



Alamance County Beekeepers

June 2018 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

Thursday | June 21 | 7:00 P.M.
Dinner @ 6:00 P.M.

Wally Swaim
ACBA Member and
Master Beekeeper

Sometimes honey bees set up home in places that are inconvenient or uncomfortable for people. You might get a call to come help remove them.

Wally will talk to us this month about hive extraction. Come learn from his experience and expertise.



We'll have potluck dinner at 6:00 P.M. Bring a little bite of something to share, and enjoy some social time with fellow beekeepers.

Hydrangeas and Honey Bees



Lacecap (*Hydrangea macrophylla*
subsp. *serrata*) [Japan]



Oakleaf (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) [US Native]

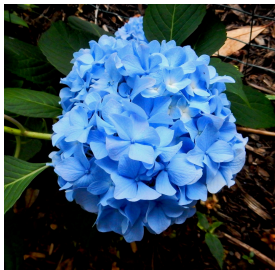
See page 2 for more from Geoff Leister.

Are Pollinators Attracted to Hydrangea blooms? Some Yes! Others No!

Geoff Leister, Ph.D.

Many southern gardens are graced with one or more species of hydrangea as a landscape plant. They have waxy, perfectly formed, chiseled leaves and dense covering of bright pom-pom 'flower' clusters that last entire seasons; and their color differences are dependent on the acidity of soil. They might be considered one of the best garden shrubs.

There are three types of hydrangea blooms. One is mophead, (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) or big-leaf with large snowball-like sterile flower clusters, also called French or Japanese hydrangeas. Another is the lacecap (*Hydrangea macrophylla* subsp. *serrate*) that is a cultivar of *Hydrangea macrophylla* and is characterized by flat-top flowers, with fertile, non-showy flowers in the center surrounded by showy sterile flowers on the outside. Lastly there is the panicle type with long, somewhat cone-shaped flower cluster as found in Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolium*). All hydrangea flower clusters have some or all sterile flowers in their blooms. The showy petal-like leaflets in these flower clusters are



MOPHEAD



LACE CAP



PANICLE

actually composed of colored sepals that mimic a flower.

Mophead hydrangeas are almost entirely composed of showy sterile flowers composed of colored sepals. Lacecap hydrangeas have a mix of central fertile flowers that produce pollen and nectar with a few encircling sterile flowers. The panicle form also consists of sterile and fertile flowers or florets.

There are two prominent native hydrangea species in the southeastern US: oakleaf found in NC, TN, GA & FL and silverleaf (*Hydrangea radiata*) found in the southern Appalachians.

Currently, the native Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolium*) growing in our yard is in full bloom. Honey bees, native bees and beetles are foraging on an ample supply of pollen and nectar. Even though the native elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) is also now in full flower, there are no evident foraging pollinators to be seen.

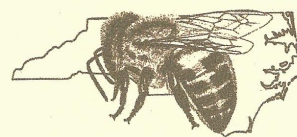
If you have the choice of native hydrangeas over cultivars, please consider planting the native species instead. Local pollinators will benefit greatly from your selection. In North America there are at least four native species to choose from - the smooth hydrangea ([Hydrangea arborescens](#)), the ashy hydrangea ([Hydrangea cinerea](#)), the oakleaf hydrangea ([Hydrangea quercifolia](#)), and the silverleaf hydrangea ([Hydrangea radiata](#)). All of these occur east of the Mississippi and are largely inhabitants of the southeast.

The non-native lacecap cultivar is also a great choice, since the flower shape, color and predominance of nectar and pollen producing fertile flowers also greatly benefits pollinators.

If you are planting to attract pollinators, avoid the non-native mophead hydrangeas since they are about as useful to pollinators as a piece of lifeless yard art.

North Carolina State Beekeepers Association

Celebrating 100 Years : 1917-2017



Discover the Goodness of North Carolina Honey!

www.ncbeekeepers.org

Alamance County Beekeepers
c/o Ira Poston
4560 Whitesell Brothers Road
Elon, NC 27244

Dear Alamance County Beekeepers,

I am writing this letter to share with you some news that Dr. Tarpay informed me of during a recent conversation. His apiculture program will soon take delivery of a brand new work truck. The color of the truck will be NC State red of course and will be used by his lab technician Jennifer Keller or his research associates. This purchase was made possible from monies donated to his program from the NCSBA. I was very proud to receive this news and as President, to represent the individuals in the NCSBA who made this possible.

Dr. Tarpay pointed out that grant funds cannot be used to purchase many of the things the bee lab needs to get the job done. Therefore, our outside unrestricted donations made the difference for his being able to buy the new truck.

The NCSBA has traditionally supported the NCSU apiculture program by holding silent auctions at our state meetings. I believe that it is time to raise the bar for support from our organization. In lieu of a holding a silent auction at our upcoming summer meeting, I am asking that monetary donations be made to the apiculture program instead.

Since I began making a monthly contribution in 2017, I have donated about \$250 and can be considered to be a stakeholder of the program. I hope that the Alamance County Beekeepers will match or exceed my contribution and become stakeholders as well. I plan to present a check to Dr. Tarpay at the summer meeting and recognize all the chapters who have donated \$250 or more to the NCSU apiculture program. I would be great if the Alamance County Beekeepers could be included; a contribution of any amount would be greatly appreciated. I hope that enough chapters will participate to make this program outstanding!

Thank you very much for your consideration and I remain,

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Rick Coor". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick Coor

Rick Coor, NCSBA President • 194 Spring Bank Road • Goldsboro, NC • 27534 • 919-738-7638 • president@ncbeekeepers.org

LETTER TO ALAMANCE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS FROM RICK COOR, NCSBA PRESIDENT

Notes from the May Meeting

Mike Ross applied his deft hand to the video curation and showed a variety of selections from Paul Kelly, Manager of the Honey Bee Research Center, University of Guelph, Ontario. Most interesting discussions ensued.

Thank you, Mike!

Calendar

Pollinator Week

June 18-24

NCSBA Summer Meeting

Blue Ridge Community College

Flat Rock, NC

July 19-21

Bees in the News

Click on titles to link to articles.

[David Tarpy Demonstrates Queen Bee Research on Capitol Hill](#), CALS News, 6/6/2018.

[Bumblebee blues: Pacific Northwest pollinator in trouble](#), AP News, Keith Ridler.



This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- Keep water available at all times.
- Monitor SHB population.
- Main nectar flow is past, so fewer supers are needed.
- If you're harvesting honey, put the supers back on the hive late in the day to limit robbing.
- Can start late-season splits in second half of month.



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