
Recording Secretary : Mary McGinty  
Treasurer : Randy Stinson  
Program Chair : Don Moore  
1st Year Director : Randy Stinson  
2nd Year Director : Larry McCauley, Jr.  
3rd Year Director : Wayne Foulks

Appointments

Webmaster : Geoff Leister  
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce