



Alamance County Beekeepers

May 2018 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

Thursday | May 17 | 7:00 PM
Auditorium, Ag Building

Movie Night!



Mike Ross will host a video night featuring a curated collection of Paul Kelly beekeeping videos. Discussions will follow each selection.

[Paul Kelly](#) is the manager of the Honey Bee Research Centre at University of Guelph, Ontario.

Here are the links to the videos we'll be looking at, so you can study ahead!

- [Colony Inspection](#)
- [Swarm Control](#)
- [Buckfast Queen Mating Station on Thorah Island](#)
- [Requeening](#)

We hope to see you on the 17th!

Pollinator Conservation Workshops and Garden Tours

Chatham County Cooperative Extension Service

If you want to attract more pollinators to your farm or garden, or if you just want to expand your perennial garden and provide resources for pollinators and other wildlife, then Chatham County Cooperative Extension has a workshop just for you! Learn how to create a pollinator paradise like the one found at Extension's Pollinator Paradise Garden at Chatham Mills in Pittsboro.

Wednesday May 23 from 1:00-5:00 pm

Saturday June 2 from 1:00-5:00 pm

Tuesday June 5 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm

For more information and registration, visit the [Growing Small Farms website](#).



Bees in the News

Click on the title to read the article.

[Scent of Death: Honeybees Use Odors to Clean Out Deceased Broods](#), Annie Sneed, Scientific American, 4/25/2018. Why are some honey bee colonies more fastidious about hauling out diseased and dead brood than others are? Turns out, some bees exhibit higher hygienicity in response to “death” smells emitted by brood. This could have implications for breeding bees with higher hygienicity.



[EU nations back ban on insecticides to protect honey bees](#), Philip Blenkinsop, Reuters, 4/27/2018. European Union countries backed a proposal on 4/27/2018 to ban all use outdoors of insecticides known as neonicotinoids that studies have shown can harm bees.

This swarm, collected by Mike Ross and Geoff Leister, weighed in at more than 4 pounds.



Notes from April's Meeting

April's meeting took place at Ira's apiary on Saturday the 21st.

On the docket was to split one of Ira's colonies, but the bees swarmed instead!



Mike Ross brought a white oak log full of bees that he'd retrieved after receiving a phone call about it. He and Ira cut and broke the log open and housed the bees in a hive.

Oh, and then there were hotdogs, burgers, and lots of excellent sides and desserts.

Good fun, good eats, good information. Great field day. Thanks to everybody who participated, and thanks to Ira for hosting.

... and from Ira

Our April Field Day turned out to be one of the BEST. Everyone enjoyed the food, socializing and the unusual bee yard activities. Mike's hive removal from a log was a big treat. I realized the hives I was going to make splits from had swarmed while I was in Georgia picking up package bees. Then we enjoyed capturing a swarm from my bee yard. What else can you do on Field Day ??

Thanks to everyone who brought food, and thanks to Don Hopkins and Will Hicks for lending their expertise to our Field Day.



This Month in the Bee Yard

Thanks to Nancy Ruppert

- ◆ Nectar flow continues -- keep adding supers; get extraction/bottling equipment ready. Consider
- ◆ adding an additional hive entrance (via 5/8" hole or shim) above brood area, for foragers.
- ◆ Swarming continues -- keep up prevention/capture measures.
- ◆ Replace failing queens.
- ◆ Start planting annuals for future nectar/pollen supplementation.
- ◆ Install traps for small hive beetles if needed (i.e., if more than 20 adult beetles seen in hive).
- ◆ Place two or more bee "watering holes" in apiary, if not already present.



<https://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/CALENDAR-FOR-BEEKEEPING-IN-CENTRAL-NORTH-CAROLINA.pdf?fwd=no>



*Carpenter bee feeding by making a slit near the nectaries in the base of this American wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*) flower. Photo taken by Geoff Leister in his and Linda's garden.*



Honey bee taking advantage of the access work already done by the carpenter bee, now having some of that sweet nectar. Photo taken by Geoff Leister in his and Linda's garden.



Honey bee foraging blackberry pollen (Geoff Leister)



Honey bee foraging on *Syringa vulgaris*, common lilac, at garden of Geoff and Linda Leister.

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?>

Calendar

Homeschoolers in the Leister Apiary
For Honey Bee Show & Tell
May 7

Presentation on Honey Bees for
Garrett Elementary Wildlife & Art Club
Geoff & Linda Leister and Tony Abruzzi
May 17, 9:20 to 11:20 AM

[Pollinator Day Celebration @ Chatham Mills](#)
May 19, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

[Chatham County Pollinator Garden Tours](#)
May 10 @ 10:00 AM
May 16 @ 5:30 PM
May 26 @ 2:00 PM

The pollinator garden tours will be conducted throughout the summer.

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



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