



Alamanca County Beekeepers

March 2018 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, March 15th
Program @ 7:00 * Potluck @ 6:00

Lewis Cauble
NC State Apiary Inspector

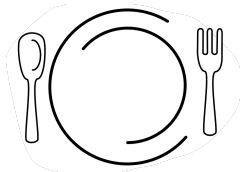
Topic : **Swarms**



Bees want to swarm. It's nature's way. So what can you do?

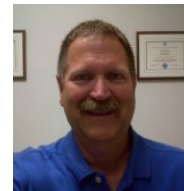
Lewis will refresh and update us on activities we should be practicing to try to mitigate springtime loss to swarms.

Please try to join in on the potluck at 6:00.



President's Comments

Well it's been warm and the bees are building up. Oh wait, it's going to get cold. Welcome to the Piedmont weather in North



Carolina. Hopefully, our bees have benefited from the warm weather to load up on pollen and nectar so they can make it to Spring.

This month we have Lewis Cauble, one of N.C. State's Apiary Inspectors talking to us about "Swarms". We planned this so you can be ready to catch all of your swarms. Yes, we do things in our hives to try and prevent our bees from swarming, but it's going to happen!!

Lewis has presented to us before and this should be another good Program. Come with questions and your "Covered Dish". We will begin eating at 6:00 and the Program starts at 7:00.

Notes from February's Meeting

- Zivon gave the Treasurer's report.
- The 2018 Beginning Beekeepers class series is half finished already.
- Jessica Louque spoke to us about **pesticides** and agriculture. She talked about the various agencies involved in bringing a pesticide to market, and the role her company plays. She encouraged us to educate ourselves about pesticides, how to read studies critically, and to know what pesticides our neighbors are using. The more we know, the more we can talk to other people and maybe even redirect them to something less harmful, if we're worried their use of chemicals might hurt the bees we manage. Keep communication open, and always know your varroa levels. A suspicious bee die-off might be down to mites, and not a neighbor's use of chemicals. Learn learn learn. Thank you, Jessica and Bobby Louque, for sharing your experience and expertise with us. And now go get some pesticide training, y'all!



Bees in the News

Click on titles to link to articles.

[Flowers Aren't Enough: How Urban Heat Affects Bee Populations](#), Steve Frank, NC State News, 2/21/2018. Providing flowers in an urban landscape is not enough to restore bee populations. Bees are also affected by heat. In this study, the hottest yards had about a third as many bees as yards just 2°C (about 3.6°F) cooler. Authors recommend planting trees to provide shade and reduce temperatures in urban yards. "We wouldn't expect other animals to thrive in poor habitats just by providing them with food. Bee conservation requires habitat restoration," not just flower planting.

[A Promising Backup to the Honeybee Is Shut Down](#), Paige Embry, scientificamerican.com, 3/5/2018. The world's largest almond grower has been working for eight years to propagate female orchard bees on an industrial scale. They are getting out of the game, but have shown that there is a viable path forward.



[What Does Brexit Mean for British Bees? It's Complicated, Honey](#), K. G. Orphanides, [wired.com](#), 3/6/2018. New EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) findings confirm the danger nemonic pesticides pose to bees — but the UK's history of exemptions casts doubt on the effectiveness of future bans.

[Download: Alamance County Beekeepers Meeting & Programs for 2018](#)

This Month in the Apiary

Nancy Ruppert

- NCSBA annual Spring Meeting (usually first weekend in March)---great learning opportunity!
- Swarming under way - implement prevention measures (make splits, remove queen cells, “checker- board,” temporarily or permanently remove current mother queen); set up “bait” hives.
- Reverse bottom two or three boxes on hive to give queen more room to lay: most hives have moved up above the bottom hive body, leaving it virtually empty. This measure also helps reduce swarming. Caution: **Be careful not to split up clusters of brood when you do this.** Two to three weeks after this reversal, it’s likely that you’ll need to reverse them again. (An alternative to reversal: simply add another hive body.)
- Assess for pest and/or disease problems (especially varroa mites, American foulbrood, and European foulbrood) and treat if needed. **Treatments should be completed by early April to limit risk of contaminating honey.**
- Check honey stores; feed (1:1 or thinner syrup) if needed.
- Look closely at the brood pattern; order new queen if current one failing.
- Continue to replace few frames of old/undesirable comb, if needed.
- Near end of the month, add at least one honey super; remove entrance reducers; equalize hives.



Upcoming ACBA Programs

APR 21	Club Field Day with Hive Inspections & Cookout
MAY 17	TBA
JUN 21	Hive Extractions Wally Swaim
JUL 28	Hive Inspection, Requeening and Ice Cream Social
AUG 16	State Fair Information Session Adolphus Leonard
SEP 20	Honey Tasting and Cookout
OCT 18	Urban Beekeeping Leigh-Kathryn Bonner
NOV 15	Lessons Learned
DEC 4	Planning Meeting for 2019



Honey bees on purple dead nettle in Jennifer Welsh's apiary.

Calendar

NCSBA 2018 Spring Conference
March 1-3, New Bern, NC

Spring Plant Sale
Alamance County 4-H
Until April 6

Homegrown in the Park, April 14,
10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.,
Burlington City Park

Eastern Apiculture Society's
Summer Conference
August 13-17, Hampton, VA

NC State Fair
October 11-21



Officers for 2018

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

Appointments

Webmaster : Geoff Leister
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce