



Alamance County Beekeepers

July 2018 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

Saturday | July 28th | 3:00 P.M.

Ice Cream Social @
Breezy Acres Apiary
3634 Stoney Creek Church Road
Elon, NC 27244

Don and Shirley Moore will welcome us to their apiary!

About an hour will be spent inspecting some hives with Nancy Ruppert, Apiary Inspector for the State of NC. Information will be shared about re-queening and other hive work for the season.



We will then be glad for some shade, and a chance to enjoy some homemade ice cream and social time. Bring your favorite ice cream or other homemade treat and a chair!



If you can help set up tents and tables around 1:30, please let Don know at 336-213-3138.

Message from IP

At our June 2018 meeting, Wally Swaim (Master Beekeeper) spoke to us about extracting hives from various houses, trees and buildings. It was a very informative talk. Wally has a lot of experience trapping bees out of homes and buildings.

Most of us have extracted honey or are thinking about it. This is the time of year where our bees get a little "excited" when we open up the hive. Make sure they have enough to eat because our nectar resources are diminishing. This is also a good time to check the mite level in your hives and decide if you are going to treat them.

Well, it's time to eat Ice cream ... See you at Don's apiary on the 28th.

-- Ira

Funnies

[Bee-Nuts](#), by A. P. Hairy



The Importance of Crape Myrtle to Honey Bees & Native Bees

by

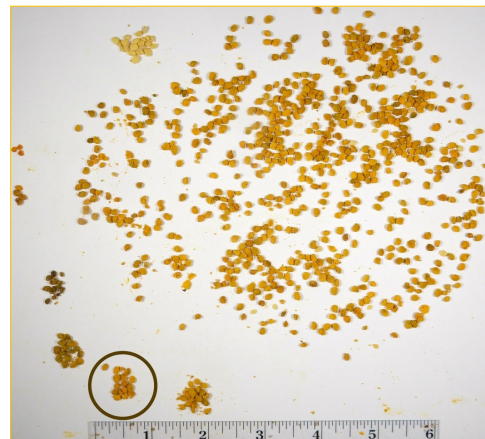
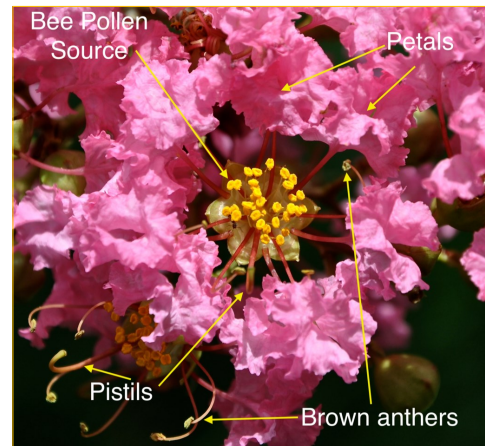
Geoff Leister, Ph.D.

Botanist, Bee-Keeper, and Master Gardener

Everyone should be familiar with the widely-planted ornamental crape myrtle as a result of its summer blooms in a variety of colors - white, lavender, pink and red. Crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) is a not native to the U.S., but has been in the U.S. since colonial times. Crape myrtles are native to East Asia and Australia. Our native bees, bumblebees and honey bees visit the clusters of flowers with its many ruffled petals.

Crape myrtles do not produce flower nectar but they are unusual in that they do have two types of anthers that produce two different types of pollen. One set of brown-colored anthers produces pollen that brings about pollination, fertilization and seed production; the other set of yellow-colored anthers provides pollinators with protein resources. If you examine the flowers you will see the brown pad-like reproductory anthers arranged higher above and over the centrally located bright yellow anthers producing protein-rich pollen. (See photo at right.)

In June I attached a front entrance pollen trap to one of my hives. To date I have collected samples on June 8th and June 24th for just one hour during mornings. The entire one-hour sample taken on June 24, 2018, was composed of seven different pollen sources, based on the pollen pellet color. With some difficulty, I sorted different colored pellets into seven groups. The circled group in the photo at right was a golden yellow color. This pollen was identified microscopically to be from Crape myrtle when compared with Internet plant pollen atlases. Based on that morning's sample, the bulk of the pollen pellets were golden yellow.



This Month in the Bee Yard

Thanks to Nancy Ruppert

- ◇ May harvest some or all of honey.
- ◇ May continue late-season splits.
- ◇ Continue SHB control efforts.
- ◇ Keep water available for bees in this heat!
- ◇ Replace failing queens; consider replacing any queen more than two years old.
- ◇ Assess for varroa mites and treat as needed.

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



Calendar

[NCSBA Summer Meeting](#), July 19-21
Blue Ridge Community College
Flat Rock, NC

[Eastern Apiculture Society Conference](#),
August 13-17
Hampton Roads Convention Center
Hampton, VA

[National Honey Bee Day](#), August 18

[NC State Fair](#)
October 11-21, 2018

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

Bees in the News

Click on the title to read the article.

[Unwanted Pool Guests](#), Michael Waldvogel, NCSU Department of Entomology, 6/2018. When honey bees make a swimming pool their watering hole, people can get excited. Here's what to do. FYI, it might not be quick or easy.

[Honeybees finding it harder to eat at America's bee hot spot](#), Seth Borenstein, Associated Press, 7/2/2018. The Dakotas and Minnesota used to be called the last best place for bees. With loss of 629 square miles of bee habitat, they are now "the least worst." Find the USGS study [here](#).

[Bee tourism is a thing and Slovenia is hoping to become a place for it](#), Ken Foxe, Lonely Planet, 6/18/2018. "Slovenia is hoping to become the world capital of apitourism... or more simply put, bee tourism." It is the home of the Carnolian honey bee and 200,000 bee colonies. Tell me [more](#)!

[With a Sniff and a Signal, These Dogs Hunt Down Threats to Bees](#), Tajal Rao, New York Times, 7/3/2018. "Cybil Preston, chief apiary inspector for the Maryland Department of Agriculture, is expanding her canine detection program, training dogs to find traces of American foulbrood, a bacteria that can decimate beehives."

[3 ways to create a honeybee haven at home](#), Adrian Higgins, The Washington Post, 7/18/2018. Provide plants and water, and skip the pesticides.



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