



Alamance County Beekeepers

August 2018 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

Thursday | August 16th
Potluck @ 6:00 & Program @ 7:00
Auditorium of Ag Building

Adolphus Leonard &
Sheyenne Michelizzi

The 2018 NC State Fair is just around the corner.



Adolphus Leonard, State Apiary Inspector, will be one of the State Fair superintendents again this year. He will speak to us about our options for competing in the fair.

Sheyenne has some wisdom to share about participating, as she and Zivon have been the ACBA coordinators for our installation for the past two years.



Please put on your competitive hats and join the discussion. This could be our best year at the fair ever!

We'll have visiting time before the meeting ... Bring a dish for potluck and start working out your ideas!

Healthy Colony Checklist

In [June](#) and [July](#), *Bee Culture* ran a two-part series about the importance of establishing a framework for conducting hive inspections. "... Hive inspections, coupled with good record keeping of management actions and outcomes, can move us a long way towards better beekeeping." Authors recommend beekeepers look at the [Bayer Bee Care Healthy Colony Checklist](#).

Inspection in action:

- ◆ Use a buddy system.
- ◆ Know how to assess the six conditions of colony health (see [checklist](#) on page 2).
- ◆ Take concise notes.
- ◆ Record any general notes and observations of each hive.

You will also find a link to the checklist on the ACBA [website](#).

Purple Honey?

ACBA member Matt Lawrence, of [Hawfields Honey House](#), sent us this [post](#) about finding purple honey in some Durham, NC, frames he was extracting. What would cause honey to be purple?



HEALTHY COLONY CHECKLIST

This checklist is useful for quick assessments anytime a hive is opened, and as a summary of more detailed assessments. The results should answer the questions 1) Is the colony healthy?, 2) If not, why?, and 3) What needs to be done before the next weekly assessment to correct the problem?

Date:			
Apiary ID:		Hive ID:	
Observer:		Recorder:	

Number frames in brood box 2 (upper):	
Number of frames in brood box 1 (lower):	

For a colony to be considered "healthy", it must satisfy **ALL** of the following conditions, as seasonally appropriate.

Condition Met? *	Condition to Assess	Notes, Problems Observed & Management Needed
	1 - All stages of brood and instars present in appropriate amounts (Eggs 1-3, Larvae 1-6, Pupae 1-11)?	
	2 - Sufficient adult bees and age structure to care for brood and perform all tasks of the colony? **	
	3 - A young (<1 yr old), productive, laying queen present? (Color Code Guide: Blue(0/5), White(1/6), Yellow(2/7), Red(3/8), Green(4/9))	
	4 - Sufficient nutritious water, forage, and food stores available (inside and/or outside the hive), and young brood being fed?	
	5 - No (apparent) stressors present that would lead to reduced colony survival and/or growth potential? ***	
	6 - Suitable space (not too much or too little) for current & near-term expected colony size that is sanitary, defensible, and room for egg laying?	

* √ = Yes; X = No; na = Not Assessed; Use "?" only if unsure and follow up as needed.
 ** Including: feeding brood, caring for queen, thermoregulation, foraging, house cleaning, undertaking, guarding.
 *** If unsure, follow up with more detailed assessment as soon as possible.

General Notes and Observations

Current hive weight (lb / kg): _____; Change from last measure (lb / kg): _____

Blooming in the Piedmont in August 2018



Honey bee on Autumn Joy sedum
Jennifer Welsh



Honey bee on sunflower
© Cedarock Park Pollinator Trail - Geoff Leister



Honey bees on thistle
Jennifer Welsh



Honey bee on *Borago officinalis*
Photo by Geoff Leister
taken @ the Abruzzi bee yard

July's Meeting

All of us had a good time at Breezy Acres on July 28th. Nancy Ruppert helped Don combine a triple nuc into a regular 10-frame as many looked on. Then we enjoyed several flavors of ice cream and other deserts. While we always learn when one of the NC State Inspectors demonstrates what we should be doing with our bees, the best part of our meeting in July was the fellowship we all enjoyed. If you missed out on this event, I'm sorry. In my mind, you missed the "Best" meeting of the year.



-- Ira

Calendar

[Eastern Apiculture Society Conference](#),

August 13-17

Hampton Roads Convention Center Hampton, VA

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

[Pollinator Gardening Workshops](#)

September 11, 17, and 22

Chatham County Center

Plant sales:

Alamance County Extension

Master Gardeners, September 19

[Duke Gardens](#), September 29

Beekeeping the Foxfire Way

October 6 @ Cedarrock Park

[NC State Fair](#)

October 11-21, 2018

This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- Pest control is critical this month.
- Assess queen performance.
- Keep water available at all times.
- Bees may be defensive due to food scarcity. Take measures to prevent robbing.
- Remove empty supers and store properly.



Bees in the News

Click on the title to read the article.

[Scientists probe 'magical' royal jelly for clues to control cancer](#), Jon Atherton, Yale University, phys.org, 7/23/2018. researchers at the Yale Cancer Biology Institute are now exploring how royal jelly might affect cell signaling and growth in cancer cells.

[Eliminating the honey bee's biggest enemy](#), Michigan State University, 7/25/2018. "At the MSU St. Andrews learning facility in Midland, MSU researcher Edmund Stark and his team are developing time-released, polymer-coated miticide technology to treat mite infestations more effectively."

[Honeybees gang up to roast invading hornets alive — at a terrible cost](#), Josh Howgego, NewScientist, 7/16/2018. Hot balls, cool balls, and dancing in waves ... Honey bees in Japan use various techniques to beat back invading hornets.



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